Sunday Hymns

according to the lectionary
of the Byzantine Rite

Metropolitan Cantor Institute,
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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The singing of paraliturgical hymns – that is, of devotional hymns that partake of the spirit of the liturgy, but are not themselves taken from the liturgical books – is a venerable tradition of the Rusyn Christians who emigrated to America and founded what we now know as the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. Over the years, new hymns were often composed for feast days and saints days, often by the setting of new texts to existing, well-known melodies.

Between 2002 and 2007, the Metropolitan Cantor Institute of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh provided newly-written hymns to traditional melodies along with the printed liturgical propers that were prepared for each Sunday. These new paraliturgical hymns were based on the Gospel and Epistle readings of the day, providing the faithful with an additional opportunity to prepare for and meditate on the day's readings. These hymns are intended for singing before or after the day's Divine Liturgy.

This collection includes all the Sunday hymns prepared by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. Most are set to traditional Rusyn melodies familiar to parishioners of the Byzantine Catholic Church; in some cases, other well-known melodies are used where appropriate, following the traditional practice of using melodies that everyone can easily sing.

Note that in many of these hymns – especially for the Sundays after Pentecost – the bulk of the hymn is based on the day's Gospel reading, while the final verse, or the refrain, summarizes the Epistle reading of the day. On certain days when the Gospel and Epistle are taken from different weeks (such as happens in the Sundays from late September to early December, when the Gospel of Luke is read in its own order), the hymn for the Gospel should be sung; for example, if the Gospel of the 20th week after Pentecost is read, then the hymn for the 20th Sunday is used, even if it is (say) the 19th week after Pentecost. (In this case, the final verse of the hymn may be omitted if desired.)

Unless indicated otherwise, the texts of the hymns in this collection were written by Professor J. Michael Thompson, director of the Cantor Institute from 2001-2007.

We hope that this collection provides additional opportunities for the faithful to see the year's services "through the mind of the Church", and that it may lead others to prepare new hymns or hymn translations to grace the liturgical year. May God be glorified in all things!
SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross

1. Lord of all mercy, each year you bring us
2. Turn us from pride, from being exalted
3. Pharisee's haughty attitude taints us;
4. Soon will arrive the season of fasting;

Into this time of Your boundless grace.
By our own deeds that turn us from You;
In our conceit, we scorn You, O Lord.
Pray'r and good works will fill ev'ry day.

Grant that Your people, drawn by Your Spirit,
Grant us repentance! Humble our spirits,
Fill us instead with Publican's penance
Give us Your grace to have the right spirit,

Open their hearts and seek now Your face.
That to Your Word we stand ever true.
That in our lives You may be adored.
That in our deeds, Your law we obey.

Text based on Luke 18: 10-14 (vv. 1-3)
Tune: from Grekokatolicki Duchovny Pisni, 1969
1. Hear now, you faithful, once more the story
2. Hear how the father, longing and yearning,
3. See, too, the brother, pouting in silence,
4. Ev'ry thing's lawful, so says the Scripture;
5. Soon will arrive the season of fasting;

Of the young man whose prodigal ways
Ran out to meet the penitent boy:
Jealous of father's heart full of love.
Not all is good, or done at our whim.
Pray'r and good works will fill ev'ry day.

Led him to sin and then to repentance:
Hugged him and clothed him, shoes and ring gave him,
Thus we are often guilty of malice,
This mortal body, purchased at great price
Give us Your grace to have the right spirit,

God's boundless grace is theme for our days!
Set out a feast to show forth his joy!
Not understanding grace from above.
By Christ the Lord, should glorify Him!
That in our deeds, Your law we obey.

Text based on Luke 15: 11-32 (vv. 1-3), 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 (v. 4)
Tune: from Grekokatolicki Duchovny Pisni, 1969
SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE
Commemoration of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as Judge

melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross

1. When you shall come to render just judgment,
2. Books shall be opened, secrets made public;
3. Trumpets shall sound, and tombs shall be opened.
4. Soon will arrive the season of fasting;

O righteous Judge, enthroned before all,
Judgment shall come from You, holy Son:
You shall divide the goats and the sheep.
Pray' r and good works will fill every day.

At that last hour, Savior, oh place us
Those who have loved by serving their neighbors,
Those who have scorned You by scorning others,
Give us Your grace to have the right spirit,

At your right hand! O God, hear our call!
Shall find their place with you, Righteous One!
Sent forth by You, have torment so deep.
That in our deeds, Your law we obey.

Text based on the Vespers stichera at Psalm 140 for Meat-fare Sunday
Tune: from Grekokatolicki Duchovny Pisni, 1969
SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE
Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross

1. Lord and Cre - a - tor, from clay You formed me,
   Gave me a soul through life - giv - ing breath;
   Over cre - a - tion made me a rul - er!
   But Sa - tan tempt - ed, lured me to death.

2. Stripped of my heav - n’ly gar - ment through sin - ning,
   Clothed now with leaves and gar - ments of skin,
   I eat my bread through work - ing and swea - ting.
   Your voice is deaf - ened through e - vil’s din.

3. In dis - o - be - dience, Ad - am was ban - ished;
   Par - a - dise closed! He sat there and cried.
   Give us Your grace to wel - come this sea - son;
   Fast - ing and pray’r will hum - ble our pride.

4. As we be - gin this sea - son of fas - ting,
   Thus sanc - ti - fy - ing bod - y and soul,
   Flee - ing from pas - sions, vir - tues e’er seek - ing,
   We set Christ’s Pas - cha as fi - nal goal!

