THE 29th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JUNE

COMMEMORATION OF HOLY, GLORIOUS, ALL-PRAISED & PREEMINENT APOSTLES PETER & PAUL

AT LITTLE VESPERS

On "Lord, I have cried ...," 4 Stichera of the holy apostles, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

Thine honored apostles hast Thou given * to Thy Church, O Lord, as a boast, * and therein shine forth the noetic luminaries * Peter and Paul, * as stars of the Word, * shedding light upon the whole world. * By them hast Thou enlightened the darkness of the West, * O Almighty Jesus, ** Thou Savior of our souls. (Twice)

Thou hast granted confirmation * unto Thy Church, O Lord: * the steadfastness of Peter, * the understanding and splendid wisdom of Paul, * and the truly divine proclamation of them both, * which dispelleth the deception of the Greeks. * Wherefore, having been initiated into the mysteries by both of them, * we hymn Thee, O Almighty Jesus, ** Thou Savior of our souls.

Thou hast provided the sinful * with a model of repentance: * Thy two apostles. * For the one denied Thee at the time of Thy suffering, yet repented, * while the other opposing the preaching of Thee, * later came to believe. * And both are preeminent among the assembly of their peers, * O Almighty Jesus, ** Thou Savior of our souls.

Glory ..., the composition of John the Monk, in Tone VIII:

Thou didst vex and persecute the Church, O all-blessed Paul, but when thou wast called from heaven, thou didst defend it most gloriously. Pray thou now, that it be delivered from misfortunes, and that our souls be saved.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VIII:

Thy shelter, O Virgin Theotokos, * is spiritual healing; * for, having recourse unto it, ** we are delivered from spiritual infirmities.

Prokeimenon of the day.

On the Aposticha, these Stichera of the holy apostles, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: "When from the tree ...":

O Peter, foundation of the apostles, * rock of the Church of Christ, * prince of Christians: * gloriously tend the sheep of thy fold, * protect thy lambs from the wolves of falsehood, * deliver thy flock from grievous perils; * for thee have we truly acquired * as a never-tiring advocate before God, ** and, boasting in thee, we are all saved.

Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

O Paul, fisher of the nations, * intercessor for Christians, * beacon for the whole world, * ever-speaking mouth of Christ the living God, * who in preaching the divine Faith * hast passed over all the ends of the earth like the sun: * from the bonds of sin * release all who praise thee ** and are adorned by thy supplications.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, * and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

O Peter, preeminent disciple! * O Paul, who completed the rank of the apostles! * O foremost preachers, * earnestly pray ye now with boldness to God, * and send down speedy help * and release from misfortunes upon us * who are sorrowful, * that we may boast in faith, ** by deeds, now revealing your protection in your tabernacle.

Glory ..., the composition of John the Monk, in Tone IV:

Having chosen thee as the first, O Peter foundation of the Faith, Christ crowned thee, as He, the Master of all, foretold unto thee, saying: "Blessed art thou, O Simon bar Jonah, for flesh and blood hath not disclosed and made thee My sacred herald, but my Father Who is in the heavens!" Him do thou beseech, O divinely blessed apostle, that He grant us great mercy.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

Deliver us from our needs, * O Mother of Christ God, * thou who hast given birth to the Creator of all, * that we all may cry out to thee: ** Rejoice, O thou who alone art the intercessor for our souls!

Troparion, in Tone IV:

O first enthroned among the apostles * and teachers of the whole world: * entreat the Master of all, * that He grant peace to the world ** and great mercy to our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion in Tone IV:

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and saved our souls from death.

AT GREAT VESPERS

After the introductory Psalm, we chant "Blessed is the man ...," the first antiphon.

On "Lord, I have cried ...," 8 Stichera of the holy apostles, the composition of Andrew Pyrrhus, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: "What wreaths of praise ...":

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul, who were separate in body yet united in spirit, the foremost of the preachers of God, the one as leader of the apostles, and the other as the one who labored more than the rest? For Christ our God, Who hath great mercy, hath truly crowned them with diadems of glory as is meet. (Thrice)

With what beauties of song shall we hymn Peter and Paul? They are the wings of divine knowledge who soared above the ends of the earth and were borne aloft to the heavens, the hands of the grace of the Gospel, the rivers of wisdom, the arms of the Cross, wherewith Christ, Who hath great mercy, hath cast down the pride of the demons. (Thrice)

