SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN and Sts CYRIL & METHODIUS

VESPER

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. Thrice.

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 the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot but our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, have mercy. 12 times. Glory ... Both now ... Amen.

O come let us worship God our King.
O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.
O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly.
Refrain: Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Confession and majesty hast Thou put on.
Refrain: Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Upon the mountains shall the waters stand.
Refrain: Wondrous are Thy works, O Lord.
Between the mountains will the waters run.
Refrain: Wondrous are Thy works, O Lord.
In wisdom hast Thou made them all, hast Thou made them all.
Refrain:: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who hast made them all.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. Thrice.

Lord, have mercy. 12 times. Glory ... Both now ... Amen
BLESSED IS THE MAN that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly. 

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. 

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are all that have put their trust in Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is of the Lord, and they blessing is upon Thy people. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. Thrice.

Lord, have mercy. Twelve times. Glory ... Both now ... Amen.

STIKHERA AT LORD I HAVE CRIED

**Tone 5:** 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.

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.

Resurrectional Stikhera of Tone 5:

Verse: Bring my soul out of prison * that I may confess Thy name.

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ, * Thou hast shamed the devil, * and by Thy Resurrection Thou hast blunted the sting of sin, * and saved us from the gates of death: ** we glorify Thee, the Only-begotten One.

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

He who hath granted Resurrection to mankind, * was led as a sheep to the slaughter; * the princes of Hades trembled before Him * and the gates of lamentations were lifted up; * for Christ the King of glory entered therein, * saying to those in bondage: 'Come forth!' ** and to those in darkness: 'Reveal yourselves!' 

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

O great wonder! * Having suffered in the flesh through his love for mankind, * the Creator of all things visible and invisible, * hath arisen as immortal. * Come O ye descendents of the nations, * let us worship Him; * for delivered from deception by his compassion, ** we have learned to hymn one God in three Hypostases.'

Stichera of the Blind Man, Tone 2:

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.
He that was born blind thought to himself and said: * Was I born without eyes for the sins of my parents? * Was I born to be an example because of the unbelief of the nations? * I cease not from asking: When is it night, when is it day? * My feet cannot endure striking against the stones. * For I have neither seen the sun shining nor beheld in image Him Who fashioned me. ** But I beseech Thee, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on me.

Verse: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? * For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Repeat: He that was born blind thought to himself ...,

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

As Jesus passed by on His way from the temple, * He found a man who was blind from his birth; * and taking compassion on him, He put clay on his eyes and said unto him: * Go and wash in the pool of Siloam. * And he washed and gained his sight, and sent up praise to God. * But his kinsmen said unto him: * Who hath opened thine eyes, which none of those who see were able to heal? * And he cried out and said: * A man called Jesus; He told me: Wash in the pool of Siloam; and I gained my sight. * He is truly Christ the Messiah, of Whom Moses spake in the Law. ** He is the Savior of our souls.

Stichera of Sts Cyril and Methodius, Tone 2:

Verse: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope in the Lord.

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown the divinely wise teachers who illumined with the light of the Gospel the Slavic nations who sat in the darkness of ignorance and the shadow of death? By them have we been grafted onto the right fruitful root of Orthodoxy like a wild olive-tree, / and have received from Christ God peace and great mercy.

Verse: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

With what hymns of praise shall we bless the divinely wise teachers: Methodius, the lover of the wilderness, who was enriched with the fruits of the Spirit during his solitary sojourn, and Cyril of golden eloquence, who through his love of philosophy acquired higher wisdom and put to shame the vain belief of the foolish Moslem sages? / For their sake hath Christ our God granted us great mercy.

Verse: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; * praise Him, all ye peoples.

With what beauties of hymnody shall we praise the divinely wise teachers: Methodius, who for love of Christ spurned all the beauties of the world and fought mightily for the King of heaven in the angelic habit, and Cyril, who from childhood chose wisdom as his companion and increased the talents given him by God unto His glory? Having come, through them, to know the one God, the ever-existing Trinity – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – we have received great mercy from Christ God.

Tone 6, Verse: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, * and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.
Come, ye who love the feasts of the Church, and with songs of praise let us hymn the peers of the apostles, the adornment of hierarchs, the enlighteners and fervent helpers of the Slavic peoples, saying: Rejoice, O Cyril, golden clarion of theology, who didst explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity by comparing God to the Sun, and thereby closed the blasphemous mouths of the Moslems! And rejoice with him, O Methodius, who struggled with him in oneness of mind, aiding him with prayers and signs! And now, O most blessed fathers, never cease to pray to Christ God for us who magnify you with faith and love.

Glory..., in Tone 5 (Blind Man):

Passing by on the way, O Lord, * Thou didst find a man who was blind from his birth. * And the disciples, in astonishment, asked Thee and said: * Teacher, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? * And Thou, O my Savior, didst cry unto them: Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents, * but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. * I must work the works of Him that sent Me, which none else can work. * And when Thou hadst said this, Thou didst spit upon the ground * and make clay, and anoint his eyes, saying unto him: * Go, wash in the pool of Siloam. * And he washed and was made whole and cried unto Thee: * Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Thee. ** Wherefore, we also cry out: Have mercy upon us.

Both now & ever... Dogmatic, in Tone 5:

In the Red Sea of old an image of the Bride who knew not wedlock was depicted. * There Moses was the one who parted the sea, * here Gabriel is the minister of the miracle. * At that time Israel marched dry-shod through the deep, * now the Virgin doth seedlessly give birth to Christ. * The sea after Israel's passage remained impassable; * the Immaculate one after bearing Emmanuel remained incorrupt. * O God, who doth exist and is pre-eternal, * and hath appeared as man,** have mercy upon us.

