

THE 25th DAY OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST
COMMEMORATION OF THE RETURN OF THE RELICS
OF THE HOLY APOSTLE BATHOLOMEW
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLE TITUS
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera: 3 of the apostle Bartholomew, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

Earnestly let us bless the glorious Bartholomew, * the never-setting star * of the Sun of great splendor, * the animate heaven * which proclaimeth the saving glory of God, * the divine preacher, * the beacon of the nations, * the river which poureth forth a stream of understanding ** and watereth the hearts of the faithful.

Thy paths were revealed in the sea, O apostle, * and shown to be beyond the understanding of men; * for, cast into the sea in a casket, * thou didst make thy way to the West, * O most renowned Bartholomew, * right glorious martyrs following thee from the East * on either side, * and rendering homage to thee, ** at the behest of the Master of all.

With thy wondrous ascents thou didst purify the water, * and didst arrive at the island of Lipari, * pouring forth myrrh, O glorious one, * and healing incurable diseases; * and thou didst become for the faithful in that place * a savior and refuge, * a deliverer and intercessor * before the King and Savior of all, ** O Apostle Bartholomew.

And 3 Stichera of the apostle Titus, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast given a sign ...”:

Proclaiming the one Godhead * in three Hypostases, * thou didst roil the sea of polytheism, * and those drowning in the abyss of ungodliness * didst thou guide to the calm haven, * O blessed one. * Wherefore, thou hast received heavenly recompense, * entreating Him Who is the Lover of mankind, ** on behalf of those who hymn thee.

Having illumined thy mind * with divine radiance, * thou didst travel with the sun like a ray thereof, * with Paul illumining the darkened, * O godly Titus; * and with him thou didst deliver the world * from the deepest night. * Wherefore, we call thee blessed, as a God-pleasing hierarch, ** a divine apostle and fervent intercessor.

Hailing from Crete and returning thereto, * thou didst establish the true Faith therein * as an unshakable foundation, * edifying the faithful therewith * by the divine power of heaven, * O blessed Titus, * first hierarch of thy homeland, * companion of Paul ** and consolation of the faithful.

Glory ..., in Tone I:

Forsaking earthly things, thou didst follow after Christ; and having been marked by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, thou wast sent by Him to the nations who were perishing, to turn the people to the light of the knowledge of God, O Apostle Bartholomew. And having completed the divine feats of thy suffering and undergone divers tortures, thou didst surrender thy soul to Christ, Whom do thou entreat, O all-blessed one, that He grant us great mercy.

Both now ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion in Tone I:

Stavrotheotokion: **B**eholding Thee nailed to the Tree of the Cross. O Jesus, she that kneweth not wedlock said weeping: “O sweet Child, why hast Thou abandoned me who alone gave birth to Thee, O unapproachable Light of the beginningless Father? Hasten Thou, and glorify Thyself, that those who glorify Thy divine sufferings may receive divine glory!”

Troparion of the holy apostles, in Tone III:

O holy Apostles * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins * unto our souls.

AT MATINS

One canon from the Oktoechos, and two for the holy apostles, with 8 Troparia.

ODE I

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew, the acrostic whereof is:

“With hymns I honor my good intercessor”.

The composition of Joseph, in Tone IV:

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

The Rock of life hath shown thee to be a most precious rock, upon which He hath founded His Church, O Bartholomew, apostle of the Lord. Wherefore, we honor thee and call thee blessed.

In a manner transcending mind and thought thou didst learn sublime things, discovering the hypostatic Wisdom; and, making the ends of the earth wise with divine teachings, showing the wisdom of the Greeks to be foolish.

Though thy lifeless body was enclosed in a coffin, thou didst traverse the sea, obedient to the commands of God, O apostle; and like the sun, passed from the East to the West, illumining it.

Theotokion: He Who is full hath emptied Himself; the Pre-eternal One hath come under time, born of the divine Virgin Maiden. Him didst thou proclaim in two natures but a single hypostasis, O divinely blessed one.

Canon of the holy apostle Titus, the acrostic whereof is: “Most wisely do I hymn

Titus, the disciple of Paul” The composition of Theophanes, in Tone IV:

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

The grace of the Spirit, enriching thee with every gift, O most glorious Titus, sent thee forth to preach the incarnation of the Word unto the ends of the earth.