With what spiritual hymns shall we praise Peter and Paul? Who have closed the ever-gaping mouths of the ungodly, they are the dreadful swords of the Spirit, the splendid adornments of Rome, the nurturers of the whole world, the noetic and divinely graven tablets of the new covenant, whom Christ, Who hath great mercy, proclaimed in Sion. (Twice)

Glory ..., the composition of John the Monk, in Tone IV:

By His thrice-repeated question, "Peter, lovest thou Me?", Christ set aright the three denials. Wherefore, Simon said to the Author of mysteries: "Lord, Thou knowest all things, Thou understandest all things! Thou knowest that I love Thee!" Wherefore, the Savior said unto him: "Feed My lambs; feed My chosen ones; feed My sheep, which I have acquired for salvation by My blood!" Him do thou beseech, O divinely blessed apostle, that He grant us great mercy.

Both now ..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in Tone IV:

Prophet David, the ancestor of God, * spoke of thee in psalmody unto Him Who hath accomplished great things in thee. * For God was well pleased without father to become a man from thee, * the Queen who standeth at His right hand, * and He - the source of life - showed thee to be His mother, * that He might renew His own image, corrupted by the passions. * Having found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain * He hath laid it upon His shoulders, * that He may bring it to his Father; * and in accordance with His own will * unite it to the heavenly powers * and thus, O Theotokos, save the world, ** Christ, Who is richly and abundantly merciful.

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the day. Three Lessons:

A READING FROM THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF PETER

Brethren, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

A READING FROM THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF PETER

Beloved, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He Who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

A READING FROM THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF PETER

Beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto those who are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of those who do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an ex-

ample, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him Who judgeth righteously: Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the Tree, that we, being dead, to sins should live unto righteousness.

At Litiya, the Sticheron of the temple, and these Stichera, the composition of Andrew of Jerusalem, in Tone II:

Come, ye assemblies of the faithful, and with fitting praises let us crown today Peter and Paul, the right laudable and beautiful company the chosen artisans of grace, for they have abundantly sown the word for all. Therewith they have made rich the grace of the Spirit, and as branches of the true Vine they have put forth for us a ripe cluster gladdening our hearts. To them do we cry aloud with open countenance and a pure conscience, saying: Rejoice, destroyers of the irrational and servants of those endowed with reason! Rejoice, ye beauteous chosen ones of the Creator and Fashioner of all Rejoice, mediators of good things and dispellers of that which is false! Let us beseech them, that they ever entreat the Creator and Teacher to grant sure peace unto the world and great mercy to our souls.

The composition of Arsenius: **L**et us praise the preeminent Peter and Paul as intercessors for the whole world: the disciples of Christ and foundations of the Church, the pillars and ramparts of truth, the divine trumpets of the teachings and sufferings of Christ. For having traveled the breadth of the whole world, sowing thy Faith as with a plough, they planted divine knowledge for all, revealing the word of the Trinity. O Peter, thou rock and foundation! O Paul, thou chosen vessel Yoked together by the bonds of Christ, they have drawn all to the knowledge of God: gentiles and Jews, cities and islands, they have led to Christ; and they pray that our souls be saved.

The composition of Germanus: **O** Peter, preeminent among the glorious apostles, rock of faith! O wondrous Paul, rhetor and luminary of the Holy Churches! Standing before the divine throne, pray ye to Christ for us. O blessed Paul, mouth of the Lord, foundation of doctrines, who wast once a persecutor of Jesus the Savior, thou art now among the foremost enthroned among the apostles. Wherefore, thou hast seen ineffable things, O wise one, ascending even unto the third heaven, and crying aloud: Come with me, and we shall not be deprived of any good thing!

The composition of John the Monk, in Tone III: **T**he citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, the rock of faith, the rhetor of the Church of Christ, the two servants of the Trinity, the fishers of the world: having forsaken that which is here on earth and departed unto God with suffering, beseech Him with boldness that our souls be saved.

Glory ..., the composition of Byzantius, in Tone V:

As the Wisdom of God, the consubstantial Word of the Father foretold in the Gospels, O all-praised apostles, ye are exceeding fruitful vines bearing ripe and comely Clusters upon your branches, and we the faithful, eating thereof, delight in the taste thereof with gladness. O Peter, rock of faith, and Paul, boast of the whole world, make steadfast the flock which ye acquired by your teachings.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone V:

We bless thee, O Virgin Theotokos, * and we, the faithful, glorify thee as is meet, * thou unassailable city, * impregnable rampart, ** and steadfast intercession and refuge of our souls.

