



COMMON OF THE SAINTS FEASTS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

This service is taken on the feasts of the Deposition of the Robes (July 2), the Deposition of the Cincture (Aug. 31), and, partly, the Entrance into the Temple (Nov. 21).

VESPERS

" Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben — Dal yesy znameniye*): With the divine power, O most pure One,* you preserve and shelter us from the attacks of the enemy* as we lovingly celebrate your all-glorious feast (*name*), and call to you:* You are our strength and security* and your Son and our God is the well-pleasing One Whom we adore.* O Jesus, all-powerful,* save us, for You are the compassionate One.

Today we are gathered together in a divine manner,* let us praise the all-holy Virgin and Theotokos.* Many are your glories and wonders,* for you are our holy protection, our praise and glory.* You are the source of healing for those who celebrate your holy feast.* Therefore, we pray to your Son, and we say:* O Jesus, all-powerful,* save us, for You are the compassionate One.

With your honorable supplications, O most holy One,* shelter and preserve us from our enemies.* Grant strength and courage to those who celebrate your holy feast,* that we may cry out to your Son:* O Jesus, all-powerful,* save us, for You are the compassionate One.

The following three stichera may also be taken: O Theotokos, you cooperated..., Heaven and earth are sanctified..., O Theotokos, you the beauty of Jacob... (p. 1040).

Glory be: Now and for ever: (Tone 6): The Church of God has been enriched today* with the brilliance of your holy feast, O Theotokos.* Resplendent with joy and exulting, we cry to you, O Lady:* Rejoice, O precious crown of the glory of God;* rejoice, the only fulfillment of the Glory and eternal Goodness;* rejoice, haven for all those who come to you.* For you are our intercessor* and the salvation of our souls.

Prokimenon of the day and these readings:

- Gn 28:10-17, (p. 1010);
- Ez 43:27-44, (p. 875);
- Prv 9:1-11, (p. 1041) or
- Prov 8:22-30.

Aposticha

(Tone 3): Come, all you faithful from the ends of the earth,* let us glorify the honorable feast of the Mother of God.* Lifting up her hands to her Son, she prays for us,* and through her holy feast the world is given life.* Therefore, with psalms and hymns and spiritual odes,* let us joyfully celebrate with all the saints.

Verse: She is led to the king with her maiden companions. They are escorted amid gladness and joy.

Greatly has God adorned you with beauty,* for in the midst of all, He placed the Light in your arms.* You alone are in His light and are the hope of Christians,* you are the help for those afflicted with needs and sorrows,* you are the haven for those who labor and toil.* Now entreat

Him to deliver from all afflictions* those who lovingly honor your holy feast.

Verse: Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.

Your honored feast, O pure and holy Virgin,* is glorified by angels in heaven and by mankind on earth;* for you are the Mother of Christ our God, the Creator of all.* Do not cease to entreat Him for us, we beg you;* for next to God, we have placed our trust in you,* O Theotokos, most highly praised and pure of all stain.

Glory be: Now and for ever: (Tone 2): Having cleansed our thoughts and our minds,* together with the angels* we celebrate the feast of the Virgin,* the bride of the King of all, Christ our God.* Beginning with David's hymn, let us sing:* Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place;* You and the ark of Your majesty.* As a beautiful chamber, You have adorned her* and numbered her into Your city, O Master,* to shelter Your people from their enemies* by Your mighty power and through her intercession.

MATINS

Sessional Hymns

1. (Tone 4): Today the universal joy of your feast shines forth* with the brightness of the stars, O Mary, ever-Virgin Mother.* Illumine the minds of those who on earth* lovingly sing praises to you. (Glory be: Now and for ever: repeat the same).

2. (Tone 4, Podoben – Udyvysia Josyf): The Virgin Mary who is truly the Godbearer* has shone forth to us as a bright cloud.* Adam is no longer condemned, and Eve is released from bonds.* Therefore, with confidence we also

cry out to the only pure One:* O most holy Virgin, beg your Son to forgive our sins. (Glory be: Now and for ever: repeat the same).

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung: for the feast of Deposition of Garment – Cincture: We extol you, O most holy Virgin,* and we honor your holy garment* (or your holy cincture), for you pray for us to Christ our God.*

For the feast of Entrance into the Temple: We extol you, O most holy Virgin and God-chosen Maiden,* and we honor your entrance* into the temple of the Lord.*

Verse: Great is the Lord and highly praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain.

Verse: Holy is this temple, awesome in righteousness.

Verse: Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!

Verse: Behold the gates of the Lord; the just shall pass through them.

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x).

Sessional Hymns (Tone 1): From your virginal womb a beautiful shoot has sprouted forth,* for you have given birth to the Life of the world.* For this, the heavenly powers sing to you, O Godbearer,* praising your honorable feast, O pure One.* Glory to your feast (name): glory to your virginity, O Virgin Mother.

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 44 (Tone 4)

May this song make your name* forever remembered.

Verse: My heart overflows with noble words. To the King I must speak the song I have made.

Gospel: Lk 10: 39-49, 56 (p. 1045). After Psalm 50 -- Glory be: Now and for ever: then, the verse as on Sunday, then the following sticherion:

(Tone 6): Today the gates of heaven are opening* and the divine door moves forth.* Today grace of gladness begins,* announcing to the world the feast of the Mother of God:* Through her, heaven and earth are united together* for the salvation of our souls.

Canon – Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 8): Everyone was seized with amazement at hearing of the ineffable condescension of God, for the Most High willed to come down even to the flesh, having become man in the virginal womb. Therefore, we, the faithful extol the most pure Godbearer.

Verse: O most holy Mother of God, pray for us!

Glorious things were said of you, O city of God, and of Him Who ever reigns over all things in heaven and on earth, to Whom you have given birth. He has raised you from the earth into heaven. Pray to Him unceasingly for those who honor your sacred feast. With Him we extol you.

Verse: O most holy Mother of God, pray for us!

O choirs of angels, assembly of patriarchs, divine college of apostles and prophets, army of martyrs, ranks of hierarchs and venerable fathers, and all you saints, rejoice with us, who celebrate the holy feast of the Mother of God, whom we extol.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Exalt the strength of all the faithful and stop the boasting of the enemies, O most pure Godbearer! Preserve your cities in peace and protect all Christian nations, in which your great and most glorious

name is faithfully glorified and venerated by all, O pure Lady.

Katabasia: *according to the rules or repeat the above hirmos.*

Exapostilarion: Adam be renewed! Eve rejoice!* Rejoice, all you prophets together with the apostles and martyrs;* rejoice, venerable ascetics and hierarchs,* for the most pure feast of Mary, the Mother of God,* has brought joy and gladness to all mankind* and to all the heavenly hosts.

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 1): Your holy feast has become for me a source of light* and an inexhaustible stream of brightness.* Therefore, O Godbearer,* pray that I may be delivered from the darkness of ignorance* and from the spiritual and bodily passions,* and, in the world to come, save me from everlasting torments.

The eternal Wisdom of God,* Who was born of you in the flesh,* has revealed your feast to be a source of wisdom* and an ocean of understanding and grace.* Therefore, for His sake grant me a droplet of your wisdom and understanding,* and lead me to everlasting life.

Glorify be: Now and for ever: *(Tone 8):* Let us all praise Mary, the Godbearer.* Rejoice, O Mother of God. Rejoice, spiritual ladder.* Rejoice, unburnable bush. Rejoice, most holy urn.* Rejoice, flower of faith. Rejoice, blossoming rod.* Rejoice, golden censer. Rejoice, Virgin, overshadowed mountain of God.* Rejoice, forgiveness of the first Eve. Rejoice, throne of God.* Rejoice, most merciful beauty. Rejoice, O sovereign Lady.

COMMON OF A PROPHET

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben – Zvanyj svyshe*): With a pure mind you received the brilliant, God-sent light.* You were the herald of divine words, a seer and prophet.* You were shown to be a truly inspired messenger of God;* you foresaw that which was revealed to you by Him,* and you announced to all nations the promised salvation,* and the coming of the kingdom of Christ.* O honorable (*name*),* pray to God to save and enlighten our souls.

God-inspired (*name*),* you were rightfully honored with an illuminating knowledge of God,* and with prophetic vision and grace,* you were made worthy of divine happiness.* You stand with boldness before the most gracious One.* Since you have obtained His mercy,* we ask you to pray unceasingly for us,* that we be delivered from all danger* and that our souls may be saved;* for we faithfully praise and venerate you* as an honorable evangelist* and as one who has been united with God.

Immortal One,* You have shown Your prophet (*name*) to be like a living cloud,* which pours out the water of eternal life.* In sending him, You have richly endowed him with the all-holy Spirit,* Who is of one substance with You, the Father almighty,* and with Your Son, Who has shone forth from Your substance.* Through the Spirit, O prophet,* you foretold the coming of Christ, our God and our salvation.* Pray to Him to enlighten and to save our souls.

Glory be: (*Tone 4*): Rejoicing in the Lord Your God and Savior,* O God-spoken and glorious prophet (*name*),* and

exulting in Him, you have received the luminous light* from the brightness of the Divinity* and were spiritually illumined with the light proceeding from God;* therefore, through your prayers, deliver from temptations and afflictions* those who in faith celebrate your glorious memory.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): The Son, Who is with the Father and the Spirit,* and is glorified on high by the cherubim,* in desiring to renew the first created man,* unspeakably humbled Himself,* taking His abode in your womb, O ever-praised Godbearer!* Christ God and Savior of our souls has come forth from you and has enlightened the whole world.* He has delivered it from idolatry and has deified mankind in Himself,* raising it up to heaven.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): Seeing the Lover of mankind crucified and His side pierced with a lance,* the most pure Virgin cried out: What is this, my Son?* How have these people repaid You for all the good You have bestowed on them?* Do You wish to leave me alone, my most beloved One?* How I marvel, O merciful One, at Your willingness to suffer the passion.

