

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

When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.* When You raised the dead from the nether world, all the powers of heaven cried out:* "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!"

Even though you gave birth, you still kept your virginity.* Although you fell asleep, you did not abandon the world, O Mother of God.* Being the Mother of Life, you passed into life.* Through your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

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

You arose from the tomb, O almighty Savior;* and Hades, seeing this in wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose.* Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults.* And the world, my Savior, sings Your praises forever.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Neither death nor the tomb could retain the Mother of God.* Untiring in prayer, she is our constant hope who intercedes before God for us.* As the Mother of Life, she was taken into life by him* who lived in her ever-virgin womb.

Apostolos (1 Corinthians 9:2-12)

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 First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brethren, you are the seal set upon my apostleship in the Lord. My defense against those who question me is this: Have we not a right to eat and to drink? Have we not a right to take around with us a sister woman, as do the other apostles, and the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have not the right of exemption from manual labor? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Who tends the flock and does not drink of the flock's milk? Do I speak these things on human authority? Or does not the Law also say these things? For it is written in the Law of Moses, *Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treads out the grain.*

Is God concerned about the oxen, or does he say this simply for our sakes? These things were written for us. For he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes, in the expectation of partaking of the fruit. If we have sown for your spiritual things, is it such an affair if we reap from you material things? If others share in this right over you, why should it not rather go to us? Yet, we have not used this right, but we bear all our expenses, lest we be a hindrance to Christ's Good News.

Alleluia: The Lord shall hear you on the day of distress:* the name of the God of Jacob shall defend you.

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

Gospel: (Matthew 18:23-25)

The Lord said: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full." Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, "Pay back what you owe." Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back." But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

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

Seeing the falling asleep of the Most Pure one,* the angels were filled with awe at the manner in which the Virgin ascends* to heaven from earth.

The laws of nature are overcome in you,* O Pure Virgin:* giving birth heralds virginity and death becomes a harbinger of life,* for after giving birth you are still a virgin,* and after death* you are still alive.* O Mother of God,* you are always looking out for the salvation of your spiritual children.

Kinonikon

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.
I will take the cup of salvation* and call upon the name of the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.