

November 30
The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called
At Vespers

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

This document contains a new translation of the Vespers portion of the Service for St Andrew the First-called Apostle.

I consulted several versions in Greek, including that put out by Grottaferata, and that found on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.tcgalaska/glt/>

the source noted for these internet texts is the editions of FOS, in Athens. The text is the same in each, but one is polytonic and the other is monotonic. A text with full diacriticals is clearer than a text with only one type of accent, and no breathings, and for that reason I prefer working with the polytonic text, to using the monotonic text. I did not have access to the Slavonic for this project.

I translated the texts first into modern literary English. Realizing that many prefer — or are required — to use the diction commonly called ‘Liturgical English’ (indeed, it is the preference in my diocese), I reworked the translation into that form of English. Since this is not my ‘native dialect’, however, I am open to suggestions for improvement by those who may happen to be better acquainted with it. Both these redactions are included in this file.

I have also included rubrical notes, based on the Sabbaitic Typikon, as I understand it. Here, too, I am open to suggestions and corrections by those who are better acquainted with the Typikon than I am. If your temple follows a different typikon, please substitute for these notes what is appropriate in your situation.

I have omitted the readings, which I believe are readily available. Also, I have not provided the text of the Troparion of St Andrew, since each jurisdiction seems to have its own; perhaps in a later edition I may include this hymn.

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Contact: bill.churchill@utoronto.ca.

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The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

In a temple dedicated to St Andrew, this day is a Vigil-rank feast. In temples with other dedications, this is a Polielei-rank feast, without a vigil.

At Vespers, at Ps 140, on a weekday, we sing the following three stikhiry, repeating each as indicated to make eight; on a Saturday evening, however, we sing four stikhiry of the Resurrection in the occurring mode, and then these three, repeating each to make six:

Mode IV [Called from above]

O glorious Apostle Andrew,
formed by the light of the Forerunner:
when the Radiance of the Father's glory was revealed in the person of Christ,
wishing to save the human race through His compassion,
then you were the first to run to Him,
illuminated in mind by the perfect gleaming of Christ's Godhead;
wherefore you are titled both herald and Apostle of Christ our God.
Beseech Him to save and enlighten our souls. *[Thrice]*

O all-wise Apostle Andrew,
instructed by the voice of the Forerunner:
when the all-holy Word became flesh, granting us life
and announcing the glad tidings of salvation to those on earth,
then you followed after Him,
and you dedicated yourself to Him as the best of offerings and all-holy first-fruits.
You both recognized Him as our God,
and so revealed Him to your brother Peter.
Beseech Him to save and enlighten our souls. *[Thrice]*

O blessed Apostle Andrew,
disciple of him who blossomed forth from the barren woman, <the Forerunner>:
when the offspring of the Virgin dawned forth,
the Teacher of piety and wisdom,
showing <the way to> purity,
then you were a most fervent lover of virtue,
making ascents in your heart;
and from glory you were caught up to the ineffable glory of Christ our God.
Beseech Him to save and enlighten our souls. *[Twice]*

Glory... *Mode IV*

O Apostle,
leaving behind the catching of fish,
you catch men with the rod of your preaching,
letting down the bait of piety as a hook,

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The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

and leading all nations up from the depth of error,
O Apostle Andrew, brother of the foremost disciple,
and clear-voiced teacher of the inhabited earth;
O all-praised Andrew,
do not cease to intercede for us
who in faith and love praise your ever-honorable memory.

...both now and ever...

On Friday and Saturday evenings, we sing the dogmatic Theotokion of the occurring Mode; on other evenings, we use this Theotokion, Mode IV:

Dance, O Isaiah!
Receive the Word of God!
Prophecy to the maiden Mary,
that the bush is flaming, but is not consumed in fire by the radiance of the Godhead.
Bethlehem, make ready!
Eden, open your gates!
You Magi, journey to see Salvation in swaddling clothes, in a manger,
Him Whom the star above the cave reveals:
the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who saves the human race.

At the Litiya, we sing the stikhira of the saint of the temple, then the following (a selection from the possible stikhiry):

Mode I

The Apostle Andrew, the first-called Disciple and imitator of Your Passion,
after patterning himself on You, O Lord,
led to You those who were formerly wandering in the depths of ignorance,
drawing them up by the hook of Your Cross.
Through his intercessions, O Lord supremely good,
keep our lives in peace, and save our souls!

O you Faithful, let us hymn Peter's brother:
Andrew, the disciple of Christ.
For he formely searched the sea with a casting net,
and caught fish,
but now he trolls the whole world with the fishing-rod of the Cross,
and turns the nations from error to Baptism.
And standing at the side of Christ,
he asks peace for the world,
and for our souls, great mercy.