COMMON OF AN APOSTLE VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 8, Podoben – Chto vy narechem*): What shall we call you, O apostle?* Heaven, for you have confessed the glory of God?* A river, since you mystically give drink to all creation?* A star that illumines the Church?* A chalice pouring out the holy drink?* An intimate of Christ, dwelling equally with the angels?* Pray that our souls may be saved.

O apostle and preacher of God,* you came forth from Christ like a shining arrow.* You wounded His enemies, and you manifestly healed wounded souls.* Therefore, we praise you fervently,* and we celebrate your feastday today.* Pray that our souls may be saved.

O glorious apostle who sees God,* your feet have become beautiful, pursuing the path of preaching.* You made narrow the way of the wicked* by the width of your divine knowledge of the Word,* Who is revealed in the coarseness of the flesh.* The most glorious Lord chose you as His disciple, O blessed one.* Pray to Him that our souls may be saved.

If it is à Polyeleos, we may take three more stichera from the stichera at the praises, (p. 1179).

Glory be: (*Tone 8*): You have manifestly received the grace of the divine Spirit, O apostle (*name*)* and, having joined the sacred assembly of apostles,* you have also inhaled the fiery breath* that once descended from heaven in the shape of tongues of fire,* and have burned up the thorns of pagan godlessness.* Implore, Christ our God, O preacher,* that our souls may be saved.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): O wretched soul, to whom has your repentance been pleasing?* You are not in any way trying to repent.* You do not fear the consuming fire.* Rise up and call upon the one aid to Christians for her speedy intercession.* Beg her Son and our God to deliver me from the snare of the evil one.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): When Your Mother saw You, O Lamb, being led away to be slaughtered,* she followed You, O Word, crying out amid tears:* Where are You going with such haste, my Child?* I am going with

You, my sweetest One;* for I cannot bear to be without You,* my most merciful Jesus!

If it is a Polyeleos: Now and for ever: Dogmaticon (Tone 8), (p. 384); on Friday and Saturday evenings: Now and for ever: the dogmaticon of the tone of the week.

Prokimenon of the day. If it is a Polyeleos, the following readings are taken: 1 Jn 4:9-16, (p. 763); 1 Jn 4:20-5:5, (p. 893); 1 Jn 3:21-4:6.

Aposticha (if it is a Polyeleos)

(Tone 4, Podoben – Dal yesy znameniy): You have received, O apostle (name),* invincible authority over demons,* and the power in the name of Christ to repel their dark powers.* You have passed through the earth, enlightening it as the sun;* and have instructed all the lands, preaching, O glorious one,* Christ's first and saving coming.

Verse: Through all the world their voice resounds; their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

Resembling, indeed, the divine life of the first grace, O apostle (name),* you were truly a good man, and were called son of divine grace.* Because of the goodness of your character and the purity of your mind,* you became a sincere disciple of Christ.

Verse: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

Like a resounding instrument well-tuned by God,* you devoted yourself, O apostle (name),* to the enlightenment of the nations,* instructing them, by word and deed, in the Christian faith,* and teaching them to profess Jesus as God* and the Savior of our souls.

Glory be: (*Tone 8*): Filled with the divine Spirit, O wonderful apostle (*name*),* you very zealously served God the Creator,* Who showed you to be full of divine miracles;* for, having amazing zeal, you have reached perfection by your life.* Now that you have taken up your abode in heaven* along with the heavenly choirs, pray, O eye-witness of the Lord,* that the Word, Christ our God,* grant great mercy to us.

Now and for ever: O most pure Virgin, Mother of the Most High,* who, beyond understanding, conceived God in the flesh,* accept our supplications and obtain for us, your servants,* forgiveness of sins and salvation of our souls.

This theotokion is also taken on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MATINS (*if it is a Polyeleos*)

Sessional Hymns

1. (*Tone 2*): Having gone to the very ends of the earth, the glorious apostle, (*name*),* caught the nations like fish, and taught them to worship You, O Christ our God,* together with the Father and the Spirit.* For his sake, O only merciful Lover of mankind,* strengthen Your Church and bestow upon the faithful Your blessing.

Glory be: **Now and for ever:** Because of you, O Virgin Mother of God,* we have become sharers in the divine nature,* for you gave birth to God in the flesh.* Therefore, we dutifully extol you.

2. (*Tone 4*): Christ, the Sun of justice, sent you, O glorious apostle (*name*),* as a brilliant ray to illumine all the earth.* Through your prayers and with the divine never-

setting Light* you illumine and enlighten all who in faith celebrate your holy memory.

Glory be: Now and for ever: O pure One, unfailing hope of those who trust in you,* you alone gave birth to Christ our God in the flesh in a manner surpassing nature.* Therefore, implore Him with the holy apostles* to grant to the world cleansing of sins* and amendment of life to all.

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung:

We extol you,* O holy apostle (*name*),* and we honor your sufferings and labors* in preaching the gospel of Christ.

Verse: You establish them as kings over all the earth.

Verse: Your lightning flashes illuminate the entire universe.

Verse: He gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God.

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God!
(3x).

Sessional Hymn (Tone 8): With the net of divine words,* you caught spiritual fish and offered them as first-fruits to our God.* Desiring to take upon yourself the wounds of Christ,* you became like Him in His sufferings.* Therefore, having gathered together today, O glorious apostle,* we honor your blessed memory, and with one voice we cry out:* Implore Christ our God to grant forgiveness of sins* to all who lovingly observe your holy memory.

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 18 (Tone 4)

Through the world their voice resounds;* their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

Verse: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

Gospel: Mt 9:36-10:1-8. After Psalm 50: Glory be: Now and for ever: and the verse as on Sunday, then the following sticheron:

(Tone 6): O most wise apostle *(name)** with the radiance of the divine Spirit you dispelled the darkness of idolatry* and enlightened the hearts of the faithful by preaching the saving commands.* Ask Christ our God to grant great mercy to us.

Canon – Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 8): Saved by you, O pure Virgin, we profess you as the true Mother of God, and together with the angelic choirs we extol you.

Verse: O holy apostle *(name)* pray to God for us!

With the divine light you have shone forth to the very ends of the earth, O apostle; and, having received the spiritual fire, you appeared resplendent with light. For this reason, we extol you.

Verse: O holy apostle *(name)* pray to God for us!

Completely relying on God, you became one with Him. Therefore, intercede with Him for us, who in faith and love extol you.

Glory be: Now and for ever: With hymns we magnify the mediatrix of all peoples, who with the radiance of God-like purity illumined the world.

Katabasia: *according to the rules or repeat the above hirmos.*

Exapostilarion: The progress of your beautiful feet having been arrested,* you have joyfully ascended into heaven, O apostle *(name)** and, standing before the Trinity,* you see in the Father – the Son, and the Holy Spirit.* For this reason, we lovingly celebrate your sacred and divine memory.

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 4): O glorious apostle *(name)** you obeyed the will of the Teacher,* Who enlightened your understanding in everything,* and showed you to be a disciple and honorable herald* of His incomprehensible Divinity.* Because of this, you drew souls out of the sea of vanities with the net of grace.

O apostle *(name)* you renounced the world and followed Christ,* and having received the Holy Spirit,* you were sent by Him to the lost nations* to bring them to the light of the knowledge of God.* Having suffered your divine passion and various torments,* you gave up your soul to God.* Therefore, ask Him, O servant of Christ, to grant us great mercy.

Grace flowed from your lips, O glorious apostle *(name)** and you were a lamp in Christ's Church,* teaching the rational flock to believe in the Triune God.

Glory be: Now and for ever: *(Tone 2):* I place all my trust in you,* O Mother of God;* receive me under your protective mantle.

COMMON OF APOSTLES

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben - Jāko dobl'a*): O most fortunate disciples, you are blessed,* since you were eyewitnesses of the incarnate Word.* You have appeared to the world as flashes of lightning.* As spiritual leaders you have poured out the sweetness of the Word.* You shared your knowledge like the ever-flowing rivers of paradise.* You gave the drink of divine waters to the Church of the Gentiles.

You were sent into the world as spiritual rays of light.* You have performed many miracles.* O most sacred mystics, you were ministers of the mysteries of Christ* and of the tablets of divine grace* inscribed with the law of God.

Through divine teachings, the rod of the fishermen* has put an end to the waverings of philosophers* and the ceaseless talk of orators.* They have clearly revealed doctrines and the mysteries of grace,* the communion of the eternal food,* the delight of angels, and the everlasting glory.

If it is a Polyeleos, we may take three more stichera from the stichera at the praises (p. 1185).

Glory be: (*Tone 4*): O disciples of the Savior,* you have gone out into the world and have enlightened it.* By your teachings you have consumed the deceit of idolatry like brushwood.* You saved nations, and delivered them from the depths of unreason to divine wisdom;* therefore, intercede with Christ today,* that He grant us mercy on the day of judgment.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): Rejoice, O death to demons!* Rejoice, O daughter of Adam, most flourishing

and unwilting flower!* Rejoice, O glory of your servants!* Rejoice, most immaculate One, and forgiveness of wicked ones!* Rejoice, O gift of salvation granted to the world by God!* Rejoice, O precious One of those who call upon you!* Rejoice, O Mother, glory of those who extol you!

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): As you beheld Your Son on the cross, O all-pure One,* a sword pierced your heart and you cried out:* Do not leave me alone, my Son and my God,* Who preserved me a virgin even after childbirth.

If it is a Polyeleos – Now and for ever: *the Dogmaticon* (Tone 4), (p. 271); *on Friday and Saturday evenings*: Now and for ever: *the Dogmaticon of the tone of the week*.

Prokimenon of the day: if it is a Polyeleos, then the following readings are taken: – 1Pt 1:3-9, (p. 924);

- 1Pt 1:13-18;
- 1Pt 2:11-24 *or*
- Acts 2:37-47.

Aposticha (*if it is a Polyeleos*)

(Tone 6, *Podoben – Tretoho dnja*): O blessed apostles, You were the servants,* the theologians, the God-seers, and the disciples of the great mysteries of God.* You received the grace of healing and healed the illnesses of all.* Therefore, beg Christ to heal our souls.