Receiving the radiance of divine grace, O blessed and most wise one, thou didst shine forth like the sun upon souls in darkness, illumining them, stripping them of their ignorance, and delivering them from slavery to falsehood.

The most wise Paul, full of the gifts of the Spirit, laid his hands on thee, O most wondrous Titus, ordaining thee as a minister and disciple of God and a preacher of the Faith.

Theotokion: Delivering the ends of the earth from deception, the Lord shone forth from thy womb, O Bride of God. Him do thou ever beseech, that He save those who honor thee with faith, O Virgin.

ODE III

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: **O** Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

Those held fast by deception, and madly enshrouded in the gloom of ungodliness to their detriment, have found thee to be a mighty consolation, a light and deliverance from evils, O most wise Bartholomew.

Thou wast the mouth of God the Word, O glorious Apostle Bartholomew, and hast delivered all from the mouth of the wicked wolf, bringing them to thy Master through the font of baptism.

Having burned up the bitter tinder of falsehood with thy fiery tongue, O most wise one, thou hast restored hardened hearts and made them receptive to heavenly understanding.

Theotokion: **G**od the Word Who, in a manner past all telling, was well-pleased to be born of thee in the flesh, O pure Virgin Mother, chose the glorious Bartholomew as His disciple and close servant.

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: **N**ot 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.

Not by wisdom dost thou render attentive those who are foolish, O blessed one; rather by teaching the understanding of the Truth dost thou drive away the blindness of the souls of those who have recourse unto thee.

With the scythe of God thou didst clear the inheritance of the nations, the furrow choked with the thorns of ungodliness, sowing therein the seed of understanding.

Preaching the one Godhead in three Hypostases, O blessed one, thou didst drive away the gloom of polytheism, leading the ends of the earth to divine understanding.

Theotokion: **H**e Who was born of thee in the flesh hath rendered thee holier than the angels and more exalted than all creation; wherefore, we honor thee as the Sovereign Lady of all.

Kontakion of the holy apostle Titus, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: "Seeking the highest ...":

Revealed as a companion of Paul, * O ever-memorable Apostle Titus, narrator of sacred mysteries, * with him thou didst preach to us the words of divine grace. * Wherefore, we cry out to thee: ** Cease thou never to pray for us all!

Sessional Hymn of the holy apostle Bartholomew, in Tone III:

Spec. Mel.: “Of the divine ...”:

O Apostle Bartholomew, thou hast been revealed to be a treasure of the Church which cannot be stolen, an unshakable pillar of piety; and setting thy path in the sea, thou pourest forth an abyss of divine healings. O right glorious one, entreat Christ God, that He grant us great mercy.

Glory ..., Sessional Hymn of the holy apostle Titus, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “Of the Wisdom ...”:

Like a star with the sun, thou didst travel with Paul, O most glorious Titus; manifestly illumining the earth and enlightening the darkness. Settling in the island of Crete, O blessed one, in death thou didst leave thy pangs and discourses behind for all, like never-fading beams of light, O divinely wise one; and, illumined thereby, we piously honor and cry out to thee together: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who honor thy holy memory with love.

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.

Stavrotheotokion: **U**pon beholding the Lamb, Shepherd and Redeemer * upon the Cross, * the ewe-lamb exclaimed weeping, bitterly lamenting, and crying aloud: * “The world rejoiceth, having received deliverance through Thee, * but my womb doth burn, beholding Thy crucifixion, * which Thou hast endured in Thy merciful loving-kindness. * O long-suffering Lord, * Thou abyss and inexhaustible well-spring of mercy, * take pity, and grant forgiveness of sins ** unto those who hymn Thy divine sufferings with faith!”

ODE IV

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: **P**erceiving the profound counsel of God, * that the incarnation of Thee the Most High, * will be from a Virgin, * the Prophet Habbakuk cried aloud: * **Glory to Thy power, O Lord!**

The sayings of the prophets have received their fulfillment; for the divinely eloquent disciple hath gone as a light to preserve the nations, illumining all the ends of the world.

Illumined with divine light, O glorious one, thou wast shown to be a secondary light by divine communion, ministering from the beginning to Him Who abased Himself to assume flesh for our sake.

Deliver thy flock from the tempest of sin, from misfortunes and tribulations at the hands of the adversary, O glorious one, ever guiding us to the havens of salvation with grace.

