

## **October 1**

### **Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, Venerable Romanus the Melodist**

*On the same day, the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God,  
the service for which is printed after this.*

### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these for the apostle, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

When, at the behest of the Most High, Saul was blinded \* and held fast in darkness, \* he came to you, \* begging divine cleansing, \* O apostle who had received divine illumination; \* then, as a wise hierarch, \* you made him a son by adoption through baptism, \* and he later adopted the whole world. \* We bless you together with him \* as an apostle of Christ, \* O divinely wise Ananias: \* pray that we be saved.

Having gloriously learned things divine, \* thundering forth, O blessed one, \* you roused those sleeping in the graves of vanity, \* who cast off mortality; \* and you sounded the clarion \* of the saving Word of God, \* of him who dwelt among mortals \* and transformed those confined in Hades, \* whom you made precious vessels \* of Jesus the Master \* and Saviour of our souls, \* who has slain death.

As a bearer of light, \* as preacher of God, \* as a divinely chosen witness \* to the sufferings of Christ \* and a fellow heir and partaker \* of the glory to come, \* as one who was with the Master, \* ever delighting in the radiance flowing forth \* from the never-waning Light, \* O divinely eloquent Ananias, \* by your supplications deliver from dark misfortune \* those who celebrate your splendid feast.

*And 3 verses of the venerable one, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

The melodious harp \* of the Spirit of God, \* the nightingale, the cicada chanting divine hymns, \* the flute of the Church, \* has provided us with his melodious compositions, \* and thereby gladdens the divine wise.

The radiant and luminous beacon, \* the sweet-sounding harp \* the strings of which sound the meaningful words of the Spirit, \* sing out with teaching to the ends of the earth \* with never-ceasing hymnody, \* to glorify the single radiance of the divinity.

## **October 1**

Standing before the Master of all, \* having gained boldness before him, O father, \* pray that we who celebrate your memory and your splendid festival \* be delivered from misfortune and dangers, \* O divinely blessed Romanus.

Glory be to the Father... *of the apostle, same tone*  
*composed by Byzantium*

Instructed by a revelation from God, as an eyewitness of the Word and a participant in the mysteries of his wonders, you enlightened the Apostle Paul, the chosen vessel and great receptacle of the Spirit, as an apostle before the disciples and a faithful observer of the new covenant, O venerable one. You shed your blood, emulating Christ your teacher, O Ananias, hierarch of Christ, as a confessor through martyrdom. Having finished your course and kept the faith inviolate, you dwell now in the heights with the heavenly servitors of God: pray that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody O all-praised martyrs...*

*Theotokion of the Cross* Standing at the cross of your Son and God, and seeing his long suffering, you lamented, O pure Mother: Woe is me, my child most sweet; what are these things you suffer unjustly, O Word of God? Thereby may you save mankind.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,*  
*and an additional verse for the apostle, tone 4*

*Verse* Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

Covered with stones as with flowers, O Apostle Ananias, you appeared as a receptacle of sufferings, shedding your blood for him who of his own will suffered for our sake. Damascus takes pride in your sacred festival today, and not it alone, but all the lands of the world as well; and proclaiming your miracles, it cries out: Pray to God, that he grant us forgiveness of our offences.

Glory be to the Father... *of the venerable one, tone 6*

As first-fruits, in your offering of good works, as a starting-point of salvation, O Romanus our father, in composing angelic hymns you revealed your life to be godly. Entreat Christ our God, that he deliver from danger and tribulation those who hymn you.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody On the third day...*

*Theotokion of the Cross* Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave birth to you cried out: What strange mystery is this that I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, your body hanging on the wood of the cross, O bestower of life?

*Troparion of the apostle, tone 3*

Holy apostle Ananias, | intercede with the merciful God, || that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

Glory be to the Father...

*Troparion of the venerable one, tone 8*

That which was created in the image of God was preserved in you, O Father; | for taking up the cross you followed Christ. | By your deeds you have taught us to reject the flesh for it passes away, | but to care for the soul as a thing immortal. || Therefore O venerable Romanus your soul rejoices with the angels.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or Theotokion of the Cross.*

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos and two canons for the saints.*

*Ode 1*

*Canon of the apostle Ananias, tone 8,  
composed by John the Monk  
upon the acrostic Let the glory of Ananias be glorified.*

*Irmos* Having traversed the water as though it were dry land, and escaping the evil of Egypt, the Israelite cried out: Let us sing to our deliverer and our God.

O faithful, let us open mouths of praise, and let us make radiant our tongues in commemorating the archpastor Ananias; and with him let us sing to our God.

Glorious Ananias led the Church of Damascus as an undefiled bride to Christ the most pure Bridegroom: with her let us sing to our God.

You were an original disciple, O Ananias; you restored the sight of the new disciple who before was a persecutor; and you sing: Let us sing to our God.

*Theotokion* The ranks of the angels and the generations of men unceasingly praise you, O unwedded Mother; for you held their creator as an infant in your arms.

*Canon of venerable Romanus, tone 6*

*Irmos* Traversing the deep on foot as if it were dry land, Israel looked upon the tyrant Pharaoh as he drowned and cried out: Let us sing to God a song of victory.

## **October 1**

By your supplications, O wise and godly Romanus, impart upon us radiant beams of light from heaven, that we may praise your sacred memory with hymns.

Offering yourself wholly to Christ from your youth, O Romanus, you followed him, enlightening your mind with luminous radiance from heaven.

Adorned with the beauty of the all-accomplishing and holy Spirit, O wise Romanus, you appear to the ends of the earth as a luminous star shining with the radiance of the virtues.

*Theotokion* From you the equally unoriginate Word of God issued forth, O Mother of God, and he has raised Adam, the first man, to salvation.

### *Ode 3*

#### *Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* You are the confirmation of those who have recourse to you, O Lord: you are the light of those in darkness; and my spirit sings to you.

Following the commands of your teacher, O apostle, you became a high priest and a sacrifice in martyrdom.

By your supplications, O Apostle Ananias, render the deliverer readily merciful to those who hymn you.

When he appeared to you, his face enshrouded in ineffable light, the Lord restrained the savagery of the wild beast.

*Theotokion* We Christians have all acquired you as our refuge and strength; and we glorify you unceasingly, the unwedded Lady.

#### *Canon of venerable Romanus*

*Irmos* There is none holy as you O Lord my God, who has exalted the strength of your faithful O good one, and has established us on the rock of your confession.

Full of the true knowledge of piety and pouring forth divine preaching, your mind became the dwelling-place of the Holy Trinity, O wise Romanus.

With divine hymns, your precious tongue flowed as a torrent, wisely explaining to us Christ's ineffable nativity from the Virgin.

You lavishly nurture our minds with wise teachings and beautiful hymns, filling them with divine sweetness, O Romanus of godly eloquence.

*Theotokion* You are more exalted than the heavenly hosts, O Virgin, for you conceived their creator, the Son of God, and, even after giving birth you remained a virgin.

*Kontakion of the venerable one, tone 8*

Adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit, O Romanus most wise, you were a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, for you decorated it with beauteous hymnody. Therefore we entreat you: Grant your divine gift to those desire it, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O most blessed father, the beauty of the Church.

*Sessional Hymn of the apostle, same tone,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Enlightened by the knowledge of God, O Ananias, you were a hiero-martyr of Jesus and a divine apostle. Having immersed in water the former persecutor Saul, who had been blinded by God, through deifying instruction you revealed him to be a great enlightener of our souls. Therefore, we cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the venerable one, tone 5,  
to the Special Melody* The Word who is equally unoriginate...

Planted like a tree by the rippling waters of fasting, O blessed father, through God's labour you produced the fruits of your pangs, which you presented to the cultivator and creator we hymn your holy memory, honouring you, O venerable Romanus.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O pure and ever virgin, the ardent and immovable mediator, the hope and confirmation of those who take refuge in you as their invincible rampart, shelter and haven: join with the angels in praying to your Son and God to give peace to the world, salvation and great mercy.

*Theotokion of the Cross* Beholding you hanging of your own will upon the cross between the thieves, O Christ, your Mother said, her womb rent with pain: O my sinless Son, how is it that you are unjustly crucified on the cross as a malefactor, desiring to bring life to the human race, as you are supremely good?

*Ode 4*

*Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* I have heard the mystery of your dispensation O Lord; I have understood your works, and I glorify your divinity.

Instructed by you, O Christ, ever-memorable Ananias vanquished death in martyrdom and received honours from you.

## **October 1**

You were a disciple of the persecuted Word, O ever-memorable Ananias, and the teacher of him who persecuted the pious.

The Lord revealed you to sightless Saul, who was hiding, O Ananias, and he made you the vehicle of his healing.

*Theotokion* O most pure Virgin, entreat God, to whom you gave birth, that he deliver those who hymn you from every evil circumstance.

### *Canon of venerable Romanus*

*Irmos* Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, sings the holy Church in reverent piety, raising her voice with a pure mind, and keeping festival in the Lord.

You were a receptacle of the divine Spirit, O Romanus, and a fire-breathing mouth proclaiming divine hymns and delighting the souls of those who know you.

You were like a heavenly harp and lyre, drawing every mind to yourself by your descriptions and beautiful hymns.

The grace of the all-accomplishing and most holy Spirit wafted forth and dwelt in your radiant soul, O exalted one, and made you a receptacle and wise herald of God.

*Theotokion* The serpent poured venom into the ears of our first mother, but you shook him off, O pure one, conceiving Christ at the cry of the archangel and giving birth to him.

### *Ode 5*

#### *Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

He who in his mercy rested within you, O blessed apostle Ananias, made you a divine haven for the storm-tossed, an ever-flowing fountain, and the unapproachable light made you a beam of light for those in darkness.

He who sees things hidden and knows all before they come into being, revealed you, the hidden sun, to him who before was a persecutor but then became an apostle of the truth which he had previously sought to destroy.

The purpose of your dispensation is unfathomable, O Saviour, by which dread death has been annihilated and Ananias, rejoicing, was slain for you as a victorious hierarch.

*Theotokion* With maternal boldness before your Son, O most pure Lady, keep in mind your kinship with us, we pray; for we Christians set you alone before the Master, that he mercifully purify us.

*Canon of venerable Romanus*

*Irmos* I pray you, O good one, illumine with your divine light the souls of those who rise at dawn with love for you, that they may know you O Word of God to be truly God, who calls them back from the deep gloom of transgression.

The grace of the Comforter, finding you to be a magnificent sanctuary and pure vessel, O divinely wise Romanus, made you a temple adorned with light.

Appearing by night, the Ever-virgin, who truly gave birth to the incarnate Son of God, illuminated your soul and filled your mind with divine understanding.

Revealing yourself to all as truly sweet through the writings of your sacred words, O ever-memorable one, you gladden all, illuminating our minds and teaching the knowledge of the Saviour.

*Theotokion* O pure Lady who gave birth to the light, the eternal Word of the Father, by your luminous supplications enlighten my mind and dispel the darkness of my soul.

*Ode 6*

*Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

Accustomed to serving the living God, O sacred Ananias, you destroyed the malignity of the mindless, teaching all to worship the one divinity in three persons.

With the rudder of the Church in your hands, you moved toward Christ, the Helmsman, O apostle Ananias; and with the Spirit you steered it like a divine ship.

O Master who created the straight path, you commanded your glorious disciple to set out straightaway to find the vessel of your righteous chosen one.

*Theotokion* May we be delivered from bitter transgressions through your entreaties, O pure Mother of God; and may we attain the radiance of the Son of God ineffably incarnate of you.

*Canon of venerable Romanus*

## **October 1**

*Irmos* Beholding the sea of life, surging with the storm of temptations, I run to your calm haven and cry to you: Raise my life from corruption, O most merciful one.

Filled with enlightenment, and led by God to the heights of the virtues, you rejected earthly things, and became a heavenly pillar and beacon of piety.

You caused the desires of the flesh to wither away, adorning your soul with radiant beams of purity, arrayed in the magnificence of the virtues.

Hating transitory, vain, corrupt and fleeting pleasure, you entered the temple of the Mother of God, and there sanctified your body, mind and soul, O glorious one.

*Theotokion* With divine vision seeing from afar your immaculate nativity from the Virgin, to take place splendidly on earth in latter times, O Christ, the prophets mightily proclaimed it.

*Kontakion of the apostle, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody In supplication...*

Most fervent helper in supplication, and speedy hearer of those who petition you, O Ananias, accept our entreaty, and beg Christ to have mercy on us, for he alone abides among the saints.

*Ikos* Illumining the darkness and blindness of my heart with the light of your radiance, O Christ, grant me discourse, that with a pure mind I may praise the divinely radiant virtues and sufferings of the blessed apostle; for you are the fount of wisdom and the bestower of good things: having enlightened my tongue, accept this praiseful hymnody, O Lord who alone abides among the saints.

## *Ode 7*

### *Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* The youths from Judea once in Babylon trod down the flames of the furnace with their faith in the Trinity, as they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Let the divinely chosen flock wisely blow the trumpet, sounding the sufferings of the shepherd Ananias to Christ, his chief shepherd: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Let the honoured Church of Christ glorify you, O Ananias, as the disciple of God, a faithful hierarch and a witness to the divine passion, crying: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Concealing himself, not from fear of death, but with love for your flock, seeing the wolf as tame as a lamb, Ananias cried out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* You revealed yourself, O Christ, incarnate of the Virgin for our salvation: knowing your Mother as the Mother of God, we cry out in Orthodox manner: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Canon of venerable Romanus*

*Irmos* The children in Babylon did not fear the fiery furnace, but standing together in the midst of the flames, bedewed they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

With Mary the Mother of God as your tutor, instructing and teaching you, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You shone in the world like the radiant sun, O divinely wise Romanus, radiantly illumining those who sing with faith: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The sound of your words has filled the world and taught men to sing with beauty to Christ: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* All generations call you blessed as you foretold, O pure Mother; and with faith they render glory, singing: Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O most pure Lady.

*Ode 8*

*Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Glorious Ananias expected to hear terrible news of the predatory power of the destroyer of your flock, O Master, but hearing of his indescribable change into a shepherd, he leapt for joy, singing: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Let your glorious and blessed city rejoice today and leap up in the Spirit, having your goodly help, O glorious one; and, giving thanks to the Saviour, let it sing: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

At the command of the bestower of light, O honoured Ananias, you taught Saul concerning the light-creating power of him whom he had seen; and you restored his sight, touching him with your healing hands, and removed the darts of the serpent as though they were scales, crying: Exalt Christ above all for ever.

The thrice-radiant divinity, the single shining radiance which emanates from the one nature in three persons: the unoriginate Father, the Word who shares the same nature as the Father, and the consubstantial Spirit who reigns with them: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

## **October 1**

*Theotokion* Most holy Lady who saves those in need and intercedes fervently, save me and raise me up who has fallen, extending to me a helping hand before the end, that the night of death not overtake me as I sleep, that I may glorify you for ever.

### *Canon of venerable Romanus*

*Irmos* The blessed youths in Babylon, braving danger for the laws of their fathers, reviled the mindless command of the ruler, and, united by the fire which burned them not, they sang a fitting hymn to the Almighty: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Rejecting the beauty, sweetness and glory of the world, you caused your soul to soar to the choirs on high, to the glories and splendour of heaven, to ineffable beauty, to the habitations of paradise, to the light of the divinity, singing, O wise one: We exalt you, O Christ, above all for ever.

Afire with divine longing, you directed the aspirations of your heart and acquired a detached life while still in the body. Emulating the angelic ranks, O Romanus, while in the world you loved the hymnody of heaven, singing with faith: We exalt you, O Christ, above all for ever.

With the exalted tone of your divine and sweet discourses, O blessed Romanus, you gladden the minds of men, delighting them as a server of rich food, enlightening them with splendour and teaching them to sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* The evil serpent, the slayer of man, deceiving me by offering to make me equal with God, carried me, a captive, from the sweetness of paradise. But the Master of nature, the Son of God, has come, incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and restored me to the heights, deifying me. Him we exalt above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

### *Canon of the Apostle*

*Irmos* The unwedded mother of God the Most High God, who truly gave birth to God the Word in a manner beyond understanding, who is more exulted than the most pure powers; with never silent hymns of glory, we magnify you.

You destroyed the darkness of ignorance, O exalted apostle, shining upon Damascus the true light of the three persons: as a loving father and a beloved archpastor, preserve it in the Orthodox faith.

Celebrating this annual feast, come and shining radiantly with spiritual dignity, hymning the thrice radiant virtue of Ananias, the servant and preacher of the Trinity.

How far above man is your dignity, O blessed Ananias, for as a disciple you were beloved, as a pastor you have found rest, and as an athlete you have been glorified with Christ, adorned with crowns of martyrdom.

*Theotokion*    O most pure vessel of sweet fragrance, entreat Christ, to whom you gave birth, that he grant our Orthodox hierarchs victory over heresy and deliver your people from the yoke of slavery; for we magnify you without ceasing.

*Canon of venerable Romanus*

*Irmos* Ineffable is the childbearing from the seedless conception, and incorrupt is the pregnancy of the unwedded mother; for the birth of God makes nature new. As the Mother and Bride of God, with true worship, all generations magnify you.

You have joined the choirs of the bodiless on high, O glorious one, where indescribable joy and everlasting delight abound, where the light of the divinity and gladness abide, and where there is ineffable glory, O blessed one.

Dwelling with the righteous amid divine glory, you look upon its ineffable beauty, you see never-ending sweetness and you gaze upon the truly desirable comeliness of heaven, O wise and glorious Romanus, beholder of the choirs of the patriarchs.

By your supplications deliver from misfortune those who with faith celebrate your radiant memory, from all harm and from the oppression of the alien one, O divinely wise and blessed Romanus, and grant that they may receive the glory of heaven and the kingdom on high.

*Theotokion*    The human race became subject to corruption and enslaved to passions through the ancient fall of the first-created man, O virgin Mother of God; but the all-good God who was born of you has restored him in his compassion.

*Exapostilarion from the Octoechos; Glory be to the Father... of the apostle,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, O women...*

Damascus, whose might you extended through your martyrdom, now boasts in you, O Ananias, for, as an excellent disciple of the persecuted Christ, you taught the persecutor of Christ: pray to him for us.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*    What a wondrous mystery, that even after giving birth you remain a virgin, as before birthgiving: truly ineffable are all your mysteries, O blessed Mary, Virgin and Mother.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos;  
Glory be to the Father... of the apostle, tone 8,  
composed by Anatolius*

## **October 1**

O Ananias, disciple of the Saviour, glorious hierarch, glory of the martyrs, radiant beacon, protector of your city: Pray earnestly, that Christ deliver your flock from misfortune and save our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O all-glorious wonder...

Beholding you, O Jesus, \* nailed to the cross \* and accepting suffering willingly, \* the Virgin, your Mother, O Master, cried out: \* Woe is me, O my sweet child. \* How is it that you endure such unjust wounds, \* O physician who heals the infirmity of men \* and who has delivered all from corruption \* by your loving-kindness?

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the apostle.*

*Prokimenon, tone 8*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, number 21, from the midpoint [Acts 9: 10-19]*

*Alleluia tone 1*

Let the heavens praise your wonders O Lord and let your faithfulness be sung in the assembly of the holy ones.

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

*Gospel of Luke, number 51 [10:16-21]*

*Communion*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

## **Protection of Our Lady, the most holy Mother of God**

*If the Church is dedicated to her, or if the Superior desires, a Vigil may be sung*

### **Little Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses tone 1*

God who alone rests on the Thrones in the highest  
has brought his favoured one to witness that which transcends earthly things  
when he stretched forth his hands in supplication,  
entreating you, O Lady, for his city and people, as he prayed:  
Cover us, O our Lady,  
with the omophorion of your mercy. *twice*

Most pure Virgin, unwedded Bride of God,  
our protection and help:  
with your precious omophorion  
protect the city which honours and glorifies you,  
against the assaults of adversaries.

O Mother of God, the animate palace of Christ,  
bulwark, protection and might of the faithful,  
through you is your city saved,  
with your help Orthodox rulers are crowned;  
those who boast in you win victories over the heathen;  
for you cover us with the omophorion of your mercy.

*Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... tone 4*

Come, gatherings of those who love the feasts of the Church,  
let us hymn the most holy Virgin.  
Today the angels and saints celebrate the protection of the Mother of God,  
and summon us to cry out in praise with unceasing voices:  
Rejoice, adornment of the Church and wondrous protection of the world.  
Rejoice, ally of faithful kings in battle and preservation of warriors.  
Rejoice, our protection and help  
whom the Christian race unceasingly blesses.

*Aposticha, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody O house of Ephratha...*

There is glorification in heaven \* and glad rejoicing on earth, \* for the queen is  
praying in the church \* with all the saints \* for all of us.

## **October 1**

*Verse* Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

Come, all you faithful, \* to the holy church, \* for there the Mother of God protects the people \* with her omophorion \* against every assault of the enemy.

*Verse* The richest among the people shall entreat your favour with gifts.

Most pure Mother of God, \* do not forget us \* who are your servants, \* but ever pray for us \* who hymn you with faith.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 3*

Come, those who love the feasts of the Church, and let us bless the honoured protection of the Mother of God; for she mercifully stretches forth her hands to her Son, and the world is shielded by her holy protection. With mouth and heart, with hymns and spiritual songs, let us splendidly celebrate with all who have recourse to her.

*Troparion, tone 4*

Overshadowed by your coming O Mother of God,  
we the faithful people celebrate with splendour,  
and gazing upon your most precious image,  
we say with repentance:  
Cover us with your precious veil,  
and deliver us from all evil,  
entreating your Son Christ our God that he save our souls.

## **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon.*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, beginning with these 4 in tone 1,  
to the Special Melody O wondrous miracle...*

O pure Mother of God, wellspring of wisdom, the mighty consolation of the grieving, a speedy helper, the salvation and confirmation of the world, an abyss of mercy: we the faithful hymn you, the protection of the world, ineffably praising your luminous omophorion, saying: Rejoice, O favoured Lady, the Lord is with you, who through you grants the world great mercy. *twice*

Wondrous Isaiah prophesied, saying: In later times the mountain of the Lord shall appear, and the house of the Lord shall be upon the summit of the mountain. O Lady, we known you to be the true fulfillment of this, for the mountains and hills are adorned with renowned churches of your feasts. In gladness we sing to you: Rejoice, O favoured Lady, the Lord is with you, who through you grants the world great mercy.

You are the wondrous adornment of all the faithful, the true fulfillment of the prophecies, the glory of the apostles, the beauty of the martyrs, the boast of virginity and the marvellous protection of the world. O Lady, with your omophorion protect the pious who sing: Rejoice, O favoured Lady, the Lord is with you, who through you grants the world great mercy.

*And 4 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

We know you, O Mother of God, \* as a divinely planted garden of paradise, \* the place of the Tree of Life, \* watered by the Holy Spirit, \* the one who gave birth to the creator of all \* who feeds the faithful with him who is the Bread of Life. \* With the Forerunner entreat him for us, \* with your precious omophorion protecting pious people \* from every tribulation. *twice*

Heaven and earth are sanctified, \* the Church is made radiant \* and all the people are glad: \* see, the Mother of God, \* arriving invisibly \* with the angelic armies, the Forerunner and the Theologian, \* the Prophets and the Apostles, \* prays to Christ for Christians, \* that he have mercy upon this community and its people \* who glorify the feast of her protection.

You are the Excellency of Jacob \* and the heavenly ladder \* whereby the Lord descended to earth. \* These images of old indicated \* your honour and glory, O Mother of God. \* The angels of heaven and mortal men \* bless you who gave birth to the God of all, \* for you pray for the whole world, \* covering with your mercy \* those who celebrate your honoured feast.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 8*

The ranks of the immaterial beings rejoice with us  
who spiritually form a material choir,  
seeing our Lady, the Queen of all  
glorified most excellently by the faithful.  
The spirits of the righteous rejoice  
to see her extending her most precious hands in supplication,  
asking peace for the world, might and confirmation for kings,  
and salvation for our souls.

*Entrance, Prokimenon and Readings*

A reading from Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28: 10-17)

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord: When these days are over, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your offerings of well-being; and I will accept you, says the Lord God. Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. The Lord said to me: This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince, because he is a prince, may sit in it to eat food before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way. Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and lo! the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord; and I fell upon my face. (Ezekiel 43:27-44:4)

A reading from the Proverbs.

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, "You that are simple, turn in

here!" To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight." Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you. Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. (Proverbs 9:1-11)

*Entreaty*

*Tone 3* Today the radiant feast of your precious protection has dawned, O most pure Virgin: greater than the sun you illumine the people who with faith and a pure heart confess you to be the true Mother of God, as they and cry out to your Son: O Christ our God, through the supplications of the ever-virgin who gave birth to you in purity, do not give your heritage over to those who war against us, but as you are merciful save our souls in peace.

*Tone 4* The people of your Son sing fitting praises to you, O most pure Lady, yet they cannot sing as fittingly as they would wish; for you ever help the faithful, covering them with your precious omophorion praying that all be saved who honour you as the pure one, the true Mother of God.

*Tone 2* Gathering today, O faithful, let us bless the Mother of Christ our God, the most pure virgin Queen who ever mercifully extends her hands to her Son, as seen by in the air by wondrous Andrew, covering the people with her precious omophorion. Let us sing to her with contrition: Rejoice, O protection, help and salvation of our souls.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *in the same tone*

Having purified our minds and thoughts, we celebrate with the angels,  
splendidly beginning David's hymn to the Maiden,  
the Bride of Christ our God the king of all:  
Arise, O Lord, into your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.  
For having adorned her as a beautiful palace, O Master,  
at her supplications and by your mighty power  
you have sent her to your people,  
to edify and protect them against pagan foes.

*Aposticha*

*Tone 2* Christ has given you to the Christian race as a mighty protection and a helper more exalted than all things of heaven and earth, more glorious than the cherubim and more honourable than all creation, to protect and save the sinful people who have recourse to you. O Lady, we hymn you, the refuge of all, and celebrate with splendour the honoured feast of your protection, entreating Christ, that he grant us great mercy.

## **October 1**

*Tone 5*      *Verse*    Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

O people, let us sing with splendour a hymn to the Maiden, the Mother of Christ our God, the king of all: The Queen stands at your right hand, O Master, clothed in robes of gold and adorned with divine beauty. Having adorned her, his chosen one, beyond all women of the world, he was pleased to be born of her in his great mercy; and he has given her to his people as a helper, to edify and to protect his servants from misfortune.

*Tone 7*      *Verse*    The richest among the people shall entreat your favour with gifts.

You are a mountain greater and more glorious than Mount Sinai, O Mother of God: for, unable to bear the descent of the glory of God in images and shadows, it burned with fire, and thunder and lightning struck it; but you, unconsumed, held within you God the Word, the divine fire, who holds all things in his hand. With maternal boldness before him, O Lady, help those who celebrate your honoured feast with faith, and forget us not, but visit us with mercy; for you received from God the gift to edify and protect your servants, your Christian flock.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 2*

The Church of God is arrayed in your honoured protection as with a radiant crown, O most pure Mother of God, and, rejoicing, it shines today and mystically joins chorus, singing to you, O Lady: Rejoice, precious raiment and crown of the glory of God. Rejoice, perfection of glory and everlasting gladness. Rejoice, O refuge, deliverance and salvation of us who have recourse to you.

*Troparion, tone 4*

Overshadowed by your coming O Mother of God,  
we the faithful people celebrate with splendour,  
and gazing upon your most precious image,  
we say with repentance:  
Cover us with your precious veil,  
and deliver us from all evil,  
entreating your Son Christ our God that he save our souls.

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord... the troparion, twice;  
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... the troparion again.*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 3*

Surrounded by the divine radiance of the angelic armies  
and with the ranks of the prophets and apostles,  
and receiving their worshipful ministrations as Mother of God,  
visit us, your servants,  
entreating Christ our God,  
that he grant us great mercy.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

O most pure Mother of God,  
you are truly the strength of the strengthless:  
we who have been cast down  
are raised up by you and are borne aloft in you,  
for you are the protection of all and our mediator before God.

*Polyeleos, and this magnification*

Truly it is right to magnify you, O Mother of God, more honourable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim.

*Or this magnification*

We magnify you, the immaculate Mother of Christ our God, and we honour your labours and your precious omophorion, for holy Andrew saw you in the air, entreating Christ for us.

*Verse* He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

Presented on your most pure hands,  
your precious omophorion shines immaterially with greater luster than amber,  
truly more honourable than the Ark of old;  
preserving those who honour this truly beauteous feast of your protection, O Lady,  
which we gather to celebrate with fervour.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

I will make known your name to every generation.

*Verse* My heart is astir with fine phrases, I make my song for a king.

Let every breath... *and the rest,*  
*with the Gospel of Luke, number 4 [: 39-49, 56]*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... the verse, tone 8*

The ranks of the immaterial beings rejoice with us  
who spiritually form a material choir,  
seeing our Lady, the Queen of all  
glorified most excellently by the faithful.  
The spirits of the righteous rejoice  
to see her extending her most precious hands in supplication,  
asking peace for the world, might and confirmation for kings,  
and salvation for our souls.

*Canon of the Mother of God, tone 4*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it; and I will sing to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen keeping festival with splendour; and rejoicing I shall hymn her wonders.

Entering the church in great glory today as the Mother of God, with the ranks of the holy angels and the assemblies of the prophets and apostles, you pray for all Christians and deliver them from endangerment and grief, covering them with your mercy.

Moses called you the tabernacle and the rod of Aaron, for you put forth Christ, the Tree of Life: with boldness before him, O Queen, pray for us who honour you, that he deliver us from all evil, as we glorify the feast of your protection.

Summoning choirs, David dances, not as of old before the ark, but even more now, hastening into your presence in the church with the ranks of the saints. Bowing down before you, we say: Pray for us, the people who honour you, that, glorifying your protection, we may celebrate it with honour.

The ranks of the angels hymn you, O Mother of God, and the patriarchs and holy hierarchs glorify you, hastening into your presence in the church. And holy Andrew then beheld you with them, praying to God for us sinners that he have mercy upon those who glorify the feast of your protection.

*Katavasia I shall open... as before*

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir in your divine memory, and grant them crowns of glory.

Like an unploughed field you produced the divine grain. Rejoice, O animate table holding the Bread of Life: rejoice, O Lady, the inexhaustible spring of the water of life.

We your people, standing before you with faith in your church, await your mercy, O Lady: visit our lowliness, and with your holy protection defend us from all evil.

O far-famed Virgin, honourably prefigured by the prophets who now pay homage to you with the angels, pray to God with them, that, rejoicing, we may all splendidly celebrate your holy protection.

Christ our God descended upon you like dew upon the fleece in which Gideon prefigured you: pray to him, O Mother of God, that he grant victory to our Orthodox hierarchs over heresies, that, they may glorify your holy feast.

O Mother of God, with your radiant omophorion you illumine the church and the people more than the rays of the sun, by your visitation dispelling the darkness of our sins, praying for us to your Son and God.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 5*

O pure ever-virgin, fervent and invincible intercessor,  
excellent and unashamed hope, defence, protection and refuge  
of those who have recourse to you:  
with the angels entreat your Son and God,  
that he grant salvation and great mercy to the world.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

Exulted Virgin, we cry out to you in voices of hymnody: Rejoice, white mountain enriched by the Spirit; rejoice, lamp stand and jar bearing the Manna which sweetens the senses of the pious.

God has sanctified you wholly, O Mother, more than the ark of Aaron, and has commanded the saints and angels to pay you homage: with them pray for the city and people who glorify your honoured feast.

## **October 1**

O Mother of God, come in glory to your church with the hosts of all the saints, as once holy Andrew saw you, radiantly praying for Christians; and grant us your mercy.

Strengthen our Orthodox hierarchs against heresy and schism, as God did for David against Goliath, O Lady, that in gladness we may cry to you: Rejoice, O holy protection and helper of our church.

With faith we fall down before you, O Lady, and, rendering homage with thanksgiving, we cry out to you: Rejoice, O Virgin full of the grace of God, our protection and wall of defense, the helper of those in misfortune: save us who have recourse to you, for in you we place our trust.

### *Ode 5*

*Irmos* All things are filled with awe at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who has not known wedlock, held in your womb God who is over all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

Of old, Solomon described you as the marriage-couch and bed of the king of heaven, and spoke of you as surrounded by the seraphim, O Mother of God. We entreat you, most holy Mother of God, to protect us from every misfortune.

The foremost of the angels and the honoured prophets and apostles render service with honour to you as the Mother of God, seeing you making supplication for the world; and the Lord, heeding to your entreaties, saves your people who trust in you.

Isaiah, great among the prophets, spoke of you, saying that unwedded you would give birth to God; and you, O pure Mary, more holy than all, as you held God within you and in your arms, pray to him for us, covering with your veil those who glorify you.

Spreading spiritual wings, the hosts of the saints come mystically to render homage to you, O Mother of God, seeing you on the bright cloud of glory, praying to Christ the Saviour, that he grant victory to our Orthodox hierarchs over heresy and schism.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God who was born of her.

Divinely wise priests, standing in your church with the pious people, await your mercy, O Mother of God: transform our grief into joy, for you gave birth to him who is joy who has done away with the sins of mankind.

We on earth offer gifts to you as to the queen and Mother of God. Kings and princes bow down in homage, and people are glad, protected from evil by your supplications.

Daniel described you as a great mountain; for from you was Christ born without seed. He has destroyed the falsehood of demons, and has filled the earth with his faith: pray to him for us who glorify the feast of your protection, O Mother of God.

O most pure Lady, we offer you the cry of the angel: Rejoice, O throne of God, whereon Ezekiel saw the Lord in the form of a man, upborne by the cherubim: with them pray for us, O Mother of God, that he save our souls.

*Kontakion of the Protecting Veil, tone 3,  
to the Special Melody Today the Virgin...*

Today the Virgin stands forth in the Church,  
and with the choirs of the saints she invisibly prays to God for us.  
Angels and hierarchs offer homage,  
and the apostles and prophets join chorus;  
for on our behalf  
the Mother of God entreats the pre-eternal God.

*Ikos* Come, O people, let us delight in her glorious miracles; for through her Adam is delivered from corruption: she is the ark fashioned, not by Noah, but by God. Of old, Moses was unable to see God in the fiery bush; but now the whole earth acknowledges the Son of God who was born of her and to whom she prays for us. We glorify her as the Mother of God; for on our behalf the Mother of God entreats the pre-eternal God.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The divinely wise youths worshipped not a creation rather than the creator, but bravely trampling the threat of fire underfoot, they rejoiced shouting: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

O Virgin, described by the prophets and yet unknown to the angels of heaven who minister to God; we now know you as the Mother of God, and need your help and aid.

O virgin Mother of God, mountain enriched by the Spirit which Habbakuk saw flowing the sweetness of healing upon the faithful, heal us who cry out to your Son: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

He who bowed down the heavens and made his abode within you, O Virgin, now regards your supplication, fulfilling your petitions: earnestly pray to him for us who place our hope in you.

O Christ God, our creator and Saviour, accept the entreaty of your Mother, which she offers for us sinners, that, rejoicing, we may sing to you: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

## **October 1**

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* The birthgiving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With the ranks of the angels, the honourable and glorious prophets, the pre-eminent apostles, the hieromartyrs and hierarchs, O Lady, pray to God for us sinners who glorify the feast of your protection.

Cast down pride and arrogance, scatter the throng of unjust princes and destroy those who instigate wars, O Mother of God, most honoured Queen: exalt the might of our Orthodox hierarchs that we may glorify your feast, crying: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Offering hymnody with our mouths, we bow down before you spiritually with our souls; for our hearts burn within us: O most pure Mother of God, have mercy upon us who pray to you, who hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

I am weighed down by many sins, and cannot write in praise of your protection, O Mother of God; but as you are the Mother of God, adorn your feast with miracles, that, rejoicing, we may all hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Let all mortal flesh leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the orders of the angelic powers celebrate, honouring the sacred triumph of the Mother of God; and let them cry out: Rejoice, O most blessed ever virgin Mother of God.

O exalted king who sits with the Father, hymned by the seraphim: regard the supplication of your Mother, offered for us sinners: save our community, grant bodily health to the Orthodox through the prayers of her who gave you birth.

O divinely chosen Virgin, we cry out to you with the voice of the angel: Rejoice, O Lady who has led Adam back into paradise; rejoice, who expels demons with your name; rejoice, hope of Christians; rejoice, sanctification of souls; rejoice, preserver of our city.

Remember us in your supplications, O virgin Lady and Mother of God, that we not perish through the multitude of our sins. Protect us from all evil and bitter perils, for in you we place our trust; and, honouring the feast of your protection, we magnify you.

As Mother of God, you have received from God the gift to heal the infirmities of Christians, to deliver them from misfortune, and save them from captivity and want: forsake us not, O Lady.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, O women...*

O most holy Lady, virgin Mother of God, cover us with your wondrous omophorion, preserving hierarchs and people from all evil, as wondrous Andrew saw you praying in the Church of Blachernae: impart your great mercy to us, O Lady. *thrice*

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, 4 verses, tone 8,*  
*to the Special Melody* O all-glorious wonder...

Falling down before you, O Lady, \* and rendering homage with contrition we entreat you: \* Rejoice, O Lady blessed of God, \* O Virgin of great renown, prefigured with honour by the prophets. \* For Christ our God descend upon you like dew, \* and you gave birth to him without knowing wedlock, \* and held in your arms the creator and Lord of all. \* Pray to him for us who glorify with faith \* the feast of your protection. *twice*

The ranks of angels hymn you, O virgin, \* and the patriarchs and hierarchs glorify you: \* the holy apostles pay homage to you with honour \* as the Mother of God, \* beholding you making entreaty for the world \* to Christ our God, the Saviour of all. \* Pray to him to deliver us and our community \* who with faith glorify you \* and honour the feast of your protection.

Through the Holy Spirit God wholly sanctified you \* more than the ark of Aaron, O Mother of God; \* and we are illumined by your omophorion \* more than by the radiance of the sun: \* for you enlighten the church and the people, \* and drive away the darkness of our sins, \* delivering from misfortune and sorrow \* those who with faith honour the feast of your protection.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 4*

Wondrous Andrew beheld you with a throng of archangels,  
with the apostles and prophets, and the vast company of the martyrs,  
praying to your Son and our God for the city and people, O Lady,  
and covering them with your precious omophorion:  
do not fail, O most pure Lady,  
to save the splendid heritage of your Son,  
which celebrates your honoured feast.

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the Protection.*

*Prokimenon, tone 3, the Hymn of the Mother of God*

My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

*Verse* For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant: from this day all generations will call me blessed.

*Episite to the Hebrews, number 320 [Heb 9: 1-7]*

*Alleluia, tone 8*

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

The richest among the people shall entreat your favour with gifts.

*Gospel of Luke, number 54 [Luke 10: 38-42, 11: 27-28]*

*Communion Verse*

I will take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

## **October 2**

### **Hieromartyr Kyprian and the martyr Justina**

*On the same day the holy and blessed fool for Christ Andrew,  
whose service, usually sung at Compline, follows this*

### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Through priestly anointing \* and the blood of martyrdom \* you have approached God, \* O perfect and glorious Kyprian, \* flower of nature and adornment of eloquence, \* summit of wisdom, \* measure of the correctness of the dogmas, \* harmonious rightness of the canons \* and magnificence of the Churches.

O honourable Kyprian, \* the glory of athletes \* and crown of martyrs, \* by your discourses you persuaded the divinely wise \* to maintain their courage valiantly \* when confronted with imprisonment, bondage and various tortures, \* the stripping of their bodies, \* blinding and most cruel frost, \* and finally wounding and death.

Opposing the spells of the demons \* with hymns to the Spirit \* and the sign of the cross, \* you preserved your virginity \* and offered yourself to Christ \* as a sacred sacrifice, \* O unvanquished martyr: \* you have received crowns of victory, O martyr Justina, \* adornment of virgins and martyrs.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2*

You rejected the falsehood and lore of idolatrous teaching, and armed yourself for salvation with the sword of the cross, O blessed hierarch Kyprian; and, discarding your books of sorcery, you put off the old man: divine knowledge of the consubstantial Trinity dwelt within you, whom with the angels may you entreat that we be saved.

*Both now and for ever... Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

Seeing you nailed to the tree of the cross, O Jesus, she who knew not wedlock said, lamenting: O my child most sweet, how can you abandon me who alone gave you birth? O unapproachable light of the unoriginate Father, hasten and glorify yourself, that those who glorify your divine sufferings may receive divine glory.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... *tone 2**

**October 15**

Let us praise Kyprian, the divinely brilliant lamp, the conversor with Paul and sharer of his labours; for he dwells with the angels, having received a crown of incorruption from the one God, and he prays that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* When from the tree...

