Great Vespers of Sunday, November 01, 2026; Tone 5
Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia

Theodota, the Unmercenaries' mother; Venerable-martyr James and his disciples James the deacon and Dionysios of Prodromou Skete on Athos; Venerable David of Evia in Greece

(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 FIVE (**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 Five (**STAM**)

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Thy Name.*

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ, Thou hast put the devil to shame; and by Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin; and Thou hast saved us from the gates of death. We glorify Thee, O Only-begotten One.

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.*

He that granted the Resurrection unto the race of man was led as a sheep to slaughter; the princes of Hades were terrified of Him, and the grievous gates were lifted up; for Christ, the King of Glory, hath entered, saying to those in bonds: Go forth; and to those in darkness: Reveal yourselves.

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.*
O great wonder! Having suffered in the flesh out of love for man, the Creator of things invisible, the immortal One, hath risen. Come, O ye kindreds of the nations, let us worship Him; for delivered from error by His compassion, we have learned to praise the one God in three Hypostases.

Verse 7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*
Evening worship do we offer Thee, the unwaning Light, Who in the end of the ages, through the flesh as in a mirror, hast shined up on the world; and hast descended even unto Hades, and dispelled the darkness there, and hast shown the light of the Resurrection unto the nations. O Giver of light, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Verse 6. *If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.*
Let us glorify Christ, the author of our salvation; for when He arose from the dead, the world was saved from error. The choir of the angels rejoiceth; the deception of the demons doth flee; Adam, who was fallen, is risen; the devil is destroyed.

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.*
The guards were instructed by the lawless: Conceal the Resurrection of Christ; and take ye pieces of silver, and say: While we were sleeping, the corpse was stolen from the tomb. Who hath seen, who hath ever heard of a corpse being stolen? Especially one anointed with myrrh and naked, with the funeral shrouds being abandoned in the grave. Be not deceived, O ye Jews. Learn the sayings of the Prophets and know that He is truly the Redeemer of the world and the almighty One.

For Ss. Cosmas and Damian in Tone Six (***The original melody******)**

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*
Having laid up all their hope * and expectation in Heaven, * these two Saints have treasured up * for themselves a kind of wealth * not to be despoiled. * Freely did they receive; * freely do they give out * healings unto those with maladies. * True to the Gospel's hest, * neither gold nor silver did they acquire; * and unto men and unto beasts * they showed benefactions and kindnesses; * that they might be truly * obedient to Christ through every means, * and so with boldness might intercede * with Him in our souls' behalf.

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.*
Having laid up all their hope … (*repeat above*)

Verse 2. *O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.*
That like-minded pair of Saints, * the two companions of like ways, * who were of a single soul, * hated every perishing * thing upon the earth, * and became citizens * of the holy Heavens, * peers of Angels while yet clothed in flesh. * Wherefore, they grant their cures * unto all in sickness and suffering, * while doing good to those in need, * taking neither silver nor gold from them. * Let us, as is fitting, * all honor them with joy in yearly feasts; * for with great boldness they intercede * with the Master for our souls.

Verse 1. *For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.*
Since they made the Trinity * to come and dwell wholly in them, * that renowned and godly pair, * Cosmas and wise Damian, * like unceasing springs, * now gush forth rivers of * every kind of healing * from a life-bestowing fountainhead; * and even their remains * by a touch make well every suffering; * indeed, their names alone suffice * to drive all diseases from mortal men. * And they are in Christ God * the saviors of all those who flee to them, * as with great boldness they intercede * with Him in our souls' behalf.

DOXASTICON FOR SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN IN TONE SIX

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Unending is the grace that the Saints have received from Christ; wherefore, even their relics ceaselessly work miracles by divine might. Their names alone, when called upon with faith, deliver men from incurable maladies. Through them, O Lord, free us also from sufferings of soul and body, since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS IN TONE FIVE (KAZAN) (STAM)

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
In the Red Sea, there was once depicted an image of the unwedded Bride. There, Moses divided the water; here, Gabriel doth minister the wonder. Then, the deep was trodden dry-shod by Israel; now, Christ is born seedlessly of the Virgin. The sea, after the passage of Israel, remained untrodden; the blameless one, after the birth of Emmanuel, remained undefiled. O Thou Who art, and ever before didst exist, and hast appeared as man, O God: have mercy on us.

- *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 FIVE (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

Thee, O Christ our Saviour, Who wast incarnate and yet wast not parted from the Heavens, do we magnify with voices of song. For as the Lord Who loveth man, Thou didst accept the Cross and death for the sake of our race. Despoiling the gates of Hades, Thou didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

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

When Thy side was pierced, O Giver of life, Thou didst pour forth streams of forgiveness, life and salvation for all. Thou didst accept death in the flesh, thereby granting us immortality. And, whilst dwelling in the grave, Thou didst free us, and gloriously as God, didst raise us up together with Thyself. Wherefore, we cry out: O Friend of man, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Verse 2. *For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*
Strange is Thy crucifixion and descent into Hades, O Friend of man. For Thou didst despoil it and didst gloriously raise up with Thyself the captives of old, since Thou art God; Thou didst open Paradise and make us worthy thereof. Wherefore, do Thou grant forgiveness of sins also unto us who glorify Thine arising on the third day; and deem us worthy to dwell in Paradise, since Thou alone art compassionate.

Verse 3. *Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*
O Thou Who didst accept the passion in the flesh for our sake, and didst arise on the third day: do Thou heal the passions of our flesh; and raise us up from grievous transgressions, O Friend of man, and save us.

DOXASTICON FOR SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN IN TONE SIX

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Having Christ working in you at all times, O holy Unmercenaries, ye work wonders in the world, healing the sick. Your surgery is an inexhaustible well-spring; the more it is drawn from, the more it exceedingly overfloweth; though poured out, in super-aboundeth; though emptied daily, it increaseth, bestowing on all and never lacking. They that draw there from find their fill of healings, yet it abideth never spent. What, then, shall we call you? Ministering physicians of both souls and bodies, healers of incurable sufferings, who freely heal all, since ye have received gifts from Christ the Savior, Who granteth us Great Mercy.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTEOCHOS IN TONE SIX (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
My Creator and Redeemer, Christ the Lord, came forth from thy womb, O all pure one. Being enclothed with me, He freed Adam from the ancient curse. Wherefore, O all pure one, to thee, the true Mother of God and Virgin, do we unceasingly cry out the angel's greeting: Rejoice! Rejoice, O Lady, protection and shelter and salvation of our souls.

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 FIVE (**KAZAN**) (**CROW-MP3**)
(***The original melody***)

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him * that with the Father and Spirit is co-beginningless God, * Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; * for he was pleased to mount the Cross * in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. * And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN OF ASIA IN TONE EIGHT

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
O ye silver-hating, wonderworking saints, Cosmas and Damian, visit our sicknesses. Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Thou Who for our sakes wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O Good One, and didst despoil death by death, and as God, didst reveal the Resurrection: Disdain them not which Thou hast fashioned with Thy hand; show us Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; accept the Theotokos that gave Thee birth, who intercedeth for us; and do Thou, our Savior, save a despairing people.

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 holy wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia and their mother Theodota, 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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