Verse: Through all the world their voice resounds; their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

O God-seers, apostles of Christ,* you have become a great protection* and shelter for our souls and expellers of evil spirits.* For this, we always honor you.

Verse: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

From every threat and demonic assault,* from error and cruel bondage, deliver all who in faith praise you,* O divine and blessed apostles

Glory be: (*Tone 8*): O divine apostles, leaders of salvation and intercessors for all the faithful,* having enlightened all the earth with sacred preaching,* you drove away the fog of vanity;* and led all who once were in the darkness of unbelief to the light of the knowledge of God.* For this reason, we honor you.

Now and for ever: O most pure Virgin, who gave birth to God!* O Mother of the most high God!* Accept the prayers of your servants, O all-immaculate One,* and grant to all forgiveness of sins.* And having received our supplications, pray that we may all be saved.

This theotokion we also take on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MATINS (*if it is a Polyeleos*)

Sessional Hymns

1. (*Tone 1, Podoben – Hrob tvoј, Spase*): The spiritual choir of apostles of the most high God* was mysteriously sent into the world* and appeared as physicians of all those suffering in captivity.* Invoking the Triune God,* they wisely expounded the divine incarnation of Emmanuel, the Lord.

Glory be: Now and for ever: As the unburnable bush which Moses saw,* the mountain of God, the holy cloud, the most pure ark,* the divine altar, the palace of the great King,* the most radiant and impassable gate* – we extol you, O Virgin!

2. (*Tone 4*): O apostles of the Lord, heavenly ministers of the mysteries!* As stars, you illumine the ends of the earth

with the bright rays* of the instructions of your holy preaching.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Let us, faithful, glorify the Mother of God,* for she is the ardent protection of those in need;* she is our help and our conversion to God.* Because of her we were delivered from final damnation.

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung:

We extol you,* O holy apostles,* who through your preaching enlightened the whole world* and brought all the nations to Christ.

Verse: You establish them as kings over all the earth.

Verse: Your lightning flashes illuminate the entire universe.

Verse: He gives strength and power to His people.
Blessed be God!

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x).

Sessional Hymn (Tone 3): O divine trumpets of the Comforter!* You proclaimed the gospel of salvation to the world;* you awakened those who were slumbering in the darkness of deceit,* and led them to the light of the knowledge of God.* O apostles of the divine Light,* implore Christ our God to save our souls.

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 18 (Tone 4)

Through the world their voice resounds;* their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

Verse: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

Gospel: Lk 10:1-16. After Psalm 50: Glory be: Now and for ever: and the verse as on Sunday; then the following sticheron:

(Tone 6): The glorious feast of the apostles of Christ's Church has arrived, bringing salvation to all. Therefore, let us rejoice and cry out to them: Rejoice, bright stars of the spiritual Sun, lamps to those groping in darkness. Rejoice, immovable foundations of the divine teachings, friends of Christ, honorable vessels. Come invisibly among us and make worthy of heavenly gifts those, who celebrate your feast with hymns.

Canon - Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 4): Christ the cornerstone not cut by hand was cut from you, the unhewn mountain, O Virgin, thus uniting two distinct natures in Himself. Therefore, rejoicing, we magnify you, O Mother of God.

Verse: O holy apostles, pray to God for us!

Having received from the Master power to loose the bonds of sins, O eye-witnesses of God, mercifully cleanse the sins of those who honor you, and make them worthy of salvation.

Verse: O holy apostles, pray to God for us!

To you, His departed friends, Christ grants never-fading crowns, and fills you with the divine vision. Implore Him now to save all the churches.

Glory be: Now and for ever: He, Who adorned the universe with but a word, desired to come down in the flesh and take up His abode in you, O Virgin Mother; for He has found you to be the holiest of all, and has manifested you as the true Mother God.

Katabasia: according to the rules or repeat the *hirmos* above.

Exapostilarion: O apostles of the Lord,* you traveled to the ends of the earth* and preached the truth of the incarnation of the Lord from a virgin,* converting nations from

deceit,* and enlightening and teaching all to worship the Holy Trinity.

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 8): O Lord, You have illumined Your apostles with the radiance of the Comforter,* and, owing to the spiritual enlightenment of Your wisdom,* You have established them as lamps for the strengthening of the faith, O Master!* Therefore, we adore Your unspeakable love for mankind.

Through the prayers of the apostles, O Lord,* You have fenced in Your flock,* preserving them unharmed from the temptations of the enemy;* for You, the compassionate Lover of mankind,* redeemed it from the bondage of the Devil with Your precious blood.

You have manifested yourselves as precious stones in the foundation of the Church,* illuminating the universe with a bright light of the clear knowledge of God,* O divine apostles. You now stand before the throne of the Triune God,* praying for our souls.

Glorify be: Now and for ever: *(Tone 4):* Save us, O Mother of Christ our God,* from every misfortune, so that we may cry out to you: Rejoice,* O only mediatrix of our souls.

COMMON FOR A HIERARCH VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(Tone 6, Podoben: Vse otlozhivsye): Wholly consecrated,* you have appeared as a Godbearer.* As holy chrism of God, you are clothed with the Holy Spirit.* You have always entered serenely into the holy of holies,* and are

illuminated with the splendor proceeding from God,* and you partake of the holy mysteries of grace,* as a true, and most glorious bishop.* With boldness, intercede for our souls.

Your life was resplendent with the radiance of virtue.* O blessed bishop (name);* you truly appeared as a bright sun,* thus you illuminated the faithful and dispersed the darkness of deceit.* Having become, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, a son of day,* you now live where the never-setting light shines.* Therefore, we honorably celebrate your divine and light-bearing memory.* O ever-memorable one, we lovingly venerate you.

Your mind has become deified,* for it is directed toward God and nourished by faith.* You are wise in the ways of God.* You learned about incorruption in a mortal and corrupt body, O all-glorious one!* You have acquired the serenity of the angels.* Although you contain passions within you,* you adorned yourself with impassivity,* O father (name), wisest of bishops,* you are a bright light and intercessor for those who lovingly keep your memory.

If it is Polyeleos, three more stichera may be taken from the stichera at the praises (p. 1191).

Glory be: (Tone 6): The fruit of your virtues, O venerable father,* has enlightened the hearts of the faithful,* for who, hearing of your immeasurable humility,* would not wonder at your patience,* at your gentleness towards the needy,* at your consolation of the sorrowing? You have divinely instructed all, O bishop (name),* and now you are adorned with the never-fading crown.* Therefore, we beg you to pray for us.

Now and for ever: (theotokion): Rejoice, fulfillment of the Law!* Rejoice, temple of the Holy Trinity, and incorruptible bride!* Rejoice, O divine bearer of the King of all!* You hold the immaterial Fire in your arms like a coal in a pair of tongs!* O new paradise, O most glorious and divine sanctuary!* O innocent dove, and throne of the Most High!* O divine seat of Wisdom!* O maiden, the Holy Spirit overshadowed you!

Glory be: Now and for ever: (staurotheotokion): Your most pure Mother, the all-pure Virgin, seeing You unjustly nailed to the cross by wicked people, was pierced to the heart as Simeon had prophesied.

If it is a Polyeleos: Now and for ever: the Dogmaticon (Tone 6), (p. 331); on Friday and Saturday evenings: Now and for ever: the Dogmaticon of the tone of the week.

Prokimenon of the day. If it is a Polyeleos, the following readings are taken:

- Wis 4:7-15 (p. 886);
- Prov 3:13-16 and others, (p. 1083);
- Prov 10:31-11:12, (p. 789); or
- Jer 23:1-7.

Aposticha (if it is a Polyeley)

(Tone 8): O bishop (name), star of divine light, resplendent lamp of the Church,* ornament of the hierarchs,* true model of piety, our intercessor,* save our souls from the destroying enemy.

Verse: Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.

O bishop (name),* you received from God great power* to repel raging demons by your prayers.* Therefore, from their malice protect all who hasten to you.

Verse: How can I repay the Lord, for His goodness to me?

How can we fittingly honor you, O blessed bishop (name), * righteous and divine light that enlightens all with divine doctrine* and reveals to all deep mysteries.* With one mind we cry out: Rejoice, O, father and hierarch (name)!

Glory be: (Tone 2): Angels and men marveled at the life you led in the body,* which resembled that of the angels.* Priests and monks devoutly venerated it,* kings and princes held it in high esteem, and God glorified it.* Implore Christ, O priestly father,* to have mercy on us who honor you.

Now and for ever: We now behold a new wonder greater than the wonders of old.* For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man? * Who has known a mother to hold within her arms the Source of all creation? * It was God's own will to be born in this manner,* and you, O most pure Virgin, carried Him as an infant in your arms.* Because of this, you can approach God with the boldness of a mother.* Therefore, we venerate you and ask you always to beseech Him* to have mercy on us and save our souls.

We take this theotokion also on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MATINS (if it is a *Polyeleos*)

Sessional Hymns

1. (Tone 1. *Podoben - Hrob tvoji, Spase*): O bishop (name), as the servant of Christ, the Master of all,* you instructed the people and enlightened them* through the holy baptism to profess Him.* Therefore, we call you a preacher of truth,* an hierarch and ambassador of Christ.

Glory be: **Now and for ever:** O immaculate Virgin, pure Mother of God,* the only mediatrix and protectress of the faithful,* deliver from misfortune, anxiety and violent

assaults all who place their trust in you,* O Maiden; and save our souls by your holy prayers.

2. (*Tone 4*): From early youth you have taken up your cross and piously followed Christ,* subduing the desires of the flesh.* As a bishop, O ambassador of Christ,* you glorified the Lord and His most pure Mother.* Therefore, after your death,* He glorified you with numerous miracles.

Glory be: Now and for ever: O all-immaculate Virgin, who gave birth to the eternal God,* implore Him unceasingly together with the bishop,* that He grant us before our end forgiveness of sins and amendment of life;* for we fittingly praise you with faith and love,* O all-praised Virgin!

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung:

We extol you,* O bishop (*name*)* and we venerate your holy memory,* for you pray for us to Christ our God.