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

Glory... *Mode VIII*

Let us sing the praises of Andrew, the herald of the faith, and servant of the Word!
For he fishes men out of the depths,
grasping in his hands the Cross instead of a rod,
and letting down power like a line,
he leads souls up from the enemy's deceit,
and offers them to God as an acceptable gift.
Wherefore, O Faithful, let us praise him, with the chorus of the disciples of Christ,
that he may intercede with Him
to be merciful to us in the day of judgment.

...both now and ever... *Theotokion, Mode VIII*

O Lady,
accept the supplication of your servants,
and free us from all want and woe.

Apostikha: On a weekday we sing the following stikhiry, but on a Saturday evening, we sing the Apostikha of the Resurrection in the occurring Mode, then the stikhira on Glory and the Theotokion as noted below.

Mode V [Rejoice, O life-giving Cross]

Rejoice, O spiritual heaven,
for you always declare the glory of God;
you were the first to obey Christ fervently when He called you,
and you were the first to join Him without hesitation.
Set aflame by Him, you were seen as a secondary light,
and you enlighten those in darkness with your lightning flashes,
perfectly imitating His goodness.
For these reasons, we keep your all-holy festival,
and with great joy we venerate the shrine of your relics,
from which you pour forth salvation to those who ask,
and great mercy.

Verse: Their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

O godly-wise Andrew,
after finding the First of things to be desired ~
Him Who, through His compassion, was clothed in our nature ~
you were intimately united to Him with ardent desire,
and you called out to your brother Peter:
We have found Him Whom the Prophets preached in the Spirit:
Come, with His beauties let us enchant both our soul and our mind,
so that, guided by the light of His radiance,
we may dispel the night of deceit
and the darkness of ignorance,
praising Christ, Who grants the world great mercy.

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

O honored Apostle,
the nations that did not know God you saved with the net of your words,
as from the depth of ignorance;
and <as in Habbakuk's vision,>
you plainly troubled the salt seas,
appearing as a noble steed of Him Who is Master of the seas.
You also dried up the decay of godlessness,
casting precious salt, your wisdom;
at this, O glorious Apostle, they were amazed indeed,
who shamelessly held wisdom made foolish,
and did not know Christ, Who grants the world great mercy.

Glory... *Mode III*

In hymns let us honor Andrew the Apostle,
the brother of Peter and disciple of Christ,
the catcher of fish and fisher of men:
For by his dogmas he has instructed all men in the teachings of Jesus;
and he offered his flesh to lawless men as bait to fish,
and caught them <in his net>.
At his intercessions, O Christ, grant your people peace and great mercy.

...both now and ever....

On Friday evenings, we sing the Theotokion at the Apostikha from Friday evening, Mode III; on Saturday evenings, we sing the Theotokion at the Apostikha from the Resurrectional service in Mode III; on all other evenings, we sing this Theotokion of the Forefeast of the Nativity, Mode III:

Joseph, tell us:

How is it that you lead to Bethlehem, great with child,
the Maiden whom you received from the <Holy of> Holies?
He says: "I have searched the Scriptures,
and have been answered by an Angel:
I have come to believe that Mary will give birth to God
in a manner that cannot be explained.
Magi will come from the East to bow before Him,
worshipping Him with precious gifts."
O Lord, Who became flesh for our sake, glory to you!

Canticle of Symeon, Trisagion prayers, and Troparia.

Concerning Troparia: On a weekday, in a Temple dedicated to St Andrew, at a Vigil: Troparion of St Andrew, twice, and Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, once. Where a Vigil is not served: Troparion of St Andrew, Glory... both now and ever..., and the Theotokion of the Resurrection in the same Mode; but on a Friday evening, the Theotokion of the Resurrection in the Mode of the week.

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

On a Saturday evening, in a temple dedicated to St Andrew, at a Vigil: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, twice, and the Troparion of St Andrew, once. Where a Vigil is not served: The Troparion of the Resurrection in the Mode of the week, Glory..., the Troparion of St Andrew, ...both now and ever..., the Theotokion of the Resurrection in the same Mode.

Musical settings of the Troparion and Kontakion of St Andrew may be found on the OCA website at:

http://www.oca.org/pages/orth_chri/Publications/Music/november/index.html

Scroll to the bottom of the page for St Andrew's materials.

Then, where a Vigil is celebrated, Blessed be the Name of the Lord, Ps 33, blessing by the Priest, and immediately we begin Matins (Glory to God in the highest..., O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips..., and the Six Psalms).

Where a Vigil is not celebrated, Dismissal and Polychronion.

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when the all-holy Word became flesh, granting us life
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and thou dedicatedst thyself to Him as the best of offerings and all-holy first-fruits.
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Ye Magi, journey to see Salvation in swaddling clothes, in a manger,
Him that the star above the cave reveals:
the Lord, the Giver of Life, that saveth the human race.

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