

## The 16<sup>th</sup> Day of January

### ⌘ The Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-laudable Apostle Peter.

#### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera, Tone 4:** *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

**B**ound to the Lord and cast into prison /  
Thou didst constrain the deceit of evil, O apostle, /  
And so we venerate thee with our whole hearts /  
And we kiss thy chains with faith, /  
Finding in them strength for our bodies and souls. /  
Therefore, we rightly praise thee, O converser with the angels ///  
And eye-witness of God. *(twice)*

**T**he widely scattered tribes of the Gentiles /  
Once were held fast in the bonds of ignorance /  
But they received the knowledge of God through thee, O glorious one; /  
For thou didst see them in a vision sent to thee from on high /  
Beholding a vessel descending from heaven containing every living creature. /  
Therefore, every generation glorifies thee, O apostle, /  
And venerates the precious chains which thou didst bear for Christ. *(twice)*

**T**hou didst proclaim Him who arose from the dead /  
Whom thou didst deny when He was condemned, O apostle, /  
And thou didst announce Him to all the ends of the earth /  
As both God and man /  
Who in His surpassing goodness came to dwell among us mortals. /  
Therefore, we lovingly bless thee and we venerate thy chains, O all-glorious one, ///  
Which thou didst bear for Christ. *(twice)*

#### **Glory..., in Tone 6:** *(the composition of Byzantius)*

**T**oday the foundation of the Church, Peter, the rock of faith /  
Offers his precious chains for the healing of our souls. /  
Come then, and let us embrace them and let us crown him with our songs of praise: /  
Rejoice, O fervent champion of the Faith /  
Who confessed Christ as the Son of God! /  
Rejoice, O joy of all the earth /  
And keeper of the keys to the kingdom of heaven! /  
Grant grace to those who honor thee with love /

And fervently embrace thy precious chains, /  
As thou standest now before the throne of God, the King of all, ///  
Interceding for us who celebrate thy holy memory.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "On the third Day..."**

**B**eholding our Life hanging on the Tree, /  
The all-pure Theotokos cried aloud /  
With maternal sorrow: /  
"My Son and my God, ///  
Save those who sing to Thee with love.

*Or the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection Service.*

**The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, then:**

**Glory..., of the Saint, in Tone 6:**

**O**ur ardent protector, Peter, the rock of faith, /  
Gathers us again for a spiritual feast /  
Offering us his precious chains for the healing of our diseases, /  
As a comfort to those who are oppressed, /  
And as a safe haven for those tossed by the tempestuous storms of life. /  
Come, and let us all venerate his chains with faith, /  
And let us glorify Christ who hast so glorified him: ///  
By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:**

**B**eholding Thee crucified, O Christ, /  
She who gave Thee birth cried out to Thee: /  
"What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /  
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///  
Dost Thou die on the Tree?"

**The Troparion, in Tone 4:**

**W**ithout leaving Rome thou didst come to us, /  
By the precious chains which thou didst bear, O first-enthroned of the apostles. /  
Honoring them with faith /  
We beseech thee that through thine intercessions ///  
God may grant us His great mercy!

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CHAINS OF THE  
APOSTLE PETER

**Matins**

**The Canon**

Two Canons from the Octoechos (omitting the martyria),  
and this of the Apostle with 6 troparia, in Tone 4

having the acrostic: *"We praise Peter, the foundation of the dogmas,"* the composition of Joseph.

**Ode 1**

*Irmos:* The people of Israel, having fled across the watery deep of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, beheld the horsemen of the enemy drowned therein, and they cried aloud with joy: let us sing to God, for He hath been glorified!

*Refrain:* Holy apostle of Christ Peter, pray to God for us.

The whole Church of Christ keeps this festival in spirit, and praising thee with faith, all lovingly venerate thy precious chains, which thou didst bear in bondage as thou didst bind the evil tyrant.

Fishing for men drowning in the depths of deception, O Peter, thou didst draw them out of the sea for Him who chose thee from among all fishermen to be the foremost of His disciples. Therefore, we venerate the chains which thou didst bear.

Glory...,

Upon the foundation of the Faith didst thou establish the souls of the faithful, and having demolished the temples of deception, O Peter, thou didst build churches which today honor thee aloud and venerate the chains which thou didst bear.