Text based on the Vespers stichera at Psalm 140 for Cheese-fare Saturday and Sunday
Tune: from Grekokatolicki Duchovny Pisni, 1969
1. “For-give our sins as we for-give,” You taught us, Lord, to pray,
   But You a-lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
2. In blaz-ing light Your Cross re-veals the truth we dim-ly knew:
   What triv-ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!
3. As we be-gin the Fast once more, we pray You, Lord of all:
   Take far from us in-dif-fer-ence, de-spair, and pow-er’s call.

   How can Your par-don reach and bless the un-for-giv-ing heart
   Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease;
   Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.

   That broods on wrongs and will not let old bit-ter-ness de-part?
   Instead, be-stow in-teg-ri-ty, hu-mil-i-ty and love;
   Let me not judge my neigh-bor’s fault! grant mer-cy from a-bove.

Text: stanzas one and two: Rosamund Herklots, b. 1905; © Oxford University Press
stanza three: J. Michael Thompson
Tune: Rusyn traditional melody
1. With joy we keep the holy Fast.
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. You took our flesh, O Christ our God,
4. To God, the blessed Three-in-One,

And gather on the Lord's own Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
That we be saved from death and sin.
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
In icons, we this faith express,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil's falls.
As we our Paschal fast begin.
While earth with thanks and love replys!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
1. With joy we keep the holy Fast
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. We praise you, uncreated Light,
4. To God, the blessed Three-in-One,

And gather on the Lord's own Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
Who fill the universe with joy,
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
And give You thanks for Grego-ry,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from e'er evil's falls.
Whose teachings wise we e'er employ.
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
Veneration of the Holy Cross

1. With joy we keep the holy Fast
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. Before Your cross we bow to day,
4. To God, the blessed Three in One,

And gather on the Lord's own Day
To day, the day our Savior calls!
And hail You, Christ, our Savior Lord.
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
With mid-Lent come, we claim Your grace;
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil's falls.
Your people aid, Your help afford!
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
Commemoration of our Venerable Father John Climacus

1. With joy we keep the holy Fast.
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. O Master, as we keep this Fast,
4. To God, the blessed Three in One,

And gather on the Lord’s Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
We hear the words of good Saint John
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
And climb the ladder of the cross,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil’s falls.
Which to Your glory leads us on.
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
Commemoration of our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
THOMAS SUNDAY
Second Paschal Sunday

melody: Christos voskres! Pid neba zwid

1. The evening of the day He rose, the Savior
2. When eight days passed, Christ came again, and Thomas
3. All glory, Lord, to you we pay arisen

stood with those He chose! But Thomas was not
stood among them then. "Stretch forth your hand—no
from the grave this day, whom with the Father

there that night and doubted all those tidings bright.
longer doubt." "My Lord and God!" was Thomas' shout.
we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

The Lord is ris'n! Christos voskres! The Lord is

ris'n! Christos voskres!

Text based on John 20: 19-31
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
1. The first day of the week at dawn, the women bearing myrrh rush on to find the stone all here! A banquet gobsmacked! As He foretold, He from the grave this day, whom with the Father
2. "Why seek the Living in a tomb? He is not here! The Lord is ris'n! Christos voskres!"
3. All glory, Lord, to you we pay arisen bear-ing myrrh rush on to find the stone all here! The Lord is ris'n! Christos voskres!

Text based on Mark 15:43-16:9
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC
Fourth Paschal Sunday

melody: Christos voskres! Pid neba zwid

1. Beth-se-da's pool was oft a place where sick folk
2. When Je-sus asked the crip-pled man if he would
3. All glo-ry, Lord, to you we pay a-ris-en

met God's heal-ing grace. A crip-ple lay there
want to walk and stand, "No one has helped me," from the grave this day, whom with the Fa-ther

end-less days, who longed for heav-en's heal-ing ways. we a-dore, and Par-a-clete, for ev-er-more!

The Lord is ris'n! Chris-tos vos-kres! The Lord is

ris'n! Chris-tos vos-kres!

Text based on John 5: 1-15
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
1. At festal mid-point, Jesus went to preach the
message God had sent. His loving Word brought
Christ! The word is dumb!" "I come not of my
from the grave this day, whom with the Father
strife severe dividing those who'd come to hear.
own accord, but am the Father's living Word!"
we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

The Lord is ris'n! Christos voskres! The Lord is
ris'n! Christos voskres!

Text based on John 7: 14-30
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN
Fifth Paschal Sunday

melody: Christos voskres! Pid neba zwid

1. While in Samaria, Jesus came to rest by well with Jacob's name. A woman let her
2. "How is it, sir, you ask of me, Samaria? How can it be?" "If you but knew Who
3. Those drinking here will thirst again; those drinking living water, then, will never thirst; this
4. All glory, Lord, to you we pay a risen

buck-ets sink, and Jesus said, "Give me a drink."

speaks to you, you'd beg for living waters, too."

Fountain brings eternal life where 'er it springs!"

we adore, and Paraclete, for ever more!

The Lord is risen! Christos voskres! The Lord is

ris'n! Christos voskres!

Text based on John 4: 5-42
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
1. As Jesus walked, he saw a man who, blind from birth, fulfilled God's plan. He spat, appointed
stored, he came again where, in the face of
from the grave this day, whom with the Father

eyes with clay, and then to wash sent him away.
spite and scorn gave praise which did Christ's deed adorn.
we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

The Lord is ris'n! Christos voskres! The Lord is

ris'n! Christos voskres!

