Hymns for Sundays and Feast-days

Newly-Composed Hymns for the Liturgical Year

Based on the Byzantine Lectionary and Liturgy

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
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Preface

The Byzantine (Ruthenian) Catholic Church possesses as a rich inheritance a large collection of hymns to the Holy Trinity, to the Mother of God, and to the saints. These hymns are sung before and after services, at pilgrimages and parish events, and have been collected in *Traditional Hymns of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh*.

However, this body of traditional hymns included very little material for the Sundays and major feast days of the liturgical year. So from 2001 to 2007, the Metropolitan Cantor Institute prepared and published new hymns for each Sunday of the year, based on the Sunday epistle and Gospel readings, as added new spiritual songs for major feasts based on the prayers of Vespers. These hymns are gathered in this volume, along with a hymn for each day of the week and for a few additional occasions.

**The Sunday Hymns and the “Lucan Jump”**

For most Sundays, the first verses of the Sunday hymn are based on the Gospel reading of the day, while the final verse summarizes the theme of the day’s epistle reading. Thus, the faithful can hear, in different words, the message of the Sunday, to prepare them for the readings they will hear during the Divine Liturgy.

In the Byzantine tradition, beginning immediately after the Sunday following the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14), we begin reading the Gospel of Luke at the Divine Liturgy. This means that from this point on, there may be a 1- to 3-week discrepancy between the “week” of the Gospel readings and the rest of the service (epistle reading, tone of the week). When this occurs, the final verse of the Sunday hymn may be omitted if desired. But it may also be sung, since the message of Christian discipleship found in the apostolic writings is always relevant.

**The melodies used here**

Many of these hymns were initially set to existing traditional Rusyn melodies, following the pattern widely used in our church in Europe. This dependence on “traditional” tunes meant that a large fraction of these hymns were originally set to a single melody, *Pod tvoj pokrov (We hasten to your patronage)*.

In this collection, care has been taken not to rely too much on any one melody. Some well-known Christmas melodies, already sung in our church and included among the “traditional hymns” as
Christmas carols, are used here for hymns of the Christmas Pascha (from December 6 to February 2), to mark the liturgical unity of this season. Other melodies from the English singing tradition have also been used, as follows:

- *Forest Green* for feasts associated with the Incarnation
- *Kingsfold* for feasts of apostles
- *Ellacombe* for feasts of monastic saints

In many cases, cantors can choose to sing these to traditional Rusyn melodies such as *Pod tvoj pokrov* (*We hsten to your patronage*) if desired.

**Other considerations**

In the course of assembling this hymnal, many cantors and choir directors have asked for 3-part or 4-part arrangements for singing by a choir or congregation. The Metropolitan Cantor Institute plans to produce a set of harmonizations that includes each of the melodies used in this collection.

Use of these hymns is, of course, optional! Cantors and pastors may print out individual hymns or incorporate them into parish bulletins if desired.

We hope that this collection provides additional opportunities for the faithful to see the year's services "through the mind of the Church", and that it may lead others to prepare new hymns or hymn translations to grace the liturgical year. May God be glorified in all things!
Contents

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee 1
Sunday of the Prodigal Son 2
Sunday of Meat-fare (Sunday of the Last Judgment) 3
Sunday of Cheese-fare (Sunday of Forgiveness) 4
Forgiveness Vespers 5
First Sunday of the Great Fast (Sunday of Orthodoxy) 6
Second Sunday of the Great Fast 7
Third Sunday of the Great Fast (Veneration of the Cross) 8
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast (John Climacus) 9
Akathistos Saturday 10
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast (Mary of Egypt) 11
Lazarus Saturday 12
Second Sunday of Pascha (Thomas Sunday) 13
Third Sunday of Pascha (Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers) 14
Fourth Sunday of Pascha (Sunday of the Paralytic) 15
Mid-Pentecost Wednesday 16
Fifth Sunday of Pascha (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman) 17
Sixth Sunday of Pascha (Sunday of the Man Born Blind) 18
Ascension of the Lord 19
Sunday of the Fathers of the First Nicene Council 20
Pentecost Sunday 21
All Saints Sunday 22
Second Sunday after Pentecost 23
Third Sunday after Pentecost 24
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 25
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 26
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 27
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 28
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 29
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 30
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost
Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of Zacchaeus)
Beginning of the Church Year (September 1)
Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8)
Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14)
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
The passing of the holy apostle and evangelist John (September 26)
Our venerable father Chariton the Confessor
Protection of the Theotokos (October 1)
The holy apostle Thomas
The holy apostle James Alpheus
Sunday of the Fathers at the Seventh Ecumenical Council (October 11-17)
The holy apostle and evangelist Luke (October 18) 65
The holy great-martyr Demetrius (October 26) 66
The holy priest-martyr Theodore Romža, bishop of Mukačevo 67
The holy archangel Michael and all the angelic powers (November 8) 68
The holy priest-martyr Josaphat, archbishop of Polotsk (November 12) 69
Our holy father John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople 70
The holy apostle Philip (November 14) 71
The Christmas Fast, or Saint Philip’s Fast (November 15 – December 24) 72
The Christmas Fast – The Ancient Prophecies Foretold 73
The holy apostle and evangelist Matthew (November 16) 75
Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (November 21) 76
Thanksgiving Day (Thursday after November 21) 77
The holy apostle Andrew, the first-called (November 30) 78
Our venerable father Sabbas the Sanctified 79
Our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra 80
Maternity of Holy Anna (December 8 or 9) 81
The Theotokos of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas (December 12) 82
Second Sunday before the Nativity (Sunday of the Forefathers) 83
The holy prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17) 84
Sunday before the Nativity (Sunday of the Ancestors) 85
Sunday after the Nativity (Commemoration of the Relatives of the Lord) 86
The Circumcision of the Lord; Our holy father Basil the Great (January 1) 87
Sunday before Theophany 88
Theophany of the Lord 89
Post-festive days of Theophany (January 7-13) 90
Sunday after Theophany 91
Our venerable father Anthony the Great (January 17) 92
Our venerable father Euthymius the Great (January 20) 93
Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople (January 25) 94
The Meeting of the Lord with Simeon and Anna (February 2) 95
The holy apostle and evangelist Mark (April 25) 96
The holy apostle James (April 30) 97
Our venerable father Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves (May 3) 98
The holy apostle and evangelist John the Theologian (May 8) 99
Translation of the relics of St. Nicholas to Bari in Italy (May 9) 100
The holy apostle Simon the Zealot (May 10) 101
Our holy fathers Cyril and Methodius, apostles of the Slavs (May 11) 102
The holy apostle Jude (June 19) 103
The Nativity of the holy prophet John the Forerunner (June 24) 104
Our Lady of Perpetual Help (June 27) 105
The holy apostles Peter and Paul (June 29) 106
Sunday of the Fathers at the Six Ecumenical Councils (July 13-19) 107
Our holy father and confessor Paul Gojdich, bishop of Prešov 108
The glorious Prophet Elijah (July 20) 109
Our holy father and confessor Basil Hopko, bishop of Medila (July 23) 110
The Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6) 111
The Transfiguration of the Lord – another hymn 112
Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15) 113
The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (August 29) 114
Hymn for Mondays 115
Hymn for Tuesdays 116
Hymn for Wednesdays 117
Hymn for Thursdays 118
Hymn for Fridays 119
Hymn for Saturdays 120
Saturdays of the Departed (All Souls Saturdays) 121
Hymn for Evening 122
Hymn for Peace 123
Hymn for Monastic Profession 124
Hymn for Presbyteral Ordination 125
Index of First Lines

A lawyer said to Jesus once (25th Sunday) 46
A lawyer said to Jesus once (30th Sunday) 51
A man came up to Christ and said 33
Archangel Michael, prince of all angels 68
All Christ’s faithful, come together 81
As a star, resplendent 84
As he walked the land where the pagans lived (5th Sunday) 26
As he walked the land where the pagans lived (23rd Sunday) 44
As Jesus neared a village 50
As Jesus walked the beaches of the Sea of Galilee 23
As Jesus walked, he saw a man 18
As the Lord was walking, came a soldier in distress 25
At festal midpoint, Jesus went 16
Bethesda’s pool was oft a place 15
By temperance and constant prayer 60
Christ called the crowd to him and said: If you would follow me 58
Christ our Savior, save me 117
Christ told the Twelve: you must proclaim 19
Christians, come with hymns of gladness 67
Come, all you faithful 64
Come, all you lovers of the feasts (July 17) 108
Come, all you lovers of the feasts (November 21) 76
Come, all you lovers of the feasts (December 12) 82
Come, let us join the heavenly host 93
Crowns of praise now let us bring (May 9) 100
Crowns of praise now let us bring (December 6) 80
Death defeated! Love is reigning 113
Demetrius, Christ’s martyr great 66
Do unto other what you would have them do 40
Down the road to Jericho, a begging blind man sat 52
For Chrysostom, the golden-tongued
Forgive our sins, as we forgive
From earliest youth you heard the call
Glory to the Lord of all
God himself is manifest
God loved the world so much
God of endless love and mercy
God, of all your martyrs, crown
Hear now, you faithful, once more the story
Holy father Gregory
If you would follow me
In his love for the human race
In the town of Naim a widow lost her only son
In wisdom you have fashioned all things
In your Name, your Church has gathered
Jesus our life came to the tomb
Jesus said: God’s reign is like a king who gave a feast
Jesus told this parable
Jesus told this story: God’s reign can be compared
Jesus went through Sidon
Let all Christ’s Church assembled here
Let us now praise famous men
Let us with crowns of praises crown
Life-giving Cross, the power of martyrs
Lord and Creator, from clay you formed me
Lord of all mercy, each day you bring us
O blessed John, the Master’s friend
O come you now with praises crown (May 8)
O come you now with praises crown (September 26)
O come, all you faithful (January 6)
O come, you lovers of the feasts
O father of the angelic life
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (April 25)
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (April 30)
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (May 10) 101
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (June 19) 103
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (October 6) 62
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (October 8) 63
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (October 18) 65
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (November 14) 71
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (November 16) 75
O Lord, to you we raise a hymn (November 30) 78
O Lord, when you were shown in your glory 111
O Savior, Jesus, Lord of all 120
O Word of God and lover of Mankind 107
On a Sabbath day, Jesus went his way 48
On seeing throngs who sought him out 29
Once a lawyer said to Jesus 36
Once there was a banquet, prepared for many guests 49
Once there was a man who had made a plan 37
Once there was a rich man 43
One day a man named Jairus came 45
Our Church, in joyful chorus 102
Out the farmer went 42
People brought to Jesus a cripple in his pain 27
Rejoice with us, you angel ranks 115
Sending his disciples sailing, Jesus went to pray 30
Sure defense of all who sorrow 61
Take the helmet of salvation 124
That first Paschal night 125
The ancient prophecies foretold 73
The birds aloft, the grass beneath 24
The Church of God with angel ranks 110
The evening of the day he rose 13
The first day of the week at dawn 14
The God-named Voice, lamp of the Light 104
The Lord said: There was once a man planting vines 34
The Master came with his three friends 112
The Spirit of the Lord Most High
Then lifting up his eyes to you
Through faith, the saints have conquered kingdoms
Through you, joy will shine
Thus says the Lord: I send before you
To the Master’s side came a man who cried
Today in your forerunner’s praise
Truly, Zion’s people
Two blind men, seeking Jesus out
Upon the last, great festal day
We plow the field and scatter
When John was placed in prison by Herod
When travelling through Jericho
When walking by the lake-side, there the Master saw two boats
When you shall come to render just judgment
When you were crucified
While in Samaria, Jesus came
With joy we keep the holy Fast (1st Sunday)
With joy we keep the holy Fast (2nd Sunday)
With joy we keep the holy Fast (3rd Sunday)
With joy we keep the holy Fast (4th Sunday)
With joy we keep the holy Fast (5th Sunday)
With the choirs of saints and angels
With your most holy blood you redeemed us
You have magnified, O Savior
Zion, see your Savior come
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

1. Lord of all mercy, each year you bring us
   into this time of your boundless grace.
2. Turn us from pride, from being exalted
   by our own deeds that turn us from you;
3. Pharisee’s haughty attitude taints us;
   in our conceit, we scorn you, O Lord.
4. Soon will arrive the season of fasting;
   pray’r and good works will fill every day.