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, the composition of Andrew of Crete, in Tone I:

Who can relate the bonds and tribulations thou didst endure in all cities, O glorious apostle Paul, the labors, pangs and vigils, the oppression amid hunger and thirst, in wintertime and nakedness, the basket (in which thou madest thine escape), thy beating with staves and stones, thy journeys, and the time thou wast cast into the deep? Thou wast a spectacle for angels and all mankind. Wherefore, enduring all things for the sake of Christ Who strengthened thee, thou didst acquire the world for Jesus Christ thy Lord. Wherefore, we who honor thy memory with faith beseech thee: Pray thou unceasingly, that our souls be saved.

Verse: Their sound hath gone forth in to all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Who can tell of thine imprisonment and tribulations throughout all the cities, O glorious apostle? Or who can imagine the struggles and exertions wherewith thou didst labor to spread the glad tidings of Christ, that thou mightest obtain all and lead the Church to Christ? Yet pray thou that it preserve thy goodly confession even unto its final breath, O Paul, apostle and teacher of the Church.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, * and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Let us praise Peter and Paul, the luminaries of the Great Church, for they have shone forth in the firmament of the Faith more brightly than the sun, and with the rays of their preaching have led the nations up from ignorance. For the one, crucified upon a cross, made his journey to heaven, where he hath received from Christ the keys of the kingdom; and the other, beheaded by the sword, passed over to the Savior. Both are fittingly blessed, and both make proclamation unto Israel, who unjustly lifted up their hands against the Lord Himself. Wherefore, through their supplications, O Christ our God, cast down those who rage against us, and make steadfast the Orthodox Faith, in that Thou lovest mankind.

Glory ..., the composition of Ephraim of Karyes, in Tone VI:

A joyous feast hath shone forth today upon the ends of the earth: the most honored commemoration of the most wise and preeminent apostles Peter and Paul. Wherefore, Rome, joining chorus, rejoiceth in hymns and songs; and we celebrate, O brethren, observing this most honored day, crying: Rejoice, O apostle Peter, thou true friend of thy Teacher, Jesus Christ our God! Rejoice, O most beloved Paul, thou preacher of the Faith and teacher of the whole world! As ye have boldness, O ye two holy and chosen ones, entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI:

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Redeemer, * Who came forth from thy womb, O most pure one, * and clothed Himself in my nature, * hath freed Adam from the primal curse. * Wherefore, like the angel * we unceasingly cry out to thee, O most pure one, * who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: * Rejoice!, O Sovereign Lady, ** the intercession, protection and salvation for our souls!

At the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of the holy apostles, in Tone IV:

O first enthroned among the apostles * and teachers of the whole world: * entreat the Master of all, * that He grant peace to the world ** and great mercy to our souls. (Twice)

And "Virgin Theotokos rejoice! ...," (Once)

But if a vigil is not served, then after the Troparion:

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and saved our souls from death.

AT MATINS

On "God is the Lord ...," the Troparion of the holy apostles, in Tone IV:

O first enthroned among the apostles * and teachers of the whole world: * entreat the Master of all, * that He grant peace to the world ** and great mercy to our souls. (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and saved our souls from death.

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "Of the Wisdom ...":

Forsaking the fishing of the deep, having received from the Father in heaven the divine revelation of the incarnation of the Son, with boldness thou didst cry out with faith to thy Creator: "I know that Thou art the consubstantial Son of God!" Wherefore, as is meet, thou wast truly shown to be a rock of faith and the key-bearer of grace. O apostle Peter, entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who with love celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory ..., Another Sessional Hymn, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "When the stone was sealed ...":

O ye faithful, as is meet, let us praise the champion Paul, the net of the world, and the all-praised Peter, the rock of the Church, in that he holdeth the keys of heaven: for the whole world hath been enlightened by them with the Faith of the Trinity. Glory to Him Who hath glorified you! Glory to Him Who hath strengthened you! Glory to Him Who because of you hath given us everlasting life!

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone I:

Stretching forth thy divine arms, wherewith thou didst bear the Creator Who in His goodness hath become incarnate, O most pure virgin, beseech Him to deliver from temptations, sufferings and tribulations us who praise thee with love and cry aloud: Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee! Glory to Him Who issued forth from thee! Glory to Him Who hath delivered us by thy birthgiving!

