

Vesper Propers, June 29

THE HOLY PREEMINENT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

Simon, son of Jonah and brother of Andrew, was first among the disciples to confess that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God. It was by Jesus that he was called Peter. Paul, Apostle of the gentiles, preached Christ crucified to the Jews and the Greeks. Both announced the Gospel of Jesus Christ in faith and love in the city of Rome and died martyrs under the emperor Nero. The first, as the tradition goes, was nailed to a cross with his head downward and was buried in the Vatican next to the Triumphal Way. The other received his punishment from the sword and was interred at the Ostian Way. Their triumph, equal in honor and veneration, is celebrated by the whole world on this day.

*Supplement for **The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2004***

The Lamplighting Psalms are sung in Tone 2 (p.36)

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

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; **Psalm 129**
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

What crowns of praises shall we weave Pe - ter and Paul? They were
sep - a - rat - ed in the body but unit - ed in spir - it, and out - stand - ing as the
preach - ers of God. The one in - deed led the a - pos - tles, while the oth - er



la - bored more than all the rest. Christ our God, show - ing great mer - cy,



fit - ting - ly crowns them with im - mor - tal glo - ry.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. *All repeat "What crowns of praise..."*

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.
All repeat "What crowns of praise..."

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.



With what beau - tiful hymns shall we praise Pe - ter and Paul? They are wings



of div - ine knowl - edge, spread - ing out to the far ends of the earth



and soar - ing a - loft to heav - en. They are two heads of the



Gos - pel of grace, two feet of the preach - ing of the truth, two



riv - ers of wisdom and two arms of the Cross, through which

the mer - ci - ful Christ casts down the pride of de - mons.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord. *All repeat "With what beautiful hymns..."*

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
All repeat "With what beautiful hymns..."

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you people.

With what spir - itual songs shall we praise Pe - ter and Paul? They slew

the god-less tongues of i - dol - a - ters. They are fear - ful swords of the Spirit and

notable a-dorn - ments of Rome, both nour-ish - ers of the whole world

and the God-in-spired tablets of the New Cov-e-nant. Christ, in his great mer-cy,

has pro-claimed their hon - or in Zi - on.

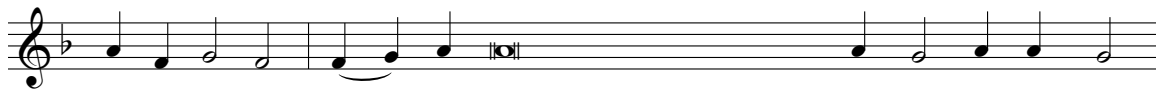
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever. *All repeat "With what spiritual songs..."*

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 4



Christ asked three times: Pe-ter, do you love me? There - by he satisfied the three-



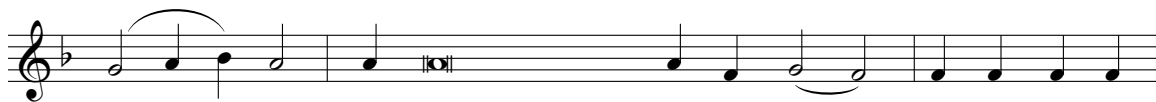
-fold de - ni - al; and Si - mon, understanding the myster-y, cried to the Lord:



You know all things, you know that I love you. Af-ter this Christ said to him:



Feed my sheep, feed my lambs; feed those sheep which I have fashioned with my



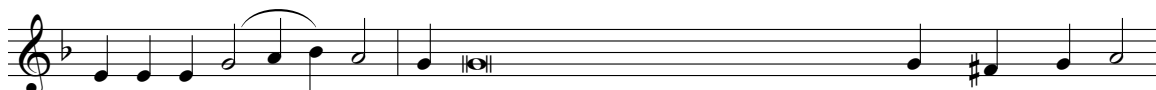
own blood. There - fore, O blessed apos-tle of God, be-seech him to



grant us great mer - cy.

Cantor: Now and ever...