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**SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND**

*Sixth Paschal Sunday*

*Text based on John 9: 1-38*

*Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926*
THE ASCENSION
OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

melody: Christos voskres! Pid neba zwid

The Lord ascends to heaven high! The Lord ascends to heaven high!

Text based on Luke 24: 36-53
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
melody: Christos voskres! Pid neba zwid

1. Then, lifting up His eyes to You, the Lord said
to His Father true: "The time has come! Now
glorify Your Son with joy that cannot die."
Your Spirit send, O Father, Lord!

2. "Eternal life means knowing You and Me as
Christ, Messiah true. All You have given,
I have done; now glorify Me as Your Son."
your bonds of love, both here on earth and in heav'n above!
Your Spirit send, O Father, Lord!

3. "Now keep all those You gave to me, that they, with
Church with one accord; thus to the Father,
glory be, and to the Spirit: One in Three!
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926

4. All praise, O ris'n, ascended Lord, from all Your
to His Father true: "The time has come! Now
glorify Your Son with joy that cannot die."
Your Spirit send, O Father, Lord!

Text based on John 17: 1-13
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
PENTECOST SUNDAY

melody: Christos voskres! Pid neba zwid

1. Up - on the last, great fest - tal day, the Lord stood
2. He spoke of Spir - it, we be - lieve, whom all His
3. O Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, to You be

up and then did say: If you are thirs - ty,
fol - l'wers would re - ceive; and on this fif - tieth,
end - less praise ad - dressed. To You, the Three - in -

come to Me - drink of the liv - ing wa - ter free!
joy - filled day on bend - ed knee, the Church will pray:
One, we bring our praise and thanks, O God our King!

O Spir - it of the Lord, de - scend! O Spir - it

of the Lord, de - scend!

Text based on John 7: 37-53
Tune: from Tserkovni Pisni, 1926
1. Through faith, the Saints have conquered kingdoms;
2. "If for your faith you each give witness
3. "Pick up your cross and follow Me daily;

Shut lions' mouths, found strength in trial, Were
Before the world, I promise you, That
If you do not, unworthy you'll be To

flogged, de - rid - ed, sawed a - sun - der,
I will witness to the Fa - ther
join the throngs of ransomed in glo - ry,

Held high the cross through hate and guile,
Of your strong faith and love so true."
Bought by my death for vic - to - ry!

For these, your saints, we praise You, Christ; Your
precious Blood has paid our ransom's price.

Tune: Dmitri Bortniansky (1751-1825)
1. As Jesus walked the beaches of the Sea of Galilee,
2. Both James and John were called alike, and followed Christ that day.
3. Christ calls us each to follow Him, to listen and obey.

He called to Peter and to Andrew: "Come and follow Me!
They toured the whole of Galilee, and heard the Master say:
There will be glory and great peace for all who walk His way.

Leave boat and net; in days to come, you'll go forth once again;
"Repent! The Kingdom is at hand! The Good News is for all!"
God has no pets, no favorites; no matter what our past,

Formed by My word, you'll cast your nets - not seeking fish, but men!
In ev'ry place, He cured the sick and heard the sinners' call.
If we will live as Jesus taught, we'll join him at the last.

Text based on Matthew 4: 18-23 (vv. 1-2), Romans 2: 10-16 (v. 3)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary Mother of our God

1. The birds aloft, the grass beneath show God’s love.
2. God feeds the birds and clothes the flow’rs every day.
3. Is not the life God gives to us worth more than food?
4. Now justified by faith in Christ Jesus the Lord,

Food and clothing, all things needful, come from heav’n above.
Since we know this, why do we then fear and go astray?
Let the cares of life from heav’n’s vantage all be viewed!
In our lives, through grace, we’re given peace and great reward.

Stop your worrying; seek God’s Kingdom first of all!

Then His loving care guards, what’er befall!

Text based on Matthew 6: 22-34 (vv. 1-3), Romans 5: 1-10 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. As the Lord was walking, came a soldier in distress.
2. Jesus said, “I’ll come to you and cure him; have no fear.”
3. Quite amazed, the Master told him: “Go off home in peace;
4. Freed from sin and slave to justice, striving with each breath;

“Sir,” he said, “my servant’s dying. Cure him, make him blest.”
“Lord,” the soldier said, “it’s not fit; order it from here.”
Through your faith, this is accomplished; he shall have release.
God’s own gift is life in Jesus; sin’s sole wage is death!

Lord, I am not worthy, that you should come to me;

Speak the word of healing, Jesus; set my spirit free!

In your love reborn, forgiven, ever let us be!

Text based on Matthew 8: 5-13 (vv. 1-3), Romans 6: 18-23 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Anhel Božij / When the Angel Came

1. As he walked the land where the pagans lived, Jesus came upon two men.
2. Demons knew his voice, and our souls rejoice as we see his might now shine:
3. When the pigs, unclean, vanished from the scene, herd-ers ran, spread tidings true;
4. Lips’ and heart’s accord, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” This is our salvation’s song.

They were sore oppressed and, indeed, possessed; strange beyond the pow’r of pen!
Cast-ing, by his pow’r, in that very hour, devils into herds of swine!
Then the town came out, said in panic’s rout, “We shall have no part in You!”
Heart’s faith makes us right; standing in the light, we confess our whole life long:

1, 2, 3 “Have you come to meddle here, Son of God, or make us fear?”
4. You have come into our fear, feeding us who gather here!

