

ON FRIDAY EVENING: TONE VIII
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...”, 3 Stichera of the martyrs, in Tone VIII:

Verse: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? * For with Thee there is forgiveness.

O martyrs of the Lord, ye sanctify every place and heal every manner of infirmities: and now we entreat you to intercede on our behalf, that our souls may be delivered from the snares of the enemy.

Verse: For Thy name’s sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Thy martyrs, O Lord, no longer mindful of the temporal things of this life, despised not torture for the sake of the life to come, which they manifestly inherited, wherefore they rejoice with the angels. By their supplications grant great mercy to Thy people.

Verse: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch * let Israel hope in the Lord.

What virtue, what praise, are due the saints? For they bowed their heads beneath the sword for the sake of Thee Who bowed down the heavens and descended to us; they shed their blood for Thee Who abased Thyself and assumed the form of a servant; they humbled themselves even unto death, imitating Thy poverty. By their intercessions, O God, have mercy on us, in the multitude of Thy compassions!

Then the Stichera for the saint, from the Menaion; or if there is no Menaion, these Stichera prosomoia, in the same tone:

Spec. Mel.: “O most glorious wonder ...”:

Verse: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plenteous redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

I have become like the barren tree, as if clad with useless leaves; and I am afraid that if I am cut down, Thou wilt send me into unquenchable everlasting fire, O Master. But grant me time to convert, that I may offer Thee the goodly fruit of virtuous acts, and may be deemed worthy of Thy kingdom.

Verse: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; * praise Him, all ye peoples.

O Lord, O Lord, Who lovest mankind, turn not Thy face away from me, Thy servant, who angereth Thy goodness every day, neither punish me by Thy righteous wrath, O Christ. I confess that I have sinned, I have sinned against Thee like none other. But have pity and save me, by the prayers of Thy Mother.

Verse: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, * and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

When in Thy glory Thou shalt sit as the King of all upon Thy judgment-seat, and all the holy angels stand before Thee with fear, and all human nature will stand before Thee to be judged, O Christ; then, through the supplications of Thy Mother, O Lord, from all torments deliver those who have fallen asleep in faith.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Dogmatic Theotokion:

In His love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared on earth * and dwelt among men; * for He Who received flesh from the pure Virgin * and cameth forth from her having received human nature, * is the only Son of God, * twofold in nature but not Hypostasis. * Therefore, proclaiming Him to be truly perfect God and perfect man, * we confess Christ our God. * Him do thou beseech, O unwedded Mother, ** that our souls find mercy!

Then, “O Joyous Light ...”, the Prokeimenon in Tone VII:

Prokeimenon: O God, my helper art Thou, * and Thy mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

Vouchsafe, O Lord ..., Litany: Let us complete ..., Then:

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone VIII:

O ye martyrs of the Lord, we beseech you to intercede before our God: pray ye that abundant mercy be granted to our souls, and the cleansing of our many sins.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

I weep and lament when I contemplate death and behold our beauty, which hath been created according to the image of God, lying in the grave, bereft of form, devoid of glory, unsightly. O the wonder! What is this mystery concerning us? How have we been given over to corruption? How have we been yoked together with death? Truly, as it is written, this is by the command of God, Who giveth rest unto the departed.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Thy death, O Lord, won immortality for us; for if Thou hadst not been laid in the tomb, paradise would not have been opened. Wherefore, grant rest to the departed, in that Thou lovest mankind.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion:

O pure Virgin, portal of the Word, Mother of our God: pray thou that we be saved.

Then, “Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart ...”, Trisagion through Our Father ..., Troparia. Litany: Have mercy on us ..., and Dismissal.

ON FRIDAY NIGHT: TONE VIII
AT COMPLINE

Canon of Supplication to the Most Holy Theotokos

ODE I

Irmos: Let us sing unto the Lord, * who led His people through the Red Sea: * for He alone hath gloriously been glorified.

Mortify the understanding of my flesh, O most pure Virgin who hast given birth unto life, and deliver me from every torment.

With the most radiant splendor of Him Who shone forth from thee, O Virgin, enlighten the eyes of my soul, that I may glorify thee.