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel: "Of the Wisdom ...":

Receiving from Christ a calling from the heavens, thou wast shown to be a proclaimer of the light, illumining all with the teachings of grace; for having cast off the worship of the letter of the law, thou didst make plain to the faithful the understanding of the Spirit. Wherefore, thou wast fittingly caught up on high to the third heaven, and attained unto paradise. O apostle Paul, entreat Christ God, that He grant forgiveness of sins unto those who with love celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory ..., in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared today ...":

With luminous radiance ye enlighten the ends of the earth like stars with the doctrines of holy preaching, O apostles of the Lord, initiates of the mysteries of heaven.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

We, the faithful, bless the Theotokos, through whom we have been delivered from corruption: the fervent ally of those in tribulation, our helper and reconciliation with God.

Polyeleos, and this magnification: We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your teachings, and led all the ends of the earth unto Christ.

Selected Psalm verse:

A: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Alleluia ..., Glory to Thee, O God! (Thrice)

After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "Of the Wisdom ...":

Let us praise Peter and the most wise Paul, who were shown to be preeminent among the disciples, the great and radiant luminaries; for shining forth with the fire of the divine Spirit, they burned away all the gloom of deception. Wherefore, they have fittingly been shown to be warriors of the kingdom on high, co-enthroned in grace. For this cause we cry aloud: O apostles of Christ God, ask forgiveness of transgressions for those who with love celebrate your holy memory. (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VIII:

As the all-immaculate Bride of the Creator, * Mother of the Redeemer, who knewest not a man, * and as the receptacle of the Comforter O all-hymned one, * hasten thou to deliver me, * the vile abode of iniquity and noetic plaything of the demons, * from their evil machinations; * and make me the bright dwelling-place of the virtues, * O thou incorrupt light-bearing one. * Drive away the clouds of the passions and grant that, * by thy supplications, * I may receive a portion on high ** and share in the never-waning light.

Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV:

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Let every breath praise the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN, § 67 (IN. 21: 15-23)

At that time, Jesus showed Himself to His disciples, after He had risen from the dead, and said to Simon Peter: "Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me more than these?" He said unto Him: "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee." He said unto him: "Feed My lambs." He said to him again the second time: "Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me?" He said unto Him: "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee." He saith unto him: "Feed My sheep." He said unto him the third time: "Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me?" Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time: "Lovest thou Me?" And he said unto Him: "Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee." Jesus said unto him: "Feed My sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee: When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not." This spake He, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said unto him: "Follow Me." Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; who also leaned on His breast at supper, and said: "Lord, which is he that betrayeth Thee?" Peter seeing him said to Jesus: "Lord, and what shall this man do?" Jesus said unto him: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou Me." Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, "He shall not die"; but, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?"

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron Idiomelon, in Tone VI:

With hymns of praise let us honor the true preachers of piety, the most radiant stars of the Church: Peter, the rock of Faith, and Paul, the teacher of the Truth and initiate of the mysteries of Christ. For both of them, having sown the word of truth in the hearts of the faithful, beseech Christ God Who granteth fruitfulness unto all, that our souls be saved.

Two canons, the composition of John of Damascus: the first to the holy apostle Peter, the Irmos of which is chanted twice, followed by 6 Troparia, and the second for the holy apostle Paul, with 6 Troparia.

ODE I

Canon of the holy apostle Peter, in Tone IV:

Irmos: There is none like unto Thee, * O exceedingly glorious Lord; * for by Thy mighty arm * Thou didst deliver the people * whom Thou hast acquired, * O Lover of mankind.

With divinely inspired songs let us hymn today the preeminent of the apostles as the first called of Christ.

Having foreknown thee, O all-blessed Peter, the Pre-eternal One ordained thee from of old as the leader of His Church, to be the first-enthroned.

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father inspired thee to theologize Christ as the true Son of God Most High, O apostle.

Theotokion: **W**e hymn thee, the holy mountain, the most exalted chariot, the Mother of God and true Virgin.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul, in Tone VIII:

Irmos: That which had been hewn down divided the undivided, * and land unseen was seen by the sun; * water engulfed the cruel enemy, * and Israel traversed the impassable, chanting a hymn: * Let us sing unto the Lord, * for gloriously hath He been glorified!

When Christ called things into existence out of non-existence, O all-blessed Paul, He chose thee from thy mother's womb to carry before the nations His divine name, which is above every name; for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Declaring to thee the coming effulgence of piety and the cleansing away of falsehood, O Paul, Christ, Who showed Himself to be as bright as lightning on the mountain, dimmed thy bodily eyes while enlightening the eyes of thy soul with the understanding of the Trinity: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Performing circumcision on the eighth day, as a zealot of the traditions of thy fathers, O Paul, and showing thyself to be a legalistic Pharisee, a Jew by birth, of the tribe of Benjamin, thou didst come to consider all such things as but dung, and didst acquire Christ: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Theotokion: **O** Sovereign Lady, pure Mother of almighty God, who sprang forth from royal stock and gavest birth in the flesh, in a manner transcending nature, to God Who alone reigneth over all: Save me from misfortunes, who chant unto thy Son: For gloriously hast Thou been glorified!

