

Note 2: Reading the Morning Gospels of the Resurrection

On the twelve feasts of the Lord and of the Theotokos, on whatever day of the week they come, the festal Gospel is always read at the Morning Service. On a temple's patronal feast occurring on a Sunday, either the Resurrectional Gospel or that of the temple is read (Typikon, *The Temple*, chapters 3, 33, 13, 16). On all other occasions occurring on a Sunday, the ordinary Resurrectional Gospel is read.

There are 11 Resurrectional morning Gospels in all. These were selected from among all the evangelists and form the narrative of the Savior's resurrection. These Gospels go one after another in an unvarying order, and this order is preserved in relation to the ordinary tones of the Octoechos. The eight tones with their corresponding Gospels are described as 'columns'. There are six of these columns in all, and they are distributed in accordance with this model:

COLUMN 1 (beginning on the first Sunday of the Apostles Fast)

TONE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOSPEL:	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

COLUMN 2 (beginning after St Elijah Day):

TONE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOSPEL:	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6

COLUMN 3 (beginning after the Elevation of the Precious Cross):

TONE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOSPEL:	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3

COLUMN 4: (beginning in the fast before Christ's Nativity):

TONE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOSPEL:	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

COLUMN 5: (beginning after the Lord's Theophany):

TONE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOSPEL:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

COLUMN 6 (beginning in the holy Great Fast):

TONE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOSPEL:	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5

GOSPELS:

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mt. 28:16-20 (sel. 116) | 7. Jn. 20:1-10 (sel. 63) |
| 2. Mk. 16:1-8 (sel. 70) | 8. Jn. 20:11-18 (sel. 64) |
| 3. Mk. 16:9-20 (sel. 71) | 9. Jn. 20:19-31 (sel. 65) |
| 4. Lk. 24:1-12 (sel. 112) | 10. Jn. 21:1-14 (sel. 66) |
| 5. Lk. 24:12-35 (sel. 113) | 11. Jn. 21:15-25 (sel. 67) |
| 6. Lk. 24:36-53 (sel. 14) | |

The starting point for reading the Morning Gospels of the Resurrection establishes with itself the beginning of the cycle of singing the tones: the first Gospel is read on All Saints Sunday, and Tone 1 is sung on the first Sunday after All Saints Sunday. Then, through the course of the entire year there follows an unvarying order of Gospels and tones: after the 11th Gospel is read, the first one is read again, and after Tone 8, the first tone is begun again. It is only with the hymns of the Flowering Triodion (TR: the Pentecostarion) from Apostle Thomas Sunday that the Resurrectional Gospels are not read in the order directed by their columns.

Although there are variations in the number of Sundays between the 32nd Sunday and Publican and Pharisee Sunday in different years, there is not, however, a so-called retrogression relative to the order of the morning Gospels and tones, and varying numbers of intervening Sundays do not influence the order of the columns. Therefore, on Publican and Pharisee Sunday, if there is no intervening Sunday, we have Tone 8 and Gospel 11. If there is one intervening Sunday, then we have Tone 8 and Gospel 11 on that day, but not on Publican and Pharisee Sunday, which would be the 34th, with Tone 1 and Gospel 1. If there are two intervening Sundays, then we have Tone 8 and Gospel 11 on the first of them, with Tone 1 and Gospel 1 on the second, and Tone 2 and Gospel 2 on Publican and Pharisee Sunday, which would be the 35th.

As can be seen from the brief table below, just this sort of calculation is needed for all other situations when there is an accumulation of however many intervening Sundays. The Sunday farthest from Publican and Pharisee Sunday which can be so affected is the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast. So, on those Sundays, for the columns of Gospels and tones, there is an unvarying order depending on which tone and Gospel are assigned to Publican and Pharisee Sunday, namely:

Sundays Before the Great Fast Sundays Of the Great Fast

	Sundays	Before the	Great	Fast	Sundays	Of	the	Great	Fast
	Pub. & Phar.	Pro- dial	Meat- fare	Cheese- Fare	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
33	T8, G11	T1, G1	T2, G2	T3, G3	T4, G4	T5, G5	T6, G6	T7, G7	T8, G8
34	1, 1	2, 2	3, 3	4, 4	5, 5	6, 6	7, 7	8, 8	1, 9
35	2, 2	3, 3	4, 4	5, 5	6, 6	7, 7	8, 8	1, 9	2, 10
36	3, 3	4, 4	5, 5	6, 6	7, 7	8, 8	1, 9	2, 10	3, 11
37	4, 4	5, 5	6, 6	7, 7	8, 8	1, 9	2, 10	3, 11	4, 1
38	5, 5	6, 6	7, 7	8, 8	1, 9	2, 10	3, 11	4, 1	5, 2

(TR: SP = Sunday after Pentecost; T = tone, G = Gospel)

SUNDAYS BEFORE THE GREAT FAST

SUNDAYS OF THE GREAT FAST

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0626-0628
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