When the unblemished lamb beheld her lamb led as a man to the slaughter of his own will, she said, lamenting: Do you hasten to leave me childless, who gave you birth, O Christ? Why do you do this, O deliverer of all? Yet I hymn and glorify your extreme goodness which passes understanding and recounting, O lover of mankind.

*Troparion, tone 4*

You shared in the ways of the Apostles and occupied their throne, and your deeds were a passage to the divine vision, O divinely inspired one. Obedient to the word of truth, you suffered for the faith even to the shedding of your blood, O hieromartyr Kyprian, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, without the martyria; and that of the saints, tone 4  
upon the acrostic I hymn your luminous grace, O good one.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Dwelling with the ranks of heaven, O sacred and divine one, look down from heaven upon those who hymn you piously, and protect them by your supplications.

In the cruel grasp of the darkness of ignorance, enkindled by soul-destroying carnal passions and intemperance, O venerable one, you suddenly meet a glorious transformation, O blessed one.

Firstly you occupied the seat of the destroyers, O father, then later glorified Christ on the seat of the priests, transformed by the divine grace of the Master.

*Theotokion* You remained a virgin after giving birth, for of you was born the creator of all who in a strange manner revealed himself to us in a body, O Mother of God.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

Suffused with spiritual love for Christ like Paul, you became his disciple, O most wise Kyprian.

Christ betrothed himself to you, giving you vesture of glory and a robe of regeneration in place of the garments of the passions.

Having before been an avid promoter of athletes, O praiseworthy Kyprian, you were later a witness to the truth.

*Theotokion* In a noble manner we the faithful truly honour you, the Mother of God; for you gave birth to God incarnate, O immaculate Lady.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Chastised severely in your deception, like Paul you were called from heaven, guided by the cross to the light of understanding; for, enflamed by love for a chaste virgin, for her sake you joined yourself to the creator of men. Having reproved the weakness of the enemy, with her you were brought to join the choir of the martyrs. O Kyprian, adornment of hierarchs, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Falling into many temptations, I am surrounded foes, seen and unseen, and by numerous sins. I flee to your goodness, O immaculate one, my fervent protection, my shelter and my haven. Interceded fervently with him who was incarnate of you without seed for all your servants who ceaselessly praise you, the most pure Mother of God, that he grant forgiveness of sins to those who with faith venerate your maternity.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing the crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have mercy, and grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Imos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Coming to your senses after your former insanity, you abandoned demonic deception and soul-corrupting deception, and cried, rejoicing: Glory to your power, O Lord.

## **October 15**

With strength of heart and praying intensely to the pure and gracious Virgin, Justina eluded the snares and wiles of the enemy.

Fortified by faith in your Bridegroom, and invested with the power of the cross, you remained unscathed by the demons, crying: Glory to your power, O Lord.

*Theotokion* Free in his nature, he who received the fulness of human nature from you, O virgin Mother, abased himself, taking the form of a servant, in the richness of his goodness.

### *Ode 5*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

With the pure Mother of God as your champion, O Justina, enriched, you preserved your precious virginity intact.

Let us honour Justina, the animate and beautiful image of Christ, the hidden comeliness, the ornament which cannot be taken away.

The true and undefiled bride of Christ now wears a twofold crown, having justly attained it through suffering and fasting.

*Theotokion* Neither the mind of the angels nor of men is able to recount the ineffable and glorious wonder of your birthgiving, O most pure one.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

You passed from the abyss of malice in the nethermost depths to the uttermost virtue, O father, and mounted the summit, gloriously transformed by divine baptism.

You were first a servant of the demons, then later a divinely revealed disciple of Christ, loving him, the object of your desire, with true love.

You brought many martyrs to the Master, O divinely wise one, showing yourself to be the greatest of merchants, who purchased the kingdom of heaven with a little blood.

*Theotokion* O Bride of God, who gave birth to the Master of the law, break open the bonds of my offences, making me free of ruling sin through the law of life.

*Kontakion, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody* The choir of the angels...

Turning from the arts of sorcery | to the knowledge of God, | O divinely wise Kyprian together with Justina, | you proved to be a most wise physician for the world, | granting healings to those who honour you: || pray with her to the Master who loves mankind, that he save our souls.

*Ikos* Imparting gifts of your healing, O holy one, by your supplications heal my heart, afflicted with the wounds of sin, that I may offer you discourse of hymnody from my vile mouth, and may sing of your pangs, O hieromartyr, which you suffered in drawing to God through good and blessed repentance. Held in his hand, you have mounted to the heavens as by a ladder, unceasingly praying, that he save our souls.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* He who saved the children of Abraham in the fire, slayed the Chaldeans whom justice rightly overtook: blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

Having ascended to the hierarchy, you became a sacred image and model among sacred ministers, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

O father, the change which came upon you from the right hand of the author of life truly made you a wise proclaimer of God, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

You appear to us as an invincible sword against the foe, O blessed one, denouncing his falsehood; and we sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* The choirs of heaven and their hosts sing of him who was born of you, O Mother of God: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* Be glad, O Jerusalem and celebrate, you that love Sion; for the Lord of hosts who reigns for ever has come, that all the earth may render homage before his countenance and sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Wisely you rejected pagan wisdom, O glorious father, and proclaimed the divine message of the apostles, sounded by the Spirit and clearly voiced by the tongues of fire: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Offering yourself to Christ as a living sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God, through the undefiled blood of your slaughter, O father, you splendidly passed over to the exalted habitations on high, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

## **October 15**

Vanquished by the grace which dwelt within you, demonic hordes were repulsed and the sufferings of the sick were banished, O divinely wise one; and we, the faithful, are filled with divine light, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* Those who with faith call you the Mother of God, O most pure Lady, rejoice with the angelic hosts over your birthgiving; for you gave birth for us to the Master and deliverer, to whom we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Eve, through weakness, lived under the curse of disobedience; but O Virgin Mother of God, you have put forth a blessing for the world through the fruit of your childbearing: therefore we all magnify you.

From on high, through your divine grace and your supplications, watch over us who piously hymn you, O divinely eloquent one, and bestow upon us the sword of your goodwill: grant peace and salvation to us, O godly hierarch.

Your finger imparts a spate of healings abundantly to those who love you; and God-bearing women receive you like a divine treasure, O Kyprian, and fervently reveal what was hidden, as we delight in you.

Guide our journey to Christ by your deeds, your God-pleasing life and pure cleansing, O most rich: entreat the serenity of God, as you are a sympathetic hierarch.

*Theotokion* By your power, O most pure Mother of God, strengthen our spiritual infirmity, and loose the burden imposed upon your servants, O Lady who ineffably shone forth the Sun of Righteousness.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, O women...*

Let us praise Kyprian, the image of strugglers, who escaped damnation for his sorceries, transformed his character beyond measure, committed to the flames the books which had led him into deception, and, as befits a priest, received the crown of witness.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

He of evil craftiness, who of old seduced me with the hope of attaining divinity, is himself wisely deceived by the bodily appearing of him who was born of the Virgin; and thus carnal condemnation has been abolished by the flesh, and death been put to death.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 8*

He who was a champion of malice later became a true teacher of the Church; he who was a minister of the deception of the idols became a hierarch of faith; and the

fornicator is shown to be chaste-minded, for the sake of the honourable virgin: through the prayers of them both, save us, O Lord.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O all-glorious wonder...

What is this that my eyes behold, O Master? \* You the upholder of all creation \* are suspended on a tree; \* and, slain, you give life to all. \* Thus the Mother of God said, weeping, when she saw the God and man \* who had shone forth from her ineffably, hanging upon the cross.

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the saints.*

*Prokimenon, tone 6*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.  
*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

*Epistle to Timothy, number 280 [1 Tim 1: 12-17]*

*Alleluia, tone 2*

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness and let your faithful ones shout for joy.

For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself, he has desired it for his habitation.

*Gospel according to John, number 36 [John 10: 9-16]*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

*On the same day, the holy and blessed fool for Christ, Andrew,  
whose service is usually sung at Compline*

*Verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody* O most glorious wonder...

O most glorious wonder: \* for in you, O Andrew, \* was spiritual wisdom perfected \* in ecstasy of mind. \* You considered all things to be dung, \* that you might acquire Christ, \* and you loved the kingdom of heaven, \* which you received. \* Standing now with the angels, O holy one, \* pray for those who fervently honour your memory.

## **October 15**

O most glorious wonder: \* Lord, you showed the incorporeal beings \* and revealed hidden things \* to your favoured one Andrew \* whose heart was of flesh \* and was foolish for your sake, \* who endured suffering on earth, \* taking up his cross \* to follow you, his Master and God. \* Through his supplications, O Christ our God, \* save our souls, as you are merciful.

O most glorious wonder: \* walking the earth in a body of clay \* for your sake, O Lord, \* yet living like an incorporeal being, \* Andrew, your favourite, spurned the acquisition of possessions, \* desiring instead the things you promised, \* which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, \* nor entered the heart of man, \* which are prepared for those who love you. \* By his supplications save our souls, \* as you are merciful.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6*

Having been caught up to heaven, and heard ineffable words, you witnessed things which were not visible; and you saw the image of the precious cross, which you venerated with love, filled with divine sweetness, for the good things of paradise were revealed to you. Having followed Christ, O holy and wondrous Andrew, you were clothed in a robe woven of lightning.

*Both now and for ever... Theotokion*

*Troparion, tone 1*

Hearkening to the voice of your apostle Paul saying: We are fools for the sake of Christ, your servant Andrew became a fool on earth for your sake, O Christ our God. Therefore, honouring his memory now, we entreat you, O Lord, to save our souls.

*Canon of the saint, tone 4*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it; and I will sing to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen keeping festival with splendour; and rejoicing I shall hymn her wonders.

Open my lips, move my tongue and direct my mind, O God, to make me wise in all things and to praise Andrew your favourite who became a fool on earth for your sake.

O blessed Andrew, you loved Christ from childhood and desired him with all your soul. How can we praise you as is due, who armed yourself against the devil and vanquished his wiles with the power of Christ?

Entreating God with supplications, reviling the devil, undaunted by his continual pounding on the door of your tiny hut, you remained unshaken in mind, made strong by the power of Christ.

*Theotokion* O most holy Lady, cover us with your wondrous omophorion, and protect your city from misfortune and sorrow, O virgin Mother of God, who was seen by blessed Andrew praying in the church of Blachernae.

*Ode 3*

*Imos* O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir in your divine memory, and grant them crowns of glory.

Wrestling with the Ethiopian, you overcame him, having boldness from Christ: you brought grief to demons but gladness and joy to holy angels, with whom you now dwell.

In a dream you saw Christ strengthening you against the demons, bestowing a crown and teaching you how to fight with the Ethiopian. Now, as you see him in the ineffable light of glory, pray for us.

You obeyed Christ who commanded you to become a fool and promised you the kingdom of heaven: following him, you received his ineffable good things, O wondrous Andrew.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, come in glory to your church with the host of the saints, as holy Andrew saw you, praying for Christians in radiance; and grant us great mercy.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Sitting in the church, bound with ropes and irons, O Andrew, you suffered great fear because of demons, yet you found John, the beloved apostle of Christ, to be your helper, who commanded you to endure all for Christ's sake. As you now dwell with him, pray for us who honour your memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Falling into many temptations, I am surrounded foes, seen and unseen, and by numerous sins. I flee to your goodness, O immaculate one, my fervent protection, my shelter and my haven. Interceded fervently with him who was incarnate of you without seed for all your servants who ceaselessly praise you, the most pure Mother of God, that he grant forgiveness of sins to those who with faith venerate your maternity.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing the crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have mercy, and grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

You saw Christ the king enthroned, and an image of life better than this, more bitter than wormwood; and later you received a taste of the sweetness of incorruption.

On earth you saw Christ in a dream and in ecstasy, but now, dwelling with the incorporeal hosts, you see the unapproachable and ineffable glory of God. O Andrew, be mindful of us who honour your memory.

O faithful, let us praise Andrew, persuaded by a vision of the mind, who became a fool for Christ's sake on earth, but now, through the grace of the Spirit, is wise in heaven, where he stands with the angels before the God of all.

*Theotokion* Who can recount the mystery of your birthgiving; or who could confess the power of your supplication if you did not show your precious protection to Andrew the fool of Christ in the church of Blachernae?

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* All things are filled with awe at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who has not known wedlock, held in your womb God who is over all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

The life of Andrew was a marvel to all, for he lay upon a heap of refuse, went naked in the midst of the city, and trampled bread underfoot: all this was for him the straight path to the kingdom of heaven.

All who saw your endurance marvelled; for the martyrs underwent suffering one time, but you endured ill-treatment every day of your life, preparing your abode in the kingdom of heaven, and having now obtained it, you rejoice with unending joy.

Hidden things were revealed to you, and you saw the bodiless ones as if they had bodies, for you loved nothing earthly. The gates of heaven were opened to you, and you entered into the ineffable joy of your Lord, O blessed one.

*Theotokion* The ranks of angels hymn you, and the generations of men glorify you; for you, the Queen of Heaven, appear to Andrew, covering with your veil the people present in your church, who hymn you, O Lady, who prays unceasingly for them all.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God who was born of her.

In you, O father, the words of the Apostle Paul were fulfilled: The preaching of the cross is to those who perish foolishness; yet it was the power of God for you.

In you were the words of Christ fulfilled: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. You became poor in spirit and received the kingdom of heaven.

You once guided the young Epiphanius to the straight path, and foretold that he would become a bishop and would teach the people; for you perceived the things of the future as though they were before your very eyes.

*Theotokion* We sinners fall down before you, O Mother of God, that you may spread your invisible veil over us and offer your supplications to your Son and God for us, as Andrew saw you do of old.

*Kontakion, tone 4*

Choosing the pretense of foolishness, you hated the beauties of this world and caused all carnal thoughts to wither away through fasting and thirst, the heat of the day and freezing cold, rain and snow; and unbowed by any of the vagaries of the weather, you purified yourself like gold in a crucible, O blessed Andrew.

*Ikos* Come, those who love Christ; come, those who love the poor: let us praise the blessed athlete, wise Andrew, who became a fool for Christ. He, following the apostle, considered worldly things as but dung, and diligently hastened to follow Christ, humbling his body with fasting, thirst and the burning heat of the day, with rain and snow, and inclement weather, keeping his soul free from the passions and rendering it radiant with the virtues; who with the saints has inherited eternally the life of heaven, and who prays to Christ our God for those who with faith and love honour him, to whom we cry: Rejoice, blessed Andrew, favourite of Christ.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The divinely wise youths worshipped not a creation rather than the creator, but bravely trampling the threat of fire underfoot, they rejoiced as they sang: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Resolved to love nothing on earth more than the creator, O blessed Andrew, wandering from church to church, you rejoiced and sang: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Blessed Andrew did not spare his flesh, but gave it over to struggles and labours and the endurance of want. He manfully trampled the wiles of the demons underfoot, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

## **October 15**

You desired nothing of earthly glory, but loved Christ above all, O blessed Andrew, and hastened to him, rejoicing, receiving the reward for your pangs, singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* Blessed Andrew, pray to the Queen and Mother of God, whom you beheld praying for the world, that she cover us with her invincible mercy; for by her protection we the faithful are kept safe.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* The birth giving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

You once saw a dead rich man escorted to the grave with visible honour, but invisibly dragged down by his wickedness into the depths of hell, O blessed Andrew, and you wept and prayed for him to the Lord.

Blessed Andrew, by your grief you prevailed over the incorporeal angel grieving for the damnation of the soul of the rich man who had not repented in this life; and with him you sang: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Blessed Andrew, you saw a greedy monk oppressed by an evil serpent, and, freeing him from the sickness, you taught him to exalt the Lord above all for ever.

*Theotokion* Learning of your protection from the vision of Andrew, O Mother of God and Queen, we entreat you earnestly: With your mercy cover us who hymn your Son and exalt him above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Let all mortal flesh leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the orders of the angelic powers celebrate, honouring the sacred triumph of the Mother of God; and let them cry out: Rejoice, O most blessed ever virgin Mother of God.

Heeding the words of Christ, you prayed for those who beat you, O holy one; therefore the gates of heaven opened and you saw the souls of the righteous flying in the form of swallows: with them you now dwell, O blessed Andrew.

Truly loving Christ, you denied yourself and followed him who said: Whoever will save his life shall lose it. Thereby you preserved your soul in eternal life, O praiseworthy and holy Andrew.

Great and glorious things have found their fulfillment in you in the kingdom of heaven, O praiseworthy Andrew, for you were a fool to the world but in Christ you were wise: look down from the vault of heaven upon us who honour your memory.

*Theotokion* Every mortal is covered by your protection, O glorious Mother of God, our helper, for blessed Andrew saw you praying for the world to the uncreated being who was clothed by you in a created nature.

## **October 3**

### **Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, known as Denis or Denys in the West**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

Having entered in mind the innermost darkness of the unapproachable light, \* you learned the divine mysteries of the Word, \* O sacred Dionysius, disciple of Christ, \* and on earth you explained the ranks of the angels.

Your soul luminous with rays of threefold splendour \* as your body was brightened with consuming material fire, O father, \* you passed over to the immaterial radiance, there to join the angels: \* with them unceasingly pray for us, that our souls be saved.

Having become eminent in the Church of God as a pastor, \* you made your heart a receptacle of the grace of the Spirit, O father. \* O Dionysius, you ever pour healings upon us, \* like water flowing from your precious shrine.

*And 3 verses in the same tone,  
to the Special Melody O most praised martyrs...*

The divine Paul, \* by his public proclamation, \* fished for you with the hook of grace, O wise one, \* and made you a teacher of the sacred mysteries \* and a beholder of ineffable things, \* seeing in you a chosen vessel. \* With him, O truly eloquent Dionysius, \* pray that we be saved \* who hymn you with love.

Having made your mind equal to that of the angels \* for the sake of virtue, \* O wise father Dionysius, \* you wrote a sacred account \* of the heavenly order of their hierarchies, \* and you also delineated the ranks \* of the Church's organization, \* likening them to the ranks of heaven.

By contemplation you became one like God, \* as far as you were able, \* O blessed Dionysius; \* and with piety you mystically promulgated \* your godly treatise on the divine names; \* and, achieving concord through a higher union, \* you learned things which pass man's understanding \* which you taught to the ends of the world.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 2,  
composed by Andrew of Jerusalem*

Come, you faithful, and together let us praise the annual memorial of the hierarchs Dionysius and Kyprian; for one, having spat upon the Stoic philosophers and taught by the chosen vessel, became an authority of ineffable mysteries; and the other, having illumined his mind for the sake of the good virgin Justina, fled the deception of the demons and, casting his books of sorcery into the fire, became a preacher of the Gospel. Glorifying the Saviour who has glorified them, let us sinners cry out: O Christ our God, who has crowned your athletes with glory: by their supplications save our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody* When from the tree...

*Theotokion of the Cross* When the unblemished lamb and Mother beheld her lamb as a man led forth of his own will to the slaughter, she said, lamenting: Why do you now hasten to leave me childless who gave you birth, O Christ? Why are you doing this, O deliverer of all? I hymn and glorify your utter goodness which passes understanding and recounting, O lover of mankind.

*Aposticha, from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 4*

We call you the unseen depth of heavenly knowledge, O most splendid martyr of Christ, and we hymn you as a warrior and steadfast champion of the Church. For you shine with pure fire, granted to wear the vesture of light with the armies on high, having illumined your mind with the radiance of the Holy Spirit, O Dionysius. With faith we celebrate your universal memorial, glorifying the Lord who has glorified you.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

As she beheld you, the lamb and shepherd, \* upon the tree, \* the Mother and lamb who gave you birth lamented \* and exclaimed maternally: \* O my Son most desired, \* how can you be suspended upon the wood of the cross, O long-suffering one? \* How is it that your hands and feet, O Word, \* have been pierced with nails by the iniquitous, \* and you shed your blood, O Master?

*Troparion, tone 4*

Having learned goodness and being watchful in all things, and arrayed as befits a priest in a good conscience, you drew forth ineffable things from the chosen vessel; and having kept the faith, you completed a course like his. Hieromartyr Dionysius, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, omitting the martyria; and the canon of the hieromartyr, tone 8,*  
*composed by Theophanes*  
*upon the acrostic I praise the mind of wise teachings.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Having traversed the water as though it were dry land, and escaping the evil of Egypt, the Israelite cried out: Let us sing to our deliverer and our God.

Instructed by the divine Paul who saw heavenly things, O Dionysius, you also immediately became a servant of the mysteries of heaven and a herald of God.

Illumined with the grace of God, O blessed Dionysius, enlighten the souls of those who hymn you, that we may understand your divinely inspired teachings.

With soul and mind thoroughly purified, you were brought to know the radiance of the beauties of heaven and the choirs thereof, O Dionysius.

*Theotokion* You are the splendid bridal chamber of the incarnation of the creator of all, in manner past understanding; for through you, O Mother of God, he put on our flesh.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Lord the fashioner of heaven's vault and founder of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, who alone is the lover of mankind.

Surpassing the heavenly ranks, armies and splendours of the circles of heaven, O father, with loudly proclaimed discourses and wise teachings you explained them to all.

Taking your fill of lofty vision, O venerable one, you expounded the theology of the understanding of the names of God, as a theologian of the Trinity through grace, O divinely blessed Dionysius.

Mortified by your constant desire for God, and having studied philosophy intently, O father, you became a God-bearing instrument of light-bearing gifts which pass understanding.

*Theotokion* Through the activity of the all-accomplishing Spirit, O Virgin, you brought forth as fruit the body of the Master of all, in whom the world of sin is condemned and eternal life has flowed forth.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Studying the depths of the Spirit in the abyss of wisdom, O divinely wise and venerable one, you taught the one Godhead of the Trinity, describing the ranks of the angels and their mysterious splendour. Describing also the order of the earthly hierarchy, you have brought all into a unity. O hierarch Dionysius, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Cloud of the noetic Sun, golden lamp stand of the divine light, O undefiled, unblemished, immaculate Lady: I pray you, with the radiance of dispassion illumine my soul darkened by the blindness of the passions, and with torrents of compunction and tears of repentance wash my defiled heart, and cleanse me of the mire of my deeds, that I may cry to you with love: Ever-virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ our God that he grant me remission of transgressions; for I your servant have you as my hope.

*Theotokion of the Cross* At the sight of you, the lamb, shepherd and Saviour of the world upon the cross, she who gave birth to you said with weeping: The world rejoices, for it receives deliverance, but inwardly I burn, seeing your crucifixion suffered for all mankind in your merciful compassion. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have pity, and grant remission of offenses to those who with faith hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* You are my strength and power O Lord my God, you are my rejoicing, who without leaving the bosom of the Father, has visited our lowliness. With the Prophet Habakkuk, I therefore cry to you: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

You adorned the good order of the Church, O father; for you depicted visible images through sacred writings about invisible powers. Thereby the faithful are brought to the mysteries and illumined.

With the streams of your theology you watered the blossoms of the Word, planted in Orthodox theology and flourishing greatly, O God-pleasing hierarch; for you taught the unity of essence in the three persons of the Trinity, the worshipful monarchy.

With powerful desire and divine love of the angelic hierarchy and an unwavering inclination toward the divine and unattainable heights, with godly wisdom you taught those who cry out with faith: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

*Theotokion* O Virgin, your Son was the accomplisher of salvation, the guide and enlightener, the righteousness and deliverance of all who hymn you: with one mind we the faithful truly glorify you with authority.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

Like a thunder clap your words struck the minds of the ungodly with grace and illumined the hearts of the faithful with the splendid rays of the precepts of God.

Like the merchant seeking goodly pearls, O father most rich, you found the one pearl truly of great price: amazed at its divinely wrought luster, you confessed God.

You loved the springs of wisdom, O wisdom-loving father, and, grasped by zeal and love for it, you became great, ever pouring rivers of divine precepts, O eloquent one.

*Theotokion* You received the beautifying magnificence of him who created all things by his will alone, and who, with divine beauty and the light of the Orthodox faith, has beautified us, O Mother of God.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

Through philosophy you received the gift of wisdom; and theologizing in a godly manner, you left us Orthodox dogmas, delighting in which, the faithful call you blessed.

Beautified by godly understanding, O divinely wise Dionysius, you inclined your ear to listen to the divine teacher, and learned heavenly wisdom from him.

Your life is marvellous, your discourse wondrous, your tongue luminous, your mouth fiery and moved by the Spirit, and your mind is full of experience, O divinely blessed father.

*Theotokion* We the faithful, cry to you with the voice of Gabriel, O Virgin; for from you, the life-creating creator, who loves mankind, issued forth and mingled with man.

*Kontakion, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody* To you the chosen leader...

Through the Spirit, you traversed the portals of heaven, and as a disciple of the apostle who reached the third heaven, O Dionysius, you were enriched with all understanding of ineffable things and have illumined those who sit in the darkness of unbelief, and so we cry out: Rejoice, O universal father.

*Ikos* Dionysius, being by his virtues was a great angel among men, like one replete with wings learned the understandings of heaven. Therefore, with hymns we honour him as an angel, crying out to him such things as these: Rejoice, who came to know Christ through Paul; rejoice, converter of many to Christ; rejoice, destroyer of the temples of polytheism; rejoice, watchtower of the counsel of the knowledge of God; rejoice, book inscribed by God with hidden mysteries; rejoice, godly tablet and mirror of heaven; rejoice, for you witnessed the suffering of the Lord; rejoice, for you sacrificed yourself zealously for his sake; rejoice, fountain flowing with understanding; rejoice, drop extinguishing foolishness; rejoice, straight path of salvation; rejoice, wall denying entry to the impious: rejoice, O universal father.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* At the condescension of God the fire in Babylon was struck with awe, and so the children, dancing with joyful feet and rejoicing in the furnace as in a meadow sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As showers from heaven water the thirsting earth, so do your teachings ever anoint the hearts of the faithful and teach them to sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

With divinely wise understanding you described the bodiless intelligences; and as one blessed, you instructed the Church to sing hymns to them: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As a secure receptacle of the most Holy Spirit, you proclaimed in prophecy his inspirations and manifestations, O wise Dionysius, and sang with gladness: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* Behold, the divinely uttered prophecy of Isaiah is now fulfilled, for the Virgin has conceived God the Word and given birth to the bestower of life, to whom all sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Bright as a mirror, O Dionysius, and having by virtue made your mind the receptacle of pure revelations, receiving the radiance which passes understanding, you sing: Bless him, you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Abundant grace was poured forth in your lips, by which you set forth divine teachings, extending to us understanding past knowing, splendidly disclosing it to those who sing with faith: Bless him, you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Through you, O Dionysius, the glorious metropolitan see of Athens has become renowned, and it offers you to the king of all as its sacred first-fruits, ever singing: Bless him, you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* Immaculate Mother of God, cause the wounds of sin on my soul to vanish; for you gave birth to the Son who has authority to release from unbreakable bonds those bound with the chains of sin; the one benefactor, the one bestower of life.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* Heaven was struck with awe and the ends of the earth were amazed, that God should bodily appear to men and that your womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore the ranks of angels together with mankind magnify you O Mother of God.

Granted to see the holy angels, you were their fellow inheritor of glory, and with them you hastened to see the one truly life-giving Mother of God, the most pure one, whom we magnify.

As a hierarch and as an invincible athlete, you were an heir of the divine kingdom in heaven, O father, mingling the blood of your martyrdom with the oil of the priesthood. Thereby you were accorded a twofold crown, O Dionysius, servant of sacred mysteries.

With boldness before Christ, as a servant of the divinely bestowed sacred mysteries, O wise hierarch Dionysius, ever pray that those who piously hymn you be delivered from temptations.

*Theotokion* The honoured Church, which Christ your Son truly acquired by his precious blood, O joyous one, shines forth, having valiantly conquered heresies saving us from the tribulations and evil circumstances which hold us fast.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* As the disciples watched...

Having advanced to the heavens, ascending by your virtues, O hierarch pleasing to God, you recognized the ranks of the angels and the standing of all on high; and from Paul you learned of the radiance of the threefold sun.

*Theotokion* The malicious enemy, who of old hated me in the godly and blessed life in paradise and drove me from Eden, is slain by your birthgiving, O Mother of God.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 8,  
composed by Germanus*

Excelling among hierarchs and martyrs, O venerable one, you were a faithful shepherd who drained the cup of Christ. Having pleased him as both, pray for us all, O hierarch who dwells now in light with the heavenly servitors.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O all-glorious wonder...

The Mother, as an unblemished heifer, \* seeing her sacrificial calf \* nailed to the tree of his own will, \* cried out, lamenting piteously: \* Woe is me, most beloved child, \* for how can the ungrateful gathering of the Jews reward you thus, \* desiring to leave me bereft of you, \* my child, most beloved.

## **Liturgy**

*On the Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the hieromartyr.*

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

Let his faithful ones exult in his glory, let them sing for joy upon their beds.

*Verse* O praise the Lord, and sing to the Lord a new song: O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

*Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, number 40, from the midpoint [Acts 17: 16-34]*

*Alleluia, tone 2*

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness and let your faithful ones shout for joy.

For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself, he has desired it for his habitation.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 55 [Mat 13: 44-54]*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **October 4**

### **Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Anthony the Great**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody O marvellous wonder...*

O wondrous Paul, \* how like the angels you lived; \* how like a child you humbled your soul; \* how you distressed the powers of hell. \* Your patience was ineffable \* and your struggles were glorious. \* Entreat Christ our God, O venerable one, \* for those who honour your holy memory with love.

Wondrous was your obedience, O wise Paul, \* whereby, lifted up as on wings, \* your soul took flight, attaining heaven, \* where you now abide in blessedness. \* Pray unceasingly to Christ our God \* for those who honour your holy memory with love.

With Christ dwelling within your soul, O venerable one, \* boldly you said to him: Here I shall remain immovable \* until my prayer is heard, O Jesus my Saviour. \* Thereby you received the fulfillment of your petition in an instant, \* and drove out an unclean spirit with authority. \* Pray O marvellous wonderworker, \* for us who honour your holy memory with love.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6,  
to the Special Melody Having set aside...*

Heeding the Master's voice \* within your soul \* and having forsaken the world, \* you ran to him, \* and emulated the angels, O blessed one, \* abiding in the desert as one of the bodiless host \* Christlike in obedience. \* Therefore, you found, O wise one, \* recompense a hundredfold and eternal life. \* Pray for our souls, O father Paul.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,  
with Glory be to the Father... tone 3*

Be glad, you that dwell in the desert;  
rejoice, you venerable;  
sing with the angels, you righteous;  
and let monastics and layfolk celebrate.  
Leap up in spirit, great Anthony,  
as you see your disciple exalted by God;  
Paul, wondrous in boldness, a mighty intercessor for the world.

*Troparion, tone 8*

That which was created in the image of God was preserved in you, O Father; | for taking up the cross you followed Christ. | By your deeds you have taught us to reject the flesh for it passes away, | but to care for the soul as a thing immortal. || Therefore O venerable Paul your soul rejoices with the angels.

## **Matins**

*Canon to venerable Paul the Simple, tone 2*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* The almighty power once overwhelmed the army of Pharaoh in the deep, and the incarnate Word has destroyed pernicious sin. The Lord is all-glorious, for he has been greatly glorified.

Come and as is fitting let us honour Paul, the lover of simplicity, the teacher of patience, and the instructor in humility.

Most malicious Hades lamented, conquered by you, O wondrous Paul, for by your humility you wounded its head.

Truly you believed in the living God, O Paul; therefore, you do glorious things, healing afflictions and driving out demons by the blessed name of Christ.

*Theotokion* Shining more radiantly than the sun in the beauty of your virginity and revealing a dread wonder to the world, you are called the pure Mother of God. In fear and love we bow down before you, O Mother of God, our Queen.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Established upon the rock of faith, I may boast over my enemies; and my spirit rejoices and sings: There is none as holy as our God, and none righteous but you, O Lord.

You arrived at the eleventh hour; yet, borne aloft on the chariot of divine love, you ascended to the heavens of the virtues, O wondrous and wise Paul.

Desiring the honours of a more exalted rank, forsaking the world, as it were the land of Sodom, you hastened to the mountain of the knowledge of God, in no way looking back: thereby you escaped the eternal fire.

## **October 4**

Having the mind of Christ, O wondrous Paul, you expelled the cunningly wrought temptations of the devil by your simplicity and obedience, repelling the enemy with that two-edged sword, and strengthening your soul with unceasing prayer.

*Theotokion* O all-praised Virgin, unceasing boast of the desert dwellers, heartfelt hymn of those who keep silence: be the salvation of us sinners.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8*

His soul illumined with unwavering beams of light, holy Paul said within himself: Behold, evening approaches; the day draws to a close; and the eleventh hour of my life has come, yet how is it that I strive only to work my field, when I have neglected to cultivate my soul? I shall hasten to follow the disciples of Christ, fervently crying out to them: Receive me, O workers in the vineyard, that, having laboured diligently, I may receive from the hand of the Lord the promised recompense and the image of the great king, Christ our God, the Saviour of our souls.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* You came forth from the Virgin, not as a mediator or angel, but the Lord himself incarnate, and have saved me, and the whole of mankind. Therefore I cry to you: Glory to your power O Lord.

You desired to reach the gates of heaven; therefore you waited patiently at the gates of great Anthony until he accepted you as a disciple and fellow faster; and so you now dwell with him in paradise.

Acquiring the faith of Abraham, receiving in your old age from God the its promised fruits, the gladness of life equal to that of the angels, you mocked the wiles of the hater of mankind, O venerable father.

Having tasted the cup of temptations more bitter than the waters of Marah, and loving the sweetness of the tree of the cross with all your heart, you crucified yourself with Christ our God in your obedience: receiving gifts of grace from him, you wrought great and wondrous things.

*Theotokion* We hymn you who revealed the fulfillment of the images and shadows, who gave birth without corruption to the expectation of our fathers and forefathers, O Virgin Mother of God.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O Christ my Saviour, the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and the salvation of the despairing, I rise early to you, O king of peace: enlighten me with your shining radiance, for I know no other God than you.

Adorned with gray hairs of radiant beauty, you considered yourself to be a witless disciple, an elder in wisdom but a child in simplicity. Astounding all by your obedience, O Paul, you have illumined the world as a beacon of virtue.

You chose to tread the narrow path and dry up the sources of the passions by the cutting off of your will, shining in purity of heart like the sun, O glorious Paul.

Though at the evening of your life, illumined with the unwaning light of the Spirit, without hesitation you found the way of truth; and washing away your spiritual blindness in the Siloam of life in the desert, with pure eyes you gazed upon Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O dwelling place of the Light; rejoice, star that has shone from Jacob: with the unwaning rays of your mercy, O Mother of God, ever illumine your servant.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I call upon the unfathomable abyss of your loving kindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God.

Though harmless as a dove, you vanquished the ancient ruler of this world by your simplicity and transcendent wisdom, banishing his foul servants to the abyss, and delivering Christians from them by your prayer, O blessed one.

Setting aright the crime of Adam and emulating the obedience of Christ, you make yourself an heir of paradise and a partaker of the tree of life through the cutting off of self will, and put to shame the wicked hosts of the serpent.

Christ, the judge of the contest, has made of you a precious vessel of divine gifts and a resplendent abode of the Holy Spirit, O Paul: unceasingly entreat him, that through your supplications he save our souls.

*Theotokion* We are greatly subject to vanity and like those bereft of hope: we have become servants of corruption, and have forgotten you, our Lady. Forsake us not who are perishing and who call upon you, the most pure Mother of God.

*Kontakion, tone 2*

Forsaking the crooked paths of the sin loving world, you ran with steps of obedience after Christ. Being an elder, you humbled yourself as an infant, therefore you have entered the kingdom of heaven in accordance with the Master's word; and so we cry out to you: Rejoice, O faithful servant of the Lord; rejoice O beacon of the virtues; rejoice, O Paul, our venerable father.

*Ikos* Making yourself a disciple of Anthony, the wise instructor of monks, you have become an instructor for all who wish to live in sanctity; taught genuine simplicity by

## **October 4**

infants, you show yourself to young and old as an image of transcendent wisdom; emulating the angels in your life, you have received from God great power over the demons. Hymning your memory with love, we sing: Rejoice, O faithful servant of the Lord; rejoice, beacon of the virtues; rejoice, O Paul, our venerable father.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God, raised a lofty flame; but Christ spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths: blessed is he and glorified above all.

Like the pillar of fire, your prayers reached heaven, O holy one, consuming the prince of the powers of the air, illuminating the world and protecting us from misfortune.

Not bowing down to the golden image of bodily pleasure, but worshipping the three-personned God, you offered unceasing prayer to him. Therefore, Christ united you to himself, O Paul, he who is blessed and most glorious.

How wondrous your humility and great patience, and likewise your Christlike obedience, and the divine gifts which you revealed, O praiseworthy Paul: marvelling at this, let us bless and glorify Christ above all, as the bestower thereof.

*Theotokion* Standing at the foot of the cross, O Mother of God, from the divine lips of Jesus you heard of the adoption of those whom you cover with your precious omophorion,  
by your intercession delivering them from temptations.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* In Babylon of old by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in divided ways: while it burned the Chaldeans, it refreshed the faithful as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Accustomed to obedience and boundless abstinence, you extinguished the flame of the passions, O Paul, and delighting in the coolness of dispassion you sang to Christ our God: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Like an eagle you soared to the heavens in spirit, gazing fearlessly upon Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, revealing your desires to him in purity of heart: receiving their fulfillment, you cry out in thanksgiving: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

O simple, wise, obedient, guileless, and patient Paul our father, what shall we call you? With what manner of praises shall we praise you? With contrition of heart we sing to Christ who has glorified you: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* Dispel from us the slumber of the eyes of our hearts, O Mother of God; free our mind held captive by sin; and sanctify our lips, that we may unceasingly sing to your Son and God: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* Our God and Lord has appeared to us, the Son of the Father without beginning, incarnate of the Virgin, to give light to those in darkness and to gather the dispersed. Therefore let us magnify the exalted Mother of God.

Your deeds are wondrous, O venerable father, likewise your life: celebrating your memory with love and invoking your name in prayer, we magnify your struggles.

As a servant who has entered the joy of your Lord, you are a sharer of eternal life: as you have boldness before the consubstantial Trinity, O father, make entreaty for us who glorify you with all our soul.

Boldly standing by the throne of God, O Paul, remember those who honour your memory and hymn your struggles with love, as with thankful lips we magnify you.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, strength of martyrs and patience of the venerable, dominion of kings and exalted boast of virgins, help of Christians: commanding our life to your intercession, we magnify you.

*Exapostilarion, tone 8*

Come, all who have forsaken the tumult of cities and towns, and hasten to the desert to see a wondrous and righteous man, a beacon of the virtues, who shone forth in simplicity and obedience and has gained great boldness before Christ: falling down before him, let us cry: Remember us at the throne of God, O thrice blessed father.

## **October 5**

### **Martyr Charitina**

### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

As the namesake of joy \* you have passed over with joy \* to the heavenly bridal-chamber, O honoured martyr, \* where, having truly endured \* the painful torment of fire \* and the uprooting of your teeth and nails, \* you desired such a dwelling-place, \* O athlete Charitina, \* much suffering virgin martyr.

You broke the jaws of the lions, \* O much suffering one, \* enduring the breaking of your own jaw, \* and the rending of your nails, \* uprooting the cruel savagery of deception; \* and, cast into the depths of the sea, \* you drowned the malice \* of the wicked adversary.

After your blessed end, \* your father received you, O glorious one, \* who had been cast into the sea; \* and he cried out in awe: \* What grace has been bestowed upon you, \* my sacred and beloved child, \* through the torments of your honoured suffering. \* Truly you have justified your name, \* which signifies grace.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *same tone and melody*

*Theotokion* With the showers of the most holy Spirit \* bedew my mind, \* O most pure Lady who ineffably gave birth to Christ, \* who by the dew of his compassion washes away \* the countless iniquities of men; \* and by your supplications \* dries up the springs of my sufferings \* and ever flows upon me \* a torrent of living nourishment.

*Theotokion of the Cross* When she beheld you, \* the lamb and shepherd, upon the tree, \* the lamb who gave birth to you lamented \* and maternally exclaimed: \* O most desired Son, \* how is it that you are suspended upon the tree of the cross? \* How is it that your arms and legs are nailed \* by the iniquitous, O long-suffering Word, \* and your blood shed, O Master?