O GLADSOME LIGHT of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with reverent voices, O Son of God, Giver of life. Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

THE PROKIMENON IN THE 6th TONE:

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

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 unto the ages of ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes. O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the works of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due
a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. 12 times. Glory ... Both now ... Amen.

STIKHERA APOSTICHA.

Resurrection Stikheron, Tone 5:

With voices of song we magnify Thee, O Christ, * the Savior incarnate, * yet not separated from heaven, * for as the Lord who loveth mankind * Thou hast suffered the cross and death for the sake of our race, * overthrowing the gates of Hades, * and rising on the third day, * thus saving our souls.

Paschal Stichera, in Tone 5:

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; * Pascha new and holy, * a Pascha mystical, * a Pascha all-venerable! * A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; * a Pascha immaculate, * a great Pascha; * a Pascha of the faithful; * a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; ** a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, * so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, * and say ye unto Zion: * Receive from us the good tidings * of the Resurrection of Christ; * adorn thyself, exult, * and rejoice, O Jerusalem, * for thou hast seen Christ the King, ** like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, * and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women * in the deep dawn * stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; * they found an angel sitting upon the stone, * and he, speaking to them, said thus: *

Why seek ye the Living among the dead? * Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? ** Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made, * let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, * Pascha, the Lord’s Pascha, * the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. * Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. * O Pascha! * Ransom from sorrow, * for from the tomb today, * as from a bridal chamber, * hath Christ shone forth, * and hath filled the women with joy, saying: ** Proclaim unto the apostles.

Glory..., Tone 8 (Sts Cyril and Methodius):

Rejoice, O sacred twain who have illumined us with the light of the knowledge of God: Cyril, thou life-bearing wellspring of spiritual wisdom, who gavest drink to the Slavic peoples who were perishing of thirst, and Methodius, the pure abode of prayer. Pray ye earnestly to Christ, before Whom ye stand in glory, that, with you, we also may magnify and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Now and ever, in Tone 8 (Blind Man):

O Christ God, Thou spiritual Sun of Righteousness, * Who by Thy most pure touch didst bestow a twofold enlightenment * upon him who from his mother’s womb was deprived of sight, * illumine Thou the eyes of our souls also, * and prove us to be sons of the day, that we may cry to Thee with faith: ** Great and ineffable is Thy compassion toward us, O Lover of man; glory be to Thee.
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.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, ... to Our Father (see p. 1).

Tone 4: O Theotokos and Virgin, rejoice, O Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Troparion of Sts Cyril and Methodius, Tone 4:

As ones equal in character to the Apostles and as Teachers of the Slavic lands, O divinely-wise Cyril and Methodius, pray to the Lord of all, to strengthen all nations in Orthodoxy and unity of thought, to convert and reconcile the world to God, and to save our souls.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from henceforth and forevermore. Thrice.

FROM MATINS

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 5:

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word * Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, * and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; * for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh * and to endure death, ** and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Gospel: 8th Resurrectional Gospel: John:20 11-18

Then: Having beheld Thy resurrection... (thrice)

KONTAKIA

Kontakion of Sts Cyril and Methodius, Tone 3:

Let us honor our sacred pair of enlighteners, / who, by translating the divine writings, / have poured forth for us a well-spring of divine knowledge / from which we draw abundantly even unto this day: / We call you blessed, O Cyril and Methodius, / ye who stand before the throne of the Most High // and intercede fervently for our souls.

Ikos: Come, ye faithful, let us praise our God-bearing fathers Methodius and Cyril, the preachers of piety who shone forth in virtue, the true pillars and foundations of the Church, the divine clarions of Christian dogmas; for having driven the darkness of unbelief away from us and burned up the impieties of heresy with the fire of the Spirit, by their translation of the Scriptures they transformed the Slavic race from wild olive-trees into a fruitful grove, through divine baptism have brought them into the Christian Faith, and have filled the whole world with a multitude of miracles; wherefore, they stand crowned, before God Almighty. And we cry out to them: O divine fathers, peers of the apostles, entreat
Christ, that He grant all the Slavic peoples steadfastness in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind, bring peace to the world, and save Thou our souls.

*Kontakion of the Blind Man*, in Tone 4:

Since my soul’s noetic eyes are blind and sightless, * I have come to Thee, O Christ, * as did the man who was blind from birth. * And in repentance I cry unto Thee: ** Of those in darkness Thou art the most radiant Light.

*Ikos:* Grant me a stream of ineffable wisdom and knowledge from on high, O Christ, Thou Light of them that are in darkness and Guide of all those who are gone astray, that I may tell of those things that the divine book of the Gospel of peace hath taught, to wit, the miracle that was wrought upon the blind man; for though blind from birth, he receiveth the physical eyes as well as the eyes of the soul, as he crieth out in faith: Of those in darkness art Thou the most radiant Light.

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. Thrice.**

**AT TYPICA**

*In the beginning: we sing “Christ is risen...” thrice.*

*Troparia and Kontakia:*

*Resurrectional Troparion:* Let us, O faithful
*Troparion of the saints:* As ones equal in character
*Glory: Kontakion of the saints* – Let us honor
*Both now: Kontakion of the Blind Man* – Since my soul’s noetic eyes

*Instead of “It is Truly Meet”:*

The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: * Rejoice, O pure Virgin! And again I say, rejoice! * For thy Son is risen from the grave on the third day, * and hath raised the dead, O ye people, be joyful!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, * for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; * dance now and be glad, O Zion, * and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, * in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

*At the end: we sing “Christ is risen...” thrice.*