

**Vesper Propers, September 7, 2025**  
**Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross**  
**Prefestive Day of the Nativity of the Mother of God**

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

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

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 58), stichera 10-7.*

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

**Stichera of the prefeast - Tone 1 samohlasen**

⑥

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

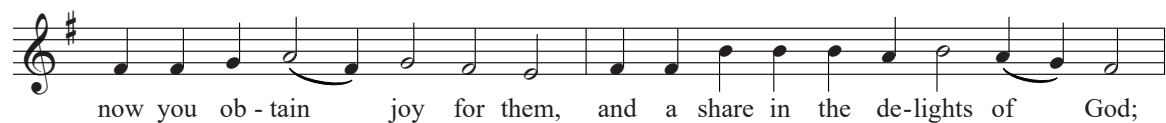
**Cantor:** My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

⑤

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



an - nounc-es to all peo-ple in ad-vance the ben - e - fits of your fa - vor;

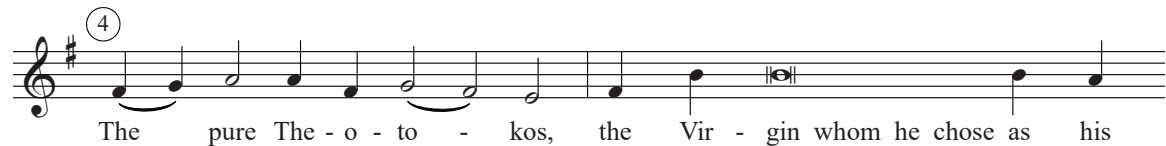


now you ob - tain joy for them, and a share in the de-lights of God;

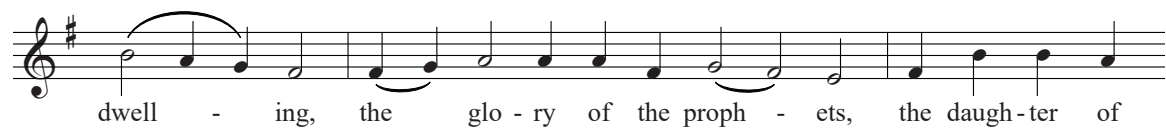


for you, the cause of our joy, have come.

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



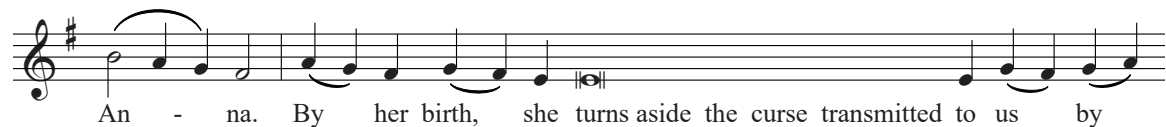
The pure The - o - to - kos, the Vir - gin whom he chose as his



dwell - ing, the glo - ry of the proph - ets, the daugh - ter of



Da - vid, is born in a chaste man - ner to - day from Jo - a - chim and



An - na. By her birth, she turns aside the curse transmitted to us by



A - dam.

be-came God's liv-ing tem-ple and a-lone is recognized in truth to be his spot-less  
 Mo - ther. By her pray'rs, O Christ our God, send peace to the world  
 and great mer - - cy to our souls.

**Troparia**

*Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, page 68).*

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

**Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4**

To-day is born to us, from the root of Jesse and the loins of Da - vid,  
 Mar - y, the god - ly child. There-fore, all creation re-joi-ces and is re-newed.  
 Heav-en and earth re-joyce to-geth - er. You fam-ilies of na-tions sing her praise.  
 Jo - a - chim is elated and Anna cries out in cel-e-bra - tion: The bar-ren woman  
 gives birth to the The - o - to - kos and the Sus-tain - er of our Life.

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

**Stichera of the martyr Sozon - Tone 4 samohlasen**

Strength-ened in your weak - ness by the power of him who willed to take our  
 weak-ness up - on him-self, you joyfully followed the path of the mar - tyrs.  
 In bear-ing the Good News, your feet crushed the im-po-tent en - e - my,  
 O bless-ed So-zon. Thus a crown of victory was woven for you by Je - sus,  
 the Lov - er of us all and Sav - ior of our souls.

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

By your wounds you wounded the en - e - my and you brought him down  
 to the ground, armed as you were with the Cross. Cov-ered by an unshaka-ble  
 ar - mor, and rapt in love for him who made you pass to the immate-ri - al

king-dom, you were an invinci-ble mar - tyr, like a man already be-long - ing  
to heav - en.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.  
(on 1)

Vic - torious mar-tyr So - - - zon, im - itating the Sav - ior and Lord  
who endured his voluntary Pas-sion for you, you will-ingly handed yourself over to  
tor - ture. but-cher-ing, and unspeak-a - ble tor - ments. As a reward  
he granted you the gifts of heav - en and made you a fountain  
of heal - ing for those who love you.

**Cantor:** Glory...

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

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

spot-less Vir - gin, all hu - man - ity on earth calls your Nativi-ty bless - ed;  
for you be-came the Mother of the Cre - a - tor of All, Christ our God.  
Im-plore him cease-lessly, we beg, on our be-half. Af - ter God, we place all our  
hope in you, O divine, un-wed-ded Mo-ther, all wor - thy of our praise.

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

*Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 64)*

### Aposticha

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, page 65), concluding with:*

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

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

U - ni-ver-sal joy! the fruit of the just has risen for us from Joa-chim and An-na.  
It is the Vir - gin, all-wor-thy of our hymns, who through her deep pu - ri - ty