Grant that your people, drawn by your Spirit,
Grant us repentance! Humble our spirits,
Fill us instead with Publican’s penance,
Give us your grace to have the right Spirit,

Open their hearts and seek now your face.
That to your Word we stand ever true.
That in our lives you may be adored.
That in our deeds, your law we obey.

Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (from Grekokatolicki Duchovní Pisní, 1969)
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (from Grekokatolicki Duchovňi Pisňi, 1969)
Sunday of Meatfare
Commemoration of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as Judge

O right - eous Judge, en - throned be - fore all,
Judg - ment shall come from you, ho - ly Son:
You shall di - vide the goats and the sheep.
Pray’r and good works will fill ev - ’ry day.

At that last hour, Sav - ior, oh place us
Those who have loved by serv - ing their neigh - bor
Those who have scorned you by scorn - ing oth - ers,
Give us your grace to have the right spir - it,

At your right hand! O God, hear our call!
Shall find their place with you, Right - eous One!
Sent forth from you, have tor - ment so deep.
That in our deeds, your law we o - bey.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera at Psalm 140 for Meat-fare Sunday
Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (from Grekокatolicki Duchovñi Pisñi, 1969)
Sunday of Cheese-fare
Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

1. Lord and Cre - a - tor, from clay you formed me,
2. Stripped of my heav - n’ly garment through sin - ning,
3. In dis - o - be - dience, Ad - am was ban - ished;
4. As we be - gin this sea - son of fas - ting,

Gave me a soul through life - giv - ing breath;
Clothed now with leaves and gar - ments of skin,
Par - a - dis - e closed! He sat there and cried.
Thus sanc - ti - fy - ing bod - y and soul,

O - ver cre - a - tion made me a rul - er!
I eat my bread through work - ing and swea - ting.
Give us your grace to wel - come this sea - son;
Flee - ing from pas - sions, vir - tues e’er seek - ing,

But Sa - tan tempt - ed, lured me to death.
Your voice is deaf - ened through e - vil’s din.
Fast - ing and pray’r will hum - ble our pride.
We set Christ’s Pas - cha as fi - nal goal!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera at Psalm 140 for Cheese-fare Saturday and Sunday
Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (from Grekokatolicki Duchovní Pisňi, 1969)
Vespers on the Afternoon of Cheesefare Sunday
(Forgiveness Vespers)

1. “For-give our sins as we for-give,” You taught us, Lord, to pray,
2. In blaz-ing light your Cross re-veals the truth we dim-ly knew:
3. As we be-gin the Fast once more, we pray you, Lord of all:

But You a-lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
What triv-i-al debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
Take far from us in-dif-fer-ence, de-spair, and pow-er’s call.

How can Your par-don reach and bless the un-for-giv-ing heart
Lord, cleanse the depthswith-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease;
In stead, be-stow in-teg-ri-ty, hu-mil-i-ty and love;

That broods on wrongs and will not let old bit-ter-ness de-part?
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.
Let me not judge my neigh-bor’s fault! Grant mer-cy from a-bove.

Text: vv. 1-2: Rosamund Herklots, b. 1905; © Oxford University Press; v. 3: JMT
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
1. With joy we keep the holy Fast
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. You took our flesh, O Christ our God,
4. To God, the blessed Three in One,

And gather on the Lord’s own Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
That we be saved from death and sin.
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
In icons, we this faith express,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil’s falls.
As we our Paschal fast begin.
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
Second Sunday of the Great Fast
Commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas

1. With joy we keep the holy Fast
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. We praise you, uncreated Light,
4. To God, the blessed Three-in-One,

And gather on the Lord’s own Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
Who fill the universe with joy,
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
And give You thanks for Gregory,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil’s falls.
Whose teachings wise we e’er employ.
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
1. With joy we keep the holy Fast
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. Before your cross we bow today,
4. To God, the blessed Three in One,

And gather on the Lord’s own Day
To day, the day our Savior calls!
And hail you, Christ, our saving Lord.
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through His Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
With mid-Lent come, we claim your grace;
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil’s falls.
Your people aid, your help afford!
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Commemoration of our Venerable Father John Climacus

1. With joy we keep the holy Fast
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. O Master, as we keep this Fast,
4. To God, the blessed Three-in-One,

And gather on the Lord’s own Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
We hear the words of good Saint John
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through his Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
And climb the ladder of the cross,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil’s falls.
Which to your glory leads us on.
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
1. Through you, joy will shine; ev’ry gift benign comes as you
2. Fountain-head of truth, teacher of our youth, giving light
3. Might of Martyrs strong! Virgins’ holy song! key to doors
   im-plore God’s aid. Star that shows the Sun, Hope of ev’ry-one,
   to faith-ful minds, Incense of our pray’r, Love-ly flow’r most rare,
   of Paradise! Through you, Death has died; and the angels cried
   ne-ver will your glo-ry fade. All Christ’s peo-ple sing, “Re-joice!”,
   God, through you, each sin un-binds.
   with the words that can’t suf-fice:
   prais-ing you with heart and voice! Hope of all the earth, boast and
   joy and worth, to the Sa-visor you gave birth!

Text: JMT, based on the Akathistos Hymn
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the Angel came (traditional)
1. With joy we keep the holy Fast.
2. Now is the time acceptable!
3. No soul so sick You can not save,
4. To God, the blessed Three in One,

And gather on the Lord’s own Day
To-day, the day our Savior calls!
No life so foul you can not cleanse;
Who made and saves and sanctifies,

That through his Word and Sacrament,
Let us cast off the weight of sin
As with Saint Mary, turn us ’round,
All praise in heaven now is sung,

We may give thanks to Christ, the Way.
And rise again from evil’s falls.
And give us grace to work amends.
While earth with thanks and love replies!

Text and melody: J. Michael Thompson
1. Jesus our life came to the tomb where his friend was buried
2. Martha cried out to her Lord: “Lord, if you had been here
3. Jesus, when led to the tomb, wept with tears of sadness,
4. Savior, who brought back to life Laz - a - rus the dead man,

To strength - en faith for us all in his na - tures mar - ried:
Our broth - er dear would not have died!” Christ made an - swer most clear:
Then called his friend back to life, gave the sis - ters glad - ness!
We are bound up in chains of sin! Loos - en us, in Your plan,

As a man, he sought the grave; as di - vine, new life He gave!
“I am Re - sur - rec - tion, Life! Death will lose this fi - nal strife!”
Forth he came, with grave - cloths bound; back from death, his Lord he found!
That re - born in wa - t'ry grave, we shall know your pow'r to save!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Radujsja z’ilo / Rejoice today (traditional)
1. The evening of the day he rose, the Savior stood with those he chose! But Thomas was not there that night and doubted all those tidings bright.

2. When eight days passed, Christ came again, and Thomas stood among them then. “Stretch forth your hand—no longer doubt.” “My Lord and God!” was Thomas’ shout.

3. All glory, Lord, to you we pay arisen from the grave this day, whom with the Father we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

The Lord is arisen! Christos voskres! The Lord is arisen! Christos voskres!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 20: 19-31
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers
Third Paschal Sunday

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Mark 15:43-16:9
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
1. Beth-es-da’s pool was oft a place where sick folk
2. When Je-sus asked the crip-pled man if he would
3. All glo-ry, Lord, to you we pay a-ris-en

met God's heal-ing grace. A crip-ple lay there
want to walk and stand, “No one has helped me,”
from the grave this day, whom with the Fa-ther
end-less days, who longed for heav-en’s heal-ing ways.
was his cry, till grasped by Christ and raised up high!
we a-dore, and Par-a-clete, for ev-er-more!

The Lord is ris’n! Chris-tos vos-kres! The Lord is
ris’n! Chris-tos vos-kres!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 5: 1-15
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
Mid-Pentecost Wednesday

1. At festal mid-point, Jesus went to preach the
   message God had sent. His loving Word brought
   Christ! The word is dumb!” “I come not of my
   from the grave this day, whom with the Father
   strife severe dividing those who'd come to hear.
   own accord, but am the Father’s living Word!”
   we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

2. “We know this man, and where he's from, but not of
   own accord, but am the Father’s living Word!”
   we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

3. All glory, Lord, to you we pay arisen
   own accord, but am the Father’s living Word!”
   we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

The Lord is ris’n! Christos voskres! The Lord is
ris’n! Christos voskres!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 7: 14-30
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
Fifth Paschal Sunday

1. While in Samaria, Jesus came to rest by
2. “How is it, sir, you ask of me, Samaria -
3. “Those drinking here will thirst again; those drinking
4. All glory, Lord, to you we pay arising

well with Jacob’s name. A woman let her
tan? How can it be?” “If you but knew Who
living water, then, will never thirst; this
from the grave this day, whom with the Father

bucket sink, and Jesus said, “Give me a drink.”
spokes to you, you’d beg for living waters, too.”
Fountain brings eternal life where ’er it springs!”
we adore, and Paraclete, for ever more!

The Lord is ris’n! Christos voskres! The Lord is
ris’n! Christos voskres!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 4: 5-42
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
The Lord is ris’n! Christos voskres! The Lord is ris’n! Christos voskres!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 9: 1-38
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
1. Christ told the Twelve, “You must proclaim to all the world the Gospel’s fame, and witness bear to all we wrought, that rising from the dead has bought!”

2. He led them then to Bethany; he raised his hands for all to see, and, blessing them, rose from the grave this day, whom we adore, and Paraclete, for evermore!

3. All glory, Lord, to you we pay arisen from their sight; was carried up to heaven’s height. The Lord ascends to heaven high! The Lord ascends to heaven high!

Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
1. Then, lifting up his eyes to you, the Lord said 
2. “Eternal life means knowing you and me as 
3. “Now keep all those you gave to me, that they, with 
4. All praise, O ris’n, ascended Lord, from all Your

to his Father true: “The time has come! Now 
Christ, Messiah true. All you have given, 
you and me, may be united in our 
Church with one accord; thus to the Father, 
glorify your Son with joy that cannot die.” 
I have done; now glorify me as your Son.” 
bonds of love, both here on earth and in heav’n above!” 
glory be, and to the Spirit: One-in-Three!

Your Spirit send, O Father, Lord! Your Spirit send, O Father, Lord!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 17: 1-13 
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
1. Up - on the last, great fes - tal day, the Lord stood
2. He spoke of Spir - it, we be - lieve, whom all his
3. O Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, to you be
up and then did say: If you are thirs - ty,
fol - l’wers would re - ceive; and on this fif - tieth,
end - less praise ad - dressed. To you, the Three - in -
come to me - drink of the liv - ing wa - ter free!
joy - filled day on bend - ed knee, the Church will pray:
One, we bring our praise and thanks, O God our King!
O Spir - it of the Lord, de - scend! O Spir - it
of the Lord, de - scend!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 7: 37-53
Tune: Christos voskres! Pid neba zvid (from Cerkovni Pisni, 1926)
1. Through faith, the Saints have conquered kingdoms;
2. “If for your faith you each give witness
3. “Pick up your cross and follow Me daily;

Shut lions’ mouths, found strength in trial, were
Before the world, I promise you, that
If you do not, unworthy you’ll be to

flogged, derided, sawed asunder,
I will witness to the Father
join the throngs of ransomed in glory,

Held high the cross through hate and guile.
Of your strong faith and love so true.”
Bought by my death for victory!

For these, your saints, we praise you, Christ; your
precious Blood has paid our ransom’s price.

Tune: Kol’ slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
Second Sunday after Pentecost

1. As Jesus walked the beaches of the Sea of Galilee,
   Both James and John were called alike, and followed Christ that day.
   Christ calls us each to follow him, to listen and obey.

He called to Peter and to Andrew: “Come and follow me!
They toured the whole of Galilee, and heard the Master say:
There will be glory and great peace for all who walk his way.

Leave boat and net; in days to come, you'll go forth once again;
“Repent! The Kingdom is at hand! The Good News is for all!”
God has no pets, no favorites; no matter what our past,

Formed by my word, you’ll cast your nets - not seeking fish, but men!”
In ev’ry place, he cured the sick and heard the sinner’s call.
If we will live as Jesus taught, we’ll join him at the last.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 4: 18-23 (vv. 1-2), Romans 2: 10-16 (v. 3)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
Third Sunday after Pentecost

1. The birds aloft, the grass beneath show God’s love.
2. God feeds the birds and clothes the flow’rs every day.
3. Is not the life God gives to us worth more than food?
4. Now justified by faith in Christ Jesus the Lord,

Food and clothing, all things needful, come from heav’n above.
Since we know this, why do we then fear and go astray?
Let the cares of life from heav’en’s vantage all be viewed!
In our lives, through grace, we’re given peace and great reward.