ODE III

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: Not in wisdom, nor in power do we glory, * but we glory in Thee O Christ, * the Hypostatic Wisdom of the Father, * for there is none more holy than Thee, O Lover of mankind.

The sweet mouth of Christ God showed thee to be blessed and a sure treasure of the kingdom; wherefore, we hymn thee, O apostle Peter.

On the rock of thy theology hath Jesus the Master unshakably established the Church, and therein we glorify thee, O apostle Peter.

How much greater than the angels was Peter in the body! For Christ God said that at His radiant coming he would be a judge and would be co-enthroned.

Theotokion: **O** thou who knewest not wedlock, who hast given birth unto God in the flesh: render me steadfast and unshaken by the assaults of the passions, for we have none other helper than thee, O pure one.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: O Lord, thou art the confirmation of those who flee to Thee, * Thou art the Light of those in darkness, * and my spirit doth hymn Thee.

Thou hast been set as a precious foundation stone for the souls of the faithful, a corner-stone of the Savior and Lord.

O all-blessed Paul, pray thou that on thy foundations the splendors of most praiseworthy virtues may be set firmly.

Ever perfectly bearing the mortality of Jesus on thy body, O Paul, thou wast deemed worthy of true life.

Theotokion: **T**hee have we all of us Christians acquired as our rampart and refuge, and we glorify thee without ceasing, O thou who knewest not wedlock.

Sessional Hymn of the holy apostles, in Tone VIII:

What dungeon held thee not a prisoner? What Church had thee not as an orator? Damascus extolleth thee, O Paul, for it knew thee blinded by the light; and Rome, which received thy blood, boasteth in thee; but Tarsus rejoiceth yet more and loveth thee, honoring thine infancy. O Peter, rock of the Faith, and Paul, boast of the whole world, coming together from Rome make us steadfast.

ODE IV

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: This is our God, Who hath become incarnate of the Virgin * and hath deified our nature! * Hymning Him, let us cry aloud: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

As He promised, Christ made thee a divine fisher of men for His Church, entrusting its helm to thee first.

Entreated by thee, O Peter, may Jesus, the Bestower of life, Who gaveth thee the authority to bind and to loose, be merciful unto me.

Pray thou earnestly, O Peter, that the kingdom of Christ be opened unto those who honor thy divine memory with unwavering faith.

Theotokion: **O** all-hymned Sovereign Lady, Birthgiver of God, having cleansed away mine evil thoughts by thy supplications, show me forth as fruitful, O Mother of the God of all.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: Thou didst mount Thy steeds O Lord, * Thine apostles, * and taking their bridles in Thy hands, * Thy chariot became salvation unto those who sing with faith: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Once Saul crouched like a lion, wrathfully destroyed the Church of Christ; but he was seized by the divine voice of the Lamb of God, Whom he had persecuted, and Who entrusted His flock to him as a shepherd.

He who would enlighten the whole world was struck blind; but Ananias was sent to him, imparting unto him enlightenment of soul and body through divine revelation, and showing him to be a chosen vessel.

As is meet, Damascus is given drink by Paul; for from him, as from the garden of paradise, a great well-spring of divine waters once issued forth and irrigated the whole earth abundantly with divine knowledge.

Theotokion: The Lord hath cast down the mighty from their thrones, as the Virgin Mother said, and with divine good things hath He filled the hungry, who cry aloud with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

ODE V

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: Having acquired us the chosen people by Thy blood, O Lord, * do Thou grant us peace, * preserving Thy flock in oneness of mind.

He Who through love received boldness before God hath fittingly become wondrous, though he was an ignorant fisherman, and he now worketh most glorious wonders through grace.

Thy godly apostle, O Christ, having acquired neither gold nor silver for Thy sake, but rather virtue, hath been enriched by the power of miracles.

By thine effective word the feet and joints of the lame were set aright, for most glorious things were accomplished by the divine Spirit.

Theotokion: God became incarnate, O pure one, hypostatically united to the flesh He received from thee, yet remaining immutable, and incorporeal in His divine nature.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: Illumine us O Lord with Thy commandments, * and with Thine arm raised on high * grant us Thy peace, * O Lover of mankind!

Thou didst choose true praise, O apostle Paul, ever bearing the Cross of Christ the King as a trophy.

