FIRST & THIRD HOUR PROPERS FOR MAY 21ST, 2023

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST NICENE COUNCIL
Seventh Paschal Sunday[1]

✚ **The holy emperor Constantine and his mother Helen, equal to the apostles.**
Constantine reigned in ancient Rome and in Byzantium (which became New Rome), and was the first Christian emperor, champion of the Faith. Though he was not baptized until on his deathbed, he considered himself a Christian, and called the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 325 to settle the Arian heresy. (337) On the Via Labicana in old Rome, Helen, the mother of Constantine the emperor is remembered. She single-mindedly worked to help the needy and piously visited churches, mingling with the crowds. Having made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see the places of the Nativity, Passion, and Resurrection of Christ, she honored the manger and cross of the Lord by building basilicas worthy of respect. (327)
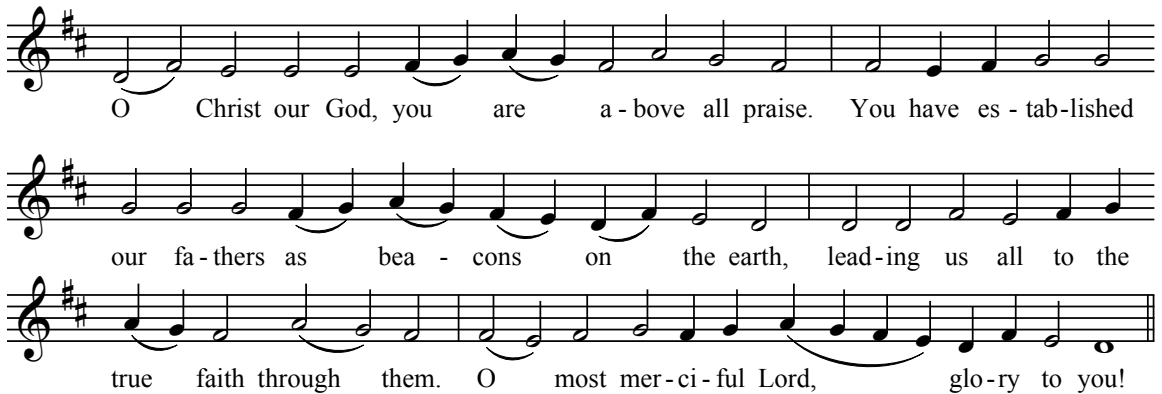
FIRST HOUR

Troparion of the Resurrection - *Tone 6:*

An - gel - ic pow-ers ap-peared at your tomb, and the guards be-came like dead men. Mar - y stood at the tomb seeking your most pure bod - y. You de-spoiled Ha - des with-out a chal-lenge. You, the Giv - er of Life met the Vir-gin. O Lord, ris - en from the dead, glo - - - ry to you!