Glory ..., **P**ray thou, O holy Lady who alone art the Theotokos, that I may obtain salvation and divine radiance on the day of judgment.

Now & ever ..., **O** most holy Theotokos who without pain hast given birth unto Christ in a manner transcending understanding and all telling: quell thou the pangs of my heart.

ODE III

Irmos: O Lord, thou art the confirmation of those who flee to Thee, * Thou art the Light of those in darkness, * and my spirit doth hymn Thee.

By thy prayers deliver me from the darts of the enemy, O most pure one, and spare my heart from besetting thoughts.

Heal thou the wounds of my soul, O most immaculate Mother of God, and By thy prayers still the turmoil of my heart.

Glory ..., **S**ubdue the chaos of my thoughts, O pure Lady, and take from, my soul every grief, O thou who hast given birth unto Joy.

Now & ever ..., **R**ejoice, O Virgin Mother of Christ, thou salvation of those who have recourse unto thee! Rejoice, O boast of the apostles and martyrs!

ODE IV

Irmos: O Lord, I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation; * I have considered Thy works, * and I have glorified Thy Divinity.

O Word of God Who wast wounded for my sake in Thy love for mankind: Heal the wounds of my soul, and enlighten the darkness of my mind.

The sleep of sin hath overtaken me through the slumber of my slothfulness, O Virgin. But by thy vigilant supplication rouse me to repentance.

Glory ..., **O** most immaculate one who hast poured forth the water of remission from thy wellsprings: Give drink to my heart, which hath grown dry through all manner of transgressions.

Now & ever ..., **O** all-holy Bride of God, Sovereign Lady of the world: save me, delivering me from misfortunes and dispelling the tumult of the passions.

ODE V

Irmos: Rising early we cry to Thee, O Lord; * save us, for Thou art our God, * and we know none other besides Thee.

Look down, O most pure Lady, hearken unto my voice, and wash away all mine iniquities.

O Theotokos who hast given birth to the never-setting Sun, enlighten me who have become wholly dark through the passions, that I may glorify and praise thee, O most immaculate one.

Glory ..., **H**ave pity on my soul, O most holy Maiden, and deliver it from damnation and everlasting torment.

Now & ever ..., **H**eal mine ailing soul, O most holy Lady who hast given birth to Him Who taketh away the infirmities of all.

ODE VI

Irmos: The abyss of my sins and the storm of my transgressions * disquieten me and thrust me down * into the depths of despondency; * but do Thou stretch forth Thy mighty arm, * unto me as Thou didst to Peter, * and save me, O my Guide.

By thy vivifying birthgiving mortify the unseemly uprisings of my flesh, O Theotokos who hast given life unto those slain by evil, that I may glorify thee as the cause of the restoration of mankind.

O Virgin Theotokos who hast given birth to the Abyss of compassions, save my soul from the sorrows of life, and open unto me the spiritual portals of joy; for in thee alone have I placed my hope.

Glory ..., **T**hat I may joyously hymn thy mighty works and the great grace of thy miracles, O most pure Virgin, By thy prayers ever free me from the unseemly thoughts which afflict me.

Now & ever ..., **I**n a manner transcending nature didst thou give birth unto Him Who did not depart from the bosom of the Father, yet through thee, O Virgin, conversed with men. As thou art the boast and confirmation of all of us, O Theotokos, take pity upon those who flee unto thee.

Lord, have mercy, (Thrice).

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Sessional hymn, in Tone VIII:

The Word of the Father descended to the earth, and the radiant angel said to the Theotokos: “Rejoice, O blessed one who alone hast preserved the bridal-chamber, accepting the conception of the pre-eternal God and Lord, that God might save the race of mankind from delusion!”

ODE VII

Irmos: The Hebrew children in the furnace * boldly trampled upon the flames, * changing the fire into dew, they cried aloud: * 'Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages'.

Woe is me! How shall I escape the torments which await me who have lived wickedly on earth? How shall I appear to the dread Judge as other than accursed? O Lady, Birthgiver of God, be thou my helper then!

Quench thou the flame of my passions and still the tempest of my heart, O pure Mother of God; and deliver me from the tyranny of the demons and from the eternal fire, O most pure one.

