Matins Propers
Sunday of the Council Fathers

All page references are to The Order of Matins: Sundays and Feasts, 2006

"The Lord is God" Tone 6, p. 223.

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 6

An gel ic pow ers ap peared at your tomb, and the guards be came like dead men. Mar y stood at the tomb seeking your most pure bod y. You de spoiled Ha des with out a chal lenge. You, the Giv er of Life met the Vir gin. O Lord, ris en from the dead, glo ry to you!

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory…

Troparion of the Council Fathers - Tone 8

O Christ our God, you are a bove all praise. You have es tablished our fa thers as bea cons on the earth, lead ing us all to the true faith through them O most mer ci ful Lord, glo ry to you!
You were taken up in glory, O Christ our God; you gladened the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. By blessing them, you confirmed that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

When the tomb was shown to be open and Hades was lamenting, Mary cried out to the apostles who were hiding and said: Come out, laborers of the vineyard, and proclaim the news of the Resurrection; for the Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Cantor: Arise then, Lord, lift up your hand.
O God, do not forget the poor!
Mar y Mag dalene stood by your tomb and wept, O Lord. When she thought you
were the gard -'ner, she said: Where have you hid -den the E -ter -nal Life?
Where have you placed him who sits on the throne of the Cher -u -bim?
When she saw those guarding him fearful and appearing as dead, she cried to them:
Give me my Lord or else cry out with me and say: You have come forth
from the tomb and raised the dead, O Lord, glo -ry to you!

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

Theotokion - Tone 6
You called your Mother bless -ed, and you will -ingly went to your Pas -sion.
Your light shone forth from the Cross, for you de-sired to go in search of Ad -am.
To the an-gels you pro -claimed: Re -joice with me, for the lost coin has been found.
You do every thing according to your wis dom; glory to you, O Lord and God!

Sessional Hymn 2 - Tone 6

1

Truly our Life was placed in the grave, and seals were applied to the stone.

The soldiers guarded Christ as they would a sleeping king. But, striking

his enemies with blindness, the Lord rose.

Cantor: I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will recount all your wonders.

Through your voluntary death we have found eternal life; for in your

Resurrection, O almighty Savior, you called all mortals back to you.

You wiped out the victory of Hades and broke the sting of Death.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...
O Virgin and Theotokos, pray to your Son, Christ our God,
who was willingly nailed upon the Cross and rose from the dead, that
he might save our souls.

The service continues with Psalm 118 and "Hosts of Angels", p. 18.

Hypakoe and Gradual Hymns, Tone 6, p. 227.
Prokeimenon, Tone 6, p. 231.
"Let everything that lives", Tone 6, p. 227.
Hymn of the Resurrection, p. 26, sung once.
Psalm 50 and stichera, p.28.

Canon
with Katavasiai of Pentecost

Ode 1
Irmos

Praising the Council of the holy Fathers, O Christ, I pray to you that I may
be able to preserve their sacred teachings in my heart.

Refrain

O holy Fathers, pray to God for us.
The God-mantled Fathers gathered on this day as bright torches flaming with light, O Christ; they recognized you as the only Son of God, consubstantial and coeternal with the Father. *Refrain*

The brilliant friends of the bridegroom have offered jewels to your spouse, the Church, O Lord. These jewels are their teachings of the faith, and they have adorned the Church with beauty.

Vested in divinely embroidered brocades, the holy Queen is led to the King, her Son and God, and she prays for the salvation of our souls.  

**Katavasia**

*Tone 7*

*Irmos*  

*Tone 6*
in to your di - vine gen - er - a - tion, but he him - self was cut down
by the spir - it - ual sword.

Refrain

O ho - ly Fa - thers, pray to God for us.

The holy teachers, arrayed for battle like Abraham of old before the kings, obtained the victory over your raging enemies by the power of your arm, O Lord of goodness. Refrain

The illustrious and first synod of your holy bishops, O Savior, has devoutly proclaimed you as begotten before the ages, consubstantial and eternal with the Father, and Creator of the world.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it; now and ev - er

No word nor any mortal language can worthily praise you, O Virgin, for it pleased Christ, the Giver of life, to be born without seed in your womb, O most pure Virgin.

Katavasia

You said to your a - pos - tles, O Lord: Re - main in Je - ru - sa - lem
un - til the day when you shall be clothed with pow - er from on high;

Tone 7
and I will send you another Paraclete, the Spirit of the Father and of me, in whom you will be strengthened.

Kontakion

When you had fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united the earthly with the heavenly, you were taken up in glory, O Christ our God.

Never parting from us but remaining constantly, you proclaim to those who love you: I am with you and no one can be against you.