Theotokion: **I**n that thou hast given birth ineffably to the ineffably great wealth of tender compassion, O pure one, with divine gifts enrich us who have become paupers through sin.

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: **H**e who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * Jesus the true God, * is come in a swift cloud * and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry: * Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Drawing from inexhaustible treasures, O all-wise and glorious one, thou didst fill hungry minds with a true wealth of understanding, bringing life to dead hearts, and driving away the darkness of ignorance.

The net of Paul ensnared thee by the grace of providence, O Titus, and in time thou didst diligently draw many nations forth from the depths of deception into piety with the hook of thy discourse.

Following the glorious and godly Paul like a lamb, O divinely eloquent one, thou didst drive away the wolves of evil. Thou hast cast the temples of the idols to the ground and made mortals temples of God.

Theotokion: **T**he holy Theotokos is called blessed, in that she is the undefiled tabernacle, the portal of the Light, the altar and golden jar, the unquarried mountain densely wooded, for she contained within herself the Creator.

ODE V

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: **A**ll creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb the God of all, * and gave birth to the timeless Son, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.

Acquiring beautiful feet through thy preaching, thou didst proclaim the glad tidings unto all, O blessed one, announcing peace to the world, and banishing the ancient enmity by divine teachings, O apostle of the Savior.

Thy discourse was healing for those who had received the deadly venom of the serpent, O Bartholomew; and, in accordance with the prophecy, the ground of the impious fell at the proclamation of thy most wise doctrines.

Traversing the unfathomable depths borne aloft on the crests of the waves of the sea, with the divine martyrs, O Apostle Bartholomew, thou didst arrive at the island of Lipari, pouring forth abundant life upon a man many days dead.

Theotokion: **R**ejoicing, I truly glorify thee, the most pure Mother of God, and I cry out to thee like the angel, O blessed and joyous one, awesome report and saying, thou strange receptacle of the Master of creation.

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: **T**he wicked will not behold Thy glory, O Christ, * but we who rise early to hymn Thee shall behold Thee, * the Only-Begotten effulgence of Thy Father's divinity, * O Lover of mankind.

Like an excellent physician and as a minister of grace, thou didst bind up the fetid and evil wounds of the gentiles' souls, O blessed one, with the sweet salt of thy divine discourses.

Meekly submitting to the precepts of Paul, O most wise and most honored herald of God, with him thou didst traverse the world, proclaiming words of understanding.

Teaching the Word Who is equally active and co-enthroned with the Father, O divinely eloquent one, as one wise thou didst subdue the vain-minded, causing them to cast aside all the delusion of idolatry.

Theotokion: **A**dorned with divine acts, with pure mind let us honor the pure one, the beauty of Jacob, and with piety let us hymn her as the Mother of our God.

ODE VI

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: **C**elebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.

In thy radiant teachings, O apostle, thou wast a ray of the Sun Who shone forth in the flesh upon the world, driving away the night of the darkness of polytheism.

Thou didst explain to the people the salvation wrought by God Who, in His surpassing goodness, manifested Himself in the likeness of the flesh, O Bartholomew, preacher and apostle to the nations.

Thou didst have thy path in the sea and make thy way through the waters, O blessed apostle; and thy steps were perceived aforetime through the Spirit, as David foretold.

Theotokion: **T**hou wast a temple of glory and wast shown to be the portal of the Light, the mountain densely wooded, O divinely joyous Virgin Mother, who art hymned by prophetic signs.

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: **T**he church crieth out unto Thee O Lord, * ‘I will sacrifice unto Thee with a voice of praise’ * having been cleansed of the blood of the demons’ * by the blood that for mercy’s sake flowed from Thy side.

Paul, the never-setting sun of the world, emitteth thee like a ray of splendor, O blessed one, illumining the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of ignorance.

Full of life-giving waters, O blessed one, with the streams of thy divine teachings thou dost wash away the torrents of ignorance, watering the assemblies of the nations.

Theotokion: **G**enerations of generations hymn thee, O all-hymned one; for, in a manner past all telling, thou hast given birth to the all-hymned Word of God, Whom the ranks of angels and mankind glorify.

Kontakion of the holy apostle Bartholomew, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast appeared today ...”:

Thou hast appeared to the Church as a great sun, * O Bartholomew, apostle of the Lord, * illumining with the radiance of doctrines * and with awesome wonders ** those who hymn thee.

