

From the Octoechos
Wednesday Vespers - Tone 5
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Chant Tone 5
Special Melody: *Rejoice*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) When ye were sent through - out all the world
as sharp-ened ar - rows of the Strong One with wing - ed speed,
ye blunt - ed all of the de - mons' fier - y and ter - ri - ble
darts, O e - lect A - pos - tles blest in ver - y truth.
The wor - ship of man - y gods ye put down and cast far a - way,
while teach - ing all men true re - li - gion and pi - e - ty,
be - ing sheep in - deed of the Chief Shep - herd, Christ our God,
He that had both e - lect - ed you and sent you in - to the world
in - to the midst of un - gov - erned and sav - age
wolves, so that through the Faith ye might turn their fur - y
and fe - roc - i - ty to meek - ness and hum - ble gen - tle - ness.

From the Octoechos - Wednesday Vespers-Tone 5 - Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried" - 2

2) When, from His most ex - treme — love for man,
the hy - po - stat - ic Word of God — lived with mor - tal men,
as - sum - ing our ver - y na - ture to de - i - fy — it in
truth, ye be - came dis - ci - ples — learn - ing all from Him.
Ye fol - lowed in His di - vine foot-steps, O — ye all - glo - ri - ous
and wise A - pos - tles, im - i - tat - ing His pov - er - ty
and ye count - ed all things as rub - bish and noth - ing worth.
Where - fore, ye cast a - way the sec - ond gar - ment with fer - vent faith,
and al - so took with you nei - ther a staff nor
scrip — as ye went your way and now are deemed wor - thy
to in - her - it great and heav - en - ly treas - ures in the heights.

From the Octoechos - Wednesday Vespers-Tone 5 - Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried" - 3

3) Re - joice, sa - cred and ven - 'ra - ble head,

thou un - de - filed a - bode of vir - tue and sanc - ti - ty;

di - vine can - on of the priest - hood, that most di - vine gift of

God; and the great and fa - mous shep - herd known to all;

thou bea - con that wor - thi - ly art the name - sake of vic - to - ry;

thou who dost an - swer with com - pas - sion those ask - ing thee

and who dost in - cline to the prayers of the suf - fer - ing.

Res - cu - er ev - er read - y and the guard - i - an sav - ing all

who with right faith keep thy glo - ri - ous and all -

- ven - 'ra - ble mem - o - ry. Im - plore Christ the Sav - ior,

O blest Nich - o - las, to send down great mer - cy on our souls.