Glory ..., Behold the sorrow which the multitude of mine evils have brought upon me, O Virgin, and before my departure grant me rest, assuaging thy Son by thy maternal supplications.

Now & ever ..., With thy dew extinguish the flame of the passions of my heart, O Virgin Maiden, and rescue me from the dread fire, from eternal damnation and the tyranny of the demons.

ODE VIII

Irmos: O ye Children, equal in number to the Trinity, * bless ye God the Father and creator; * sing ye the praises of the Word who descended and changed the fire into dew; * and supremely exalt ye throughout the ages * the all-Holy Spirit, who giveth life unto all.

Mortify all the uprisings of our bodies, O Virgin who by thy Life-bearing birthgiving didst slay the serpent, and pray that we may receive the life which ageeth not, that we may hymn thee forever.

I ever invoke thine aid, O Birthgiver of God. Put me not to shame who have already acquired shame, but take pity upon me, O most pure one, rescue me from the flame, and deliver me from eternal torments.

Glory ..., Show thyself to me as a joyous helper amid evil circumstances, delivering me from the assaults which the demons launched at me, that I may ever bless thee, O Theotokos, as the intercessor for all.

Now & ever ..., O most holy Maiden, thou boast of the apostles and glory of the martyrs, cause me to share in eternal glory, who cry aloud: Bless the Most Holy Spirit throughout all ages!

ODE IX

Irmos: Thou hast passed the limits of nature, * having conceived the Maker and the Lord, * and didst become a door of salvation * unto the world; * wherefore we unceasingly magnify thee, O Theotokos.

With thy never-waning light drive away the cruel darkness from my soul, O portal of the Light, and show me the luminous paths of repentance, that, treading them, I may elude the gloom of sin and may unceasingly magnify thee.

Cleanse thy servants, O Good One, and grant us forgiveness of transgressions; deliver us from the eternal flame, that we may share in Thy kingdom, O Word of God, for Thou didst endure the Cross in Thy desire to save the race of mankind.

Glory ..., Grant that I may easily pass through the journey of this life, O Theotokos, subduing the uprisings of temptations and perils, in that thou art good, and guide me to the virtues of the heavenly kingdom and divine rest, that, saved, I may glorify thee.

Now & ever ..., In that thou hast given birth to the supremely good God and art merciful, heal thou my soul, which is sick with grievous suffering, and ever deliver me from the evils which oppress and assail me, O most pure one, that, saved, I may fervently magnify thee who hast magnified our race.

Then, "It is truly meet ...," and a prostration. Trisagion through Our Father ..., Troparion, and the rest as usual. Dismissal.

ON SATURDAY MORNING: TONE VIII
AT MATINS

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter,
the Sessional hymns of the martyrs, in Tone VIII:

O holy martyrs, ye were shown to be noetic beacons, for by faith ye have dispersed the gloom of deception, ignited the lamps of our souls, and entered with glory into the heavenly bridal chamber of the Bridegroom. * Wherefore we now entreat you, intercede that our souls be saved.

Verse: Wondrous is God in His saints, * the God of Israel.

By their temperance, the martyrs of Christ mortified the fiery impulses of the passions, and received the grace of Christ, whereby they drive infirmities from the sick, and work miracles, in that they are alive, even after death. O what a truly all-glorious wonder it is, that their bare bones pour forth healings. Glory be to our one God.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion:

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin * and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death, * and as God revealed the resurrection: * disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand. * Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; * Accept the supplications of the Theotokos who bore Thee, ** and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional hymns, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “Pondering what was mystically commanded ...”:

O prophets, martyrs of Christ, and holy hierarchs, who with the wisdom of piety lawfully finished the good race and received unfading wreaths from God, unceasingly ask His grace for us, that He grant us the forgiveness of our transgressions, in that He is a readily conciliatory God.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For the reposed: **T**hose who have piously departed from transitory things do Thou number among the righteous in the habitations of the elect, O Master, granting them rest in the place of those who keep festival and in the endless bliss of paradise, forgiving them their voluntary and involuntary transgressions in Thine extreme beneficence, in that Thou art good.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the reposed: O Thou Who by the depth of Thy wisdom dost provide all things out of love for mankind, and grantest unto all that which is profitable, O only Creator: Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants; for in Thee have they placed their hope, O Creator and Fashioner and God.

.Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion:

Theotokion: In thee we have a rampart and a haven and an intercessor acceptable to God, Whom thou didst bear, O Theotokos unwedded, salvation of the faithful.

ODE I

Canon of the holy martyrs, hierarchs, the venerable and the departed, the acrostic whereof is “the divine conclusion of the new Oktoechos”, the composition of Joseph, in Tone VIII:

Irmos: Let us sing unto the Lord, * who led His people through the Red Sea: * for He alone hath gloriously been glorified.

Ye were revealed to be precious pearls rendering the crown of the honored Church brilliant, O most valiant passion-bearers of Christ.

With divine splendors the most wise and holy hierarchs shone forth the dogma of the virtues, enlightening the hearts of the faithful.

O Word Who art wondrous in the prophets and the righteous, we beseech Thee: By their prayers save us!

When Thou, the righteous Judge, shalt come to do what is most just, O Word, save us from condemnation by their supplications.

Theotokion: **K**nowing thee to be the one who gave birth to the Lord, O Virgin, the choirs of women who suffered, following in thine entourage, are brought before Him.

Another canon, of departed, the acrostic whereof is “I fashion an eighth hymn for the faithful departed”, in Tone VIII:

Irmos: Having passed through the water as upon dry land, * and having escaped the malice of the Egyptians, * the Israelites cried aloud: * Unto our God and Redeemer let us sing.

Refrain: Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: **H**aving emulated the death of Christ by their death and His honored suffering by their sufferings, all the martyrs have received divine and blessed life.

Refrain: Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: **O**verlooking the transgressions of youth and transcending our sins, O Christ our Savior, number among Thine elect Thy servants who have fallen asleep.

Glory ..., **U**nto Thy servants whom Thou hast taken to Thyself, O greatly Merciful One, richly grant the glory and joy which those who acquired a blessed sojourn have received.

Theotokion: **T**hou didst conceive the Word of the Father, Who united Himself hypostatically to the flesh He received from thee, and Who abolished Hades with divine power, O all-immaculate Maiden.

ODE III

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: **O** Christ fortify me on the rock of Thy commandments, * Thou Who in the beginning didst establish the heavens with understanding * and didst establish the earth upon the waters, * for there is none holy save Thee, O only Lover of mankind.

Spurning vile sacrifices with most mighty intent, the spiritual athletes became most pure sacrifices for the Word Who was sacrificed.

Renewing with sanctifying words those grown old through all the passions, ye revealed yourselves to be divine disciples of the Word Who hath renewed the world.

The grace of the all-holy Spirit, which of old was manifestly imparted to the prophets, hath in the latter times filled the ascetics with divine gifts.

Join Thou to the choirs of the saints those who have passed from this life with faith, O God, and in Thine ineffable mercy cause them to dwell in paradise.

Theotokion: **J**esus our Lord, Whom naught can contain, made His abode within thy sanctified womb without being circumscribed, O most pure and all-hymned Virgin.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: **O** Lord, Creator of the vault of Heaven * and Builder of the Church, * do Thou strengthen me in Thy love, O Summit of desire, * O Support of the faithful, * O only Lover of mankind.

Refrain: **W**ondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: **C**leansed of the ancient fall of our first parents, and having been sprinkled with baptism, regeneration and the streams of your blood, O blessed ones, ye reign with Christ.

Refrain: **G**rant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: **O** Savior, Who wast willingly laid dead in the tomb, and called forth those who abode in the grave, be Thou well-pleased that those whom Thou hast taken from us may dwell in the habitations of Thy righteous.

Glory ..., **E**ntreated by the compassion of Thy divine goodness, which is understood consubstantially, O Master and Savior, give rest to Thy servants, granting them remission of their sins.

Theotokion: **H**e Who alone is manifestly the Lover of mankind, who was incarnate from thy womb and became a man, doth save mankind from the gates of death, O only most pure and all-hymned Mother of God.

ODE IV

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: **O** Lord, I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation; * I have considered Thy works, * and I have glorified Thy Divinity.

Passing through the arena of torments, O divinely blessed spiritual athletes, with the fervor of the Spirit ye utterly consumed the tinder of delusion.

