Vesper propers, July 20

THE HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH the Tishbite, who was a prophet of the Lord in the days of Ahab, the king of Israel and defended the rights of the one God against the unfaithful people with such a strength of spirit that he prefigured not only John the Baptist but even Christ himself. Written prophecies do not remain, but his memory is faithfully kept, especially on Mount Carmel.

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

Psalm 140, Tone 1 (begins on page 24)

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

Cantor: 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 Prophet Elijah - Tone 1 podoben: Nebesnych činov

O all-compassionate Word, you carried Elijah the Tishbite away
from the earth in a chariot of fire. Through his intercession,
save us who faithfully glorify you and who joyously
com-mem-o-rate his feast.

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.


O God-in-spired one, you went up to heaven in a won-drous way, on a char-iot drawn by four hor-ses. Thus you be-came a mar-vel to all of us.

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

O all-wise E-li-jah, in your burn-ing zeal for God,
you slew the shame-ful priests with a sword. With the word of your mouth you dried up the clouds so that it would not rain.
You perfected Elisha by the gift of your mantle, filling him with heavenly graces.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

The two lamp-stands, Elijah and Elisha, illumined the whole world. One prevented rain-drops from heaven, reproved the king, and rose into heaven on a fiery chariot. The other healed the barren waters, and having received the two-fold grace, split the waters of the Jordan in two. Now they sing with the angels and pray for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations; acclaim him all you peoples.

Psalm 116
The fiery chariot took you up to heaven as in a whirlwind.

O Elijah the Tishbite, God graced you with a fiery zeal for miracles. You were created incorruptible, so that you might not see death, until you knew beforehand the death of every one.

Therefore, come and give us a warning of your great accomplishments.

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

O prophet Elijah, O lampstand of the Church, which has no evening, having been inflamed with divine zeal, you closed up the rain from heaven; you were fed by a raven; you reproved the king and put the priests to death; you commanded
fire from heaven and slew two captains; you provided abundantly
for the widow by means of a little oil and a small handful of meal;
you resurrected her son by your prayer; you ignited the
fire in water; you crossed over the currents of the Jordan on foot.

In deed, you were raised up to heaven by a fiery chariot. You
gave a two-fold grace to Elisha. Pray unceasingly to God for the
salvation of our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Prophet Elijah - Tone 6 samohlasen

Come, let us assemble, all you people of God, in this holy place where we are to
honor the two God-inspired prophets. Let us sing a special hymn of
praise to the glory of Christ God who chose them. Let us cry out in joy, saying: Rejoice, Elijah the Great, earthly angel and heavenly man.

Rejoice, O precious Elisha whom God has filled with the graces of heaven.

Rejoice, O mediators and fervent intercessors, healers of the souls and bodies of the faithful who love Christ. Deliver from the attacks of the enemy and from every danger all those who celebrate your memory with honor.

Cantor: Now and ever...

*The Dogmatikon in the same tone (Tone 6, p. 87).*

**Readings:**

1 Kings 17: 1-23
1 Kings 18: 1, 17, 41, 44, 42, 45-46; 19: 1-16
1 Kings 19:1 9-21 and 2 Kings 2: 1, and 6-14

EOT 321
You are a partaker, O blessed Prophet, of the incorruptible company of God my Savior. Having divided the Jordan by pray'r, you crossed over on dry ground.

After leaving a two-fold grace for Elisha, you were taken up into heaven on a fiery chariot. Therefore we beseech you, although you were taken up from us in the flesh, do not separate yourself from us in spirit, and always pray to Christ that our souls may be saved.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...
The disgraceful king commanded fasting in order to commit murder;
for after the fasting, blood was shed and the law was broken. Na-both the
Jezreelite was killed. Then, O Prophet, you revealed the message of the Lord:
Since you killed the Jezreelite man unjustly, likewise your blood will also be spilled and harlots will bathe in your blood. O lover of all,
by the prayers of your prophet and preacher, deliver our souls from such inhumanity.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 6 samohlasen

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the fruit of life.
Therefore, we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the apostles and the saints so that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

Litany of the Litija, p. 116

Aposticha

Tone 8 samohlasen

Having been illuminated by a brilliant mind, Elijah, the awesome prophet, was heavenly in his actions. He became indignant when he saw the unjust judgment of the infamous king. Therefore, by God's judgment, Elijah denounced him. Likewise, he delivered to God's judgment the unmerciful queen who loved evil. Now, O Christ, as the merciful One, we ask you to save us by the prayers of Elijah, your prophet.
Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was among those who called upon his name.

O Prophet, you declared: How long, O Lord, is the way of the infamous ones to continue? You planted and they became rooted and produced the fruit of iniquity. Indeed, they perished because of their shameful actions. They cry out to you but you will not hear.

Why have you shown me the scandal of the judges of the law-breakers?

You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedek.
O great Elijah, respected among the prophets, your ascension is dear to those who celebrate. By your pray'rs you deliver us from dangers and sorrows, and you preserve us from the attacks of the Evil One. O most glorious Prophet, grant that we, who are faithful followers of Christ, may always venerate and bless you.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O Prophet who foretold the coming of Christ, you are forever in the presence of the glory of God, and you intercede for those who are suffering.

Since you serve the Majesty on High, you bless the whole world and are glorified everywhere. Now obtain for us forgiveness of our sins.
Cantor: Now and ever...

Aposticha theotokion in the same tone (Tone 6, p. 90).

Troparia

Priest first, then all:

Troparion of the holy prophet Elijah - Tone 4

An angel in the flesh, the foundation of the prophets, and the second fore-runner of Christ, the glorious Elijah from on high sent grace to Elisha to cure sicknesses and cleanse lepers. He likewise overflows with healing for those who honor him.

Cantor: Glory... now and ever...

Troparion "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos," page 119, followed by the Blessing of Bread.