Now and ever...,

*Theotokion:* All the weapons of the deceitful enemy have been defeated, O all-pure Virgin, by the spear of the Word who had made His abode in thine immaculate womb! May my heart be wounded with the sweet desire for Him, I pray!

*Katavasia is from the Meeting of the Lord.*

**Ode 3**

*Irmos:* The bow of the mighty is become weak and the weak have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

Uniting thyself totally to the Light through communion with the Divine, O Peter, thou dost fully reflect it, illumining now our souls.

Confirmed in the Laws of Christ, thou hast instructed the godless in the observance of His laws, O foremost of the apostles and unshakeable foundation of the doctrines of God.

**T**hy sacred tongue preached God who suffered and was crucified on the Cross. Therefore, we honor the chains which bound thee, O apostle of the Lord.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou didst stop the irresistible onslaught of death by giving birth to the Source of immortality, O Virgin Mother, Theotokos.

*Katavasia.*

**The Kontakion, in Tone 2:** *To the melody, “When Thou didst descend to death....”*

**C**hrist the Rock who with splendid glory /  
Glorified Peter, the rock of faith, first among the apostles, /  
Now calls us all to celebrate the miracles performed through the hon’rable chains ///  
That He may grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

**The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “As Thou wast voluntarily crucified....”*

**W**e praise thee with faith, as the foremost of the apostles /  
And the keeper of the keys to the kingdom of heaven; /  
And with a pure heart we venerate the precious chains /  
Which thou didst bear as if thou were a thief, /  
But through which thou didst set aright /  
The evil deeds of the enemy. /  
And we pray, O Peter, deliver us from them through thy holy prayers. *(twice)*

**Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**T**hou, O most-pure Theotokos, art more exalted than the cherubīm, /  
And more glorious than the seraphīm; /  
Thou art indeed, more spacious than the heavens and the earth, /  
Surpassing all creation, both visible and invisible, /  
For that thou didst receive the uncontainable God within thy womb, ///  
O most-pure Theotokos, beseech thou Him that we, thy servants, may be saved!

**Or this Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 4:**

**S**he, who in these latter days /  
Gave birth in the flesh to Thee begotten of the unoriginate Father, /  
Cried out beholding thee upon the Cross: /  
“Woe is me, O most belovèd Jesus, /  
How is it that Thou who art glorified as God by the angels /  
Art now crucified of Thine own will by the transgressing people? ///  
Yet do I praise Thy longsuffering, O Christ.”

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**Ode 4**

*Irmos:* Out of love didst Thou ascend the Cross, O Compassionate One, and the nations submitted themselves, and Thou art my strength and my praise, O Lover of mankind.

**I**n that thou art the foundational rock of the Faith, thou didst preach the mighty works of God and didst convert the hearts of many disobedient people to the Faith.

**H**e who walked upon the waters guided thy steps, O Peter, as thou journeyed on the way He set for thee.

**W**e venerate and faithfully kiss thy precious chains, O blessed one, for they possess the power to heal every sickness and infirmity.

*Theotokion:* **T**he King of all became incarnate dwelling in thy spacious womb, O all-pure Lady Theotokos.

**Ode 5**

*Irmos:* Send down Thine enlightenment upon us, O Lord, and free us from the gloom of our transgressions, O Good One, and grant us peace.

**T**hou didst preach the Son, co-unoriginate with the Father by the inspiration of the Spirit, O blessed one, and thus, thou wast vouchsafed the blessedness of heaven.

**W**hen thou didst behold the light upon Mount Tabor blotting out the rays of the sun, thou was illumined by the light that emanated from the Light, O Peter, and by it, thou didst illuminate the faithful.

**T**hou didst preach Christ who was dead for three days, and, for whose sake thou didst bear thy precious chains, O Peter. May we be accounted worthy to bow down before them as we piously honor thy holy memory.

*Theotokion:* **L**ift now the heavy burden of my many sins, O all-pure Lady, and give me strength to bear the easy yoke of Christ.

**Ode 6**

*Irmos:* Prefiguring Thy three-day burial, the prophet Jonah cried out in the belly of the whale; Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, king and Lord of hosts.

**T**hou didst wondrously bear thy crucifixion, inverted upon thy cross, O blessed Peter, and thus didst thou prepare thy feet to take the path to heaven. Do thou strengthen us to walk along that same path, O glorious disciple of Christ.

