Vesper Propers, September 1

The Beginning of the Church Year (“Indiction”). The First Ecumenical Council (325) decreed that the Church’s year should begin on September 1. The lunar month corresponding to September on the Jewish calendar was the beginning of the civil year (cf Exodus 12:2); it was at this time that our Lord Jesus went into the synagogue at Nazareth and read the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to proclaim ‘the acceptable year of the Lord.’” (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4: 16-21).

Our venerable father Simeon the Stylite and his mother. Simeon lived near Antioch in Syria. He was a monk, who lived for many years standing atop a column (in Greek, a stylus), hence he received the nickname "Stylite.” His life and admirable conversation were remarkable. (459)

Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God of Miasena.
The holy martyr Aeithalas, who suffered in Persia. (380)
The forty holy women martyred with their instructor, Ammon the deacon, during the time of the emperor Licinius at Heraclea in Thrace (313).
The holy martyr Callista and her two brothers, Evodius and Hermogenes, who were martyred in Nicomedia. (309)
The just Joshua, son of Nun, servant of the Lord. When the hand of Moses was placed on him, he was filled with the spirit of wisdom. He led the people of Israel after the death of Moses through the Jordan River to the promised land.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006
Psalm 140, Tone 1, page 24

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

(on 10)

Stichera of the Indiction - Tone 1 podoben: Nebesnych činov

We pray to the Creator today with the words given us by Christ, who taught us to pray each day: Our Father, who are in heaven,
give us this day our daily bread, and overlook
On Mount Sinai you gave stone tablets. Today in Nazareth, you read the prophecy, O Christ our God in the flesh. You took and opened the scroll to teach the people that the Scriptures were fulfilled in yourself.

Cantor: Around me the just will assemble because of your goodness to me. All repeat "We pray to the Creator..."

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Psalm 129

Lord, hear my voice!

Cantor: (Tone 5) Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

Stichera of our Venerable Father Simeon the Stylite - Tone 5 samohlasen

O venerable Father, you found a beautiful ladder into heaven, while Elijah found a chariot of fire. He did not leave his ascent for others,
but after death, however, you have left your pillar. O heavenly

man and earthly angel, ever-watchful beacon to the whole world,

O venerable Simeon, pray for our salvation.

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.

O venerable Father, even if the pillar could talk,

it would never stop proclaiming your toils, your labors, and your weeping.

Even though it held you, it was sustained by your tears, watered as a tree.

At your endurance the angels crowd about, people stand in awe, and the
demons tremble. O venerable Simeon, pray for our salvation.

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.
O venerable Father, by the might of the Holy Spirit,
you imitated your Master, as on a cross you ascended the pillar.
The Lord erased the condemnation written against us; you destroyed the rise of passions. The Lord was a lamb, and you a victim; the Lord was on a cross, and you on a pillar. O venerable Simeon, pray for our salvation.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Let the watchman count on daybreak, and Israel on the Lord.

From the good root has come forth the most excellent Simeon; from his infancy he was nourished more on grace than on milk. In his body he dwelt upon the high place, but in his spirit he was raised even higher to God.
Through his virtues he edified his lofty dwelling. He journeyed in high places with the powers of heaven, and he became a dwelling place of Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.

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

You shall be remembered forever, O venerable Father Simon; you were pleasing to God in the kindness of your heart, O blessed one.

Even if you have passed from us, O good shepherd, you did not leave us in spirit, but stand before God in love, and have joined the angels in heaven. Together with them, plead for our salvation.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! Psalm 116
The tomb of your relics, O blessed Father, is a fountain of healing, and your holy soul rightly rejoices with the angels.

O venerable Father, as you have confidence before the Lord and have joined the angels, plead with him for our salvation.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

O God-bearer, you loved the highest knowledge and lived outside the world above visible things. You became an untarnished mirror of God, and ever united to the Light, you kept on receiving light, with clearer insight attaining blessed perfection.