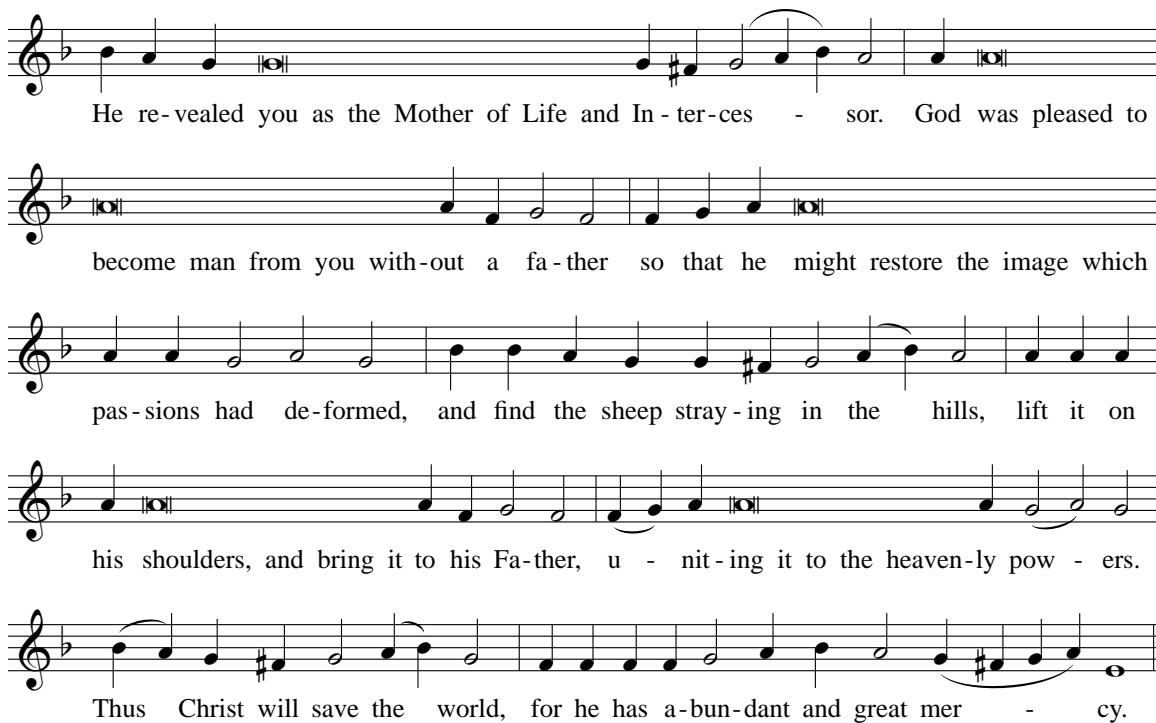
Theotokion



O The-o - to - kos, Da - vid the prophet and ancestor of God an - nounced in song



to the one who would do great things for you: The Queen stands at your right hand.



He re-vealed you as the Mother of Life and In-ter-ces - sor. God was pleased to
 become man from you with-out a fa-ther so that he might restore the image which
 pas-sions had de-formed, and find the sheep stray-ing in the hills, lift it on
 his shoulders, and bring it to his Fa-ther, u - nit-ing it to the heaven-ly pow - ers.
 Thus Christ will save the world, for he has a-bun-dant and great mer - cy.

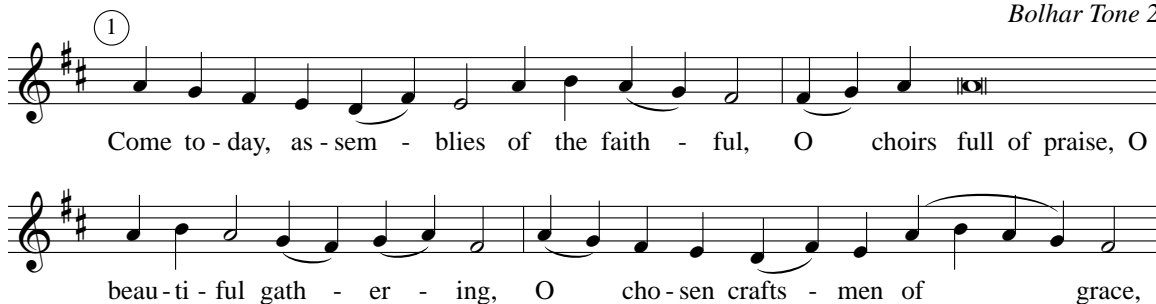
The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening (p. 12)

The Prokeimena for weekdays are found on page 114 in the Appendix.