Verse: Your priests shall be clothed with holiness; Your faithful shall ring out their joy.

Verse: Hear all you nations, pay heed, all you inhabitants of the earth!

Verse: They are happy who dwell in Your house, forever singing Your praise.

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia: Glory be to You, O God! (3x).

Sessional Hymn (*Tone 8*): Having subdued the passions of the flesh,* O holy one, you have shown yourself to be a God-like hierarch* gloriously tending your flock.* Through baptism you enlightened and taught them to worship one God in three persons.* Because of this, even after your departure,* you grant healing to those who hasten to you for help, O bishop (*name*),* implore Christ our God

to grant forgiveness of sins* to us who lovingly keep your sacred memory.

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 48 (Tone 4)

My lips will speak words of wisdom. My heart is full of insight.

Verse: The mouth of the just utter wisdom, and his lips speak what is right.

Gospel: Mt 5:14-20. After Psalm 50: Glory be: Now and for ever: and the verse as on Sunday; then the following sticherion:

(Tone 6): O inheritor of God, associate of Christ,* servant of the Lord, bishop' (name),* your life was in perfect accord with your name,* for together with grey hairs there shone forth wisdom,* the serenity of your countenance testified to the gentleness of your soul,* and the calmness of your speech manifested your benignness.* Your life was glorious and your repose is with the saints.* Pray for our souls.

Canon – Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 6): Ineffable is the Offspring of a conception, without seed and incorrupt Fruit of the most pure Mother; for the birthgiving of God restores nature. Therefore, all generations extol you as the bride and Mother of God.

Verse: Holy bishop (name), pray to God for us!

Having become meek and humble of heart, you acquired a home among the just and joined the heavenly hosts, completely adorned with good works and clothed with the light of the virtues.

Verse: Holy bishop (name), pray to God for us!

O bishop, you now behold the glory of God and the splendor of the angels,* patriarchs and martyrs, and the beauty of the apostles.* Together with them, beg the Lord and Lover of mankind,* O ambassador of God, that He grant forgiveness of sins and amendment of life to all,* who extol you, O venerable one.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Like a drop of dew from heaven,* rain descended into your womb and dried up the streams of deceit, O Virgin.* Grant that the rain of incorruption may descend upon all mankind;* for through you is salvation given to us, O Woman Full of Grace!

Katabasia: as prescribed by the rules, or repeat the above himnos.

Exapostilarion: O blessed (name), having received the tri-radiant light,* you have become a great luminary of the Church, enlightening those,* who in faith adore the one God in the Holy Trinity.

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 8, Podoben O Preslavnoho chudese): O bishop (name),* you have reached the summit of divine understanding* and, having drawn near to God* and having received filial adoption from Him,* you heal incurable diseases* and drive away the unclean spirits.* For this reason,* with joyful hearts we celebrate your memory,* glorifying Christ, Who has exalted you.

O most-blessed father (name),* you were a rule of the priesthood,* a model of purity,* a stronghold of the monks, a support of the Church,* a torch of love, a throne of compassion, a source of miracles,* a tongue of fire, a sweet-spoken mouth,* a vessel of the divine Spirit,* and a intellectual paradise.

(Tone 6): O holy and thrice-blessed hierarch (name),* good shepherd and disciple of the Chief Shepherd,

Christ,* Who laid down His life for His sheep!* By your prayers, beseech the Lord* that He may grant us great mercy.

Glory be: Now and for ever: We have learned to know, O Virgin Mother of God,* the God that took flesh from you;* therefore, pray to Him for the salvation of our souls.

COMMON OF HIERARCHS

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(Tone 4, Podoben – Jako dobl'a): As the ever-shining stars* standing watch in the heavenly firmament,* O most glorious bishops,* you have adorned the whole world.* You enlighten the universe* with the doctrines of the true faith,* and drive away the darkness of heresies.* Pray that those who in faith keep your noble memory* may be delivered from corruption and danger.

O most blessed God-bearers,* you have enlightened the world with the brightness of the Spirit.* You have appeared as radiant suns,* for your teachings spread out to the ends of the earth like rays of light.* You illumine the hearts of the faithful* and drive away the darkness of heretics* by the power of Him Who shines forth from the Virgin.

You have driven away the intellectual wolves from the Church of Christ* with the staff of your teachings, O blessed bishops.* You have surrounded her with a solid wall of reasoning,* and have presented her whole and unharmed to Christ.* Pray to Him that those who in faith keep your noble memory* may be delivered from corruption and danger.

Glory be: (*Tone 6*): O you men of God* and faithful servants, ministers of the Lord,* men of desire, chosen vessels,* pillars and supports of the church, heirs of the kingdom,* never cease to intercede with the Lord in our behalf.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): O most holy and divine Virgin,* deliver my humble soul from condemnation and wicked transgressions* and turn it away from death through your prayers.* Grant that in the day of judgment* I may obtain justification as did the assemblies of saints,* and before the end show me cleansed with repentance and effusion of tears.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): O my innocent Christ,* in order to obtain salvation for all,* You deigned to offer up Your most pure blood* as the great price of redemption.* Therefore, torn with grief as she beheld You nailed to the cross,* Your mother lamented:* O my Child, my spotless Lamb* Who desires to redeem the world by offering Your sacred blood,* why have You hidden yourself from my eyes, O Savior,* O never-setting Sun Who bestows enlightenment and great mercy upon the world?

COMMON OF A VENERABLE VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 1, Podoben - Nebesnich chinov*): Your feastday has arrived, O God-bearer.* Brighter than the sun, your memory enlightens all who come to you in faith.* O (*name*), intercessor for our souls,* your soul is fragrant with immortality and you pour out healing for our souls.

O wonderworker (*name*),* you subdued the sensual and bodily passions with the bridle of abstinence.* On earth

you displayed angelic zeal* in subjecting bodily lusts to the spirit.* In the heavenly courts where you now dwell, offer prayers for our souls.

O blessed (*name*), by discarding the old self and its urges,* and by truly clothing yourself with Christ,* you laid a foundation for virtue.* And so, after repelling many hostile attacks,* you became a guide for monks, O venerable one.* Offer your prayers for the salvation of our souls!

If it is a Polyeleos, we may take three more stichera from the stichera at the praises (p. 1199).

Glory be: (*Tone 1*): We honor you, O our father (*name*),* as the teacher of a multitude of monks;* for we have truly learned to walk straight in your path.* Blessed are you who have labored for Christ* and have brought to naught the might of the enemy.* O friend of angels and companion of the holy and just ones,* with them entreat the Lord that our souls may be saved.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): Tossed about by an overwhelming ocean of sinfulness,* I hasten to you, the calm harbor, O most pure Mother.* O Theotokos, I call out to you: Save me.* Extend your mighty right hand, O immaculate One!

Glory be: Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): With tears in her eyes, the Virgin lamented:* My sweet Child, by being lifted up on the cross,* and by tasting the vinegar and gall,* You sweetened Adam's bitter food.* Therefore, O Master, as the just Judge,* sweeten me through Your healing passion;* for You arose from the dead as the Almighty.

If it is a Polyeleos: Now and for ever: Dogmaticon (Tone 1), (p. 186). On Friday and Saturday evenings: Now and for ever: the Dogmaticon of the tone of the week.

Prokimenon of the day. If it is a Polyeleos, the following readings are taken: Wis. 3:1-9, (p. 744); Wis. 5:15-6:3; (p. 849); Wis. 4:7, 16-5:7, (p. 1070); or Prov. 2:1-9.

Aposticha (if it is a Polyeleos)

(*Tone 8*): O venerable father,* you were a divine light-bearing torch, pure and precious.* You never succumbed to the evil ways of the world.* For that, Christ, the Lover of mankind,* made you a sharer in the divine nature.* Through his supplications, O Christ,* grant your people great mercy.

Verse: Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.

O venerable father!* Having set your hand to the plow,* you diligently served God,* you never looked back,* but continued on toward the kingdom of Christ our God,* Who became incarnate for the salvation of our souls.

Verse: Happy those who keep God's decrees, who seek the Lord with all their heart.

O blessed father!* The gentle breath of a peaceful spirit*, guided the boat of your body as you easily sailed across the sea of life.* You sold all your possessions in order to acquire a precious treasure,* and having found it, you hid it and enjoyed its divine richness.

Glory be: (*Tone 2*): Venerable father, having renounced the world and all its fascinations,* you embraced the Gospel, observing its evangelical precepts.* Having lived righteously, as though in paradise,* by corporal austerities you slayed the serpent, the killer of souls.* Now that you have taken up your abode in heaven, O venerable (*name*),* implore Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Now and for ever: O all-pure and blameless Lady,* you gave birth in an ineffable manner to God* Who has two

natures and two wills, yet is one person.* He humbled Himself by His own will even to be crucified,* and granted us the richness of the divinity* by His resurrection from the dead.

This theotokion is taken also on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MATINS (if it is a Polyeleos)

Sessional Hymns

1. (Tone 8): Heeding the call of Christ, O venerable father, (name),* you forsook the world and all its beauty.* You willingly endured the hardships of the hermitical life* and bravely drove away legions of demons.* For this reason, we celebrate your memory with faith and hymns.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Through your birthgiving, O pure One,* you renewed the mortal nature of humanity, corrupted by the passions,* and raised all from death to a life of incorruption.* For this, O most glorious Virgin,* we fittingly magnify you as you had foretold.

2. (Tone 5, Podoben – Sobeznachalnoe slovo): With hymns let us honor the venerable ascetic of the Lord (name).* Through abstinence and enduring patience he subdued the urgings of the passions* and brought to naught the opposing enemy.* Therefore, today he prays for us to the Lord for the forgiveness of our sins.

Glory be: Now and for ever: O pure ever-Virgin, the wondrous miracle of conception* and the unspeakable manner of giving birth astonishes our mind and excites wonder in our thoughts.* Your glory, O Mother of God,* has become known to all for the salvation of our souls.

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung:

We extol you,* O venerable father (*name*),* and we honor your blessed memory,* for you pray for us to Christ our God.

Verse: Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication.