*Troparion, tone 4*

Your lamb Charitina loudly cries to you, O Jesus: | I love you, my bridegroom, | seeking you I pass through many struggles; | in your baptism I am crucified and buried with you: | I suffer for your sake that I may reign with you; | I die for you that I may live with you. | Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice | as I sacrifice myself with love for you. || By her intercessions save our souls, as you are merciful.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the martyr, tone 4,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic With love I hymn the grace of Charitina.*

### *Ode 1*

*Imos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Grace my mind with your gifts, O Charitina graced with sacred suffering, that in sanctity I may hymn you as an athlete and martyr resplendent in virginity.

The grace of the most holy Spirit adorned you with wreaths woven of joy, and strengthened you, who suffered with manly mind, to inherit everlasting joy.

The glorious martyr, knowing you who was raised upon the cross, received the strength to endure painful wounds, by your power, O Master, who has strengthened our nature.

*Theotokion* You were a habitation of the divine essence, O pure Mother of God: Charitina, who loved you and followed you in virginity, has been brought before your Son.

### *Ode 3*

*Imos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

The divine desire which set your soul afire burned away carnal love and the cruel pangs of being boiled alive.

Seeing the enemy laid prostrate before your martyred feet by divine grace, we offer praises to Christ.

With the strength of the Almighty you crushed the head of the malicious one, mightily enduring the burning of your own head, O martyr.

*Theotokion* Loving you as one truly blessed among women, O pure Lady, Charitina was glorified by your beauteous grace.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Joseph marvelled...*

Having graced your soul with God-given virtues, you were truly illumined by your suffering, O honoured Charitina, and betrothed yourself to your creator, remaining incorrupt in purity; thereby you trampled the enemy underfoot, victoriously enduring multifarious sufferings and pangs. With faith we celebrate your most holy memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Joseph marvelled to see that which transcends nature, your conceiving without seed, O Mother of God. He remembered the dew upon the fleece, the burning bush which remained intact and the blossoming rod of Aaron. In witness to these things, your spouse and guardian proclaimed to the priests: The Virgin bears a child and after childbirth still remains a virgin.

*Theotokion of the Cross* When the Virgin and lamb saw upon the cross the lamb pierced with a spear, to whom she had given seedless birth sorrowfully, as if wounded by an arrow she called out in pain: What new mystery do I see? How can you die, who alone is the Lord of life? Arise, O correction of the fallen forefather.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

O passion-bearing martyr, like an unblemished sacrifice the tyrants snatched you from the hands of your father, who greatly loved the heavenly Father.

Following the wise maidens, O glorious one, you richly provided the lamp of your soul with your blood as with oil, and you inherited the divine bridal-chamber, O martyr, namesake of joy.

Your heart, afire with love for the bridegroom, extinguished the embers of falsehood with the outpouring of your blood and dried up the sea of polytheism, O martyr of valiant mind.

*Theotokion* O pure Mother of God, you gave birth to the incarnate Word of God; and Charitina, loving him ardently, stood up against the fire and multifarious torments.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

Though they shaved your head and tormented you with the heat of burning embers, O divinely wise one, they in no way could shake the strength of your mind.

Portraying an image of your nails and sacrifice, O Lord, the martyr cried out: I can endure the pain of red-hot goads.

When the nails of your hands and feet were torn away, O pure virgin, you hallowed the faithful with the precious blood which flowed, and like Christ you cleanse the world of the blood of demons.

*Theotokion* An earthly mind cannot understand your conceiving, which transcends nature, O virgin Mother and Maiden; for you gave birth to God.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

With grace and signs your sacred head was crowned by Christ, for whom you willingly suffered, O athlete, namesake of divine joy.

He who delivered Jonah from the depths saved you alive when you were cast into the depths of the sea, O divinely wise one; and he drowned the enemy in the depths of your blood.

With the sword of patience you slayed the enemy, O glorious one, and, enduring the uprooting of your teeth, you broke the jaws of the incorporeal lions.

*Theotokion* The athlete Charitina, finding you to be her strength and confirmation, mightily endured torture; and, rejoicing, was brought before the Master of all in your train, O Virgin.

*Kontakion of Charitina, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody Seeking the highest...*

Rendering your soul steadfast with mighty understanding, O most blessed Charitina, you clearly put to shame the adverse enemy, arrayed in a robe dyed purple in your blood; and you ever rejoice with the angels: pray for us, O athlete.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

He who delivered the three youths from the furnace saved you from the wheel of fire, O martyr who sang in thanksgiving: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

## **October 5**

You go to heaven with the virgins as a lamp-bearers, for you mightily endured burning torches, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

The iniquitous one, moved by your endurance, bound your hands and feet and cast you into the depths as you sang: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

*Theotokion* The worshipful Word loved you, alone a virgin pure and incorrupt, and the incarnate one made himself a whole man through you, O Maiden, and has glorified Charitina with miracles.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Comely in the beauty of your wounds, O honoured one, as an incorrupt virgin, you joined yourself to Christ, the comely Word incarnate for our sake from the Virgin. To him we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Beset by the assaults of those who tortured you, you valiantly endured the cruelty of the blazing wheel, the burning of red-hot goads, being cast into the deep, and the uprooting of your teeth and nails, O honoured one, magnifying Christ for ever.

Your feet were adorned with the beauties of pain, O glorious one, and so they did not become wet when you walked upon the waters, for the glorious angel of God was with you, O virgin martyr, with whom you sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

It is a wonder which astonishes every mind how, after your death, the deep which received your relics gave them up to your father, who paternally buried them; and, treasuring the grace coming from you, O Charitina, he received the kingdom of heaven.

*Theotokion* You are more exalted than the heavens, O most pure Lady, having given birth to the God of heaven who makes heavenly the whole nature of mortals, and has enlightened the honoured memory of Charitina. To him we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

That you might receive crowns of glory as one incorrupt, O virgin martyr, you endured all manner of tortures in gladness of spirit and with firmness of mind.

As a comely, beautiful and God-pleasing virgin, as an invincible martyr and the unblemished bride of the Master, you soared aloft to the heavens on golden wings.

You shine rays of light, O radiant passion-bearer, and drive away the darkness of demonic wickedness and the passions with the miracles given you by God.

Gladdening the people, your happy day gathers them to hymn your valiant struggles and contests, and your courageous suffering, O great martyr, namesake of joy.

*Theotokion* Light has shone upon us from your unwedded womb, O Virgin; and, illumined divinely by his radiance, the namesake of joy became light, O Mother of God.

## **October 6**

### **Apostle Thomas**

### **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

O blessed apostle, \* when you touched the side of the Master \* you grasped the most excellent of good things, \* for like a sponge you soaked up waters therefrom, \* the source of blessings \* and life eternal \* and moisten hearts dried up through unbelief, \* pouring forth the dogmas \* of the divine knowledge of God. *Thrice*

By your believing disbelief \* you assure the faithful, \* having begun to speak of God, \* that he is the God and Lord of all creation, \* who took flesh for the sake of us on earth, \* and endured the cross and death, \* the print of the nails, \* and the piercing of his side with a spear, \* from where we draw forth life. *Thrice*

Wondrous apostle Thomas \* has revealed the source of dogmas to the divinely wise, O Master; \* for when he touched your side \* and was taught your twofold energies \* through your two natures, \* he rightly cried out: \* you are my God and Master: \* you are the Lord of glory, \* who become flesh for my sake. *Twice*

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6, composed by the Studite*

As a servant of the Word and of his ineffable incarnation, you drew from an abyss of wisdom, O apostle Thomas; for, luring souls from the depths of deception, you lifted them up with the pole of the cross. With the net of your teaching you have brought the world to enlightenment and illuminated the souls of the benighted Indians with the light of knowledge. Radiantly delighting in the glories of Christ, entreat him to have mercy on our souls.

*Both now and for ever... the Dogmatic Theotokion, tone 6*

Who would not call you blessed, O most holy Virgin?  
Who would not hymn your most pure maternity?  
For the only begotten Son  
who shone forth from the Father from eternity,  
came forth, ineffably incarnate from you, O pure one.  
He who by nature is God,  
for our sake assumed the nature of man;

not divided into two persons,  
but known in two natures without confusion.  
O pure and most blessed Lady,  
pray to him to have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance. Prokimenon of the day. Three readings:*

A reading from the general epistle of John

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

A reading from the general epistle of James

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away. Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

A reading from the general epistle of Jude

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, who are sanctified by God the Father and kept safe for by Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus

## **October 6**

Christ. Now I desire to remind you, though you are fully informed, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great Day. Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. ...

But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; for they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts." It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

*Entreaty: verse of the Church, then these to the Apostle, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As valiant among the martyrs...,*

With the rod of grace \* you lured men away from the depths of vanity, \* O wondrous Thomas, \* obedient to the command of the Master, \* who enlightened your mind wholly, \* and has made you to be an apostle, \* an honoured and divine proclaimer \* of his unapproachable divinity, \* O blessed one.

The radiance of the Spirit \* descended upon you as fire, \* O blessed one, \* and made a divine refuge of you \* who quickly drove away the gloom of godlessness \* and enlightened the world with the radiance of your wise words, \* O expounder of the mysteries, \* adornment of the apostles, \* blessed beholder of Christ.

Illumining those who sat in the darkness of ignorance \* with the lightning flashes of your preaching, \* O glorious one, \* you made them children of our God and Master \* for the sake of their faith. \* His sufferings and death you emulated, \* and you were an inheritor of glory, \* as a wise and divinely eloquent apostle, \* a disciple of truth.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2*

Forsaking earthly things, you followed Christ, and signed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, were sent by him to the nations that had fallen into perdition, that you might turn men to the light of knowledge of God; and having completed the struggles of your divine suffering and various torments, you committed your soul to Christ, O Apostle Thomas. Entreat him, O blessed one, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* I place all my hope in you, O Mother of God: keep me safe under your protection.

*Aposticha, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* You have given a sign...

Christ, the lover of mankind, took you like a pearl from the abyss of the turmoil of the world, enriching with you the poor and those held fast by the poverty of evil circumstances, O Apostle Thomas. We bless you and glorify in praise your festive memorial, honouring you piously.

*Verse* Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

You enlightened the land of India, O sacred Apostle and eyewitness of God; for, having illumined all, you make them children of the light and of the day of the Spirit, O wise one. Having cast down the temples of idols, through grace you built churches to the glory and praise of God, O blessed intercessor for our souls.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Having probed with your curious hand the divine side and the wounds of the nails which the immortal one bore for us, and having joyously transformed your disbelief into right belief, O Thomas, you cried out: You are my God and Lord. I glorify you, O lover of mankind, who through your sufferings has poured dispassion upon the faithful.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6,  
composed by Anatolius*

Beholding the divine wisdom of Christ, you were mystically seen as a noetic bowl wherein the souls of the faithful are gladdened, O Apostle Thomas; for, with the divine net of the Spirit, you drew men from the depths of wretchedness. You went forth from Zion like a river of grace, pouring forth your divine teachings upon the whole world. Emulating the sufferings of Christ, you were pierced in your side, entering the shade of incorruption: entreat him that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, you are the true vine which has blossomed forth for us the fruit of life. We implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the holy apostles that our souls may find mercy.

*Troparion, tone 2*

## **October 6**

O highly praised Thomas, the disciple of Christ | and a member of the divine assembly of the Apostles, | you made certain of the resurrection of Christ through your disbelief | and verified his most pure passion by your touch; || Pray to him now, that he grant us peace and great mercy.

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord... the troparion, twice;  
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... the Resurrectional Theotokion.*

*Theotokion* All of your most glorious mysteries  
are beyond comprehension, O Mother of God;  
for with your purity sealed and your virginity inviolate,  
you are known to be truly the mother who has given birth to God.  
Beseech him to save our souls.

*After the first reading of the Psalter,  
Sessional Hymn, tone 5,  
to the Special Melody The Word consubstantial...*

Let us praise in hymns the memory of the apostle and disciple of Christ, for, having in a godly manner touched the print of the nails and sought the true faith, he has made our minds firm in the world, and he entreats the Saviour that our souls find mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O pure one, ever entreat the God and Lord, who, for the sake of us who have become corrupt through transgressions, became incarnate of you, that he take pity and turn away his anger and wrath from those who with faith unceasingly hymn your greatness, O full of grace.

*After the second reading of the Psalter,  
Sessional Hymn, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Having been lifted up...*

Having touched the Saviour's side and drawn therefrom knowledge of God, O glorious apostle, by your disbelief you have drawn those of earth to belief as faithful; and pierced with spears over your whole body, you enlighten the souls of all who praise your holy repose.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O unashamed hope of those who trust in you: you alone, in a manner transcending nature, gave birth to Christ our God: with the holy apostles entreat him, that he grant to the world cleansing from their transgressions and to us all correction of life before the end.

*After the Polyeleos, Sessional Hymn, tone 3*

With the radiance of the Spirit of God you destroyed the darkness of polytheism and illumine the hearts of the faithful, hymning the commandments of salvation, O wise Apostle Thomas. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant us great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Every one who seeks salvation rightly hastens to a place where such is found: what refuge that gives shelter to our souls have we other than you, O Mother of God?

*Hymn of Degrees, the first Antiphon of tone 4.*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Let every breath... *and the rest, with the Gospel of John, number 67 (21:15-25).*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... the verse, tone 4*

Christ, the great sun, sent you into India as a brilliant ray of light, O servant of the mysteries, where you quickly dispelled the gloom of deception, O wise Apostle Thomas, enlightening the people to honour the divine Trinity, by whom all are saved.

*Canon to the Mother of God (the Paracrisis), and the canon to the Apostle, tone 4,  
composed by Theophanes  
upon the acrostic I marvel at Thomas who is full of wonders.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* O virgin-born, I pray you, drown the three parts of my soul in the depths of dispassion, as of old you drowned the mighty commanders; that in the immortality of my body, as on a timbrel, I may sing a hymn of victory.

The unoriginate Son of God, God the Word, who appeared on earth in our form, him whom you beheld, and whose hands and side you touched, O glorious one, entreat that he save your flock.

Jesus, my God, who knows that which is hidden, who tries the reins and hearts, chose you to be a divine apostle and a minister and witness of his manifestation, O blessed Thomas.

## **October 6**

You were a river of mystic waters plunging with streams of divine knowledge and the roar of the Spirit upon the face of the earth, dispelling the deception of polytheism.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, destroyer of death and corruption, you gave birth to Christ, the source of incorruption, who has adorned human nature with the grace of immortality.

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* Let us not boast of wisdom, power and wealth, but of you O Christ, the incarnate wisdom of the Father, for none is holy but you, O lover of mankind.

Splendid in the excellence of virtue and miracles, O beholder of Christ, having illumined the shadowy darkness of the Indians with divine light, you enlightened them with faith.

Ablaze with radiance through the activity of the Spirit, O Thomas, you were launched like a bolt of divine light and enlightened the world with miracles.

Instructed in the mysteries of the dogmas of divine wisdom, which surpass the swiftness of lightning, O Apostle Thomas, you illumined the ends of the earth with light.

*Theotokion* O unwedded Lady who gave birth to God incarnate, make me firm who is shaken by the assaults of the passions, for I have no other helper but you.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of wisdom...*

Netting for reason-endowed fish with the net of divine words, you offered them to our God as firstfruits; and, wishing to be arrayed in the wounds of Christ, you became an emulator of his suffering. Gathering together, we honour your festive memory, O glorious apostle, and with one accord we sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All of us, the generations of mankind, bless you, the Virgin who alone among women gave seedless birth to God incarnate; for the fire of the divinity made his abode within you, and you nurtured the creator and Lord with milk as a child; and so we, the race of angels and men together sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who with faith worship your most holy maternity.

### *Ode 4*

*Irmos* He who sits in glory upon the divine throne amidst the clouds of the air, Jesus the Most High came with a strong hand to save those who loudly cry: Glory to your power O Christ.

Beginning with a magnificent manifestation of wonders, and radiantly propounding the glory of the divine dogmas, with your teaching you embraced the whole world, which cries: Glory to your power, O Christ.

O blessed and honoured Thomas, we praise you as one who beheld the Word, and as an apostle and a fervent minister and witness to his glory and majesty.

Founded firmly upon the chief cornerstone, O blessed and ever memorable one, you built a bridal chamber and heavenly tabernacle for those who cry: Glory to your power, O Christ.

*Theotokion* We call the most holy Virgin the unploughed soil which put forth the grain of life, the light cloud which let fall the bestower of life as a shower, crying: Glory to your power, O Christ.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* The impious do not see your glory, O Christ, as do we who keep watch before you through the night: we praise you, only begotten Son, divine brightness of the Father's glory and lover of mankind.

Radiant with the glory of Christ, O apostle, having touched the life-creating side, you drew an unfathomable abyss of theology with which to enrich the world.

O greatly merciful one, Thomas, who was not there at your first entrance, did not believe the disciples, but came to believe, rejoicing and proclaiming you God and Lord.

Like an animate heaven Thomas proclaimed your glory with spiritual thunder, O Christ, and confessing you to be God and Lord, he announced the glad tidings to the faithful.

*Theotokion* Let our mind be a vanquisher of the passions, and put down the assaults of the thoughts thereof, O Bride of God, who gave birth to God, the Saviour of our souls.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

O blessed Thomas, your disbelief heals the soul-destroying disbelief of all, for without doubt you probed the wounds made by the nails and the spear.

## **October 6**

O Christ, as you are powerful, you launched your apostle like a speeding arrow into the hearts of your enemies, and he has brought them to you as spoils of war.

O compassionate one, you abolished idolatrous sacrifices, being slain on a tree, and by the holy sacrifices of the divinely inspired apostles who emulated your sufferings.

*Theotokion* O wonder more novel than all wonders: you, the Virgin, without knowing man, conceived and held him who holds all things, yet you not confine him.

*Kontakion, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* Today you have appeared...

Filled with the grace of wisdom, the Apostle and true servant of Christ cried out to you in repentance: You are my Lord and God.

*Ikos* Peter announced to the divinely eloquent Thomas, the disciple of the Lord and great servant of the mysteries: We have seen the Lord. Then his friend said to him: Unless I see the wounds of his hands, I will not believe. The Master of all then came as a servant, wishing to save all, and said to Thomas: Touch my hands and side, and be not unbelieving; for I am your Lord and God. Then he, in repentance, cried out: you are my Lord and God.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

As an apostle, you rejoice to hold chorus with the choirs on high, O blessed one, and you sing in gladness: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Your proclamation and utterance of divine words has passed from one end of the earth to the other, teaching those who sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

*Theotokion* By your birthgiving we are delivered from slavery to the Law, for you, O Mother of God, without knowing man, give birth unto the deliverer for us. Blessed are you among women, O undefiled Lady.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* The birth giving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Conversing with God incarnate, forgetting the flesh, O blessed one, you have been enriched with supernatural deification, rendered divine by your closeness to God, and singing: Praise the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Uniting yourself to Christ with love, you loved to die with him, O blessed one, proclaiming to your fellow apostles: Come, let us accept death with him, singing: Praise the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

O apostles, Christ has revealed you as clouds full of the rain of his will which water the Church with showers of divine knowledge, giving drink to those who sing: Praise the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion*    O Lady who knew not lust or defilement, you are the temple of the Word who sanctifies all things, and who is co-unoriginate with the Father: O Virgin, we hymn and exalt you for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos*   From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

O glorious one, you were a splendid chariot bearing the Word seated upon your comely and Godbearing soul, directing to salvation those who hymn you.

Celebrating your blessed memory, we pray that we be delivered from every storm-wave by your boldness as an apostle of Christ, O honoured beholder of God.

Today we celebrate your memory, O Apostle Thomas: through your prayers sanctify and forgive us, delivering us by faith from all temptations, evil circumstances and passions.

*Theotokion*   From the soil of the Virgin, God the Word, the comely ear of grain, has sprung forth, tasting of which we live and are established in him: therefore we magnify you, who gave him birth.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, you women...*

O apostle of the supremely compassionate Christ, who beheld him: entreat him to grant peace to the world, victory over heresy and schism to Christ-loving hierarchs, and salvation and remission of transgressions to those who praise you, the divinely eloquent disciple.

Glory be to the Father... *and another Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* By the Spirit...

## **October 6**

O glory of the apostles, like the radiant rising sun you were sent to the Indians, and you illumined them with the light of your words and by faith in the Trinity. Therefore we celebrate your holy and divine memory.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* We, the faithful, bring before you your most holy Mother as an intercessor and fervent helper, O Christ: may your servants share in your glory and the inheritance of the righteous and the food of paradise; and grant us the kingdom of heaven.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 4 verses, tone 1,*  
*composed by Anatolius*

You followed Christ, O Thomas, and rejected the world: laying up his teachings in your treasury, you became an apostle. Being among pagans, souls darkened by deception and passions, you illumined them with the Saviour's commandments, that they might believe in the consubstantial Trinity. *Twice*

*Tone 4* You enlightened your mind with the divine fire of the Master, as a lawful disciple, O apostle Thomas; for with the cross as a rod you drew the souls of the impious from the depths of ignorance. With the pole of the divine Spirit you even fished for the darkened conscience of the Indians. Ever entreat Christ our God, that we be delivered from the sight of the dark enemy, and that our souls be saved.

Abandoning the depths which you fished, with faith you hastened to the rod of the cross, with which you fished for men, O apostle Thomas. Having touched the all-pure side of the Word, you were granted also to feel with your finger the entry marks of the nails: ever earnestly entreat Christ our God that he save our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

You were like Elias who rode a chariot, O apostle Thomas, aflame with the fire of the divine Spirit, riding upon a chariot of the virtues; for, plumbing the depths of the sea of knowledge, you caught fish, bringing them from death to life. Enlightening the souls of the faithful, with the staff of the cross you brought them up from deadly deception to life, and, standing before Christ with the bodiless ones, you earnestly beseech him for the salvation of our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion.*

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses, from Odes 3 and 6 of the Apostle's canon.*

*Prokimenon, tone 8*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor 4:9-16).*

*Alleluia, tone 1*

Let the heavens praise your wonders O Lord and let your faithfulness be sung in the assembly of the holy ones.

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

*The Gospel of John (20:19-31).*

*Communion Verse*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

## **October 7**

### **Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody Having set all aside...*

Having forsaken \* all earthly might \* and rejected things of the body, \* you came to love our holy God; \* and wearing the vesture of dishonour put on you in mockery, \* you have received garments of light from heaven \* and robes which cannot be rent. \* Dancing therein, \* O enriched crowned ones, \* be a veil of protection and vesture for us \* who have been stripped bare of life \* through the deception of the serpent. *Twice*

O glorious Sergius \* and praiseworthy Bacchus, \* vessels of the Spirit, \* torrents pouring healings upon all, \* our protectors \* and mighty champions of the Church, \* voluntary sacrifices \* and honoured victims, \* beacons illuminating the ends of the earth \* with the light of piety: \* dispel the darkness which afflicts our souls \* and drive away the gloom of evil. *Twice*

O glorious athletes, having issued from your corruptible bodies, \* you received habitations which cannot pass away, \* noetic gladness, \* never-waning light, \* and incorruptible life without care. \* Pray that we also may receive these things \* who have been slain by the passions \* and have turned aside to sin, \* O Sergius and Bacchus, \* intercessors and havens for the faithful, \* who pray with boldness \* for our souls. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... *tone 4*

With twofold radiance  
the martyrs Sergius and Bacchus cast down the savagery of the tormentors,  
abolished the falsehood of idolatry  
and with radiant voices,  
proclaimed the perfect mystery of divine knowledge.  
Through their supplications, O Christ the giver of the Law,  
judge of the contest and bestower of crowns,  
may we also may receive crowns of might against the invisible powers of evil.

*Both now and for ever... Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody As one mighty among the martyrs...*

When the most pure one saw Christ the lover of mankind crucified, and his side pierced with a spear, weeping she called out: What is this, O my Son? What have the thankless people given you for all the good you have done for them? And why, O my

well-beloved, do they hasten to make me childless? I marvel at your voluntary crucifixion,  
O compassionate one.

*Aposticha, from the Octoechos; and Glory be to the Father... tone 8*

The array of Christ's martyrs is fortified against the enemy; and among them the glorious and excellent athletes Sergius and Bacchus shine as luminaries. By them the evil host of demons was forced to turn in flight; by them tyrants were amazed and the angels astonished, to see the incorporeal foe trampled underfoot by corporeal men. The Church of the faithful, celebrating their festivity and universal joy, cries out: Save our souls, O martyrs, who in the weakness of the flesh bound the mighty one; through the prayers of your saints.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O most glorious wonder...

What is this, before my eyes, O Master? How can you, the Word of God who holds all creation wondrously in your hands, guiltless as a lamb be now hung on the tree by disobedient servants? O what long suffering; O what goodness is this, O compassionate one: thus spoke the immaculate Mother tearfully.

*Troparion, tone 4*

In their sufferings, O Lord, Sergius and Bacchus your martyrs

received imperishable crowns from you, our God.

Armed with your might they cast down tyrants  
and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.

By their intercessions save our souls.

*Or this troparion, tone 5*

O much-suffering Sergius and all-glorious Bacchus,  
adornment of Christian athletes and eye of Christ's Church;  
enlighten the eyes of our souls.

Entreat the Lord, that we may escape the darkness of sin  
and be brought to share in the never-waning light,  
through your supplications, O holy ones.

## **Matins**

*Canon of the martyrs, tone 1,  
composed by Theophanes*

*upon the acrostic I hymn Sergius the athlete and the ever-memorable Bacchus.*

### *Ode 1*

*Irmos* As befitted your divine majesty, your triumphant right hand has been glorified in strength. In its almighty power it smote the enemy, O immortal Lord, and made a new path through the deep for the people of Israel.

O Sergius, favourite of Christ, with ever-memorable Bacchus as your helper, with godly wisdom you fulfilled your sufferings: grant a word of wisdom to me with which to hymn you.

Founded upon the immovable rock of the Christian faith, O holy martyrs, you were ramparts and towers of piety established firmly upon a firm foundation.

Believing the words of Christ and looking to him with unwavering gaze, you spat upon passing glory, O holy ones, wounded with the love of eternal glory.

Having divested yourselves of family, homeland and honour for Christ's sake, you were filled with gladness; and when clad in women's garments you put on the robe of incorruption with splendour and manly wisdom.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, entreat the Word, to whom you gave birth and who came to us bodily, that he be merciful and well-disposed towards the faithful who have you as their intercessor and salvation.

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* As you alone know human frailty, having in mercy assumed its form, gird me with strength from on high that I may cry out to you, O holy one: indescribable is the living temple of your glory, O lover of mankind.

He who, as God, alone knows all things before they come into being, seeing your offering to him, has filled you abundantly with the wisdom of discourse, divine knowledge and steadfast mind, for you are his warriors, O blessed ones.

O martyred athletes, favourites of Christ, wishing to suffer lawfully, with love for the creator and divinely wise mind you spurned corruptible and transitory glory, this world and the prince thereof.

Standing before the Lord in purity of mind, filled with splendour and delighting in ineffable bliss, deliver from dangers those who honour you, O athletes.

*Theotokion* Adam, the first to come under the dominion of death, has been delivered by your birthgiving, O Bride of God; for in a manner transcending nature you gave birth to him who is truly life, incarnate through union to the flesh.

*Sessional Hymn of the martyrs, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Come, you lovers of the martyrs, let us honour the holy athletes Sergius and Bacchus, the noetic pearls of the Lord, who bravely trampled the falsehood of the enemy underfoot and destroyed the might of the idols; and so, having received crowns of victory from heaven, they join chorus with the angels. With them let us all cry out: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who with love honour your holy memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Fallen into subtle temptations through the activity of my enemies, seen and unseen, I am caught fast in the tempest of my countless offences. I flee to the refuge of your goodness, to my fervent help and protection O pure one. Therefore, O lady, earnestly entreat him who was born of you without seed, for all your servants who unceasingly pray to you, O immaculate Mother of God; and ever beg him to grant forgiveness of sins to those who rightly hymn your glory.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding her lamb, the shepherd and redeemer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing your crucifixion, which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O longsuffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible source of compassion, take pity and grant remission of sins to those who with faith hymn your divine passion.

*Ode 4*

*Imos* Habakkuk with prophetic eyes saw you, O mountain, overshadowed by the grace of God, and he foretold that the holy one of Israel should come from you for our salvation and regeneration.

Two beacons shining from the West, holding the land against the ungodly and undertaking a journey, have arrived at you, the radiant Orient of salvation, O Christ.

Fire, the sword, persecution and wounding could not separate you from the pious knowledge of God, for whose sake you rejected this life, O glorious ones, as at your end you received blessed and imperishable sweetness.

The truly unwavering luminaries enlighten the firmament of the Church of Christ with the light of the divine radiance and gladden the souls of the pious, emitting rays of miracles.

Godly Bacchus and excellent Sergius in yearly cycle spiritually summon the lovers of piety and of the martyrs to a feast, setting forth their valiant deeds.

*Theotokion* The sword which guards the portal of Eden now gives way before the faithful; and it receives them with splendour, seeing them marked with the precious blood of him who was born of you, and with grace.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O Christ who has enlightened the ends of the earth with the light of your coming and has made them shine by your cross, enlighten with the knowledge of God those who in the right faith sing your praises.

Driving away falsehood with the sword of truth and mightily enduring the tyrants' wounds, you became victors; and, crowned by Christ, you now rejoice.

Strengthened by the invincible power and grace of the Trinity, the two martyrs cast down the prince of darkness and those in thrall to him: with honour they are called blessed.

With endurance, spiritual courage and strength of mind, the two glorious martyrs transcended the bitter fury of the torturers and make their abode with the angels.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, like the dawn you have shone forth the never-setting true Sun of Righteousness, bearing him in your arms united to the flesh; and so we all glorify you.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* The uttermost depth has encompassed us and there is none to deliver us: we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. But save your people, O our God, for you are the strength and restoration of the weak.

The relics of the martyrs pour abundant streams of healings: O faithful, let us fervently draw from them and bless the athletes, the glorious Sergius and the ever-eloquent Bacchus.

Hating the dwellings of the iniquitous and overcoming their deception, Sergius and Bacchus made their journey to heaven and have attained the calm haven of Christ.

The portals of heaven are thrown open to the martyred athletes, paying homage to their honourable suffering, which was like the grace-bearing passion of our God, and which drives away legions of the demons.

*Theotokion* With wisdom we proclaim you truly to be the Mother of God, O most pure Lady; for you, O Virgin, ineffably gave birth to the unoriginate and only-begotten Son who shone forth from the Father before time began.

*Kontakion, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody Seeking the highest...*

Manfully arming your mind against the enemy, | O most praised martyrs, | you destroyed all their falsehood, | you have received the trophy of victory from on high, | where you sing with oneness of mind: || How good and joyous it is to be with God.

*Ikos* As Sergius and Bacchus dwell in heaven and are filled by you with divine light, O Christ, go quickly before me who walks in the darkness of ignorance, and rescue me from the passions, O only immortal one, imparting to me the vesture of repentance, that with radiant mind I may hymn their splendid feast and cry out, rejoicing: How good and joyous it is to be with God.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* We the faithful perceive you as if a furnace, O Mother of God, for as the Most High saved the three children, so he fully restored the world through your womb, the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

Rejoice, pair of glorious athletes who splendidly overcame the threat of the tyrants; rejoice, you who finished the good race; rejoice, food that remains ever within us; rejoice, O blessed ones who mightily intercede before God.

Walking upon the earth, O radiant martyrs, you darkened the eyes of the demons and the faces of the persecutors with the light of grace and the rays of your suffering, hymning our praised and most glorious God.

As animate and living temples of the living God, O blessed athletes, truly strengthened by the power of God, you vanquished hordes of the enemy, praising in hymns God who is mighty in battle.

*Theotokion* O blessed and most pure Lady, the pure temple and holy ark, in receiving the infinite creator, God the only-begotten Word, in your womb, you contained the unapproachable one.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* In the furnace as in a crucible the children of Israel shone purer than gold with the beauty of godliness as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

## **October 7**

As of old you cooled the flame with dew for the youths, you strengthened your martyrs who stood firm amid struggles and sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Wisely the athletes rejected the poisonous and spiritually harmful blandishments of the torments, crying out to Christ and saying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Christ has shown Sergius and Bacchus, who are truly crowned, to be our true preservers, who protect us and sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Through the prayers of the martyrs, O Christ our Master, guide my steps to the virtues that I may readily sing to you: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* I bless you, the true Mother of our God, O pure and Lady, offering with the angels the greeting: Rejoice; for to you all the works of the Lord unceasingly sing and exalt above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Burning but unconsumed, the bush prefigured your pure birthgiving, O Mother of God. Therefore we now entreat you to quench in us the raging furnace of temptations, that we may never cease to magnify you.

You have gained all of Christ, for you forsook the whole world for him; and now you dwell in heaven with the choirs of the heavenly hosts, beholding the splendour of the blessed.

O excellent pair, you give grace from on high and remission of transgressions to those who with love offer you praises. Entreating him who alone is merciful and hastening to him, you have abandoned care for things below.

Illumined with the splendour of the thrice-radiant divinity, O invincible martyrs, you rejected the deceptive ungodliness of polytheism and the fear of the torturers; and you now delight in the incorruptible sweetness of paradise.

Having finished your good race, striving to preserve the faith of piety, O glorious martyrs, you have been granted the immovable kingdom, crowned with crowns of beauty and magnificence.

*Theotokion* How great your wonders which pass understanding; O Virgin Mother, for you alone, in a manner transcending nature gave birth to God the incarnate Word who wisely sustains and nurtures all things by his will.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody To the disciples...*

Let us praise Sergius and Bacchus, the two radiant martyrs who endured a battery of wounds and cast down the pride of the evil tyrant by the power of the Trinity.

*Theotokion* You are more glorious than the cherubim and more exalted than the seraphim, having given birth to God incarnate who has shown mortals how to tread the straight paths which lead to salvation.

*At the Praises, 4 verses, idiomela, tone 1,  
composed by Germanus*

Bound not by love of nature but by faith, like David the martyrs Sergius and Bacchus sang: Behold how good and how lovely it is, when brothers live together in unity. The holy ones trampled upon the enemy, and, taking up the cross, they followed Christ; and they entreat our king and God to grant great mercy to our souls. *Twice*

*Tone 2* Gathering today, let us sing to the saints in the words of the prophet: Behold how good and how lovely it is, when brothers live together in unity, not by consequence of kinship, but by unity of faith in the Holy Spirit? For the valiant martyrs Sergius and Bacchus cast aside all corruptible things and, taking the cross upon their shoulders, followed Christ. Possessing boldness in heaven, they ever pray for us, that God grant us great mercy.

Shod for the preparation of the Gospel of peace with sandals pierced with nails, with blood pouring from his feet, Sergius blinded the serpent who bruised our heel, and has received a martyr's crown. By the prayer of your martyr, O Christ God, nail our flesh to the fear of you, and have mercy upon us.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 3*

How good and how pleasant is the brotherly mind of your martyrs, O Lord; for you did not make them brothers by birth, but their faith and fraternal love made them wise in the shedding of their blood. Through their supplications, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* The mighty works of the martyrs...

At the sight of your Son upon the cross, a sword pierced your heart, O most pure Virgin, and you cried out: Do not leave me childless, O my Son and God who preserved me a virgin even after childbirth.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, and Glory be to the Father... tone 2,  
composed by Anatolius*

## **October 7**

The Church of God, beholding your struggles of old, O martyrs and witnesses to the world, is splendidly adorned and celebrates with faith this day of your memorial, wearing as a royal ornament the shame imposed in mockery upon your divine necks, whereby you have been granted heavenly glory and never-ending blessedness.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross*

When the spotless lamb saw her lamb driven voluntarily as a man to the slaughter, she wept and said: O Christ, you are now hastening to make me childless who gave birth to you. O deliverer of all, what is this that you have done? I praise and glorify your extreme goodness which is beyond mind and description, O lover of mankind.

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the martyrs' canon.*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

*Verse* As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.  
I have set the Lord always before me: he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

*Epistle to the Hebrews, number 330 [Heb. 11: 33-40]*

*Alleluia, tone 2*

Behold how good and how lovely it is, when brothers live together in unity.  
For there the Lord has commanded his blessing which is life for evermore.

*Gospel of Luke, number 106 [Luke 21:12-19]*

*Communion Verse*

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 8**

*Let it be known that, on the Sunday nearest the 11th day of this month, [that is, on or after the 8th] we celebrate the memory of the three hundred and sixty-five fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, the second convened in Nicaea, the task whereof was the repudiation and eradication of the godless teachings of the Christ-hating and Christian-persecuting iconoclasts Copronymus and those of like mind with him: the wretched and unholy hierarchs, and their godless and vile synagogue.*

*Should the 11th of October fall on a Sunday itself, the service to the holy fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council is sung on that very day. If it fall on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, the service is sung on the preceding Sunday; if on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, on the following Sunday.*

*The service of the saint appointed for that Sunday is omitted and is sung whenever the superior shall decide.*

*The service for the Fathers is printed after this one.*

## **Venerable Mother Pelagia**

### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O most glorious wonder: \* showing unusual courage, \* a woman has trampled the enemy underfoot \* and quenched the passions of the body \* through great abstinence. \* Zealously taking the cross of the Lord \* upon her shoulders, \* Pelagia put off the burden of life's possessions \* and followed after Christ \* through the teachings of the wise Nonus.

You have been revealed to us as a new Thecla; \* for, finding your teacher Nonus \* to be another Paul, \* you accepted his teachings, O glorious one, \* having fervently embraced repentance, \* and through abstinence you joined yourself to Christ, \* O blessed and honoured Pelagia: \* never cease to pray to Christ, \* that we be saved.

Rejoice, O honoured Pelagia; \* for, honourably enkindled \* by divine zeal, \* you cast aside the pleasure of fornication, \* O blessed mother, \* and hastening to Nonus, you cried: \* You must give an answer for my deeds \* if you will not seal me with the sign of Christ, O glorious one, \* investing me through baptism with pure raiment.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 4,  
composed by John the Monk.*

Where sin has increased, there grace abounds, as the Apostle teaches: in prayers and tears you dried up the abyss of many offences, O Pelagia, and finally brought to the Lord truly acceptable repentance, where you pray for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

Seeing you, the lamb and shepherd on the wood, the lamb who gave you birth spoke with maternal weeping: O my beloved Son, how can you, the long suffering Lord, be hung on the wood of the cross? How can your hands and feet be nailed by transgressors, O Word? How can you shed your blood thus, O Master?

*Troparion, tone 8*

That which was created in the image of God was preserved in you, O Mother; | for taking up the cross you followed Christ. | By your deeds you have taught us to reject the flesh for it passes away, | but to care for the soul as a thing immortal. || Therefore O venerable Pelagia your soul rejoices with the angels.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos; and that of the saint, tone 4,  
upon the acrostic I honour the wise Pelagia with love.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Mystically presenting her divine memorial today before the whole world as a great feast, Pelagia commands all to partake of her struggles as though they were food.

Making its abode within your soul, O honoured one, desire beyond all desire illumined your mind, and the enkindled flame of the Spirit illumined you and burned away the dross of your passions.

Fleeing the waves of the sea of sin, O honoured Pelagia, you put in at the calm harbor of Christ; therefore, you have inherited the land of the meek by your repentance.

*Theotokion* You are the calm of those whirled about in the midst of life, their firm and mighty anchor, O pure one; their haven and sustenance, ever guiding and saving those who have recourse to you.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

## **October 8**

Uplifted by the extent of your pains, you have soared aloft to the heavens of Christ on wings of abstinence, O dove.

Having washed away the rank mire of the passions with the water of Christ, O honoured Pelagia, you have proven to be myrrh for him.

Your ardent love and desire for God truly became a deadly weapon against the enemy, O honoured one.

*Theotokion* Your rejoicing, O pure one, dropping down like the dew of morning, ever quenches the furnace of the passions for those who hymn you.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Having quenched the flame of the passions with the dew of repentance, you offered your life to Christ your Saviour; and, fleeing the world for his sake, you withdrew in solitude to the desert, attaining an angelic life. Obtaining from God an honourable end with great glory, you have become known to the ends of the earth, O angelic Pelagia. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Falling into many temptations, I am surrounded foes, seen and unseen, and by numerous sins. I flee to your goodness, O immaculate one, my fervent protection, my shelter and my haven. Interceded fervently with him who was incarnate of you without seed for all your servants who ceaselessly praise you, the most pure Mother of God, that he grant forgiveness of sins to those who with faith venerate your maternity.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing the crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have mercy, and grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Like precious incense burning on the embers of abstinence, O Pelagia, you became a wholeburnt fragrance for Christ our God, hastening to the sweet fragrance of his myrrh.