Stop your worrying; seek God’s Kingdom first of all!

Then his loving care guards, what’er befall!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 6: 22-34 (vv. 1-3), Romans 5: 1-10 (v. 4)
Melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary Mother of our God (traditional)
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1. As the Lord was walking, came a soldier in distress.
2. Jesus said, “I’ll come to you and cure him; have no fear.”
3. Quite amazed, the Master told him: “Go off home in peace;
4. Freed from sin and slave to justice, striving with each breath;

“Sir,” he said, “my servant’s dying. Cure him, make him blest.”
“Lord,” the soldier said, “it’s not fit; order it from here.”
Through your faith, this is accomplished; he shall have release.”
God’s own gift is life in Jesus; sin’s sole wage is death!

Refrain

Lord, I am not worthy, that you should come to me;

Speak the word of healing, Jesus; set my spirit free!

In your love reborn, forgiven, ever let us be!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 8: 5-13 (vv. 1-3), Romans 6: 18-23 (v. 4)
Melody: Christijane, Proslavl’ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
1, As he walked the land where the pagans lived, Jesus came upon two men.
2. Demons knew his voice, and our souls rejoice as we see his might now shine:
3. When the pigs, unclean, vanished from the scene, herd-ers ran, spread tidings true;
4. Lips’ and heart’s accord, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” This is our salvation’s song.

They were sore oppressed and, indeed, possessed; strange beyond the pow’r of pen!
Cast- ing, by his pow’r, in that very hour, devils into herds of swine!
Then the town came out, said in panic’s rout, “We shall have no part in You!”
Heart’s faith makes us right; standing in the light, we confess our whole life long:

1, 2, 3 “Have you come to meddle here, Son of God, or make us fear?”
4. You have come to our fear, feeding us who gather here!

We proclaim you “Lord,” Son of God adored, stronger than the demons’ jeer!
We proclaim you “Lord,” Son of God adored, Jesus, our Redeemer dear!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 8: 28-34 (vv. 1-3), Romans 10: 1-10 (v. 4)
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the Angel came (traditional)
Hearing Faith that Healing could give him strength again.
Some nearby were shaken, said “He’s blasphemed today!”
Cur ing or for giv ing, both come from God, ‘tis plain!
All the crowd was awe-struck to see God’s pow’r that day.
Pa tient and re joic ing, in pray’r, we per se vere.

“Your sins are for giv en!” Hear the words of Je sus;

Call ing us to new life who put our faith in him.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 9: 1-8 (vv. 1-4), Romans 12: 6-14 (v. 5)
Melody: Prizri, o Marije / Mary, look upon us (traditional)
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

1. Two blind men, searching Jesus out, made this their heart-felt plea:
   O Son of David, pity us! Cure us and let us see!
   They brought a man possessed to him, who could not make a sound.
   Build up your neighbor, do him good—let each God's glory seek.

2. He turned to leave, and suddenly a crowd hemmed him around:
   Said Jesus, "Are you confident that this work I can do?
   At Jesus' word, the demon left; the mute man gained his voice.
   All Scripture, written long ago, is given that we might find

3. The strong in faith should bear with grace the scruples of the weak:
   They answered, "Yes!" and Jesus said, "It shall be done for you."
   The crowd, amazed, said "Ne'er before were deeds like this! Re-joice!"
   In God the source of patient hope. Be of one heart and mind!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 9: 27-35 (vv. 1-2), Romans 15: 1-7 (v. 3)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

1. On seeing throngs who sought him out, Christ’s heart was moved.
2. As evening came, they told the Lord, “Send them away.
3. In dig-nant-ly, they showed the mea-ger food they pos-sessed.
4. Christ raised his eyes and blessed his God, then broke the bread.
5. Let fac-tions cease! Be one in mind, in Je-sus’ name.

He then healed the sick and suf-f’ring; thus his care he proved.
So that they might eat!” Said Je-sus, “Give them food to-day.”
Je-sus took the bread and fish and bid the crowds to rest.
Serv-ing all, the loaves and fish- es let them all be fed!
We preach one Gos-pel and one Lord, one Cross, e’er the same.

Refrain

Je-sus, Bread of Life, feed each hun-gry soul in need!

Show us all your love; be our Food in-deed.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 14: 14-20 (vv. 1-4), 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17 (v. 5)
Melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary Mother of our God (traditional)
1. Sending his disciples sailing, Jesus went to pray.
2. Then came Jesus, walking toward them on the stormy wave.
3. Jesus hastened to assure them: “Fear not! It is I!”
4. Jesus said, “How little faith you've come to place in me.”
5. Each of us is God's own temple, where the Spirit lives;

Waves began to toss their vessel; skies turned dark and grey.
Think ing him a ghost, in terror they began to rave.
Peter said, “Then call me to you 'cross the waters high.”
Then he turned, rebuked the water-quiet was the sea!
And God's temple is most holy—holiness God gives!

Refrain

Peter cried, “Lord, save me!” as he began to fall;

Jesus stretched His hand and rescued him from faith so small.

As you did for him, O Master, hear and save us all.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 14: 22-34 (vv. 1-4), 1 Corinthians 3: 9-17 (v. 5)
Melody: Christijane, proslavljajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
1. To the Master’s side came a man, who cried:
2. Stumbling in their shame, his disciples came;
3. The apostle’s word, seemingly absurd,

“Lord, take pity on my son!” Jesus heard his pray’r
all their striving had been vain. Jesus said at last,
shows the path that leads to God: Seen by all as fools,

and, with might so rare, made the demon's work undone.
“Only pray'r and fast could this victory attain.”
used by Christ as tools to destroy our sin's façade.

Faith the size of mustard seed has the pow'r to conquer need.

Mountains large and grand move at faith’s command; nothing stands

against faith’s plead.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 17: 14-22 (vv. 1-2), 1 Corinthians 4: 9-16 (v. 3)
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the Angel came (traditional)
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 18: 23-35 (vv. 1-6), 1 Corinthians 9: 2-12 (v. 7)
Melody: Prizri, o Marije / Mary, look upon us  (traditional)

1. Jesus told this story: God’s reign can be compared
2. One man, debt-encumbered, could not repay the loan.
3. “Lord, be patient with me, and I will pay in full.”
4. Leaving, that same servant found one who owed him less.
5. Though implored for mercy, the servant, hard of heart,
6. Told of this, in anger the king called that man in.
7. Sowing in the spirit, Paul reaped a Church for God,

To a king who summoned his servants for reck’ning there.
So the king said, “Sell him, his family and all he owns.”
Moved to tender pity, the king forgave him all.
“Pay me what you owe me!” he cried, with curse and stress.
Threw the man in prison, till full repay-ment start.
“Your whole debt was lifted; why then so hard with him?”
Putting up with hardships, that naught im-pede the Word.

As we treat each other, harsh-ly or with mer-cy,
So our heav’n-ly Fa-ther will treat us in re-turn.
1. A man came up to Christ and said, “O Teacher, tell me
2. The man replied, “But of them all, which statutes do you
3. He heard and then went sad away, for he had wealth un-
4. This is the Good News preached to you, by which you all are

true: If I would see eternal life, what good then
mean?” “Don’t kill or steal; give parents honor; keep your
told. The Lord observed: “It is so hard for rich men saved: As Scriptures told, Christ died for sin, was bur-
should I do?” The Lord replied: “There’s One who’s con-science clean.” “But, Lord,” said he, “I’ve done all
to be bold And leave their wealth and earthly
in a cave, And rose again (as Scripture
good, who tells you how to live: If you will keep his
this; what further can there be?” Said Je-sus, “Give a-
pride to find the realm of light. For man, tis hard, but
said) that we might be made new; This is the Gos-pel
statutes, then eternal life He’ll give.”
way your wealth; then come and follow me.”
not for God, who does all things in might.
which we preach, that we’ve made known to you.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 19: 16-26 (vv. 1-3), 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 (v. 4)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
1. The Lord said, “There was once a man planting vines,
2. The owner rented out his land; went away.
3. The renters seized and beat the slaves, hurt them sore;
4. At last he said, “I now will send my own son.”
5. What will the owner of the vineyard do in turn?
6. Stand firm in faith and be on guard: act like men!

Hedged his vineyard, built a tower, saw his work was fine!
Come the harvest, sent his slaves to take his share away.
When the owner sent out others, they were hurt the more.
Then the renters seized and killed him, thinking they had won.
He will take away the land and give to those who’ll learn!
In a word, be strong! and let Christ’s love guide you again.

The rejected stone Has become the corner-stone!
Wonderous in our eyes, Done by God alone!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 21: 33-42 (vv. 1-5), 1 Corinthians 16: 13-24 (v. 6)
Melody: O Marije Mati Boža Prečista / O Mary, Mother of our God (traditional)
1. Jesus said: God's reign is like a king who gave a feast.
2. But when summoned to the wedding, they refused to come.
3. When the king came in, he saw a man not clad aright.
4. God it is who firmly sets us, seals us in His Son.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 8: 5-13 (vv. 1-3), 2 Corinthians 1: 21-2:4 (v. 4)
Melody: Christijane, proslavljajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
1. Once a lawyer said to Jesus, “Master, tell me true;
   Of the laws of God, which is the greatest one to you?”
2. In his turn, he asked the lawyer, “Tell me, if you can,
   How can David call the Christ his son, within God’s plan?”
3. God, who called the light from darkness, shines within our heart
   That we, too, make known the glory Christ had from the start.

Refrain

You shall love the Lord God with all your heart and soul;

You shall also love your neighbor: make this law your goal!

Lov ing God and loving neighbor: these two make one whole!

Melody: Christijane, proslavl'ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
1. Once there was a man, who had made a plan, had to travel far away. He called to his side servants who, in pride, mas-ter’s choice. One, who lived in dread, hid the wealth in-stead, those who planned; But from him whose fear made no ef-fort here, gen’rous grace! E-ven in our woes, wres-tling with our foes,

2. Two men took this wealth, bet-tered it them-selves, thus re-paid their each were giv-en funds that day. Faithful serv-ant, work-ing hard, left it with no in-t’rest paid.

3. When the man re-turned, of their skills he learned, and com-mend-ed all was tak-en from his hand. we can see Christ’s lov-ing face!

4. Now, the time and day! Cast your sin a-way! Do not waste God’s bring-ing in your great re-ward, You have worked with less; now with more you’re blest: Come and share your mas-ter’s joy!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 25: 14-30 (vv. 1-3), 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10 (v. 4)
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the angel came (traditional)
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

1. Jesus went through Sidon and Tyre, along the sea.
2. “Lord, O Son of David, my daughter is possessed.”
3. “Food that's meant for children is not thrown to the hound!”
4. Jesus said, “O woman! Your faith is great indeed!”
5. We are God's own temple, his sons and daughters free;

To him came a woman, who shouted this, her plea:
Though Christ gave no answer, she pleaded, none the less:
“True, Lord, but the dog eats the crumbs dropped on the ground!”
At that very instant, the woman's child was freed.
Trust ing in His promise, let us all faithful be!

Refrain

Lord, O Son of David! Show to me your pity!

Hear the pray'r I offer! Give heed and set me free!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 15: 21-28 (vv. 1-4), 2 Corinthians 6: 16b-7:1 (v. 5)
Melody: Prizri, o Marije / Mary, look upon us (traditional)
1. When walking by the lake-side, there the Master saw two
2. The nets were full to breaking, and they dragged their catch to
3. The one who shall sow sparingly will reap a small re-

boats. At his request, the owner Simon sailed him land. Then Simon said, "O leave me Lord, for I'm a ward; If bountiful, then great will be the blessings

out from shore. There, seated, Jesus taught the crowds; then sinful man." The Lord replied, "Be not afraid. From of the Lord! Be neither sad nor grudging in your

said, "Put out to sea; Cast out your nets this one time this time on, you'll see Your catch will not be fish, but giving, for we know God loves a cheerful giver!

more, the works of God you'll see." men! Leave all and follow me." Thus we serve him, high and low.

1. Do unto others what you would have them do.
2. Love all your enemies though their love is small;
3. “My grace shall be enough for you, all your days.

 Löv - ing on - ly those who love you? Where's the cred - it due?
Give your help to all who need, and God will bless it all.
For when you are weak, the pow'r of Christ fills all your ways.”

