

The First Sunday Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul.* Blessed are you, O Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,* and all that is within me bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,* and do not forget all his praiseworthy gifts:*
He forgives all your iniquities,* he heals all your ailments,
He redeems your life from corruption,* he favors you with his mercy and compassion.
Gracious and merciful is the Lord,* abounding in patience and mercy!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,* and all that is within me bless his holy name.
Blessed are you,* O Lord.

The Third Sunday Antiphon

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.
Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.
Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.
Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

*****Entrance*****

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

Tropars

Believers, let us worship and praise in song the Word of God.* He is co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.* Yet he was born of a virgin for our salvation.* In the flesh he willingly ascended the cross and suffered death,* that he might raise the dead* by his glorious resurrection.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

We come to you, O Christ, in the blindness of our souls;* and, like the man born blind, we repent and cry out to you.* You are that great radiant light* that dispels the darkness of our souls.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Although you went down into the grave, O Immortal One,* you destroyed the power of hell.* You arose as a mighty victor, O Christ our God.* You greeted the myrrh-bearing women, saying; Rejoice!* You brought peace to your apostles.* You give resurrection to the fallen.

Apostolos (Acts 16: 16-34)

Prokimenon: You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation.

Stichon: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man, for truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

In those days it came to pass that as we the disciples were going to pray, we were met by a girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her masters much profit by her soothsaying. Now, she was following Paul and us, and kept crying out loudly, "These men are the servants of the most high God, and they announce to you a way of salvation!" This she did for many days. But Paul could not stand it, so he turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ: get out of her!" And it went out of her that very moment.

But seeing that their hope of profit was gone, her masters seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the market-place before the authorities; and bringing them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city. They are Jews, and they advocate practices it is not permitted for us to adopt or observe, since we are Romans."

And the crowd opposed them too, and the magistrates tore off their cloaks and ordered them to be beaten with rods. And after afflicting many blows on them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to keep them under safe guard. And he, receiving this command, consigned them to the inner jail and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But at midnight, while Paul and Silas were singing hymns to God, the prisoners listened to them. And suddenly, there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and at once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

But when the jailer woke up and saw all the doors of the jail open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here!" Then calling for a light, he ran in, and trembling with fear, fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. And he let them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved together with your household."

And he spoke to him the word of the Lord, and also to all his household. And he took them at that same hour of the night, and washed their wounds; and he himself was baptized, and all those of his household immediately after. And taking them into his house, he set a table before them, and rejoiced with all his household over his faith in God.

Alleluia: Your favor, O Lord, I will sing forever; from generation to generation, my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

Stichon: For you have said, "My kindness is established forever." In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Gospel: (John 9:1-38)

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "(So) how were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know." They brought the one who was

once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." (But) others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Instead of: “It is truly right...”

The angel exclaimed to the Lady full of grace.* Rejoice, O pure Virgin.* And again I say: Rejoice!* Your Son is risen from the grave on the third day.* With Himself he has raised all the dead.* All you peoples, rejoice!

Shine, o Shine!* New Jerusalem!* For the glory of the Lord has shone on you.* Sing now and exult with joy, O Sion.* And you, O pure Mother of God,* adorn yourself* in the splendor of your Son’s resurrection.

Kinonikon

Receive the body of Christ;* drink from the fountain of immortality.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise him in the highest.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.