

**Vesper Propers, September 7, 2008**  
**Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross**  
**Prefestive Day of the Nativity of the Mother of God**

**The holy martyr Sozon**, at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia. He was a shepherd of Lycaonia who taught his family and friends the law of God. Sozon destroyed an idol, and was tortured and then burned for his Christian faith. (304)

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006*

*Tone of the Week: Tone 8 (begins on page 102), stichera 10-7*

**Cantor:** (Tone 1) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

**Stichera of the prefeast - Tone 1 podobn: Nebesnych činov**

⑥

In your birth, O spot-less one, spir-it-ual rays of uni-ver-sal glad-ness  
have shone up-on all the world, an-nounc-ing the Sun of Glo-ry, Christ  
our God, for you are tru-ly the me-di-a-trix of all our grace and joy.

**Cantor:** My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

⑤

O spot-less Vir-gin, to-day the glory of your Fore-feast

an-nounc-es to all peo-ple in ad - vance the ben-e-fits of your fa - vor;  
 now you ob-tain joy for them, and a share in the de-lights of God;  
 for you, the cause of our joy, have come.


**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak,  
*(on 4)* and Israel on the Lord.

<sup>4</sup>  
 The pure The - o - to - kos, the Vir - gin whom he chose as his  
 dwell - ing, the glo - ry of the proph-ets, the daugh-ter of  
 Da - vid, is born in a chaste man-ner to-day from Jo - a - chim and  
 An - na. By her birth, she turns a - side the curse transmitted to us by  
 A - dam.


**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

**Stichera of the martyr Sozon - Tone 4 podobn: Dal jesi znamenije**


③




Strength-ened in your weak - ness by the pow'r of him who willed to take our




weak-ness up-on him - self, you joy-ful - ly followed the path of the mar - tyrs.



In bear-ing the Good News, your feet crushed the im-po-tent en - e - my,




O bless-ed So - zon. Thus a crown of victory was woven for you by Je - sus,



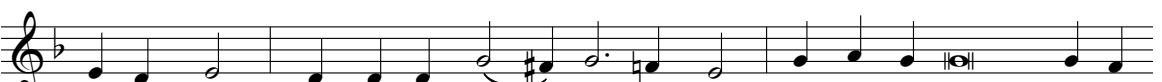
the Lov - er of us all and Sav - ior of our souls.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.


②



By your wounds you wound-ed the en - e - my and you brought him down



to the ground, armed as you were with the Cross. Cov-ered by an unshak-a - ble



ar - mor, and rapt in love for him who made you pass to the immate-ri - al



king - dom, you were an invin-ci-ble mar - tyr, like a man al - ready belong-ing



to heav - en.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

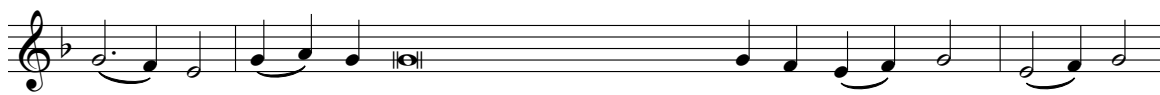
(on 1)



Vic - to - ri - ous mar-tyr So - zon, im - i - tat - ing the Sav - ior and Lord



who en-dured his volun-tar-y Pas - sion for you, you will-ing-ly handed your-self



o - ver to tor - ture, butchering, and unspeak-a - ble tor - ments. As a



re - ward he grant-ed you the gifts of heav - en and made you a foun-tain



of heal - ing for those who love you.

**Cantor:** Glory...

**Theotokion of the prefeast - Tone 4 samohlasen**



To - gether with the mul - ti - tude of the an-gels in heav-en, O all-holy,



spot-less Vir - gin, all hu - man - ity on earth calls your Nativi-ty bless - ed;



for you be-came the Mother of the Cre - a - tor of All, Christ our God.



Im-plore him cease-lessly, we beg, on our be-half. Af - ter God, we place all our



hope in you, O divine, un-wed-ded Mo-ther, all wor - thy of our praise.

**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week (Tone 8, p. 107)*

### **Aposticha**

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 8, page 108), concluding with:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Glory.... Now and ever...

**Aposticha theotokion of the postfeast - Tone 4 samohlasen**



U - ni-ver-sal joy! the fruit of the just has risen for us from Joa-chim and An-na.



It is the Vir - gin, all-wor-thy of our hymns, who through her deep pu - ri - ty



be-came God's liv-ing tem-ple and a-lone is recognized in truth to be his spot-less



Mo - ther. By her pray'rs, O Christ our God, send peace to the world



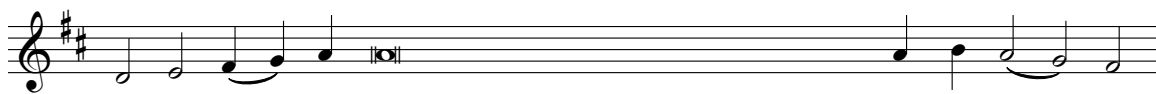
and great mer - - cy to our souls.

### Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the tone of the week (Tone 8, page 111).

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory... Now and ever...

#### Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4



To-day is born to us, from the root of Jesse and the loins of Da - vid,



Mar - y, the god - ly child. There-fore, all creation re-joi-ces and is re-newed.



Heav-en and earth re-joyce to-geth - er. You fam-ilies of na-tions sing her praise.



Jo - a - chim is elated and Anna cries out in cel-e-bra - tion: The bar-ren woman



gives birth to the The - o - to - - kos and the Sus-tain - er of our Life.