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# The Service of Vespers

**on Friday Evening**

**for Saturday, May 25, 2019**

**Pentecostarion - On Friday of the Fourth Week  
at Vespers**

**Menaion - May 25  
Third Finding of the Forerunner's Head**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Pentecostarion**

On Friday of the Fourth Week in the Evening

**Menaion - May 25**

Third Finding of the Forerunner's Head

**VESPERS**

**PRIEST**

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,  
and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

**Mode pl. 1.**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death  
trampling down upon death, and to those in  
the tombs He has granted life. [GOA]

**CHOIR**

**Mode pl. 1.**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death  
trampling down upon death, and to those in  
the tombs He has granted life. [GOA]

Christ is risen from the dead, by death  
trampling down upon death, and to those in  
the tombs He has granted life. [GOA]

**READER**

**Psalm 103 (104).**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my  
God, You are magnified exceedingly; You  
clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and  
majesty, who cover Yourself with light as  
with a garment, who stretch out the heavens  
like a curtain; You are He who covers His  
upper chambers with water, who makes the  
clouds His means of approach, who walks  
on the wings of the winds, who makes His  
angels spirits and His ministers a flame of  
fire. He established the earth on its stable

foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of  
ages. The deep like a garment is His covering;  
the waters shall stand upon the mountains;  
at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound  
of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The  
mountains rise up, and the plains sink down  
to the place You founded for them. You set  
a boundary they shall not pass over; neither  
shall they return to cover the earth. You are  
He who sends springs into the valley; the  
waters shall pass between the mountains;  
they shall give drink to all the wild animals  
of the field; the wild asses shall quench their  
thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside  
them; they shall sing from the midst of the  
rocks. You are He who waters the mountains  
from His higher places; the earth shall be  
satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are  
He who causes grass to grow for the cattle,  
and the green plant for the service of man, to  
bring forth bread from the earth; and wine  
gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face  
with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.  
The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit,  
the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted;  
there the sparrows shall make their nests;  
the house of the heron takes the lead among  
them. The high mountains are for the deer; the  
cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the  
moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting.  
You established darkness, and it was night,  
wherein all the wild animals of the forest  
will prowl about; the young lions roar and  
snatch their prey, and seek their food from  
God. The sun arises, and they are gathered  
together; and they shall be put to bed in their  
dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his  
labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall

be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your creation. There is this great and spacious sea: the creeping things are there without number; the living things are there, both small and great; there the ships pass through; there is this dragon You formed to play therein. All things wait upon You, that You may give them food in due season. When You give it to them, they shall gather it; when You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

*While the Opening Psalm is being read the Priest, bareheaded and standing in front of the Holy Table, says quietly the following Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps.*

**PRIEST** (*inaudibly*)

### **1st Prayer**

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in your way, to walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear your holy Name, because you are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like you, O Lord, among gods: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in your holy Name. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **2nd Prayer**

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor chastise us in your wrath, but deal with us in accordance with your kindness, physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbour of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth and grant that the rest of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints. [EL]

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **3rd Prayer**

Lord our God, remember us, sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy Name, and do not put us to shame from the expectation of your mercy, but graciously grant us, Lord, all the requests that are for salvation, and count us worthy to love and to fear you from our whole heart, and in all things to do your will. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **4th Prayer**

O Lord, who are praised by the holy Powers with never silent hymns and unceasing songs of glory, fill our mouth with your praise to give majesty to your holy Name, and give us a part and an inheritance with all who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all your Saints. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **5th Prayer**

Lord, Lord, who uphold the universe by your immaculate hand, who are long-suffering towards us all and who repent of evils, remember your acts of compassion and your mercy. Visit us in your loving kindness and grant that for the rest of the present day we may escape the manifold wiles of the evil one, and, by the grace of your All-holy Spirit, keep our life free from assault. [EL]

By the mercy and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### 6th Prayer