We proclaim you “Lord,” Son of God adored, stronger than the demons’ jeer!
We proclaim you “Lord,” Son of God adored, Jesus, our Redeemer dear!

Text based on Matthew 8: 28-34 (vv. 1-3), Romans 10: 1-10 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. People brought to Jesus a cripple in his pain,
2. Jesus said, “Take courage! Your sins are cleansed away!”
3. Jesus said, “What evil within your minds remains!
4. Jesus stretched his hand out, cried, “Stand and go your way!”
5. Dif’ring gifts, one Giver; our love must be sincere.

Having faith that healing could give him strength again.
Some nearby were shaken, said “He’s blasphemed today!”
Curing or forgiving, both come from God, ‘tis plain!”
All the crowd was awe-struck to see God’s pow’r that day.
Patient and rejoicing, in pray’r, we persevere.

“Your sins are forgiven!” Hear the words of Jesus;
Calling us to new life who put our faith in Him.

Text based on Matthew 9:1-8 (vv. 1-4), Romans 12:6-14 (v. 5)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody

melody: Prizri, O Marije / Mary, Look Upon Us
1. Two blind men, searching Jesus out, made this their heart-felt plea:
2. He turned to leave, and suddenly a crowd hemmed Him around:
3. The strong in faith should bear with grace the scruples of the weak.

O Son of David, pity us! Cure us and let us see!
They brought a man possessed to Him, who could not make a sound.
Build up your neighbor, do him good—let each God’s glory seek.

Said Jesus, “Are you confident that this work I can do?
At Jesus’ word, the demon left; the mute man gained his voice.
All Scripture, written long ago, is given that we might find

They answered, “Yes!” and Jesus said, “It shall be done for you.”
The crowd, amazed, said “Ne’er before were deeds like this! Rejoice!”
In God the source of patient hope. Be of one heart and mind!

Text based on Matthew 9: 27-35 (vv. 1-2), Romans 15: 1-7 (v. 3)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: O Marije Mati Boza / O Mary Mother of our God

1. On seeing throngs who sought Him out, Christ’s heart was moved.
2. As evening came, they told the Lord, “Send them a-way.
3. Indignantly, they showed the meager food they possessed.
4. Christ raised His eyes and blessed His God, then broke the bread.
5. Let factions cease! Be one in mind, in Jesus’ name.

He then healed the sick and suffering; thus His care He proved.
So that they might eat!” Said Jesus, “Give them food today.”
Jesus took the bread and fish and bid the crowds to rest.
Serv-ing all, the loaves and fishes let them all be fed!
We preach one Gospel and one Lord, one Cross, e’er the same.

Refrain

Jesus, Bread of Life, feed each hungry soul in need!

Show us all Your love; be our Food indeed.

Text based on Matthew 14: 14-20 (vv. 1-4), 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17 (v. 5)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Christijane, Proslavljajme / All the Faithful Come Before You

1. Sending his disciples sailing, Jesus went to pray.
2. Then came Jesus, walking toward them on the stormy wave.
3. Jesus hastened to assure them: "Fear not! It is I!"
4. Jesus said, "How little faith you've come to place in Me."
5. Each of us is God's own temple, where the Spirit lives;

Waves began to toss their vessel; skies turned dark and grey.
Think ing Him a ghost, in terror they began to rave.
Peter said, "Then call me to You 'cross the waters high."
Then he turned, rebuked the watery quiet was the sea!
And God's temple is most holy—holiness God gives!

Refrain

Peter cried, "Lord, save me!" as he began to fall;

Jesus stretched His hand and rescued him from faith so small.

As you did for him, O Master, hear and save us all.

Text based on Matthew 14: 22-34 (vv. 1-4), 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17 (v. 5)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. To the Master’s side came a man, who cried:
2. Stumbling in their shame, his disciples came;
3. The apostle’s word, seemingly absurd,

"Lord, take pity on my son!" Jesus heard his pray'r
all their striving had been vain. Jesus said at last,
shows the path that leads to God: Seen by all as fools,

and, with might so rare, made the demon's work undone.
"Only pray'r and fast could this victory attain.
used by Christ as tools to destroy our sin's façade.

Faith the size of mustard seed has the pow'r to conquer need.

Mountains large and grand move at faith's command; nothing stands against faith's plead.

Text based on Matthew 17: 14-22 (vv. 1-2), 1 Corinthians 4: 9-16 (v. 3)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. Jesus told this story: God’s reign can be compared
2. One man, debt encumbered, could not repay the loan.
3. “Lord, be patient with me, and I will pay in full.”
4. Leaving, that same servant found one who owed him less.
5. Though implored for mercy, the servant, hard of heart,
6. Told of this, in anger the king called that man in.
7. Sowing in the spirit, Paul reaped a Church for God,

To a king who summoned his servants for reck’ning there.
So the king said, “Sell him, his family and all he owns.”
Moved to tender pity, the king forgave him all.
“Pay me what you owe me!” he cried, with curse and stress.
Threw the man in prison, till full repayment start.
“Your whole debt was lifted; why then so hard with him?”
Putting up with hard ships, that naught impede the Word.

Refrain
As we treat each other, harshly or with mercy,
So our heav’n-ly Father will treat us in return.