Your bodily splendour which before was as the mire of sin, O Pelagia, you wholly transform into undefiled beauty, which Christ, your bridegroom, desired.

The grace of the Spirit, abiding in your soul like a spark of the Word, O Pelagia, kindled a lofty flame of faith and burned up your sins.

*Theotokion*    O Mother of God, you put forth the rod from which Christ our God, the noetic flower, blossomed, filling all things with divine fragrance, as he is the inexhaustible and precious myrrh.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos*   You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

Irrigated with the mystic waters of the Spirit, through the pangs of asceticism you blossomed in faith with the fruitfulness of the virtues.

You, O Lord, the light of those who lie in darkness, has shone in the heart of the venerable one with the splendour of divine understanding.

Sown with tears, O honoured Pelagia, your pangs have gathered in an abundance of gladness and joy in heaven.

*Theotokion*   Your grace is truly seen to be marvellous, O most pure Lady, gloriously performing wonders and acts of power throughout the earth.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos*   I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

When the unfading radiance of Christ our God was seen in the soul of Pelagia, the prince of darkness was expelled, and the grace of the Spirit and faith in him dwelt therein.

She who before had been trapped by the serpent has become a snare for him, restraining his power and trampling his wickedness down by the power of God.

Loving Christ our God, your bridegroom, you adorned yourself with the virtues, O Pelagia, and arrayed in your divine labours, you were brought to his bridal-chamber.

*Theotokion*   Of old, the divine prophets desired to behold your ineffable glory; yet in latter times you have appeared to us who love you more than all.

*Kontakion, tone 2,*

## **October 8**

*to the Special Melody* Seeking the highest...

Wasting your body with fasting, with vigilant supplications you entreated the creator concerning your deeds, that you might receive remission; and having gained this, O mother, you show us the path of repentance.

*Ikos* Come with me, those who in this life have defiled yourselves in sins, and let us strive to emulate the penitence, tears and struggles of our venerable mother Pelagia, that we may quickly receive forgiveness from God as did the blessed one who, while yet alive, washed away the defilement of sin and received from God complete forgiveness, showing us the path of repentance.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

You were truly an abyss of divine correction, drowning the might of the enemy therein: thus you sang: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Divinely melting body and soul like pure gold in a crucible, O honoured Pelagia, you show your pristine beauty as most lustrous through extreme abstinence.

Having truly shed the first garment of the passions and the corrupt person in the divine font, O glorious one, you put on the new person, conforming to Christ.

*Theotokion* The Word of God who sits on the throne of the Father strangely and awesomely made his abode within you, O Mother of God, and lifted up our nature, exalting it in himself in his compassion.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

The beams of your miracles shine radiantly like the sun, and reveal the splendour of your life and the divine faith which shone within you; and they sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord

Binding yourself faithfully to Christ with an unbreakable bond, you cleaved to him and through union with him remained inseparable from his love. Through faith in him, O Pelagia, you noetically become a member of him, abiding inseparably with him.

Having received understanding in your heart, through the Spirit you abandoned the vainglory of life; astonishing men by your sudden transformation, O honoured one, and filling even heaven with gladness.

*Theotokion* The noetic armies hymn your mighty works, O pure Virgin, and the patriarchs, prophets and apostles proclaim them, as do the choirs of the martyrs and the multitude of the venerable; and with them we also do you homage.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

You truly desired to behold the beauty of Christ your bridegroom, O venerable one, for whose sake you crucified yourself to the world, causing the beautiful flower of your body to wither up, and hated the love of life.

Casting off the burden of the body, O Pelagia, through abstinence and pangs you hastened to the heavenly mansions where you delight in their beauty, O glorious one.

O venerable one, watch over those who honour you with love and celebrate this, your annual commemoration. Pray to your creator and fashioner, that we may become partakers of his glory.

*Theotokion* I hymn your grace, O Virgin; I magnify your glory: you are truly the enlightenment and consolation of my soul, my speedy helper, my salvation and defence.

## **Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council**

*On Saturday at Little Vespers we sing the verses of the Resurrection and the Mother of God as usual.*

### **Great Vespers**

*At Lord, I call to you... 10 verses,  
4 of the resurrection from the Octoechos; and 6 to the holy fathers, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody The despairing...*

The Patriarch Germanus the New, taking the honoured councils of the fathers, brought them together in one single canon, recording and embodying their dogmas; and these heroic intercessors for salvation he presented to the Lord, and to the flock and its pastors. *Twice*

The Scriptures of the Law appointed the honoured number seven for the Hebrew children, who wait in shadow and serve it; whilst the fathers who, at the command of God who created all that exists in six days and blessed the seventh, met at the sevenfold Councils, making that day most honourable.

O thrice-blessed fathers, you clearly taught the Trinity, the cause of the world's creation; and from nature, composed of four elements, you set down the three and four councils which are vindicators of Orthodox discourse, making clear the doctrine of the Trinity, who has created these things and fashioned the world.

A single bending of the greatly renowned Prophet Elisha over the prone son of the woman who had rendered him service was sufficient to breathe life into him; yet he returned and bent over him seven times, proclaiming beforehand, as one who saw things to come, your Councils, whereby you have brought to life the mortality of God the Word, slaying Arius and them that laboured with him.

O my Saviour, who has thus torn your vesture? And you said: It was Arius who fractured the Trinity's headship, which is one in rank and honour. For he disputed that you are one of the most holy Trinity; and he taught Nestorius the godless not to use the title Mother of God. But the Council gathered in Nicea proclaimed that you, O Lord, are truly the Son of God, of equal rank with the Father and the Spirit.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6*

Let us acclaim today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-bearing Fathers, who, in the midst of the Church, sang a harmonious song of theology, teaching that the Trinity is one, unchanging in essence and divinity; they are the refuters of Arius, and the foremost warriors of the Orthodox; and they ever intercede with the Lord that our souls may find mercy.

Both now and for ever... *the Dogmaticon in the tone of the week.*

*Entrance, Prokimenon of the day, and three readings:*

### A reading from Genesis

When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his nephew Lot with his goods, and the women and the people. After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him one tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:14-20)

### A reading from Deuteronomy

In those days, Moses said to the sons of Israel: See, I have set the land before you; go in and take possession of the land that I the Lord swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their descendants after them." At that time I said to you, "I am unable by myself to bear you. The Lord your God has multiplied you, so that today you are as numerous as the stars of heaven. May the Lord, the God of your ancestors, increase you a thousand times more and bless you, as he has promised you!... So I took the leaders of your tribes, wise and reputable individuals, and installed them as leaders over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officials, throughout your tribes. I charged your judges at that time: "Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien. You must not be partial in judging: hear out the small and the great alike; you shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. Any case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it." (Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17)

### A reading from Deuteronomy

In those days, Moses said to the sons of Israel: Behold, although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him

## **October 8**

you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. (Deuteronomy 10:14-21)

*Entreaty, the verse of the church, with Glory be to the Father... tone 3*

You were exact keepers of the apostolic traditions, O holy Fathers,  
teaching the Orthodox doctrine of the consubstantial Holy Trinity,  
unanimously casting down the blasphemy of Arius.  
Then censuring Macedonius, the enemy of the Holy spirit,  
you condemned Nestorius, Evtiches, Dioscorus, Sabellius and mindless Severus.  
We pray you, make supplication that we be delivered from their error,  
and that our life be preserved blameless in the faith.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* By the will of the Father, through the divine Spirit  
you seedlessly conceived the Son of God  
who existed before the world began,  
begotten of the Father without a mother.  
You gave birth to him and fed with your milk as an infant  
him who for our sake was incarnate from you without a father.  
Therefore never cease to entreat him  
to deliver our souls from danger.

*Aposticha of the resurrection from the Octoechos,  
with Glory be to the Father... to the fathers, tone 4*

Let us, the gathering of the Orthodox,  
celebrate today with faith and piety  
the annual memorial of the God-bearing Fathers,  
who, in the illustrious city of Nicea,  
came together from the whole world.  
With pious mind they refuted the godless dogma of grievous Arius,  
and by synodal decree banished him from the Catholic Church,  
and in exactness and piety, they set forth the Symbol of Faith;  
instructing all to confess openly  
the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God,  
who existed before the ages.  
Following their divine doctrines and believing with assurance,  
we worship the single divinity of the Father, Son and most holy Spirit,  
the Trinity one in essence.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Regard the supplications of your servants, O immaculate one:  
crush the savage assaults that beset us and calm all our distress,

for your protection is our safe and secure anchor:  
let us not be put to shame, O Lady,  
for in you we have found an intercessor, and we call upon you.  
Speedily heed the entreaties of those who call to you in faith:  
Rejoice, O Lady, the helper of all,  
our joy and protection,  
and the salvation of our souls.

*At the Blessing of the Loaves, the troparion Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... twice,  
and that of the fathers, tone 8*

You are most glorious, O Christ our God,  
for you have established our fathers on the earth as radiant stars,  
and by them you have guided us to the true faith.  
Glory to you, O greatly compassionate one.

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the Resurrection, twice;  
Glory be to the Father... the troparion of the fathers;  
Both now and for ever... the resurrectional Theotokion:*

*Tone 8* For our sake you were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion, O good one, and destroyed death by death and as God revealed the resurrection. Forsake not those who were fashioned by your hand but show your love for mankind, O merciful one. Receive the intercession for us of the Mother of God who gave you birth, and save us, your despairing people, O our Saviour.

*Four Canons: The canon of the Resurrection, of the Cross and Resurrection, of the Mother of God;  
and of the fathers, tone 8,  
composed by Germanus the Second, Patriarch of Constantinople  
upon the acrostic I hymn the Seventh Council of the blessed ones.*

### *Ode 1*

*Irmos* The rod of Moses, working wonders in times past, marking the sea in the form of the cross, struck it and parted it, and sank Pharaoh driving his chariot, saving Israel who fled across on foot, while singing a hymn to God.

O Lord, grant me, who desires to hymn the Seventh Council, a gathering of the seven gifts of the Paraclete, who, with tongues of fire, made it wise and caused sacrilegious blasphemy to fall silent.

The number seven has been greater than others from the beginning, for originally the accomplishment of the divine creation was on the seventh day, and now an end has come to heresies at the Council of the same number.

## **October 8**

Of old in Nicaea the choir of fathers vanquished with a pastoral staff Arius, who contended against God, and thus they taught the Church to walk in accordance with Orthodox teachings; and now, as champion, it has shamed the iconoclasts as well.

*Theotokion* As the fathers piously taught, confessing in faith the Virgin who without pain gave birth in the flesh to the incorporeal one, so we also worship her, inscribing her image upon pillars and venerating it with honour.

*Katavasia* I shall open my mouth...

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* Christ, who in the beginning established the heavens with wisdom and founded the earth upon the waters, confirm me upon the rock of your commandments, for none is holy but you, the true lover of mankind.

Initiated into the mysteries by Christ, the divine chief shepherds drove from the church the parties of the antichrist who troubled the Church of Christ, lest it be shaken.

The fathers, drawing streams of teaching from the source of salvation gave the thirsting people of Christ to drink, and to wash away the turbid streams of filth.

The Seventh Council of the Christ-loving, whose defenders were the imperial Irene and Constantine, was held in the splendid city of Nicaea against those who despised Christians and prosecuted them.

*Theotokion* Let all the impious depart, those who do not honour the precious icon of the Mother of God and do not proclaim her to be her who gave birth to Christ; and let them be consigned to fire, to burn without being consumed.

### *Kontakion and Ikos of the Resurrection.*

*Then, the Sessional Hymn of the fathers, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...*

O truly blessed and divinely eloquent fathers, you have appeared on earth as radiant beacons of the truth of Christ to the world, stifling the heresies of sacrilegious blasphemies and quenching the fiery tumults of the impious. As you are hierarchs of Christ, pray that we be saved. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Hasten to our aid, O pure virgin Mother: rescue us from the enemies who blaspheme you. Destroy the sacrilege of heresies and bring down their assaults by your might, that they might understand that you alone are the Mother of God, who by your prayers saves the congregation of the Orthodox.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* You are my strength and power O Lord my God, you are my rejoicing, who without leaving the bosom of the Father, has visited our lowliness. With the Prophet Habakkuk, I therefore cry to you: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

The Godlike fathers, having the Word of God as arrow and sword, with the sign of the cross together slaughtered the foe that does not honour alike the images of Christ, the Mother of God, and of all the saints.

As at the blast of seven trumpets the walls of Jericho fell at the seventh circuit, so by these seven Councils the multitude which has risen up against God has been cast down to the abyss at the divine symphony of the trumpets of the Spirit.

Showing youthful diligence and aflame with divine zeal, the multitude of the fathers, like Elias, have slain the abominable priests: with boldness they have taught all to worship the icon of Christ with love.

*Theotokion* You are my hope, O most pure Lady; you are my song, my refuge and my restoration, who unwedded gave birth to God, the incarnate Word of the Father: I bow down without hesitation before your icon, strengthened by your might.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

Deliberating with exalted minds, the honoured fathers committed the iconoclasts to anathema, as ones that thought strange things, and they commanded that honour be given to the icon of Christ, as is fitting.

Now is the time for gladness: now is a day of salvation: be glad and sing to Christ with joy: Grant us your peace, through the prayers of the fathers of the Seventh Council.

*Theotokion* For the sake of his merciful compassion, the Son of God was immutably born of the Virgin, taking what was foreign to him as his own, and, being in his essence uncircumscribable, he willingly appeared circumscribed in this form.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

Let the mountains rain down sweetness and joy, for the multitude of heretics, pouring out the bitter poison of the removal of the holy icons, has been driven out.

## **October 8**

Let heaven and earth celebrate together the magnificence of the daughter of God; for she is magnified, rejecting those who would diminish it.

*Theotokion* The Son of the Mother, the first begotten of the Father without a mother, who was born in a godly manner without a father, has given me rebirth. Fashioning an image of her that gave birth and of him who was born, I venerate it.

### *Kontakion of the Fathers, tone 6*

The Son who ineffably shone forth from the Father | was incarnate in two natures, born of a woman: | having beheld him, we do not disdain to depict him in this form, | but rather we piously draw it and honour such in faith. | Therefore the Church, holding to the true faith, || venerates the icon of Christ incarnate.

*Ikos* The supremely compassionate God, who desires to rouse us to the perfect memory of his incarnation, gave this suggestion to me: Those who depict his precious form with the pigments of icons, and those who behold these objects, may believe what we have heard, clearly understanding the activity, the name, the features and the sufferings of holy ones and Christ the bestower of crowns, who crowns the holy athletes and martyrs. Therefore the Church, holding to the true faith, venerates the icon of Christ incarnate.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* At the condescension of God the fire in Babylon was struck with awe, and so the children, dancing with joyful feet and rejoicing in the furnace as in a meadow sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The heretic-hierarchs are vanquished by the dogmas of these divinely eloquent men who rightly rendered the honour they give to images to the prototypes, as Basil the Great has said. Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Today the churches, adorned with splendid icons, are made beautiful, and so the churches raise a song to him who is more comely than all men, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Light far outshines the darkness, as the impious are driven off: all is filled with the light of Christ the giver of light, singing with joy: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* O most pure Lady, alone the hope of the salvation of all, who in awesome manner gave birth to Christ, the king of kings, and held him in your arms as an infant: he is worshipped depicted, as the fathers say.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

The fathers strictly set as law for those who honour God the relative worship and the restoration of the sacred icons of Christ; and as their dutiful children, the lovers of piety celebrate their yearly commemoration and lovingly venerate the icon of Christ.

Seven times did the proud ones cast down the humble and cut off the attacks of the lovers of virtue, thereby slandering their divine acts. But the fathers of the Seventh Council who assembled in Nicaea pulled down their conceit with sevenfold swiftness.

The blows and wounds inflicted by the childish are as the arrows of infants against the mature, as say the Psalms. Through divine power the tongues are disabled of those who utter blasphemies against the Most High and who do not acknowledge the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit to be one God, the sole cause of all.

*Theotokion* Of his own will, for mercy's sake, the creator fashioned himself into man with your pure blood, preserving you immaculate even after your birthgiving, and cleansing the divine image within man which had been defiled. Though God in essence, yet having become man by nature, he is depicted on icons in company with you.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* Heaven was struck with awe and the ends of the earth were amazed, that God should bodily appear to men and that your womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore the ranks of angels together with mankind magnify you O Mother of God.

O God, alone unapproachable; O great one who holds all things together by your might and counsel, omnipotent ruler and king of all: strengthen the Church and preserve it in your Orthodoxy, through the entreaties of the glorious heresy-denouncing fathers.

Great honours were granted to you on earth, O holy ones of heavenly wisdom, for you lovingly honoured the image of Christ. Now, having cast off the shadow and the covering of the flesh, you gaze directly upon him and are granted even greater honours.

Though we are chastened by the mighty host of barbaric insanity which is loosed against us, yet may you crush their assault and audacity, and ally yourself with right-believing Orthodox hierarchs who place their trust in you, O accomplisher of all things, through the confident prayers of the holy fathers whose memory we keep.

*Theotokion* The mind of man can in no manner comprehend the mystery of your awesome birthgiving, nor can the exalted intelligence of the angels; for, transcending nature, you gave birth to God incarnate. Knowing you to be the Mother of God and depicting you with him, we magnify you.

*Exapostilarion of the Resurrection,  
Glory be to the Father... that of the fathers,  
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...*

O fathers of heavenly mind who assembled at the Seventh Council, ever bear earnest prayer to the Trinity, that we who hymn your divine Council may be delivered from heresy and eternal judgment, and may receive the kingdom of heaven.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Through the entreaties of your Mother, O most good Lord, and of the fathers of the seven Councils, establish the Church and strengthen the faith; and when you come to earth to judge all creation, let us all be heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

*The Theotokion of the Exapostilarion of the Resurrection is not recited, only that above.*

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 8 verses,  
4 of the Resurrection, and four of the fathers, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody* Having set all aside...

Having brought together all knowledge of things of the Spirit and made careful inquiry by the grace of the divine Spirit, like godly scribes the venerable Fathers wrote the celestial Symbol of our holy faith, the honoured Creed, wherein they clearly teach that, like God the Father, the Word of God is also unoriginate and is truly of one substance with him. Thus did these blessed, renowned and godly-minded ones truly and clearly follow that which the Apostles taught. *Twice*

*Verse* Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, and worthy of praise; and glorious is your name for ever.

Having received the fulness of noetic enlightenment through the grace of the Spirit, Christ's heralds and blessed defenders of the Gospel's doctrines proclaimed the sublime message to all men under inspiration from our God; that most transcendent truth which, though few in words, is sublimely wise. These champions of piety and pious traditions and teachings received revelation of piety and dogma from on high and enlightened, then set forth that faith which was taught by God.

*Verse* Gather to me my faithful ones, those who by sacrifice made a covenant with me.

Behold the divine shepherds, those devoted servants of Christ our God and sacred disciples of the preaching inspired by God, who brought together their wisdom as shepherds and their pastoral knowledge. Most righteously they stirred up their righteous anger and cast out from the fulness of the Church the prowling and destructive wolves, driving them far off with the Spirit's sling, since those thus expelled had already incurred a fall leading to death and were diseased with an illness that could not be relieved or cured.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8, composed by George of Nicomedia*

When the choir of holy Fathers

gathered from the ends of the inhabited world,  
they proclaimed the doctrine of the single essence and nature  
of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thereby clearly delivering to the Church the mystery of theology.  
As we acclaim them in faith, we call them blessed, saying:  
O divine assembly, the God-proclaiming troops of the Lord's company,  
the most brilliant stars of the spiritual firmament,  
the impregnable towers of the mystical Sion,  
the fragrant flowers of Paradise,  
the all golden mouths of the Word,  
the boast of Nicea and adornment of the whole world,  
intercede fervently for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, tone 2* Most blessed are you, virgin Mother of God...

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 10 verses: 6 for the Resurrection, and 4 for the fathers, from Ode 3 of their canon.*

*After the Entrance, Troparia of the Resurrection and of the fathers;*  
*Kontakia of the Resurrection, Glory be to the Father... of the fathers;*  
*Both now and for ever... to the Mother of God.*

*Prokimena: first, of the Resurrection, then of the fathers, tone 4, the Hymn of the Fathers:*

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, and worthy of praise; and glorious  
is your name for ever.

*Epistles: first, that of the day, then that of the fathers, Hebrews number (13:7-16).*

*Alleluia: first, of the tone of the week, then of the fathers, tone 1*

The Lord our God the mighty one has spoken and summoned the earth, from the  
rising of the sun to its setting in the west.

*Gospels: of the day, and of the fathers, from the Gospel of John (17:1-13).*

### *Communion Verses*

Praise the Lord from heaven, praise him in the heights.  
Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 9**

### **Apostle James, son of Alpheus, and our venerable father Andronicus and his wife Athanasia**

*The hymnody of the venerable one is sung at Compline*

### **Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon.*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

As radiant as the sun \* you shine forth, O apostle, \* with the beams of the Spirit, \* illuminating the world \* with divine knowledge, O blessed one, \* and driving away the darkness of polytheism \* with your divine preaching. \* Celebrating your splendid and laudable festival today, \* we glorify you with piety. *Thrice*

You thundered with sacred and saving doctrines \* upon the whole world, \* cleansing creation \* of the madness of idolatry, \* O divinely wise one, \* and enlightening the people \* with the radiance of the knowledge of God. \* Demolishing the temples of the idols through grace, \* you raised up churches \* to the praise of our God. *Thrice*

Seated in the heights of divine knowledge, O James, \* you received the grace of the Spirit, \* which appeared to you in the form of fire \* and mightily consumed \* the idolatrous filth of impiety \* with a tongue of fire. \* Therefore, we praise you \* as an apostle and herald of God, \* celebrating today your holy festival. *Twice*

*Glory be to the Father... idiomelon, same tone,  
composed by Theophanes.*

Receiving the grace of the divine Spirit, O James, you were numbered among the sacred choir of the apostles. By his descent from the heavens and his mighty inspiration, he illumined you with a tongue of fire, and you have consumed the thorny ungodliness of the heathen. Entreat Christ our God, O divine herald, that our souls be saved.

*Both now and for ever... same tone*

*Dogmatikon*    David the prophet,  
                    who through you became the ancestor of God,  
                    raised his voice to sing in prophecy  
                    of the great things done for you, saying:

The queen stands at your right hand.  
For God who was pleased to be made man of you fatherless  
has shown you to be the mother and mediator of life,  
to restore his image corrupted by the passions and save the world:  
for finding the stray sheep lost in the mountains,  
Christ takes it upon his shoulders and brings it to his Father  
and by his will unites it to the heavenly hosts, O Mother of God,  
he who has great and abundant mercy.

*Entrance, Prokimenon, 3 Readings:*

A reading from the general epistle of John

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

A reading from the general epistle of James

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away. Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

A reading from the general epistle of Jude

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, who are sanctified by God the Father and kept safe for by Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and

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love be yours in abundance. Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I desire to remind you, though you are fully informed, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great Day. Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. ...

But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; for they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts." It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen

*Entreaty, the verse of the church, and these of the apostle, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

With the rod of grace \* you lured men from the depths of vanity, \* O wondrous James, \* obedient to the command of the Master, \* who enlightened your mind wholly, \* and made you to be an apostle, \* an honoured and divine proclaimer \* of his unapproachable divinity, \* O blessed one.

The radiance of the Spirit \* descended upon you in the form of fire, \* O blessed one, \* and made a divine refuge of you \* who quickly drove away the gloom of godlessness \* and enlightened the world with the radiance of your words of wisdom, \* O expounder of the mysteries, \* adornment of the apostles, \* blessed beholder of Christ.

Illumining those who sat in the darkness of ignorance \* with the lightning flashes of your preaching, \* O glorious one, \* you made them children of our God and Master \* for the sake of their faith. \* His sufferings and death you emulated, \* and you were an inheritor of glory, \* a wise and divinely eloquent, \* disciple of him who is truth.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2*

Forsaking earthly things, you followed Christ, and signed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, sent by him to the nations fallen into perdition, that you might turn men

to the light of knowledge of God, and having completed the struggles of your divine suffering and torments, you committed your soul to Christ, O Apostle James: entreat him, O blessed one, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All my hope I place in you, O Mother of God. Keep me under your protection.

*Aposticha, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* You have given a sign...

You have received invincible authority and power \* over demons, O apostle, \* to drive away their dark princes \* with the name of Christ. \* You have passed over the earth, \* shedding light like the sun, \* and teaching the nations, \* O glorious one, \* preaching the first salvific coming of Christ.

*Verse* Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

Emulating the primal goodness, \* him who is the essential and all-divine life, \* you were a good man \* in essence, O James, \* and were called the son of divine grace, \* proving to be \* an earnest disciple of Christ \* through the goodness of your character \* and the purity of your mind.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

As an instrument well wrought \* by the skill of God, \* O Apostle James, \* you committed yourself to summon the nations, \* by your words and acts \* teaching them to acknowledge Christ. \* And you enlightened all \* to confess the true divinity of Jesus, \* the Saviour of our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 5*

We faithfully celebrate the honoured day of your memory, O glorious James, honouring you not as the son of Alpheus, but as the apostle of Christ and preacher of his ineffable incarnation. Ever standing with the incorporeal ones, with the choirs of the apostles and martyrs before the throne of the Master, pray earnestly to our Saviour and God, that he save us.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O most honoured Virgin,  
the temple and gate, the palace and throne of the king,  
through whom Christ the Lord, my deliverer,  
appeared to those bound in darkness;

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as he, the Sun of Righteousness, wished to enlighten  
his creatures formed by his hand in his image;  
as you have the boldness of a mother towards him,  
we entreat you, O exalted one,  
unceasingly implore him that our souls be saved.

*Troparion, tone 3*

Holy apostle James, | intercede with the merciful God, || that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* We sing your praises, O Virgin Mother of God  
who has mediated the salvation of our race;  
for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you  
and accepting suffering through the cross,  
has delivered us from corruption,  
as he is the lover of mankind.

## **Compline**

*Canon of venerable Andronicus, tone 8*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* The rod of Moses, working wonders in times past, marking the sea in the form of the cross, struck it and parted it, and sank Pharaoh driving his chariot, saving Israel who fled across on foot, while singing a hymn to God.

Having cleansed your soul with valiant virtues, O Andronicus, and set afire by the embers of divine love, you avoided the burning of the flesh; for you had divine dew from on high, which ever bedews you.

Submitting to the Master's commands as once did the patriarch Abraham, O father, you left your country and your kinfolk; and, far from wife and riches, you dwelt alone in the desert.

You fulfilled the commandment of the Lord, selling all that you had, giving it to the poor; and thereby you acquired the precious pearl, which made you abundantly wealthy with a rich outpouring of myrrh.

*Theotokion* Of his will the creator of Adam, who holds all things in his hand, was formed within you, O Mother of God, and is held in your hands. How awesome is the mystery, the Lord of all the saints appearing as an infant.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Christ, who in the beginning established the heavens with wisdom and founded the earth upon the waters, confirm me upon the rock of your commandments, for none is holy but you, the true lover of mankind.

Adam was driven from Eden because of the counsel of Eve, but you, O blessed Andronicus, accepting the advice of your spouse, came within a garden of paradise, and with her you ever rejoice.

Mystically and wisely arranging all things to the good and directing mortals to salvation, the Word translated your two beloved children from earth to heaven, revealing to you the straight way.

Putting aside fleeting and corruptible love and leaving it to those on earth, you bound yourselves with spiritual love, O blessed ones; therefore, you now abide in the habitations of the righteous.

*Theotokion* May she who is without doubt greater than the cherubim and the seraphim be ever honoured, for she ineffably gave birth to God and transformed the curse upon mortals into blessing; for she is our hope.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* I have heard the mystery of your dispensation O Lord; I have understood your works, and I glorify your divinity.

The sweat of your labour, dripping from your body, was transformed into the sweet fragrance of myrrh, O sacred Andronicus.

Like a palm-tree of lofty stature, O father, you flourished in the desert, and produced as fruit for God the sweet pangs of your labours.

With showers of tears you bedewed the desert places and showed your soul to be fertile with the pangs of asceticism.

*Theotokion* Without leaving the Father's bosom, the Lord dwelt within your most pure body, O Maiden, and has restored the whole world.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* Waking at dawn we call to you to save us, O Lord; for you are our God and we know no other than you.

With songs let us hymn Andronicus, you faithful, and let us glorify Athanasia, his spouse.

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In no way did you give sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids, as is written, O Andronicus.

Receiving your labours as a truly acceptable offering, O blessed one, the Lord has glorified you with myrrh.

*Theotokion* You awesomely gave birth to one of the Trinity, O Maiden, and fed with milk him who feeds mortal nature.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* Bestow upon me a robe of light, O most merciful Christ our God, who covers yourself with light as with a garment.

The weakness of your nature in no way hindered the recompense which you received for the pangs of your suffering, O venerable Athanasia.

Changing your raiment, you hid your nature; therefore, without wavering you reached the end of the way of salvation.

Recognizing your husband as a traveller, you followed him, in no way uttering a word of conversation to him.

*Theotokion* We now offer you the cry of Gabriel, O Maiden, crying out to you: Rejoice; the Lord is with you, O blessed Lady.

### *Sessional Hymn, tone 8, to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Taking the easy yoke of the Lord upon your shoulders with all your soul, you followed him, O God-bearing Andronicus, and thoroughly rejected the turmoil of the world, zealously making your abode in the desert, where you blamelessly finished the race of asceticism, uniting yourself to God. We cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The Hebrew children in the furnace bravely trampled upon the flames, and transformed the fire into dew as they sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Defending yourself with the power of the Spirit and the armour of the cross, you brought down, like a foul bird, the author of evil, who of old boasted beyond measure that he would lay hold of all creation.

Bearing your cross upon your shoulders, you followed the Lord with all your soul, and received his divine glory, as a fulfiller of his commandments, O Andronicus.

The grace of myrrh, which is ever flowed upon the faithful, revealed your boldness before the Lord and is like the fluidity of water.

*Theotokion* That he might deify my nature, the most perfect one, who by his word brought forth all things, sustaining and strengthening them, ineffably became a child born from you, the pure one.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* The king of heaven who is hymned by the angelic hosts; praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Watering the meadow of your soul with streams of tears, you reaped the rich reward of your miracles.

With the divine treatment of your supplications, O favourite of the Lord, heal my soul, w with the wounds of my offences.

*To the Trinity* O faithful, let us reverently hymn the unoriginate and most holy Trinity, which has brought all things to be from non-existence.

*Theotokion* O Maiden, Daniel foresaw you as an unquarried mountain from which was cut the stone who has crushed the temples of the idols.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* We who are saved by you, O pure Virgin, confess you to be the true Mother of God, and with the bodiless choirs we magnify you.

You pour out the inexhaustible grace of myrrh and grant release from illness to those who have recourse to you with faith, O father Andronicus.

Rejoicing, you have been translated from transitory things to the highest, making your abode with the holy fathers. O father, be mindful of us who celebrate your memory.

Accept my hymnody, O venerable pair, and by your entreaty to God, grant me a gift: that he may deliver me from my transgressions.

*Theotokion* Of old, the furnace which did not consume the three children prefigured you, O pure Maiden; for you received the fire of the divinity without being consumed.

*Verses, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody* Having set all aside...

Having set aside \* the retribution of life, \* having spurned wealth \* and rejected fleeting pleasure, \* you took up the cross \* like an easy yoke \* and followed Christ. \* Now you have wondrously made your abode in the resting-place of heaven. \* Rejoicing there,

## **August 15**

\* be mindful of us who remember you faithfully \* who with love and reverence celebrate  
\* your sacred and honoured memory, O holy ones.

Loving you, the Master, greatly, \* with all their soul, \* the ever-memorable couple  
\* hastened after you; \* and they rent asunder the unbreakable bonds of every beautiful  
thing \* as though they were a spider's web, \* and thereby received your kingdom, O  
immortal one. \* Through their supplications, O compassionate one, \* grant us cleansing  
of offences, \* and raise us up above the passions \* which ever trouble our souls, O  
Master.

You were deprived \* of your children's loving companionship \* through your great  
struggle, \* remaining bereft of consolation in this life; \* and you uttered the cry \* of most  
valiant Job, exclaiming: \* The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. \* You  
accomplished in good time \* the work you desired \* and have been granted joyfully to  
pass over \* to the most lovely holy places, \* O sacred couple.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O tender root; \* rejoice, O divine staff of Aaron \* which put forth  
the unfading blossom, \* O fertile garden of paradise, \* tree of life \* blossoming from the  
root of Jesse, O pure Maiden, \* and feeding mortals with the bread of understanding. \*  
Rejoice, O precious purple robe \* of the king of all, O Bride of God, \* radiant crown, \*  
splendour of hierarchs. \* Rejoice, O truly most pure Lady.

*Theotokion of the Cross* When of old the unblemished lamb, \* the Mother and immaculate  
Lady, \* beheld her lamb \* uplifted upon the cross, \* she exclaimed maternally \* and,  
marvelling, cried out: \* What is this sight, new and all-glorious, \* O my sweet child? \*  
How is it that the ungrateful people \* betray you to the judgment-seat of Pilate \* and  
condemn to death the life of all? \* I hymn your ineffable condescension, O Word.

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the apostle, twice;*  
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion.*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,*  
*the Sessional Hymn, tone 2*

The glorious apostle pursued the nations, teaching the ends of the earth to worship  
you with the Father and the Spirit, O Christ our God. For his sake establish your Church,  
and impart your blessing upon the faithful, O merciful one who loves mankind. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become partakers of  
the divine nature; for you gave birth for us to God incarnate: as is fitting, we magnify you.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...*

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, emitted you like a ray, to enlighten the world, O glorious Apostle James; and with your divine supplications you shine, and with the never-waning light of God you enlighten all who with faith celebrate your holy memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O unashamed hope of those who place their trust in you, who gave birth supernaturally to Christ our incarnate God: with the holy apostles entreat him to grant the world cleansing of transgressions and to all of us correction of life before the end.

*Polyeleos, and this Magnification*

We magnify you, O holy Apostle James, and we honour the pangs and labours whereby you struggled in the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

*Verses* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

The heavens shall confess your wonders, O Lord.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Having caught reason-endowed fish in the net of divine words, you brought them as first-fruits to our God; and desiring to be clothed in the wounds of Christ, you became an emulator of his sufferings. Gathering worthily, we honour you, O glorious apostle, and cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O all-pure Mother of God, noetic portal of life: deliver from tribulation those who with faith have recourse to you, that we may glorify your most holy birthgiving, to the salvation of our souls.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**August 15**

Let every breath praise the Lord *and the rest,  
with the Gospel of John, number 67 [21:15-25]*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 4*

As an apostle and an excellent servant of the mysteries of the Master, the Messiah, O praiseworthy and divine herald James, entreat him to grant victory to our Orthodox hierarchs over heresies, and cleansing from sins to those who celebrate your holy memory.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklysis],  
and that of the apostle, tone 6,  
composed by Theophanes  
upon the acrostic I honour the son of Alpheus, the disciple of Christ.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Traversing the deep on foot as if it were dry land, Israel looked upon the tyrant Pharaoh as he drowned and cried out: Let us sing to God a song of victory.

O James, disciple of Christ and seer of God, grant your hand to me who strives to praise your honoured feast, and by your supplications shine light upon my heart.

Watered with streams of divine wisdom, you flow from the paradise of sweetness like a river, truly irrigating the face of the earth with torrents of piety.

You are numbered among the sacred choir of the disciples of Christ, O James, fulfilling the number twelve: standing with them before the Master, be mindful of us.

*Theotokion* The Lord who stretched out the sky and founded the earth has revealed you to us as an earthly heaven, O most pure Virgin, issuing forth from you in the flesh.

*Katavasia* I shall open my mouth...

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* There is none holy as you O Lord my God, who has exalted the strength of your faithful O good one, and has established us on the rock of your confession.

Receiving the radiance of the divine Spirit, you appeared to those in darkness as one splendid as the dawn, declaring to all the appearance of the noetic sun.

Dancing in godly manner before the just and good king and treading the path to heaven, O blessed one, you placed your feet in righteousness.

You had the unoriginate Son of God, who created all things in his divine goodness as your instructor in the mysteries, O James, teaching you the knowledge of the truth.

*Theotokion* O most pure Mary, hope of all who place their trust in you, who gave birth to the incarnate Word for our sake, deliver me from various perils and misfortunes.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Having the wisdom of your teacher truly teaching you things past understanding, you rendered foolish the wisdom of the Greeks, O divinely inspired one; and you were a divine beacon to the nations, guiding the foolish with words of piety. Delivered from falsehood by you, we hymn you and faithfully call you blessed, O divinely eloquent James. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O cloud of the noetic sun and golden lamp stand of the divine light, undefiled, pure and immaculate Lady, with the radiance of dispassion enlighten my soul darkened by the blindness of the passions, I pray; wash my polluted heart clean with torrents of compunction and tears of repentance, and cleanse me of the mire of my works, that I may cry out to you with love: O ever-virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ our God, that he grant me remission of transgressions, for I, your servant, have you as my hope.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, sings the holy Church in reverent piety, raising her voice with a pure mind, and keeping festival in the Lord.

The Lord himself, who alone is holy, numbered you among the honoured choir of his disciples, O blessed one, foreseeing the honour and splendour of your life.

Full of the miracles of the divine Spirit, O herald of God, you worked wonders, dispelling infirmities; and you have freed men from the wickedness of evil spirits.

The glory of God which descended upon your heart made it divinely radiant, O blessed one, and in manner past understanding filled it with the gifts of the Spirit.

*Theotokion* Through your divine birthgiving, O Virgin, the ranks of holy angels are united to men; for you gave birth to Christ the Saviour, the author of peace.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* I pray you, O good one, illumine with your divine light the souls of those who rise at dawn with love for you, that they may know you O Word of God to be truly God, who calls them back from the deep gloom of transgression.

## **August 15**

As one who conversed with the noetic sun, you assimilated his rays, O blessed one: while he is by essence the primal light, you became a secondary luminary through grace.

Having a most pure intelligence, and having acquired a radiant and pure heart, you behold the incarnate God who is incomprehensible to the mind.

Every prophecy and every law inclines toward you, O disciple most rich; for your eyes were granted to behold him who of old was proclaimed by them.

*Theotokion* Behold, O Virgin, in accordance with the prophecy you conceived the Master and Lord who is over all, and you gave birth to him ineffably, remaining an incorrupt virgin after giving birth.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* Beholding the sea of life, surging with the storm of temptations, I run to your calm haven and cry to you: Raise my life from corruption, O most merciful one.

Your beautiful feet truly proclaimed the glad tidings of transcendent peace, through your excellent mind, O honoured disciple of Christ.

You were brought to understand and preach the awesome mystery of the incarnation of God, O ever-memorable James, who received pristine rays of light from the Most High himself.

Shining with the splendour of ineffable light, O supreme apostle of Christ, you earnestly pray for those who celebrate your honourable memory.

*Theotokion* As you gave birth to the good God who has dominion over all creation, O most pure Lady, you removed the wounds of my offences, rendering compassionate him who was born of you.

### *Kontakion, tone 2, to the Special Melody* The steadfast...

Let us all praise and bless the divine herald James, who steadfastly instilled the dogmas of wisdom in the souls of the pious: standing before the throne of the Master of glory, he rejoices with all the angels, praying unceasingly for us all.

*Ikos* As the disciple and friend of Christ, ever abiding with the immaterial choirs, illumined with the light of the never-waning radiance, dispel the darkness of my mind, O blessed one, that I may hymn your luminous memory, which all creation hymns, celebrating piously today; for you are the guide and beacon of the faithful, O James, praying unceasingly for us all.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children in Babylon did not fear the fiery furnace, but standing together in the midst of the flames, bedewed they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The multitude of the nations have you as a divine seed illumined by the splendour and radiance of the Spirit; and it sings: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Adorned with divinely given wisdom, you destroyed the wisdom of the world, O apostle, crying out with godly wisdom: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Your sound has gone out into all the world like thunder, O Apostle James, as you proclaimed the incarnate Word to all lands, rightly preaching him.