O God, great and wonderful, who order the universe with inexpressible loving-kindness and rich providence; who have granted us also the blessings of this world and brought us near to the promised Kingdom through the blessings that have been bestowed on us already; who have made us turn aside from every evil during that part of the present day which is now over, grant us also to complete what remains without blame in the presence of your holy glory, as we sing your praise, who alone are our God, good and the Lover of mankind. [EL]

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### 7th Prayer

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer you our evening hymn of glory; do you, O Lord who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense

before you and accept it as a savour of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every deed that walks in darkness. And give us sleep, which you have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, as we bring to your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all your people. At the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

*When the Opening Psalm is completed the Priest, in front of the Holy Table, or the Deacon in his usual place outside the Holy Doors, says the Litany of Peace.*

**DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Mode 4.**

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.



The righteous man shall correct me with mercy,  
and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner  
anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of  
their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the  
rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.  
As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so  
their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in  
You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from  
the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone,  
until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I  
prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I  
shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew  
my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one  
who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared  
for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope,  
my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled  
exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are  
stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your  
name, O Lord.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward  
me.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O  
Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my  
supplication.

### Stichera for the Feast.

From Pentecostarion - - -

#### Mode 1. N/M (For the celestial.)

*If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O  
Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness  
with You.* [SAAS]

The Logos, who is of one essence with  
God the Father, and who created all things  
and grants life to all, was born of the Virgin,  
and assumed our flesh, and willingly became  
a man. He is by nature good, and for all  
people He has poured out His wise teachings  
of ineffable wisdom. [un]

*Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You;  
my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in  
the Lord.* [SAAS]

As the Master of the Law, You entered the  
court of the temple, and there You taught at  
Mid-feast, as it is written, O Christ; speaking  
with authority, You rebuked and censured the  
mindless scribes, and all were amazed by the  
wisdom in Your words, and by all the miracles  
that You did. [un]

*From the morning watch until night; from the  
morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the  
Lord.* [SAAS]

Christ, the Bestower of Wisdom, the Giver  
of all good things, who pours out divine  
streams from a never-ending spring, cries out  
and says: "Come to Me, all you who thirst,  
and drink the water of life. And thus rivers of  
grace and divine gifts will issue freely from  
within you. [un]



**For the Forerunner.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4. N/M (What a paradoxal.)**

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions.* [SAAS]

O blessed Forerunner John, brighter than the sun's rays, your Head dawned forth from the earth and enlightened the faithful. Having it as a divine treasure, we obtain rich grace for ourselves, being sanctified in soul and body and mind; and as we celebrate the festival, we call you blessed. [JR]

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples.* [SAAS]

O blessed Forerunner, your sacred Head that pours forth grace everlasting, is revealed to an unsuspecting Priest of godly mind, who clearly sought for it in faith and grace. And he, with the godly-minded people and King, is sanctified and fervently strengthened in the Orthodox faith. [JR]

*For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.* [SAAS]

O glorious John, we celebrate the third appearance of your revered Head, which the Trinity crowned after it was cut off on account of your divine zeal. And glorying in its discovery are the ranks of Angels, the assembly of Martyrs, the divine Apostles, and all the Prophets. With them, make remembrance of us at all times, O Forerunner of the Lord. [JR]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

A treasure of godly gifts is your Head, O Forerunner. Guarded safely by God, it came to

light from the hollows of the earth. With faith we gain possession of it, O glorious Baptist of Christ, and as we venerate it we are enriched through you by the wonders of miracles and the forgiveness of transgressions. [JR]

Both now. **For the Feast.**

From Pentecostarion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

At the mid-point of the feast of Your Resurrection, O Christ, and of the divine coming of Your Holy Spirit, we have come together to extol the mysteries of Your miracles. We pray You, on this feast send down on us Your great mercy. [SD]

**DEACON** *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST** *(in a low voice)*

**Prayer of the Entrance**

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise, bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord, our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise.

**CLERGY AND PEOPLE**

**Mode 2.**

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; \* and therefore the world glorifies You. [SD]

**DEACON**

The evening Prokeimenon.