Verse: Tears have become my bread, day and night.

Verse: The just rejoice, they rejoice in the presence of the Lord.

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x).

Sessional Hymn (*Tone 1*): O Venerable father! By mortifying your body,* you overcame the temptations of the passions;* and after death you obtained everlasting life.* For this, the Church of Christ celebrates your glorious memory,* O ornament of the ascetics!

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 115 (Tone 4)

Precious in the eyes of the Lord* is the death of His faithful.

Verse: How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?

Gospel: Mt 11:25-30. After Psalm 50: Glory be: Now and for ever: and the verse as on Sunday; then the following sticheron:

(*Tone 6*): O holy father!* The echo of your instructions has gone forth through all the earth;* for this, you have obtained the reward of your labors in heaven.* You have destroyed troops of demons,* and have joined the orders of angels whose life you have irreproachably emulated.* Having boldness before Christ our God,* implore Him for peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Canon - Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 8): All who heard of the ineffable condescension of God, were astonished; for the Most High, of His own free will, took upon Himself a body and became man in a virgin's womb. Because of this, we, the faithful, magnify you, O Mother of God.

Verse: Venerable father (*name*), pray to God for us!

O wise one of God, because of your glorious deeds, you have shone forth to us like the sun; you have illumined the ends of the earth, and in death you have gone from light to eternal light. For this reason, we cry out to you: Enlighten our souls, O venerable father!

Verse: Venerable father (*name*), pray to God for us!

In the meadows of fasting, you blossomed like a sweet-smelling rose, O most praised father; and like a lily you filled the faithful with the perfume of your virtues and miracles. Therefore, drive away from us, venerable father, the foul odor of our passions.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Enlighten, O most pure Virgin, our hearts darkened by the sins and troubles of this life. Do not abandon us to the joy of our enemies, but grant that we may glorify and lovingly sing praises to you, O most praised One.

Katabasia: as prescribed in the rules, or repeat the above hirmos.

Exapostilarion: O most blessed father (*name*), ornament of the ascetics,* having purified your soul of the assailing passions,* you have become a worthy partaker of the glorious splendor of the tri-radiant Divinity.* Therefore, do not cease to pray for us, O God-bearer!

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 6): O God-bearer and most-blessed father (*name*),* you have subjected all the desires of the flesh to the spirit.* Having strengthened yourself with fasting,* and like gold purified by fire, you have shone forth,* and have become the dwelling place of the most Holy Spirit.* You have gathered multitudes of monks,* and through your teachings, as though by a ladder leading into heaven,* you brought them to the heights of virtue.* Remember us, who venerate your ever-blessed memory,* and pray for the salvation of our souls.

O God-bearer and most-blessed father,* like the prophets of old, you covered the earth with tears,* and did not give rest to your eyes, but denied yourself sleep,* ever keeping your heart's desire on Christ, Whom you loved.* Formed in every virtue, you became the model for monks.* For this, we extol and magnify Him Who glorified you.

O holy father, from early youth you diligently learned piety* and became an instrument of the Holy Spirit.* Having received from Him the power to perform miracles,* you taught people to spurn worldly pleasures.* Now completely illumined with the divine light,* enlighten our souls, O father (*name*).

Glory be: Now and for ever: *(Tone 2):* We place all our hope in you, O Mother of God;* receive us under your protective mantle.

COMMON OF VENERABLES

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 8, Podoben – O preslavnaho chudese*): You give light to the blind,* O noble and spiritual fathers;* you also give health to the sick* and healing to the lame.* You reach out in mercy to those who in faith* come to your shrine and implore your help.* We have found in you true protectors and intercessors,* for this reason, we offer you praise.

Entering the chariot with your virtues,* O holy fathers,* you have ascended to God* to receive the honors of your victory.* As a favor to us* you have left your bodies lying in the grave* to pour out healings* and drive away evil spirits.* For this reason, we bless you,* O praiseworthy ones.

You have joined the choirs of ascetics,* O blessed monks,* having been adorned with the life of fasting.* Now you joyfully dwell in heaven* where angels rejoice,* the divine Light truly deifies you.* Remember those who lovingly bless you on earth* and who celebrate your holy festive day.

Glory be: (*Tone 8*): O venerable fathers,* having meditated on the law of the Lord, day and night,* you have become worthy to be nurseries of the tree of life;* and the fruit of your sufferings have blossomed forth crowns.* Having confidence before Christ God, the Founder of asceticism,* implore for us forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): My thoughts are unclean, my lips flattering,* and my deeds are all defiled.* What then can I do? How can I meet the Judge?* O Lady ever-

virgin, pray to your Son,* the Creator and the Lord, to receive my soul in contrition;* for He alone is compassionate.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): When Your Mother saw You, O Lamb,* being led away to be slaughtered, she followed You,* O Word, crying out amid tears:* Where are You going with such haste, my Child?* I am going with You, my sweetest One;* for I cannot bear to be without You,* my most merciful Jesus!

COMMON OF A MARTYR

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben - Jako dobl'a*): O wise and glorious martyr,* you robed yourself in the purple of divine grace,* reddened by the blood of your own body.* You crowned yourself with the incorruptible crown of life.* In your right hand you hold the scepter of the victorious cross.* You reign with Christ in everlasting joy.

Renowned as an invincible warrior,* O glorious martyr,* you armed yourself with the cross as a weapon,* and engaged the hostile enemy in battle and defeated him.* Therefore, O radiant martyr,* you received the crown of victory from the only Champion,* the Master Who reigns forever.

O martyr (*name*), in your noble suffering,* you reflected the holy passion.* Wearing the victor's robes, O champion martyr,* you joyfully live in the city on high,* and are sanctified by sharing in divinity.* Therefore, we celebrate your honored and holy feast.

If it is a Polyeleos, we may take three more stichera from the stichera at the praises (p.1207).

Glory be: (Tone 6): Today all the universe is illumined with the rays of the passion-bearer,* and the Church of God, decorated with flowers, cries out to you:* O martyr (name) O favorite of Christ and the most fervent intercessor,* cease not to pray for your servants.

Now and for ever: (theotokion): A thousand times have I promised to do penance for my sins.* But my wicked habits do not cease, O most pure One;* therefore, I cry out to you.* I prostrate before you and pray:* O Mother, release me from such torments* and guide me to better deeds which will lead to my salvation.

Glory be: Now and for ever: (staurotheotokion): When the Mother beheld her Lamb nailed to the cross,* she broke into tears and cried out:* O my sweet Child, once I gave birth to You without pain;* today my heart is filled with sorrow,* for I cannot bear to see You crucified,* O Christ, my most merciful Son.

If it is a Polyeleos: Now and for ever: Dogmaticon (Tone 6), (p. 331); on Friday and Saturday evenings: Now and for ever: the Dogmaticon of the tone of the week.

Prokimenon of the day. If it is a polyeleos, then the following readings are taken: – Isaiah 43:9-14, (p. 884);

– Wis 3:1-9, (p. 744);

– Wis 5:15-6:3, (p. 849); or

– Lam. 3,25-40.

Aposticha (*if it is a Polyeleos*)

(*Tone 1*): With simplicity of heart you comprehended the inaccessible God,* O holy martyr (*name*).* You firmly believed in Him, strictly observing His saving commands.* Having patiently suffered for Him,* you have become worthy of the heavenly kingdom.

Verse: The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

With your precious blood you have sanctified the earth* and abolished the defiled blood offered lawlessly to demons.* For this, O glorious martyr, you received an incorruptible crown.* Therefore, pray that the Lord may grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God.

While you were being torn apart, wounded by iron rods,* pelted with stones, and finally put to death with the sword,* you remained steadfast, because your soul stood firmly upon the spiritual Rock.* For that, you were numbered among the angels* and were made worthy of the never-setting Light.

Glory be: (*Tone 5*): The illustrious memory of the martyr of Christ,* which shines brighter than the stars,* today enlightens the hearts of the faithful* and dispels the spiritual clouds with the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.* Therefore, let us, venerated of the martyrs, cry out to him:* Rejoice, O martyr! With the help of divine grace you showed yourself to be faithful.* You generously grant miracles to those who come to you, O blessed (*name*).* Do

not cease to implore Christ for those who honor you,* that they may obtain eternal blessings.

Now and for ever: You are the temple, the gate,* the palace and the throne of the King, O most pure Virgin.* Through you Christ, my Savior and Lord,* has appeared to those slumbering in darkness,* for He is the Sun of justice,* Who wishes to enlighten those He created in His image.* Therefore, O most-praised One,* having gained a motherly confidence with Him,* pray unceasingly for the salvation of our souls.

This theotokion is taken also on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MATINS (if it is a Polyeleos)

Sessional Hymns

1. (Tone 4): Desiring heavenly glory,* You renounced the glory of the world.* For this reason, you endured torments and accepted a martyr's death.* In honoring your blessed memory, O glorious martyr (name),* we glorify Christ.

Glory be: Now and for ever: We, who in love hasten to your lovingkindness,* profess you as the Mother of God* and a true virgin even after giving birth.* In you, the only most pure One,* we sinners have acquired an intercessor* and salvation in our afflictions.

2. (Tone 4): O glorious martyr (name),* you overcame the might of your tormentors* and worthily obtained a crown of glory from the hand of the Almighty.* Having finished the course of life,* you became a companion of the angels.

Glory be: Now and for ever: O Virgin Mother of God, the only pure and only blessed One,* we profess that the

Word of the Father,* Christ our God, was incarnate of you.* For this reason, we extol you.

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung:

We extol you,* O holy martyr (name),* and we honor your precious suffering* which you endured for Christ.

Verse: God is our defense, our strength, and our help in all our frequent misfortunes.

Verse: Like water they poured out their blood.

Verse: The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; an evil report he shall not fear.

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to you, O God! (3x).

Sessional Hymn (Tone 4): Let us in faith venerate the holy martyr (name),* invincible warrior of Christ and vanquisher of the enemy,* who was renown for great miracles,* for he grants healings to all who come to him in faith,* appeases great pains, and intercedes for those who are afflicted.