*Theotokion* Holier than all the saints, O virgin Mother, you ineffably gave birth to God; and hymning him we cry out unceasingly: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* The blessed youths in Babylon, braving danger for the laws of their fathers, reviled the mindless command of the ruler, and, united by the fire which burned them not, they sang a fitting hymn to the Almighty: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Truly taught the mysteries of heaven as a sacred disciple, O blessed apostle, you passed through the world, proclaiming the message of the faith of Christ, and giving instruction through ineffable grace: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

As one rich and blessed, as a conversor and companion of the Master, enriched truly and well in his final share, James sang to the Lord in gladness: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

O blessed apostle, stand before the Saviour as an excellent intercessor for the world, and ask that rich peace be granted from on high for the Churches, remission of transgressions for those who praise you with faith and salvation for the souls of those who sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* O exalted Mother of God, the mediator of salvation for all, you gave birth to God the Saviour, the Word of God, who has delivered us from the ancient curse and given his blessing to those cry out with faith: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* Weep not for me, O Mother, as you see in the sepulchre the Son whom you conceived without seed in your womb. For I shall arise and be glorified, and as God I shall raise to eternal glory those who magnify you with faith and love.

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O blessed one, you appeared to the world as flashing lightning, drawing those who of old sat in the darkness and shadow of ignorance toward the never-waning light of the incarnate only-begotten Son, whose witness and true servant you were, and whom we magnify.

Receiving the breath of the mighty wind coming down from the heavens, and enriched by the Spirit's fiery tongue, you burnt up the ungodly wisdom of the world like thorns, shining with the luminous rays of the proclamation of Christ, and dispelling the darkness, O divinely blessed one.

O divinely eloquent Apostle James, accept the hymn of supplication which we offer, celebrating your honoured and radiant memory: deliver your servants from their sins, O supreme apostle of Christ, praying earnestly, that we may fittingly magnify you.

*Theotokion* As you received the Word without knowing man, O most pure Virgin, you remained incorrupt, for us giving birth to Emmanuel, who is both God and man: acknowledging his two natures, we magnify you.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

We acknowledge you not as the son of Alpheus, but as the disciple of the Word, O James, glory of the apostles; for you have received divine radiance and the grace of miracles, to drive away the infirmities of those who with faith celebrate your sacred memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* As you have compassion and great mercy, O immaculate virgin Mother of God, look upon my lowliness, and dispel the storm of the passions and the assaults of grief; and deliver me from the fire of Gehenna by your supplications.

*Let everything that has breath... and the Praises, 4 verse, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

With the rod of grace \* you drew men \* from the depths of vanity, O wondrous James, \* obedient to the behest of your teacher, \* who enlightened your understanding in all things \* and revealed you, \* O blessed apostle, \* as an honoured divine herald \* of his unapproachable divinity. *Twice*

The radiance of the Spirit \* descended upon you in the form of fire, \* and made you a divine receptacle, O blessed one, \* who quickly dispelled the darkness of ungodliness \* and illumined the world \* with the radiance of wise words, \* O apostle who gave utterance to mysteries, \* adornment of the apostles, \* O blessed witness of Christ.

Illumining those who sit in the darkness of ignorance \* with the lightning-flashes of your preaching, \* O glorious one, \* you show them to be children of God the Master \*

because of their faith: \* you emulated his sufferings and death, \* and became an heir to his glory, \* as one wise and divinely eloquent, \* a disciple most true.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2*

Forsaking earthly things, you follow Christ; and, sealed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you were sent by him to nations which were perishing, to convert men to the light of the knowledge of God, O Apostle James. Finishing the struggles of your divine suffering and torments, you committed your soul to Christ: entreat him, O blessed one, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* I place all my hope in you, O Mother of God: keep me safe under your protection.

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the apostle.*

*Prokimenon, tone 8*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*Epistle to the Corinthians, number 131 [1 Cor. 4: 9-16]*

*Alleluia, tone 1*

Let the heavens praise your wonders O Lord and let your faithfulness be sung in the assembly of the holy ones.

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

*Gospel of Luke, number 51 [10:16-21]*

*Communion Verse*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

## **October 10**

**(and June 27, the anniversary of the uncovering of their relics)**

### **The 14 venerable Fathers of Optina**

#### **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses,  
beginning with these 4, tone 4  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Venerable elders of Optina, \* having taken up the yoke of Christ, \* you laboured with fasting and prayer \* and frequent vigils, \* and shone forth in hope and faith, \* and yet more with love, \* which is the chief among the virtues, \* with which those who approach you may warm themselves. *twice*

You struggled ardently in obedience, \* making your will subject \* to the guidance of your fathers \* who begat you spiritually; \* you received as help against the adversary \* most profound humility, \* with which you destroyed the snares of the foe; \* for the enemy can accomplish nothing \* against those who are humble.

Guides of the Orthodox people, \* like the apostle you cried out: \* Nothing will separate us from the love of God. \* You made that which is lower subject to that which is higher \* and enslaved the flesh to the spirit. \* Therefore, you have become luminaries of the Church, \* set, not under a bushel, but on a lamp stand, \* that those who behold your works \* may glorify the heavenly Father.

*And 4 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody All-glorious wonder...*

O all-glorious wonder; \* amid the tumult of life \* the divinely wise fathers \* with placid hearts, dwelt bodily with men; \* but standing nobly before God, \* protected by the shelter of his wings, \* bearing the spirit of peace, \* they drew many to Christ. *twice*

Intercessors most rich, \* instruments of the Holy Spirit, \* giving utterance to never-ceasing prayer \* in a contrite and humble heart, \* you shone with angelic compassion \* and struggled for his sake. \* O physicians of souls and bodies, \* take pity and spare us \* who are beset by the tempest of many passions.

O venerable elders, \* vessels of the Holy Spirit, \* who built up the Church of Christ \* with your gifts of grace, \* you were zealous for spiritual things, \* having acquired the gift of prophecy, \* telling men things profitable, \* for their edification and consolation, \* emulating the prophets of old.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

Having broken the bonds of the passions, you strove for love of the good and clothed yourselves in Christ, becoming heirs to the life on high through abstinence and humility. Having found rest from your labours, you rightly rejoice with the heavenly hosts. Venerable fathers of Optina, ask remission of transgressions for those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Dogmatikon* Who would not call you blessed, O most holy Virgin?  
Who would not hymn your most pure maternity?  
For the only begotten Son  
who shone forth from the Father from eternity,  
came forth, ineffably incarnate from you, O pure one.  
He who by nature is God,  
for our sakes assumed the nature of man;  
not divided into two persons,  
but known in two natures without confusion.  
O pure and most blessed Lady,  
pray to him to have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance. Prokimenon of the day. Readings*

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honoured for length of time, or measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and while living among sinners were taken up. They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or guile deceive their souls. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; or their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

A reading from the Proverbs

The memory of the righteous is praised and the Lord's blessing is upon him. Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels,

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and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord. To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion. I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength. I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge, for I will instruct you in the truth that your hope may be in the Lord and that you will be filled with the Spirit.

A reading from the Proverbs

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse. A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but an accurate weight is his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless keeps their ways straight, but the wicked fall by their own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright saves them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their schemes. When the wicked die, their hope perishes, and the expectation of the godless comes to nothing. The righteous are delivered from trouble, and the wicked get into it instead. With their mouths the godless would destroy their neighbors, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. Whoever belittles another lacks sense, but an intelligent person remains silent.

*Entreaty, the verse of the church, and these verses of the venerable fathers*

*Tone 2* God, who is wondrous in his saints, has revealed to us new strugglers for piety, the venerable elders of Optina, who, abiding in God, looked upon the beauty of Christ, being mystically illumined with divine splendour.

*Tone 4* You gave neither sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids, O blessed ones, until you attained the love of God, which was poured forth abundantly upon you. Thereby you received divine gifts to heal soul-corrupting passions: you cure infirmities by faith, and expel unclean spirits: O venerable fathers, pray for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 5*

Come, you zealots of piety, let us praise our spiritual fathers: Leo, Moses and Anthony, Isaacius, Macarius and Anatolius, and with them Hilarion and Barsanuphius,

Joseph and great Ambrose, the other Anatolius and Nectarius, and the martyrs Nicon and Isaacius. With hymns let us honour the great elders, crying out to them: Venerable and divinely wise fathers, never cease your prayers for us, for you are our helpers.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion* You are the temple and portal, the palace and throne of the king, O most honoured Virgin, through whom Christ the Lord, my deliverer, who is the Sun of Righteousness, has revealed himself to those who sleep in darkness, desiring to enlighten those fashioned by his own hand in his image. O exalted Lady, as you have maternal boldness before him, entreat him without ceasing, that our souls be saved.

*Aposticha, tone 4,*  
*to the Special Melody* Called from on high...

You offered yourself to the Almighty, \* O venerable father Leo, \* your soul afire with divine zeal; \* and you furnished your mind with wings to soar to the heavens. \* Then you forsook the world \* and all that is in it \* and followed Christ \* with steadfast resolve, \* preferring nothing to his love. \* Entreat him \* that he save and enlighten our souls.

*Verse* Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Having loved God from your youth, \* O venerable Macarius, \* you followed him with all your soul, \* in no way preferring that which is in the world; \* but, considering all things as dung, \* you hastened to please God, \* founding yourself in his commandments. \* Having attained your uttermost desire, \* you stand before Christ, \* entreating him \* to save and enlighten our souls.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Venerable father Ambrose, \* you acquired perfect love \* for God and your neighbour, \* which is the bond of perfection, \* and, as the adornment of monks \* and the consolation of those who live in the world, \* you gathered ranks of nuns, \* becoming all things to all men, as said the Apostle; \* and you brought your children to the Master, \* entreating him \* to save and enlighten our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

Illumined with the light of the Trinity, O venerable fathers, you fled the darkness of pleasures and were shown to be beacons, illumining the hearts of the faithful. Celebrating your radiant memorial, we sing: O God-bearers most rich, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion* O Virgin unwedded,

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who inconceivably conceived God in the flesh;  
receive the prayers of your servants.

O immaculate Mother of God the Most High  
who grants cleansing of transgressions to all:  
receive our entreaty that we all may be saved.

*Troparion of the fathers of Optina, tone 1*

Abiding in unceasing prayer  
and embracing the wicked as well as the good with love,  
O venerable elders of Optina, you served God and your neighbours,  
and through vigils, tears and fasting received the gift of miracles.  
Glory to him who has given us such mediators:  
glory to him who has glorified you:  
glory to God who is wondrous in his saints.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*     At the sound of Gabriel's voice  
calling to you: Rejoice, O Virgin,  
the Master of all was conceived in you, the holy tabernacle,  
of which righteous David spoke.  
In bearing your creator you surpass the spaciousness of the heavens.  
~ Glory to him who dwelt in you;  
~ glory to him who came forth from you;  
glory to him who set us free by your giving of birth.

## Matins

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the venerable ones, twice;*  
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion.*

*After the first reading of the Psalter,  
this Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody That which was commanded...*

Having subdued irrational passions by the powers of your spirit, O venerable ones, enriched by Christ our God with the gift of healing, you grant benefactions to your reason-endowed flock. Celebrating your sacred and luminous festival, we ask cleansing for our souls. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*     O divinely joyous, pure and blessed one, with the venerable fathers and elders, and all the saints, unceasingly entreat him, who in the loving kindness of his

compassion was born of you, that, before the end, he grant us forgiveness of sins, correction of life and his great mercy.

*After the second reading of the Psalter,  
this Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody That which was commanded...*

Having been granted great gifts, O venerable ones, you lived in humility upon the earth, freely healing the sufferings of the infirm; and you became conversors with the angels, O blessed fathers of Optina. By your supplications also heal our passions. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, with the venerable ones entreat the unapproachable Word, the Son of God, who, past understanding, was ineffably born of you, that he grant pure peace to the world, and that, before the end, he grant us forgiveness of transgressions and, in his extreme goodness, the kingdom of heaven.

*Polyeleos, and this magnification*

We bless you, O venerable fathers of Optina, and we honour your holy memory, O instructors of monastics and conversors with the angels.

*Verse* I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined to me and heard my cry.

*After the Polyeleos, this Sessional Hymn, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

Ineffable is the grace which the saints have received from Christ; and so, invoked with faith, they heal incurable diseases, and with divine power their relics work miracles. Through their supplications, O Lord, free us also from passions of soul and body, in that you love mankind. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All of us who with love have recourse to your goodness know you to be the Mother of God who, even after giving birth, remained a true virgin; for we sinners have you as our intercession, and we have acquired you as our salvation amid dangers, O immaculate Lady.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Let every breath... *and the rest, with the Gospel of Matthew, number 43, (11: 27-30)*

*The Psalm Have mercy... and the rest, with the verse, tone 6*

Having rejected the tyranny of the passions and trampled every plot of the wicked serpent underfoot through Christ, O venerable fathers of Optina, you were radiant with light, illumining the whole world like beacons, dispelling the darkness and healing infirmities through grace, as the helpers of all who celebrate your holy memory with faith.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paracrisis], tone 8,  
and that of the venerable fathers, in the same tone*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Having traversed the water as though it were dry land, and escaping the evil of Egypt, the Israelite cried out: Let us sing to our deliverer and our God.

You are a model for monastics, O healers of the infirm and sorrowful: O shepherds of lost sheep, teach us to offer hymnody worthy of you.

Exalting our instructors, let us say: You are a holy seed, O venerable fathers, the praise of the land of Russia and confirmation of your children.

Rejoice, O honoured Paisius our father, chief shepherd of the monastic folds, guide of ranks of monks to the heavenly pasture and instructor of the Russian land.

Theodore, the monk of Svir, with many tears and a life of sorrow endured evils; yet, steadfast and strong of mind, he spiritually nurtured a son, Leo, amid his pangs.

*Theotokion* O virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ incarnate of you, that he preserve the Russian land, and save our souls, in that he is merciful.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Lord, the fashioner of heaven's vault and founder of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, who alone is the lover of mankind.

You set Christ, the chief cornerstone, as the firm foundation of your struggles, and became the first of the company of elders, O Leo; and you received the grace to dispel the infirmities of those who suffered cruelly.

O Leo, you cried out thus to those who oppressed you: I shall sing to my God for as long as I have my being: who will separate me from his love? Therein will I remain to the end, doing his will with boldness.

Truly blessed was venerable Macarius, who fed the souls of the hungry, freely nourishing all with his grace-filled discourse, satisfying their spiritual starvation and bringing peace to souls beset by the storm of the passions.

*Theotokion* From you, O Mother of God, a torrent of sweetness has flowed, watering all men and washing away the defilement of their souls, O Virgin Mother of God; therefore, save from all tribulations those who venerate your precious image.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody You have appeared...*

You were seen to be instruments of the Holy Spirit, O venerable fathers, and have been granted gifts of prophecy; for the unapproachable light shone in your souls. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* At a loss how to hymn you worthily, who is more exalted than all creation, O Mother of God, we implore you: Freely have mercy on us.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* I have heard the mystery of your dispensation O Lord; I have understood your works, and I glorify your divinity.

O most wise Macarius, you gleaned spiritual grain from the writings of the holy fathers, and fed hungry souls.

As the instructor of monks in the Monastery of the Forerunner, O Anthony, by your life of abstinence, pray for those who praise you.

As brethren in the flesh and spirit, O divinely wise pastors Moses and Anthony, you guided your sheep to the pasture.

*Theotokion* O pure Mother of God, divine flower and root which put forth a shoot, unceasingly pray for us who hymn you as the Mother of God.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* Enlighten us through your commandments, O Lord; and with your upraised arm grant us your peace, O lover of mankind.

As Elisha received a double measure of grace from Elias, so upon you, O father Ambrose, the grace of fathers Leo and Macarius came to rest.

O Ambrose, you acquired within yourself love, the perfection of the virtues; for you were all things to all men, and a refuge for the poor.

## **October 10**

O Ambrose, with divine food you nourished starving hearts, and fed your sheep on the pasture of the Word.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, our fervent helper, illumine us who pray to you, ever making entreaty for us, your unworthy servants.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* I pour out my prayer to the Lord and declare my grief to him; for my soul is replete with evil and my life approaches Hades; and like Jonah I pray: Lead me up from corruption O God.

You were a true son, O Joseph, having acquired unfeigned obedience, the begetter of dispassion; and as one meek, pure and merciful, you humbly said: I am useless without my father.

The chaste-minded Joseph faithfully followed in the steps of his father: he humbled himself even to death, thus emulating Christ the Master. We beseech him: Teach humility even to us sinners.

Having acquired the love of your father, O Anatolius, with him you shepherded the reason-endowed flock; and now, father, forget us not, but be mindful of your sheep and guide them, seeking your lost children and leading us all to salvation.

*Theotokion* I know you to be the helper of my life and my steadfast protector, O Virgin, who takes away with the tumult of temptations and averts the assaults of the demons; and I ever pray that you deliver me from my passions.

*Kontakion, tone 8,*  
*to the Special Melody* To you, the champion leader...

Having withdrawn from vain work and discovering a treasure through a pure life, you have not abandoned your care for sinners in this world.

As guides for the lost, you deliver us from worldly vanity,  
and so we may say: Rejoice, divinely-wise elders.

*Ikos* Emulating the angels, you withdrew from the world, desiring to make your abode in the wilderness; yet forget us not who are still in the world, we sinners pray, that, delivered from deception, we may address you thus: Rejoice, physicians of spiritual sicknesses; rejoice, healers of bodily ailments. Rejoice, surpassers of the understanding of the wise; rejoice, guides of the unwise to understanding. Rejoice, offerers of unceasing prayer; rejoice, mediators before God for sinners. Rejoice, divinely wise elders.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The youths from Judea once in Babylon trod down the flames of the furnace with their faith in the Trinity, as they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers..

Father Hilarion, having withdrawn from the world, abandoning all in it and considering it but dung, you cleaved to the elders Leo and Macarius, and received from Christ the authority to drive out evil spirits.

Isaacius, the compassionate monk, comforted those who came to him, helping them in every way, as parents help their children.

No prophet is without honour in his own house, for they drove away all the prophets; but you, venerable father Barsanuphius, being driven out, were granted blessedness, having endured exile for righteousness' sake.

*Theotokion* Virgin Mother of God, pray to your Son for us who with faith have recourse to your mercy and worship him, that we be delivered from tribulation and temptation.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* The king of heaven who is hymned by the angelic hosts; praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Nectarius has come to share in eternal glory, having spurned the glory of this life; for every one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Let the fathers Anatolius, Nectarius, Isaacius and Nicon be blessed; for, having suffered lawfully, they join chorus for ever.

Driven out by apostates, the fathers were not troubled, but cried out: Our life is in heaven.

*Theotokion* Reject not those who require your aid, O Virgin, and who hymn and exalt you above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* We who are saved by you, O pure Virgin, confess you to be the true Mother of God, and with the bodiless choirs we magnify you.

Truly you acquired every virtue, and every gift was given you: save your flock, and pray for them.

We have accepted the commandment to give thanks for all things, and we praise God who has given you to us, O holy guides to his kingdom.

O our intercessors, pray earnestly for the land of Russia, and save all who celebrate your memory with faith.

## **October 10**

*Theotokion* O holy Lady, help us sinners, and deliver our land from evil enemies. We implore you to keep us under the shelter of your wings.

*Exapostilarion,*  
*to the Special Melody* Adorning the heavens with stars...

Let us honour the divinely wise elders, the radiant beacons, the strivers for piety, the teachers of the virtues, the instructors of the faith, who pray for us.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O Virgin Mother of the Lord, the sweetness of the angels, joy of the sorrowful, intercessor for Christians: help us, and deliver us from eternal torment.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, 4 verses, tone 6,*  
*to the Special Melody* Having set aside...

Having set aside \* all care for earthly things, \* and cast the tyranny of the passions \* far away from yourselves, \* O venerable and God-bearing fathers, \* you made your abode in the wilderness, \* and, having cleansed your hearts, \* you were illumined with grace, \* and, shining brightly as lamps, \* you enlighten the world, \* driving darkness from those who honour \* your holy memory. *twice*

The spiritual luminaries \* which shone forth in the firmament of the Church \* in latter times \* guide to the calm haven \* those tempest-tossed upon the deep \* and engulfed by the pleasures of life; \* and they dispel the darkness of sin, \* calm the storms of the passions, \* turn men away from the evil way \* which leads to destruction, \* and pray with boldness \* for the salvation of our souls.

No longer do you behold \* the glory of the Lord in indistinct images, \* but face to face, \* the reflection having been broken: \* that glory which eye has not see, \* nor ear heard, \* which has not entered into the heart of men, \* but which God has prepared for those who love him. \* But having been granted these good things, \* forget us not, \* but pray that we be saved \* who celebrate your memory.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

Having lifted the cross to your shoulders and crucified the flesh with the passions and lusts, you crushed the head of the serpent. Let us also be vanquishers of sin, and teach us to offer fruits worthy of repentance.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion* O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

*Great Doxology. Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the venerable ones.*

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.  
Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

*Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians number 213 (5:22-6:2)*

*Alleluia, tone 6*

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.  
His children shall be mighty in the land.

*Gospel of Luke, number 24 [6: 17-23]*

*Communion*

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 11**

### **Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the Seven Deacons, also Venerable Theophanes Bishop of Nicea Confessor and Hymnographer**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these of the Apostle, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

Blessed Philip, \* as one full of wisdom and grace divine \* were numbered among the seven deacons, \* you were chosen with Stephen \* to minister to the needs of the saints. \* When you saw him slain, \* you hastened to Samaria \* at the command of God, O glorious one, \* preaching the divine message \* and enlightening those who before were in darkness, \* whom you made children of the day \* through the Spirit of God.

Beholding the divine signs \* wrought by your hand: \* the recovery of sight by the blind, \* the healing of the paralyzed, \* the expulsion of unclean spirits, \* the people marvelled, O Philip, \* and came to you for spiritual cleansing, \* brought suddenly from unbelief to faith. \* When they heard of this, \* the divine choir of the apostles \* was gladdened, \* for a multitude of Samaritans was led to God.

Being yourself a chariot of the Word, \* O divinely eloquent one, \* beholding the wondrous eunuch of Candace \* riding upon a chariot, \* questioning and in doubt, \* you overtook him \* and revealed to him the discourse and manifestation \* of that which he desired, O blessed one; \* and, believing, he asked of you divine cleansing. \* When he had received it, \* the creator of all made him a divine preacher, \* the first among the martyrs of all Ethiopia.

*And three verses to venerable Theophanes, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody Having set all aside...*

O glorious Theophanes, you abode in the firmament of faith like a star most bright, dispelling the darkness of the heretics with the rays of your light and illumining with your divine teaching those who turned to you with faith and love. With love we celebrate your radiant feast: pray with boldness for our souls.

Having armed your soul with labours of fasting, you put an end to the frivolity of the flesh, O sacred father, and made your mind a dwelling of the divine Trinity. You

were raised up to ineffable beauty where the armies of the martyrs and the assemblies of hierarchs dwell, and with them you now rejoice, standing in glory before Christ, praying with boldness in for our souls.

With the divine streams of your tears, O hierarch, you drowned the encampment of the demons as though it were helpless; and by your continual beseeching of God and your mighty ascents you cast down to the earth prideful exaltation and ascend to the splendid mansion of heaven, where you abide with the angels, standing before Christ, praying with all the company of the blessed ones.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 6*

*Theotokion* I am dragged down by my wicked way of life and enslaved by the deception of the evil one, O Bride of God, wretch that I am; but I have recourse to your most wondrous loving kindness and fervent aid. Deliver me from the bonds of temptations and grief, and save me from the assaults of the demons, that I may glorify and hymn you with love and worship and magnify you, our ever-blessed Lady.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The unblemished lamb, the immaculate Lady, \* when, of old, she beheld her Lamb \* upon the tree of the cross, \* marvelling, exclaimed maternally: \* O my child most sweet, \* what new and strange sight is this that I see? \* How can the thankless assembly \* betray you to the judgment-seat of Pilate \* and condemn you to death, \* the life of all? \* I hymn your ineffable condescension, \* O Word.

*Troparion of the apostle, tone 3*

Holy apostle Philip, | intercede with the merciful God, || that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

*Troparion to the venerable one, tone 8*

Instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity; beacon of all the world and divinely inspired adornment of monastics: O Theophanes most wise, you have enlightened all by your doctrines. O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.*

### *Ode 1*

*Canon to the Apostle, tone 6,  
composed by venerable Joseph  
upon the acrostic I hymn the divine glory of Philip.*

*Irmos* Traversing the deep on foot as if it were dry land, Israel looked upon the tyrant Pharaoh as he drowned and cried out: Let us sing to God a song of victory.

Illumined by the splendid radiance of Christ, O wise one, you became its reflection in your partaking of the divinity, bearing a lamp before the faithful, O glorious Philip.

The superessential Word, who brought about our entire being, appointed you his sacred disciple to deliver the gentiles from profane darkness, O wise one.

By the imposition of the hands of the sacred disciples you were ordained a sacred deacon with Stephen and the others, O Philip, as one full of the Spirit of God.

*Theotokion* He who brought all things out of nothingness had you as the vehicle of his incarnation, O pure Mother of God: we, the faithful, rightly bless you.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes, same tone*

*Irmos* Traversing the deep on foot... *as before*

By your prayers drive away the gloom of my mind, O hierarch of Christ, that with songs I may hymn your sacred and radiant memory.

From Zion you flowed as a river, O glorious one, with divine streams giving drink to the assemblies of the faithful, crying out: Let us sing to God a song of victory.

Illumined in soul with divine splendour, O Theophanes, you consumed the delight of the passions with the fire of abstinence, singing: Let us sing a hymn to Christ.

*Theotokion* With the splendid rays of the light of your Son illumine my benighted soul, O Mother of God, and still the turmoil of the passions by your intercessions.

### *Ode 3*

*Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* There is none holy as you O Lord my God, who has exalted the strength of your faithful O good one, and has established us on the rock of your confession.

Those who were in the darkness of unbelief you make sons of light O blessed one, declaring the glory of the Word in awesome signs, like a lofty heaven.

Sacredly proclaiming Christ who shone forth from the tribe of Judah, O blessed one, with the light of grace you taught him whom Moses and the prophets foretold of old.

With words flowing with sweetness you prevailed upon those long cast off through ignorance to reject soul-destroying poison and accept the grace of salvation, O divinely inspired Philip.

*Theotokion* O Maiden, you are the mystic candlestick truly bearing the light which, in his extreme goodness, enlightens those before held fast in the night of ignorance.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* There is none holy...

As one full of the divine Spirit, O wise apostle, with the sweetness of piety and the living word you richly nourished the hearts of those who looked to you.

Shining with the commandments of divine splendour, O blessed one, you drove away the gloom of heresy, singing to Christ, the giver of life: Holy are you, O Lord.

Ascending the mountain of divine virtues, O hierarch, and entering darkness, you united yourself with God and received the tablet of wisdom, the law of grace.

*Theotokion* Behold, the ladder which Jacob once saw, whereon God established himself, is now known to be the pure, radiant and virginal Mother of God.

*Kontakion of Theophanes, tone 2  
to the Special Melody Seeking the Highest...*

Thundering forth the divine incarnation of Christ, you utterly denounced the incorporeal foe, O wondrous Theophanes; and so we all sing to you with faith: Pray unceasingly on behalf of us all.

*Sessional Hymn of the Apostle, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

As an expeller of demons and as a beacon enlightening those who are in darkness, you revealed the sun who shone forth from the Virgin; and having destroyed temples of

## **October 11**

idols, you raised up churches to the glory of God. We honour you and radiantly celebrate your divine memory, and together we sing to you: O apostle Philip, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *that of the venerable one, tone 4,*  
*to the Special Melody* You have appeared today...

You have appeared today, O venerable one, as another sun, that of the Church, illumining her with the lightning flashes of your divine words, as a disciple of the Lord, O Theophanes.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Stretching forth your pure hands, O virgin Mother, protect those who trust in you and cry out to your Son: Bestow you your mercies upon all, O Christ.

*Theotokion of the Cross* Beholding your Son raised aloft upon the tree, O most pure Lady, your innermost being rent with pain, you cried out in pity: Woe is me; how can you set thus, O my everlasting light?

*Ode 4*

*Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, sings the holy Church in reverent piety, raising her voice with a pure mind, and keeping festival in the Lord.

Seeing your wonders and great signs, O Philip, Simon accepted baptism hypocritically, without abandoning his wickedness; so he was given over to damnation.

Those in the city of Samaria, beholding you wielding great powers, O Philip, preacher of Christ, accepted the light of divine knowledge with gladness.

God, said the angel of the Lord to you, directed the way of the sacred Ethiopian, O Philip, that he might come to know the way of the Word's incarnation.

The sacred eunuch of Candace, beholding you who taught him, was baptized at your hand, O Philip, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he became a divine preacher

*Theotokion* Your Son, incarnate of your pure blood and begotten, O immaculate Lady, has made children of men sons of God: therefore, we glorify you.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Irmos* Christ is my strength...

Cleansed through fasting, O wise father Theophanes, you became wholly filled with light, wholly contained by God, wholly partaking of the Holy Spirit.

Famished by starvation, cast into cruel imprisonment, you endured torture like a martyr, O blessed one, rejoicing in the Lord in a pure conscience.

Gleaming with admonitions, you were sharpened as a sword of Christ which cuts apart the machinations of heretics, tempered by the divine Spirit.

*Theotokion* You were a most radiant beacon, a divine table, the dwelling-place of God, the ark and the rod which put forth in the world the blossom of Christ, O virgin Mother.

*Ode 5*

*Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* I pray you, O good one, illumine with your divine light the souls of those who rise at dawn with love for you, that they may know you O Word of God to be truly God, who calls them back from the deep gloom of transgression.

Fearing not the wrath of the iniquitous, O Philip, you truly walked among wolves like a lamb, bringing them to piety through words of grace, O blessed one.

Emmanuel was led like a lamb to the slaughter, as glorious Isaiah says: the sacred eunuch of Candace, unable to understand this, was taught by you, O Philip.

We known you as a disciple of sacred eloquence, one of the seven chosen deacons, a divine foundation of the Church, a beacon for those in darkness, O Philip.

*Theotokion* Confessing you truly to be the Mother of God with all our heart, we are delivered from temptations and vexations by your intercessions before the Lord and God of all, O divinely blessed one.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Irmos* I pray you, O good one...

With your radiance you destroyed the gloomy darkness of heretics, O sacred father, illuminating and enlightening the ends of the world with the light of divine knowledge.

The defenders of the impious cruelly wounded you, O wondrous father whom the ranks of angels have embraced as a hierarch of Christ and a divine martyr.

You are a radiant guide for those astray, O father, a helmsman for those who sail the sea, firm ground for those tossed about by the assaults of cruel enemies, and an immovable defence.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, you are the glory of mortals and refuge for sinners, the beauty of Jacob which God loved and where he chose to dwell.

*Ode 6*

*Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* Beholding the sea of life, surging with the storm of temptations, I run to your calm haven and cry to you: Raise my life from corruption, O most merciful one.

Full of spiritual waters, you flowed like a river of divine Eden, your ripples watering the ends of the earth and giving drink to the hearts of the faithful, O wondrous one.

When you opened your lips, O disciple of Christ, they were filled with divine knowledge; and when you pried open the maw of the evil one, you rescued multitudes of those he had swallowed, and saved them.

The might of the invisible foe was cast down and he perished when, with the might of the Spirit, you preached the crucified Christ who called the nations to himself, O Philip.

*Theotokion* O Christ most holy, your holy Mother gave birth to you, the author of creation, outside the laws of nature, and in manner transcending nature she truly remained an undefiled virgin.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Irmos* Beholding the sea of life...

Like the sun, you emit rays of divine splendour, O blessed one, praising the sufferings, bonds, wounds and wondrous struggles of the martyrs, O hierarch of Christ.

Praising our pure Lady with your tongue in a pure manner, O divinely wise one, you have sung splendid discourses which gladden the assemblies of the faithful and the hearts of the wise.

With the writing on your honourable and pure face, O wise one, you obliterated the writings of the impious and their abominable and godless commands, proclaiming the veneration of the icon of Christ.

*Theotokion* God, who created and sustains all things by his will, infinite in his divine essence yet contained within a body, was carried in your arms, O most pure Lady.

*Kontakion of the Apostle, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Having been lifted up...*

The most wondrous fisher of the nations and conversor with the disciples of Christ, Philip, chosen from among the apostles today bestows a wealth of healings upon the world, and protects those who praise him from evil circumstances. Therefore we sing to him: Save us all by your prayers, O apostle.

*Ikos* Declaring the glory of God like the heavens, O eyewitness of Christ, you drew distant nations to the faith, that they might be close to God. Like Moses the giver of the Law, you enriched your flock; as of old he divided the sea and led his people across, and afterwards in the desert fed them with heavenly bread. But you, delivering all creation in Christ from cold and cruel lack of faith, has led to the heavenly mansions on high those who cry: Save us all by your prayers, O apostle.

*Ode 7*

*Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* An angel moistened the furnace with dew for the holy youths, but the commandment of God consumed the Chaldeans with fire and caused the tyrant to cry out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The supremely divine one has led you, O Philip, as a horse which tramples the sea of the nations, crushes the heads of the foe and sings to him with song: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As one who imparts mysteries, O wise Philip, you taught lands and nations, relating the mystery hidden before the ages, cleansing them of the abominable mysteries.

As a magnificent star, O glorious Philip, you are the adornment of Tralles, where your precious body rests working glorious wonders for the enlightenment of those who piously bless you.

*Theotokion* Saved by you day and night from harmful attacks of the enemy, all kinds of temptations and defilements of soul, O most pure virgin Mary, we call you the Mother of God.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Irmos* The children in Babylon did not fear the fiery furnace, but standing together in the midst of the flames, bedewed they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Teaching the Word of truth, subjected to persecution, O hierarch Theophanes, you endured the trial of wounds and sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The streams of your dogmas, O wise one, like the sea have overwhelmed the impious who do not sing to Christ our God: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

## **October 11**

The rivers of your words which flow with honey, O Theophanes, have filled with divine gladness the souls of men who sing to God most glorious.

*Theotokion* The Son of God, incarnate of you, O virgin Mother, has now appeared, working a great mystery in you: to him we gladly sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

### *Ode 8*

#### *Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* You caused dew to gush from the flames upon the venerable youths, and you burnt the water poured on the sacrifice of your righteous one: for you, O Christ, perform all things by the power of your will alone, and we exalt you above all for ever.

Using the divine word as salt, O blessed one, you cleansed the foul stench and healed the hearts of men, that they might honour and glorify the Trinity for ever.

The legs of the lame were strengthened at your word, O wise one, and vile and unclean spirits lamented, unable to endure the grace given to you.

Those of old in Samaria, seeing the many wonders wrought by you through the power of the Spirit, the source of grace, received a ray of grace from you, O Philip.

*Theotokion* Strengthen my soul vexed by the malice of the adversary, O pure Virgin who by divine love received within yourself him who changes all things, yet you yourself are unchanged.

#### *Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Irmos* The blessed youths in Babylon, braving danger for the laws of their fathers, reviled the mindless command of the ruler, and, united by the fire which burned them not, they sang a fitting hymn to the Almighty: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Truly holding to the law of the fathers, O blessed one, you spat upon the senseless command of the iniquitous ruler who was destroying those who piously venerated the image of the Lord, which he received when he manifested himself for the world through the Virgin: him we exalt above all for ever.

A divine intellect, a harmonious harp of the holy Spirit, a melodious nightingale, the summit of the faithful, pillar and ground of Orthodoxy, the firmament of the Church, boast of monks, the glory and strength of the fathers: thus you appeared, O wise Theophanes, hymning Christ for ever.

As vial of myrrh of the all-holy Spirit you flowed with your myrrh-scented and wise teachings, O father, destroying the rank corruption of deception; and with your

manner of life you perfume the honoured Church, singing: With hymns we exalt you above all for ever, O Christ.

*Theotokion* O Virgin, you are that most fertile mountain of God which your forefather David described of old in prophetic song, whence Christ, the cornerstone, was cut, who has crushed the might of idolatry: we unceasingly hymn and exalt him above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Canon to the Apostle*

*Irmos* It is not possible for man to see God, upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze; but through you, O most pure one, appeared to us the incarnate Word, whom magnifying with the heavenly hosts, we call you blest.

Beholding things for which you waited from of old, and having received a divine and unchallenged authority, O divinely eloquent Philip, you taught to men: adorn yourself and dance, delighting in divine enlightenment and consolation.

Like a lamp, like a star, like the great sun, you have circled the world with your luminous rays, announcing your divine proclamation: coming to Tralles, a city of Asia, O blessed one, you became a leader there where you reposed.

To those near and far away you proclaimed the cross, death and resurrection of the deliverer, being yourself a starry heaven shimmering with divine radiance, O Philip, wondrous apostle of Christ.

The earth covered your much-suffering body, which emits the radiance of healing, and heaven possesses your holy soul, which rejoices with the apostles, with whom my you remember us who praise you, O wise one.

*Theotokion* Every breath offers you a cry of thanksgiving, with glad sound: Rejoice, fiery throne of the Most High; rejoice, spacious field of God; rejoice, O pure one, magnificent crown of the apostles.

*Canon to Venerable Theophanes*

*Irmos* Ineffable is the childbearing from the seedless conception, and incorrupt is the pregnancy of the unwedded mother; for the birth of God makes nature new. As the Mother and Bride of God, with true worship, all generations magnify you.

He who cannot gaze upon the lover of mankind laid temptations for you, O Theophanes, Christ's champion in the church; yet you remained unmoved, valiantly and with manly mind opposing the impious emperors, exhorting them to worship the image of Christ.

## **October 11**

Adorned with the ineffable beauty of the Trinity and bedecked with splendour, O divinely wise one, you shine forth, truly standing at the throne of your creator and God, where the voice of those who keep festival is heard, O God-bearing father Theophanes.

You have received worthy honour for your struggles, and now, crowned, you rejoice with the angels in heaven, with the assembly of prophets and apostles, a truly great army of martyrs and choirs of patriarchs: remember us, O father Theophanes.

*Theotokion*    O virgin Mother of God, blessed and glorious, Mother who fights on behalf of faithful kings in battle against barbarians and protects us from the scourge of the enemy, grant us victory, that, hymning your Son, we may magnify you.

*Exapostilarion,*  
*to the Special Melody* Adorning the heavens with stars...

O apostle of Christ, your proclamation has gone throughout all the world, whereby you preached God to the nations: entreat him for us, that he shine upon us his noetic light.

Glory be to the Father... *Exapostilarion of the Venerable One,*  
*to the Special Melody* Hearken, you women...

You appear in the Church as a divine light, O Theophanes, illumining it with the splendour of your hymns and with the light of your face adorned with wounds as was Christ.: never cease to pray to him for your flock, O father.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*    The garment given of old at the font of baptism I have defiled with the wantonness of the passions, and, wretch that I am, I fear to think of the hour of the divine and truly dread judgment: O immaculate Virgin, intercede for me and deliver me from the awful threat.

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon, tone 8*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*Epistle: Acts of the Apostles (8:26-39).*

*Alleluia, tone 1*

Let the heavens praise your wonders O Lord and let your faithfulness be sung in the assembly of the holy ones.

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

*Gospel of Luke, number 51 [10:16-21]*

*Communion Verse*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

## **October 12**

### **Martyrs Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus, Hierarch Cosmas of Jerusalem, Bishop of Maiuma, the composer of Canons**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with 3 of the martyrs, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

Your face shattered, your neck wounded, \* your bones broken by staves, \* your feet and head burned, \* cruelly pricked with goads, \* your ears and lips cut away, \* forced to drink vinegar, \* cast to the wild beasts \* and beheaded with the sword, \* you rejoiced, O martyr Tarachus.

Beaten and pricked with goads, \* your sinews severed, \* deprived of your sight, \* given to be food for the wild beasts, \* exposed to fire and beheaded by the sword, \* you endured, O blessed Probus, \* adornment of the martyrs \* and confirmation of the Church, \* O glorious athlete, peer of the angels.

Burned with fire, \* beaten with leather whips, \* raked with claws, \* your sinews severed, \* your theologizing tongue cut out, \* your teeth savagely uprooted, O Andronicus, \* having wrestled with wild beasts \* and met your end under the sword, \* you finish your contest and received your crown.

*And 3 verses of the hierarch, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

As one who sustains us with wisdom, \* and nurtures us with purity, \* a treasury of understanding, \* a renowned theologian, a divine disciple, \* an enlightener of the faithful, \* we praise you, O blessed hierarch Cosmas, \* entreating the Master through you, \* that we be delivered \* from corruption, misfortune and harm.

