Great Vespers of Sunday, November 29, 2026; Tone 1
Martyr Paramonos and the 370 Martyrs in Bithynia

Martyr Philoumenos of Ancyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai

(served on the evening prior)

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.
Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take

their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

"LORD, I HAVE CRIED" IN TONE ONE (**KAZAN**) (**KARAM**) (**STAM**)

Choir: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; hearken unto me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; attend to the voice of my supplication when I cry unto Thee; hearken unto, me O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice; hearken unto me, O Lord.

+ Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.
+ Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.
+ With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.
+ The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.
+ For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.
+ They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.
+ For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.
+ Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.
+ The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.
+ With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.
+ I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.
+ When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.
+ In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.
+ I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.
+ Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.
+ I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.
+ Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.
+ Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

For the Resurrection from the Octoechos in Tone One

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Thy Name.*
Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord, and grant us the remission of sins; for thou alone art He Who hath shown forth the Resurrection unto the world.

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.*
Encircle Sion, O ye peoples, and encompass her, and give glory therein to Him that is arisen from dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered us from our iniquities.

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.*
Come, O ye peoples, let us praise and worship Christ, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered the world from the error of the enemy.

Verse 7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*
Rejoice, O ye heavens; sound the trumpets, ye foundations of the earth; cry out with gladness, O ye mountains. For, behold, Emmanuel hath nailed our sins to the Cross, and the Giver of life hath slain death, and as the Friend of man, He hath raised up Adam.

Verse 6. *If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.*
Let us praise Him Who willingly was crucified in the flesh for us, Who did suffer and was buried and hath arisen from the dead, and let us say: Stablish Thy Church in Orthodoxy, O Christ, and make our life peaceful, since Thou art good and the Friend of man.

Verse 5. *For Thy Name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*
As we unworthy ones stand before Thy life-giving grave, glorification do we offer to Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God; for the Cross and death hast Thou accepted, O Sinless One, that Thou mightiest grant the Resurrection unto the world, since Thou art the Friend of man.

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*
Let us praise the Word Who, with the Father, is co-beginningless and co-eternal, and Who ineffably hath come forth from the virginal womb, and hath accepted the Cross and death for us willingly, and hath arisen in glory; and let us say unto Him: O life-giving Lord, glory be to Thee, the Saviour of our souls.

For the Martyrs in Tone Four (*Thou who wast called from on high***)**

Verse 3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.*
Brightly ablaze with the clear illuminations * of the Holy Spirit, O divine Paramonos, * thou didst completely abominate * that deepest darkness * of many gods; and thou of thine own accord * nobly wentest forth to seize the opportunity * for fights and contests that lay at hand, * O blessed Martyr; * and as a victor thou threwest to the ground * that boastful fraud, the foe of mortal men, * and hereby thou didst magnify Christ our God. * Do thou therefore entreat Him * to enlighten and to save our souls.

Verse 2. *O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.*
When thou beheldest a multitude of people * slaughtered for the sake of God, the only King of all, * thou, O Paramonos, wast subdued * and captivated * with zeal for God; wherefore, thou didst cry aloud: * Know ye, lawless tyrants, that I am the genuine * servant of Christ now and evermore * and come unbidden * now to be sacrificed like a guileless lamb. * Hence, tarry not, for sorely I desire * to become an acceptable offering * unto Him Who for my sake * in the flesh was offered willingly.

Verse 1. *For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.*
The honored chorus of trophy-bearing athletes * numbering three hundred Martyrs with three score and ten, * by strength of faith vanquished and destroyed * the wretched error * of the transgressors that worshipped many gods. * With them thou wast also crowned, O blest Paramonos, * when thou hadst striven courageously; * and thou in gladness * wast numbered with

the angelic choirs on high. * With them, beseech that we might be redeemed * from temptations, afflictions, and every woe, * as we loudly extol thee * and sincerely call thee blest of God.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS IN TONE ONE (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

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

The universal glory born of men, who hath given birth unto the Master, the heavenly gate, let us praise Mary the Virgin, the song of the bodiless hosts, and the adornment of the faithful. For she was shown to be a Heaven and a temple of the Godhead; destroying the wall of enmity, she ushered in peace and opened the Kingdom. Possessing, therefore, this anchor of faith, we have as champion the Lord Who was born of her. Take courage, therefore, take courage, O ye people of God; for He shall fight thine enemies, since He is the Almighty One.