Ikos

Leaving earthly cares to the earth and that which is waste and refuse to the dust, let us arise from sleep and with our eyes and hearts let us go towards higher things. Let us also lift up our thoughts and our attention from the earth to the gates of heaven, as if we were on the Mount of Olives where we fix our eyes on the Redeemer as he is carried away to heaven. For it is there that the Lord departs from the apostles, giving them strength and comforting them as a Father, guiding them as sons and saying to them: I am not separating myself from you;

I am with you and no one can be against you.
You have truly become the flaming torches of the truth of Christ throughout all the earth, O blessed Fathers; you crushed the heresies of the babbling philosophers, and you extinguished the fiery winds of the ungodly blasphemies. O holy Bishops of Christ, intercede for our salvation.

Today the brilliant city of Nicea has gathered the bishops from all over the world; the three hundred and eighteen of them rejected the blasphemies of Arius, who lessened One of the Holy Trinity, the Son and Word of God; and they affirmed the true faith.

Cantor: Glory...

Cantor: Now and ever...
O Christ the Lover of all of us, you are gloriously taken up to heaven and are seated at the right hand of the Father, without ever having left the fatherly bosom. You promised to send your Holy Spirit to your wise disciples; send also your brightness upon us; illumine our hearts and our thoughts so that we may praise you unceasingly, O Lord.

Ode 4
Irmos

Corrupting the true faith by his arrogant spirit, Arius was banished as a disgraceful member of the Church by the voice of the Fathers gathered in council.
Refrain

O ho-ly Fa-thers, pray to God for us.

The assembly of the Fathers led the battle for you, O Lord; they routed the enemy and proclaimed you as consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit. **Refrain**

By your divine humanity, you have become the mediator between God and people; for this reason the holy Fathers have proclaimed you, o christ, as the only Son who is glorified in two natures.

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi-rit; now and ev-er-


Beneath the forbidden tree, my gluttony has killed me but the Tree of Life who has come forth from you, O Virgin, has raised me up and made me an inheritor of the delights of Paradise.

**Katavasia**

Med-i-tat-ing on your final com-ing, O Christ, the proph-et cried out:

I have seen your pow-er, O Lord, for you have come to save those who are con-se-cr-at-ed to you.
Truly beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim peace, a peace that
sur-passes ev’ry spirit, both of angels and of people; this is the peace
that unites the whole world and reconciles it completely.

Refrain

O holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The assembly of the Fathers has proclaimed you, O Christ, as the Wisdom and Power
of the Father and as the Word personified. Because of their sacred priesthood, these holy
teachers have divinely sealed this teaching. Refrain

You have allowed the Church to drink deeply from the most pure stream of the teaching
of Christ; and now you rejoice near the restful waters with unending joy.

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ev-er

We recognize you as the bright lampstand, O Virgin, who makes Christ, the Sun of
Justice, shine on all. O only Theotokos, we invoke your constant protection.
O Lord, the Spirit of your salvation, which formerly was received by the prophets in fear, now creates a pure heart in your apostles and renews in our hearts an upright spirit; for your commandments, O Lord, bring us light and peace.

The sower of dissension could not remain hidden from the ineffable justice of God, he whose name means the quarrelsome fury; for, having imitated Judas, he then died in the same distress.

O holy Fathers, pray to God for us.
The august assembly of the holy Fathers, O Lord, has proclaimed you as the only Son and reflection of the Father, who makes his essence shine forth, and as the Son who was begotten before all ages. **Refrain**

The well which produced the muddy and undrinkable water of godless heresies was completely shattered; it was carefully dug up by the prayers of the Fathers.

Moses, the greatest of the prophets, showed you in advance to be the ark and golden vessel, the holy table and the candlestand. He prefigured you in symbols, O Virgin and Mother, the Most High taking flesh in your womb.

**Katavasia**

Sailing across the ocean of life and tossed about by the cares of this world, engulfed in the midst of my sins and thrown to the monster who devours souls, as Jonah, I cry out to you, O Christ: Deliver me from this deadly abyss.
The preaching of the apostles and the teachings of the Fathers—have confirmed the one faith of the Church which she wears as the garment of truth, woven from the theology on high, as she faithfully imparts and glorifies the great mystery of devotion.

Ikos  Let us listen to the Church of God which cries out to us in a sublime proclamation: Whoever thirsts, let them come to me and drink! It is in the cup of Wisdom that I mix my wine; I have mixed it with the world of truth; and the water I pour out is not the water of strife, but that of harmony in the faith which the new Israel drinks, to whom God appeared, saying: Look and see! I am the same, I have not changed, I am the God both before and after all time. There is no other but I. Those who drink this water will be satisfied and shall praise the great mystery of faith.

Ode 7
Irmos  You have prevailed over Arius who was given over to war by his very name; in his fury he lessened the sublimity of God, for he refused to praise the Son and say: Blessed are you, O
God of our fathers!

Refrain

O holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Imitating the son of thunder, O holy Fathers, you have confessed that the Word is consubstantial with the Father and shares the same throne with him. With your flaming mouths, you have invited us to sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Refrain

As on the wings of the wind, O blessed Fathers, you have come to the aid of the Word of God; for the Holy Spirit has gathered you from the ends of the earth to sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever--

and forever. Amen.