Refrain

Be com - pas - sion - ate As your Fa - ther is to you:

Chil - dren of our God, this we all must do!

Melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary, Mother of our God (traditional)
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

1. In the town of Naim, a widow lost her only son.
2. Jesus saw and, moved to pity, told her, “Do not cry.”
3. I assure you that the Gospel did not come from men,

Grieving with her, crowds of townsfolk walk and mourn as one.
Then he raised the man and gave him back to her alive!
But from Christ himself, revealing God's good will again!

Refrain

In our midst a Prophet has risen, called by God!

God has visited his people, walked where we have trod!

Life and death do what he bids them: Glory be to God!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 7: 11-16 (vv. 1-2), Galatians 1: 11-19 (v. 3)
Melody: Christijane, proslavl'ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
1. Out the farmer went (so the tale is spent) sowing seed up on the ground. Some fell on the path, where it could not last; it soon died. Some grew in the weed, strangling it indeed, hundred-fold! When we hear the Word, and live what we’ve heard live anew. Life is not our own; by faith we are shown grabbed by birds or trodden down. Jesus told these tales, it’s plain, though to live it bravely tried.

2. Some in shallow soil sprouted from his toil; lacking moisture, some died. Some grew in the weed, strangling it indeed, hundred-fold! When we hear the Word, and live what we’ve heard live anew. Life is not our own; by faith we are shown grabbed by birds or trodden down. Jesus told these tales, it’s plain, though to live it bravely tried.

3. Some of this new seed found rich soil indeed and produced a rich fruit. We are crucified! With Christ, we have died, so that we may have new life. Faith, shown by Jesus, bears fruit, as Christ has told! Christ with us lives! It’s true!

4. We are crucified! With Christ, we have died, so that we may have new life. Faith, shown by Jesus, bears fruit, as Christ has told! Christ with us lives! It’s true!

God’s own Kingdom to explain. Come and lend an ear! Think of what you hear!

Learn the secrets of God’s reign!

Melody: Anhel Božij / When the angel came (traditional)
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

1. Once there was a rich man, who ate well every day,
2. Lazarus, the beggar, all covered up with sores,
3. When they died, the beggar was carried to heaven's joy
4. Abraham, my father, I still have brothers three;
5. Abraham most sadly, said, "If they will not heed,

Dressed in finest linens, who scorned those in his way.
Longed to taste the leavings that fell upon the floor.
While in fiery torment the rich man was employed.
If a dead man came back, they surely then would see!
Moses and the prophets, a risen one they'll scorn indeed."

Refrain

In the cross of Jesus I will gladly glory,

Through the cross I triumph, and peace and grace I see.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 16: 19-31 (vv. 1-6), Galatians 6: 11-18 (refrain)
Melody: Prizri, o Marije / Mary, look upon us (traditional)
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

1. As he walked the land where the pagans lived,  
   Jesus met a man in need;  
   and, indeed, possessed;  
   We pro-claim you "Lord," Son of God adored, stronger than the demons’ jeer!

2. Demons knew his voice, and our souls rejoice  
   As we see his might now shine:  
   in that very hour, devils into herds of swine!  
   We pro-claim you “Lord,” Son of God adored, strong-er than the de-mons’ jeer!

3. When the pigs, unclean, vanished from the scene,  
   Herd-ers ran, spread tidings true;  
   said in panic’s rout, “We shall have no part in you!”  
   We pro-claim you "Lord," Son of God adored, Je-sus, our Re-deem-er dear!

4. Brought with Christ to life-dead to sin’s own strife  
   Those with faith can clearly see:  
   not our works’ reward;  
   We pro-claim you “Lord,” Son of God adored, strong-er than the de-mons’ jeer!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 8: 26-39 (vv. 1-3), Ephesians 2: 4-10 (v. 4)  
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the Angel came (tradtional)  

Note: this hymn is similar to, but different from, the hymn for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, which is based on the same event as related by Saint Matthew.
1. One day a man named Jairus* came and fell at Jesus’ feet. “My daughter’s at the door of death; come
long so mute, Then told why she had touched his cloak, how
life from death;” With Peter, James and John, the Lord came
ha - tred down, And on the cross united us; may
save!” did he entreat. As Jesus went through
healing’s grace took root. The Lord said, “Daughter,
with them to the bed, And there he took her
Christ be e’er a - dored! So strang - ers, a - lie -
crush - ing crowds, a woman touched his hem; The pow’r of
go in peace; your faith has been your cure.” While he still
by the hand; “O little girl, arise!” The Lord re -
ns no more - but ci - ti - zens and saints, all joined to -

God went forth from him and made her whole again.
spoke the message came, “The child now breathes no more.”
stored the girl to life before their won - d’ring eyes.
gatherer by his love, a tem - ple in the Lord!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 8: 41-56 (vv. 1-3), Ephesians 2: 4-10 (v. 4)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)

* Note: Jairus is pronounced "JI-rus", with a long I.
1. A lawyer said to Jesus once, “Teacher true,
2. Then he replied, “What is the law? What’s written there?”
3. To prove a point, the lawyer asked of the Lord,
4. There was a man who, on a trip, once was robbed.
5. Then came along a foreigner, saw his need,
6. Said Jesus, “Who was neighbor then to this one?”

If I seek eternal life, please tell me what to do!”
Then the lawyer answered with these words, so wise and fair:
“Tell me, who is then my neighbor? Who can be ignored?”
Priest and Levite saw him, left him there beside the road.
Gave assistance to the man and was his friend indeed.
“Him who pitied!” Jesus said, Then go, do like-wise, son!”

Refrain

Love the Lord your God! Love with heart and mind and soul!

And love neighbor, too; Make this law your goal!

melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary Mother of our God (traditional)
1. Jesus told this parable: “There once was a rich man.
2. Said the man, “What shall I do? My barns will hold no more.
3. Then the man said to himself, “Relax! Eat well and drink!
4. On that night God said to him, “Oh fool, what can you know?
5. Jesus said, “It works that way when growing rich for self;

Full and plentiful were his harvests, more than was his plan.”
I will build far larger ones and there place all my store.”
I have blessings in reserve for many years, I think!”
When I call you from this life, where will these riches go?”
Heed this, all who hear my words: in God place all your wealth!”

Refrain

Wake, a-wake, O sleeper! and rise now from the dead!

Jesus Christ will give you light, our risen, glorious Head!

Live as children of the Light, and by the Lord be led!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 12: 16-21 (vv. 1-5), Romans 6: 18-23 (refrain)
Melody: Christijane, proslavl'ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

1. On a Sabbath day, Jesus went his way,
2. Seeing her distress, Jesus called and blessed:
3. When the headman saw works against the Law,
4. Christ said in reply, “Hypocrites! your eye

Teaching in the synagogue, There a woman, bent,
“From your illness you are freed!” Standing straight again
He rebuked the crowd and said: “Work has six days blest;
Cannot see the justice here: Ox and ass you’ll feed;

Eighteen years had spent, meeting Christ in evil’s fog.
in the sight of men, she rejoiced in God indeed!
Sabbath is for rest! Come those days for cures instead!”
one who should be freed is deserving more, I fear!”

Refrain

Take the truth as belt for you; Justice as your breast-plate true;

Faith, as mighty shield, won’t to evil yield; Gospel’s zeal as sturdy shoe!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 13:10-17 (vv. 1-4), Ephesians 6:10-17 (refrain)
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the angel came (traditional)
1. Once there was a banquet prepared for many guests.
2. Some said, "I have purchased some land I now must see."
3. Hearing this, the master grew angry at the slight.
4. Once this was accomplished, there still was table space.
5. Jesus is the image of God who is unseen.

When the meal was ready, the host his wish expressed:
Others said, "New oxen keep me from being free."
"Go and find the crippled, the poor and blind this night!"
"Go into the high-ways, and fill up ev'ry place!"
First-born of all creatures, the first-born of the dead!

Come, for all is ready! Come and take your places!

All who've been invited, Come feast with me today!

Melody: Prizri, o Marije / Mary, look upon us (traditional)
Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1. As Jesus neared a village, there ten lepers raised a cry:
   “O Master Jesus, pity us! Hear us who sob and sigh!”
   He saw them and then in reply he said, “Go on your way, and show yourselves unto the priests, that they may have their say.”

2. As they began to leave the place, they knew that they were free;
   He threw himself at Jesus’ feet, with thankful glee.
   He threw himself at Jesus’ feet, with thankful glee.
   He threw himself at Jesus’ feet, with thankful glee.

3. Of ten men cured of leprosy, the only one who came
   Was a despised Samaritan, to praise God’s holy Name.
   Christ said, “Stand up and go your way! Your faith has made you whole.”
   The man stood up and went a long, with praise in heart and soul.

4. When Christ our life appears, with him in glory you shall be;
   So put to death the things of earth, from sin and fault be free.
   The old self has been put aside; the new man is put on, who grows in knowledge and in truth, for Christ is all in all.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 17: 12-19 (vv. 1-3), Colossians 3: 4-11 (v. 4)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
1. A lawyer said to Jesus once, “Teacher true,
2. Then Jesus said, “Why call me ‘good?’ That’s God alone!
3. The man replied, “I’ve done those things every day.”
4. On hearing this, the man grew sad, went away;
5. Since you are God’s own chosen ones, deeply loved,

If I seek eternal life, please tell me what to do!”
You know all of God’s commands, those carved into the stone!”
So that he might grow, the Savior bid him live this way:
Jesus said, “How hard it is for rich folk to obey!”
Clothe yourself in mercy, kindness, patience from above!

Refrain

“One thing more there is: Sell, and give the poor your all.

Give heav’n all your store; Come and hear my call.”

Melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary Mother of our God (traditional)
Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost

1. Down the road to Jericho, a begging blind man sat.
2. Hearing this, the man cried out with loud and fervent plea.
3. Jesus stopped and asked the blind man what his wish would be.
4. Jesus said, “Receive your sight!” and then the man could see.
5. To the King, the only God, unseen and deathless Lord

Hearing crowds, he turned and asked the people, “What is that?”
Though the crowd soon tried to shush, he cried insistently:
Came the answer from a true heart: “Lord, I want to see!”
He began to follow Jesus, for this gift so free!
We give glory and due honor! May he be adored!

Refrain

“Jesus, Son of David, have pity now on me!
Stop and give me back my vision; save me, set me free!
You have come to save the sinner; I the first must be!”

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 18: 35-43 (vv. 1-4), 1 Timothy 1: 15-17 (v. 5)
Melody: Christijane, proslav{l}ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
1. When traveling through Jericho, the crowd knew Jesus’ name,
2. Zacchaeus hurried down and bid the Master come and dine.
3. The Lord proved: “This day salvation comes within these walls!
4. All of our hopes are fixed on God, the savior of all men,

And spoke of him and gathered there, drawn by the Teacher’s fame.
The crowd, repulsed, said: “Look, he treats a sinner like he’s fine!”
This day, a son of Abraham has heard his father’s calls!
Especially those who believe, that we may live again!

Zacchaeus, short of stature, climbed a tree that he might see:
Zacchaeus stood his ground and said, “My Lord, I swear this day:
The Son of Man has come to earth to search out and to save
To each believer, show yourself in purity and love

When Jesus passed, he looked and called, “Come down from there to me.”
Half of my goods I give as alms, and all my fraud repay.”
All of the lost. Give thanks to God who loves both rich and slave!”
And faith as an example sent for all from God above.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Luke 19: 1-10 (vv. 1-3), 1 Timothy 4: 9-16 (v. 4)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
The Indiction, or Beginning of the Church Year

SEPTEMBER 1

1. In wisdom you have fashioned all things,
2. O Lord, the Maker of the cosmos,
3. In faith your people bow before you,

O Father’s Word before there was time;
Seasons and times are in your hand;
For with compassion you are complete!

Creation’s order you have established,
Preserve our country in Your goodness,
Crown this new year with goodness and mercy!

Source of all things, and God sublime:
Keep us in peace by Your strong hand.
We come before your mercy seat.

