

JUNE 29

The Holy, Glorious, and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

- v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*
v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.
v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!
v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.
v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.
v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!
v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 2* *Automelon (by Andrew Pyrrhus)*

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul?
Separated in body, they were united by the Spirit;
they rank first among preachers:
one was the leader of the Apostles,
while the other labored more than the rest.
Truly, Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory.

- v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*
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How shall we worthily sing hymns to honor Peter and Paul?
Their hands were filled with grace and truth;
their feet carried them to the ends of the earth, preaching the Gospel of peace.
Once driven by the wind of the Spirit,
they are now carried up to heaven.
Truly they are rivers of wisdom and the arms of the Cross.
Through them Christ our God, Who has great mercy,//
has cast down the arrogance of demons.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul?
They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless.
They are awesome swords of the Spirit.
They are the adornment of Rome;
they have nourished the whole world with the Word of God.
They are the living tablets of the New Testament written by the hand of God.//
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has exalted them in Zion.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 4 *(by John the Monk)*

Three times Christ asked Peter: “Do you love Me?”
In this way Christ set aright the threefold denial.
Therefore Simon cried out to the One Who sees all hidden things:
“Lord, You know all things, You understand all things.
You know that I love You!”
Then the Savior said to him:
“Feed My sheep, feed My chosen ones,
feed My lambs, whom I have acquired for salvation by My own blood!” //
O blessed Apostle, pray that He may grant us great mercy!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord through you, O Virgin.
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in you:
“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”
Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,
since God was freely born of her without a father.
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder
and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers.//
Christ who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

Readings

1 Peter 1:3-9 *(Apostles Peter and Paul)*

1 Peter 1:13-19 *(Apostles Peter and Paul)*

1 Peter 2:11-24 *(Apostles Peter and Paul)*

Aposticha

Tone 1

O glorious Apostle Paul,
who can describe your bondage and tribulations in the cities?
Who can speak of your endless toil and effort for the Gospel of Christ?
You labored to gain all mankind, and lead them into Christ's holy Church.
Pray that she may guard your true confession to the ends of the world, //
O Paul, Apostle and teacher of the churches!

v. Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps 18/19:4)

O glorious Apostle Paul,
who can describe your bondage and tribulations in the cities?
You kept watch in hunger and thirst; cold, naked and weary;
and fleeing Damascus for your life, you were let down in a basket through
the wall.
Your back was torn by rods,
you were stoned and were kept a prisoner.
You were shipwrecked, cast adrift in the open sea.
Truly you are a spectacle for angels and men.
You endured all these things for Jesus Christ, Who strengthened you,
that you might win the whole world for Him.
We entreat you, as we faithfully keep your memory://
“Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!”

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)

Let us praise Peter and Paul, the two great stars of the Church.
They shine brighter than the sun in the sky of faith.
Let the nations follow the rays of their preaching,
and be led from ignorance to the knowledge of God!
One was nailed to a cross
and received the keys of the Kingdom from Christ in heaven.
The other, beheaded by the sword, departed to the Savior,
and is worthily counted blessed.
Together they proclaim to Israel:
“He Who was stretched out on the Cross is the Lord of all!”
By their prayers, O Christ our God,
strengthen the Orthodox Faith and destroy our enemies,//
as You are the Lover of man!

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

Tone 6 *(by Ephrem of Karia)*

A joyful feast dawns upon the earth today:
the memorial of Peter and Paul,
the wise leaders of the Apostles.
Let Rome rejoice and be glad with us!
Let us keep feast, O brethren, in songs and hymns!
Rejoice, Apostle Peter, true friend of Christ our God!
Rejoice, beloved Paul, herald of the faith and teacher of the universe!
You have boldness before him, O chosen pair;//
pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 *(Theotokion)*

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,
was born of you, O most pure Virgin.
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.
Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!
Rejoice, O celestial Joy!
Rejoice, O Lady://
the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 4 Troparion

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,
and teachers of the universe:
entreat the Master of all
to grant peace to the world, //
and to our souls great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 4 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion

The mystery of all eternity,
unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man, //
saving our souls from death.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 4 Troparion

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,
and teachers of the universe:
entreat the Master of all
to grant peace to the world, //
and to our souls great mercy!

Tone 2 Kontakion

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles,
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, //
for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon

Their proclamation hath gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe! (*Ps 18/19:4*)

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)

Epistle

2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 (*Apostles*)

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps 88/89:5)

v. God is glorified in the council of the saints. (Ps 88/89:7)

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19 (*Apostles*)

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.