- *When "both now" is chanted, the clergy make the entrance with the censer.*

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright.

GLADSOME LIGHT (**CHANT**) (**CHORAL**)

Choir: Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. In that we are come unto the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we hymn thee: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God. For meet it is that at all times thou shouldest be magnified by voices holy, O Son of God who bestowest life; for which cause all the world doth glorify thee.

Deacon: The evening prokeimenon.

SATURDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Choir: The Lord is king; He is clothed with majesty. (*once*)

Verse 1. *The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself. (Refrain)*

Verse 2. *For He established the world which shall not be shaken. (Refrain)*

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee hearken and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" (thrice) to this and the remaining petitions.

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (and our bishop, N.).

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, NN., and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (and for the servants of God, NN.,) and all of our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen.

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord; teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master; make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

The choir responds "Grant this, O Lord" to this and the remaining petitions.

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

- *All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

Priest: O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and thine inheritance; for unto thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating thy mercy and looking confidently for thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE ONE (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

By Thy Passion, O Christ, we were freed from the passions and by Thy Resurrection we were delivered from corruption. Lord, glory be to Thee.

Verse 1. *The Lord is king; He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Let creation rejoice, let the heavens be glad, let the nations clap their hands with joy. For Christ our Saviour hath nailed our sins to the Cross; and in slaying death, He hath granted us life. And as the Friend of man, He hath raised up the whole race of fallen Adam.

Verse 2. *For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*

Thou King of heaven and earth, O incomprehensible One, Thou wast crucified willingly out of love for man. On meeting Thee below, Hades was embittered whilst the souls of the righteous, on receiving Thee, were gladdened. And Adam, on seeing Thee, the Creator, in the nether most parts, did arise. O wonder! How did the Life of all taste of death? Were it not that He willed to enlighten the world that doth cry out and say: Thou that art risen from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Verse 3. *Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*
The myrrh bearing women, carrying myrrh oils reached Thy sepulcher with haste and lamentation; and not finding Thine immaculate Body, they learned from the angel of the new and strange wonder and said unto the apostles: Risen is the Lord who granteth great mercy unto the world.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS IN TONE ONE (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Behold, fulfilled is the prophecy of Isaiah: For as a virgin hast thou given birth, and after giving birth, thou hast remained as thou wast before childbirth; for He that was born was God. Wherefore also He hath renewed all natures. But, O Mother of God, disdain not the supplication of thy servants that are offered unto Thee in thy temple, but, since thou holdest the Compassionate One in thine arms, show compassion on thy servants, and intercede thou that our souls be saved.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER **(CHANT) (CHORAL)**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE (**KAZAN**) (**CROW-MP3**)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting the life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the heavens cried out to Thee, O Life-giver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom, Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS IN TONE ONE (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

(***The original melody***)

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

While Gabriel was saying, Rejoice, to thee, O Virgin, * at his voice the Master of all things took flesh within thy pure womb. * He dwelt in thee as His holy ark, * as spake the righteous David in the psalms. * And in bearing thy Creator, thou wast shown forth more spacious than all the Heavens. * Glory to Him that willed to dwell in thee. * Glory to Him that came forth from thee. * Glory to Him that, through thy bringing forth, hath delivered us.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom.

Choir: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May he who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of Saint N. (*patron saint of the church*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Martyr Paramonos and the 370 Martyrs in Bithynia, whose memory we celebrate; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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