**CHOIR**

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.**

You are my protector, O God. Your mercy shall go before me. (2) [SAAS]

**Verse:** *Rescue me from my enemies, O God, and redeem me from those who rise up against me.*

You are my protector, O God. Your mercy shall go before me.

**DEACON**

Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

**PRIEST**

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**READER**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your

commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments.

Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

*(Amen.)*

**DEACON**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering,

and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST** *(in a low voice)*

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful Judge who love mankind, your servants have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting your mercy and looking for your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

**PRIEST**

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion ---

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha.**

**Mode 2.** *N/M (Joseph took You.)*

Come, you faithful, let us reverence today the Baptist's precious Head, which was cut off by the sword. Let us honor it with loving songs on the occasion of its discovery, as it showers us with gifts of healings; this is the head that foolish Herod severed long ago when he was entangled in Herodias's madness. [JR]

**Verse:** *There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for my anointed.*

[SAAS]

Like gold from the mines, so from the earth the Forerunner's Head shines like a torch, giving light through the vessel and clearly speaking forth the shame of Herod's adultery and murder and with its radiance illumining our thoughts. Kissing it in faith, let us honor it in hymns today, as it intercedes with God in our behalf. [JR]

**Verse:** *Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness.* [SAAS]

Like a divine treasure, hidden long ago in a jar in the earth, the head of the Baptist is revealed today to the ends of the world. It pours forth fountains of healings like riches, curing sicknesses and enlightening souls. Therefore, delighting in the grace of every joy, let us all sing hymns of praise to Christ's Forerunner. [JR]

Glory.

From Menaion ---

**Mode 2.**

Your Head, that all-venerable repository of divine concepts, which clearly foresaw the mystery of the ineffable Essence, has arisen today out of the storehouses of the earth, as it were out of a mother's womb, O John, who are worthy of all praise. It poured forth the fragrant oil of sanctification and perfumed everything under the sun. It spiritually preaches the way of repentance, and it intercedes with the Savior of all, on behalf of our souls. [SD]

Both now. **For the Feast.**

From Pentecostarion ---

**Mode 2.**

When you went to the Temple about the middle of the feast, O Christ our God, You taught the people and said, "He who believes in me, even if he dies, shall live." But the Jews were cut to the heart, along with the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Scribes, and they said, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies?" They did not consider that You are our God, glorified with the Father and Spirit before all ages. Glory to You. [SD]

**PRIEST**

**Song of Simeon.**

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

**PEOPLE**

**Trisagion Prayers.**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the  
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages  
of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.  
Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our  
transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our  
infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the  
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the 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 evil.

**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 forever and to the  
ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Apolytikion.**

*From Menaion - - -*

**Mode 4. Come quickly.**

Now Christ has revealed to us your sacred  
head once again, \* a most holy treasure hidden  
underground for so long, \* O Prophet and

Forerunner. \* Therefore we have assembled  
for the feast of its Finding, \* singing our God-  
inspired hymns in praise of the Savior, \* who  
saves us from destruction, by your earnest  
prayers to Him. *[SD]*

Glory. Both now.

**Apolytikion of the Feast.**

*From Pentecostarion - - -*

**Mode pl. 4.**

O Lord, midway through the feast, give  
drink to my thirsty soul from the waters of  
true religion. For to all You the Savior cried  
aloud, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and  
drink." O Christ our God, the fountain of life,  
glory to You. *[SD]*

**DEACON**

Wisdom.

*(Father, bless!)*

**PRIEST**

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always  
now and forever and to the ages of ages.  
*(Amen.)*

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and  
pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians,  
together with the Holy Church and this city  
forever.

**READER**

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and  
in glory greater beyond compare than the  
Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth  
to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos.  
You do we magnify.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death  
trampling down upon death, and to those in  
the tombs He has granted life.

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

**PRIEST**

May He who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, the Finding of whose precious Head we celebrate, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, **(local patron saint)**; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*According to the Patriarchal Hemerologion:*

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

*or:*

*According to common practice:*

**PRIEST**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**PEOPLE**

Truly the Lord is risen!