Readings: I Peter 1: 3 - 9
 I Peter 1: 13 - 19
 I Peter 2: 11 - 24

Hymns of the Litija

Bolhar Tone 2



①
 Come to-day, as-sem - blies of the faith - ful, O choirs full of praise, O
 beau-ti - ful gath - er - ing, O cho-sen crafts - men of grace,

we are crown-ing Pe - ter and Paul with wor - thy praise. They sowed the
Word in its full - ness; through them the grace of the Spirit was poured
out a - bun - dant - ly. And be - ing the vine of the true Vine - yard,
they di - vid - ed up for us a ripe cluster, mak-ing our hearts joy - - - ful.
Let us sing to them with clear ex - pres - sion, and with a clear con - science,
let us say: Re-joyce, O de - stroy - ers of the un - wise,
and the serv - ants of the Spir - it - u - al One. Re-joyce, O intermedi - ar - ies
for good who ban - ish e - vil. Let us be - seech them to always pray the
Cre - a - tor and Teach - er to grant en - dur - ing peace to the world



and great mer - cy to our souls.



Let us praise as in - ter - ces - sors for the world, the teach - ers and



foun - da - tions of the Church of Christ, its true pil - lars and walls,



trum - pets of the di - vine teach - ings and suf - fer - ings of Christ, the prime



a - pos - tles Pe - ter and Paul. They tra - veled through - out the earth



as though with a cloud, sow - ing the faith, and plant - ed a




knowl - edge of God in all, re - veal - ing the Word of the Trin - i - ty.



O Pe - ter, rock of foundation, and Paul, O cho - sen ves - sel, you were



har - nessed to - geth - er to the will of Christ. You raised up all cre - a - tion



to a knowl - edge of Christ, the na - tions, the cit - ies, and the is - lands.

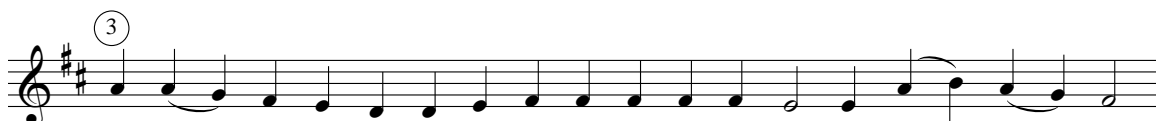


In - deed, you lift - ed up anew the He - brews in - to the Church, and now you



pray that our souls be saved.

③



O Pe - ter, the first of the glo - ri - ous a - pos - tles and rock of faith!



O won - drous Paul, orator and lampstand of the ho - ly church - - es!



Stand - ing be - fore the di - vine throne, pray to Christ



for us.

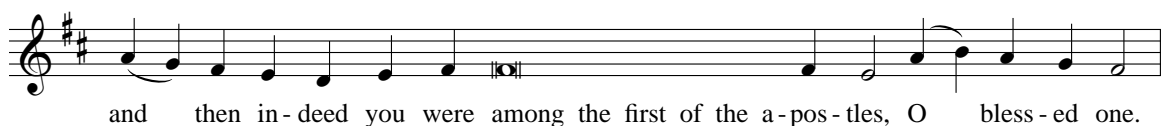
④



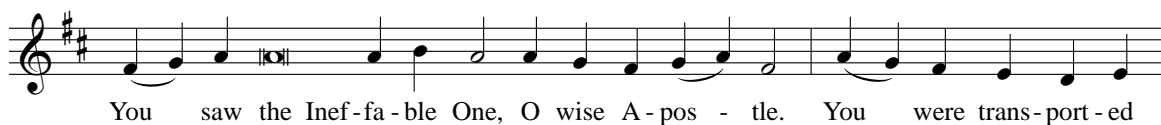
Paul, spoke - man of the Lord and foun - da - tion of doc - trine!



Once you were a persecutor of Je - sus the Sav - - - ior,



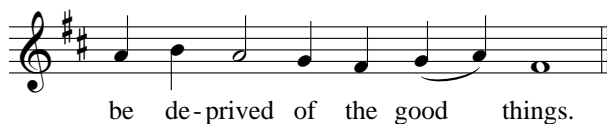
and then in-deed you were among the first of the a-pos-tles, O bless-ed one.



You saw the Inef-fa-ble One, O wise A-pos - tle. You were trans-port-ed



up to the third heav - en and you ex - claimed: Come with me and do not



be de-priv-ed of the good things.

Tone 3 Samohlasen

⑤



O cit - i-zens of the heav-en-ly Je - ru - sa - lem, be-hold the rock of faith and the



orator of the Church of Christ, the two men of the Trini-ty and fish - ers



of the world, to - day are de - part - ing from the earth. Suf - f'ring the



Pas - sion, they as - cend to God, and they pray to him with con - fi - dence



to save our souls.