Thou hast splendidly glorified Thy venerable and holy hierarchs, O Lord. By their divine supplications show me to partake of Thy glory.

The inspiration of the divine Spirit, which enlightened the prophets, gave women the strength to cast down the arrogance of the enemy.

O Supremely good One, having been entreated, grant that Thy servants, whom Thou hast taken to Thyself, may join chorus with all the saints in Thy holy habitations

Theotokion: **I**n a manner transcending nature, O all-immaculate one, thou hast given birth to the Bestower of the law of God, Who hath refashioned fallen human nature.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: **T**hou, O Lord, art my strength and Thou art my power, * Thou art my God and Thou art my joy, * Thou Who, while never leaving the bosom of Thy Father, * hast visited our poverty. * Therefore with the Prophet Habbakuk I cry unto Thee, * ‘Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!’

Refrain: **W**ondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: **T**hat they might behold Thy glory and splendidly receive Thine effulgence in the heavens, O Master, the divine martyrs endured all manner of tortures, singing to Thee, O Christ: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!

Refrain: **G**rant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: In Thy house are many mansions, O Savior, which are set aside for all according to the measure of their virtues, as is fitting. Be Thou well-pleased, O Compassionate One, to fill them with those who have reposed in faith, piously chanting unto Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!

Glory ...: Thou didst appear as a man equal to us, O Immortal One, didst endure death as do all, and hast shown us the path to life. In that Thou lovest mankind, free those who have departed from us, granting them forgiveness offenses, O Master, and give them a share of Thy light.

Theotokion: Thou art the boast of the faithful, the intercessor and refuge, the bulwark and haven of Christians, O unwedded and all-immaculate one, and thou bearest entreaties to thy Son, saving from misfortunes those who with faith and love know thee to be the Theotokos.

ODE V

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: Illumine us O Lord with Thy commandments, * and with Thine arm raised on high * grant us Thy peace, * O Lover of mankind!

The divine martyrs bore the wounding of their flesh; wherefore, they ever heal our wounds, wounding the demons.

O holy hierarchs of God, with all the venerable entreat Christ, that He grant us remission of sins.

Laying waste to their bodies with discomfort and asceticism., the venerable women have been deemed worthy of that for which they truly hoped, O Lover of mankind.

O Immortal One, Who destroyed death by Thy death, in that Thou lovest mankind grant rest to Thy faithful servants, who have died in the hope of life.

Theotokion: Thou hast annulled the condemnation of our first father, O pure one, having given birth in the flesh unto Jesus, the one Lord, Who hath justified all.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: O Light never-waning, * why hast Thou turned Thy face from me * and why hath the alien darkness surrounded me, * wretched though I be? * But do Thou guide my steps I implore Thee * and turn me back towards the light of Thy commandments.

Refrain: Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

For the reposed: In the habitations of the saints, where the beauteous cry is heard of those who keep festival, grant the life of dispassion, Thine ineffable glory and Thy blessedness, which is past all telling, unto those who have departed, O Thou only Lover of mankind, taking pity on them.

Refrain: Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: In the bosom of Abraham, where the ranks of the angels are, and where the assemblies of the righteous rejoice, grant Thy servants to dwell, O loving Savior, and be Thou well-pleased that they stand with boldness before Thy dread and divine throne.

Glory ..., Thou wast shown to be our purification, righteousness and deliverance, O Compassionate One, and by Thy wounds hast healed our infirmities; wherefore, in that Thou art good, grant unto those who have departed the delights of paradise.

Theotokion: Thou didst mercifully assume the form of man, O Merciful One, Who adornest all with the transcendent exaltations of divine glory, receiving animate and reason-endowed flesh from the Virgin's womb, by which Thou didst destroy death.

ODE VI

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: Cleanse me, O Savior, * for many are mine iniquities; * lead me up from the abyss of evils I pray Thee, * for unto Thee have I cried, * and Thou hast hearkened unto me, * O God of my salvation.

With your honored stripes ye heal the infirmities of men's souls, O holy martyrs, and ever remove the corruption of their bodies, wounding the multitude of evil demons.

The choir of the venerable, the company of holy hierarchs, and the divine assembly of sacred women, who struggled steadfastly, have inherited bliss in the heavens.