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 91 (Tone 4)

The just will flourish like the palm tree* and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God.

Gospel: Lk 12:2-12. After Psalm 50: Glory be: Now and for ever: and the verse as on Sunday, then the following sticherion:

(Tone 6): Today the whole universe is illumined with the rays of the martyr,* and the Church of Christ, decorated

with flowers, cries out to you, O martyr *(name)*:* O ambassador of Christ and most fervent intercessor,* do not cease to pray to the Lord for us.

Canon - Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 5): Isaiah rejoice! The Virgin conceived in the womb and gave birth to a Son Emmanuel, Who is both God and man; Orient is His name. Magnifying, Him we glorify the Virgin.

Verse: Holy martyr *(name)*, pray to God for us.

Today we solemnly celebrate the holy memory of the glorious martyr of Christ, *(name)* for, in his sufferings, he overcame the might of the enemy with divine power.

Verse: Holy martyr *(name)*, pray to God for us.

In your sufferings you have shown yourself to be a glorious and valiant warrior of Christ God. Because of this, you dwell today in the heavenly kingdom, gloriously adorned with the crown of victory, O all-praised martyr.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Having given birth to Christ, the light of those in darkness, O most holy guide, illumine my blinded soul and guide me along the paths that lead to eternal life.

Katabasia: *as prescribed by the Typikon or repeat the above hirmos.*

Exapostilarion: O *(name)*, glory of the martyrs, having chosen the rugged road of the Lord,* you ascended into the realm of the heavenly kingdom,* shining brightly with the light of the incorruptible Trinity.* Therefore, as a partaker of the everlasting glory of the Holy Trinity,* remember all those who venerate you, O blessed one.

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 4): With psalms and hymns we praise your glorious memory, O martyr *(name)*,* which, adorned with glory and grace,* has shone forth magnificently and brilliantly.* For this reason, the choirs of angels rejoice today,* and the martyrs and apostles praise your sufferings at your martyrdom* and sing hymns to Christ our God and Savior, Who has glorified you.* Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls.

Renown for divine virtues* and adorned with the victories of a martyr,* you shine forth, O glorious martyr;* and with a brightness surpassing that of the sun* you illumine those who in faith honor your brilliant memory.

O *(name)*, boast of the martyrs,* you have gloriously vanquished deceit,* and because of your love* have become worthy of the glorification of your incorruptible body.* Therefore, protect those who venerate your memory from falling into sin.

Glory be: Now and for ever: *(Tone 1):* Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God,* for you gave birth to the heavenly King,* the Savior and Enlightener of our souls.

COMMON OF MARTYRS**VESPERS****Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."**

(Tone 8.. Podoben - O preslavnaho chudese): O praiseworthy martyrs of Christ,* you considered attacks by the persecutors* and violent death to be as nothing.* Boldly you armed yourselves with courage for battle*, and robed yourselves in glorious victory.* You were numbered with

all the just* with whom we bless you in constant praise.

O most blessed martyrs of Christ,* you gave yourselves up freely to be sacrificed.* With your blood you sanctified the earth,* you brightened the air by your departure from this life.* Now you live in heaven,* in a never-setting light.* O martyrs, who see God, always pray for us.

O invincible martyrs of Christ,* with the dew of divine grace* you pass through the pain of fire without harm.* You are considered worthy* to live by the waters of peace,* since you received a crown of victory.* With joy we celebrate your holy feast,* and we give glory to Christ.

If it is a Poleyleos, we may take three more stichera from the stichera at the praises (p. 1213).

***Glory be: (Tone 8):** Carrying on war for Christ, you have forsaken the delights of earthly life,* and having taken up the cross on your shoulders,* you have followed Him for the sake of many and various tortures,* never denying Him before any number of kings or tyrants.* The angels have adorned your heads with crowns of victory,* and you have boldly and joyfully entered with your souls into the great palace.* Therefore, having confidence before the Savior of all, pray for our souls.

Now and for ever: (theotokion): Ó how glorious is the miracle!* How did you enclose in your womb the God of all?* How did you carry the Creator of all as an infant?* Truly the mind and thought are confused,* your carrying of such a Child is beyond words.* O all-blessed and pure Theotokos,* pray to Him always to have mercy on our souls.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): Beholding You, O Jesus and Master,* nailed on the cross and voluntarily accepting the passion,* Your Mother, the Virgin, cried out:* O my sweet Child! How unjustly You suffer these wounds,* O Physician; through Your mercy You have healed our infirmity,* and delivered all from corruption.

If it is a Polyeleos: Now and for ever: *Dogmaticon* (Tone 8), (p.384); *on Friday and Saturday evenings:* Now and for ever: *the Dogmaticon of the tone of the week.*

Prokimenon of the day. *If it is a Polyeleos, then the following readings are taken:* – Isaiah 43:9-14, (p. 884);

– Wis 3:1-9, (p. 744);

– Wis 5:15-6:3, (p. 849); or

-- Lam 3:25-40.

Aposticha (*if it is a Polyeleos*)

(Tone 4, *Podoben – Jako Dobl'a*): O most glorious martyrs,* like resplendent stars* you illuminate with divine brightness the ends of the universe,* dispersing demonic darkness* and delivering from pernicious passions and dangers.* For this reason, we have come together today* on your bright and joyous feast to praise you,* O glorious ones.

Verse: The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.

With sacred hymns let us extol the praiseworthy,* all-wise and divine martyrs.* For, having devoutly preached the uncreated Trinity to their enemies,* with outpouring of their blood* they have extinguished the pagan errors* and have received an never-fading glory.

Verse: Many are the trials of the just man, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

O most glorious martyrs!* By your wisdom you put to shame your enemies,* who by force strived to draw you away from God.* Having suffered righteously and patiently,* you have weaved for yourselves crowns of victory,* and now you are praying for our souls.

Glory be: (*Tone 6*): Again the anniversary of the lamps of the world,* the victorious martyrs, has shone forth to us.* They have enlightened the hearts of the faithful,* who endured sufferings for the sake of Christ and the Cross.* Therefore, we offer a hymn to Christ our God,* Who crowned them with glory and honors.

Now and for ever: O most pure One, Christ the Lord, my Creator and Savior,* came forth from your womb and clothed Himself with me,* thus freeing Adam from the original curse.* Therefore, O most pure One,* together with the angels we unceasingly sing to you as to the Virgin Mother of God.* Rejoice! Indeed, rejoice, O Queen,* guide and protectress, and salvation of our souls.

This theotokion is also taken on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MATINS (*if it is a Polyeleos*)

Sessional Hymns

1. (*Tone 4*): Divine martyrs, warriors of Christ!* Like bright stars you ever adorn holy Church* and enlighten all the faithful.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Accept, O most holy Virgin, supplications from us,* who hasten to your protection,* and do not cease to implore the Lover of mankind* for the salvation of your servants.

2. (*Tone 4*): O wondrous martyrs, You have endured tortures with a courageous spirit.* Having passed through

fire and water,* you have attained eternal salvation* and have inherited the kingdom of heaven;* entreat God for us, O wise martyrs.

Glory be: Now and for ever: With fervent thanksgiving and devotion we your servants, O Mother of God,* sing and implore your mercy, crying out:* Most holy Virgin, come and deliver us* from every visible and invisible enemy, and from all punishment,* for you are our protectress.

After the Polyeleos, the Exaltation is sung:

We extol you,* O holy martyrs,* and we honor your passion,* which you have endured for Christ.

Verse: God is our defense, our strength, and our help in all our frequent misfortunes.

Verse: Like water they poured out their blood.

Verse: The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; an evil report he shall not fear.

Glory be: Now and for ever:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God!
(3x).

Sessional Hymn (Tone 8): Although your enemies bound you in chains* and you spent many years in prison,* still, you remained unbending because of your faith.* The sword separated you from your bodies, O blessed martyrs,* and your souls were united with God.* For this, you shone forth in the world like bright lights* illuminating everyone with the grace of the Spirit.* Pray to Christ our God, that He grant forgiveness of sins* to all who with love honor your holy memory.

Gradual Hymn – Antiphon 4, (p. 126).

Prokimenon: Ps 33 (Tone 4)

The just call and the Lord hears* and rescues them in all their distress.

Verse: Many are the trials of the just man, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Gospel: Jn 15:17-16:2. After Psalm 50: Glory be: Now and for ever: and the verse as on Sunday, then the following sticheron:

(Tone 6): Come, all you faithful, let us rejoice with the Lord,* recalling the memory of the martyrs,* and let us piously sing in honor of the martyrs of Christ,* for they destroyed the error of idolatry* and clearly preached Christ before the tribunals.* Therefore, O most-blessed and most-suffering ones,* do not cease to pray for our souls.

Canon – Ode 9

Hirmos (Tone 5): O Mother of God, with one mind we the faithful extol you, who beyond all understanding and telling ineffably gave birth in time to the eternal God.

Verse: Holy martyrs, pray to God for us.

O glorious martyrs, standing before Christ for Whose sake you have endured even tortures, pray to Him that we may all be saved.

Verse: Holy martyrs, pray to God us.

O invincible ones, having vanquished the deceit of your persecutors with steadfast opposition, you have become worthy to dwell with the angels in the heavenly mansions.

Glory be: Now and for ever: Rejoice, O Mother of God, Mother of Christ our God! Pray to your Son together with the martyrs, so that He may grant forgiveness of sins to those who with faith praise you.

Katabasia: *according to the typicon or repeat the above hirmos.*

Exapostilarion: With the outpouring of your blood, O blessed ones,* you have put out the fire of temptations* and have completely overcome the cruelty of your torturers.* By this you have glorified Christ, O suffering martyrs* and have received from Him incorruption and the crown of life from the Most High.

Stichera at the Praises

(Tone 4, Podoben – Dal yese znamenie): Rivaling the sufferings of Christ, the Lover of mankind,* O most-suffering ones, you subjected your bodies to wounds* and terrible tortures and countless pains,* keeping ever before your eyes* the divine joys of paradise and eternal glory.* Now that you are in glory,* pray for those who honor you.