O Christ, now bless the year’s beginning,
For you are good, the Lover of us all.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kol’slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
Nativity of the Theotokos

SEPTEMBER 8

1. With the choirs of saints and angels, let the church be joined as one,
2. On this solemn, joyful feast day let us sing a song of praise,
3. Glory now to God the Father, who has made us for his own;

Bind ing earth to highest heaven, praising Jesus, Mary's Son,
Thanking God for Mary's witness faithful kept through all her days.
Glory now to Christ our Savior, who has raised us to his throne;

Son of God - the Father's glory who took flesh that we might be
From her birth to blessed Anna, Mary listened to God's Word,
Glory now to God the Spirit, who renews us in His grace:

Reconciled, reborn, forgiven, from the pow'r of sin set free.
And (when summoned by the angel) lived in faith what she had heard.
Laud and honor, never ceasing, be to God from all our race!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Mother of God (JMT)
1. God loved the world so much, he gave his own Son,
2. As Moses raised the serpent up, shown on high,
3. The Christ was not sent to the world to condemn,

That eternal life might be his gift to everyone.
So the Son is lifted high that we may never die.
But that all, believing him, might find their life in him.

Refrain

Boast of nothing less than the Cross of Christ our Lord!

In it, we are blessed; life is our reward!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 3:13-17
Melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary, Mother of our God (traditional)
Exaltation of the Holy Cross

1. Life-giving Cross, the power of martyrs,
2. In all the Scriptures, you were prefigured:
3. Angels surround you as you are lifted;
4. Come, all you peoples, bow down in worship

Glo-ry of priests, and weapon of peace!
Moses outstretched his arms in the fight;
You lift the poor and sin-bound from earth.
Here where our sentence has been crossed out!

We bow before you, and praise your vic-t’ry!
Jacob in blessing crossed hands o'er offspring;
Conquer ing death, you raised our first parent
Evil defeated! Joy reigns for- ever!

Our thankful singing never shall cease!
Showing to us your pow-er and might!
From Hades' chains to glo-rious re-birth!
Let all Christ’s Church in tri-umph now shout!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (from Grekokatolicki Duchovňi Pisňi, 1969)
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Mark 8: 34 - 9:1 (vv. 1-2) and Galatians 2: 16-20 (v. 3)
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
The passing of the holy apostle and evangelist John

SEPTEMBER 26

1. O come you now; with praises crown Saint John, loved by the Lord, whose Gospel thunders loudly: “In Beginning was the Word!”

2. Saint John, the lyre of heaven, sang of Christ, our God and Lord, who came to give abundant life; great praise let us afford!

3. Of Mary, faithful guardians, good pastor to his flock, Saint John inspires us each to cling to Christ, the mighty Rock.

4. In days of autumn beauty, let our hymns of glory rise; with John and heaven’s armies, we on earth now fill the skies:

From leaning on the Master’s breast came wisdom so profound;
His letters preach our duty, God and neighbor both to love;
O Loving God, both One and Three, proclaimed in words of flame, To God and Father, glory be! To Jesus, Lord and King;

His writings of the God-Man spread this truth the world a-round.
With in this teaching, let us aim from earth to heav’n above.
Let us be faithful as he taught, in praise of your great Name!
To Spirit, who inspires us all: God’s glory let us sing!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Our venerable father Chariton the Confessor

1. By temperance and constant pray’r you wore the-passions down,
   And with your tears of penitence you made the Serpent drown.

2. By toiling in ascetic works, you put out passion’s fire;
   When judged by those who scorned your way, you showed that your desire
   Was to confess the love of Christ incarnate for our sake;

3. You fled to mountain wilderness that, joined to God alone,
   You might become his dwelling-place, your heart, his holy throne.
   Three sketes of monks grew in that place, which witnessed to God’s love
   For his sake you had crucified yourself to former things;

4. God-bearing father Chariton, upon your death, you saw
   Christ Jesus at the gate of heav’n, who gave us his new law.
   So you were decked with gifts by Christ, the Saviour of your soul.
   Thus you became a witness bold that you might Christ’s marks take.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for September 28
Melody: Ellacombe
1. Sure defense of all who sorrow, O pure Mother of our God,
2. Strong protectorress of God's people, Depth of mercy, Font of grace,
3. Awesome beauty, true fulfillment of the things the prophets told,

Read-y help to those in trouble, be for us both staff and prod.
Through your womb has been born for us Christ, the Savior of our race.
Joy of martyrs, pride of virgins, o'er us now your mantle hold!

Mary, full of grace, be joyful! for with you is God, our Lord,

And through you grants his great mercy to the world with grace out-poured.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for October 1
Melody: *Mother of God* (JMT)
The holy apostle Thomas

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. Apostle Thomas touched your side and knew the height of Good;
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
Through lack of faith, he strengthened all, confessing you as Lord.
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried; both natures he professed;
With Thomas and th’apostles’ choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
To far-off coasts of India he preached the message blest.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
The holy apostle James Alpheus

OCTOBER 8

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. Apostle James, commissioned to call every land to Christ,
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
You taught of him, God's well-beloved, who paid our singing's price.
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
You caught the nations in your net of Gospel truth and light,
With James and with th'apostles' choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
Iluminating those who lived in sin's constraint and night.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
1. Come, all you faithful, sing praise with gladness!
2. As in the Law the Sabbath was honored,
3. The Fathers taught that Jesus our Savior
4. Give grace, O God, that in our living

On this glad day our hymns we raise
So in the Seven Councils we see
Was truly God and truly a man;
We live these teachings out every day,

For those who taught the True Faith with boldness,
The teachings blest which counsel and guide us,
The use of icons in our worship
Proclaiming Christ to every person,

For their strong witness all their days.
Preaching the Holy Trinity!
Now shows our faith in God’s great plan.
Showing Your love in every way.

Refrain

O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
As we were taught, so now do we worship you!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday of the Fathers
Melody: Kol’ slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
The holy apostle and evangelist Luke

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. For Luke, the great evangelist, whose Gospel teaches true
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
Of you, th'incarnate, healing Lord, we give you thanks that's due,
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
For his accounts, both of your works and of the Church's youth,
With Luke and with th'apostles' choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
Have formed our faith and led us on to you, the only Truth.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
The holy great-martyr Demetrius

OCTOBER 26

1. De - me - tri - us, Christ's mar - tyr great, you shine like star so bright:
2. Like Christ, a spear once pierced your side, like him, you once were slain,
3. As you in - hab - it heav - en now, so draw us all to you,

Pre - serve us all from e - vil's strength and from the dev - il's might.
And now with Christ, in heav-en's height, en - throned, with him you reign.
That dai - ly liv - ing Christian lives God's grace shall us re - new.

Your wit - ness for the Lord re - calls his Pas - sion for our sake;
Teach us to fol - low Christ our Lord not count - ing price too steep;
Give praise to God the Trin - i - ty: to Fa - ther and to Son

And fills us all with joy, and helps us, too, our cross to take.
Help us to wit - ness, day by day, to all of Love so deep.
And to the Ho - ly Spir - it, Lord, E - ter - nal Three-in - One.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for October 26
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
The holy priest-martyr Theodore Romža, bishop of Mukačevo

OCTOBER 31

1. Christians, come with hymns of gladness; for this day, with joy overflowing, bids us set aside all sadness: God his peace is here bestowing.

2. Theodore, our faithful shepherd, on this day was crowned with glory; having suffered for his Master, Now his people tell his story.

3. Theodore was ever faithful in the face of all temptation to his Church and to his people, Through the fiercest tribulation. That we each your Church will cherish.

4. Give us grace, his zeal to copy; as he strove the faith to nourish, so inspire us by his actions Triune God, in heaven's splendor.

5. In communion with our martyr, we this song of praise now render to you, Father, Son, and Spirit,

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Christijane prib’ihajte / Christians, join in our procession (traditional)
Arch-an-gel Mi-chael, Prince of all an-gels, Lead-er, de-fend-er
of the heav'n-ly hosts. You are re-nowned for your might-y
pow-er, Ev-er swift to o-bey the Lor'd com-mands.
You cast out Sa-tan with his e-vil spir-its, be our pro-tec-tor a-
gainst his wick-ed ways. Arch-an-gel Mi-chael, glo-ri-ous lead-er,
Guide us to serve the will of the Lord.

Text and melody: Professor John Kahanick
The priest martyr Josaphat, archbishop of Polotsk

1. God, of all your martyrs, crown, hear the hymn we raise in glad-ness, prais-ing good Saint Jos - a - phat, Who (in midst of earth-ly sad-ness) fol-lowed Christ, the Way, the Life, brav-ing trou-ble, scorn, and strife.

2. Jos - a - phat, a preach-er bold, was a bish-op strong and fear-less; in his love for all his flock And his ar-dor, he was peer-less; “that in Christ we one may be” was his earn - est, heart - felt plea. te - rious grace, took in heav'n a mar - tyr's place. joined in song, ech - o - ing the ag - es long!

3. Strong de-fend - er of his Church, Lov-er of the East - ern teach-ing, faith-ful priest and lead-er true Which your Church in glo - ry rais-es; with our Pa - tron

4. God the Fa-ther, God the Son, God the Spir-it, take our prais-s with our hymns on this glad day Text: J. Michael Thompson

Melody: Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich / Holy God, we praise thy name (Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774)
Our holy father John Chrysostom,
Archbishop of Constantinople

1. For Chrys-ostom, the gold-en-tongued, we give you praise, O Lord;
2. His gift of preach-ing caused the Word to be a liv-ing thing,
3. O Fa-ther, Son, and Spir-it blest, O God-head, one-in-three,

Through min-is-try of spok-en word he made your Name ad-ored.
And through his awe-some gift of words he bade his peo-ple sing.
May songs of praise be now ad-dressed from those your grace set free.

As bish-op, John has fed your flock, not flee-ing as hired hand;
He loved the poor and need-y, Lord; he pas-tored well your sheep;
With ho-ly fa-ther Chrys-os-tom and saints’ and an-gels’ throng,

And through de-ri-sion, ex-ile, loss, come at your side to stand.
Though ex-iled for his ob-stin-ance, your Church he safe did keep.
We set a-side all earth-ly cares to praise in mys-tic song.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
The holy apostle Philip

NOVEMBER 14

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and high-est praise
2. A - pos - tle Phil - ip heard with joy your sum- mons, “Fol - low me!”
3. O Fa - ther, source of ev - ’ry good, O ris - en, glo - rious Son,

That your a - pos - tles, leav - ing all, were faith - ful all their days,
And to Na - than - iel, cu - ri - ous, he told him, “Come and see!”
O Spir - it, Giv - er of new life, O bless - ed Three - in - One:

Pro - claim - ing Gos - pel truth and love to far -thest ends of earth,
When Greeks said, “We would see the Lord!” he worked at their be - hest;
With Phi - lip and th’a - pos - tles’ choir, we bless your ho - ly name;

All preach - ing you, Lord Christ, and lead - ing all to your new birth.
In far - off E - thi - o - pi - a, he preached the mes - sage blest.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Hymn for the Christmas Fast (Saint Philip's Fast)

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Isaiah 30:19-26 and Isaiah 61:1-3
Melody: Prizri, o Marije / Mary, look upon us (traditional)

NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 24

1. Truly, Zion's people, now you shall weep no more.
2. No more shall your Teacher hide himself from your face,
3. Earth, with fruits abundant, shall blossom forth for you.

God will hear your crying, and open heaven's door.
But your eyes shall see him! Cast idols from this place!
God will bind your wounds up; his word of life is true!

Refrain

Liberty for captives, good news for the outcast,

Comfort for the mourner, redemption at the last!
The ancient prophecies foretold

1. The ancient prophecies foretold the coming of the birth
2. The holy Virgin Mary now fulfills the will of God,
3. O star of Bethlehem, you shine with brilliance in the sky,
4. The lowly town of Bethlehem, among Judean hills,
5. The angels now prepare to sing glad tidings of the birth,

1. of God's anointed Savior who brings peace upon the earth.
2. accepting His divine request to bear the Son of God.
3. to lead us all to God's own Son who comes to save mankind.
4. will be exalted wondrously by God's own Gift of Love.
5. proclaiming glory in the heights for God's Son born on earth.

He shall be born unto us, and God will be with us;

and we shall find Him in the cave of Bethlehem.

Sing verses 1-8 beginning on November 15; add one verse each week if desired.

Sing verse 9 and its refrain December 25.
6. To humble shepherds with their flocks, this news they will announce:
7. O Magi from the East, you bring gold, frankincense and myrrh,
8. O Joseph, you protect and watch the infant Son of God,
9. Emmanu-el, Christ God the Lord, is born for us this day.

6. The Savior's born in Bethlehem, in swaddling clothes he's found.
7. and searching for the newborn King these gifts you will confer.
8. in consternation pondering the mysteries of His Word.
9. We come now to adore our King, this good news we all say:

1-8. He shall be born unto us, and God will be with us;
9. He has been born unto us, and God is now with us;

and we shall find Him in the cave of Bethlehem.
and we have found Him in the cave of Bethlehem.

