

Vesper Propers, September 7, 2005
Prefestive day of the Nativity of the Theotokos

The holy martyr Sozon, at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia. He was a shepherd of Lycaonia who taught his family and friends the law of God. Sozon destroyed an idol, and was tortured and then burned for his Christian faith. (304)

*Supplement for **The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2004***

Psalm 140, Tone 1, p. 24

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Psalm 129 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of *my* pleading.

Cantor: (Tone 1) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Stichera of the prefeast - Tone 1 podoben: Nebesnych činov

In your birth, O spot-less one, spir-it-ual rays of uni-ver-sal glad - ness
have shone up-on all the world, an - nounc-ing the Sun of Glo-ry, Christ
our God, for you are tru - ly the me - di - a - trix of all our grace and joy.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

5

O spot - less Vir-gin, to - day the glory of your Fore - feast
 an-nounc-es to all peo-ple in ad - vance the ben-e-fits of your fa - vor;
 now you ob-tain joy for them, and a share in the de-lights of God;
 for you, the cause of our joy, have come.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.


4

The pure The - o - to - kos, the Vir - gin whom he chose as his
 dwell - ing, the glo - ry of the proph-ets, the daugh-ter of
 Da - vid, is born in a chaste man-ner to-day from Jo - a-chim and
 An - na. By her birth, she turns a - side the curse transmitted to us by
 A - - - dam.


Cantor: (Tone 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of the martyr Sozon - Tone 4 podoben: Dal jesi znamenije


(3)




Strength-ened in your weak - ness by the pow'r of him who willed to take our




weak-ness up-on him - self, you joy-ful - ly followed the path of the mar - tyrs.



In bear-ing the Good News, your feet crushed the im-po-tent en - e - my,




O bless-ed So - zon. Thus a crown of victory was woven for you by Je - sus,




the Lov - er of us all and Sav - ior of our souls.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.


(2)



By your wounds you wound-ed the en - e - my and you brought him down



to the ground, armed as you were with the Cross. Cov-ered by an unshak-a - ble



ar - mor, and rapt in love for him who made you pass to the immate-ri - al

king - dom, you were an invin-ci-ble mar - tyr, like a man al - ready belong-ing
to heav - en.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.
(on 1)

Vic - to - ri - ous mar-tyr So - zon, im - i - tat - ing the Sav - ior and Lord
who en-dured his volun-tar - y Pas - sion for you, you will-ing - ly handed your-self
o - ver to tor - ture, butchering, and unspeak-a - ble tor - ments. As a
re - ward he grant-ed you the gifts of heav - en and made you a foun-tain
of heal - ing for those who love you.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 4 samohlasen

To - gether with the mul - ti - tude of the an-gels in heav-en, O all-holy,

spot-less Vir - gin, all hu - man - ity on earth calls your Nativi-ty bless - ed;
 for you be-came the Mother of the Cre - a - tor of All, Christ our God.
 Im-plore him cease-lessly, we beg, on our be - half. Af - ter God, we place all our
 hope in you, O divine, un-wed-ded Moth-er, all wor - thy of our praise.

Hymn of the Evening, p. 12

Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp 114-115

Aposticha

Tone 8 podoben: O preslavnoho čudesé

O won - der which fills us with a - maze - ment! To - day the unwed-ded
 The - o - to - kos is born from a child-less moth - er and fruit-less
 ster - il - i - ty, from the just Jo - a - chim and An - na, like a rod
 that sud-den-ly flow - ers. The as-sem-bly of the Proph-ets now re-joic - es

and the Patri-archs ex - ult with joy at her birth.

Cantor

Lis - ten, O daugh - ter, give ear to my words.

To - day David exults; and Jes - se dan - ces with joy; Le - vi mag - ni - fies

the Lord; the just Jo - achim rejoices in spir - - - it, and An - na

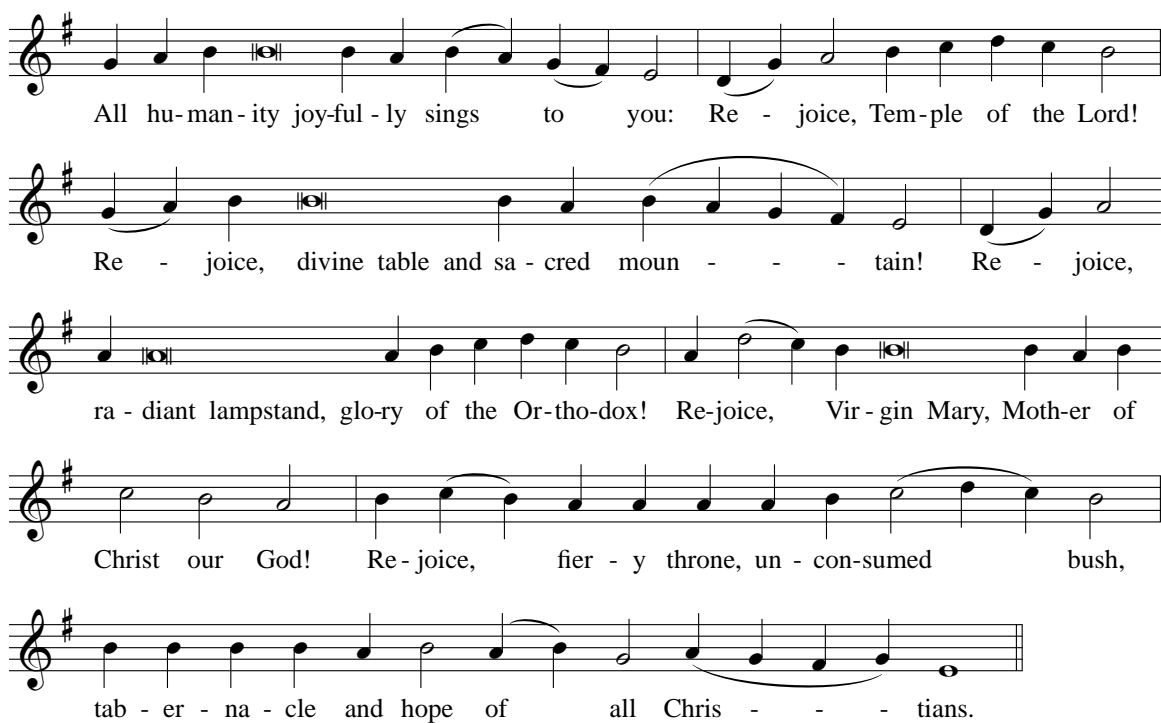
is delivered from bar - ren - ness by your birth, O Vir - gin Mar - y, full of grace.