For thee to live is Christ, and to die is an excellent acquisition; for through love thou wast crucified with Him Who was crucified for our sake, O most glorious Paul.

Thou dost truly rejoice in the Lord, O honorable Paul, having departed from the body and passed over to Christ God, the Bestower of life.

Theotokion: Ever beseech thy Son and our God, O pure Mary who knewest not wedlock, that He send forth His mercy upon us, the faithful.

ODE VI

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: For three days O Christ, Jonah lay within the sea monster, * prefiguring Thee, the Immortal One, * for Thou didst willingly lay dead for three days * in the heart of the earth.

As of old with Thy right hand Thou didst save Peter who walked on foot upon the waters, O Christ, so do Thou save me, who am drowning amid the storm of cruel perils, in that Thou art full of loving-kindness.

Thou didst forsake things which were not essential, O Peter, and attain unto those things which are essential; and like a merchant thou didst manifestly search for Christ: the Pearl beyond price.

O Peter, thou didst slay those who mindlessly tried to tempt the most holy Spirit, Whom before thou hadst theologized, openly confessing Him as God, O all-blessed one.

Theotokion: **T**hou hast given birth for us to the incarnate Word of God Who transcendeth all nature; wherefore, with lips and soul we profess thee to be the Theotokos.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: I will pour out my prayer unto the Lord, * and to Him will I proclaim my grief; * for my soul is filled with evils, * and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh, * and like Jonah I pray unto Thee: * Raise me up from corruption, O God.

Spurning all the beautiful things of the world, thou wast wounded by the love of the Master and by the desire for the common salvation of mankind, wishing to bear witness unto Him, O blessed Paul. Pray thou now on behalf of the whole world.

As an excellent emulator of the Master, clothed in Him, O Paul, thou wast truly all things to all men, that thou mightest acquire and save all the people; and pursuing the ends of the world for Christ, thou didst truly save them.

As is meet Christ hath given thee life in the heavens, O apostle Paul; for thou didst not desire a city which abideth here, O blessed one, but wast a faithful minister and celebrant of His mysteries.

Theotokion: **T**he Lord looked down upon thee, restoring my nature, in that He is mighty; and doing mighty works, O all-immaculate Birthgiver of God, through thee my God hath saved me from corruption, in that He is full of loving-kindness.

Kontakion of the holy apostles, in Tone II:

The steadfast and divinely eloquent preachers, * the foremost of Thine apostles, O Lord, * hast Thou received into the rest and delight of Thy good things; * for Thou hast accepted their pangs and death as greater than any wholeburnt offering, ** O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of all mankind.

Ikos: **F**ill my tongue with light, O my Savior, and having enlarged my mouth and filled it, have pity on my heart, that I may speak, follow, and teach that which I should first do; for Thou didst say that he who doeth and teacheth is great. For if I speak only, and act not, I am accounted as sounding brass. Wherefore, grant that I may speak fitting things and do that which is profitable, O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of all mankind.

ODE VII

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: Blessed art Thou, O supremely exalted God of our fathers, * O only begotten Son and beginningless Word, * Who didst exist in the beginning * with the Father and the Spirit.

Chastised by the divine providence of Christ, thou wast permitted to emulate the Merciful One, O Peter, that thy distress over denying Him before His suffering might be assuaged.

Having risen from the dead, Christ appeared to thee, the first-called and exceeding beloved, as the right glorious one who was first to preside over the apostles.

The Master, healing thy threefold denial before His suffering, O Peter, confirmed thy love by a threefold divinely uttered question.

Thou didst call the all-seeing God the Word as witness to thy love for Christ, O Peter; wherefore, He entrusted the beloved flock to thee.

Theotokion: **W**e all bless thee as the Mother of the God of all, who conceived in the flesh of thy womb the pre-eternal Word Who shone forth from God the Father.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: On the plain of Dura the tyrant once placed a furnace * to torment the God-bearers; * and therein the three youths chanted hymns unto the one God, * and the three together, chanted saying: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

He who in latter times was called and surpassed all others in zeal, became the seal and crown of Thine apostles, O Christ. With him the people of the Church chant unto thee: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Even though Paul the prisoner first persecuted Thy Church, O Christ, yet he later replaced his former ferocity with zeal for Thee; and gathered together the nations, who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Having from Jerusalem preached the Gospel unto all, thou didst take it round about the whole world, O Paul, teaching even unto the far ends of Illyricum, thou didst cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Caught up in awe, thou didst attain unto the third heaven, O most noetically rich apostle; and didst hear ineffable words, and cry aloud: Glory to the transcendent Father and the Son, and to the equally-enthroned effulgence of the Spirit of God Who searcheth the depths!