Cantor *(Tone 8):*

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - - - it.
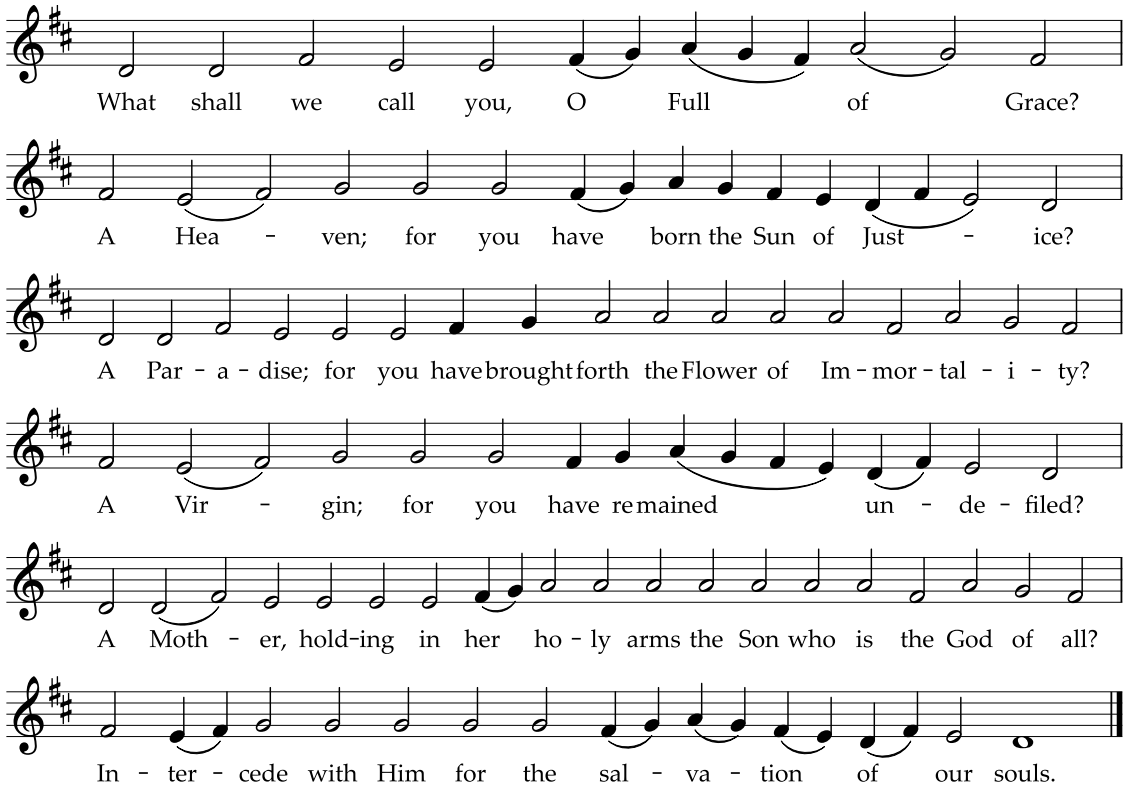
Troparion of the Council Fathers - *Tone 8:*

O Christ our God, you are a-bove all praise. You have es-tab-lished our fa-thers as bea - cons on the earth, lead-ing us all to the true faith through them. O most mer-ci-ful Lord, glo-ry to you!

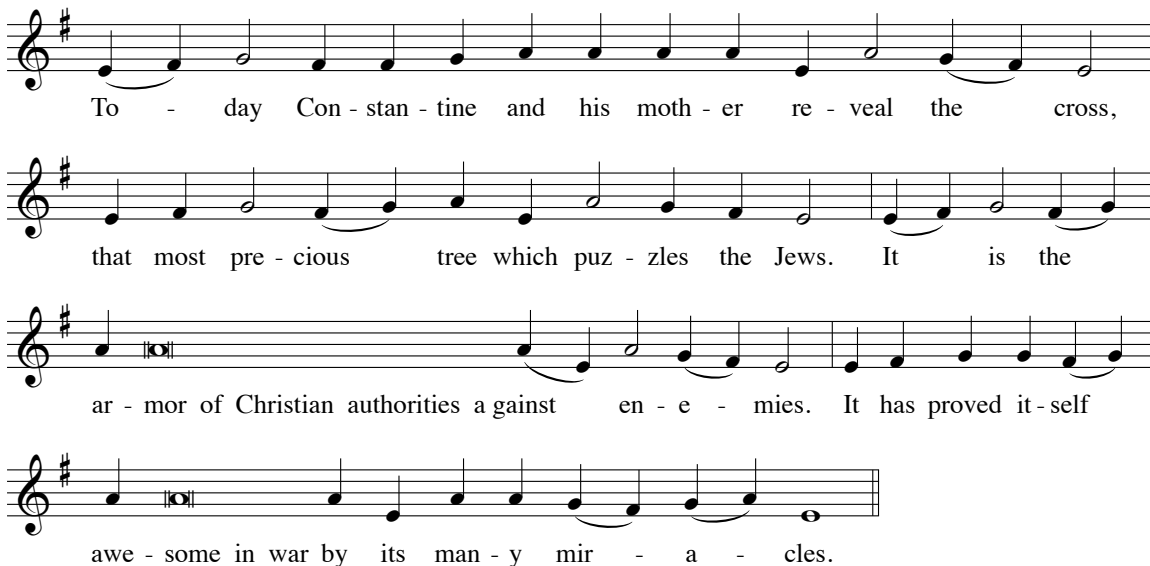Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - men.

Theotokion of First Hour – *Tone 8:*

What shall we call you, O Full of Grace?

A Hea - ven; for you have born the Sun of Just – ice?