To - geth - er with us mor - tals, the choirs of an - gels bless the womb that

bore you.

Cantor

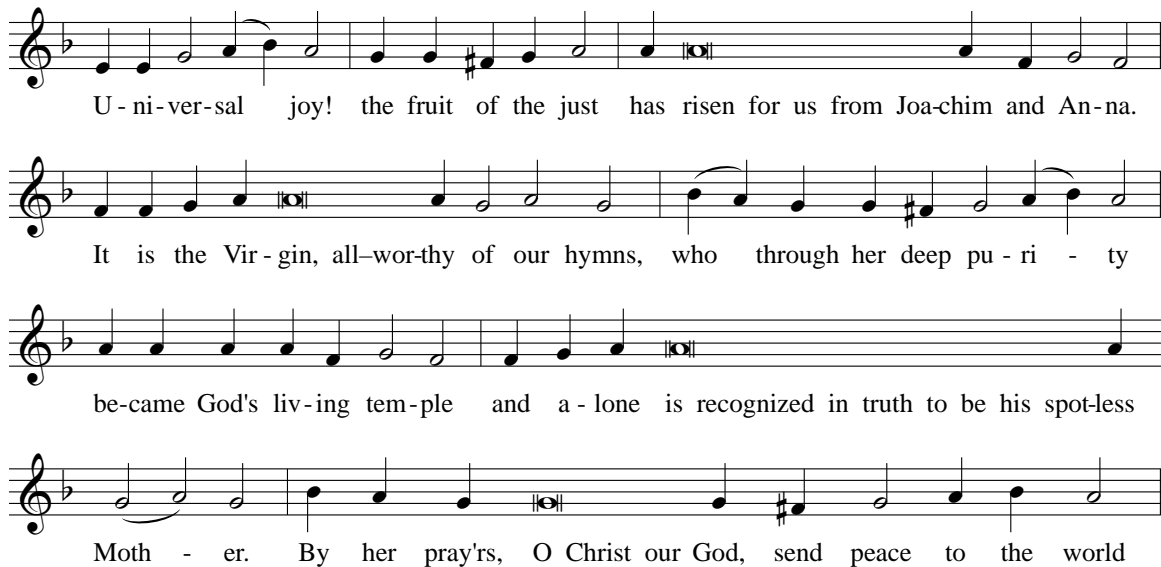
The rich - est of the peo - ple will seek your fa - - - vor.



All hu-man-ity joy-ful-ly sings to you: Re-joice, Tem-ple of the Lord!
 Re-joice, divine table and sa-cred moun-tain! Re-joice,
 ra-diant lampstand, glo-ry of the Or-tho-dox! Re-joice, Vir-gin Mary, Moth-er of
 Christ our God! Re-joice, fier-y throne, un-con-sumed bush,
 tab-er-na-cle and hope of all Chris-tians.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 4 samohlasen



U-ni-ver-sal joy! the fruit of the just has risen for us from Joa-chim and An-na.
 It is the Vir-gin, all-wor-thy of our hymns, who through her deep pu-ri-ty
 be-came God's liv-ing tem-ple and a-lone is recognized in truth to be his spot-less
 Moth-er. By her pray'rs, O Christ our God, send peace to the world

and great mer - cy to our souls.

Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.

Troparia

Troparion of the Martyr Sozon - Tone 4

Your mar - tyr So - zon, O Lord our God, in his strug - gle, received an incor -
 -rup - ti - ble crown from you. With your strength, he brought down the ty - rants
 and broke the cowardly val - or of de - mons. Through his prayers, O Christ our
 God, save our souls.

Glory...now and ever...

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4

To - day is born to us, from the root of Jesse and the loins of Da - vid,
 Mar - y, the god - ly child. There - fore, all creation re - joices and is re - newed.



Heav-en and earth re-joice to-geth - er. You fam-ilies of na-tions sing her praise.



Jo - a - chim is elated and Anna cries out in cel-e-bra - tion: The bar-ren woman



gives birth to the The - o - to - kos and the Sus-tain - er of our Life.

Dismissal, p. 21