

January 16

Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and Illustrious Apostle Peter

(4th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for Peter (Tone 4)

6. It was error itself that was bound by you, when you were cast into prison in chains as a prisoner in the Lord, O holy Apostle Peter. For this reason, we venerate you with our whole heart and kiss your chains in faith. Finding strength for our bodies and souls in them, we acclaim you fittingly as a companion of the angels and one who has seen God.
5. It was error itself... *(Repeat)*
4. The diverse families of the nations who had once been held in ignorance have received knowledge of God through you. A vision of them was shown to you in the sheet seen lowered down from Heaven containing all types of animals. Thus all ages glorify you, O Peter, bowing down before the chains which you bore for Christ.
3. The diverse families... *(Repeat)*
2. He whom you denied when He was being condemned, you have now praised as risen from the dead, O holy Apostle. You announced Him to the whole world as the God-Man who dwelt among men in His surpassing goodness. Thus, with our whole heart we call you blessed, O illustrious Peter, bowing down before the chains which you bore for Christ.
1. He whom you denied... *(Repeat)*

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

Today the foundation of the Church, Peter, the Rock of faith, shows us his honorable chains for the well-being of our souls. Come, let us embrace them and crown him with our hymns of praise: "Hail, O fervent defender of the Faith, who freely confessed Christ with a fervent heart as the Son of God! Hail, O you who bring joy to the world and carry the keys of the kingdom of Heaven! Obtain grace for those who honor you wholeheartedly, embracing your revered chains with love. You stand before the throne of the divine King of all, constantly interceding for us sinners.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O Mother of God, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of Life: therefore we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the apostles and all the saints that we may obtain mercy for our souls!

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 4*)

1. Let us bow down before the honorable chains by which the bondage of the passions was broken. They were sanctified by the ineffable gifts of Peter indeed, and receive from him a stream of continuous grace. Like him, they loosen sins; and by a gift of God, they grant deliverance from the most cruel afflictions.

All: Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.

2. Illustrious Cephas, your chains are as radiant as a heavenly cord, lifting us up from earth to the height of the gates of Heaven; and they bring us close to you in faith, O illustrious key-bearer. O Apostle worthy of admiration, who hold in your hands the keys of the kingdom: in your compassion, open to us the gates of salvation.

All: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

3. In choir with mankind, the angels in Heaven intone your praises today, O Peter. For when an angel entered and touched your side, accompanying you past the guard, you left the chains to your jailers. O holy Apostle, obtain for us the joy of lessening our endless chains of sins.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

Our ardent protector, Peter, the Rock of faith, again gathers us for a spiritual feast, offering to us his precious chains as a valuable aliment as a healing for our ills, consolation for the afflicted and a harbor for the shipwrecked. Come, let us all embrace them and entreat Him who glorified their bearer: "By his prayers, O Christ, save our souls!"

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O Bride of God, having fallen into the abyss of my thoughts, subject to the temptations of the Liar, in my misery I have recourse to your fervent intercession. Snatch me from trials and temptations; save me from the attacks of the demons, all-pure one, that I may sing to you with love, glorify you and bow down before you, magnifying you, O our Lady, who are blessed at all times.

TROPARION OF PETER (*Tone 4*)

Without leaving Rome, you have come to us, you who preside over the Apostles by the power of the venerable chains you bore. While honoring them with faith, we beseech you that, through your intercession, God may grant us great mercy.

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION (*Tone 4*)

The mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels has been revealed through you, O Theotokos, to those on earth: for God took flesh in a union without commixture, and willingly took up the Cross by which He elevated the first man, and saved our souls from death.