Ikos: **H**aving passed over the earth like a sun of great radiance, illumining it with the rays of thy discourses, thou didst set, dying a martyr’s death; and with the splendor which issueth forth from thy tomb thou dost dispel the darkness of the passions. Wherefore, those consumed with envy, driving thee like the sun toward the West, O passion-bearer, set thee afloat on the sea; and a wonder most great was beheld in thee, who in awesome manner sailed the depths of the sea in a wondrous voyage, O Bartholomew, apostle of the Lord.

ODE VII

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: **R**efusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * O supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Mankind, rendered foolish through wickedness, O most glorious one, didst thou heal with the sweet salt of thy words; and thou didst give them the faith to chant: O supremely hymned Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Like the loftiest heaven, with an exalted voice as a divine apostle thou dost noetically proclaim the glory of God, to Whom we cry: O supremely hymned Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Having woven a robe of divine grace, O blessed one, thou hast clothed those who have been cruelly stripped bare through the malice of the serpent, and hast given them the faith to chant; O supremely hymned Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **M**ade rich, O pure Birthgiver of God, we, thy servants, ever cry out with faith to thee, our intercessor and insuperable rampart: Rejoice, O bridge leading to God from the earth, O blessed one!

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: **T**hou didst save the children of Abraham in the fire * and slay the Chaldeans, * who unjustly entrapped the righteous ones. * O supremely hymned Lord, God of our fathers, * blessed art Thou.

Teaching men to hymn the one Godhead and to worship the one Dominion, Titus converted from the madness of polytheism those who piously exclaim: O God of our fathers Blessed art Thou!

Instructed by thee, O disciple and narrator of ineffable mysteries, those dead in soul who worshipped inanimate matter came to acknowledge God, the Bestower of life, Who was put to death for our sake.

As a servant of the Truth, thou wast shown to be a dispeller of falsehood, O glorious one; and as a disciple of Paul, thou didst endure persecutions and tribulations, chanting with him: O God of our fathers Blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **A**dorned with the virtues, thou hast taken thy place at the right hand of the King of all Who became incarnate from thy blood, O thou who knewest not wedlock, earnestly praying that we be delivered from all need.

ODE VIII

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: **T**he Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Irrigated by divine streams, thou didst issue forth, like a river from Eden, to water the world with thy teachings, drying up the waters of falsehood by grace, and crying out: Hymn the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

The Word, having taught thee heavenly discourse as a divine theologian, loosed thee like a heavenly arrow upon the world, wounding the assemblies of the enemy, O glorious one, and saving those who with faith hymn and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages.

Thou wast shown to be like a mountain issuing forth divine sweetness, O right laudable one; and after thy death thou didst set thy path in the sea, sailing under divine power, undrowned by its depths, O valiant spiritual athlete, but being borne up thereby.

Theotokion: Circumventing the laws of nature, thou hast given birth yet remained Ever-virgin; for thou didst bear the Word Who, in His surpassing goodness, became a man. To Him do we all cry aloud: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

With the sprinkling of thy blood thou didst quench the alien fire of delusion; driving out sickness and vanquishing demons, by thine entreaty to God, O Apostle Titus. Wherefore, we praise thee as a divine favorite of Christ, the King of all.

Wholly consecrated to God and adorned with divine graces, O all-wise Titus, thou didst explain unto all the word of salvation which hath delivered us who with true faith bless and supremely exalt Christ throughout the ages.

As a most pure receptacle of the Light thou hast illumined the world with divine radiance, O right wondrous Titus; and thou hast cast into darkness the opposition of the iniquitous foe, hymning and exalting the Lord throughout all ages.

Theotokion: The sword which of old warded me off now giveth way to me, O Virgin, for thou hast given birth to the Word clad in the flesh and understood to be in two natures. Before Him do the ranks of angels tremble, and mortals glorify Him forever.

ODE IX

Canon of the holy apostle Bartholomew

Irmos: Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry aloud: * Rejoice! O all-blessed Theotokos, * thou pure Ever-Virgin.

Today the choir of the apostles doth celebrate the feast of thy memory: the martyrs and the ranks of all the righteous rejoice. And we, the faithful, honor thee with hymns and cry aloud: O disciple of Christ, deliver us from all grief!