With the power of the cross,* O holy martyrs, you have fought well,* and with your patience you have soundly vanquished your enemy.* Therefore, in celebrating your memory,* we are sanctified by the power and grace of the all-holy Spirit.* Through your prayers intercede with the Savior in behalf of the world,* O blessed warriors of Christ.

O all-blessed shepherds,* as glorious followers of Christ,* the chief Shepherd, the King of all,* you willingly gave up your lives for your sheep* and suffered great pains,* as though persecuted by ravenous wolves.* O praiseworthy ones, protect the God-chosen flock from harm.

Glory be: Now and for ever: (*Tone 8*): With the archangel Gabriel,* let us also cry out:* Hail, Mother of God who has brought forth into the world Christ,* the Giver of life!

COMMON OF A HIEROMARTYR

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 1, Podoben – Vsechvalnij Muchenicy*): O blessed, wise (*name*),* you have brightened your sacred and divine garment* with the crimson of your blood.* You have gone piously* from earthly power to Power,* from earthly glory to Glory.* Now ask that our souls may be granted peace* and great mercy.

As a most righteous priest,* you first offered the unbloody sacrifice to God.* With your own blood you then offered yourself,* like first-fruits, as a pleasing sacrifice.* As a true martyr, you followed after Christ.* O honorable teacher,* pray to Him for those who sing to you.

You have brought to Christ,* O father, an army of martyrs* by your teaching and precepts.* Not only did you instruct with words,* O wise father, but you showed them an example by offering yourself.* Pray with them that our souls may be granted peace* and great mercy.

Glory be: (*Tone 1*): Having cleansed your soul from passions, O martyr (*name*),* you were, O holy one, a sacred vessel of the Holy Spirit,* and having received from Him the divine holy anointing,* you were a hierarch and preceptor of the God-wise people* and an invincible martyr of Him Who for our sake endured sufferings* and bestowed upon us immortality.* Implore Him to grant us great mercy.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): You are the happiness and joy of my soul.* You calm my passions, O maiden and bride of God!* O most pure One, you swiftly cure the illnesses of my soul.* You ease the temptations which possess me.* You are a refuge in times of trouble;* therefore, I extol you with praise.

Glory be: Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): When you beheld your Son and Lord* with arms outstretched upon the cross and His side pierced with a lance,* O pure Mother, weeping, you cried out:* How intensely You suffer, O Lover of mankind* Who takes away the suffering of all.

COMMON OF HIEROMARTYRS

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben - Jako dobl'a*): Through priestly anointing and martyr's blood,* you were drawn close to God, O glorious priest-martyrs.* You are flowers of nature,* spiritual ornaments,* summits of wisdom, theologians of righteousness,* norms of faith, most excellent guides,* and adornments of the Church.

O divinely-inspired priest-martyrs,* you glorified suffering* and praised martyrdom,* confirming this by nobly enduring all types of torture:* shackles and dungeons, nakedness and confinement,* bitter cold and, finally, scourging and death.

O all-powerful martyrs,* you brought honorable service and spotless sacrifice to Christ, the Master.* Then you

offered yourselves to Him as martyrs for perfect holocausts.* Pray to Him to save us from danger and corruption,* for in faith we commemorate your memory.

Glory be: (*Tone 4*): As pillars of the Church of Christ,* you have bravely destroyed the strong walls of unbelief;* and before your death, O priest-martyrs,* you have quelled the storm of heresy,* praying for our souls.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): Whether sailing on the sea,* traveling on land, or remaining at home,* I keep a careful watch.* Fill my mind with His grace, O immaculate One.* Enable me to do the Lord's will* so that on judgment day* I may obtain forgiveness of my sins* committed during my lifetime,* and that I may hasten to your protection.

Glory be: Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): When the sun and the moon beheld You hanging on the cross,* O Sun of justice, my Christ, they hid their rays;* and the foundations of the earth trembled with fear before Your might.* Your Mother, torn with grief, cried out:* Most gracious Jesus, glory to Your loving-kindness.

COMMON OF A VENERABLE MARTYR

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 6, Podoben - Tridneven*): Let us, O faithful, praise at length* the struggles of the wise ascetic,* and the pains of the soldier of Christ.* Let us cry out to the Lord:* Through his intercessions, O Christ,* deliver us from all dangers.

O holy father (*name*),* you will be given by God an abundance of enduring peace;* for you have passed through the storm of torture,* O invincible warrior and intercessor for our souls.* O wise martyr, you suffered for a righteous cause,* and became wise in the ways of God;* you are a second dwelling of the Creator of all.* O God-bearer, you have been shown to be a light of the Church,* and the ornament of ascetics.

Glory be: (*Tone 2*): Come, let us crown with hymns the sufferer of Christ* as a field-lily and a beautifully grown flower of the divine paradise,* as a sheep of the true believers,* beauty of purity, confirmation of the faith.* The glory of your abstinence was clearly manifested to the world,* for this, you have also obtained the never-fading crown.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): O most immaculate Virgin,* implore Him to Whom you gave birth,* the Creator and King of all,* to have mercy on your servants* when He comes to judge the human race.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): When the spotless Mother beheld her Lamb* being led away to be slaughtered of His own free will,* she called out amid tears:* Are You, O Christ, going to leave me, Your Mother,* who gave birth to You alone?* Why are You doing this, O Savior of the World?* I shall continue, nonetheless, to sing and praise* Your boundless goodness which exceeds all understanding and words,* O Lover of mankind.

COMMON OF VENERABLE MARTYRS

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 8, Podoben – Chto vy narechem*): You have struggled greatly, O ascetics;* you courageously suffered the brutality of the torturers,* giving up your lives to the sword with love.* Crowned with martyrdom, you fittingly rejoice with the angels.* Great were your sufferings, greater still were your rewards.* We ask you to pray for our souls.

You have lived worthily, O holy monks,* emulating the deeds of the martyrs;* for you have courageously treated torture with contempt.* By fasting, you sanctified your bodies,* and in love you shed your blood;* and so you were crowned for both ordeals.* Pray for the salvation of our souls.

O ascetic martyrs of Christ,* you have fought well without regard for temporal life;* you willingly and bravely overcame the wisdom of the flesh.* Ending your earthly life in Christ,* you worthily dwell with the angels.* And so, we honor your memory,* and entreat you to pray to the Lord* that He have mercy on our souls.

Glory be: (*Tone 6*): Blessed are you, O ascetic-martyrs of Christ our God;* as ascetics, since you have loved the truth and received grace,* and as martyrs, since the sword did not separate you from the love of Christ,* and therefore you are now rejoicing,* for great is your reward in heaven.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): O most holy Virgin of God!* You alone carried in your womb the uncontainable God,* Who deigned to become man;* therefore, we beg

you:* Grant that we be delivered from the oppression of evil* and take the narrow path,* so that we may attain a wider and happier world beyond.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): The world was pardoned by Your crucifixion, O Word.* Creation was enlightened,* and the peoples obtained salvation, O Master.* But the all-pure One cried:* Beholding Your voluntary passion, I am torn with grief!

COMMON OF A WOMAN MARTYR VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 2, Podoben – Jehda ot dreva*): Richly illumined with spiritual light,* you scorned the world for love of the only kingdom.* By encountering immeasurable suffering,* you defeated the enemy.* O glorious martyr (*name*),* you wove a wreath of victory for yourself.

You suppressed the lusts of the flesh* and extinguished the fire of sin* with the dew of the divine Spirit as your help, O noble martyr.* Then you tamed the wild beast in the arena,* and with courage you submitted your body to beatings.* By this, blessed (*name*), you brought down the enemy* and you wove a wreath of victory for yourself.

Neither sword, nor fire, nor scourging,* anguish, hunger, nor any kind of torture* could break your desire for the Lord.* O martyr (*name*),* in seeking Him with a fervent heart,* you renounced all visible things,* and entered into the divine chamber* to become the bride of the King of all.

Glory be: (*Tone 2*): With joyful voices and the psalmody, let us praise the holy martyr (*name*),* since she has overcome the temptation of idolatry* and bravely brought under her feet the opposing enemy.* After her death she has flown to heaven* carrying on her head a crown, and crying out:* I long for you, my Bridegroom;* and out of love for You I have given up my body to torments,* that I might be with You in Your everlasting dwelling place,* where all the blessed rejoice.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): You are the joy of angels,* and the glory of mankind.* You are the hope of the faithful, O immaculate Mother;* you are our intercessor.* We hasten to you and call in faith:* By the prayers of all who praise you,* deliver us from the assaults of the enemy,* from that anguish which corrupts the soul,* and from every tribulation, O bride of God!

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): Gazing upon You, O heavenly Light,* the all-pure One said:* The light of the stars vanished before the spiritual Light that appeared on the cross;* for the weaker always yields to the stronger, the lesser to the greater.* How can it not be fitting that when Christ shines forth,* all material light should vanish.

COMMON OF WOMEN MARTYRS

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben – Jako dobl'a*): The young virgins, though bound by the law of nature,* were truly strengthened by the Creator's love,* and were freed from bodily ties by faith.* Heroically they trampled the powerless enemy

underfoot.* Gloriously they adorned themselves with the laurels of victory,* and they found their abode in the spiritual bridal chamber,

The noble virgins endured fire, various tortures and death,* possessing, in faith, the beauty of the Bridegroom.* Having been adorned with many wounds,* they were counted as belonging to the Lord.* Therefore, Jesus, the Lover of mankind and Savior of our souls,* has crowned them with many gifts.

O good virgins, you have brought to Christ* virginity both inviolate and wondrous.* With strength of heart and by the power of the cross,* you subdued unruly passions and godless deceit.* Therefore, the Church of Christ* celebrates your holy, bright, and glorious memory.