**L**iving in Him who is the Life, thou wast bound in chains for His sake, and by that Life, thou didst break the bonds of Belial who had bound thee. Therefore, we honor thy precious chains.

**E**ntreat the Master of Creation, O blessed apostle Peter, that He send down purification, peace and mercy upon them that glorify thee, in that thou art His most devoted disciple.

*Theotokion:* **O**ur first father Adam was stripped of his garment of mortality when the Creator robed Himself in our nature by thy blood and ineffably became incarnate through thee, O immaculate Lady.

*Katavasia.*

**Another Kontakion, in Tone 2:** *To the melody, “When Thou didst descend to death....”*

**L**et us praise the great saint, Peter, /  
The chief among the apostles and divine disciple of the Truth; /  
And with faith, let us kiss his holy chains ///  
Thus gaining release from our transgressions.

*Ikos:* **W**hat tongue is able to worthily praise the great and glorious disciple of the Lord? What mind can praise him, whom the Word of God Himself has blessed? Yet, we know that what each of us has attained by his own feeble power, should be brought as an offering to God; and this is what we are attempting to do. Come, all ye who love the feasts of the Church, and let us piously crown the first-enthroned of the apostles with hymns of praise, and thus gain the release from our transgressions.

### Ode 7

*Irmos:* *In Babylon of old, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace as they sang aloud: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

**T**hrice didst thou deny Christ, and by His three-fold question did He heal the of thine offense, O all-glorious Peter. Thus, He confirmed His promise to many who waiver and are weak in faith.

**A**s one bound as a prisoner for Christ, thou didst suffer many torments because of thy love for Him. Therefore, we bow and venerate thy chains which loose us from our sufferings.

**T**raversing the world like the sun in the heavens, O great saint Peter, thou glory of the apostles and eye-witness of God, thou didst banish the gloomy darkness of pagan belief.

**T**hou didst glorify Christ with all thy body and soul, and didst thyself become the boast of Christ, O all-glorious Peter. Therefore, we bow and venerate the chains which bound thee.

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CHAINS OF THE  
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**Theotokion:** He that descended upon the earth like rain, hath quenched the thirst of the whole earth with His Wisdom, O pure Virgin, who art more honorable than all the angels.

**Ode 8**

**Irmos:** *O almighty Deliverer of all, descending, Thou didst shower with dew the pious children in the midst of the flames, and didst teach them to sing: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!*

**T**illing hardened hearts like the soil, thou didst garner a fruitful harvest for the Husbandman of all creation, who rewarded thee with the divine keys of heaven and gave thee the authority to loose and bind the transgressions of mankind.

**W**e bless thee, O Peter, and we venerate the chains that bound thee as though thou were a thief, and by which thou didst bind and slay the prince of evil, O apostle of the Lord.

**P**reserving the fullness of the Church by the immovable rock of thy faith, O Peter, drive all temptations away from its midst, and, by thy prayers, nurture her peaceful estate.

**E**loquently didst thou preach Him who by His suffering destroyed the bonds of hades and of death. Therefore, O most-blessèd one, we are sanctified by venerating thy blessèd chains.

***Let us bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!***

**Triadicon:** With the thrice-holy voices of the heavenly choirs we now sing the glory of the Father, the Origin of all, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One Essence, One Power, and One Authority.

***Now and ever.... Amen.***

**Theotokion:** The prophet once described thee in the Scriptures, O Mother of God, as a spiritual candlestick bearing the divine Candle which illumined them that once were blinded by the darkness of evil.

***We praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.***

***Katavasia.***

**Ode 9**

**Irmos:** *Thy birthgiving was undefiled: God came forth from thy womb, and He appeared upon earth wearing flesh and made His dwelling among men; therefore, we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.*

**T**hou wast accounted worthy of beholding the far away things of thy most faithful



desire, O Peter, and, rejoicing, thou hast received great honors for all thy labors from God Himself, who loveth mankind, and whose sufferings thou didst bear with thine own flesh.

**As** the divine keeper of the keys of heaven, open the gates of paradise to them that faithfully honor thee here on earth and venerate the precious chains which bound thee.

**Standing** upon Mount Tabor with the Son, thou didst hear the voice of the Father as He revealed Him, for thy heart was cleansed and gloriously illumined by the Divine Spirit, O holy apostle Peter.