Receiving thy blessed end on a cross, O glorious one, thou didst emulate the sufferings of thy Teacher, sharing in His radiance and divine glory, and ever standing before Him with the angels, deemed worthy of ineffable light.

The most radiant and right harmonious day of thy memory hath dawned, illumining all, O wise Bartholomew, eye-witness of Christ; and thereon we entreat thee: Remember us all, delivering us by thy supplications from all adversity and every evil circumstance.

Theotokion: **M**ortify our carnal thoughts, O pure Birthgiver of God, quell the tempest of our passions, still our turmoil, and with divine thoughts make steadfast the hearts of those who honor thee with faith, O our pure unashamed advocate.

Canon of the holy apostle Titus

Irmos: **E**ve dwelt under the curse of sin * because of the infirmity of disobedience; * but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, * hast through the Offspring of thy pregnancy * blossomed forth blessing upon the world. * Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

Bearing all thy love and hope to the Redeemer, O apostle, Paul drew thee along as his companion, preaching the sacred Gospel to the nations with thee. Wherefore, we honor thee with him.

Thou drivest away the ailments of the faithful and expellest demons by divine grace. And the great city of Crete hath acquired thee as its divine primate and a luminary of heavenly radiance, O divinely wise and right laudable Titus.

Thy memory hath shone forth upon us like the sun, and, adorned most splendidly with the radiance of the Spirit, it dispelleth the clouds from our souls. O all-blessed and right laudable Titus, preserve us who celebrate it with faith.

Theotokion: **B**y thy mediation, O pure and all-immaculate one, loose thou the bonds of my transgressions and destroy the darkness of my soul. O Ever-virgin Lady, still the tempest of my passions; crush those who make war upon me in vain, and save me.

Exapostilarion of the holy apostles:

Spec. Mel.: “The heaven with stars ...”:

O ye faithful, let us all glorify Bartholomew and Titus, the receptacles of the Light, the immutable rays of the never-waning day; the brilliant flashes of lightning.

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

With thy mighty protection, O pure one, preserve all of us, thy servants, unharmed by the assault of the enemy; for thee alone do we have as our refuge amid perils.

AT LITURGY

At the beatitudes, 4 from ODE III of the holy apostle Bartholomew, and 4 from ODE VI of the holy apostle Titus:

Those held fast by deception, and madly enshrouded in the gloom of ungodliness to their detriment, have found thee to be a mighty consolation, a light and deliverance from evils, O most wise Bartholomew. (Twice)

Thou wast the mouth of God the Word, O glorious Apostle Bartholomew, and hast delivered all from the mouth of the wicked wolf, bringing them to thy Master through the font of baptism.

Having burned up the bitter tinder of falsehood with thy fiery tongue, O most wise one, thou hast restored hardened hearts and made them receptive to heavenly understanding.

Paul, the never-setting sun of the world, emitteth thee like a ray of splendor, O blessed one, illumining the hearts of those who sit in the darkness of ignorance. (Twice)

Full of life-giving waters, O blessed one, with the streams of thy divine teachings thou dost wash away the torrents of ignorance, watering the assemblies of the nations.

Theotokion: **G**enerations of generations hymn thee, O all-hymned one; for, in a manner past all telling, thou hast given birth to the all-hymned Word of God, Whom the ranks of angels and mankind glorify.

Troparion of the holy apostles, in Tone III:

O holy Apostles * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins * unto our souls.

Kontakion of the holy apostle Titus, in Tone II:

Revealed as a companion of Paul, * O ever-memorable Apostle Titus, narrator of sacred mysteries, * with him thou didst preach to us the words of divine grace. * Wherefore, we cry out to thee: ** Cease thou never to pray for us all!

Kontakion of the holy apostle Bartholomew, in Tone IV:

Thou hast appeared to the Church as a great sun, * O Bartholomew, apostle of the Lord, * illumining with the radiance of doctrines * and with awesome wonders ** those who hymn thee.

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 TITUS, §300 (TIT. 1: 1-4, 2: 15-3: 3, 12-13, 15)

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the Truth which is after godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, Who cannot lie, promised before the world began, but hath in due times manifested His word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God, our Savior; to Titus, mine own son after the common Faith: Grace, mercy and peace, from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me at Nicopolis; for I have determined there to winter. Bring Zenas, the lawyer, and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them. All that are with me greet thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

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

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

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW §11 (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His disciples: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid; Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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