

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021  
HOLY PROPHET ZACHARIAH AND  
RIGHTEOUS ELIZABETH**

**GREAT VESPERS**

***LORD I CALL:*** *Six stikhera of the resurrection in tone 2,  
followed by three stikhera for the Saints)*

***Saints, tone 4:***

You were anointed with chrism and clothed in the sacred robe,  
O glorious Zachariah.  
Like the Angels, O blessed one, you served God,  
mediating between the Creator and His creation.  
You visibly received manifestations of the divine Spirit.  
Therefore we bless you  
and, as we divinely celebrate your holy feast,//  
we glorify the Savior.

You beheld the Virgin's Child,  
Who is co-eternal with the Father,  
and you prophesied plainly to your son, O God-inspired  
Zachariah.  
"You will be a prophet to prepare His ways."  
With him we bless you and celebrate today your holy feast,//  
O God-bearer who are greatly blessed.

You were a living temple of the Divine Spirit,  
and in the midst of the Temple, O glorious one,  
you conversed with God with a pure heart.  
You were unjustly slain,  
completing your course as a martyr, O wondrous one.  
Thus, by your own blood you entered into the heavenly temple,//  
where you intercede for those who honor you.

***GLORY... Saint, tone 8:***

You were rightly clothed with the vestments of the priesthood of  
the Law,  
serving according to the order of Aaron.  
While standing in the Temple, all-blessed one,  
you plainly beheld the form of an Angel.  
Therefore as we sing in honor of your translation, O Zachariah,  
we praise you, for you fathered the glorious John.//  
Intercede for us with the merciful God that we may be saved!  
***NOW AND EVER... The Dogmatikon in tone 2***

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the resurrection in tone 2***

***GLORY... Saint, tone 2:***

Arrayed in priestly vesture,  
as a chaste priest you entered the Holy of Holies.  
You served God without defilement,  
observing the Law like Aaron and leading Israel like Moses.  
You were a revelation of purity, and therefore you were killed.  
But your righteous blood is a source of healing for us  
And, like fragrant myrrh, reveals to us the sweetness of future  
eternal life.  
O thrice-blessed Zachariah, father of John and husband of  
Elizabeth,//  
pray fervently in behalf of our souls!  
***NOW AND EVER... Resurrectional Theotokion in tone 2***

**TROPARIA**

**Resurrection, tone 2**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"  
**Saint, tone 4**  
Robed in the vestments of the priesthood,  
according to the Law of God you offered whole-burnt offerings in  
a sacred manner, wise Zachariah.  
You became a luminary and a seer of the mysteries,

bearing within yourself the signs of grace, all-wise one.  
Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ,  
intercede together with the Forerunner//  
that our souls may be saved!

**Resurrection Dismissal Theotokion, tone 4**

The mystery of all eternity,  
unknown even by Angels,  
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate by union without confusion.  
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,  
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//  
saving our souls from death.

**DIVINE LITURGY**

**TROPARIA**

**Resurrection, tone 2**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

**Saint John of Damascus**

Teacher of Orthodoxy, piety, and purity!  
Enlightener of the universe!  
And divine inspiration to monastics  
by your teachings we are all enlightened,  
and by your spiritual music, O all-wise John of Damascus,  
pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls!

**Saints Zachariah, Tone 4**

Robed in the vestments of the priesthood,  
According to the Law of God you offered whole-burnt offerings in  
sacred manner, wise Zachariah.  
You became a luminary and a seer of the mysteries,  
Bearing within yourself the signs of grace, all-wise one.

Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ,  
Intercede together with the Forerunner  
That our souls may be saved.

**KONTAKIA**

**Resurrection, tone 2**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced  
with You,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

**Saint Elizabeth, Tone 4**

As the full moon brightly reflects the light of the sun,  
You reflected the glory of the Messiah, the Light of wisdom!  
With Zachariah you walked in all of the Lord's commandments,  
Elizabeth beloved by God.  
So as we bless you with fitting songs,  
We praise the Lord, the bountiful Light, Who enlightens all.

**Steadfast Protectress of Christians**

Steadfast protectress of Christians,  
constant advocate before the creator:  
do not despise the cry of us sinners,  
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.  
Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,  
for you always protect those who honor you.

**PROKEIMENON, tone 2:** The Lord is my strength and my song,  
He has become my salvation.

**vs.** The Lord has chastened me sorely but He has not given me  
over unto death.

**EPISTLE: (141) 1 Corinthians 9:2-12** Brethren, you are the seal  
of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine  
me is this: Have we not the power to eat and drink? Have we not  
the power to take along a believing wife, as do also the other  
Apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only

Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of an ox that treads out the grain." Is it the oxen that concern God or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope, If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we should hinder the Gospel of Christ.

**Alleluia in the second tone:** May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!  
**vs.** Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

**GOSPEL: (77) Matthew 18:23-35** The Lord said this parable: "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle account with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all..' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave

you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

**COMMUNION HYMN:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia...

#### **The Holy Prophet Zacharias.**

Father of St John the Forerunner, he was the son of Barachias, of the tribe of Aaron, a high priest in descent from Abia, and held the eighth degree of service in the Temple in Jerusalem. His wife Elisabeth was sister to St Anna, the mother of the holy Mother of God. In the reign of King Herod, the child-slayer, Zacharias was serving one day in his turn in the Temple in Jerusalem. An angel of God appeared to him in the altar, and Zacharias was afraid. But the angel said to him: 'Fear not, Zacharias' (Luke 1), and informed him that his wife Elisabeth would bear a son in answer to their prayers, for Zacharias and Elisabeth were both old. When Zacharias doubted the words of the heavenly messenger, the angel told him: 'I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God', and Zacharias was made dumb from that moment, and did not speak until his son was born and he had written on a tablet: 'His name is John.' Then his mouth was opened, and he glorified God. Later, when the Lord Christ was born and Herod began killing the children in Bethlehem, he sent men to find Zacharias's son and kill him, for he had heard of all that had happened to Zacharias and how John was born. Seeing the soldiers, Elisabeth took John in her arms - he was eighteen months old at that time - and fled from the house with him to a rocky and desert region. When she saw where the soldiers had driven them, she cried out to the mountain: 'O mountain of God, receive a mother with her child!', and the rock opened and hid the mother and child inside itself. Herod, furious that John had not been killed, ordered that Zacharias be cut down before the altar. Zacharias's blood spilled over the marble and became as hard as stone, remaining thus as a witness to Herod's wickedness. At the place where Elisabeth hid with John, a cave opened and a spring flowed forth, and a fruit-bearing palm grew up by God's power. Forty days after Zacharias's death, blessed Elisabeth also entered into rest. The child John stayed in the wilderness, fed by an angel and guarded by God's providence, until that day when he appeared by the Jordan.