**O** holy apostle Peter, entreat our God for the cleansing, the release from debts, and the delights of paradise for us that lovingly honor thee and venerate the precious chains which bound thee.

*Theotokion:* **As** thou wast the abode of the Light, O Maiden, guide me by thy light, who am darkened by the temptations of the enemy, that I may ever magnify thee with faith, O most-pure Virgin Theotokos.

**The Exapostilarion:** **O** most-blessèd Peter, first among the apostles, loose me, who am bound by the chains of the passions, wretch that I am, as once the angel of God loosed thy chains and led thee forth gloriously from the dungeon that imprisoned thee.

**Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:** **O** all-immaculate Virgin, thou art the Mother who gavest birth to God as a man in a manner transcending all nature, and thine Offspring is the salvation of those who sing with love: All glory, honor and worship is due the unapproachable and divine Trinity!

**At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Octoechos, and:**

**Glory..., in Tone 4:** *(the composition of Monk John of Damascus)*

**When** asking thee the question: /

“Lovest thou Me, O Peter?” /

Christ the Lord set aright thy three-fold denial of Him. /

Then didst thou, O Simon, say unto Him: /

“O Lord, Thou knowest all things! Thou knowest that I love Thee!” /

Then the Savior said unto Him: /

“Feed then My sheep; feed Mine elect; and feed My lambs /

Which I have acquired for salvation by Mine own Blood.” /

Entreat thou Him, O divinely-bless’t apostle ///

That He grant us his great mercy.



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**Now and ever.... Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "As one valiant among the martyrs...."**

Seeing Thee the Lamb and Shepherd on the tree, /  
The ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee lamented, /  
And as a mother cried out to Thee: /  
"O desired Son, how art Thou hung on the Tree of the Cross, /  
O Longsuffering One? /  
How art Thy hands and feet nailed by the transgressors, O Word? /  
How dost Thou shed Thy Blood, O Master?

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Third Ode, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of the Saint.**

**1-2.** Uniting thyself totally to the Light through communion with the Divine, O Peter, thou dost fully reflect it, illumining now our souls. *(twice)*

**3.** Confirmed in the Laws of Christ, thou hast instructed the godless in the observance of His laws, O foremost of the apostles and unshakeable foundation of the doctrines of God.

**4.** Thy sacred tongue preached God who suffered and was crucified on the Cross. Therefore, we honor the chains which bound thee, O apostle of the Lord.

**5.** Thou didst wondrously bear thy crucifixion, inverted upon thy cross, O blessed Peter, and thus didst thou prepare thy feet to take the path to heaven. Do thou strengthen us to walk along that same path, O glorious disciple of Christ.

**6.** Living in Him who is the Life, thou wast bound in chains for His sake, and by that Life, thou didst break the bonds of Belial who had bound thee. Therefore, we honor thy precious chains.

**7.** Entreat the Master of creation, O blessed apostle Peter, that He send down purification, peace and mercy upon them that glorify thee, in that thou art His most devoted disciple.

**8. Theotokion:** Our first father Adam was stripped of his garment of mortality when the Creator robed Himself in our nature by thy blood and ineffably became incarnate through thee, O immaculate Lady.

**The Troparion, in Tone 4:**

**Without** leaving Rome thou didst come to us, /

By the precious chains which thou didst bear, O first-enthroned of the apostles. /  
Honoring them with faith /  
We beseech thee that through thine intercessions ///  
God may grant us His great mercy!

**The Kontakion, in Tone 2:**

**C**hrist the Rock who with splendid glory /  
Glorified Peter, the rock of faith, first among the apostles, /  
Now calls us all to celebrate the miracles performed through the hon'rable chains ///  
That He may grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

**Another Kontakion, in Tone 2:**

**L**et us praise the great saint, Peter, /  
The chief among the apostles and divine disciple of the Truth; /  
And with faith, let us kiss his holy chains ///  
Thus gaining release from our transgressions.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 8:** Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and  
their words to the ends of the universe! *Verse:* The heavens are telling the Glory of  
God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

**The Epistle:** (29) Acts 12:1-11

**The Alleluia, Tone 1:** The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy  
truth in the congregation of the saints! *Verse:* God is glorified in the council of the  
saints!

**The Gospel:** (67) John 21:15-23

**The Communion Hymn:** Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and  
their words to the ends of the universe!