Theotokion: **L**ike rain upon the fleece Christ God descended upon thee, O Virgin, and issuing forth from thee in the flesh, He united those things that before were separate, thereby granting peace on earth and in heaven. O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

ODE VIII

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: Christ Who doth bear all things in His unapproachable glory, * bedewed The venerable children in the midst of the flame, * who cried aloud unto Him: * Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

The Master foretold thee: "They shall stretch forth thine arms and bind thee to a cross,", and commanded thee to follow Him; wherefore thou dost cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Working wonders, by the word of grace thou didst heal Eneus who was grievously paralyzed, and didst raise up Tabitha from the dead; wherefore they cried: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

O Christ Who announced unto Peter that the nations were cleansed, by spiritual radiance, do thou purify my thoughts, for I cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: **O** all-holy Virgin who hast given birth to God the Word in the flesh, driving away darkness from my soul by thy supplications, and illumine me who cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: Glorified in the holy mountain, * the Lord revealed the mystery of the ever-virgin unto Moses * in the flames of the burning bush: * praise ye and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Paul was bound to thee by Thy love and underwent a goodly change; for the glorious one lived not for himself, O compassionate One, but had Thee living within him throughout all ages.

Thou didst betroth the Church unto Christ, presenting it to Him as a bride; for thou wast shown to be its wedding-escort, O God-bearing Paul. Wherefore, it glorifieth thee throughout all ages.

Thou didst fight the good fight, and finishing thy race lawfully, didst preserve the treasure of the Faith. Wherefore, thou hast been deemed worthy of crowns of righteousness, O Paul.

Theotokion: **R**ejoice, O fiery throne of the Lord! Rejoice, O Virgin, unwedded Bride! Rejoice, cloud who shone forth the Sun of righteousness, Whom we supremely exalt throughout all ages!

ODE IX

Canon of the holy apostle Peter

Irmos: With hymns do we magnify thee, O most glorious Bride, * and all-holy Theotokos, * who hast given birth to the Creator of all things, * visible and invisible.

Thine excellent grace is rightly glorified, for thy very shadow dispelleth the sufferings of the sick, O Peter; wherefore, we magnify thee.

Blessed is Peter, who with ineffable divine power cast down Simon Magus, who through sorcery had soared into the heights of the air.

By thy supplications grant forgiveness of sins, enlightenment of heart and gladness of spirit unto those who hymn thy memory, O apostle.

O Peter, all thy words, relics and dust are full of glory, sanctity and miracles for those who with faith bow down with love before thy divine chains.

Theotokion: **T**he Fruit of thy womb caused the heavenly chorister, who announced "Rejoice!" with a loud voice unto thee who hast given birth to joy, to hymn thy name.

Canon of the holy apostle Paul

Irmos: Thou hast passed the limits of nature, * having conceived the Maker and the Lord, * and didst become a door of salvation * unto the world; * wherefore we unceasingly magnify thee, O Theotokos.

We bow down before thy chains, which thou didst bear for Christ like a malefactor, O Paul, and we kiss the wounds which thou didst bear on thy glorious and victorious body.

Now thou hast departed unto Him Whom thou didst unceasingly desire, O apostle; and dwelling within as a servant, with unceasing entreaties draw thou thy servants to thyself.

No longer is Christ visible to thee in shadows or in a reflection, but thou dost gaze upon Him face to face, and He perfectly revealed to thee the understanding of the Godhead.

Theotokion: **O** most holy Mother of God, thou wast the boast of the apostles of Christ, the glory of the martyrs and the foundation of the prophets; wherefore, we all magnify thee as is meet.

Exapostilarion of the holy apostles:

Spec. Mel.: "Hearken, ye women ...":

Let us all hymn the foremost among the apostles, the godly Peter and Paul, the universal luminaries, the preachers of the Faith, the divinely sounded trumpets, the speakers of dogmas, the pillars of the Church and destroyers of falsehood. (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

O divinely joyous maiden, Mother of God and Virgin, great and most glorious is the mystery of thy birthgiving, did the prophets proclaim, the apostles teach and the martyrs confess; the angels hymn it, and men bow down before it.

On the Praises, 4 Stichera of the holy apostles, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Called from on high ...":

When the Savior put the question * to the twelve disciples and apostles: * "Whom do men say that I am?", * Peter, the foremost of the apostles, * receiving grace from heaven, * answered, theologizing, crying out clearly: * "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!" * Wherefore, he is fittingly blessed * as one who received revelation from on high, * rightly receiving the authority ** to loose and to bind.