Text based on Matthew 18: 23-35 (vv. 1-6), 1 Corinthians 9: 2-12 (v. 7)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Text based on Matthew 19: 16-26 (vv. 1-3), 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. The Lord said, “There was once a man planting vines,
   seized and beat the slaves, hurt them sore;
   What will the owner of the vineyard do in turn?
   Stand firm in faith and be on guard: act like men!

Hedged his vineyard, built a tower, saw his work was fine!
Come the harvest, sent his slaves to take his share away.
When the owner sent out others, they were hurt the more.
Then the renters seized and killed him, thinking they had won.
He will take away the land and give to those who'll learn!
In a word, be strong! and let Christ's love guide you again.

The rejected stone Has become the corner stone!
Wondrous in our eyes, Done by God alone!

Text based on Matthew 21: 33-42 (vv. 1-5), 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24 (v. 6)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Christijane, Proslavljajme / All the Faithful Come Before You

1. Jesus said: God's reign is like a king who gave a feast
2. But when summoned to the wedding, they refused to come.
3. When the king came in, he saw a man not clad right.
4. God it is who firmly sets us, seals us in His Son,

For a wedding, and invited all, from great to least:
Said the king, “Fill up my feast with anyone who'll come.”
“How is it you're robed so poorly? Throw him from my sight!”
With the Spirit as first payment; by this, we're made one.

Refrain

Tell all those invited: My dinner is prepared!

Ev'rything is ready for you at this wedding fair!

Many are invited; few, the chosen seated there.

Text based on Matthew 8: 5-13 (vv. 1-3), 2 Corinthians 1: 21-2:4 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. Once a lawyer said to Jesus, “Master, tell me true; how can David call the Christ his son, within God’s plan?”
2. In His turn, He asked the lawyer, “Tell me, if you can, that we, too, make known the glory Christ had from the start.
3. God, who called the light from darkness, shines within our heart of the laws of God, which is the greatest one to you?”

Refrain

You shall love the Lord God with all your heart and soul;
You shall also love your neighbor: make this law your goal!

Loving God and loving neighbor: these two make one whole!

Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. Once there was a man, who had made a plan, had to travel far away.
2. Two men took this wealth, bettered it themselves, thus repaid their master’s choice.
3. When the man returned, of their skills he learned, and commend ed even in our woes, we can see Christ’s loving face!
4. Now, the time and day! Cast your sin away! Do not waste God’s faith ful servant, working hard, each were given funds that day. Faithful servant, working hard, bringing in your great reward, You have worked with less; now with more you’re blest: Come and share your master’s joy!

Text based on Matthew 25: 14-30 (vv. 1-3), 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Text based on Matthew 15: 21-28 (vv. 1-4), 2 Corinthians 6: 16b-7:1 (v. 5)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. When walking by the lake-side, there the Master saw two
2. The nets were full to breaking, and they dragged their catch to
3. The one who shall sow sparingly will reap a small re-

boats. At His request, the owner Simon sailed him
land. Then Simon said, “O leave me Lord, for I’m a
ward; If bountiful, then great will be the bles-

out from shore. There, seated, Jesus taught the crowds; then
sinful man.” The Lord replied, “Be neither sad nor grudg-ing in your
of the Lord! Be neither sad nor grudg-ing in your

said, “Put out to sea; Cast out your nets this one time
this time on, you’ll see Your catch will not be fish, but
giving, for we know God loves a cheerful giver!

more, the works of God you’ll see.”
men! Leave all and follow Me.”
Thus we serve Him, high and low.

Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

tune: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary, Mother of our God

1. "Do unto others what you would have them do.
2. Love all your enemies though their love is small;
3. "My grace shall be enough for you, all your days.

Love only those who love you? Where's the credit due?
Give your help to all who need, and God will bless it all.
For when you are weak, the pow'r of Christ fills all your ways."

Refrain

Be compassionate As Your Father is to you:

Children of our God, This we all must do!

Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. In the town of Naim, a widow lost her only son.
2. Jesus saw and, moved to pity, told her, “Do not cry.”
3. I assure you that the Gospel did not come from men,

Grieving with her, crowds of townsfolk walk and mourn as one.
Then He raised the man and gave him back to her alive!
But from Christ Himself, revealing God's good will again!

Refrain

In our midst a Prophet has risen, called by God!

God has visited His people, walked where we have trod!

Life and death do what He bids them: Glory be to God!

Text based on Luke 7: 11-16 (vv. 1-2), Galatians 1: 11-19 (v. 3)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Anhel Božij / When the angel came

1. Out the farmer went— so the tale is spent— sowing seed upon the ground. Some fell on the path, where it could not last; it soon died. Some grew in the weed, strangling it indeed; hun-dred-fold! When we hear the Word, and live what we’ve heard live anew. Life is not our own; by faith we are shown grabbed by birds or trodden down. Jesus told these tales, it’s plain, though to live it bravely tried. we bear fruit, as Christ has told! Christ within us lives! It’s true!

2. Some in shallow soil sprouted from his toil; lacking moisture, some fell on the ground. Some fell on the path, where it could not last; it soon died. Some grew in the weed, strangling it indeed; hun-dred-fold! When we hear the Word, and live what we’ve heard live anew. Life is not our own; by faith we are shown grabbed by birds or trodden down. Jesus told these tales, it’s plain, though to live it bravely tried. we bear fruit, as Christ has told! Christ within us lives! It’s true!

3. Some of this new seed found rich soil indeed and produced a hundred-fold! When we hear the Word, and live what we’ve heard live anew. Life is not our own; by faith we are shown grabbed by birds or trodden down. Jesus told these tales, it’s plain, though to live it bravely tried. we bear fruit, as Christ has told! Christ within us lives! It’s true!

