Vesper Propers, June 29

THE HOLY PRE-EMINENT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

Simon, son of Jonah and brother of Andrew, was first among the disciples to confess that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God. It was by Jesus that he was called Peter. Paul, Apostle of the gentiles, preached Christ crucified to the Jews and the Greeks. Both announced the Gospel of Jesus Christ in faith and love in the city of Rome and died martyrs under the emperor Nero. The first, as the tradition goes, was nailed to a cross with his head downward and was buried in the Vatican next to the Triumphal Way. The other received his punishment from the sword and was interred at the Ostian Way. Their triumph, equal in honor and veneration, is celebrated by the whole world on this day.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

The Lamplighting Psalms are sung in Tone 2 (p. 36)

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.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Psalm 129
(on 8)
Lord, hear my voice!

What crowns of praises shall we weave Peter and Paul? They were separated in the body but united in spirit, and outstanding as the preach-ers of God. The one indeed led the a-pos-tles, while the oth-er

Update 06/27/18
la-bored more than all the rest. Christ our God, show-ing great mer-cy,
fit-ting-ly crowns them with im-mor-tal glo-ry.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. All repeat "What crowns of praise..."

Cantor: 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.
All repeat "What crowns of praise..."

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.

With what beau-tiful hymns shall we praise Pe-ter and Paul? They are wings
of div-ine knowl-edge, spread-ing out to the far ends of the earth
and soar-ing a-loft to heav-en. They are two heads of the
Gos-pel of grace, two feet of the preach-ing of the truth, two
riv-ers of wisdom and two arms of the Cross, through which
the merciful Christ casts down the pride of demons.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak, and Israel on the Lord. *All repeat "With what beautiful hymns..."*

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *All repeat "With what beautiful hymns..."*

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; *Psalm 116* acclaim him all you people.

With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul? They slew the godless tongues of idolaters. They are fearful swords of the Spirit and notable adornments of Rome, both nourishers of the whole world and the God-inspired tablets of the New Covenant. Christ, in his great mercy, has proclaimed their honor in Zion.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever. *All repeat "With what spiritual songs..."*

Cantor: *(Tone 4) Glory...*
Christ asked three times: Peter, do you love me? Thereby he satisfied the three-fold denial; and Simon, understanding the mystery, cried to the Lord:

You know all things, you know that I love you. After this Christ said to him:

Feed my sheep, feed my lambs; feed those sheep which I have fashioned with my own blood. Therefore, O blessed apostle of God, beseech him to grant us great mercy.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O Theotokos, David the prophet and ancestor of God announced in song to the one who would do great things for you: The Queen stands at your right hand.
He revealed you as the Mother of Life and Intercessor. God was pleased to become man from you without a father so that he might restore the image which passions had deformed, and find the sheep straying in the hills, lift it on his shoulders, and bring it to his Father, uniting it to the heavenly powers. Thus Christ will save the world, for he has abundant and great mercy.

The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening (p. 12)

The Prokeimena for weekdays are found on page 114 in the Appendix.

Readings: I Peter 1: 3 - 9 (EOT 320-321)
I Peter 1: 13 - 19
I Peter 2: 11 - 24

Hymns of the Litija

Tone 2 Bolhar

Come today, assemblies of the faithful, O choirs full of praise, O beautiful gathering, O chosen craftsmen of grace,
we are crowning Peter and Paul with worthy praise. They sowed the
Word in its fullness; through them the grace of the Spirit was poured
out abundantly. And being the vine of the true Vineyard,
they divided up for us a ripe cluster, making our hearts joyful.
Let us sing to them with clear expression, and with a clear conscience,
let us say: Rejoice, O destroyers of the unwise,
and the servants of the Spiritual One. Rejoice, O intermediaries
for good who banish evil. Let us beseech them to always pray the
Creator and Teacher to grant enduring peace to the world
and great mercy to our souls.

Let us praise as intercessors for the world, the teachers and foundations of the Church of Christ, its true pillars and walls, trumpets of the divine teachings and sufferings of Christ, the prime apostles Peter and Paul. They traveled throughout the earth as though with a cloud, sowing the faith, and planted a knowledge of God in all, revealing the Word of the Trinity.