Text: Msgr. Russell Duker, alt.
Verse melody: unknown
Refrain melody: Adam Kemner and Christine Lehman, alt.
The holy apostle and evangelist Matthew

NOVEMBER 16

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. Apostle Matthew heard with joy your summons, “Follow me!”
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
And left his tax collector’s job that he Your friend might be.
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
He wrote of You in deathless words that summon and compel;
With Matthew and th’apostles’ choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
And told of judgment just and great that we remember well.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

NOVEMBER 21

1. Come, all you lovers of the feasts: with joy now greet the day.

2. Today the temple of our God receives the perfect Ark.

When Jo-a-chim and An-na came up o'er the moun-tain way.
Prepared a-fore-hand to re-ceive the Law's ful-fill-ment, Christ.

They jour-neyed on to keep a vow made to our God, the Lord;
For this glad feast of En-trance now we sing with prai-ses meet.

They brought their on-ly child to him, best gift they could af-ford.
With Ma-ry, to the Fa-ther, Son, and to the Pa-ra-clete.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for November 21
Melody: Forest Green
Thanksgiving Day

THURSDAY AFTER NOVEMBER 21

1. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
   But it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand;
   He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
   The breezes and the sunshine, the soft, refreshing rain.

2. He only is the Maker of all things near and far;
   He paints the way-side flower, He lights the evening star.
   The winds and waves obey him, by him, the birds are fed;
   Much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.

3. We thank you then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
   The seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food:
   No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
   But that which You desire of us—our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain

For all good gifts around us are sent from heav’n above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all His grace and love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1782; tr. J. M. Cambpell, 1861
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
The holy apostle Andrew, the first called

NOVEMBER 30

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. Apostle Andrew heard John say, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
And went to Christ and, hearing him, forsook the way he’d trod;
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
He told his brother, Simon: “See! Messiah we have found!”
With Andrew and th’apostles’ choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
He preached in Greece, and to a cross, like Jesus, he was bound.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Our venerable father, Sabbas the Sanctified

DECEMBER 5

1. O father of th’angelic life, and fellow of the saints,
2. As you, through discipline, restored the flesh for Spirit’s task,
3. In midst of winter fast and prayer we raise our song of praise

You have your dwelling now with Christ the Goal of your restraint.
So guide us now who look to you, each deadly sin unmask.
To Father, Son, and Spirit, God, who blesses all our days.

O light of temperance, monks’ defense, we honor you each year;
Pray for all monks and nuns this day that they might heed God’s call,
As we prepare for Christmas now, give us the grace to grow

Pray to the Christ who was your Light, that we be saved from fear.
And for the folk who sing your praise, that they give God their all.
In knowledge and in love of you, that we your grace may show!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for December 5
Melody: Ellacombe
Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

1. Crowns of praise now let us bring, making winter gladness;
2. Loyal teacher of the Faith, humble, pious pastor,
3. Glory be to God the Son, who (from heav'n descending)

Nicholas, God's loving saint, bids us leave our sadness!
To the poor and needy, friendly near to Christ, our Master;
Joined both God and human-kind, every blessing sending:

Faithful shepherd of his flock, true and holy Father,
Through your zeal and holy life which we seek to follow,
Glory to the Father give, and the Spirit, raising

Lead our songs to God Most High, as with you we gather.
Help us strive to love the Lord, thus his Name to hailow!
From the Church and Nicholas honor, joy, and praising!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: *Tempus adest floridum / Good king Wenceslas* (13th century carol)
Maternity of Holy Anna

DECEMBER 8 OR 9

1. All Christ's faithful come together joining here in joyful song,
2. See this mystery: all God's people are in this conception blessed;
3. Praise the Father, source of being; praise Christ Jesus, God the Son;

Giving God all thanks and honor that the vessel (planned so long)
For in Mary's sinless body, God's own Son would take His rest.
Praise the Spirit, font of blessing; glory to the Three-in-One!

In the womb of mother Anna now is blessedly conceived,
Saved by Jesus, Mary models how we, too, may keep God's Word;
Joined as one with sinless Mary and the saints and angels' throng,

Sinless kept at her conception through the Father's grace received.
Focused on obedient witness, faithful to the Gospel heard.
Let us raise to God most loving here on earth our joyful song!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Mother of God (JMT)
The Theotokos of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas

1. Come, all you lovers of the feasts: sing wonders done this day;
2. She asked him to convey her words; she asked a church be built
3. Returning to that lonely place, the sad one told his queen,
4. America’s great patroness, O Virgin, Mother kind,

How God displayed His loving care in such a loving way:
Upon the mountain's lofty top, where so much blood was spilled.
“Unless my tilma's filled with flow’rs, he'll scorn what I have
Receive the hymn we raise to you; teach us your Son to find!

To Tepeyac, in Mexico, the Theotokos came,
Responding to these loving words he went into the town
His cloak with flow’rs Mary filled, sent him into that place;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blessed, to God, the Three-in-One,

Appearing to a native son, Juan Diego was his name.
And to the bishop took the tale, received harsh words and frown.
When opened there, the flow’rs spilled out and there was Mary’s face!
Be all our hymns of praise addressed, from souls your grace has won.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Forest Green
1. Let us now praise famous men, tell their stories once again.
2. Those were honored in their age—priest and monarch, prophet, sage—
3. These, the godly ones, we praise, who endured the dark-est days,

Ruling kingdoms in their might, known for valor in men’s sight.
And have left behind a name, which their children e’er can claim.
Covenant-ed, Lord, with you, and whose grace has seen them through.

Those with counsel true and wise, those who saw with prophet’s eyes—
Others, though, have run this race, vanished, leaving not a trace,
All our hymns of praise we bring for their steadfastness, O King!

Those who wrote the psalms we sing; those who taught the sage and king.
As if they had never been, they and children after them.
From their seed, upon this earth, you have taken humble birth.

For their gifts and witness, Lord, we sing praise with one accord.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Ecclesiasticus 44: 1-10, 13-14
Melody: Mendelssohn (“Hark! The herald angels sing”)

DECEMBER 11-17
1. As a star, resplendent, announces the break of day,
   We praise you, O Daniel, who prophesied Messiah’s way.

2. Through the fiery furnace, O youths, you blessed your fathers’ God.
   Heedless of temptation, in purity God’s path you trod.

3. Fortified by fasting, you holy ones were bold and brave,
   Kept safe by you, Lord God, who show yourself as strong to save!

Refrain

As the feast approaches, we are filled with gladness!

Hear your saints, O Master, who join us as we pray.
Sunday before the Nativity
Sunday of the Ancestors

DECEMBER 18-24

1. O come, you lovers of the feasts! With gladness let us raise
2. Believers, let us praise this day the fathers on faith’s trek;
3. For Miriam, Sarah, Rachel fair, for Hannah and for Eve,
4. O Bethlehem, prepare yourself, O Ephraim, rejoice!

For Patriarchs and Prophets blest a hymn of thankful praise!
For Adam, Enoch, Noah and the great Melchizedek!
For all the mothers who conceived and bore those to believe
The gate of Eden’s open wide! Cry out with joy-filled voice:

For Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and his seed
For prophets like Isaiah, for Daniel and the youths
That God would keep his promise, we give you thanks this day;
Our Christ makes haste to come now and brings us back to grace.

Whose covenant with God endured, we give you praise, indeed!
Who, in the face of evil, still proclaimed your holy truths.
So give us grace, in all our deeds, to serve you, as did they!
Prepare your hearts, your homes, your lives! Give Christ the finest place!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday before Nativity
Melody: St. Louis (O little town of Bethlehem)
Sunday after the Nativity
The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed,
David the King, and James the Brother of God

DECEMBER 26-31

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday after Nativity
Melody: Mendelssohn (“Hark! The herald angels sing”)

1. Glory to the Lord of all, born in cave to save us all,
2. For Saint Joseph, right-eous one, guardian of the Virgin’s Son;
3. Hail, O Christ, our Savior-Lord! Every praise let us afford

He, the sole-begotten One, born the Virgin’s only Son!
For King David, bold and strong, singer of the Lord’s new song;
For your coming as a man to fulfill the Father’s plan!

Change-less God a Man is made, saving us, the sore afraid!
For the brother of the Lord, James, the preacher of the Word:
By your birth, you set us free, new-born souls in you to be!

Glory to your birth, O Lord! By your Church be e’er adored!
Thanks and praise your Church shall bring to your throne, O infant King!
Guard us, keep us free from fear; grant us peace, a glad new year!

Hark! the herald angels sing: “Glory to the new-born King!”
The Circumcision of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ
Our holy father Basil the Great, bishop and ecumenical teacher

JANUARY 1

1. In his love for the human race, the Savior came to earth,
   Was circumcised as Moses taught the eighth day after birth.
   The Lord, the Maker of the Law fulfilled the Law’s commands.
   That we, who could not save ourselves, be saved from sin’s demands.

2. For each of us is circumcised and each with Christ has died
   In Baptism, and also rose; and put our sins aside!
   This Child, within His parents’ care, was filled with strength and grace;
   When twelve, his parents and his kin brought him to keep the feast.

3. But when they left, he stayed behind; they went to temple, where,
   With doctors of the Law, he spoke “his Father’s business” there.
   For Mary, Mother of our God, who pondered in her heart
   All things connected with her Son, we all our thanks impart!

4. For Basil, too, who taught your Church, who led your flock with care,
   We give you thanks for all he did, for words and deeds so fair!
   You crown the year with goodness, Lord; now bless the coming year,
   That loving neighbor and our God, we live in grace and fear!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for January 1
Melody: Forest Green
Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Mark 1: 1-8
Melody: Kol’slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
The Theophany of the Lord

1. O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant: O come ye, O come ye to Jordan's shore!
"See: my beloved, my only Son!"

2. See heaven opened, hear the voice like thunder:
You have shown forth your love, O Lord,
Jesus to you be all glory giv'n.

3. In the abundance of your tender mercy,
Here is Christ Jesus, baptized in the waters!
See, like a dove, the Spirit now descending!

To every sinner, giving Light in darkness!
Teach us, the baptized, how much God loves us!

4. Yes, Lord, we greet you, baptized on this morning:
O come, let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him!

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Adeste fideles / O come, all ye faithful
God him-self is man-i-fest, by his love we all are blest!
To the Jordan, Christ our God comes and shat-ters Satan’s rod.
See the Spirit as a Dove, rend the hea-vens from a-bove!
Glo-ry now to God on high, who in love has now come nigh!

Washed in Jordan’s stream, all are made clean and in
Now by John bap-tized, Hear! our God cries: This is
Christ re-news this day, mold-ing our clay in-to
Washed in Jordan’s stream, all are made clean and in

him en-light-ened!
my be-lov-ed!
 grace-filled ves-sels.
him en-light-ened!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Divnaja novina / Wondrous news (traditional)
1. When John was placed in prison by Herod,
2. The gospel preached by Jesus the Savior
3. For each of us by God has been given

Jesus then left for Galilee,
Stirs still the hearts of those who hear:
Grace in the generous measure of Christ!

For saking Nazareth, he dwelt in
"Repent! the reign of God is coming!
The same Lord Christ whose presence is filling

Capernaum, beside the sea:
God’s love and care for all is clear!

Refrain

“We all those who walked in darkness and shadow

Now by the light of God's own glory see!”

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Matthew 4: 12-17
Melody: Kol’slaven nas / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
Our venerable father Anthony the Great

1. “If you would follow me, give all your wealth away;”
2. With humility of life in Egypt's deserts wild
3. Around him, all unsought, disciples came to find
4. For Anthony this day we give our thanks, and plead

In faithfulness did Anthony claim Christ in poverty.
He fled the world, the flesh, and all that daily him beguiled.
A fellowship with Jesus, Light who gives sight to the blind.
That God, the holy Three-in-One, would find us true in deed.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Franconia
Our venerable father Euthymius the Great

JANUARY 20

1. Come let us join the heav’n-ly host and with them raise a song:
   Our fa-ther, good Eu-thy-mi-us, we praise this whole day long!
   A tea-cher tru-ly or-tho-dox, who taught Christ, God and Man,
   And lived a life of strength and grace within God’s lov-ing plan.

