

The First Sunday Antiphon

Shout to the Lord, all the earth: sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Say unto God, "How awesome are your works! Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You."

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You, let it sing to Your name, O Most High.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

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

Foremost in the ranks of apostles and teachers of the world,* pray the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O Lord, into eternal rest and the enjoyment of your gracious delights* you have welcomed those staunch and divinely inspired leaders of your apostles.* You accepted their sufferings and death above every offering, as you alone know what lies in the human heart.

Apostolos (Romans 5:1-10 and Corinthians 11:21-12:9)

Prokimenon: My strength and my courage is the Lord,* and he has been my Savior.

Stichon: The Lord has chastised me through his teaching,* yet he has not delivered me to death.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brethren, now that we have been justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have access by faith to that grace in which we stand and exult in the hope of God's glory.

And not only this, but we exult also in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance, and endurance challenge, and challenge hope, and hope does not deceive, for God's love is poured forth in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For why did Christ die at the appointed time for the wicked while we were still weak? Hardly would someone die for a just man; perhaps someone would have the courage to die for a virtuous man. But God proves his love for us, since Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Much more now that we are made just in his blood, shall we be saved by him from wrath.

For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled with God through his death, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Brethren, in matters in which man is bold (I am speaking foolishly), I too am bold. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they of the race of Abraham? So am I! Are they ministers of Christ? I (to speak as a fool) am more: in many more labors, in prisons more often, in lashes above measure, often exposed to death. From the Jews, five times I received forty lashes less one. Three times I was scourged, once I was stoned, three times I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I was adrift on the sea; in frequent travels, in perils from floods, in peril from robbers, in perils from my own nation, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils on the sea, in perils from false brethren; in labor and hardships, in many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those outer things, there is

my daily pressing anxiety, the care of all the churches! Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not inflamed? If I must boast, I will boast of things that concern my weakness. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the Governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

It is not fitting for me to boast: but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know: God knows) was caught up into paradise and heard secret sayings that man may not repeat. Of such a man I will boast; but of myself I will glory in nothing except my weaknesses. For if I do wish to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I give up, lest any man have an idea of me beyond what he sees in me or hears from me. And lest the greatness of the revelation puff me up, there was given to me a thorn for the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me. Concerning this, I begged the Lord three times that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness." Gladly, then, will I glory in my weaknesses, that the strength of Christ may dwell in me.

Alleluia: May the Lord answer you in the day of distress;* may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

Stichon: O Lord, save your people* and bless your inheritance.

Gospel: (Matthew 6:22-34)

The Lord said: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be. No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor

was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."

Instead of: "It is truly right..."

Extol, my soul, that immovable Rock- Peter;* an Paul- that chosen vessel of the Church of Christ.

Most glorious bride,* we extol you in song as the most holy Theotokos,* who gave birth to the maker of all things, visible and invisible.

Kinonikon

Their voice has resounded all over the earth,* and their message to the utmost bounds of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.