Having mortified the flesh, ye received life, O ascetics; and having tended well the flock of Christ, O most wise and holy hierarchs, ye were deemed worthy of immortal glory after your repose.

O Word, Who art the life of the living and rest of the dead: Cause Thy servants, who have departed from us at Thy divine command, to dwell in the bosom of Abraham, Thy favored one.

Theotokion: The Effulgence of the Father dwelt within thee, O pure one, and with the immaterial rays of His divinity destroyed the darkness of polytheism, illumining the world.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: Same as the foregoing.

Refrain: Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: Wounded in their souls by the love of Thee, Thy martyrs, O Savior, endured many tortures, desiring everlasting glory and Thy sweet communion.

Refrain: Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: Thou didst cut open the belly of the enemy by Thy death, and didst resurrect all who were held prisoner therein, O Bestower of life. Grant this unto those who have departed, O Benefactor.

Glory ..., Thou didst free Thy servants in Hades from tears and sighing, O Savior, for as Thou alone art full of tender compassion, Thou hast wiped away every tear from the face of all who bless thee with faith.

Theotokion: He Who formed nature hath taken form in thy womb; He Who is complete hath emptied Himself, O all-immaculate one; He Who alone is immortal hath submitted to death for our salvation.

Kontakion, in Tone VIII:

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is neither pain, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life never-ending.

Ikos: Thou alone art immortal, * Who hast created and fashioned man; * but We mortals were fashioned from the earth, * and unto earth shall we return, * as Thou Who fashioned me didst command and say unto me, * “For earth thou art and unto earth shall thou return,” * whither all We mortals are going, * making our funeral lament the song: ** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

ODE VII

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: In Babylon, the pious youths did not worship the golden image, * but, bedewed in the midst of the fiery furnace, * they chanted a hymn, saying: * O supremely exalted God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Having destroying the hedge of ungodliness with your sacred bonds, release from me the burden of mine offenses, O martyrs, and save me who cry: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

With the showers of your sacred blood ye extinguished the fire of heresies, and by the flame ye burned up the tares of the delusion of ungodliness, enlightening the souls of the faithful.

Having mortified the flesh with asceticism, the fasters live even after death; and the choir of the prophets and the righteous, and the company of women who struggled, have been glorified. By their supplications, O Christ, deliver us from misfortunes.

Grant rest, O Christ, unto the souls of all who have fallen asleep in the hope of life, in Thy great loving-kindness overlooking the offenses they committed in this life, O only compassionate Savior. O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **A**s thou art wholly pure, thou didst receive the incarnate Word within thy womb. Him do thou entreat, O most pure one, that He cleanse the infirmities of soul and body of me who have recourse unto thee with pure faith.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: **T**he Hebrew children in the furnace * boldly trampled upon the flames, * changing the fire into dew, they cried aloud: * 'Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages'.

Refrain: Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: **A**ll the desire of the martyrs was for the one Master, for they were united to Him in love and chanted: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

Refrain: **G**rant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: **T**he splendor of the divine kingdom dost Thou give to those who have departed in faith, granting the vesture of incorruption unto those who cry out: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

Glory ... **W**ith joy and gladness fill Thy servants whom Thou hast taken to Thyself, O Compassionate One, Who called them to Thee, that they might chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

Theotokion: **A**nnulling the curse of Eve, Thou madest Thine abode within the most immaculate Virgin, pouring forth a fountain of blessing upon those who cry: Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, O most pure one!

ODE VIII

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: **T**reading down the fiery flame in the furnace, * the divinely eloquent children sang: * 'Bless the Lord, ye works of the Lord'.

Suffering, ye demolished the temples of the idols and made yourselves temples of the divine Trinity, O passion-bearers of the Lord, conversers with the angels.

Thy priests, O Christ, having clothed themselves in righteousness with those who lived holy lives in times past, now rejoice, most clearly beholding Thy divine beauty.

By the supplications of Thy most sacred prophets, the ever-memorable women, and the righteous of ages past, O Word, grant Thy mercies unto Thy world.

O just Judge, when Thou wilt judge those whom Thou hast taken from among us, preserve them uncondemned, overlooking their offenses, O Master.