You spent your life in abstinence, \* keeping vigils and fasts, \* in chastity and humility, O glorious one, \* and were in all ways enriched \* by the knowledge of transitory things below \* and by heavenly splendour, O blessed hierarch; \* and you thundered forth \* the incomprehensible, awesome and great mystery \* of the king of all.

You were humble-minded and meek, \* calm and goodly of speech, \* kind and unassuming, \* chaste and righteous, simple and wholesome, \* O venerable Cosmas. \* As

a hierarch revealed by God in sanctity, \* you shepherded your flock, O divinely wise one,  
\* on the verdure which grows by the waters of salvation. \* We now call you blessed.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Anatolius, tone 4*

Forsaking all the beautiful things of earth, you enlisted in Christ's army, and, taking your cross upon your shoulders, followed him through elaborate tortures and did not deny him before the rulers and many torturers. The angels crowned your heads with wreaths of victory, O martyrs valiant of soul, and you have entered the great bridal-chamber with splendour. O Probus, glory of the martyrs, Tarachus, destroyer of the demons, and Andronicus, victory of the faithful: as you have boldness before the Saviour of all, pray for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

As she beheld you, the lamb and shepherd, \* upon the tree, \* the Mother and lamb who gave you birth lamented \* and exclaimed maternally: \* O my Son most desired, \* how can you be suspended upon the wood of the cross, O long-suffering one? \* How is it that your hands and feet, O Word, \* have been pierced with nails by the iniquitous, \* and you shed your blood, O Master?

*Aposticha from the Octoechos; and Glory be to the Father... tone 1  
composed by Andrew of Jerusalem.*

Probus, Tarachus and wise Andronicus, the threefold company, equal in number to the Trinity, appearing like radiant stars from the East, summon creation to a sacred festival; for they gave their flesh to the wild beasts and, having stained the ground with their blood, have joined the choir of angels in heaven, bearing crowns and entreating God who loves mankind for us, that he grant us remission of transgressions and great mercy.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O most lauded martyrs...

The Virgin, seeing your unjust slaying, O Christ, \* cried out to you, weeping: \* O my child most sweet, \* how can you die unjustly? \* How is it that you hang upon the tree, \* who has suspended the whole earth upon the waters? \* Leave me not alone \* your Mother and handmaiden, \* I pray, O greatly merciful benefactor.

*Troparion of the martyrs, tone 5*

The hosts of heaven marvelled at the transformation of the holy martyrs, how their mortal bodies invisibly vanquished the bodiless foe, and how they contended well with the power of the cross. Now they pray to God for the salvation of our souls.

*Troparion of the hierarch, tone 8*

Instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity; beacon of all the world and divinely inspired adornment of monastics: O Cosmas most wise, you have enlightened all by your doctrines. O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos, and two canons of the saints.*

### *Ode 1*

*Canon of the martyrs, tone 8,  
composed by Joseph*

*upon the acrostic I sing the glory of your martyrs, O Saviour.*

*Irmos* The rod of Moses, working wonders in times past, marking the sea in the form of the cross, struck it and parted it, and sank Pharaoh driving his chariot, saving Israel who fled across on foot, while singing a hymn to God.

Adorned with the grace of martyrdom, with love you stand in heaven before Christ, the bestower of crowns: illumined with the light of the glory of the threefold sun, you enlighten those who bless you with faith.

O invincible martyrs, amid persecution you were valiant warriors in your brave struggles, driving away the falsehood of impiety, as you are the confirmation of the Church and the might of truth.

Dispelling the storm of evil and the raging sea of impiety with rational minds and the tranquility of the Spirit, O wise ones, you passed to the havens of heaven, rejoicing.

*Theotokion* The Word, equally unoriginate with the Father and the Holy Spirit, desired to dwell within the Virgin, and he became flesh immutably, suffering willingly, and has placed the divine armies of the martyrs where they suffered with faith.

*Canon of the holy hierarch, tone 4,  
upon the acrostic Let us wisely praise Cosmas, the composer of canons.*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Bright with the virtues, shining in the brilliance of the thrice-radiant light, O father Cosmas, you stand before the Lord: pray that those who hymn you may find radiance.

Your name is fitting to your character, as the adornment of hierarchs and the confirmation of monastics, O wise one, truly the abode of wisdom.

As a philosopher you wisely purified your soul, O renowned Cosmas, driving away the turmoil of the world as it were the gloom of darkness.

*Theotokion* Let us hymn the pure Maiden Mary, reverently glorifying her together as the Mother of God, crying: Rejoice, O pure Bride of God, blessed virgin Mother.

*Ode 3*

*Canon of the Martyrs*

*Imos* Lord the fashioner of heaven's vault and founder of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, who alone is the lover of mankind.

Mightily opposing the tyrant, O Tarachus, and enduring the battering of your face, you crushed the jaws of the noetic lions, made valiant by the power of the Spirit.

Lacerated and burned, your breast pricked with goads, your divinely glorious mouth beaten, with elevated mind you endured also the wounding of your back and belly, O martyr Probus.

Suspended like a lamb, you endured the pain of the crudest of wounds, O martyr Andronicus: the burning fire, the uprooting of your teeth and the excision of your theologizing tongue.

*Theotokion* The transcendent Word, who has brought all things into being, desired you, O pure one, as his good, beautiful and chosen one, wishing to make his abode within you.

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Imos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

With beautiful hymns you gladden the Bride of Christ, moving her to hymnody, well depicting the divine mysteries of Christ.

Nurtured on the laws of Christ, O father Cosmas, you sustained the flock entrusted to you with Orthodox precepts.

Having acquired a soul burning with the fire of divine zeal, O venerable father Cosmas, you burned away heresies.

*Theotokion* The shadows have passed away and the truth of Christ has shone forth, O Mother of God, for receiving flesh from you, he has saved us.

**October 12**

*Kontakion of the hierarch, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody To you, the chosen leader...*

Adorned with the virtues, O divinely inspired Cosmas, you were the adornment of the Church of Christ, which you have decorated with hymns, O blessed one. Pray to the Lord that we be delivered from all the wiles of the enemy, as we sing: Rejoice, O supremely blessed Cosmas.

*Sessional Hymn of the martyrs, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the wisdom...*

Having armed themselves like youths with mighty faith in the Holy Trinity, Andronicus, Probus and wise Tarachus destroyed the might of the falsehood of polytheism and bound the people to divine love. Receiving the honours of victory, they rejoice with the choirs of the incorporeal hosts. Let us cry out to them with faith: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour their holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the hierarch, same tone and melody*

Raised in piety and faith and adorned in mind and soul with wisdom, you fled all earthly cares and, dwelling alone and setting your mind on ineffable things, were granted great grace: you have adorned the divine Church of Christ with melodious hymns and doctrines. O holy hierarch Cosmas our father, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour their holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*   Conceiving the Wisdom and Word without being consumed, O Mother of God, you gave birth for the world to the nourisher of all and author of creation who sustains the world; and you held in your arms him who holds all things. I implore you, most holy Virgin, and I glorify you with faith: May I be delivered from transgressions, on the day of judgment and when I stand before the face of my creator grant me your aid; for you can do all that you wish, O exalted Lady.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, beholding your crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy: long-suffering Lord, the abyss and inexhaustible fountain of mercy, have pity and grant remission of offences to those who with faith hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Canon of the Martyrs*

*Irmos* You are my strength and power O Lord my God, you are my rejoicing, who without leaving the bosom of the Father, has visited our lowliness. With the Prophet Habakkuk, I therefore cry to you: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Observing your law, O Word, and hating the laws of the iniquitous who commanded that you, the creator, be reviled with demonic wiles, the martyrs received the peace of heaven, having endured the storm-waves of torture.

You loved to bear the yoke of Christ, and, crushed by the yoke on your neck, you rejoiced: with the cross as a staff of mighty power, O blessed Tarachus, you endured the blows of many rods, crying: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Made powerful by the divine Spirit, you manfully endured the painful breaking of your tendons and the plucking out of your eyes, O martyr Probus, enlightened perfectly by knowledge of the Trinity, joining yourself to the choirs on high.

As a youth, O martyr Andronicus, you stood before the tribunal, mightily opposing the enemy: when they severed your tendons, they rendered you more powerful, and you crush his head beneath your foot as you made your way on high.

*Theotokion* You alone held within you the incarnate God who causes all things to be. And the divine martyrs suffered without wavering, confessing him in the arena, O exalted virgin Mother of God, the wonder of the angels and the wounding of demons.

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Having first cleansed the eye of your heart of the turmoil of the passions, O hierarch Cosmas, you sang beautiful and saving hymnody, enlightening the Church.

Your praiseworthy and delightful hymns, adorned with teaching and the beauties of melody, O Cosmas, have become the healing of despair for those who love them.

The Church, ill because of the blasphemous and foolish edicts of Copronymus, you healed with writings which you sang melodiously, O blessed one.

With your hymns that are wondrously full of understanding, O father, you have revealed to all the mysteries of Christ, truly awesome and marvellous.

*Theotokion* Let us hymn the most holy Mother of God who gave birth to the Word of God incarnate, in two natures but a single person, as godly Cosmas has taught.

*Ode 5*

*Canon of the Martyrs*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

You were unwavering travellers of the narrow and hard way, cutting through the multitude of perils like the foam of the sea, O athletes, founding your hearts upon the rock of faith like immovable pillars.

Speaking divine things and theologizing the doctrines of salvation, you endured the cutting away of your lips, O martyr Tarachus, but with strength of mind you shut the mouths which spoke blasphemy against God the creator.

Your four limbs stretched out, covered with the wounds of whips, you valiantly showed uprightness of soul: appearing, crowned, with your fellow athletes, O Probus, you now stand before the king of all.

*Theotokion* You were greater than the hosts of heaven, O Virgin, having given birth to the equally unoriginate and everlasting Word: the athletes, illumined by his splendour, passed through the night of ungodliness.

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

Your sound has passed over all the ends of the earth, O wise Cosmas, gladdening those who praise you with divine hymns.

You say that the most holy Mother of God gave birth to the supremely divine Word in manner transcending the laws of nature: therefore we call you blessed.

Sweetly singing wondrous hymns, you hymn the ineffable nativity of the Master from the pure Virgin, O sacred father.

*Theotokion* The lightning-flash of your birthgiving has illumined the world, O exalted Lady, and the earth has been moved from falsehood to faith thereby.

*Ode 6*

*Canon of the Martyrs*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

Becoming a weapon of the mighty one through faith, you bravely wounded the hearts of the pagans, contending against them valiantly, O athletes of great renown.

Of old the wild beasts cowered before Daniel in the pit: here were they terrified of the faith of the mighty warriors in the arena, subdued by their honoured suffering.

Tarachus, imitating your pierced side, O Master, was pierced in the side; and he was given vinegar to drink, and his head was cruelly burned with fire.

*Theotokion* Having conceived the pre-eternal one without seed, O pure one, you gave birth to him who is incorporeal by nature, and nourished with milk him who nurtures all, O Mother of God.

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Imos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

Your words are like sweet honeycomb, delighting the hearts of the pious who hymn the baptism of the Saviour and Simeon's encounter and departure.

Not in words alone, but by material things, O blessed one, described in hymns the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the children's praise and the hatred of the Jews.

You adorned the elevation of the thrice-blessed tree, singing hymnody full of all gladness and joy, O blessed one.

*Theotokion* Following your divinely inspired words, O virgin Maiden, all of us, the generations of men, call you blessed, for you are the blessed Mother of God.

*Kontakion of the martyrs, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody Seeking the highest...*

The valiant warriors and martyrs of Christ, Tarachus, Probus and Andronicus, have revealed to us the glory of the Trinity; for they denounced the ungodliness of the tyrants, contending with valour and faith.

*Ikos* Valiantly emulating the sufferings of Jesus, Tarachus, Andronicus and wise Probus suffered in the arena, rejoicing, denouncing the ungodliness of the iniquitous. Honouring their memory with love, we praise them in hymns and faithfully proclaim their struggles; for wondrous is the Lord who has glorified as beacons in the world those who have contended with valour and faith.

*Ode 7*

*Canon of the Martyrs*

## **October 12**

*Irmos* At the condescension of God the fire in Babylon was struck with awe, and so the children, dancing with joyful feet and rejoicing in the furnace as in a meadow sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Rejoicing, you endured the severing of your ears, O glorious Tarachus, as a truly obedient servant of him who inclined his merciful ear and hearkened to your supplications as you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Afflicted with the wounds of torture, O martyrs, you opposed the iniquitous ones with steadfast mind; and as victors you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Your soul was filled with cool divine dew as they burned your head with a river of fire, O Tarachus; and you sang like the children: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

With the drops of your precious blood, O holy ones, you extinguished the burning embers of falsehood, exuding for us the divine dew of grace; and you flow waters of healing upon those who ever praise your memory.

*Theotokion* Without leaving the bosom of the Father, the most perfect Word emptied himself: and he is seen to be flesh and is born an infant, to whom we sing, rejoicing, O Virgin: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

### *Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Every soul is gladdened to read your hymns, O divinely wise father, and cry out with faith: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Truly your tongue, O father, became the pen of the Holy Spirit, recording the great wonders of the Word like a swiftly writing scribe.

Normal praise is overtaken in you, O father; for there is nothing fit to serve as praise for you who recounted the mighty works of the Master.

*Theotokion* What mortal tongue can worthily bless you who gave birth to God, O Bride of God? We cry out with faith: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; rejoice, most glorious one.

### *Ode 8*

### *Canon of the Martyrs*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Illumined with wounds and the beauties of your goodly and wondrous suffering, you stand before the Lord, richly filled with the light that shines there, singing with love: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

The mindless tyrant, enraged by your opposition, quickly commanded that you be slain with the sword who sang to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Andronicus, Probus and Tarachus are honoured as champions of the Trinity and victorious martyrs who dispelled the winter of ungodliness with the fervour of the Spirit, the foundation of the faithful, beautiful flowers of the noetic garden of paradise, havens for the storm-tossed, and immovable pillars.

*Theotokion* With the bodiless ranks, the armies of martyrs, the apostles and prophets, we all hymn the pure Mother of God, our Lady who is higher than all creation, for she is holier than the cherubim; and we exalt Christ above all for ever.

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Strengthened by the strong staff of your dogmas, O glorious one, we who praise you turn from the evils of heresy and sing piously to Christ, crying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Being far above all in intellect, O Cosmas, you described the meal at which the Lord offered the life-bearing mysteries, and the dread betrayal and inhumanity of Judas, which you had taught us to flee.

Shining with the rays of immaterial light, O venerable Cosmas, you described the pure sufferings, burial, resurrection and transfiguration of Christ, teaching all to sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* You came as the rod from the root of Jesse, O pure Virgin who gave birth to the Lord, the flower who perfumes us with the myrrh-laden scents of his sufferings; therefore we bless you.

*Ode 9*

*Canon of the Martyrs*

*Irmos* Every ear trembles with fear to hear of the ineffable condescension of God, how the Most High willingly came down and assumed flesh, and became man through the Virgin's womb. Therefore, O faithful, let us magnify the most pure Mother of God.

With their corruptible bodies Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus, the favourites of Christ, underwent incorruptible struggles and emulated the angels, receiving the immutable kingdom of God.

Mystically kindled by the immaterial fire, you appeared as if burning embers, consuming falsehood, O great martyrs; and as you shine with light, illumining creation and saving our souls from suffering and misfortune.

Today the Church of Christ joyfully and radiantly offers this, your divine festival, as an annual celebration; and you rejoice with the prophets, apostles and all the martyrs, O victorious athletes of great renown.

You have been taken to the splendid habitations of paradise, O passion-bearers, clad in the glorious robes woven through your torture; and you stand before the throne of the almighty, praying earnestly for all.

*Theotokion* Have pity on me, O Saviour who was born and preserved the virginity of her who gave you birth; and when you sit to judge all my works, overlook my iniquities and sins, as you are sinless, as the merciful God who loves mankind.

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

We magnify you as one rich and noble, shining with the virtues upon the faithful who honour you with praises and sing in Orthodox manner, O thrice-holy Cosmas.

Shining with divine laws, and having guided your flock to life-bearing meadows, O blessed and venerable hierarch, you have rightly passed over to heaven, reaping the fruits of your pangs.

Now translated from transitory things and rightly purified, the never-waning light is shown to you: delighting therein, be mindful of those who honour you, O glorious one.

*Theotokion* Glorifying you, we call you blessed as is written, O Mother of God, more glorious than the seraphim who gave birth to the unoriginate Christ who shone forth from the Father.

*Exapostilarion from the Octoechos; and this of the martyrs,  
o the Special Melody As the disciples watched...*

With hymns of praise let us crown the three-member chorus of athletes, Tarachus, Probus and Andronicus; for they endured laceration, cruel wounding and pain, and reign with Christ.

*Theotokion* You are revealed as more glorious than the cherubim and more exalted than the seraphim, as the one who gave birth to God incarnate, who has shown men how to walk the straight path which lead to salvation.

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

*Verse* As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.  
I have set the Lord always before me: he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

*Epistle to the Ephesians, number 233 [Eph 6: 10-17]*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous cry and the Lord hears it, and frees them from all their affliction.  
The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers him from them all.

*Gospel of Luke, number 106 [Luke 21: 12-19]*

*Communion Verse*

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 13**

### **Martyrs Carpus and Papylus**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As ones valiant among the martyrs...*

Bound with chains, \* confined in prison, \* given as food for wild beasts, \* hung aloft and mangled, \* yet, receiving divine help from heaven, \* you remained unshaken \* through the love of the Master and Saviour of all, \* O wise Carpus and Papylus.

Grounding your minds through wisdom \* on him who is the rock of faith, \* O steadfast martyr Papylus, \* you rejoiced when you were stoned, \* emulating to the divine leader of martyrs, \* the archdeacon Stephen, \* as a minister and servant of the mysteries of God, \* as one numbered among the martyrs \* and a conversor with angels.

Unswervingly walking \* the path of witness, \* your feet nailed to iron sandals, \* you steadfastly destroyed the sting of the enemy and destroyer, \* O exalted ones, \* and were crowned with victories. \* Therefore, the Church of Christ \* celebrates your holy, \* luminous and renowned commemoration.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 4*

You are considered to be among the godly prophets, O venerable one, for you beheld the heavens opened and the Lord seated upon the throne, with the cherubim and seraphim round about him; and we, your sacred flock, enlightened by you, O Carpus, cry out to you: Entreat peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody On the third day..*

The immaculate Mother of God, beholding him who is our life suspended upon the tree, maternally lamenting, cried out: O my Son and my God, save those who hymn you with love.

*Troparion, tone 4*

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs received imperishable crowns from you, our God. Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By their intercessions save our souls.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and this canon of the martyrs, tone 1,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic With hymns I crown Carpus and Papyrus.*

### *Ode 1*

*Irmos* As befitted your divine majesty, your triumphant right hand has been glorified in strength. In its almighty power it smote the enemy, O immortal Lord, and made a new path through the deep for the people of Israel.

Praising the sacred memory of mighty Carpus and Papyrus, the witnesses to the truth, in a godly manner let us hymn the Lord of glory who has made them victors.

Tried first by the fire of fasting, through suffering you truly showed a second, spiritual testing, O martyrs, and in your divine virtues you shone more brightly than gold.

Hastening to woundings, hanging, fire and death, O glorious ones, with divine power you vanquished the might of tyrants and were crowned with imperishable crowns.

*Theotokion* O divinely joyous Lady, portal of the light which shone from you: shine upon me the luminous beams of repentance, and dispel the gloom of my sins.

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* As you alone know human frailty, having in mercy assumed its form, gird me with strength from on high that I may cry out to you, O holy one: indescribable is the living temple of your glory, O lover of mankind.

You brought to Christ an acceptable fruit, sacred Agathadorus, who endured beating and wounding, and with the might of knowledge became victorious in the flesh over the incorporeal foe.

Unjustly broken at the command of the judge, O wise one, you endured the mangling of your flanks; and set aflame with fire, you extinguished the burning embers of deception with the blood of your wounds, O much-suffering Carpus.

Hung aloft, your breast burnt with fire, you endured manfully, O divinely wise Papyrus, bedewed by the Spirit and strengthened by your divine longing.

*Theotokion* O pure, most holy and immaculate Virgin, we the faithful proclaim you to be the undefiled dwelling-place of God, the unquarried mountain, the holy ark and the censer of the immaterial ember.

**October 13**

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody* When the stone had been sealed...

Planting the fruits of the knowledge of God by your labours, you uprooted the thorns of ungodliness; anointed with divinely effective oil, you shepherded your people, O sacred hieromartyr Carpus. Having suffered under the law, you received twofold honours. Glory to him who strengthened you; glory to him who crowned you; glory to him who through you works healings for all.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Stretching forth your divine arms which held the creator who in his goodness became incarnate, O most holy Virgin, entreat him to deliver from temptations, suffering and misfortune us who praise you with love and cry out: Glory to him who made his abode within you; glory to him who issued forth from you; glory to him who by your birthgiving has delivered us.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and Mother, beholding you, O longsuffering Word, as a lamb crucified upon the cross with two thieves, your side pierced by a spear, exclaimed maternally: What is this strange and dread mystery which is ineffably accomplished, O my Jesus? How can you be entombed, O uncontrollable God? Forsake me not who gave you birth, O my Jesus most sweet.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Habakkuk with prophetic eyes saw you, O mountain, overshadowed by the grace of God, and he foretold that the holy one of Israel should come from you for our salvation and regeneration.

Bound with indissoluble love of the creator, O martyr of Christ, stoned, you vanquished those who stoned you with the endurance God granted you, struggling with manly mind against hatred.

Armed against pain, O valorous ones, and cast to the wild beasts, you defeated them, as did Daniel, the very image of faith, O glorious martyrs Carpus and Papylus.

The wicked one, mercilessly committed the favourites of Christ to unquenchable conflagration, thinking thus to weaken their power; but his designs were reduced to ashes.

*Theotokion* Storm-tossed amid the sea of evils, we have you as a haven of salvation O Virgin: to you we flee and in you we trust, so we do not fear the wiles of the invisible foe.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O Christ who has enlightened the ends of the earth with the light of your coming and has made them shine by your cross, enlighten with the knowledge of God those who in the right faith sing your praises.

Neither the stress of persecution, hunger, nor even death, could separate the divinely wise from the love of Christ; for earnestly looking to the recompense to come, they paid no heed to their troubles.

Strengthened by divine power, you endured cruel piercing of your feet, O honoured ones, travelling the path of witness and bringing down the sting of ungodliness.

Bearing the inextinguishable torch of suffering, you traversed the night of ignorance, O martyrs, and came to the never-waning light, by faith truly sons of the day.

*Theotokion* Unwedded, you conceived the infinite God and gave birth to the transcendent creator. Great is the mystery: inconceivable the wonder, O Virgin, truly immaculate.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* The uttermost depth has encompassed us and there is none to deliver us: we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. But save your people, O our God, for you are the strength and restoration of the weak.

Your virtues perfume our gatherings, dispelling the foul stench of polytheism, O glorious ones, for you have now been made the fragrance of God.

With the dew of faith you overcame the burning flame, and fervently enkindled the desire to suffer with Agathonica, O noble ones, then with her you bravely suffered.

Sharpened by the infliction of pain, O valiant athletes Carpus and Papylus, you were truly swords of heavenly crafting which cut down legions of the enemy.

*Theotokion* O pure one, the restoration of the fallen, raise me and set me aright from the mire of the passions and the pit of sinful falls: lift your servant who confesses you, the Mother of God.

*Kontakion, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

The Master has given your relics as a most precious treasure,  
a fountain pouring forth streams of healing upon those on earth;  
dispelling the afflictions of all kinds of sickness  
and unceasingly imparting grace to men's souls.  
Therefore we celebrate your festival, O glorious martyrs.

*Ode 7*

## **October 13**

*Irmos* We the faithful perceive you as if a furnace, O Mother of God, for as the Most High saved the three children, so he fully restored the world through your womb, the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

Extinguishing the furnace of youthful passions with the dew of abstinence, and the fire of suffering with blood, you reduced to ashes another furnace, that of idolatry, O martyrs, hymning God who is praised and glorified above all.

Let us stand firm, look, the contest has begun: let us not weaken, for with his life-creating hand Christ will bestow crowns of endurance upon us for the sake of our sufferings; thus cried the athletes Carpus and Papylus with fervour of soul.

O holy ones, deified in entreating God in every way, you readily endured wounding by the godless, bearing it as though another were suffering, remaining truly yourselves, and hymning God who is praised and glorified above all.

*Theotokion* O pure one, you have clearly annulled the curse of Eve our first mother, having borne the firstfruit of blessedness, O immaculate and unwedded Maiden: the ranks of angels bless him who is praised and glorified above all.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* In the furnace as in a crucible the children of Israel shone purer than gold with the beauty of godliness as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Today the radiant memory of the martyrs shines upon us, illumining with the light of healing us who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

O blessed Carpus, you were adorned as a hierarch, a divine prophet, a witness to the sufferings of Christ, a divine standard, O all-blessed one, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

The streams of the blood of your suffering drowned the torrents of ungodliness, O martyr Papylus, as you were a found of healings for those who cry: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* The sacred choir of prophets proclaims you to be the Mother of God, O immaculate Lady, to whom all sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Burning but unconsumed, the bush prefigured your pure birthgiving, O Mother of God. Therefore we now entreat you to quench in us the raging furnace of temptations, that we may never cease to magnify you.

As whole-burnt offerings, as sacrifices perfect and unblemished, you offered yourselves to the creator, O blessed ones, meeting your end by the sword; and now you live in heaven.

O martyrs, you are immovable pillars and walls of the Church, springs of water flowing with healing, and luminous and bright beacons which deliver the pious from the night of sin.

O Papylus and Carpus, having made your abode in the splendid mansions of heaven, illumined with rays of divine light and filled with eternal joy, ever pray for us.

*Theotokion* O most pure Lady, in your arms, as on the throne of the cherubim, you held him who holds all things, who for us clad himself in flesh like ours, who is seen as a twofold unity: ever entreat him for us who hymn you.

## **October 14**

### **Martyrs Nazarius, Gervase, Protase and Celcius**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As ones valiant among the martyrs...*

Having finished the course of faith, \* Nazarius of valiant mind, \* with great Protase, \* with wise Celsius \* and divinely wise Gervase \* received the crown of victory as martyrs. \* Let us hymn them as brave warriors, \* as heirs to the kingdom on high, \* and as voluntary sacrifices.

Your senses illumined by the radiance of the Spirit, \* O sacred Nazarius, \* through divine grace you shone brighter than the sun \* on souls in darkness, \* teaching, enlightening, \* and instructing them splendidly \* to believe in and worship the one Lord \* who was gloriously incarnate of the Virgin \* and has enlightened those on earth.

With Nazarius \* the ever-memorable Celsius shone forth, \* and glorious Protase and Gervase, \* who suffered with valiant mind \* and bravely vanquished on earth \* hordes of demons. \* They flow streams of healings \* richly watering the hearts of the faithful \* with divine grace.

Let Nazarius be praised, \* and let Protase be honoured \* with godly Celsius and Gervase, \* who suffered gloriously \* and diminished falsehood, \* now sacredly honoured by the angelic choirs, \* and deified by divine communion, \* receiving crowns of victory \* from the hand of the giver of life.

As you finished the race and kept the faith, \* O divine martyrs, \* you have been crowned with wreaths of suffering \* and are numbered among the angels, \* having fought splendidly \* and trampled the deceitful enemy underfoot with Christ's help. \* Therefore, assembling together, \* in gladness we celebrate \* your radiant memory.

Passing through cities, \* divinely wise Nazarius illumined them \* with his godly preaching; \* and with Celsius who emulated him, \* acquired the glory of the athletes of God, \* trampling the deceitful one underfoot. \* Let us honour them with praises \* as stars and luminaries for those in darkness \* and physicians for our souls.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 8*

Let us praise Nazarius, Gervase, Protase and Celsius who were sacrificed, for they brought down the savagery of the tyrants and the idols. Through their supplications, O Christ our God, grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O martyrs of the Lord...

I cannot bear to see you asleep \* upon the tree O my child \* who grants wakefulness to all. \* But you grant divine and saving wakefulness \* to those who sleep the sleep of destruction \* because of the fruit of disobedience \* which was eaten of old, \* said the Virgin, weeping, whom we magnify.

*Troparion, tone 4*

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs | received imperishable crowns from you, our God. | Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants | and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. || By their intercessions save our souls.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the martyrs, tone 4,  
composed by Joseph upon the acrostic I faithfully hymn the crowned martyrs.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it; and I will sing to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen keeping festival with splendour; and rejoicing I shall hymn her wonders.

Having suffered faithfully and finished the contest, you were crowned with the wreath of victory, O divine martyrs: in gladness we celebrate your godly memory.

Impelled by the sail of the divine Spirit, you passed over the deep of torments without sinking, O glorious martyrs, and have reached the divine haven of the Most High.

Clad in the cross as in a breastplate, O blessed ones, you battled the incorporeal foe in your bodies, enduring subtle tortures and an unjust death.

*Theotokion* Let us hymn the immaculate Maiden who alone held the pre-eternal God: she became more spacious than the heavens, giving flesh to God for the sake of goodness.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir in your divine memory, and grant them crowns of glory.

You were truly like divine grapes of the divine vine, O martyrs, pouring forth upon us the wine of grace which spiritually gladdens the hearts of all.

O Nazarius, rich martyr of Christ, you mightily opposed the tyrant who ordered you to sacrifice to the vile gods, and prepared yourself like a lamb for the slaughter.

With faith let us all sing a symphony of praise today to Nazarius, Gervase, Protase and Celsius, who were martyrs of the truth in the Spirit.

*Theotokion* The Tabernacle of the Law prefigured you, as the sacred habitation of God, O pure one from whom our purification has come, granting sanctity to us all.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Honouring the suffering and persecution of Nazarius and the pangs and wounds of Protase, let us praise Gervase and Celsius, the precious vessels of the Holy Trinity, the radiant stars, the towers of defence of the faithful, the true destroyers of impiety, the pillars and unshakable foundation of the faith, to whom we sing with faith: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All of us, the generations of mankind, bless you, the Virgin who alone among women gave seedless birth to God incarnate; for the fire of the divinity made his abode within you, and you nurtured the creator and Lord with milk as a child; and so we, the race of angels and men together sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who with faith worship your most holy birth giving.

*Theotokion of the Cross* Beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, the lamb and mother cried out, weeping, and exclaimed, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you, but inwardly I burn, seeing your crucifixion, which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy, O long-suffering Lord, abyss of mercy and inexhaustible fountain. Take pity, and grant remission of offences to those who, with faith, hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

Beyond understanding the love of your martyrs surpasses all the duplicity, battles, manly struggles and contests you have set for those who lawfully contended, O Word.

The warriors of Christ well showed a single understanding while bodily wounded, and they confessed the one God in the arena and destroyed the falsehood of polytheism.

## **October 14**

The angels marvelled at the contest of Nazarius, Protase, Gervase and Celsius; how, struggling in the flesh against a fleshless foe, they valiantly cast him to the ground.

As valiant warriors, as invincible martyrs, as soldiers of Christ, as champions of piety, you have inherited the mansions of heaven, ever rejoicing with the angelic choirs.

*Theotokion* Without leaving the bosom of the Father, the divine one resided within you, O Mother of God, preparing for all a divine seat and eternal glory by his goodness.

### *Ode 5*

*Irmos* All things are filled with awe at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who has not known wedlock, held in your womb God who is over all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

Your body received wounding from much torture, O Nazarius, pouring upon us a fragrant myrrh which perfumes the souls of those who honour you with unwavering faith.

Sprinkling your blood, you extinguished the burning embers of polytheism, O Nazarius; and with the fire of divine miracles you burnt away the filth of cruel suffering through the grace of God the Saviour.

Let us honour the valiant and splendid martyrs, the flowers exuding perfume of divine understanding, the meadows of divine knowledge, the fruitful trees of paradise.

Let Nazarius be hymned; let Celsius and Protase be magnified; and let valiant Gervase be praised with faith as unshakable pillars and foundations of the Church.

*Theotokion* The sword guarding Eden of old is withdrawn from us, O pure one, through the precious blood which poured from the pierced side of him who shone forth from you.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God who was born of her.

Your journeys were on the waters, O blessed Nazarius, and so your footsteps were not recognized by the enemy because of the Spirit, by whose power you shamed them all.

By the grace of God you healed the incurable sufferings of men's bodies, O martyr Nazarius, and now you pour fragrant myrrh upon those who come to your precious relics.

Godly Protase, and with him great Gervase, having trampled transitory wealth and power underfoot, have been granted eternal glory.

*Theotokion* You restored the laws of nature, O Virgin, giving birth to our immortal God who clothed himself in mortal flesh, that through grace he might bring life to the dead.

*Kontakion, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody Seeking the highest...*

Revealed as radiant beacons, O divine martyrs, you illumine creation with the light of miracles, ever dispelling the profound night of infirmities, and praying unceasingly to Christ the one God, on behalf of us all.

*Ikos* Ever standing as radiant and divine luminaries before the great light, O divinely blessed martyrs, ever enlightened and deified by the radiance of unwaning divinity which is emitted there, enlighten those who with faith celebrate your divine memory, and deliver them from darkness, the passions, misfortunes and evils, praying unceasingly for us all.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The divinely wise youths worshipped not a creation rather than the creator, but bravely trampling the threat of fire underfoot, they rejoiced shouting: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

You did not corrupt your hearts with the wiles of the enemy, for you had set your feet upon the rock of the knowledge of God, O glorious ones, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Unwaning light shone upon you who suffered to the shedding of your blood, O great martyrs, and gladness embraced you who sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Diligently travelling, O blessed ones, you sanctified cities, confessing Christ before tyrants and granting healing to those in need through the grace of the most Holy Spirit.

*Theotokion* God found you to be a splendid palace where he made his abode, O pure one, making children of the light those who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* The birthgiving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Rising early to the great sun who gloriously shone from the Virgin, O martyrs, by your brightness you dispelled the darkness of falsehood by grace, crying: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

## **October 14**

Rome proclaimed your struggles, O much suffering Nazarius; but Constantinople, holding your sacred relics with faith, hymns your wonders, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Flowing with the myrrh of grace, divine Nazarius commands all who approach with faith to draw from it, to the enlightenment and purification of those who sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With Nazarius, Celsius, Protase and Gervase as intercessors before the Lord, we sing with love: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* Having united himself to you, O most pure Lady, he who brings all things into being has restored me wholly and raised me up who has grown old through the disobedience. Therefore, we hymn you, the Virgin, and exalt you above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Eve, through weakness, lived under the curse of disobedience; but O Virgin Mother of God, you have put forth a blessing for the world through the fruit of your childbearing: therefore we all magnify you.

In the strength of Christ who destroyed the malice of the destroyer, you bowed your heads to the sword and met your end, therefore you are rightly blessed.

Beautiful in the wounds of your flesh and emulating the angels, you now stand by them all, ever rejoicing in beauty, adorned by communion, O honoured martyrs.

Before and after your end the Master adorned you with signs and wonders, O invincible martyrs Nazarius, Protase, Celsius and Gervase: you are rightly blessed.

All who observe your memorial today are sanctified by your love: the martyrs rejoice as the prophets celebrate with them: pray to the benefactor for us, O blessed ones.

*Theotokion* In gladness we offer you the cry of the divine Gabriel: Rejoice, O joyous virgin Mother, boast of the martyrs and apostles and salvation of all.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

Like one of the bodiless host you endured unbearable tortures, O blessed Nazarius, glory of the martyrs, together with wise Gervase, Protase and godly Celsius. We honour with faith your most festive and honoured memorial.

*Theotokion* The glorious wonder of your birthgiving beyond understanding, astonishes the mind of every mortal and angel: for, though a virgin, you gave birth and remained a virgin. How awesome the mystery; the glorious pregnancy and wondrous nativity.

## **October 15**

### **Venerable Evthymius the New, and venerable martyr Lucian the Priest of Antioch**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these of Venerable Evthymius, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As ones valiant among the martyrs...*

You trod the narrow path \* with an untroubled soul, \* soaring to those things which lead to life; \* for you were the boast of fasters, O Evthymius, \* having firmly brought down \* the worship of demons. \* Therefore, you have been granted \* to be an heir to the heavenly kingdom, \* where you delight in never-ending beauty.

The radiance of your life \* astonished angels \* and put to flight savage demons: \* you splendidly adorn the congregations of the faithful, \* ever commanding them to go \* to the heavenly dwelling place of Christ. \* Entreat him, \* that those who celebrate your most honoured memory with faith \* be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

Daily hymnody and praise \* you brought to Christ, O father, \* while dwelling in the desert; \* and offering your soul and mind to the one God, \* as like great Moses \* you ascended to the impassable heights of sanctity. \* Having vanquished the invisible foe, \* you became a pure habitation \* and an instrument of the divine Spirit.

*And three verses for the venerable Martyr, same tone,  
to the Special Melody You have given a sign..*

You strengthened the faithful, \* enriching them with faith \* and instructing them in the knowledge of God, \* that they might boldly endure the rage of the tyrant \* for the sake of the life to come \* which is incorruptible. \* We call you blessed, O glorious Lucian, \* as we celebrate in your divine memory.

You endured lengthy imprisonment \* and a violent death, O venerable one, \* bound with bonds, \* lacerated with sharp-edged shards, \* and weakened by cruel starvation \* and by long thirst. \* Now you have received heavenly food \* as an invincible martyr, \* O valiant athlete.

The bosom of the sea, received you, O glorious one, \* and after thirty days, like Jonah of old, gave you over to the dry land \* through the agency of dolphins \* for divinely honourable burial; \* O divine fountain of healings, \* princely chosen martyrs, \* establishment of the Church, \* and intercession for our souls, \* O God-bearer most rich.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

O venerable father, the words of your teaching have gone out into all the earth; and so, you have found the reward of your labour in heaven, having destroyed legions of demons and attained the ranks of the angels, whose life you blamelessly emulated. As you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat peace for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* On the third day...

Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she that gave birth to you cried out: What is this strange mystery that I see, O my Son? How can you suffer and die upon the wood, you that gave life to all?

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 5*

Venerable father, you gave neither sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids, until you freed soul and body from the passions and prepared yourself as a dwelling for the Spirit. For Christ, one in essence with the Father, made of you an abode, and so you were a favorite of the Trinity. O great preacher, Evthymius our father, pray for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* Rejoice...

The lamb, seeing her lamb hastening to the slaughter, with fervour followed him, crying out: Where do you go, O Christ, my child most sweet? Why you run this fleeting course so swiftly? O Jesus, most desired and sinless, most merciful Lord, grant utterance to me, your handmaid. O my Son most beloved, compassionate one, do not pass me by in silence, who gave you birth in manner most strange. O most compassionate God, grant the world your great mercy.

*Troparion of the Venerable One, tone 8*

That which was created in the image of God was preserved in you, O Father; | for taking up the cross you followed Christ. | By your deeds you have taught us to reject the flesh for it passes away, | but to care for the soul as a thing immortal. || Therefore O venerable Evthymius your soul rejoices with the angels.

*Troparion of the venerable Martyr, tone 4*

In his suffering, O Lord, Lucian your martyr received an imperishable crown from you, our God. Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By his intercessions, save our souls.

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos, and two of the saints.*

### *Ode 1*

*Canon of the Venerable Evthymius, tone 2,  
upon the acrostic Rejoice, blessed glory of monastics.*

*Irmos* Come, you people, let us sing a hymn to Christ our God, who divided the sea and guided the people whom he had led forth from the bondage of Egypt, for he has been glorified.

Rejoice, fountain gushing with a torrent of salvation, from which we who come to you with love, O ever-memorable one, draw the grace of healing of transgressions.

Receiving sanctity from Christ our God in your innermost being, you were a chosen vessel receiving all the grace of the Spirit, O father Evthymius.

You spurned passing things, O wise father, that you might be a partaker of life incorruptible; and, drawing nigh to God, you pray unceasingly that we all be saved.

*Theotokion* Following what you have said in wisdom, O immaculate Lady, we rejoice to call you blessed, for you are for us the cause of ineffable beatitude.

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr, tone 4,  
composed by Joseph upon the acrostic I hymn your glory, O blessed Lucian.*

*Irmos* I shall sing to you, O Lord my God, who guided your people from the bondage of Egypt and drowned the chariot and power of Pharaoh.

Shining in wisdom, grace and spiritual power, O martyr Lucian, you enlightened men, and directed them to knowledge of Christ.

He who in his compassion took upon himself our weakness, defended you with the sword of the right faith, rendering you invincible before the enemy, O martyr.