When Christ, the Word of God * Who revealed Himself through the Father, * asked "Whom do ye suppose that I am?", * didst thou speak unto all with divine eloquence, and straightway cried aloud: * "Thou art the Son of the living God!" * Wherefore, thou didst receive as thy reward * the Savior's words: "Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonah!" * For God doth glorify those who glorify Him * and calleth them to a rich delight; * and He set thee as the rock unashamed, ** the foundation and ground of the Church.

Called from on high, and not by mortals, * when an earthly darkness * covered thy bodily eyes, * thus putting an end * to thine ungodly plans, * a heavenly light illumined thy noetic eyes, * disclosing the beauty of piety. * Wherefore, thou didst recognize Christ our God * Who brought forth light out of darkness. * Him do thou beseech, ** that He save and enlighten our souls.

As a preacher of Christ * bearing the boast of the Cross, * more than others didst thou discern * the most ardent divine love * which bindeth to the Desired One those who gaze upon it. * Wherefore, thou didst call thyself a prisoner of Christ, * who desired the burden of perils * as something sweeter than any food, * and who lived for thy Master. * Him do thou beseech, ** that He save and enlighten our souls.

Glory ..., the composition of Cosmas the Monk, in Tone VI:

The most honored feast of the apostles hath arrived for the Church of Christ, bringing salvation unto us all. Wherefore, mystically plaiting hymns for them, let us say: Rejoice, O lamps unto those who are in darkness, shedding forth rays of the noetic Sun! Rejoice, O Peter and Paul, ye unshakable foundations of the divine doctrines, friends of Christ, precious vessels! Come ye into our midst, vouchsafing immaterial gifts unto those who praise your feast with hymns.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI:

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine * that hast budded forth for us the Fruit of life. * Thee do we entreat: * Pray thou, O Lady, with the holy apostles, that He have mercy upon our souls.

Great Doxology. Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal. First Hour.

AT LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from ODE III of the canon of the holy apostle Peter, and 4 from ODE VI of the canon of the holy apostle Paul.

The sweet mouth of Christ God showed thee to be blessed and a sure treasure of the kingdom; wherefore, we hymn thee, O apostle Peter. (Twice)

On the rock of thy theology hath Jesus the Master unshakably established the Church, and therein we glorify thee, O apostle Peter.

How much greater than the angels was Peter in the body! For Christ God said that at His radiant coming he would be a judge and would be co-enthroned.

Spurning all the beautiful things of the world, thou wast wounded by the love of the Master and by the desire for the common salvation of mankind, wishing to bear witness unto Him, O blessed Paul. Pray thou now on behalf of the whole world.

As an excellent emulator of the Master, clothed in Him, O Paul, thou wast truly all things to all men, that thou mightest acquire and save all the people; and pursuing the ends of the world for Christ, thou didst truly save them.

As is meet Christ hath given thee life in the heavens, O apostle Paul; for thou didst not desire a city which abideth here, O blessed one, but wast a faithful minister and celebrant of His mysteries.

Theotokion: **T**he Lord looked down upon thee, restoring my nature, in that He is mighty; and doing mighty works, O all-immaculate Birthgiver of God, through thee my God hath saved me from corruption, in that He is full of loving-kindness.

Troparion of the holy apostles, in Tone IV:

O first enthroned among the apostles * and teachers of the whole world: * entreat the Master of all, * that He grant peace to the world ** and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion of the holy apostles, in Tone II:

The steadfast and divinely eloquent preachers, * the foremost of Thine apostles, O Lord, * hast Thou received into the rest and delight of Thy good things; * for Thou hast accepted their pangs and death as greater than any wholeburnt offering, ** O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of all mankind.

Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS, § 193 (II COR. 11: 21-30)

Brethren: Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in

labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

Alleluia, in Tone I: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints.

Verse: God Who is glorified in the council of the saints.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, §67 (16: 13-19)

At that time, Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, and asked His disciples, saying: whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" And they said: "Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said unto them: "But whom say ye that lam?" And Simon Peter answered and said: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered and said unto him: "Blessed art thou, Simon bar Jonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father Who is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Communion Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world

We read the daily Epistle and Gospel on the first convenient day before this feast.

N.B. If this feast falleth on a Wednesday or a Friday, we are permitted to eat fish and to drink wine.

N.B. If the feast of the apostles falleth on a Sunday, the hymns of the apostles take precedence over the hymns of the resurrection.