Theotokion: **A**ppearing, with thine enlightenment, dispel the clouds of utter darkness from my soul, O Virgin who hast given birth to the Sun of righteousness.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: **T**he instruments of music sounded out in harmony, * and countless multitudes worshipped the image in Dura; * but the three Children, refusing to bow in obeisance, * hymn and glorify the Lord throughout all ages.

Refrain: **W**ondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: **H**aving passed through the struggles of earth, the true martyrs received heavenly crowns, and without ceasing they cry unto Thee: Hymn the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Refrain: **G**rant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: **D**escending into the nethermost pit, with Thy life-creating hand Thou didst raise up those who abode in the graves, and gavest rest unto Thy servants who reposed aforetime in the faith, O Compassionate One.

Glory ..., In that Thou art the Wellspring of life everlasting and the Torrent of delight, grant that Thy servants, who have departed unto Thee, may hymn and glorify Thee throughout all ages.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin Mary, Theotokos, who hast given birth in the flesh to God, the Savior of mankind,: Save those who with faith hymn and supremely exalt thine Offspring throughout all ages.

We then chant the Hymn of the Theotokos (the Magnificat), with the refrain: “More honorable than the cherubim ...”, and make prostrations.

ODE IX

Canon of All Saints

Irmos: **W**ith never ceasing praises we magnify thee, * the Mother of God Most High, * who art higher than the most pure hosts, * and who beyond comprehension knew not wedlock, * yet hath truly given birth to God.

The martyrs stood before the unjust tribunals, condemning all injustice by the grace of Christ, rescuing those held fast by them, and receiving crowns of righteousness.

Ye were shown to be pilots of the Church, piously steering the whole ship with the commandments of God, O all ye blessed primates and pastors. Wherefore, we honor you as our helmsmen.

The councils of the prophets and the venerable entreat Thee, O Lord, and the companies of women who most splendidly suffered and shone forth in asceticism, beseech Thee, O Lover of mankind: Grant us Thy compassions!

O Merciful One, through the supplications of Thy saints grant that Thy servants, who have departed in faith from this vain world, may have a share in the honor and everlasting glory which all the saints of Christ have been granted.

Theotokion: **B**earing in thine arms the Fullness of all good things, O all-immaculate one, fulfill the entreaties of thy servants; and direct our steps toward God, giving us the strength to walk in virtue.

Canon of the Departed

Irmos: **E**very ear is awestruck at hearing of God's ineffable condescension, * for the Most High voluntarily descended and assumed flesh, * becoming man in the Virgin's womb; * wherefore we the faithful magnify the most pure Theotokos.

Refrain: **W**ondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

To the Martyrs: **P**ossessed of invincible and unvanquishable might, O martyrs of Christ, ye set at naught the ungodly edicts of the tyrants and, enlightened by the rays of the Trinity, O right glorious ones, ye were manifestly deemed worthy of the kingdom of heaven.

Refrain: **G**rant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants.

For the reposed: **B**itter Hades was destroyed when Thou didst demolish it and raise up those who slept there from all ages. O Compassionate One, in that Thou art good, grant Thy never-waning light to those who have now passed over to Thee.

Glory ..., O Savior, Thou art all sweetness, Thou art truly all desire, all insatiable love; Thou art all ineffable beauty! Wherefore, be Thou well-pleased that those who have passed over to Thee may delight in Thy comeliness, and grant unto them Thy divine beauty.

Theotokion: Save me, O Mother of God, who hast given birth to Christ my Savior, God and man, in two natures but a single Hypostasis: He is the only-begotten of the Father, and issued forth from thee as the firstborn of all creation. Him do we magnify in two natures.

Then, “It is truly meet to bless thee ...”, and a. prostration.

Litany: Let us complete ..., Exapostilarion, and the usual psalms.