A Par - a - dise; for you have brought forth the Flower of Im - mor - tal - i - ty?

A Vir - gin; for you have remained un - de - filed?

A Moth - er, hold-ing in her ho - ly arms the Son who is the God of all?

In - ter - cede with Him for the sal - va - tion of our souls.
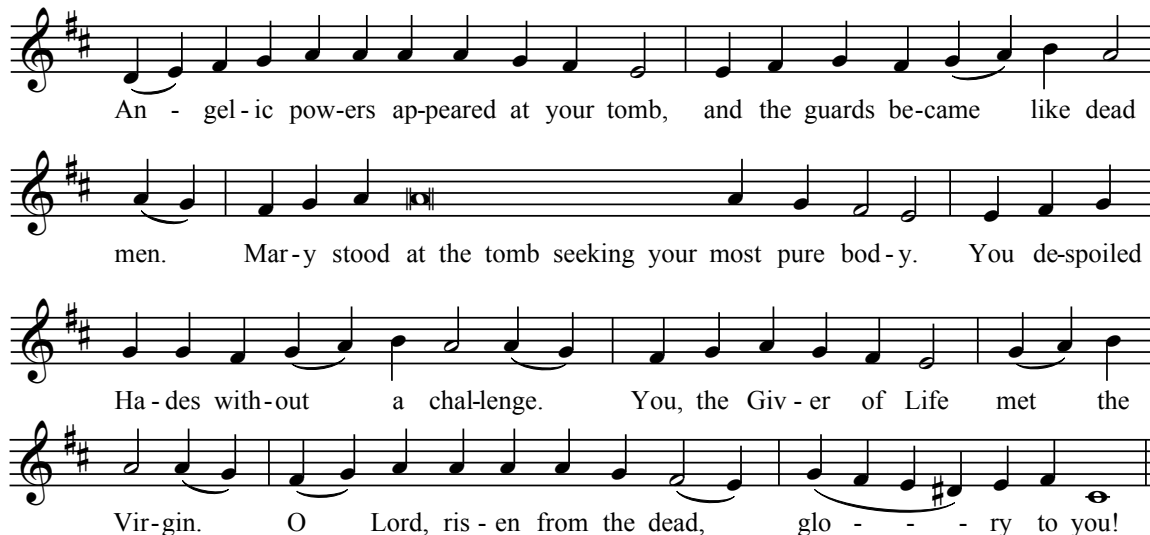
Kontakion - *Tone 3*

To - day Con - stan - tine and his moth - er re - veal the cross,

that most pre - cious tree which puz - zles the Jews. It is the

ar - mor of Christian authorities a gainst en - e - mies. It has proved it - self

awe - some in war by its man - y mir - a - cles.

First Hour continues with "Lord, have mercy…" (40 times) on p. 8

THIRD HOUR

Troparion of the Resurrection - *Tone 6:*

An - gel - ic pow - ers ap-peared at your tomb, and the guards be - came like dead

men. Mar - y stood at the tomb seeking your most pure bod - y. You de-spoiled

Ha - des with - out a chal - lenge. You, the Giv - er of Life met the

Vir - gin. O Lord, ris - en from the dead, glo - - - ry to you!

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly

Spir - - - it.

Troparion - *Tone 8*

See - ing the cross in the sky like Paul, and like him you re - ceived

a call from the Di - vine. You com - mit - ted the roy - al ci - ty

in - to the hands of the Lord. Save this ci - ty al - ways in peace, O on - ly

Lov - er of us all, through the pray'rs of the The - o - to - kos.

Cantor *(Tone 8):*

Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - men.

Theotokion of Third Hour *– Tone 8:*

O The - o - to - kos, you are the true vine la - den with the

Fruit of Life; where - fore, we im - plore you, O La - dy,

to in - ter - cede to - geth - er with the a - pos - tles and all the saints

that we may ob - tain mer - cy for our souls.

Kontakion of the Ascension - *Tone 6:*

When you had fulfilled the plan of sal - va - tion for us and u - nit - ed the earthly

with the heav - en - ly, you were tak - en up in glo-ry, O Christ our God.

Nev - er part - ing from us but re-main - ing con - stant - ly, you pro-claim to those

who love you: I am with you and no one can be a - gainst you.

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[1] Special Format