With the net of your divine words, O wondrous athlete, you raised to the heights of heaven those who had fallen into the depths of heresy.

*Theotokion* Seedlessly you conceived the uncaused eternal Word of the Father at the word of the archangel, O pure one, and gave birth to him for our deliverance.

*Ode 3*

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* Established upon the rock of faith, I may boast over my enemies, and my spirit rejoices and sings: There is none as holy as our God, and none righteous but you, O Lord.

You appeared as a radiant pillar, guiding the ranks of monastics, O divinely wise one, and a cloud covering the chosen of God, with the grace of the king of all casting into darkness the faces of the invisible foe.

You stand before the face of your Master, with untiring prayer that your flock be delivered from slavery to darkness and the tyranny of the passions, O venerable one, and God hearkened to your supplications.

Having mortified the stirrings of your flesh with mighty fasting, O divinely eloquent one, you became a dwelling for the Master: implore him that those who have recourse to you be delivered from sorrows and the turmoil of the passions.

*Theotokion* Isaiah foresaw you as a scroll on which the incarnate Word was inscribed, obliterating the signature of the first-created man, signed through his transgression; and he has given us liberation from slavery.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* The bow of the mighty has become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

With the splendour of the virtues you made your soul a house of God, O martyr; and by your supplication you demolished the temples of the idols.

Surrounded by dangers and oppressed by the pangs of torments, O martyr, you sang to him who counted you worthy of such, in that what he does is good.

Giving your body to torture, O martyr, you kept your soul pure as you offered yourself to the Master as an unblemished sacrifice.

*Theotokion* Of the Virgin is a child is born, he who wrought the ages by his will: her we hymn and rightly bless as the Mother of God.

*Kontakion of the martyr Lucian, tone 2*

With hymns let us all gloriously honour Lucian, | the most splendid luminary | who shone forth in fasting and later was radiant in suffering, || who prays unceasingly for us all.

**October 15**

*Sessional Hymn of the Venerable One, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Having renounced the flesh for the sake of Christ, and proven to be a leader of people, you heard words of mystic teaching: you were a standard of righteousness who mightily trampled down the passions. You utterly reduced the schemes of the demons to ashes, looking ever to the Lord, O God-bearing Evthymius. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the Martyr, same tone and melody*

Anointing the hearts of the faithful with the word of grace, O martyr Lucian, you prepared to contend and to vanquish the tyrant; and having well and truly finished the divine course, you were finally granted the glory of the martyrs. Gathering together, we honour your holy death, glorifying the Saviour. O all-praised athlete, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O cloud of the noetic Sun, golden lamp stand of the divine light, O undefiled, pure, immaculate Lay, I pray: With the radiance of dispassion illumine my soul, darkened by the blindness of the passions, purify my polluted heart with torrents of contrition and tears of repentance, and cleanse me of the mire of my works, that I may cry out to you with love: Ever-virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ our God, that he grant me remission of transgressions, for I your servant hope in you.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing the crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have mercy, and grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* I hymn you, O Lord, for I have heard your report and was afraid. You came to me, seeking me who had gone astray. Therefore I glorify your great providence for me, O most merciful one.

Divine longing ignited you, kindling your heart, and in the end you attained your desire, O divinely wise father, renouncing passionate attachment to earthly things, becoming a fellow dweller with the ministering angels in the heights.

You forsook the endearments of your spouse, O venerable one; for the love of the creator entered into you with fervour; and you rejected dark desires for created things.

You brought your flock to the pure pasture of abstinence, O father, to the placid source of dispassion, overcoming noetic beasts: save it now by your supplications.

*Theotokion* Behold, all generations glorify you as you foretold, O Maiden; for you became the palace and divine temple of the creator, where the Most High made his abode, having clad himself in flesh that he might save us.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

You were proven mighty against deception, O blessed one, a teacher ever urging the faithful to divine feats; and in your endurance of torture, O martyr, you humbled the feeble strength of the proud one.

Stretched out on a tree, lacerated with whips, oppressed by prolonged starvation and thirst, and cut apart with thin shards, you endured all, O glorious martyr of Christ.

Proclaiming the knowledge of God, you converted the iniquitous, showing them how to drink the cup of torment with zeal, with whom you dwell in the courts of our God, delighting in the Tree of Life, O ever-memorable martyr.

*Theotokion* The divine sun, shining from you, O maiden, has enlightened those in the darkness of polytheism and has illumined those in the shadow of death: to him we cry out: Glory to your power, O Christ.

*Ode 5*

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* O Christ my Saviour, the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and the salvation of the despairing, I rise early to you, O king of peace: enlighten me with your shining radiance, for I know no other God than you.

Attending wholly to God, O father, you valiantly endured the darkness of night in desert places, bearing also the burning heat of day; and you became a house of the wisdom of God, adorned in many ways with the radiance of virtue.

Engaging in fasting in your youth, O father, you did not take guidance from the serpent of gluttony; but having united yourself to God by hunger, unceasing supplication and purity, you became a partaker of a better delight.

## **October 15**

Ascending to the clouds of the virtues, you received tablets inscribed by the hand of God, O blessed one, and taught multitudes of monastics to shun material things, leading them up the mountain of the knowledge of God.

*Theotokion* You were revealed to Jacob, the ancestor of God, O pure one, as a ladder loftier than heaven, having the creator seated thereon; for through you God revealed himself incarnate and united those which before were separated: we, the faithful glorify you as the Mother of God.

### *Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* The impious do not see your glory, O Christ, as do we who keep watch before you through the night: we praise you, only begotten Son, divine brightness of the Father's glory and lover of mankind.

Having burnt away the thorns of the passions with the sweat of fasting, O venerable one, you extinguished the furnace of impiety with the streams of your labours.

Beset by frequent pangs, you remained unbowed, lifting your eyes to God who is able to save, O holy one; and rejoicing, into his hands you place your soul.

You reproved those of evil belief who were far from God; and, beset by long and cruel pangs, O glorious one, you came to Christ, upon whose suffering you meditated.

*Theotokion* You remain incorrupt even after giving birth, O pure one. Giving birth to God, you have freed the us from corruption: with faith we call you blessed.

### *Ode 6*

### *Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* From the belly of the whale, Jonah cried out to the Lord: Lead me up from the depth of Hades, I pray, that with a voice of praise and in the spirit of truth I may sacrifice to you as my deliverer.

Pierced by the love of the Master, you abandoned tangible things and followed him, manfully taking his easy yoke upon your shoulder, O namesake of good courage.

Taught knowledge of ineffable things, O blessed one, you taught your flock to ponder heavenly things, repelling the assaults of the passions with your teachings.

Your life became similar to that of the hosts on high, O father, and gave you the boldness which you retained: entreat Christ to deliver your flock from the passions.

*Theotokion* Understanding your ineffable mystery, O pure one, the prophet Habbakuk proclaimed you to be a mountain overshadowed, for through you the creator was incarnate in his loving kindness, lifting the ancient condemnation.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

You traversed the abyss of torments dryshod, and your body was saved from the deep by the right hand of the Almighty, and was seen unharmed by those who love you, O divinely blessed one.

He who delivered Jonah from his three-day sojourn in the belly of the whale, saved you also from the midst of the seas after thirty days by the ministering creatures of the deep.

Afire with the love of Christ, O glorious one, before your death you opposed the tormentors: rejoicing, you have been brought to the kingdom of heaven.

*Theotokion* The most pure Word found you alone to be a pure and undefiled dove, and it was his good pleasure to be born of you, O Mother of God, immaculate Virgin.

*Kontakion of venerable Evthymius, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody* Seeking the highest...

Crossing the tumult of the multitude dryshod,  
with power you drowned the bodiless foe in the streams of your tears,  
O venerable and divinely wise Evthymius;  
and receiving the gift of miracles, you heal all sufferings:  
pray unceasingly for us all.

*Ikos* Open my mouth by your acceptable supplications, O thrice-blessed and glorious Evthymius, as you stand before God, that I may hymn your godly life and worthily recount your virtues, which you venerably fulfilled on earth for the sake of Christ our God. For you were a splendid standard for monks, having acquired a life equal to that of the angels: having dwelt in truly impassable wastes, pray unceasingly for us all.

*Ode 7*

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* The fiery bush on the mountain and the Chaldean furnace clearly prefigured you, O Bride of God, for you received the divine and immaterial fire in your material womb without being consumed. Therefore, we sing to him who was born of you: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

## **October 15**

Having the character of Abraham, as a wanderer from your land, O wise one, you beheld God who promised you a rich reward: fervently rejoicing, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Afire with the Spirit, O venerable one, you destroyed the snares of the enemy, and held the trophies of victory, protected by the sword of the Master who for our sake was nailed to the cross: fervently rejoicing, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You hastened to the mountain of prayer, and entering the cloud of the Spirit saw as much of God as one may, receiving the glory of discernment as an unshakable pillar, O father: pray that those who hymn you be delivered from the temptation of the enemy.

*Theotokion* In times past, O most pure Lady, you gave birth in a manner transcending nature, to the Son, the Lord of all, who existed before the ages, the fulfiller of the Law, the wisdom and power, for the restoration of mortals: we piously cry out to him who was born of you: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

### *Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* He who saved the children of Abraham in the fire, slayed the Chaldeans whom justice rightly overtook: blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

The persecutor, unable to bear the assaults of your wise words, slew you and cast your body into the depths of the sea, winning for you the heavenly kingdom and divine glory, O martyr of valiant mind.

Not having worshipped graven images or bent your knees before idols, cast into the fire of tribulation you entered the tyrant's furnace bedewed by the Spirit and its power, O divinely wise martyr.

By your life-bearing words you drew people from the abyss of pagan ungodly sacrifices, O wondrous one, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* O blessed one, blessed is the fruit of your womb, whom the hosts of heaven and the councils of mortals bless, and who has redeemed us from the ancient curse.

### *Ode 8*

#### *Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* God, who descended into the fiery furnace for the Hebrew children and transformed the fire into dew, praise as the Lord and exult above all for ever.

With the flow of your tears you turned fiery pleasures to ashes and dispelled fear of the flames of Gehenna, O wise father, having blended fear of your creator with perfect love.

Having passed on to God like Enoch, you were received by him, O father; and dwelling with the choirs on high, you sing: Hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

As you delight now in incorruptible gifts, filled with the radiance of the threefold sun, O blessed one, by your supplications deliver those who hymn you from sufferings and darkness, that we may worthily glorify Christ.

*Theotokion* You released mortals from the ancient curse, O most pure Lady, having conceived God at the ineffable word of the archangel; for he became incarnate of you in his loving kindness: him we exalt above all for ever.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* The birth giving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With the bread of your words you strengthened those wasting away through spiritual starvation, instructing them to worship the one Lord, the bread of our life. To him we sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Having trampled down the cruel artifices of the deceiving foe by your suffering, you were taken up to a glorious height, O glorious one, to the ranks of the angels, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

How strange is that wrought by you, O steadfast Lucian: the bosom of the sea, receiving your holy body, was content not to harm it, and gave it up whole to the dry land where it pours forth streams of healing upon those who love you.

*Theotokion* With tongue and heart we proclaim you to be the pure Mother of God, O Virgin, for you gave birth to the Lord clad in the flesh and known in two natures: him the hosts of heaven glorify for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* God the Word who came from God in his ineffable wisdom, to restore Adam who had grievously fallen into corruption through eating, and who ineffably was incarnate of the holy Virgin for us; with oneness of mind, O faithful, let us magnify in hymns.

Illumined by the beauty of fasting, arrayed in the robe of incorruption, and crowned with a wreath of gifts of intelligence, O father Evthymius, you stand before the Master of all, rejoicing.

## **October 15**

You have come to dwell in the eternal mansions, with the band of the apostles, the company of martyrs, the assembly of the venerable, and the choirs of the prophets, O blessed, glorious and divinely wise one, receiving from God fitting reward for your pangs.

Radiantly illumined by rays of the threefold sun, entreat remission of sins, deliverance from evil and separation from the wicked for those who come to you with love.

*Theotokion* Incarnate of you ineffably, O Mary Mother of God, the Master of all became perfect man; and in being born he preserved you a pure virgin as you were before giving birth: implore him to save our souls from misfortunes.

### *Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* Eve, through weakness, lived under the curse of disobedience; but O Virgin Mother of God, you have put forth a blessing for the world through the fruit of your childbearing; therefore we all magnify you.

The day of your sacred commemoration shines with the rays of the Spirit, dispelling the cloud of the passions, illuminating the congregations of the faithful and setting fire to the legions of the demons.

You were released from the bonds of your body, O blessed one, and rejoicing took flight to the heights of heaven, approaching the creator comely in the adornments of your wounds: before him you stand, joyful with the martyrs.

The martyr Lucian has brought us together today to praise his sufferings, his splendid feats, his utter courage, and the abundant grace of his miracles: together we all call him blessed.

*Theotokion* You appear as the dwelling place of the highest wisdom which surpasses understanding, O pure Maiden, animate throne and portal: the assemblies of men and the armies of angels glorify you, for you alone surpass all.

### *Exapostilarion, to the Special Melody Hearken, you women...*

You fled passionate attachment to the world as onerous, and laid waste to your body by not eating. Having renewed the strength of your soul, O venerable and ever-memorable one, you were enriched with heavenly glory: never cease to pray to the Lord for us.

*Theotokion* Awesome is your intercession, O divinely adorned Mary, and your glory is awesome to all on earth, O Mother of God. In you we boast, having you as an advocate before your Son and creator, that by your ever-vigilant supplication we may all be saved.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 2*

O venerable Father, having diligently fulfilled virtue from childhood, you became an instrument of the Holy Spirit; and receiving from him the ability to work miracles, you exhorted men to overcome pleasures. Now, illumined brightly with divine light, you enlighten our minds, O father Evthymius.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

She who knew not wedlock, seeing you nailed to the wood of the cross, O Jesus, said, weeping: O sweet child, why do you abandon me who gave you birth, O unapproachable light of the unoriginate Father? Hasten to glorify yourself, that those who glorify your divine passion may receive divine glory.

## **October 16**

### **Martyr Longinus, the Centurion at the foot of the Lord's Cross**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O praiseworthy martyr Longinus, \* with the stains of your blood \* you dyed for yourself a robe of salvation, \* stripping the greatly crafty one bare \* by your endurance of pain. \* And now you live in the kingdom on high, \* crowned as a victor \* with a never-fading wreath. \* We honour your glorious memory.

O praiseworthy martyr Longinus, \* seeing the Son of God upon the cross, \* enduring voluntary suffering, \* and tasting death, \* when the sun dimmed its light \* and the mountains quaked, \* you cried out to the crowd of the Jews: \* Truly this is the Son of God, \* the Lord and king of all.

The Hebrew people, \* the iniquitous gathering, \* the ungrateful nation, \* cut off your head with a sword, casting it into a dung-heap; \* then a blind woman, \* coming upon it and touching it, \* received her sight. \* O blessed and lauded Longinus, \* pray for us to the Lord, \* that we be saved.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6, composed by John the Monk*

Seeing the temple quake at your suffering, O Christ, Longinus the centurion proclaimed you to the Jews as the Son of God. The cruel ones, cutting off your head with a sword, cast it on a dung-heap; and the eyes of the woman who found it, which had been shut fast in blindness, were opened. With her we cry out: O Lord who has crowned him who suffered for you, by his supplications illumine also the eyes of our hearts, that we may glorify you, God who was nailed bodily to the cross that you might save us.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody Having cast all aside...*

*Theotokion of the Cross* When of old the unblemished lamb, \* the Mother and immaculate Lady, \* beheld her lamb \* uplifted upon the cross, \* she exclaimed maternally \* and, marvelling, cried out: \* What is this sight, new and all-glorious, \* O my sweet child? \* How is it that the ungrateful people \* betray you to the judgment-seat of Pilate \* and condemn to death the life of all? \* I hymn your ineffable condescension, O Word.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos with Glory be to the Father... tone 6,  
composed by John the Monk*

Standing before the cross, gazing upon the events which had transpired, and seeing the incarnate God crucified upon the tree, [it is as if] you cried out to him: Remember me in your kingdom, Lord. The Saviour exclaimed to you: Blessed are you, O Longinus, your renown shall be from generation to generation.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* On the third day...

*Theotokion of the Cross* Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave birth to you cried out: What strange mystery is this that I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, your body hanging on the wood of the cross, O bestower of life?

*Troparion, tone 4*

In his suffering, O Lord, Longinus your martyr  
received an imperishable crown from you, our God.  
Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants  
and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.  
By his intercessions, save our souls.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos; and the canon of the martyr, tone 4,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic I hymn the great glory of Longinus.*

### *Ode 1*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Illumined by the shining of divine light and standing with the ranks of angels before Christ our God, O glorious one, enlighten us who celebrate your glorious memory.

Through faith you were far from carnal pleasures, O martyr, as nothing could separate you from unity with God: in purity you now delight in your uttermost desire.

Serving the living God with purity of mind, O wise and blessed one, in no way would you offer worship to dead graven images: slain, you passed over to eternal life.

*Theotokion* At the word of the angel you conceived the Word of the Father, who in his goodness desired to deliver mortals from folly, O blessed and immaculate virgin Mother.

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

Recognizing the true Lord on the cross as the Son of God who was suffering for us, you believe in him with all your soul.

Your soul, like irrigated land which received noetic seed, O wise one, put forth the grain of divine piety.

Sailing across the passion-plagued abyss of torments with the sail of the cross, O glorious one, you reached the calm haven in gladness.

*Theotokion* Heal my soul, afflicted by assaults of the passions, O most pure Mother of God, and guide it to salvation.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

You beheld the redeemer crucified, and, illumined by his rays, escaped the darkness of deepest ignorance, and united yourself to divine understanding, believing that he is the invisible God. Having suffered, you have joined the choirs of the martyrs, rejoicing, O blessed Longinus. With them ever entreat Christ our God, O glorious one, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Falling into many temptations, I am surrounded foes, seen and unseen, and by numerous sins. I flee to your goodness, O immaculate one, my fervent protection, my shelter and my haven. Interceded fervently with him who was incarnate of you without seed for all your servants who ceaselessly praise you, the most pure Mother of God, that he grant forgiveness of sins to those who with faith venerate your maternity.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing the crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have mercy, and grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

With a stronger understanding in the faith, O blessed one, you demolished the feeble fortress of deception, and, rejoicing, cried out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Beholding the dispassionate Lord of glory lifted up and nailed to the tree, you confessed him to be the Son of God who was suffering voluntarily, O glorious one.

Seeing death withering up through the death of the immortal one, O Longinus, you hastened to die for him and to life after death with those who suffered gloriously.

*Theotokion* In a manner past recounting, O most pure Lady, you gave birth to the Word who became man, uniting the persons of him who is seen with two wills and activities.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

Formerly a sojourner in various lands, O Longinus, you were adorned with a martyr's wounds and finally made your dwelling in the land of the meek.

## **October 16**

Strengthened by the power of the cross, O athlete Longinus, you were able to vanquish the feeble mindlessness of the tyrants.

Having set your heart on a firm foundation, O exalted martyr, you remained unshaken by the turbulence of whirling temptations.

*Theotokion* Saved by her, let us hymn the Virgin who without knowing man, gave birth to God, and with faith let us call her blessed.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

Seeing the mountains and earth reeling on the day of Christ's suffering, O Longinus, you were shaken from your stance of disbelief and made strong through faith in him who suffered.

Seeing creation altered, you were able to receive an understanding true, perfect and comprehensive, and turned to the recognition of God, O Longinus.

You rejoiced to endure cruel torture and with undaunted resolve bowed your head beneath the sword, thus cutting off the heads of the enemy by faith.

*Theotokion* Make the thorny thoughts of my heart wither, and pull them up by their roots, and render it fertile through your mediation, O most pure Maiden.

*Kontakion, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* You have appeared...

The Church rejoices with gladness on the day of the commemoration of the ever-memorable athlete Longinus, as we proclaim loudly: You are my strength and confirmation, O Christ.

*Ikos* Seeing the sky darkened by great gloom, the earth quaking, the stones split apart, and the veil of the temple torn in two during the divine passion of Christ, Longinus recognized the Son of God, who was suffering in his compassion, though he was beyond suffering in his divinity and glory, sustaining and embracing all things with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as true God and king. Therefore, the martyr cried out with joy: you are my strength and confirmation, O Lord.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Having suffered lawfully, with manly character of soul you shamed the bands of the iniquitous, and were lawfully crowned, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

The divine grace which permeates your relics releases from ailments those who piously come to you, and profess you as an invincible witness to the truth, O blessed one.

You did not spare your flesh which died for Christ and refused to sacrifice to the demons, as, rejoicing, offered yourself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, being beheaded by the sword, O wondrous one.

*Theotokion* Desiring to wash away the defilements of man through you, O Virgin, the pure Word, finding you pure, made his abode within you.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Calming bodily movements with vigils of prayer to the Lord, O glorious one, you slept a sweet sleep, dying for the sake of Christ who poured life upon mortals through his divine sleep upon the tree of the cross, O blessed one.

As you beheld Christ who had become man in his loving kindness, pierced in the side by a spear and pouring forth blood and water, O blessed martyr, you were wounded by sweet desire for him, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

With the torrents of your blood you extinguished the fire of idolatry, O wise Longinus, and, kindling your soul with divine zeal, you set fire to the graven images and their dangerous temples, crying out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Having illumined the eyes of your heart with divine splendour, you fervently abandoned the darkness of impiety and became a star of him who darkened the brilliant light of the sun, O wise one, illuminating those who cry: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* With mouth, tongue and soul I profess you to be the Mother of God, and entreat you, O all-pure one: Illumine my heart with your light, and free me from cruel darkness, who cry out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

The Word who stretched out his hands on the cross is my strength and song: thus you cried out to the iniquitous, O martyr; I accept death willingly, emulating his most blessed suffering.

Comely, as a beauteous athlete endowed with divine strivings, you stand before the beautiful Word, receiving most rich rewards for your pangs.

In your splendour you are an unfading sun of sufferings, shining upon the world with beams of healings, dispelling the darkness of ignorance.

In the eternal mansions you have joined the choirs of the holy martyrs: with them be mindful of us who piously celebrate your memory, O blessed martyr Longinus.

*Theotokion* You were the abode of the never-waning light, O Mother of God, through whom those in darkness and the shadow of sin have seen the light: illumine the thoughts of my heart.

*Exapostilarion*

You beheld him who holds all things in his hands hanging upon the cross, by the ineffable counsel of the divinity; and you marvelled at the wonder and call him the Son of the God: you have truly and worthily become a partaker of glory, in his likeness.

*Theotokion* O most pure Lady, let me, foolishly fallen through manifold transgressions, glorify your indisputable grace. Hasten to rescue me from sinful falls by your might; for you are able to save us from tribulation by your invincible power.

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in him.

*Verse* Hearken to my prayer, O God, when I make supplications to you.

*Epistle to Timothy, number 292 [2 Tim. 2: 1-10]*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

For they are planted in the house of the Lord, and flourish in the courts of the house of our God.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 113 [Mat 27: 33-54]*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **October 17**

### **Prophet Hosea, and St Andrew of Crete**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with 3 for the prophet, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody O most praised martyrs...*

The Holy Spirit, \* who proceeds from the Father, \* spoke through your tongue \* of the advent of Christ \* which would come to pass, \* for the restoration of creation. \* And now, beholding \* the fulfillment of what was prophesied, \* we honour your memory, \* O prophet.

Espousing our nature, \* which had willfully fallen away from you, \* O lover of mankind, \* you delivered it from defilement, \* joining it inseparably to yourself \* through union with you which passes understanding. \* And your prophet, being an image of this, chastely took to wife a former harlot.

O divinely eloquent prophet, \* understanding your utterances \* now filled with grace, \* as you stand before the God of all \* pray for those who with faith \* celebrate your memory, \* asking for them \* forgiveness of sins, \* peace and great mercy.

*And 3 verses of the venerable martyr, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one mighty among the martyrs...*

Having cleaved to the Lord from childhood, O blessed one, \* you ran the course until the end: \* armed with the cross, \* you set your hands to the plough of the commandments of the Lord, \* as it is written. \* Entreat him, \* that those who with faith celebrate \* your honoured memory \* be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

Through faith you became \* a greatly precious stone \* without being broken; \* for, beaten and rolled upon the ground, \* you made smooth the path of faith, O glorious one, \* rendering it easy of ascent; and you overturned the opinions \* and the evil fame of Copronymus \* as being a corrupt basis, O father.

Raised on the dogmas of the apostles \* and the teachings of the divine fathers, \* O blessed one, \* you venerated the visible image of the incarnate God \* in sacred signs \* and honoured depictions. \* Suffering for them, O glorious one, \* you were a teacher of piety and the adornment of martyrs.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *same melody*

*Theotokion* O most pure one, \* whose body contained the infinite God \* who, in his love for mankind, became man, \* received our matter from you, \* and deified it: \* forsake me not who is now sorrowful, \* but quickly take pity \* and free me from various enemies \* and the malice of the evil one.

*Theotokion of the Cross* When she beheld you, \* the lamb and shepherd, upon the tree, \* the lamb who gave birth to you lamented \* and maternally exclaimed: \* O most desired Son, \* how is it that you are suspended upon the tree of the cross? \* How is it that your arms and legs are nailed \* by the iniquitous, O long-suffering Word, \* and your blood shed, O Master?

*Troparion of the venerable martyr, tone 4*

Firstly you struggled in asceticism on the mountain and with the whole armour of the cross you destroyed the noetic hoards of the enemy, O blessed one; and then you bravely arrayed yourself for the contest, slaying Copronymus with the sword of faith. For both, you have been crowned by God, O ever memorable and venerable martyr Andrew.

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos, and two canons for the saints.*

*Ode 1*

*Canon of the prophet, tone 1,  
composed by Theophanes,  
upon the acrostic I hymn the divinely inspired words of Hosea.*

*Irmos* To God who helped Moses in Egypt, and through whom Pharaoh and his whole army were sunk, we sing a song of triumph, for he has been glorified.

Truly standing before the giver of life as a prophet and speaker of divine things, O Hosea, pray earnestly, that he deliver from temptations those who praise you.

Having cleansed the eyes of your soul from pollution, O glorious one, you were brought splendidly to gaze upon things to come, and to foretell that which would be.

The wisdom of God, the source of foresight, showed the divinely eloquent Hosea to be an abundant river of prophecy flowing with divine teachings.

*Theotokion* Out of Egypt the Father called Christ, who had revealed himself for our sake from the Virgin, as the God-seeing Prophet Hosea foretold of old.

*Canon of the venerable martyr, tone 2,*

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*composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic With love I hymn the namesake of manliness.*

*Canon of the venerable martyr, tone 2*

*Irmos* The almighty power once overwhelmed the army of Pharaoh in the deep, and the incarnate Word has destroyed pernicious sin. The Lord is all-glorious, for he has been greatly glorified.

As the namesake of manliness, manfully enslaving the body to your mind, you enslaved the savagery of the tyrants and suffered lawfully: we gather in faith to bless you.

As an ember glowing with the fervour of the divine Spirit, you melted the ice of the passions and extinguished the alien fire of impiety with the flow of your blood, O divinely blessed confessor Andrew.

Bound with the love of Christ, O father, and accepting your cross from your youth, you rejoiced to follow him, denying yourself through fasting, confession and suffering.

*Theotokion* My soul is heavy with the sleep of despair, O virgin Mother, and I hasten to your aid: rouse me to the watchfulness of repentance, delivering me from eternal torment.

*Ode 3*

*Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* Establish me upon the immovable rock of your commandments, O Christ, and illumine me with the light of your countenance; for there in none more holy than you, the lover of mankind.

Instructed in the divine teaching of the revelation of God, O prophet, imprinted with the seal of the Holy Spirit you proclaimed the summoning of the nations.

You were granted to see the future as if present, O divinely wise one, mightily declaring the falling away of the Jews and the destruction of those bound by the Law.

You foretold Israel's deliverance, not by battle, or the bow, or weaponry, but in the Lord God Almighty, signifying for us the incarnation of the Word.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O honoured Virgin who conceived the Word incarnate who has delivered us from the deception by his own holy body and blood.

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* Established upon the rock of faith, I may boast over my enemies; and my spirit rejoices and sings: There is none as holy as our God, and none righteous but you, O Lord.

With the feet of your understanding upon the rock of the love of Christ, O father, you were not shaken by contrary winds, but cried out to your creator: You are our God, and there is none righteous but you, O Lord.

Pouring healings before and after your end, you help those who languish in infirmity, O venerable Andrew, and expel unclean spirits, crying out to your creator: You are our God, and there is none righteous but you, O Lord.

Drenched in the tears of fasting, you adorned yourself with the blood of martyrdom, as one beautiful; and you hastened to him whom you desired, crying out: You are our God, and there is none righteous but you, O Lord.

*Theotokion* Transcending nature, O immaculate one, you gave birth to God the Word, who is consubstantial with the Father and assumed the form of flesh; yet you remained a virgin even after giving birth: we bless you with faith.

*Kontakion of the venerable martyr, tone 3,  
to the Special Melody* Today the Virgin...

Today the imperial city celebrates the splendid feast of your radiant memory, summoning every city and land; for it rejoices to possess your much-suffering body as a great treasure, O martyr Andrew, beacon of Orthodoxy.

*Sessional Hymn of the prophet, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody* Of the Wisdom...

Having acquired a heart purified of the passions, O prophet, you were truly like a harmonious instrument of the Spirit, richly illumined by him, O wise one, and receiving the knowledge of things to come. Gathering together, we celebrate your holy memory with faith, glorifying the Saviour, O ever-memorable Hosea. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the venerable martyr, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

O faithful, let us worthily praise him who is wondrous in fasting and contest, as a preacher of piety and a mighty champion; for, fearlessly opposing Copronymus, he preached that the image of Christ ought to be venerated, in that he is the adornment of all fasters and a model of courage for martyrs.

Both now and for ever...

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*Theotokion* He who sits on the throne of the cherubim and abides in the bosom of the Father, sits within you as upon his holy throne, O Lady; for the incarnate God truly reigns over the nations. Let us now sing to him with understanding: entreat him that your servants be saved.

*Theotokion of the Cross* Seeing you upon the cross, O Christ, begotten of the unoriginate Father, she who gave you birth cried out: Woe is me, beloved Jesus; how can you, as God glorified by the angels, be crucified by the iniquitous? I hymn you, long-suffering Lord.

### *Ode 4*

#### *Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* I heard your pronouncement and was terrified, O Lord; I contemplated your works, said the prophet, and glorify you, the lover of mankind.

O Hosea, divine eye of the Church, deliver from misfortunes those who praise you.

O splendid and true receptacle of the Spirit, pray that those who hymn you be saved.

Standing before the judge of all as a prophet of God, by your supplications deliver me from the passions.

*Theotokion* You have surpassed the ranks of the angels, O ever-virgin, having held their creator within you.

#### *Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* You came forth from the Virgin, not as a mediator or angel, but the Lord himself incarnate, and have saved me, and the whole of mankind. Therefore I cry to you: Glory to your power O Lord.

Obedient to the commandments of Christ, you reverently venerated his image, O father; therefore, the iniquitous one slew you with manifold wounds.

Perfumed with the sweet fragrance of the virtues, lying in the tomb you perfume the faces of those who call upon you with steadfast heart, O venerable father.

As a champion of the Orthodox, O wondrous and venerable Andrew, boldly you denounced evil Copronymus who was accursedly infected with heresy.

*Theotokion* As one fruitful, O Mother of God, you have given the grain of grace who feeds all who rightly honour you and the Word who was incarnate of you.

### *Ode 5*

*Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* Rising out of the night, we hymn you, O Christ our God, for you humbled yourself and endured the cross and death in the flesh for our sake.

Moved by mercy, you have taught us of the long-suffering, compassion and goodness of God, whereby he has pity for all, O divinely eloquent prophet.

Having slain death, Christ arose, as your wise prophecy proclaimed, O divinely eloquent one, and he has given life to the souls in Hades.

By your supplications, O Prophet, rescue me from the abyss of sin, as you have blameless boldness before Christ, O divinely wise and enriched one.

*Theotokion* The Lord and king of all, equally unoriginate with the Father, came under time through you, O virgin Mother of God, and showed himself, incarnate.

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* O Christ my Saviour, the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and the salvation of the despairing, I rise early to you, O king of peace: enlighten me with your shining radiance, for I know no other God than you.

Hating the darkness of sin, O father, you were bright with the splendour of dispassion; and with rays of healings and the grace of God you enlighten the faithful who approach your divine shrine.

You were wholly the receptacle of God, having lived well and suffered with valiant mind, O father; and now, lying in the tomb, you remain whole and untouched by corruption, releasing the faithful from their sufferings.

Having fought bravely against demons and heretics, you were granted eternal glory and crowns, O venerable Andrew: we, the faithful, ever call you blessed.

*Theotokion* Having ineffably given birth to Christ, you hold in your embrace him who takes in his arms those inclined to evil and wretchedly in thrall to the wicked one, O immaculate Maiden: we the faithful ever call you blessed.

*Ode 6*

*Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* As you saved the prophet from the whale, I entreat you, the lover of mankind, lead me up from the depths of sin.

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Proclaiming things to come, O blessed Hosea, you declared the descent of the Word to men.

As you foretold, he who is immortal life has led up from the regions of Hades those dead through sin.

O prophet, you revealed the abolition of the prescriptions of the law, the falling away of the Jews and the entry of the nations.

*Theotokion* God the Word has shone forth from you, O immaculate Lady, having arrayed himself flesh for our sake, as he is compassionate.

### *Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I call upon the unfathomable abyss of your loving kindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God.

The iniquitous one cast you into prison, O Andrew, but you were preserved by the Master, immutably obeying his divine will.

You abandoned your body, lacerated and covered with wounds, O blessed one: strengthened by God, you endured, as though another were suffering.

You are seen as a hidden and precious treasure, O father, lying before the pious, with miracles enriching those who honour you.

*Theotokion* Of old, the prophet saw you as a noetic lamp stand holding Christ, the divine lamp, O pure one, whereby we have been enlightened.

### *Kontakion of the venerable martyr, tone 8, to the Special Melody* To you, the chosen leader...

With love for you, O blessed one, we utter hymns of praise as thanksgiving | to you, the namesake of manliness and teacher of the mysteries of piety. As you have boldness before the Lord, save us from all evils, that we may sing: Rejoice, O ever-memorable father.

*Ikos* An angel of the truth from Crete, you denounced impiety with the voice of theology, O wise father; and seeing you wounded, I fear suffering, exclaiming to you such words as these: Rejoice, O mighty swordsman of God; rejoice, faithful favourite of the Lord; rejoice, opponent of the blasphemous foe; rejoice, restraint of men who speak evil; rejoice, for you suffered for the image of Christ; rejoice, for you bridled carnal pleasures; rejoice, for by fasting you vanquished the princes of darkness; rejoice, for with suffering you oppose Copronymus; rejoice, ever-flowing fountain of miracles; rejoice, who has illumined the earth with your sufferings; rejoice, O father, dwelling-place of the faithful; rejoice, our intercessor and deliverer: rejoice, O ever-memorable father.

*Ode 7*

*Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* Prefiguring the Trinity in the furnace, the children of Abraham transformed the fiery flames into dew, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having illumined your mind with supernatural enlightenment, O blessed Hosea, you were enriched with the knowledge of things to come, singing to the Master: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having become like us, you multiplied visions in the hands of the prophets, O immortal Saviour, appearing in images to those who sing to you with faith: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You are a fountain of Israel, flowing with the waters of salvation, proclaiming Christ, the river of peace, O Hosea; and to whom we sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* He who shone forth from the unoriginate Father became incarnate of you in his ineffable mercy, O Maiden, Mother of God; and we sing to him: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God, raised a lofty flame; but Christ spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths: blessed is he and glorified above all.

The waves of evil did not shake your mind, upon the rock of the knowledge of Christ, O glorious Andrew: you have become a calm haven for the storm tossed.

The evil one of darkened mind strove with foolish arguments to suborn you, O wise one adorned with the splendour of theology, as by your boldness he was shamed and worthy of ridicule.

Your mind, adorned with divine inclinations, was a most radiant star, O wondrous Andrew, illuminating with miracles the faithful who praise you.

*Theotokion* You were the temple of the living God, where he who dwells in heaven made his ineffable habitation, O Virgin, pleased to become man in his great goodness.

*Ode 8*

*Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* The Lord who preserved the children in the fiery flames of the furnace and came down to them in the form of an angel, hymn and exalt above all for ever.

Incomprehensible gifts were given to the prophets by the divine giver: the knowledge of things to come, that they might hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With a divinely inspired mouth and a tongue of godly eloquence, O Hosea, you hymn the illumining light of piety, singing: Hymn the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Prophesying by words and actions, you denounced the adulterous people, O most rich, teaching them in images to sing: Hymn the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* God, the equally eternal Word, appeared incarnate of the Virgin to those who cry out with faith: Hymn the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* In Babylon of old by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in divided ways: while it burned the Chaldeans, it refreshed the faithful as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

The passions mortified by the struggle of fasting, O wise one, you suffered much, reverently venerating the icons of the Saviour, the Virgin and the saints.

Those who raged insanely against Christ like savage wild beasts put you to death, O father: dragging you along as they beat you, they cast you into a ravine, making of you a martyr of the truth.

You irrigate the faithful with miracles as with water, O blessed one, drive away the spirits of wickedness, and wash away infirmities, receiving the grace of healing from Christ our God on high.

*Theotokion* You are more spacious than the heavens, O Virgin, having contained within you God whom nothing can contain: entreat him to deliver those who piously hymn you from soul-corrupting straits, O pure Lady.

*Ode 9*

*Canon of the Prophet*

*Irmos* Rejoice, O boast of virgins; rejoice, most pure Mother, whom all creation magnify with divine hymns.

You received honour as a prophet, O blessed Hosea, receiving a crown of splendour from God.

Illumined by the light of Christ, O excellent one, by your supplications render him merciful to those who hymn you.

Having lived an angelic life, O Hosea, you stand with the ranks of angels before the Master, praising him with glorifications.

*Theotokion* Desiring to save mankind, the Saviour and Lord clothed himself in our flesh through the pure Virgin.

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* Our God and Lord has appeared to us, the Son of the Father without beginning, incarnate of the Virgin, to give light to those in darkness and to gather the dispersed. Therefore let us magnify the exalted Mother of God.

Ending your course you preserved unsullied the Orthodox faith for which you suffered, O venerable father, receiving from above a twofold crown, as an invincible martyr and as an invulnerable ascetic.

Like a sweet-smelling lily, like a rose you blossomed in the meadow of divine asceticism; and, illumined by martyrdom, you spread your fragrance like a cedar, O praiseworthy Andrew, adornment of monastics.

Adorned with signs and wonders, you reposed, unharmed, in the sight of all, O blessed Andrew, and you illumine the souls of those who with ardent faith have recourse to you and ever bless you.

Celebrating your holy memorial today, a festive day full of gladness, we cry out to you with faith, O father: By your holy supplications to God deliver us all from the evil circumstances of life.

*Theotokion* You became the dwelling-place of the light who illuminates the world with rays of divinity and utterly drives the darkness of ignorance from the earth, O immaculate Maiden: therefore we glorify you.

*Exapostilarion,*  
*to the Special Melody* With the disciples let us ascend...

Let us praise victorious Andrew, celebrating his honoured memory in a godly manner, that we may be delivered from infirmities. He preached the reverent veneration of the precious images of the Saviour and all the saints; and so, receiving a crown in the heavens, he rejoices with the angels.

*Theotokion* O divinely wise, let us hymn the pure Virgin: the holy mountain of God, the candle stand, the jar, the table, the bridge, the staff and the lamp, the divine throne, the portal, the temple and bridal-chamber; for God, incarnate through her, immutably and in manner past nature, has by the ineffable union deified what he received.

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### **Apostle and Evangelist Luke**

#### **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.*

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody What shall we call you...*

What now shall we call you, O apostle? \* Heaven, for you declared the glory of God; \* radiance, for you illumine the world with light; \* cloud which rains down divine streams; \* cup full of the inspired wine of wisdom, \* which pours upon us \* the wine which makes our hearts glad. \* Pray that our souls be saved. *Twice*

What now shall I call you, O apostle pleasing to God? \* Golden ark of the law, \* which Christ has devised; \* river flowing forth to us from paradise; \* lamp shining with spiritual light; \* beacon illuminating the whole Church; \* living bread and divine table; \* cup of divine drink. \* Pray that our souls be saved. *Twice*

What now shall we call you, O beholder of God? \* Active servant of the mysteries of Christ; \* wise architect \* carving the tablets of grace, \* inscribing a newer law \* surpassing that of Sion, \* which was proclaimed by you. \* Pray that our souls be saved.