On the Praises, these Stichera of the martyrs, in Tone VIII:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Ye struggled greatly, O saints, valiantly enduring tortures at the hands of the iniquitous; and though ye have passed from this life, ye still work wonders in this world and heal those made sick by their passions. O holy ones, pray ye that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

O invincible martyrs of Christ, having triumphed over delusion by the power of the Cross, and gained as your reward the grace of eternal life. Ye feared not the threats of tyrants, and suffering tortures ye rejoiced; and now your blood hath become for us the healing of our souls, pray ye that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

Having clothed yourselves with the breastplate of the Faith, and armed yourselves with the Cross as a sword, ye showed yourselves to be mighty warriors, bravely opposing the tyrants and casting down the delusion of the devil; and, victorious, ye were deemed worthy of crowns. Pray ye ever on our behalf, that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

For the reposed: For those who have lived in fornication infinite is the torment, the gnashing of teeth, the inconsolable weeping, the fiery Gehenna, the outer darkness, the worm which sleepeth not, the ineffectual tears, and the implacable judgment; wherefore, before the end let us cry aloud, saying: O Master Christ, grant rest with the elect unto those whom Thou hast taken to Thyself!

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: I flee to thy protection, O holy Virgin Theotokos, for I know that through thee I shall obtain salvation; for thou art able to help me, O pure one.

On the Aposticha, the Stichera of the departed, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “O most glorious wonder ...”:

Dipping Thy fingers in Thy blood and staining them therewith as with red ink, Thou hast signed for us a royal reprieve, O Master; wherefore, we entreat Thee with faith: Among Thy firstborn number those who have departed unto Thee, the tenderly compassionate One, and grant that they may receive the joy of Thy righteous.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Having fulfilled Thy priestly ministry as a man, and been sacrificed as a lamb, Thou didst redeem mankind from corruption, offering Thyself as an oblation to the Father. As Thou art the Lover of mankind, do Thou enroll the departed in the land of the living, where torrents of delight pour forth, and well-springs of eternal life flow.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

O Thou Who, in the depths of Thine ineffable wisdom, dost set the bounds of life, and foresee things to come, cause the servants whom Thou hast taken to Thyself to dwell in the life to come. Settle them, by peaceful waters, in the splendor of the saints, O Lord, where the voice of joy and praise is heard.

Verse: Their memorial * is from generation to generation.

O Word Who art invisible, of the same nature and form as the Father and the Spirit, for my sake Thou didst appear as a man in the flesh. In that Thou art merciful and lovest mankind, with the beauties of Thy majesty and comeliness enlighten those who have passed from this life, O Author of life.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: In that thou didst conceive the beginningless Word of God the Father, with thy maternal boldness earnestly entreat Him, O Theotokos, that He number thy servants where the jubilation of the righteous who rejoice and praise thee, is continuous, and where the radiance is eternal, and the voice of him who keepeth festival is sweet.

Then, “It is good to give thanks ...,” Trisagion ..., Our Father ..., Troparia.

Litany: Have mercy on us ..., First Hour, and Dismissal.

**ON SATURDAY MORNING: TONE VIII
AT LITURGY**

On the Beatitudes, these Troparia, in Tone VIII:

Remember us, O Christ, Savior of the world, as Thou didst remember the thief on the tree; and grant unto all Thy heavenly kingdom, O only Compassionate One.

O passion-bearers who endured all pain, by your wounds and divine grace ye have wounded all the darkness of the demons.

The venerable and divine hierarchs of Christ, the council of the prophets, and all the righteous saints, have received a heavenly inheritance. Let us bless them as is meet.

All who have departed this life with faith do thou settle in the lands of the righteous, O God; and show forth as heirs of paradise those who hymn Thee in a godly manner.

Glory ..., **I** offer Thee a final hymn, O Trinity: Those whom Thou hast taken from us in faith do Thou grant the habitations of the saints; and have mercy on me, the prodigal.

Now & ever ..., **O** Virgin who hast given birth to the Fullness of all good things, fulfill our supplications, asking for us remission offenses, enlightenment and great mercy.

On Saturday, the Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII:

Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, * O ye righteous.

Verse: Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

And for the Departed, in Tone VI:

Prokeimenon, in Tone VI: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Alleluia, in Tone IV: The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their tribulations.

Verse: Many are the tribulations of the righteous, but the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord. Their memorial is unto generation and generation.

Communion Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

Another, for the departed:

Communion Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord. Their memorial is unto generation and generation.

AND THUS CONCLUDES THE HOLY OKTOECHOS, TO THE GLORY
OF THE MOST HOLY CONSUBSTANTIAL TRINITY.