Glory be: (*Tone 4*): O most praised martyrs!* You renounced all that is earthly – the sweet pleasures,* the flower of glory that withers, – and by your martyrdom have united yourselves with Christ,* being attracted by His fair beauty.* You have appeared before Him as sweet-smelling roses,* and, glorified by God, you were adorned with the crown of the incorruptible kingdom.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): Rejoice, O cloud of the divine Presence!* Rejoice, O bright illumination!* Rejoice, O hand which holds the Bread of life!* Rejoice, O miraculous rod of Aaron!* Rejoice, O unburnable bush! O bridal chamber!* Rejoice, O throne, O holy mountain! Rejoice, O refuge of all, O divine sanctuary!* Rejoice, O mystical door, O joy of all!

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): Seeing the Lover of mankind crucified* and His side pierced with a lance,* the most pure Virgin cried out:* What is this, my Son?* How have these people repaid You for all the good You have

bestowed on them?* Do You wish to leave me alone, my most beloved One?* How I marvel, O merciful One, at Your willingness to suffer the passion.

COMMON OF A VENERABLE WOMAN

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 1, Podoben – Nebesnich chinov*): Desiring the true glory of the fathers,* you loved incorruptible glory.* O (name), you turned away from pleasures,* and gave your body over to repentance.* You received your reward for your endeavors,* and now you reign with Christ.

O (name), you desired the splendid beauty of the Bridegroom;* you yearned to become the bride of Christ.* Through mortification, you adorned yourself with every virtue.* Therefore, in His chamber, you now reign with Christ.

By your monastic life you illumined many ascetics,* and like a lamp you gave light to all.* You are glorified with them and delight in divine glory.* O honored (name), pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory be: (*Tone 1*): O most glorious wonder!* With what fervor you have given yourself up to God in ascetic labors and ascetic tears?* You have fulfilled the divine love,* vanquished the bodily passions,* trodden underfoot the demons* through abstinence and have become the bride to the Almighty.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): Accept, O Mother of God, the suppliant hymn* which we, your servants, offer to you.* O Lady, save and support us, your flock,* who

are threatened, and who in faith hasten to you.* Since you have given birth to the Savior, as a Mother,* you are able to approach Him with confidence;* therefore, pray unceasingly for the salvation of our souls.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): Most holy Virgin who gave birth to the Lord* Who out of mercy delivered Himself to be nailed to the cross* and poured forth streams of life upon the world,* pray to Him for the salvation of our souls;* for you are our only refuge, protection, and defense,* and we extol you!

COMMON OF VENERABLE WOMEN

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 8, Podoben - O preslavnaho chudese*): O glorious wonder!* These holy nuns set aside earthly cares* to pursue supernatural perfection.* They desired the Fountain of goodness itself,* and so came to the true Beloved.* Blessed women, you are made radiant in His light;* now deliver us from the darkness of sin by your prayers.

In forsaking the world's beauty,* all-praised and honored women,* you adorned your noble spirits with the jewels of a higher nobility.* You observed the rule of grace, the serene life.* Therefore, noble women, you became flowers of nature* and invincible guardians of the ascetic life.

We are assembled in faith to honor you,* for you are the ascetics of Christ,* you lived joyful lives as nuns,* and became faithful guides for many.* We cry out to you:* O blessed women who are the boast of nuns,* pray to the Redeemer of all to save us.

Glory be: (Tone 8): With the outpouring of tears you have extinguished the fire of the bodily passions,* and having kindled the desire for things divine* and love for Christ the King, you were impassively united to Him.* Now that you have entered into the bridal chamber,* intercede with your Beloved for those who honor you.

Now and for ever: (theotokion): O how glorious is the miracle!* How did you enclose in your womb the God of all?* How did you carry the Creator of all as an infant?* Truly, the mind and thought are confused;* your carrying of such a Child is beyond words.* O all-blessed and pure Theotokos,* pray to Him always to have mercy on our souls.

Now and for ever: (staurotheotokion): Beholding You, O Jesus and Master, nailed on the cross* and voluntarily accepting the passion,* Your Mother, the Virgin, cried out:* O my sweet Child!* How unjustly You suffer these wounds, O Physician;* through Your mercy You have healed our infirmity, and delivered all from corruption.

COMMON OF A VENERABLE WOMAN MARTYR VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(Tone 4, Podoben – Dal jesi znamenije): First, you lived a life of penance,* striving to control bodily appetites by patient endurance.* Then, (name), blessed of God,* you defeated the wiles of the enemy,* and obtained the crown of victory.* You were crowned for your double fight by Jesus,* the Lover of mankind and Savior of our souls.

O praiseworthy (*name*),* the divine seed was sown on the tablets of your heart* as on soil made fertile by divine grace.* The fruits of your sufferings truly multiplied a hundredfold,* and were gathered in spiritual storehouses.* By the power and grace of the Spirit,* your ways were changed to a better life.

O honored (*name*),* you worked wonders through life-giving precepts.* You wisely died to bodily passions through penance.* Now you live in heaven with the martyrs,* having completed the good course of a martyr;* for you were inspired by the Spirit.* Do not cease to intercede for us who pray to you in faith.

Glory be: (*Tone 4*): While your body was being pared,* the illustrious beauty of your soul has appeared as the fairest,* O holy, wise and most rich one,* ornament of the female ascetics,* adornment of female martyrs, ever-flowing source of miracles,* dispeller of the unclean spirits* and suppliant for those honor your memory.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): O most praised Virgin,* I beseech you as the most precious palace of the King of all.* Cleanse my mind which is stained by all kinds of sin.* Make it a beautiful dwelling-place of the divine Trinity,* so that I may praise your abundant mercy;* and that I, your unworthy servant, may be saved.

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): Seeing her lamb hastening to be slaughtered,* the Mother anxiously followed Him, crying out:* Where are You going, O Christ, my sweet Child?* Why are You going this way with such haste, O most patient One?* O innocent, merciful Lord Jesus, my most beloved Son,* speak to me, Your servant.* Do not pass by me in silence,* for I gave birth to You in

such a mysterious manner, O bountiful One,* O life-giving God Who grants great mercy to the world!

COMMON OF A CONFESSOR

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(*Tone 4, Podoben – Jako dobl'a*): Holy and inspired (*name*),* we know you as a foundation of truth* and a confirmer of the faith.* Your understanding of the dogmas was exceptional.* You were a composer of piety, an abode of purity,* a chosen vessel, the sweet fragrance of the Spirit.* You were a great treasury of teaching* and a pillar of the Church of Christ.

You are a successor to the throne of the apostles;* you are of one mind with the martyrs,* and you emulate ascetics zealously.* Therefore, we honor you, praiseworthy God-bearer,* for you are the seal of teachers and the image of God.* You were initiated into the mysteries of Christ.* O wise (*name*), you are the river of understanding* that drowns the schemes of the lawless blasphemers.

You multiplied the talent of wisdom, O glorious confessor,* and became worthy of the joy of your Lord.* O (*name*); adorned with divine rays of grace,* you shone with the light of spiritual wisdom,* and now stand before the life-bringing right Hand* from which we also receive the light.

If it is a Polyeleos, we may take three more stichera from the common service of a Venerable, from the stichera at the praises (p. 1199).

Glory be: (*Tone 6*): O holy father!* The echo of your instructions has gone forth through all the earth;* for this, you have obtained the reward of your labors in heaven.*

You have destroyed troops of demons,* and have joined the orders of angels whose life you have irreproachably emulated.* Having boldness before Christ our God,* implore Him for peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Now and for ever: (theotokion): Rejoice, O brightly radiating sun,* O instrument of the never-setting Sun.* Rejoice, O wisdom! who shines with divine brilliance and rays of glory.* You illumine the entire universe.* O most good and immaculate Virgin,* like the never-setting Light,* you have been an illumination for the faithful.

Now and for ever: (staurotheotokion): Your most pure Mother, the all-pure Virgin,* seeing You unjustly nailed to the cross by wicked people,* was pierced to the heart as Simeon had prophesied.

If it is a Polyeleos: Now and for ever: Dogmaticon (Tone 6); but on Friday and Saturday evenings: Dogmaticon of the tone of the week. The rest of the Vespers and Matins services is taken from the common service of a Venerable (p. 1194).

COMMON OF SELFLESS PHYSICIANS AND WONDERWORKERS

VESPERS

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried..."

(Tone 4, Podoben -- Dal jesi znamenije): Like rivers overflowing with spiritual waters,* you water creation with divine signs,* and with the most famous gifts of healing.* Dry up the passions which corrupt the soul,* cure all ailments, and drive away evil spirits.* O God-bearing unmercenaries, you are intercessors for our souls.

Subduing senseless passions by spiritual strength,* O holy wonder-workers,* you bear good gifts to all cre-

ation;* for you were enriched by Christ with the gift of healing.* As we celebrate your illustrious feast,* we implore cleansing for our souls.

Your holy shrine, like heaven,* has become a splendorous place of salvation.* Like the sun, it shines with the workings of divine healings.* Saving miracles are now acquired like stars.* O blessed (*name*), and renowned (*name*),* you are servants of the Lord and intercessors for our souls.

Glory be: (*Tone 4*): Who would not wonder at, who would not glorify,* who would not faithfully hymn the miracles of the wise and most glorious unmercenaries?* For even after their holy death they grant abundant healing* to all who in faith have recourse to them;* and their honored and holy relics impart the grace of cures.* O holy twins! O honored heads?* O wisdom and glory of the grace given to you by God!* For this, we glorify with hymns God, our Benefactor,* Who has given you to us for the cure of our souls and bodies.

Now and for ever: (*theotokion*): Rejoice, O death to demons!* Rejoice, O daughter of Adam, most flourishing and unwilting flower!* Rejoice, O glory of your servants!* Rejoice, most immaculate, and forgiveness of wicked ones!* Rejoice, O gift of salvation granted to the world by God!* Rejoice, O precious One of those who call upon you!* Rejoice, O Mother, glory of those who extol you!

Now and for ever: (*staurotheotokion*): The all-pure One wept and cried out, saying:* O earth, tremble and quake!* My heart is pierced by the sword of sorrow* as I behold You on the cross;* for You set the land upon the waters,* and spread out the heavens like a tent.* I would sooner die than see You hanging naked and stretched out upon the cross,* my most beloved One!