

Martyr Sozon / Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos / Sunday before the Exultation of the Holy Cross

At Lord, I Have Cried:

(Following is all the text for pages 29 and the top half of page 31.
You do not need to flip between the sheet and the book)

Stichos: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess
Thy name.

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord / Who hath broken the
might of death / And enlightened the human race; / And let
us cry out with the incorporeal ones: // 'O our Creator and
Saviour, glory be to Thee!'

Stichos: The righteous shall wait patiently for me, until
Thou shalt reward me.

For our sake, O Saviour, Thou didst endure the Cross and
burial./ And as God, Thou didst slay death by death. /
Wherefore, we bow down before Thy rising on the third
day. // O Lord, glory be to Thee!

Stichos: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O
Lord, / O Lord, hear my voice.

Beholding Thy Resurrection, / The Apostles marvelled,
chanting angelic praise. / 'This is the glory of the
Church! / These are riches of the kingdom! // O Lord Who
suffered for our sake, glory be to Thee!'

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Stichos: Let Thine ears be attentive, / to the voice of my supplication.

Thou wast seized by iniquitous men, O Christ, / Yet Thou art my God, and I am not ashamed. / Thou wast beaten on the shoulders, yet I shun Thee not. / Thou wast nailed to the Cross, and I do not conceal it. / I boast in Thine arising; for Thy death is my life. // O Almighty Lord Who lovest mankind, glory be to Thee!

Stichos: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? / For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Noetic beams of universal joy / have shone forth upon the world, / heralding Christ God, the Sun of righteousness, unto all / in thy nativity, O most pure one. / For thou hast been shown to be // the mediatrix of true gladness and grace.

Stichos: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, / My soul hath hoped in the Lord.

This, the glory of thy forefeast, O most pure one, / doth proclaim unto all the people / thy benefactions which transcend description; / for thou art now for us the mediatrix of gladness / and the cause of joy to come, // O Ever-virgin Theotokos.

Stichos: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, / Let Israel hope in the Lord.

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The Maiden who held God within her womb, / the pure
Theotokos, / the glory of the prophets, the daughter of
David / is born today of Joachim and the chaste Anna; /
and the curse of Adam which lay upon us // is annulled by
her nativity.

martyr, Tone 4: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

Stichos: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is
plenteous redemption; / And He shall redeem Israel out of
all his iniquities.

When He Who of His own will / took our weakness upon
Himself, / He strengthened thine infirmity with power, O
blessed one, / for His sake thou didst run the race of
martyrdom, rejoicing, / and with thy most beautiful feet /
didst crush the impotent enemy. / Wherefore, Jesus, the
Lover of mankind, / the Savior of our souls, // hath woven
wreaths of victory for thee.

Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; / Praise Him
all ye peoples.

When thou wast wounded, O glorious one, / thou didst
wound thine enemies / and cast them down to the
ground, / armed with the Cross / and manifestly arrayed in
invincible armor, / made steadfast by the love / of Him
Who hath translated thee to the noetic kingdoms / as an
unvanquished martyr, // and a heavenly man.

Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over
us, / And the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

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Manifestly emulating / the Savior and Lord / Who for thee
underwent voluntary sufferings, / O spiritual athlete
Sozon, / thou didst of thine own will give thyself over / to
wounds and stripes and unbearable torments. / Wherefore,
He hath honored thee with heavenly gifts / and showed
thee forth as a well- spring of healings // for those who
love thee.

Glory ... **Tone 4:**

Tone 4: O Virgin most holy and pure, we, the multitude of
angels in heaven and the race of mankind on earth, bless
thy most honored nativity, in that thou didst become the
Mother of Christ God, the Creator of all. Cease thou never
to entreat Him, we pray, on behalf of us who, after God,
have placed our trust in thee, O all-praised Theotokos who
knewest not wedlock.

Both now ... **Tone 7:**

Dogmatic Theotokion, Tone 7:

Thou hast been known to have become a Mother in
supernatural manner, O Theotokos, / And hast remained a
Virgin in manner past recounting and understanding; / And
no tongue can describe the wonder of thy birthgiving. /
For as thy conceiving is all-glorious, / So is the manner of
thy birthgiving beyond comprehension, / For where God
so willeth, the order of nature is overruled. / Wherefore,
we all, knowing thee to be the Mother of God, do
earnestly entreat thee: // Pray that our souls be saved!

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Aposticha

Aposticha: Octoechos, Tone 7; G/N: Forefeast (Universal joy hath shone forth).

Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Saviour of the world, /
And with Thy flesh didst raise men up.// Glory be to Thee,
O Lord.

Stichos: The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

Come, let us worship Him Who hath risen from the dead
and enlightened all;/ For He hath freed us from the
tyranny of hades, / Who by His Resurrection on the third
day // Hath granted us life and great mercy.

Stichos: For He hath established the world which shall
not be shaken.

Thou didst descend into hades and make death captive, O
Christ; / And having risen on the third day, / Thou didst
raise up with Thyself them that glorified Thine Almighty
arising, // O Lord Who lovest mankind.

Stichos: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto
length of days.

O Christ, Who wast crucified as Thou didst desire, / and
madest death captive by Thy burial,/ Thou didst rise on the
third day as God in glory, / granting the world never-
ending life and great mercy.

Glory ... Both now ... **Tone 4:**

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Tone 4: the composition of Germanus:

Universal joy hath shone forth upon us from the righteous Joachim and Anna, O all-praised Virgin who, in thine exceeding purity, didst become the animate temple of God, and who alone art truly known to be the Theotokos. Through her prayers, O Christ God, grant peace unto the world and great mercy unto our souls.

Troparion & Theotokian of the Day

Resurrectional troparion, tone 7:

Thou didst destroy death by Thy Cross,/ Thou didst open paradise to the thief. / Thou didst change the lamentation of the Myrrh- bearers, / and Thou didst command Thine Apostles to proclaim / that Thou didst arise, O Christ God, / granting the world great mercy..

Glory ...

Troparion of tmartyr, Tone 4:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Sozon O Lord, / received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; / for, possessed of Thy might, / he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Both now ...

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Troparion of the forefeast, Tone 4:

Mary, the divine Maiden, is born unto us today / from the
root of Jesse and the loins of David; / and all things
rejoice and are made new through joy. / Rejoice together,
O heaven and earth! / Praise her, ye lands of the gentiles! /
Joachim maketh glad, and Anna holdeth festival, crying
aloud: // A barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos,
the Nourisher of our Life!