

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

TONE 4

13th Sunday after Pentecost, Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos,
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross, Martyr Sozón of Cilicia

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

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

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

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!

Tone 4 *(for the Resurrection)*

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,
by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;
by it, You have renewed the corrupted nature of man,
O almighty One.
By it, You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//
for You are good and the Lover of man.

v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.
By descending to hell, O almighty God,
You broke the bonds of death.
Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://
"Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!"

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,
and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.
You delivered the race of men from corruption,//
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

Come, O people,
let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day!
By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.
By it, we have received life and incorruption.
Save us by Your Resurrection!//
O Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to You!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 1 *(for the Forefeast) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

By your birth, O Pure One,
beams of joy shine on all the universe,
announcing Christ our God to all.
He is the Sun of glory.
You will give birth to Him for us;//
He brings us gladness, grace and truth.

v. (5) For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

We anticipate your glorious feast, O Pure One.
It proclaims to all the good will of our Benefactor.
Now you have become the cause of our joy,
the herald of promised grace//
and the fruit of divine gladness.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The child of God, the holy Theotokos,
the promise of the Prophets, the daughter of David,
today is born from wise Joachim and Anna.
She has overthrown the curse of Adam for us//
by her holy childbearing.

V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 4 *(for St. Sozón)* *(You have given a sign)*

When He, Who of His own will took our weakness upon Himself,
strengthened your weakness with power, O blessed one,
you ran the race of martyrdom for His sake with joy.
You crushed the impotent enemy with your most beautiful feet.
Therefore, Jesus, the Lover of mankind and Savior of our souls, //
has woven wreaths of victory for you.

V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

When you were wounded, O glorious one,
you wounded your enemies
and armed with the Cross, you threw them down to the ground.
You were openly arrayed in invincible armor
and were made steady by the love of Him
Who has translated you to the spiritual kingdoms //
as an unconquered martyr and heavenly man!

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

You openly imitated the Savior and Lord,
Who for your sake endured voluntary sufferings.
Of your own will, O athlete Sozón, you gave yourself
to wounds and beatings and unbearable torments.
Therefore, He has honored you with heavenly gifts //
and revealed you to be a source of healings for those who love you.

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

Tone 4 *Idiomelon* *(for the Forefeast)*

The angelic host of heaven and we mortals on earth,
bless your honorable birth, O most holy Virgin,
for you became the Mother of Christ our God, the Creator of all.
Never cease to pray to Him for us, who after God have set our hope on you, //
O all-praised and unwedded Theotokos!

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

Tone 4 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

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

Litya

Tone 8 *(for the Forefeast)* *(Oh, most glorious wonder)*

Oh, most glorious wonder!
From the fruitless womb of a barren mother
the root has borne a flower.
The Virgin Mother of God is born today
from the righteous Joachim and Aнна.
Rejoice, ranks of Patriarchs and Prophets. //
Let everyone assemble in joy at her birth!

Today David exults and Jesse leaps for joy!
Levi is exalted and rejoices in spirit.
Righteous Joachim and Anna are free from barrenness
by the birth of Mary, pure and full of grace, //
whom the assembly of Angels and mortal men magnify.

Rejoice, O assembly of all mankind!
Rejoice, temple of God and holy mountain!
Rejoice, divine throne and brilliant star!
Rejoice, glory of the Orthodox!
Rejoice, Mary, Mother of Christ our God!
Rejoice, pillar of fire and cloud of light!
Rejoice, burning bush that is never consumed!//
Rejoice, hope of all mankind!

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

Tone 2 *(for the Forefeast)*

The Queen of all, the dwelling place of God, foretold in days of old,
the divine habitation of the ever-existing Godhead,
today has come from the barren womb of glorious Anna.
Because of her, Hades has been trampled down,
and Eve, the Mother of us all, is led into true life.
Let us fittingly cry out to her:
“Blessed are you among women,//
and blessed is the Fruit of your womb!”

Aposticha

Tone 4 *(for the Resurrection)*

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,
You have annulled our ancestral curse.
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,
granting incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,
You shook all of creation.
By being laid in the tomb You have raised those who dwelt in the tombs,
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Your rising on the third day.

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

The lawless people, O Christ,
handed You over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.
But voluntarily You endured burial,
rising by Your own power on the third day as God, //
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

With tears the women reached Your tomb,
searching for You, but not finding You.
They wept with wailing and lamented:
“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,
how were You stolen?
What place can hold Your life-bearing body?”
An Angel replied to them:
“Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, //
granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

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

Tone 4 *Idiomelon* *(for the Forefeast, by Patriarch Germanus)*

The joy of all the world has dawned for us from the righteous ones:
the all-praised Virgin who springs from Joachim and Anna.
Through the abundance of goodness she becomes the living temple of God,
and she alone is acknowledged as truly the Theotokos.
Through her prayers, O Christ God, //
send peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

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

Tone 4 Troparion *(St. Sozón)*

Your holy martyr Sozón, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God.
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through his intercession, save our souls!

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

Tone 4 Troparion *(Forefeast)*

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David,
the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us.
Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices.
Heaven and earth rejoice together.
Praise her, you families of nations,
for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out://
“The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!”

(at the Divine Liturgy) **Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

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Tone 2 **Kontakion** *(St. Sozón)*

Let us gather today and together sing to Sozón,
the true and divinely wise martyr,
an expert fighter for the faith,
the mystical seer of divine grace,
a generous provider of healing,//
who prays to Christ God for us all.

Tone 3 **Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Virgin Theotokos Mary,
the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom,
by the will of the God is born of a barren woman,
being prepared as the chariot of God the Word.//
She was foreordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of
Life.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Sunday Before)*

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Epistle

(215) Galatians 6:11-18 *(Sunday Before)*

(166) 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)

V. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps. 88:20)

Gospel

(9) John 3:13-17 *(Sunday Before)*

(87) Matthew 21:33-42

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.