O Peter, rock of foundation, and Paul, O chosen vessel, you were harnessed together to the will of Christ. You raised up all creation
to a knowledge of Christ, the nations, the cities, and the islands.

Indeed, you lifted up anew the Hebrews into the Church, and now you pray that our souls be saved.

O Peter, the first of the glorious apostles and rock of faith!

O wondrous Paul, orator and lampstand of the holy churches!

Standing before the divine throne, pray to Christ for us.

Paul, spokesman of the Lord and foundation of doctrine!

Once you were a persecutor of Jesus the Savior,
and then indeed you were among the first of the apostles, O blessed one.

You saw the Ineffable One, O wise Apostle. You were transported up to the third heaven and you exclaimed: Come with me and do not be deprived of the good things.

O citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, behold the rock of faith and the orator of the Church of Christ, the two men of the Trinity and fishers of the world, today are departing from the earth. Suffering the Passion, they ascend to God, and they pray to him with confidence to save our souls.
The wisdom of God and the Word who is co-eternal with the Father

has truly foretold in the Gospel, O all-praising Apostles,

that you are the two most fruitful vines, for you bore in your branches

the ripe and beautiful cluster from which we believers are

now nourished, and whose taste brings us both sweetness and delight.

Therefore, O Peter, rock of faith, and Paul, pride of the universe,

strengthen the flock that became yours through your teachings.

Cantor: Now and ever...

We bless, you, O Theotokos and Virgin; and we faithful ones
The Litija Litany is found on page 116 in the Appendix.

Aposticha

All 1

O glorious apostle Paul, who can describe your bondage and sorrow in the cities, your tribulations and hardships, your sufferings and vigils? You have suffered hunger, thirst, and cold, nakedness and scourging with rods, the crossing of wilderness, ship-wreck and stonings.

You have both angelic and human character, bearing all with the help of
Christ who strengthened you, so that you might gain the world for Christ, your Lord. We, who celebrate your memory in faith, beseech you to intercede for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor

Through all the world their voice resounds; their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

All

O glorious apostle Paul, who can describe your bondage and sorrow in the cities? Who can tell the hardships and struggles you went through in the preaching of Christ, that you might win all people and present the Church to Christ? O apostle Paul, O teacher of the churches, pray that the Church
may be strengthened by your teachings until the end of time.

Cantor

The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.

All

Let us exalt Peter and Paul, the two great luminaries of the Church; for they have shone forth with the firmness of faith, transcending the sun in brilliance. By the rays of their preaching, they led the Gentiles from ignorance to divine knowledge. Therefore one of them was nailed upon the cross, thus making his way into heaven, where he received
the Kingdom from Christ himself. The other was beheaded with the sword and carried to the Savior, where he received the blessing that he deserved.

Both declared that the unjust ones laid hands against the Lord. Through their prayers, therefore, O Christ our God, take your anger away from us and make firm our faith, for you are the Lover of us all.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6

Today a delightful feast has shone forth to the ends of the earth, the all-solemn memorial of the most wise and first apostles, Peter and Paul.

Let Rome, therefore, receive the glad tidings, rejoicing; and let us feast on this solemn day, crying out to them: Rejoice, O Peter, apostle and special
friend of the Teacher, Christ our God. Rejoice, O truly beloved Paul,

the preacher of the faith and teacher of the universe. Because of your privilege,

O holy ones, beseech Christ our God to save our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, came forth from your womb, O

Virgin most pure. He clothed himself in our human flesh to set

us free from the original curse of Adam. Therefore, O Mary, we praise you

without ceasing, as the true Virgin Theotokos,

and we sing with the angels: Rejoice, O Lady: advocate, protector

and salvation of souls.
The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon (p. 19).

Troparion

Troparion - Tone 4
Sung once by the priest and once by the faithful

Leader of the apostles, teachers of the world, intercede with the

Lord of all to grant peace to the world and abundant mercy to our souls.

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

The faithful sing the troparion, "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos" (p. 119).

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread (p. 119).