2. His name means “cheer-ful tem-p’ra-ment,” and thus he passed his days,
   In self-less pray’r, as-ce-tic-’ly he lived in Christ’s own ways.
   As fa-ther of a tribe of monks, he shone with God’s own light;
   He cared for both the poor and sick what-e’er their woe or plight.

3. Like Sam-u-el, from mother’s womb, you cleaved to God from birth;
   Like John the Bap-tist, you pro-claimed the Son of God on earth.
   You made your heart a dwel-ling place for Spirit’s grace with-in;
   You spurned the de-vil’s crafts and wiles, and turned a-way from sin.

4. O Fa-ther, Son, and Pa-ra-clete, O Tri-une God of love,
   Join now our song of praise and joy with an-gels’ choirs a-bove.
   We thank you for Eu-thy-mi-us, who fol-lowed on-ly You:
   May we, in all we do or say, be ev’ry bit as true!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for January 20
Melody: Ellacombe
Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople

JANUARY 25

Holy father Gregory, the grave sealed not your voice,
In the chariot of the virtues, you took heav’n-ward flight
Lover of the Tri-une God-head, “son of thunder” true,
Un-like Seraphim with tongs to take the fiery coal,

Which taught of the Lord so sweet-ly that we all re-joice!
From the war-ring of the pas-sions in-to Beau-ty’s light!
(As was John) a the-o-logian, brought forth old and new!
With your hand you touched the Lamb who feeds our very soul!

Refrain

Fa-ther, bi-shop, teach-er, our pray’r and plead-ing hear.

Intercede for us, your chil-dren; through your teach-ing clear,

Help us in our lives as Chris-tians, Fa-ther ev-er dear.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers sticher at Psalm 140 for January 25
Melody: Christijane, proslavl’ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
The Meeting of the Lord with Simeon and Anna

FEBRUARY 2

Zi - on, see your Sav - ior come, now of old and new the sum;
See the old man; hear him cry: “Now, Lord, let Your ser - vant die!
Lord, we too shall bear your light in a world so filled with night;
Not as mon - arch, grand and great, not with king - ly pomp and state:
Your sal - va - tion you have shown, Light for ev ’ry na - tion known!”
Saved by you, our in - fant Lord, now we sing with one ac - cord:
But as child of pov - er - ty, in His mo - ther’s arms is He:
An - na, too, takes up the song, prais - ing God both loud and long,
Fa - ther, who has sent your Son, Son, who has the vic ’try won,
Law ful - filled, His ran - som paid, now in Sim - eon’s arms is laid.
Thank - ing God for faith - ful Word, tell - ing what they’d seen and heard.
Spi - rit blest, the source of grace, bring us all to see your face!
Jes - us, light! Your praise we sing, Isr - ael’s Lord and Gen - tiles’ King!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Mendelssohn (“Hark! The herald angels sing”)
The holy apostle and evangelist Mark

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. For good Saint Mark, evangelist, we raise our voices high,
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
Who preached the Gospel of the suff'ring Christ who came to die
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
And then to rise again to life, thus freeing us from death.
With Mark and with 'apostles' choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
As bishop, Mark proclaimed the truth until his final breath.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
The holy apostle James, brother of John the Theologian

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. For James the Great, the thunder’s son, the brother of St. John,
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
Who left his father’s boats and nets that he might struggle on
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
With all the Twelve to follow you, we give you thanks and praise!
With James and with the apostles’ choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
As on the Mount he saw your light, so lead us, all our days.
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Our venerable father Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves

1. From earl - iest youth you heard the call of the Lord,
2. You sought the coun - sel of the wise An - tho - ny,
3. Your meek - ness and as - ce - tic life awed your peers,
4. So teach us, too, to seek Christ’s will in our life,

Leav - ing home and fa - mi - ly to serve with one ac - cord.
Turn - ng from all earth - ly cares to live life full and free.
Call - ing them to leave the world and cast a - side all fears.
Bid - ing faithf - ul to his Word de - spite all stress and strife.

Refrain

The - o - do - si - us, fa - ther of mo - nas - tic ways,

Pray to Christ that we serve him all our days.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: O Marije Mati Boža / O Mary, Mother of our God (traditional)
The holy apostle and evangelist John the Theologian

1. O come you now; with praises crown Saint John, loved by the Lord,
2. Saint John, the lyre of heaven, sang of Christ, our God and Lord,
3. Of Mary, faithful guardian, good pastor to his flock,
4. In days of Paschal beauty, let our hymns of glory rise;

Whose Gospel thunders loudly: “In beginning was the Word!”
Who came to give abundant life; great praise let us afford!
Saint John inspires us each to cling to Christ, the mighty Rock.
With John and heaven’s armies, we on earth now fill the skies:

From leaning on the Master’s breast came wisdom so profound;
His letters preach the duty, God and neighbor both to love;
O Loving God, both One and Three, proclaimed in words of flame,
To God and Father, glory be! To Jesus, Lord and King;

His writings of the God-Man spread this truth the world a-round.
With in this teaching, let us aim from earth to heav’n a-above.
Let us be faithful as he taught, in praise of your great Name!
To Spirit, who inspires us all: God’s glory let us sing!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Translation of the relics of Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra, to Bari in Italy

1. Crowns of praise now let us bring, making Paschal gladness;
2. Loyal teacher of the Faith, humble, pious pastor,
3. Glory be to God the Son, who (from heav’n descending)

Nicholas, God’s loving saint, bids us leave our sadness!
To the poor and needy, friendly near to Christ, our Master;
Joined both God and human-kind, every blessing sending:

Faithful shepherd of his flock, true and holy Father,
Through your zeal and holy life which we seek to follow,
Glory to the Father give, and the Spirit, raising

Lead our songs to God Most High, as with you we gather.
Help us strive to love the Lord, thus his Name to hailow!
From the Church and Nicholas honor, joy, and praising!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Tempus adest floridum/ Good king Wenceslas (13th century carol)
The holy apostle Simon the Zealot

1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
   That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
   Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
   All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.

2. For Simon, called the Canaanite, the Zealot, praises be!
   You called him, and he followed you, that he might truly see
   The wondrous works of Israel’s God, the triumph of your love;
   May all your Church, led on by him, seek truth that’s from above.

3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,
   O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:
   With Simon and th’apostles’ choir, we bless your holy name;
   Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
Our holy fathers Cyril and Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs

TEXT: J. Michael Thompson
TUNE: Kol’ slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)

MAY 11

1. Our Church, in joyful chorus, now raises
2. Two brothers, called from home and comfort,
3. Through strife and conflict, their work was ceaseless,
4. May we, their sons and daughters, e’er cherish

from hearts and minds overflowing with love
brought Gospel joy to peoples untold.
teaching the Slavs in words all their own
strong in their faith, the Church of their dream,

our hymns of thanks, full-throated with praises,
Through Word and Sacrament, they taught of
that, growing daily in love and witness,

for our Apostles, guarding from above!
Christ, whose dear Blood their ransom had
made, with Christ’s grace, their corner stone.

For Cyril and Methodius, Lord,

Your Church on earth will e’v’ry praise afford!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Tune: Kol’ slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
1. O Lord, to you we raise a hymn of thanks and highest praise
2. For Jude (your cousin), now we raise our voice in happy praise!
3. O Father, source of every good, O risen, glorious Son,

That your apostles, leaving all, were faithful all their days,
One of the Twelve, he followed you and preached you all his days.
O Spirit, Giver of new life, O blessed Three-in-One:

Proclaiming Gospel truth and love to farthest ends of earth,
At supper, he inquired of you, and you in turn replied:
With Jude and with th’apostles’ choir, we bless your holy name;

All preaching you, Lord Christ, and leading all to your new birth.
“Whoever loves Me, keeps my word; with him will God abide.”
Grant us your grace, that in our lives we serve you just the same.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Kingsfold
The Nativity of the holy prophet John the Forerunner

JUNE 24

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for June 24
Melody: Forest Green

1. The God-named Voice, lamp of the Light, who told the Master’s way,
2. Since Zachary received with doubt the promise from on high,
3. To God, the blessed Trinity to Father and to Son

O John the Baptist, prophet great, your birth we hymn today.
Nine months was he completely mute, till your birth bid him cry:
And Holy Spirit, Paraclete, our God, the Three-in-One:

To Zachary the priest was brought the message of your birth,
“Blest be the God of Israel who comes to set us free;
For holy John’s nativity all glory be addressed

Send from on high as joyful news by Gabriel, come to earth.
And blest are you, O child of mine; Christ’s prophet you will be.”
Now from the Church both gathered here and from the saints at rest!
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

JUNE 27

1. God of endless love and mercy, never ceasing aid in need,

2. As she stood on Cal’ry’s hillside, Mary faithful there did bide,

3. Holy Father, source of blessing, holy Son, who came to save,

Hear the prayers of all your people, joined with Mary, we now plead:
Lost in pain and great devotion while her Son for man-kind died.
Holy Spirit, font of graces: grant us what the spirits crave—

Through our Mother’s intercession, bring us all to know your Son;
Faithful witness to his rising, there in joy at his right hand,
That, with Mary, bles-sed mo-ther, and the saints’ and angels’ throng,

As she models faithful service, keep us in your Spirit one!
She as mo-ther joins in ceaseless pray’r in heaven’s grace-filled land.
We be part of endless praising when in heav’n we raise our song!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Mother of God (JMT)
The holy apostles Peter and Paul

JUNE 29

1. Let us with crowns of praises crown Saint Peter and Saint Paul
2. Let us, now joined in glad-some hymns, praise their apostolate, with endless glory let us now praise Father and the Son
3. With endless glory let us now praise Father and the Son

Saint Peter, Gospel witness chief, Saint Paul, with work now ceased
Saint Peter, who for love of Christ took death upon the cross,
From mouths of Peter and of Paul, from choirs of saints ascend

Both stand, arrayed in white, before the throne of
And headsman's cruel sword-stroke brought for Paul his
Our hymns of glory and of praise sung now and

Christ, our Priest.
gain, not loss.
without end.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for June 29
Melody: Kingsfold
Sunday of the Fathers at the Six Ecumenical Councils

1. O Word of God and Lover of Man-kind,
   You took our flesh and came to earth;
   You taught that You are one person—
   Both endless God and human in birth.

2. O glorious Fathers of the Councils,
   You fought with vigor all the lies
   Taught that the Lord had two perfect wills,
   You told the truth that never dies!

3. Inspired by God, the Fathers in council
   One only God, in nature divine,
   One is divine and one is human—
   By this, the Christ God’s plan fills!

4. O blessed Trinity of persons,
   The Fathers taught that You are one person—
   We praise you for the Fathers who teach us
   The truth that’s older than all time!

O Christ, true God and man in one!
We sing this truth, as ages long have done!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday of the Council Fathers
Melody: Kol’ slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)

JULY 13-19

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday of the Council Fathers
Melody: Kol’ slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
Our holy father and confessor Paul Gojdič, Bishop of Prešov

JULY 17

1. Come, all you lovers of the feasts, with joy now gather round.
2. Born to a priestly family he heard Christ’s loving call.
3. Then, armed with bishop’s staff, he sought to feed his Prešov flock.
4. Through war and foes who sought to kill the Church within his care,
5. He gave his life for Jesus’ sake for unity and truth,

To praise this glorious man of God and fill this place with sound!
Which bade him come and follow him as priest, to give his all.
With truth of Jesus, God-made man, to tend the wounded stalk
To cut it loose from Peter’s throne, he taught most brave there
As he had done with faithfulness e’en from his earliest youth.

For on this day we celebrate the bishop-martyr brave,
Then, after that, he sought the peace of the Basilian life.
And nourish it with pastor’s care, with mercy and with love.
Which caused him to be prisoner defending Gospel truth
So now to God the Trinity we raise this joyful song:

True shepherd of the Savior’s flock who strove his sheep to save.
His name was changed to Paul, foretelling of the coming strife.
In this, he sought to turn all hearts from earth to heav’n aabove.
And shielding the Greek Catholic Church, the Jews, the poor, the youth.
Bring us, with Blessed Paul, to heav’n with you for ages long!!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
The glorious prophet Elijah

1. Let all Christ’s Church assembled here and gathered in his Name,
   Keep solemn, joyful festival and sing Elijah’s fame.
   Of all the prophets who foretold God’s hidden plan of grace,
   He is the chief—and unto him we give the foremost place.

2. The prophet heard the voice of God—not in the quake or fire—
   But in the coolness of the breeze, God spoke his heart’s desire.
   Once fed by raven in the wilds, he served the Lord in might;
   Preventing rain from falling down; called fire from heaven’s height!