O wise Simeon, pray for our souls.
Doxastikon of Simeon - Tone 6

Di-vine grace hovered over your relics, O ho-ly Sim-e-on. We will hasten

towards the sweet fragrance of your mir-a-cles, draw-ing from them the heal-ing of

ill-ness-es. O venerable Father, plead with Christ our God for our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the Indiction - Tone 6

O e-ter-nal Word and Son, to-gether with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

Cre-a-tor and Maker of all things vis-i-ble and in-vis-i-ble,

bless the be-gin-ning of the year, keep in peace all the faith-ful,

through the pray'rs of the The-o-to-kos and all your saints.

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-9

Leviticus 26: 3-12, 14-17, 19-24

Wisdom 4: 7-15
We have come to the beginning of the year, gathering to honor these saints:

Callicta and her brothers, Evod and Hermogenes; Simeon, equal to the angels, and Joshua, the son of Nun; the seven children of Ephesus, and the forty holy women.

O lovers of feasts, sharing in their remembrance, with insistence we cry out:

O Lord, bless the works of your hands, and make us worthy to pass this year in spiritual progress.

To you our praise is due in Zion, O God.
O Christ our God, you created all things in your wisdom, and brought them from nothingness into being. Now bless the beginning of the year and keep our city free from harm; and in your mercy grant peace and happiness to all the faithful, granting to the world great mercy through the pray'r's of the Theotokos.

We are filled with the blessings of your house.

You are wonderful, O God, and wonderful are your deeds. Your ways are unsearchable; you are the wisdom of God, perfect person and power.

For though without beginning, and equal in eternity and
operation, by your infinite power you made your home in our world.

Beyond understanding and without changing your divinity,

You were born of a virgin mother; You came to seek your creation

whom you had adorned with beauty; and you set the times and circumstances

for our salvation. Therefore, we shout to you: O Good Master,

glory to you!

Cantor

You crown the year with your goodness.

In wisdom you created all things, O Word of the Father before

all ages; by your almighty word you arranged all creation.
Bless the beginning of the year by your goodness, and through the pray'rs of the Theotokos, over-throw all her-e-sy; for you are good and the Lov-er of us all.

Cantor: (Tone 5) Glory...

Doxastikon of Simeon - Tone 5 samohlasen

O vener-a-ble Fa-ther, you found a beautiful lad-der in-to heav-en, while E-li-jah found a char-i-ot of fire. He did not leave his as-cent for oth-ers, but af-ter death, how-ev-er, you have left your pil-lar. O heav-enly man and earth-ly an-gel, ev-er-watch-ful beacon to the whole world,

O venera-ble Sim-e-on, pray for our sal-va-tion.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the Indiction - Tone 5

O King, you are eternal and re-main for-ev-er. Re-ceive the petitions
of us sinners as we pray for salvation. O Lover of us all,
grant your abundance to the earth with temperate and mild weather.
Fight with the faithful against all enemy attacks as you helped David;
for they have entered the tabernacle and defiled your most holy place, O Savior.
But grant victory over them, O Christ our God, through the pray'rs of the
Theotokos, for you are the victory and boast of Christians
of the true faith.

Troparia

Troparion of the Indiction - Tone 2

O Lord, maker of the universe, who alone has power over
times and seasons, bless this year with your bounty, preserve
our country in safety, and keep your people in peace, save us through the
prayer's of the Theotokos.

Cantor:  (Tone 1) Glory...

Troparion of Simeon the Stylite - Tone 1

You became a column of endurance and rivaled the forefathers, O holy one,
becoming like Job in your sufferings and like Joseph in your trials,
like the bodiless angels, though you lived in the flesh.

O Simeon, our holy father, intercede with Christ our God
that he may save our souls.
Rejoice, O woman full of grace, ever virgin Theotokos, harbor and protectress of the human race. The Savior of the universe received flesh from you, for you are the only one to be both mother and virgin, forever blessed, forever glorified. Intercede with Christ our God that he may grant peace to the whole world.