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon -Tone 5 Bolhar



The wis - dom of God and the Word who is co-eter-nal with the Fa - ther
has tru - ly fore-told in the Gos-pel, O all-praise-wor - thy A - pos - tles,
that you are the two most fruit - ful vines, for you bore in your branches
the ripe and beau - ti - ful clus - ter from which we be-liev - ers are
now nour - ished, and whose taste brings us both sweet - ness and de-light.
There-fore, O Pe - ter, rock of faith, and Paul, pride of the u - ni - verse,
strength-en the flock that be - came yours through your teach - ings.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion



We bless, you, O The - o - to - kos and Vir - gin; and we faith - ful ones

glo - ri - fy you al - ways. You are the in - ef - fa - ble cit - y,
 the might - y wall, the pow - er - - - ful me - di - a - - trix,
 and the ha - - - ven of our souls.

The Litija Litany is found on page 116 in the Appendix.

Aposticha

All Tone 1 Samohlasen

①

O glo - ri - ous a - pos - tle Paul, who can describe your bondage and sorrow in the
 cit - ies, your trib - u - la - tions and hard - ships, your suf - fer - ings and
 vig - ils? You have suf - fered hun - ger, thirst, and cold, na - ked - ness and
 scourg - ing with rods, the cross - ing of wilderness, ship - wreck and ston - ings.
 You have both angelic and hu - man char - ac - - ter, bear - ing all with the help of

Christ who strength-ened you, so that you might gain the world for Christ, your

Lord. We, who cel - e - brate your mem - o - ry in faith, be - seech you

to in - ter - cede for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor

Through all the world their voice resounds; their mes-sage reach - es to the

ends of the earth.

All (2)

O glo - ri - ous a - pos - tle Paul, who can describe your bondage and sorrow in the

cit - ies? Who can tell the hardships and struggles you went through in the

preach - ing of Christ, that you might win all people and pre - sent the Church to

Christ? O a - pos - tle Paul, O teacher of the church - es, pray that the Church

may be strengthened by your teach - ings un - til the end

of time.

Cantor

The heav - ens pro - claim the glory of God, and the fir - ma-ment shows

forth the work of his hands.

All (3)

Let us ex - tol Pe - ter and Paul, the two great lumi-nar-ies of the Church;

for they have shone forth with the firm-ness of faith, trans-cend-ing the sun in

bril - liance. By the rays of their preach - ing, they led the Gentiles from

ignorance to di-vine knowl - edge. There-fore one of them was nailed up-on

the cross, thus mak - ing his way in - to heav - en, where he re-ceived

the King-dom from Christ him - self. The oth - er was beheaded with the sword
 and carried to the Sav - ior, where he re-ceived the bless-ing that he de-served.
 Both de-clared that the unjust ones laid hands a-gainst the Lord. By their pow-ers,
 there-fore, O Christ our God, take your ang-er away from us and make firm our faith,
 for you are the Lov - er of us all.

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6

To - day a delightful feast has shone forth to the ends of the earth,
 the all-solemn memorial of the most wise and first a-pos - tles, Pe - ter and Paul.
 Let Rome, therefore, receive the glad tid - ings, re - joic - ing; and let us
 feast on this solemn day, cry-ing out to them: Re - joice, O Peter, apostle and special



friend of the Teach-er, Christ our God. Re-joyce, O tru - ly be-lov-ed Paul,



the preach-er of the faith and teacher of the u - ni-verse. Be-cause of your privi-lege,



O ho - ly ones, be-seech Christ our God to save our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion



Christ the Lord, our Creator and Re-deem-er, came forth from your womb, O



Vir - gin most pure. He clothed him - self in our hu - man flesh to set



us free from the original curse of A - dam. There - fore, O Mary, we praise you



with - out ceas - ing, as the true Vir - gin The - o - to - kos,



and we sing with the an - gels: Re - joyce, O Lady: advo-cate, pro - tec - tor



and sal - va - - - tion of souls.

The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon (p.19).

Troparion

Troparion - Tone 4

Sung once by the priest and once by the faithful

Lead-ers of the apostles, teach-ers of the world, in-ter-cede with the Lord of all
to grant peace to the world and a-bun - dant mer - cy to our souls.

Glory...now and ever...

The Troparion "Rejoice O Virgin Theotokos..." and the Blessing of Bread are found on page 119 in the Appendix.