4. We are crucified! With Christ, we have died, so that we may on the ground. Some fell on the path, where it could not last; it soon died. Some grew in the weed, strangling it indeed; hun-dred-fold! When we hear the Word, and live what we’ve heard live anew. Life is not our own; by faith we are shown grabbed by birds or trodden down. Jesus told these tales, it’s plain, though to live it bravely tried. we bear fruit, as Christ has told! Christ within us lives! It’s true!

Text based on Luke 8: 5-15 (vv. 1-3), Galatians 2: 16-20 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*melody: Prizri, O Marije / Mary, look upon us*

1. Once there was a rich man, Who ate well ev 'ry day,
2. Laz - a - rus, the beg - gar, All cov - ered up with sores,
3. When they died, the beg - gar Was car - ried to heav-en's joy
4. A - bra - ham, my fa - ther, I still have broth - ers three;
5. A - bra - ham most sad - ly, Said, “If they will not heed,

Dressed in fin - est lin - ens, Who scorned those in his way.
Longed to taste the leav - ings That fell up - on the floor.
While in fier - y tor - ment The rich man was em - ployed.
If a dead man came back, They sure - ly then would see!
Mo - ses and the proph - ets, A ris - en one they'll scorn in - deed.”

**Refrain**

In the cross of Je - sus I will glad - ly glo - ry,

Through the cross I tri - umph, and peace and grace I see.

*Text based on Luke 16: 19-31 (vv. 1-6), Galatians 6: 11-18 (refrain)*
*Tune: traditional Rusyn melody*
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Anhel Božij / When the Angel Came

1. As he walked the land where the pagans lived,
   Jesus met a man in need; He was sore oppressed
   and, indeed, possessed; Naked, strong, and strange indeed!
   We pro-claim you “Lord,” Son of God a-dored, Strong-er than the de-mons’ jeer!
   1-3. “Have you come to meddle here, Son of God, or make me fear?”

2. Demons knew his voice, and our souls rejoice
   As we see his might now shine: Cast-ing, by his pow’r,
   in that very hour, Devils into herds of swine!
   We pro-claim you "Lord," Son of God a-dored, Je-sus, our Re-deem-er dear!
   4. You have come into our fear, Feeding us who gather here!

3. When the pigs, un-clean, vanished from the scene,
   Herders ran, spread tidings true; Then the town came out,
   said in panic’s rout, “We shall have no part in You!”

4. Brought with Christ to life-dead to sin’s own strife-
   those with faith can clearly see: This is gift of God,
   not our works’ reward; God’s own handiwork are we!

Refrain

Text based on Luke 8: 26-39 (vv. 1-3), Ephesians 2: 4-10 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody

Note: this hymn is similar to, but different from, the hymn for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, which is based on the same event as related by Saint Matthew.
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We Hasten to Your Patronage

1. One day a man named Jai-rus came and fell at Je-sus’ feet. “My daugh-ter’s at the door of death; come long so mute, Then told why she had touched his cloak, how life from death.” With Pe-ter, James and John, the Lord came ha-tred down, And on the cross u-nit-ed us; may save!” did he en-treat. As Je-sus went through heal-ing’s grace took root. The Lord said, “Daugh-ter, with them to the bed, And there He took her Christ be e’er a-dored! So strang-ers, a-lie-crush-ing crowds, a wom-an touched his hem; The pow’r of go in peace; your faith has been your cure.” While He still by the hand; “O lit-tle girl, a-rise!” The Lord re-ns no more-but ci-ti-zens and saints, all joined to-

God went forth from Him and made her whole a-gain.
spoke the mes-sage came, “The child now breathes no more.”
stored the girl to life be-fore their won-d’ring eyes.
gath-er by His love, a tem-ple in the Lord!

Text based on Luke 8: 41-56 (vv. 1-3), Ephesians 2: 4-10 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody

Note: Jairus is pronounced "JI-rus", with a long I.
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary Mother of our God

1. A lawyer said to Jesus once, “Teach true,
2. Then He replied, “What is the law? What’s written there?”
3. To prove a point, the lawyer asked of the Lord,
4. There was a man who, on a trip, once was robbed.
5. Then came a long a foreigner, saw his need,
6. Said Jesus, “Who was neighbor then to this one?”

If I seek eternal life, please tell me what to do!”
Then the lawyer answered with these words, so wise and fair:
“Tell me, who is then my neighbor? Who can be ignored?”
Priest and Levite saw him, left him there beside the road.
Gave assistance to the man and was his friend indeed.
“Him who pitied!” Jesus said, Then go, do like wise, son!”

Refrain

Love the Lord your God! Love with heart and mind and soul!

And love neighbor, too; Make this law your goal!

Text based on Luke 10: 25-37
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Christijane, Proslavljame / All the Faithful Come Before You

1. Jesus told this parable: “There once was a rich man.
2. Said the man, “What shall I do? My barns will hold no more.
3. Then the man said to himself, “Relax! Eat well and drink!
4. On that night God said to him, “Oh fool, what can you know?
5. Jesus said, “It works that way when growing rich for self;

Full and plentiful were his harvests, more than was his plan.”
I will build far larger ones and there place all my store.”
I have blessings in reserve for many years, I think!”
When I call you from this life, where will these riches go?”
Heed this, all who hear my words: in God place all your wealth!”

Refrain

Wake, awake, O sleeper! and rise now from the dead!