The fire that did not consume the three youths in the furnace was the image of your birthgiving; for the divine fire which dwelt in your womb did not burn you, but it enlightened all who sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our Fathers!

Katavasia

Tone 7

In the fiery furnace the youths transformed the blazing flames that surrounded them into dew, for they praised the Lord by singing: Blessed
are you, O God of our fathers.

Enflamed by the rays of your divinity, your holy shepherds recognized you as the Creator and Lord of the universe whom they exalt forever.

Refrain

O holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The illustrious choir of the shepherds, in their council, defined the uncreated Trinity; and they call the faithful to sing: It is he whom we exalt forever.

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Lord.

The honored bishops and shepherds illumine the Church of Christ; they make it shine resplendently in all places and exalt it forever.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

In symbols the prophets has mystically foreseen you, the Birthgiver of the Word of God; he took flesh and came forth from your womb in two natures; he is the One whom we exalt forever.
Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and highly exalting him above all forever.

On Sinai, the bush that burned without being consumed revealed God to Moses as he spoke to one of unsure speech; and in the furnace, the three youths, invincible in their zeal for God, began to sing a hymn of praise: Sing to the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him forever.

The Canticle of the Theotokos (Magnificat) is found on page 34.

The Word who is from before all ages, and who shares the same throne
and eternity with the Father in heaven, fills you

with the power of the Spirit and unites you in council. He makes you

his companions in battle, and now with the heavenly armies,

O holy Fathers, you glorify him forever.

Refrain

O holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

As wise physicians of body and soul, you have stopped Arius and his terrible heresy; you established the Symbol of Faith for the people, and we, who now profess this faith, glorify your sacred memory without ceasing. Refrain

O Light all-pure, you deliver my soul from the darkness of passions by the prayers of these holy bishops, O Christ; in council they proclaimed you to be eternal and uncreated, the Creator of the universe, and the God who shares the same eternity with the Father.

Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever

and forever. Amen.
O Theotokos and Queen, by your ineffable birthgiving which no one can comprehend, resurrection is given to the dead; for the Lord of life comes from you. He is clothed in our flesh; and dispelling the darkness of death, he has filled the whole world with light.

Katavasia

Hymn of Light

The two sons of Zebedee, with Peter, Nathaniel, and Thomas, and two others were fishing in the Lake of Tiberias. By the command of Christ, they cast the net on the right side and drew out many fish. Peter, recognizing Christ, came swimming towards him. This was the third appearance of the Lord after his Resurrection. Then he shared with them bread and fish from the fire.

Glory...

Celebrating today the memory of our holy Fathers, we beseech you through their prayers, O Master of tenderness: Safeguard our people from all error and heresy; and grant that we may praise your glory, O Lord: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever...

O Christ, you were raised up to heaven in the sight of your disciples; you again went up to share your Father's throne. The angels who came to meet you at the heavenly gate cried out: Open your gates and lift up your lintels so that the King of glory may come in, for our King comes again to the Source of light.
The Psalms of Praise are sung in Tone 6 through stich 3 (pp. 245 - 248).

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

(on 2)

Stichera of the Council Fathers - Tone 6

Hav-ing brought together all spir-it-u-al knowl-edge, and having carefully pondered all things in the Ho-ly Spir-it, the no-ble Fathers com-posed the Sym-bol of Faith in let-ters di-vine-ly in-scribed. They clearly proclaim the Word to be coeternal and consubstantial with the Fa-ther, un-er-ring-ly fol-low-ing the a-pos-tol-ic faith.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals.

Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord. Repeat "Having brought together..."

Cantor: Blessed are you, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

(on A)

The bless-ed preach-ers of Christ received the torch of the Ho-ly Spir-it;
they spoke with divine inspiration, using few words, but rich in meaning. They proclaimed with boldness the doctrines of the Gospel and the traditions of righteousness. Clearly they have been illuminated with truth from on high; they have made firm the foundation of the faith as a strong mountain.

Cantor: Summon before me my people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.
(on B)

The chosen servants of God, enlightened with the understanding of divine mysteries, cast out the devouring wolves from the sheepfold of the Church.

They were faithful shepherds, blazing with the wrath of righteous judgment, and have slain the destroyers with the mighty sword of the Spirit.
The choir of the holy Fathers hastened from the ends of the earth to proclaim the unique essence and nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and to transmit clearly the divine teaching of the Church.

Praising them in faith, we call them blessed and we sing: Divine guard of the Lord and brilliant stars of the spiritual firmament, unconquerable watchmen of the mystical Zion, sweet flowers of Paradise and golden mouths of the Word, you are the glory of Nicea and the splendor of the universe; intercede with the Lord for our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...

Doxastikon

Tone 8
Cantor: (Tone 2) Now and ever…

Theotokion for normal Sundays, p. 40.

Great Doxology, p. 41.
Troparion "You came forth from death…", p. 45.
Litany of Supplication, p. 45.
Prayer over Bowed Heads, p. 47.

After the Dismissal, the Tenth Gospel sticheron is sung (page 65)