3. By grace, he raised the widow’s son; rebuked the royal wrongs;
   His deeds and words for ages since have been the theme of songs!
   When earthly tasks for him were done, you called him from this life;
   A fiery chariot came for him—releasing him from strife.

4. For all the graces you have giv’n through what he did for you,
   Your Church on earth gives endless praise, and honors, as is due,
   Elijah, prophet of your Name! We praise you ever more,
   O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, the God whom we adore.

Text: J. Michael Thomspon
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
Our holy father and confessor Basil Hopko, Bishop of Medila

1. The Church of God with angel ranks combines to sing the praise
2. A scholar from his early youth, he heard your priestly call,
3. When vicious persecution came, upon him, hands were laid,
4. O Father, lover of us all, O Christ, our Master true,

Of Basil, shepherd of the flock who served Christ all his days!
And from his ordination day, he gave to you his all.
And he was made a bishop then, a leader firm and staid.
O Spirit, holy Paraclete: all praise we sing to you!

With no regard for life or wealth he preached the Word most true;
By pastor-ing and teaching, too, his patient, faithful life
Though seized, imprisoned, sick and worn, he never turned away,
O Tri-une God, O One-in-Three, we give you thanks today:

As he so bravely lived and died, may we thus also do!
Became a shining model for his Church in times of strife.
And through his good example, helped all those who thought to stray.
As blessed Basil followed you, help us to walk his way!

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Ellacombe
The Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

1. O Lord, when you were shown in your glory,
   Tabor became like heaven that day.
   A cloud of dazzling brightness came o'er you;
   Then came the Father's voice, heard to say:
   This is my Son, in whom I rejoice!

2. There with you on the mountain in witness
   Were Peter, James, and John, who came
   To see you there in transfigured splendor,
   Giving them strength to spread your Name.
   Listen to him! Make him your heart's own choice!

3. There, too, came Moses and Elijah,
   Witness es to your coming death,
   Thus testifying, Law and Prophets,
   Of your great love, to your last breath.

4. O Christ, the light, all lights outshining,
   Call us from sin to follow you,
   That we, transfigured by our Baptism,
   May in our lives be ever true.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Kol'slaven naš / So great is God (Dmitri Bortniansky, 1751-1825)
The Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

1. The Master came with his three friends to climb Mount Tabor’s height;
2. As Daniel, seer of old, had seen one like a Son of Man,
3. Let us confirm our call from God with works that show his light,

There he was changed, transfigured with God’s uncreated Light.
On whom were kingship, sov’renity, and place at God’s right hand,
Transfigured from our former selves by his most awesome might!

“This is my Son,” the Father said, “In him is my delight!
So too, said Peter, we have seen his glory, come from God,
Bring us, O Lord, to hear your Son, that, walking in his ways,

So give him ear that all your ways may be within my light!”
Revealed to us, who with him lived and walked in ways untrod.
We, as your daughters and your sons, may praise you all our days.

Text: JMT, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
Dormition of the Theotokos

AUGUST 15

1. Death defeated! Love is reigning o’er the pow’rs of sin and hell!
2. As the Ark was brought in triumph to the place which David planned,
3. Praise to Father, Source of blessing; praise to Christ, true Light from Light;

Let the songs of all the faithful with the hymns of angels swell.
So has Mary, Tabernacle, come at Christ’s right hand to stand.
Praise to Spirit, life’s own Giver: God of love and God of might!

Mary, Theotokos blessed, now with Christ in triumph reigns.
Immorality has clothed her who, as mortal, had to die;
As Our Lady has been granted life abundant at your side,

She in heaven, both soul and body, has escaped corruption’s chains.
Now the Church, God’s faithful people, sing this endless hymn on high:
Lead us on in faithful service till we all in heaven bide.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings of the feast
Melody: Mother of God (JMT)
The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

AUGUST 29

1. To-day in your fore-runner's praise your Church will raise its voice;
   And once again we tell the tale of awesome, loving choice:
   How John the Baptist, speaking truth, to Herod gave offense;
   And thus was shut in prison cell without a sure defense.

2. While in the midst of natal feast, King Herod— at the sight
   Of dancing, scheming Salome— gave promise to delight.
   And she, in answer to his oath, spurred on by mother's spite,
   Asked for the severed head of John as boon that fearful night.

3. Caught 'twixt two evils, Herod chose to keep his craven vow;
   He had the Baptist murdered then; and John, though voiceless now,
   Still calls us each to penance from his place in heaven's rest,
   Where he sings songs of glory to the Trinity most blest.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers texts for August 29
Melody: Forest Green
Hymn for Mondays

1. Re-joice with us, you angel ranks! Your leaders intercede
2. You make your angels messengers, and wondrous flames of fire;
3. The Leaders of the heav’n-ly hosts, the Powers from on high,

And join us in the temple now. Oh, hear us as we plead:
With Michael and with Gabriel as captains of this choir.
Shout joyful-ly this hymn of praise; we join now in the cry:

“Pro-ect us, an-gels; guard us ‘neath the shad-ow of your wings,
At your com-mand, O Lord of hosts, they trav-el to earth’s end
All ho-ly are you, Fa-ther great! All ho-ly are you, Son!

O Cap-tains of the heav’n-ly hosts,” the Church in con-cert sings.
Your ev-’ry wish to car-ry out, your peo-ple to be-friend.
All ho-ly are you, Par-a-clete!— in God-head, ev-er one!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera at Psalm 140 from the common of the holy angels
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage
Hymn for Tuesdays

1. O blessed John, the Master’s friend, the Forerunner of Christ,
2. You spring from parents’ barren loins, the Master’s garden chaste,
3. First came the lamp, and then the Light; first voice, and then the Word.

At Jordan’s stream, you touched the head beyond all nature’s price.
The Baptist of the Christ, our Lord, and glory of our race.
The Bride-groom’s friend, and then the Groom; his endless cry is heard:

By your sincere and constant pray’r, raise my soul to the Lord,
We praise you, great Forerunner John, O guardian of our life:
Repent, O people, change your ways, the Bride-groom will appear!

Put out the flames of passion’s fire that Christ be e’er adored.
Repel the Serpent’s fierce attacks defend us in all strife.
Cast sin aside, and safely bide, seek Christ in faith and fear!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera at Psalm 140 from the common of the Forerunner
Melody: Forest Green
Hymn for Wednesdays

1. Christ our Savior, save me by the power of the cross,
   As you saved th’apostle Peter, doubting and storm-tossed.
   As we come to mid-week, your cross we gladly see;
   Hear your Mother’s interceding that we faithful be!

2. Since your martyrs in their witness sought not joys of earth,
   You have deigned them worthy of your bliss and heaven’s mirth.
   Through your cross, for fallen Adam victory you gain.

3. Sorrowing, your Mother stood by, witness to your pain;
   Through your cross, for fallen Adam victory you gain.
   Through your cross, for fallen Adam victory you gain.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers aposticha of Tuesday evening in Tone 2
Melody: Palomniki Uniontowns'ki / Come to Uniontown (traditional)
Hymn for Thursdays

1. You have magnified, O Savior, through the world th’Apostles’ name.
2. Your apostles healed the suf’ring, cured the sick and those in need.
3. In the footsteps of th’Apostles, good Saint Nicholas served the Lord,

Having learned the things of heaven, they spread far their Master’s fame.
They proclaimed to all the nations Christ: both God and man indeed
In his works the faithful bishop in the poor did Christ adore.

For their sakes, Lord, grant grace; Let us all see your face;

For their sakes, Lord, grant us grace.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers aposticha of Wednesday evening in Tone 2
Melody: Veselisja vo čistot’i / Rejoice, O purest Mother (traditional)
Hymn for Fridays

1. When you were crucified, O our Savior,
2. Lover of mankind, when you were lifted
3. Lord of Creation, lifted for our sake,

From that dread sight, the sun veiled its face;
Up on the cross, cruel death to destroy,
Pierced by a lance and nailed to a Tree:

Earth quaked in fear, when seeing its Maker
Loosed then the fearsome sentence of Adam!
Your crucifixion we praise, O Savior!

Nailed to the cross for our lawless race.
Fit us, your people, for heaven’s joy!
Through this, Your death, Your people are free!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers aposticha of Thursday evening in Tone 2
Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (Grekokatolicki Duchovnosti Pisni, 1969)
1. O Savior, Jesus, Lord of all, save us from sinful ways
2. We beg you, prophets of our God, apostles of the Word:
3. O men and women, virgins strong, who gave all to the Lord,
4. To God the Father who creates, to Christ, His only Son,

And through your Virgin Mother’s pray’rs may we now sing your praise.
O pray that we may hear that Voice and by it be restored.
Now help us to surrender all to meet our Bride-groom-Lord!
To Spirit, blessed Paraclete, eternal Three-in-One,

We call on you, O sov’reign Pow’rs, the armies of the Light:
O pray, you martyrs of the Lord, whose blood proclaimed God’s Son,
May all the pow’rs of night be crushed that we at last be free
From all the Church that’s here below, from choirs of saints above,

From present, past, and future sins protect us all this night.
O pray, all you that spread His Word and lived to see it come!
To leap with joy and praise our God whose Son died on the Tree.
We sing to you with hearts a-flame in answer to Your love.

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers hymns of Friday evening
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
Saturdays of the Departed (All Souls Saturdays)

1. With your most holy Blood You redeemed us,
   Purchased our life from Death by Your death!
   Give rest, O Savior, to all the faithful
   Whom you have made, to whom you gave breath.

2. Your Resurrection, Jesus, has conquered
   Death’s pow’r for all who’ve fallen asleep.
   Thus, we beseech you, rest all the faithful;
   In light and peace, their souls may you keep.

3. Weeping, lamenting, when we consider
   Our final end: a grave in the earth!
   Help us to know and live out our Baptism,
   Death to the flesh and glorious rebirth!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the stichera and readings for the departed
Melody: Krestu Tvojemu / At the most holy cross (from Grekokatolicki Duchovňi Pisňi, 1969)
Hymn for Evening

As we come to day’s end, the evening light we see.

Stay with us, O blessed Jesus! Hear your Church’s plea.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Christijane, proslavl’ajme / All the faithful come before you (traditional)
Hymn for Peace

1. The Spirit of the Lord Most High will be poured out on us. Dismiss all fearful, anxious thoughts and drive them from your ranks; Once “eye for eye” and “tooth for tooth” were measures we could keep;

Then will the desert come to bloom and orchards come from dust. Instead, present your needs to God with pray’r that’s full of thanks. But Christ commands, “Give love to all,” a mystery so deep!

With in the desert, right will dwell and justice there abide; Then God’s own peace, in Jesus Christ, will fill your heart and mind; Thus, proving to the world that we are Father’s children true,

From right will come security, and peace, from justice’s side. Then honest, decent, worthy things will be the gifts you’ll find. We seek to live as Christ has taught; thus taught, so may we do!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on Isaiah 32: 15-20; Phil. 4:6-9; Matt. 5:38-48
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)
Hymn for Monastic Profession

1. Take the helmet of salvation, take the Spirit’s sword,
   Round your waist now bind forever truth that ne’er shall cease;
   Daily take your cross up gladly! Follow in my way!

2. Take faith’s shield which wards off evil; take God’s holy Word!
   For your shoes, the grace to spread the Gospel of Christ’s peace.
   Turn from all your earthly bonding, each and every day.

Refrain

Come to me, you weary; my yoke now gladly take!

Gentle, humble you will find me, as your vow you make.

Text: J. Michael Thompson
Melody: Palomniki Uniontowns'ki / Come to Uniontown (traditional)
Hymn for Presbyteral Ordination

1. That first Paschal night, gathered in their fright, the disciples
2. Now, as Christ commands, his disciple stands, ready to re-
3. Called to preach and bless, aiding in distress, called to offer

saw their Lord. “Peace to you!” he said; “See my hands that bled!”
receive God’s grace—as the Spirit’s pow’r, present at this hour,
sacrifice, bringing to rebirth ev’ry child of earth,

Refrain

They rejoiced with one accord! “As the Father once sent me,
Fills the lacks in ev’ry place.
Called to be “another Christ!”

so I send you forth,” said he. “Take the Spirit’s grace! Go forth from this place,

Bind-ing sins and set-ting free!”

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on John 20: 19-23
Melody: Anhel Božij / When the angel came (traditional)