Jesus Christ will give you light, our risen, glorious Head!

Live as children of the Light, and by the Lord be led!

Text based on Luke 12: 16-21 (vv. 1-5), Romans 6: 18-23 (refrain)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Anhel Božij / When the angel came

1. On a Sabbath day, Jesus went his way,
2. Seeing her distress, Jesus called and blessed:
3. When the head-man saw works against the Law,
4. Christ said in reply, “Hypocrites! your eye

Teaching in the synagogue, There a woman, bent,
“From your illness you are freed!” Standing straight again
He rebuked the crowd and said: “Work has six days blest;
Cannot see the justice here: Ox and ass you’ll feed;

eighteen years had spent, Meet-ing Christ in evil’s fog.
in the sight of men, She rejoiced in God indeed!
Sab-bath is for rest! Come those days for cures instead!”
one who should be freed Is deserving more, I fear!”

Refrain

Take the truth as belt for you; Justice as your breast-plate true;

Faith, as mighty shield, won’t to evil yield; Gospel’s zeal as sturdy shoe!

Text based on Luke 13:10-17 (vv. 1-4), Ephesians 6: 10-17 (refrain)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Text based on Luke 14: 16-24 (vv. 1-4), Colossians 1: 12-18 (v. 5)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage

1. As Jesus neared a village, there ten lepers raised a cry:
2. As they began to leave the place, they knew that they were free;
3. Of ten men cured of leprosy, the only one who came
4. When Christ our life appears, with Him in glory you shall be;

"O Master Jesus, pity us! Hear us who sob and
One of the men then hurried back with shouts of praise and
Was a despised Samarian, to praise God’s holy
So put to death the things of earth, from sin and fault be

sigh!” He saw them and then in reply He said, “Go
glee. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet, with thankful
Name. Christ said, “Stand up and go your way! Your faith has
free. The old self has been put aside; the new man

on your way, And show yourselves unto the priests, that
heart inclined; The Lord then said, “Were ten not cured? Where
made you whole.” The man stood up and went a long, with
is put on, Who grows in knowledge and in truth, for

they may have their say.”
are the other nine?”
praise in heart and soul.
Christ is all in all.

Text based on Luke 17: 12-19 (vv. 1-3), Colossians 3: 4-11 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. A lawyer said to Jesus once, “Teacher true,
2. Then Jesus said, “Why call me ‘good?’ That’s God alone!
3. The man replied, “I’ve done those things every day.”
4. On hearing this, the man grew sad, went away;
5. Since you are God’s own chosen ones, deeply loved,

If I seek eternal life, please tell me what to do!”
You know all of God’s commands, those carved into the stone!”
So that he might grow, the Savior bid him live this way:
Jesus said, “How hard it is for rich folk to obey!”
Clothe yourself in mercy, kindness, patience from above!

Refrain

“One thing more there is: Sell, and give the poor your all.

Give heav’n all your store; Come and hear My call.”

Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. Down the road to Jericho, a begging blind man sat.
2. Hearing this, the man cried out with loud and fervent plea.
3. Jesus stopped and asked the blind man what his wish would be.
4. Jesus said, “Receive your sight!” and then the man could see.
5. To the King, the only God, unseen and deathless Lord

Hearing crowds, he turned and asked the people, “What is that?”
Though the crowd soon tried to shush, he cried insistently:
Came the answer from a true heart: “Lord, I want to see!”
He began to follow Jesus, for this gift so free!
We give glory and due honor! May He be adored!

Refrain

“Jesus, Son of David, have pity now on me!
Stop and give me back my vision; save me, set me free!
You have come to save the sinner; I the first must be!”

Text based on Luke 18: 35-43 (vv. 1-4), 1 Timothy 1: 15-17 (v. 5)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. When traveling through Jericho, the crowd knew Jesus’ name,
2. Zacchaeus hurried down and bid the Master come and dine,
3. The Lord approved: “This day salvation comes within these walls!
4. All of our hopes are fixed on God, the savior of all men,

And spoke of him and gathered there, drawn by the Teacher’s fame.
The crowd, repulsed, said: “Look, he treats a sinner like he’s fine!”
This day, a son of Abraham has heard his father’s calls!
Especially those who believe, that we may live again!

Zacchaeus, short of stature, climbed a tree that he might see:
Zacchaeus stood his ground and said, “My Lord, I swear this day:
The Son of Man has come to earth to search out and to save
To each believer, show yourself in purity and love

When Jesus passed, He looked and called, “Come down from there to Me.”
Half of my goods I give as alms, and all my fraud repay.
All of the lost. Give thanks to God who loves both rich and slave!”
And faith as an example sent for all from God above.

Text based on Luke 19: 1-10 (vv. 1-3), 1 Timothy 4: 9-16 (v. 4)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
1. God loved the world so much, He gave His own Son,
   That eternal life might be His gift to everyone.

2. As Moses raised the serpent up, shown on high,
   So the Son is lifted high that we may never die.

3. The Christ was not sent to the world to condemn,
   But that all, believing Him, might find their life in Him.

Refrain

Boast of nothing less than the Cross of Christ our Lord!

In it, we are blessed; life is our reward!

Text based on John 3: 13-17
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We Hasten to Your Patronage

1. Christ called the crowd to Him and said, “If you would follow Me,
2. What profit, then, to gain the world and then to lose one’s soul?
3. For I am dead to my old self; with Christ I’m crucified;

Deny yourself, take up your cross, and my disciple be!
What can be given in exchange that still would keep us whole?
The life I live is not my own—yes, to my “self” I’ve died!

For those who seek to save their life will lose it at the end;
If we be ashamed of Christ, with witness far from grand,
Christ lives in us; a life of faith—from sin and death set free,

But life lost for the Gospel’s sake will live on as My friend.”
Christ will disown us each when we’re before the judgment stand.
That I may know that loving Lord, who gave Himself for me.

Text based on Mark 8: 34 - 9:1 (vv. 1-2) and Galatians 2: 16-20 (v. 3)
Tune: traditional Rusyn melody
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS
AT THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
Sunday between October 11-17

melody: Kol slaven nas / How great the glory

1. Come, all you faithful, sing praise with gladness!
2. As in the Law the Sabbath was honored,
3. The Fathers taught that Jesus our Savior
4. Give grace, O God, that in our living

On this glad day our hymns we raise
So in the Seven Councils we see
Was truly God and truly a man;
We live these teachings out every day,

For those who taught the True Faith with boldness;
The teachings blest which counsel and guide us,
The use of icons in our worship
Proclaiming Christ to every person,

For their strong witness all their days.
Preaching the Holy Trinity!
Now shows our faith in God’s great plan.
Showing Your love in every way.

Refrain:

O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
As we were taught, so now do we worship you!

Text based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday of the Fathers
Tune: Dmitri Bortmiansky (1751-1825)
1. Let us now praise famous men, tell their stories once again.
2. Those were honored in their age—priest and monarch, prophet, sage—
3. These, the godly ones, we praise, who endured the darkest days,

Ruling kingdoms in their might, known for valor in men’s sight.
And have left behind a name, which their children e’er can claim.
Covenant, Lord, with You, and Whose grace has seen them through.

Those with counsel true and wise, those who saw with prophet’s eyes—
Others, though, have run this race, vanished, leaving not a trace,
All our hymns of praise we bring for their steadfastness, O King!

Those who wrote the psalms we sing; those who taught the sage and king.
As if they had never been, they and children after them.
From their seed, upon this earth, You have taken humble birth.

For their gifts and witness, Lord, we sing praise with one accord.

Text based on Ecclesiasticus 44: 1-10, 13-14
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
Sunday of the Ancestors

melody: St. Louis (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

1. O come, you lovers of the feasts! With gladness let us raise
2. Believers, let us praise this day the fathers on faith’s trek;
3. For Miriam, Sarah, Rachel fair, for Hannah and for Eve,
4. O Bethlehem, prepare yourself, O Ephra-thah, rejoice!

For Patriarchs and Prophets blest a hymn of thankful praise!
For Adam, Enoch, Noah and the great Melchizedek!
For all the mothers who conceived and bore those to believe
The gate of Eden’s open wide! Cry out with joy-filled voice:

For Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and his seed
For prophets like Isai-ah, for Daniel and the youths
That God would keep His promise, we give You thanks this day;
Our Christ makes haste to come now and brings us back to grace.

Whose covenant with God endured, we give You praise, indeed!
Who, in the face of evil, still proclaimed Your holy truths.
So give us grace, in all our deeds, to serve you, as did they!
Pre-pare your hearts, your homes, your lives! Give Christ the finest place!

Text based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday before Nativity
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of God

melody: Mendelssohn ("Hark! The herald angels sing")

Text based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday after Nativity
1. Thus says the Lord: "I send before you
2. "For after me, Another is coming,
3. For those who wait the manifestation

My messenger, your way to prepare!
Mightier than I, our God's only Son;
Of Jesus Christ, that day will shine

Now hear the voice of someone shouting:
He will baptize with God's Holy Spirit,
and crowns of righteousness and glory

"Make for the Lord a path straight and fair!
And with Them both is truly One!
Wait there for all of Abraham's line!

Refrain
For One is coming, greater than I;
Come and repent!" was John the Baptist's cry!

Text based on Mark 1: 1-8
Tune: Dmitri Bortniansky (1751-1825)
1. When John was placed in prison by Herod, Jesus then left for Galilee, Jezus stirs still the hearts of those who hear: Grace in the generous measure of Christ!

2. The gospel preached by Jesus the Savior, For-saking Nazareth, he dwelt in...

3. For each of us by God has been given, "Repent! the reign of God is coming! The same Lord Christ whose presence is filling..." Ca- per-na-um, beside the sea: God's love and care for all is clear!

Refrain: "All those who walked in darkness and shadow Now by the light of God's own glory see!"

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Text based on Matthew 4: 12-17
Tune: Dmitry Bortniansky (1751-1825)
SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS AT THE SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS
(Sunday between July 13-19)

Hymn

melody: Kol slaven nas/How great the glory

1. O Word of God and Lover of Man-kind,
2. O glorious Fathers of the Councils,
3. In-spired by God, the Fathers in council
4. O blessed Trinity of persons,

You took our flesh and came to earth; The
You fought with vigor all the lies That
Taught that the Lord had two perfect wills, One
One only God, in nature divine, We

Fathers taught that You are one person—
sought to undermine the Gospel.
is divine and one is human—
praise you for the Fathers who teach us

Both endless God and human in birth.
You told the truth that never dies!
By this, the Christ God’s plan fulfills!
The truth that’s older than all time!

O Christ, true God and man in one!

We sing this truth, as ages long have done!

Text based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday of the Council Fathers
Tune: Dmitri Bortniansky (1751-1825)