What now shall we call you, O glorious one? \* Strong treasury of heavenly gifts; \* renowned physician of bodies and souls; \* fellow labourer of Paul, \* his fellow traveller and companion, \* who described the acts of the apostles. \* Many are the names, O Luke, \* which virtue has devised for you. \* Pray that our souls be saved.

What now shall I call you, O divinely eloquent one? \* Disciple, in that you announced to us the glad tidings of Christ; \* physician, as you heal the passions of the soul; \* lamp shining spiritual light upon us; \* foundation and ground of the faith: \* for you have written for us \* the most precious Gospel. \* Pray that our souls be saved.

What now shall I call you, O wondrous one? \* True beholder of the wisdom of doctrine; \* recorder of the deeds and teachings of the apostles; \* unshakeable pillar of piety; \* indestructible tower of the Church. \* Many are your names, O Luke, \* and greater yet your gifts. \* Pray that our souls be saved.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6, composed by Anatolius.*

Apostle of Christ and recorder of divine dogmas, foundation of the Church: with divine proclamations you have truly healed the hearts of men in the gloom of ignorance,

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in the abyss of despair, saving them from storm waves, as a follower and disciple of Paul, the chosen vessel. We entreat you to implore our Saviour and God for those who ever celebrate your honoured memory with faith.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Dogmatikon* Who would not call you blessed, O most holy Virgin? Who would not hymn your most pure maternity? For the only begotten Son who shone forth from the Father from eternity, came forth, ineffably incarnate from you, O pure one. He who by nature is God, for our sakes assumed the nature of man; not divided into two persons, but known in two natures without confusion. O pure and most blessed Lady, pray to him to have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance, Prokimenon, Readings:*

A reading from the general epistle of John

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

A reading from the general epistle of James

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away. Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

A reading from the general epistle of Jude

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, who are sanctified by God the Father and kept safe for by Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I desire to remind you, though you are fully informed, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgment of the great Day. Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. . .

But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; for they said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts.” It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

*Aposticha, tone 5,  
to the Special Melody Rejoice, boast of fasters...*

Grace flowed as from your lips, O apostle Luke, for you were like a tongue of fire emitting words of light like burning arrows against those who desire darkness, writing and teaching the precious Gospel with preaching worthy of the light; and you were a living fragrance for those who truly desire life, as said Paul, who was your teacher but the aroma of death for those who love not life: grant us peace, life, light and great mercy.

*Verse* Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

Through your words, as you have said, we have come to recognize the confirmation of the words which you uttered in a godly manner, O servant of the mysteries, for you wrote for us concerning matters of which you were familiar, just as those who originally witnessed them transmitted them to you, whose peer you were as a servant of the incarnate Word, whom you beheld in Emmaus after his arising, and whose

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bread you ate with Cleopas with burning heart: likewise fill the souls of us who honour you with his divine warmth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Rejoice, O apostle who rejoiced to record for us the archangel's greeting to the pure one; and the Baptist from his mother's womb calling to her, the bearer of the Lord, and his conception and the incarnation of the Word, his temptations and miracles, teaching and suffering, his cross, death and arising and appearing which you witnessed; and the descent of the Spirit, the account of the activities, especially those of Paul, whose companion you were, as well as a physician and servant of the mysteries and a luminary of the Church, which may you ever preserve.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

O wise fisherman, holy disciple, workman of the Saviour and recounter of his sufferings: traversing creation by faith and gathering the nations out of error and bringing them as good incense to God, you found the way to heaven. Before the judge of all, pray that he deliver us from our iniquities, and free us from torment on the day of judgment.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion* Christ the Lord, my creator and redeemer  
proceeded from your womb, O most sanctified Virgin;  
clothed with my flesh, he released Adam from the original curse.  
Therefore most pure one, truly the Mother of God and Virgin,  
we sing unceasingly to you the greeting of the angel:  
Rejoice, O Lady,  
intercessor, protection and salvation of our souls.

*Troparion, tone 3*

O holy apostle and evangelist Luke, entreat the merciful God, that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

*Or this troparion, tone 5*

Let us praise with sacred hymns the holy apostle, the highly exulted Luke, who is acknowledged by the Church of Christ as the recorder of the acts of the apostles and the splendid author of the Gospel of Christ; for as a physician he heals the infirmities of man and the ailments of nature, who cleanses spiritual wounds and prays unceasingly for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *the resurrectional Theotokion.*

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord... the troparion, twice;  
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... Theotokion.*

*After the first reading of the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 3*

Come, let us praise the apostle Luke as our helmsman; for he has abolished the error of idolatry and has led men to the light of life and taught them to believe in the Trinity. Honouring him piously today, O faithful, let us glorify Christ our God.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O Mary, virgin Mother, holy mountain, paradise of Eden, from whom Christ our God, the Word seedlessly conceived, was born, through whom has come life for the world.

*After the second reading of the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 3,  
to the Special Melody Awed by the beauty of your virginity...*

When you journeyed with Cleopas to the town of Emmaus after the resurrection, O sacred Luke, the Lord appeared to you in veiled manner when you were downcast; and, receiving the bread he gave you, you immediately recognized the Saviour: entreat him to grant us great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* As an uncultivated vine, O Virgin, you have put forth the most comely cluster which pours forth the wine of salvation for us, gladdening the souls and bodies of all. Blessing you as the cause of good things, with the Angel Gabriel we ever cry out to you: Rejoice, O greatly joyous one.

*Polyeleos, and Magnification*

We magnify you, O holy apostle of Christ and evangelist Luke, and we honour your pangs and labours whereby you struggled in the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

Plying the depths of the noetic sea with the fishing rod of wisdom, O blessed Luke, you drew the souls of the faithful from the deadly abyss. Instructed by Paul, you purified

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your heart with the radiance of the Spirit, enlightened the nations with your teaching, and healed men's infirmities with miracles, ever praying to Christ our God for us, that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* With you as our hope and intercession, O Mother of God, we fear not the assault of the foe, for you save our souls.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4.*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Let every breath... *and the rest with the Gospel of John, number 67 [21:15-25]*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... the verse, tone 3*

When you journeyed with Cleopas to the town of Emmaus after the resurrection, O sacred Luke, the Lord appeared to you in veiled manner when you were downcast; and, receiving the bread he gave you, you immediately recognized the Saviour: entreat him to grant us great mercy.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklisis],  
and the canon of the apostle, tone 8*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* O you people, let us hymn our wondrous God, who delivered Israel from bondage, singing and crying out a hymn of victory to you, the only Master.

You were the most splendid chariot of God, bearing a holy and honorable name before men, O Luke, mightily drowning the chariots and mounted captains of deceit.

Receiving a torrent of life, with showers of divine knowledge which fell from you, you irrigated a world made arid by the burning heat of ungodliness, O blessed Luke.

Bright as lightning by the shining of the Spirit and the purity of your life, O thrice-blessed one, you shone as a gift from God upon the world, illumining the hearts of the faithful.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O most holy temple, fleece bedewed by God, sealed fount of the stream of immortality: O Lady, preserve your flock unharmed by foes.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* None is as holy as the Lord, and none is as righteous as our God, whom all creation hymns, singing: None is righteous but you, O Lord.

Shining like the sun in your teaching, O blessed Luke, you adorned the foundation of the Church, causing the gloom of deception to vanish with the fervour of faith.

You cut divinely beauteous tablets from the stone of the incarnation of God, O enriched one, with a mason's hammer as your godly tongue and divinely inspired mouth.

Entering the luminous cloud, and covered thereby, O wise one, you received the new law inscribed upon your heart by the finger of the Spirit.

*Theotokion* There is none as pure as you, O Lady, for you held within yourself God the Word, who alone is greatly merciful.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

As the companion of Paul you patiently endured all kinds of misfortune, O praiseworthy apostle of the Lord, finishing your course in martyrdom: now you dwell with him in the highest, O blessed one. Having preached the Gospel of Christ to the world, you have illumined the whole earth, O honoured Luke. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O undefiled, blameless and immaculate Lady, cloud of the noetic sun and golden candlestand of the light of God: with the radiance of dispassion illumine my soul, grown dim through the blindness of the passions; with torrents of compunction wash my polluted heart, and with tears of repentance cleanse me of the mire of my evil deeds, that I may cry out with love: O ever-virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ our God, that he grant me remission of my transgressions; for I, your servant, have you as my hope.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* With divine vision the prophet perceived that you alone, O Word, would become incarnate from the overshadowed mountain, the Mother of God; and with fear he glorified your power.

As a steed of the king of all, O divinely wise one, you trampled the sea of the nations, sweetening brackish unbelief with the salt of God.

Drawing his bow, Christ loosed you splendidly as a well-honed arrow, bright with beams of piety illuminating our souls.

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With mystic skill, O blessed one, heal the passions of soul and body of those who hymn you, excising the putridity of sin.

*Theotokion* O Mary, Bride of God, deliver me from cruel transgressions and misfortune, and guide me to the haven of tranquility and salvation by your supplications.

### *Ode 5*

*Irmos* Waking at dawn we call to you to save us, O Lord; for you are our God and we know no other than you.

You were like dew falling from the heavens, destroying the burning heat of deception by your discourse.

Conceiving the fear of God within you, O apostle, you gave birth to salvation for those astray.

Ascending the mountain of the virtues, O blessed one, you preached the Gospel of the kingdom to all.

*Theotokion* Mary, Mother of God, who knew not wedlock, dash the vain hopes of the enemy and gladden those who hymn you.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* Bestow upon me a robe of light, O most merciful Christ our God, who covers yourself with light as with a garment.

Having drained the cup of wisdom, with the knowledge of Christ our God you gave drink to all, O Luke most wise.

Chosen as the companion of Paul, O blessed and divinely eloquent Luke, you fished for the nations with the net of your dogmas.

You were a cloud which raining upon us a shower of life, O apostle, flowing from the springs of salvation.

*Theotokion* Your child, the destroyer of idols, O Mary Bride of God, is worshipped with the Father and the Spirit.

*Kontakion, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody* The steadfast...

Let us praise the godly Luke, a true preacher of piety, an orator of the ineffable mysteries and a star of the Church; for the Word who alone knows the hearts of men chose him to be with the wise Paul, a teacher of the nations.

*Ikos* Enriched with heavenly knowledge by the hand of the Master, you were entrusted with your portion of the gentiles, O exalted apostle. Setting your life afire with discourse, O Luke, you became a transmitter of the law to the nations greater than Moses. Through the Spirit you explained the divine faith, comparing yourself to the divine tablets graven by the hand of God: Christ who alone knows the hearts of men, has glorified you.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The God fearing youths in Babylon did not bow before the golden image, but bedewed in the midst of the fiery furnace, they sang the hymn: Blessed are you, the supremely high God of our fathers.

As a faithful disciple of the ineffable mysteries of Christ God, O wise one, you proclaimed his divine Gospel to the faithful who sang: Blessed are you, the supremely high God of our fathers.

You were adorned with the embellishment of the virtues, O blessed Luke, illumined by the rays of divine majesty and singing unceasingly to your creator: Blessed are you, the supremely high God of our fathers.

Emitting radiant beams, you were like a torch in the midst of night, piously driving away the darkness of error with the radiance of your words, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely high God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* With a life illumined with wise discourse, O Luke who beheld God, you described the birthgiving of the Virgin and lovingly depicted her in icons: to her we faithfully offer veneration, glorifying Christ.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* Sing to the Lord who was glorified on the holy mountain, who revealed to Moses the mystery of the Ever-virgin through the burning bush; and exalt him above all for ever.

With the dew-bearing wisdom of your words and showers of divine grace you quenched the furnace of error, as a sacred proclaimer of the Lord, O divinely wise one.

Beautiful were your feet, O blessed one, who preached the Gospel of the peace which passes understanding: him we exalt above all and glorify for ever.

Christ, the light of the world, the Lord of glory, the radiance of the Father's glory brought you to enlighten those who sit in darkness: him we exalt above all for ever.

*Theotokion* We hymn and glorify for ever the Lord who made his abode within the Virgin, through her renewing ancient Adam in a manner strange and past description.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* In a manner beyond understanding you truly gave birth to God at the word of the archangel: the unwedded Mother of God the Most High, who is more exalted than the most pure hosts, with unceasing glorifications we magnify you.

In proclaiming the Gospel you were a teacher of salvation to the world; and, breathing the inspiration of the Spirit, you were a sacred and renowned trumpet, O honoured apostle of sacred eloquence.

Adorned with the acts of the Saviour's apostles, moved by God you recorded them for the faithful, setting them forth as a lasting and inspired model, O glorious preacher.

You now stand where you have attained your ultimate desire, O divinely guiding Luke, as you once stood before Christ, delighting in the divine vision bestowed by him: therefore we call you blessed.

*Theotokion* We magnify you, the Mother of God, who held in your arms the unapproachable God who is hymned by the hosts of heaven and who ever grants salvation to us through you.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* With the disciples...

O Luke, apostle of Christ, servant of ineffable mysteries and teacher of the gentiles: with godly Paul and the most pure Mother of God whose divine image you lovingly depicted, pray, O beholder of God, for us who bless you and celebrate your sacred repose.

Glory be to the Father... *another Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

We praise you, the excellent recorder of the divine Gospel, as the disciple of grace and follower of Paul; for you proclaimed the incarnation of the Word and his becoming man, and his sufferings, O blessed one. Gathering with faith, O Luke, we rightly honour you.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Ineffable was your birthgiving, O Mother of God, the most pure temple, for you gave birth to God the Word, who by pre-eternal counsel made his abode within you. Hymning your birthgiving, we magnify you, O immaculate Lady.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 4 verses, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody* You, the cloud of light...

O faithful, in hymns let us honour the Apostle Luke, disciple of Christ and wise recorder of the Gospel, the beautiful chosen vessel, the animate image, the boast of all the Churches; for he preached the all-glorious miracles of God, enlightening those on earth with the rays of theology for the sake of goodness.

Learning the healing of souls more than the skill of healing bodies, O wise one, you were excellent at both, inspired by the wisdom of God. Healing souls and bodies thereby, O blessed Luke, you called men to knowledge, taking wing to the desire for God, and ever leading men to heaven; and you pray for those who praise you.

With the hook of the Word you have drawn forth those who entered into the abyss of ignorance like fish to the knowledge of God. You offer to Christ goodly food, O blessed and sacred Luke: fitting honour and an incorrupt life, O apostle of Christ, wise herald and recounter of the active workings of grace.

*Composed by Leo the Magistrate, tone 8*

Come all creation, and with hymns let us praise the true physician of souls, the ever-memorable Luke, the disciple of the Saviour; for with the anointing of the font of Christ he has healed the sickness of ungodliness, and with the rivers of divinely flowing waters which proceeded from his mouth he has irrigated animate gardens. His proclamation has gone forth like prophecy into all the world, and he prays that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... *same tone*

As we gather, O faithful, like David let us cry out in hymns to Luke, the mystic orator of the Word: Your tongue as shown to be the pen of a scribe, adorning the visage of Christ, the chief-scribe, that the nations may understand the knowledge of God: among them he preached the Gospel, recording also the deeds of the apostles; and, standing before God in Trinity, he prays for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion*      O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the evangelist.*

*Prokimenon tone 8*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*Epistle to the Colossians, number 260 from the midpoint [4:5-9, 14, 18]*

*Alleluia tone 1*

Let the heavens praise your wonders O Lord and let your faithfulness be sung in the assembly of the holy ones.

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

*Gospel of Luke, number 51 [Luke 10:16-21]*

*Communion Verse*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

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### **Our venerable father, John of Rila**

*On the same day, Righteous John of Kronstadt, whose service follows this*

### **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.*

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody O wondrous marvel...*

With the words of hymnody, O faithful, let us praise the paragon who shone forth in fasting, the offspring of the wilderness, the lamp of men's hearts, crying: Rejoice, O blessed one, great glory who has shone in our days.

Between two ways of life you wisely set your balance in a God-pleasing manner, O father, for you forsook corruptible things; and with your mind on Christ who abides for ever, O blessed John, you made him the rule of your soul.

You rejoiced to see the completion of your labours, which eye has not seen nor ear heard; and having the beauties of paradise as the splendid reward of your struggles, your tomb flows with grace and your body remains untouched by corruption.

*And 3 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

Those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, \* which have not entered into the heart of men, \* and are prepared by God for those who love him, \* you desired, O divinely inspired John. \* You rejected the confusion of the world \* and hastened to God alone, \* ever delighting in his grace: \* earnestly implore him, \* that our souls be saved.

Adorned with the splendour of understanding, \* you illumined your soul \* with the commandments of God. \* You spurned passing things which are ephemeral, \* and, forsaking all which is earthly, \* you chose to dwell in the wilderness, \* keeping to the commandments of Christ, \* O venerable John: \* entreat him that he save our souls.

With love you desired the master, \* observing his precepts from childhood, \* being raised more on piety than on milk. \* You adorned your body \* with chastity and purity, \* ever desiring to be in the house of God, \* where you found Christ: \* entreat him, O blessed one, \* that he save our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

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The Spirit of God has been poured forth, as the holy Joel foretold; and, moved thereby, and having received his activity, venerable John revealed the mysteries of God to us, the faithful. Therefore he has illumined us with the light of God and with grace.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Dogmatikon*    The king of heaven in his love for man,  
                        appeared on earth and dwelt with mankind.  
                        He came forth from the pure Virgin,  
                        with the flesh he had received from her:  
                        he is the only Son,  
                        twofold in nature but not in persons.  
                        In proclaiming him truly to be perfect man and perfect God,  
                        we confess Christ our God.  
                        Beseech him, O unwedded Mother,  
                        to have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance, Prokimenon, 3 Readings:*

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous live for ever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with his right hand he will cover them, and with his arm he will shield them. The Lord will take his zeal as his whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against his frenzied foes. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap from the clouds to the target, as from a well-drawn bow, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evildoing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High; he will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will

shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect. (Wisdom 3: 1-9)

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and while living among sinners were taken up. They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or guile deceive their souls. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; or their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

*Aposticha, tone 1  
to the Special Melody O most praised martyrs...*

In our mind you beheld \* the noetic hosts of heaven; \* and you lived by the words of God, \* laying them up in your heart, \* where you established your aspiration \* as they were a ladder. \* O John our venerable father, \* pray that peace and great mercy \* be granted to the world.

*Verse* Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

O venerable John, \* from childhood you founded your life \* upon Christ our God; \* and, strengthened by him, \* you subjected the passions of the flesh \* to your mind, \* making that which is lower submit to that which is higher. \* Therefore, pray you, \* that our souls be saved.

*Verse* Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.

O divinely wise John our father, \* you appear as a great beacon, \* enlightening the world \* with the radiance of miracles \* and divine works. \* And even after your repose \* you have received the light which fades not. \* Pray, therefore, \* that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

Chosen flock of Christ, gatherings of the faithful and newly consecrated people, come, hasten to the honoured memorial of our venerable father John, who shone in heart and has come to us. For now his sacred body lies before us, an honourable confirmation of our faith, a true adornment of the venerable. Let the assemblies of the heretics who believe not in the resurrection be put to shame; for even after death he has preserved his countenance: he enables the lame to walk and the blind to see, and empowers the

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paralyzed; and he strengthens our pious Orthodox hierarchs against heresies; and, standing in spirit before the throne of the Master, he prays that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O Virgin unwedded, who inconceivably conceived God in the flesh; receive the prayers of your servants. Immaculate Mother of God the Most High who grants cleansing of transgressions to all: receive our entreaty that we all may be saved.

*Troparion, tone 1*

Your angelic life has been the foundation of repentance, the prescription of contrition, the model of consolation and spiritual perfection; O venerable father John who abode in prayers, fasting and tears, entreat Christ our God on behalf of our souls.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* At the sound of Gabriel's voice  
calling to you: Rejoice, O Virgin,  
the Master of all was conceived in you, the holy tabernacle,  
of which righteous David spoke.  
In bearing your creator you surpass the spaciousness of the heavens.  
~ Glory to him who dwelt in you;  
~ glory to him who came forth from you;  
glory to him who set us free by your giving of birth.

## Matins

*After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...*

With abstinence you caused carnal passions to wither away, O father, and through the giving of alms you received great spiritual grace. You were well-pleasing to God, and even after your death were worthy vessel of miracles. O venerable father John, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who with love honour your holy memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* By your divine birthgiving, O pure one , you have restored the moribund nature of mortals corrupt in the passions, and you have raised all from death to the life of incorruption: as is fitting, we bless you as you foretold, O most glorious Virgin.

*After the second reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,*

*to the Special Melody* The Word who is equally unoriginate...

With hymns let us honour the faster of the Lord as one who struck down the assaults of the passions with steadfast abstinence, and who with patience truly shamed the adverse foe and his arrogance, and now prays that our souls find mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Awesome is the miracle of your conceiving, and ineffable is the image of birthgiving seen in you, O pure Virgin, filling my mind with awe and amazing my thoughts: your glory has spread over all, O Mother of God, for the salvation of our souls.

*Polyeleos, and this magnification*

We bless you, O venerable father John, and we honour your holy memory, O instructor of monks and convisor with the angels.

*Verse* I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined to me and heard my cry.

*After the Polyeleos, this Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Receiving pastoral ability, O pillar and foundation of monastics, you tended your flock with understanding; for, desiring the divine teachings of Christ, you found illumination therein, O venerable one. You inspired all with zeal for the angelic life, that they might glorify God with oneness of mind. O God-bearing John, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Most pure virgin Mother of God, heal the cruel sufferings of my soul, I pray, and grant me the forgiveness of the transgressions which I have mindlessly committed, defiling my wretched soul and body. Woe is me, for what shall I do at that time when the angels shall separate my soul from my passion-ridden body? Then be my helper and most fervent intercessor, for you are the hope of your servant.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4.*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Let every breath... *and the rest with the Gospel of Matthew, number 43 [Mat 11: 27-30]*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... the verse, tone 6*

O venerable father, the words of your teaching have gone out into all the earth; and so, you have found the reward of your labour in heaven, having destroyed legions of demons and attained the ranks of the angels, whose life you blamelessly emulated. As you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat peace for our souls.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paracrisis], and that of the venerable one.*

*Ode 1*

*Canon of venerable John, tone 4,  
upon the acrostic O blessed luminary, I hymn your wonders.*

*Irmos* The people of Israel, driven with dryshod steps across the watery deep of the Red Sea, seeing the riders and mounted captains of the enemy engulfed therein, sang with gladness: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Illumined with divine light, you now dwell with the angels, O father. By your supplications ever save those who keep your sacred memory, who sing with joy: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Without wavering you trod the path leading to life, O blessed one, fleeing the tumult of the world and overcoming the vexation of demons, O father John, crying out with joy: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Having mortified your flesh with fasting, guided by divine power you subjected it to the divine Spirit, and joyfully cried: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Forsaking all beautiful things, O father, you loved the constant beauty of the house of the Lord, where the sound is heard of those who keep festival, joyously singing: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

*Theotokion* Having conceived the timeless Son of the unoriginate Father, incarnate among men for our sake, you gave birth ineffably to him in time. To him we cry, rejoicing: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* The bow of the mighty has become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

You submitted to the law of the Spirit, which you presented to all, O venerable one, choosing not to submit to the law of sin.

Directing your mind above to God, O father, you abandoned the things of earth, unceasingly exalted by the pangs of abstinence.

Breaking the bonds of nature, O God-bearing John, by your pure and supernatural life you received the ability to accomplish things beyond nature.

That you might converse with God without interruption, O father, you resolved to live in the wilderness, withdrawing from tumult.

*Theotokion* Desiring to save man for his good, as a benefactor who loves mankind he dwelt in you without being confined, O Mother of God.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

Tried like gold in the crucible by the fire of asceticism, you became lustrous, O wise and venerable John, and passed over to the heavenly kingdom. Praising you with faith, we cry: O father, ask for us grace, mercy and purification.

*Theotokion* Guide us upon the paths of repentance who follow the wayward path of wickedness, who rouse the wrath of the supremely good Lord, O blessed and unwedded Mary, the refuge of all in despair and the abode of God.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

You cast off the old person and sinful passions, O honoured father, and through ascetic labour clothed yourself in the new, following Christ.

Your splendid life, O father, showed an excellent standard of divine virtue, in prayer and fasting, in vigils and entreaties directed to Christ who loves mankind.

You gave no slumber to your eyes until you made yourself an beauteous temple for the all-seeing Master, to whom you cried: Glory to your power, O Christ.

*Theotokion* You brought life to mortals, O most pure Lady, in giving birth to the giver of life who delivers from corruption those who cry to him: Glory to your power, O Christ.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* Enlighten us through your commandments, O Lord; and with your upraised arm grant us your peace, O lover of mankind.

O blessed one, you showed wisdom in your youth, understanding in your old age, patience and long-suffering throughout your whole life, and love for all.

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Giving wings to your soul, and directing your senses, O wise one, you became an honourable temple consecrated to God.

You adorned your soul, O venerable one, making your mind the master, for it had Christ guiding you on the heavenly way.

*Theotokion* The Virgin gave birth to the all-pure God who set down the law, the Saviour of all men who proclaims piety to all on earth.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* The prophet Jonah in the belly of the whale prefiguring your burial for three days cried out and prayed: Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus king of hosts.

You sincerely loved to dwell in the wilderness, O God-bearer, receiving there God who delivered you and guarded your steps.

You endured, unwavering, in the wilderness, O divinely wise one, preserving the purity of your life unadulterated even to your repose; therefore you were granted delight.

You lived an angelic life on earth and fittingly received honour equal to that of the angels, standing with them before God.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, you conceived the Word of the unoriginate God, who became like us among men for our sake, known immutably in two natures.

*Kontakion of John of Rila, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody* To you, the champion leader...

Emulating the life of angels, O venerable one, forsaking all things of earth you hastened to Christ. Guarding yourself with his commandments, you were seen to be a tower unshaken by the assaults of the enemy. Rejoice, O father John, luminary most radiant.

*Ikos* Come, you faithful, let us hymn venerable John, who in his mortal body supernaturally emulated the life of the angels and joins chorus with them in heaven. For he considered the beauties of this world but dung, that he might receive the things of heaven; and, having ascended the mountain, like great Moses and Elias of old, purified by fasting, he has been brought to behold the radiance of the Trinity, not in darkness, nor in the whirlwind, but in the light of the grace of God. Radiantly emitting beams of miracles, and streaming healing from his tomb, he is like a living healer of infirmities; and so we cry to him: Rejoice, O father John, radiant luminary.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* He who saved the children of Abraham in the fire, slayed the Chaldeans whom justice rightly overtook: blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

With the power of the God's help you cast down the enemy, and were a victor, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

Abandoning the darkness of the passions and illumined with the enlightenment of dispassion, you sang: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

Having wounded your soul with the beauties of the virtues, you became beauteous, and rejoiced to sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* The Lord who loves mankind, having dwelt within you and become incarnate, O Virgin, has called us captives to the state we enjoyed in the beginning.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* The birth giving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Taking to heart the words of eternal life, you wasted your flesh, O blessed one; and having mortified yourself to the world, you clothed yourself in life-bearing mortality, singing: Praise the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

O God-bearer, entreat him who is the true benefactor, that he be merciful to those who celebrate your honoured memorial and grant them remission of offences.

Unceasingly directing your gaze toward God and receiving his radiance, like a mirror you reflected the never-waning light upon those who sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

You mounted the ladder reaching to the heavens, on which the Lord appeared, O venerable father; making divine ascents until you achieved the fulfillment of your desires, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* We hymn you, O joyous one, for you gave birth for us to the incarnate God. We call you the Mother of God, the God-receiver, and the excellency of Jacob, hymning the Lord, and exalting him above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* Eve, through weakness, lived under the curse of disobedience; but O Virgin Mother of God, you have put forth a blessing for the world through the fruit of your childbearing: therefore we all magnify you.

With tears of ascetic endeavour you watered your furrow, O God-bearing father, and now you rejoice, gathering in the sheaves of the honour of your struggles with joy: therefore we call you blessed.

The never-waning light shone within you, and you have received eternal gladness where you join chorus with the angels around the king and Lord. O blessed father, be mindful of those who keep your memory with faith.

Enabled to elude the demons' arrows and evil wiles, you were saved, O blessed one; therefore, your soul, holy, pure and undefiled, has been granted heavenly delight: remember those who honour you.

In the practice of asceticism you vanquished hordes of demons, O father; therefore, he who alone is the bestower of honours crowned you with glory and has granted you the divine enjoyment of the divine radiance.

*Theotokion* Having given birth to the author of all creation, O Mother of God, you have surpassed all creation in divine glory, holiness and grace, and are greater than all in virtue; therefore we all magnify you.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Heaven with stars...*

Desiring the life of the angels, you withdrew to the wilderness; and having brought the carnal passions to submission, you became the peer of the angels, O John our God-bearing father.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* By your mighty protection, O pure one, preserve us unharmed by the assault of the enemy; for you alone among women do we have as a refuge.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 4 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody* O most glorious wonder...

O venerable father John, \* having taken the yoke of Christ \* upon your shoulders, \* you manfully trampled underfoot \* the visitation of the enemy. \* With faith we honour you, \* O blessed boast of monastics. \* Therefore entreat Christ unceasingly, \* that he save our souls. *Twice*

Assembling with faith, \* we honour you, O wise John, ascetic of Christ; \* for, rejoicing, you journeyed \* into the impassable wilderness, \* becoming an honoured guide. \* Therefore, we cry to you with faith, O blessed one, \* the boast of fasters; \* pray for us to the Lord, \* that our souls find mercy.

O John our venerable father, \* for life which is to come \* you confined yourself to rocky defiles and forests, \* in no way daunted by the invisible foe who assailed you many

times. \* But by your supplications you caused them to vanish, \* O father, steadfast of soul, \* wondrous sheep in the wilderness of Rila, \* who has Christ the lamb as your shepherd. \* We all honour and bless you with faith.

Glory be to the Father... *same tone*

Mounting the chariot of the virtues, bound for heaven, O wondrous one, you attained an exalted life through abstinence. Dwelling in the wilderness, looking to the beauty of the Jerusalem on high, and having received honours for your struggles and pangs, you rejoice with the heavenly ranks, having become a dweller in the kingdom, an heir to eternal good things. Entreat the Saviour of all, O God-bearing John, that he grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*    O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

*Great Doxology and the rest*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the venerable one.*

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

*Epistle to the Galatians, number 213 [5: 22-6: 2]*

*Alleluia, tone 6*

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments. His children shall be mighty in the land.

*Gospel of Luke, number 24 [Luke 6: 17-23]*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

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### **Righteous John of Kronstadt**

*This feast may be held on December 20, which is the day of his death.  
Because of the Forefeast, we move his commemoration to this, his nameday  
If the commemoration is held in December, the hymnody of the Forefeast is added to the following.*

### **Little Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 2,*

Glory to you, Jesus, Son of God, my strength, light of my mind, peace and joy of my heart: glory to you who delivers me from my invisible foes. This, you cried out, O John; may you also teach us to hymn the Lord with all our heart, O righteous John, servant of Christ. *Twice*

Incarnate, Christ called thieves and harlots to repentance, and you, O merciful pastor, fulfilling the commandment of the chief shepherd, ate with publicans and conversed with sinners, calling all to repentance and teaching them to pray: O God, be merciful to me, a sinner; glory to you, our merciful God.

As one in the image of God, preserve this great image, the image of God's beauty, the image of his boundless love, that you may be children of our Father in heaven, that you may be holy as your Father is holy. Thus, you instructed your flock, O divinely wise pastor, and thus you yourself lived in a holy manner.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 8*

Never has your love failed, O merciful father John of Kronstadt, our hope for correction of life, our pastoral protector, and our generous benefactor.

*Both now and for ever... same tone*

*Theotokion*    O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

*Aposticha, tone 4*

From infancy you belonged to the Lord, acquiring the sense of a grown man, desiring the wisdom of God; and you were a dwelling place of God, O gracious John, our father.

*Verse*   He gives freely to the poor: his righteousness stands for ever.

Standing before the Holy Trinity with a mind illumined by grace, O blessed John, with heavenly rays you have illumined those in the darkness of sin. Enlighten us also with the light of your divine vision.

*Verse* His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Unapproachable light dwelt within you, O righteous father, and the Lord set you as a lamp amid the darkness of sin: instructed by you, we hymn your gracious memory, O John.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

O Lord, who bound your apostles with the bond of love, and has appointed our father John as a new herald of your love: establish even now the Church's bond of love, O our Saviour, that united we may hymn you and your ineffable goodness.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* No one who flees to you goes away disappointed, O most pure Virgin and Mother of God: he who asks a favour receives according to the virtue of his request.

*Troparion, tone 4*

With the apostles your sound has gone out into all the earth; with the confessors you endured sufferings for Christ; like the holy hierarchs you proclaimed God the Word; and with the venerable you shone forth the grace of God. Therefore the Lord has exulted the depths of your humility above the heavens, and has given us your name as a source of wonderful miracles. O wonder worker, take pity on those who are in misfortune, and hear your children who call to you in faith, righteous John, the beloved pastor.

*Or this Troparion, tone 4*

O wonderworker, who lives in Christ for ever, take pity in your love upon people in misfortune; hearken to your children who with faith call upon you, expecting compassionate aid from you, O John of Kronstadt, our beloved pastor.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* The mystery hidden from before the ages, and unknown even to the angels, through you O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth: God incarnate in unconfused union, who willingly accepted the cross for our sake, and thereby raising up the first formed man has saved our souls from death.

*Litany and Dismissal.*

## **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses to St John, tone 6,  
to the Special Melody Having laid aside...*

*Note: if the saint is commemorated on December 20, we insert 10 verses;  
6 of the 20th, and 4 for St John.*

Having laid aside the things of this world, with one voice let us praise the wondrous beacon of Russia and the world, the good shepherd and priest John, a splendid model of life in Christ, who on earth was aflame with the spirit of prayer, and who received from the Lord a twofold gift of healing. Through his prayers may Christ strengthen us in piety as steadfast children of the Church, for the salvation of our souls. *Twice*

With all your heart and mind, O blessed John, you loved the life in Christ; thinking and doing all to please God. Your labours bore fruit abundantly through the grace of the priesthood, and at the Lord's Supper, as if in heaven, with elevated spirit you stood at the Lord's altar from day to day with tears of contrition. Now standing before the Holy Trinity in the highest, offer prayers for the peace of the world and salvation for our souls.

By the path of spiritual vigilance, reverence, contemplation of the mysteries of God, amendment of soul, and repose in God, you attained the heavenly bridal chamber. By your acts of mercy and miracles the Church is adorned, by the purity of your life impurity is put to shame, and by the words of your writings faith is confirmed. We entreat you, O honoured John: Be our guide where ever we be, that guided and guarded by you, we may be granted the kingdom of heaven.

*And these verses, same tone and melody*

With great concern in your heart for the darkness of the nations, you first thought to depart to the lands of the East. But Kronstadt which was far nearer, was perishing, and seeing this, you submitted to the call from on high, which came during sleep through a vision of a church, O righteous John; and you said: I know the loftiness of the priesthood, yet I hope in God; for I know that he is my strength. How great is the divine power of love, which draws us to Christ and strengthens us. *Twice*

With room for all in your pastoral heart, and moved by the wounds inflicted upon the poor by poverty, you called the people by your words and writings to build a house of industry where the poor might find refuge. O teacher of good deeds worked through faith; O nurturer of the souls and bodies of the poor; O John, joy of those in despair, your care for such here on earth reflected your intercession now for them in heaven.

Having boldness in prayer, you do not cease to offer it with a heart open to all and full of compassion, even after your death. Growing richer in love, you ever stream with

healing and consolation, O John, joyful and speedy helper. You once healed through the laying on of your hand, knowing the needs of those who asked before a word was uttered: intercede for us who hymn you and await your assistance, as you are alive in Christ.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

You believed in righteousness with your whole heart, O priest of God, and said: The Lord is my basis; the Lord is my deliverance from eternal death; the Lord is my eternal life; the Lord is my purification, my deliverance and sanctification; the Lord is my strength in weakness, my freedom when I am constrained, my light in darkness, my peace in confusion. Glory to you, O my Saviour, almighty power. Glory to you, O Saviour, omnipresent power. Glory to you, most kind-hearted compassion. Glory to you, power ever open to my prayers. Glory to you, brightest eye which ever regards me and sees my hidden things. O holy John, following after you we also cry out to the Lord: Glory to you, O our God, wondrous in your saints whose teachings reveal your wonder: glory to you.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Dogmatikon*      The king of heaven in his love for man,  
                        appeared on earth and dwelt with mankind.  
                        He came forth from the pure Virgin,  
                        with the flesh he had received from her:  
                        he is the only Son,  
                        twofold in nature but not in persons.  
                        In proclaiming him truly to be perfect man and perfect God,  
                        we confess Christ our God.  
                        Beseech him, O unwedded Mother,  
                        to have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance; Prokimenon; Readings:*

A reading from the prophecy of Joel.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people. In response to his people the LORD said: I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will

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be satisfied; and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations. I will remove the northern army far from you, and drive it into a parched and desolate land, its front into the eastern sea, and its rear into the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up. Surely he has done great things! Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.[Joel 2:12-27]

A reading from the prophecy of Joel.

Thus says the Lord: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls. [Joel 2:28-32]

A reading from the first Epistle of John

Beloved, those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? [1 John 4:20-5:5]

*Entreaty, tone 2*

O Jesus, Son of God, my strength; O light of my mind, peace and joy of my heart: Glory to you. Glory to you, who has delivered me from my invisible enemies: thus you cried out, O John. Thus you teach us to hymn the Lord with all our heart.

Christ called thieves and harlots to repentance; and you, O merciful pastor, fulfilling the commandment of the chief shepherd, ate with publicans and conversed with sinners, calling all to repentance and teaching all to pray: O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Glory to you, our merciful God.

You are the image of God; therefore preserve this great image, the image of God's beauty, the image of his boundless love, that you may be children of our Father in heaven, that you may be holy as your Father is holy. Thus, O divinely wise pastor, you instructed your flock, and thus you yourself lived.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 1*

When we pray, we pray through the Holy Spirit; Therefore the prayers of the Church are the breathing of the Holy Spirit, and we Christians are his offspring. Come, therefore, and abide in us, O Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us and renew us all, that we may be the one Body of Christ. Such was your unceasing prayer, O wondrous John our father, for God heard you and anointed you with the oil of eternal joy.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* We see you as the resplendent dawn of the unwaning light, O Virgin; for he who dispelled the darkness of sin came forth from you, reviving our hearts with the fervour of the Spirit. We implore you: Cease not to pray earnestly to him for us who confess you to be truly the Mother of God.

*Aposticha, tone 6*

O blessed father John, being an emulator of the saints, you acquired the holy faith of the patriarchs, the zeal of the prophets and the apostles, the sanctity and divine mind of the hierarchs, the boldness of the confessors, the freely-given aid of the unmercenary healers, the unceasing prayer of the venerable: we celebrate your holy memory with splendour.

*Verse* He gives freely to the poor: his righteousness stands for ever.

O divinely wise father John, having begun with the fear of God, in understanding you attained the heights of wisdom. And crucified with Christ by love, having become his very own, you later drove out the fear by love; for fear has torment, as the Apostle of love has taught. Therefore, O father, you adorned the minds of the faithful and taught your flock to love God. O John, entreat Christ our God, that he grant us also this grace and great mercy.

*Verse* His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

The Lord is the strength of my heart, the Lord is the light of my mind, the Lord is my rest and my joy, my faith, hope and love; he is my food and drink, my vesture and protection. Teach us also, holy father, to understand these words and to place our

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salvation in the Lord. Grant us of your goodness, as Elias granted Elisha, that our hope and strength may be in the Lord.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

It was not our fathers that told us, nor our elders that informed us, but we ourselves have seen the miracles that occurred through you and the grace that pours from you. Our loved ones were healed, those were dying arose from bed in good health, petitions were granted through your prayer: we honour you as a favourite of God and an intercessor before the Lord.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* You are exalted above all creatures, O virgin Mother of God, for he who dwells in the highest chose you to be his habitation, that he might raise up our fallen nature. We fall down before you, as the Mother of our Saviour, as our hope and confidence. Reject us not who seek your aid.

*Troparion, tone 4*

With the apostles your sound has gone out into all the earth; with the confessors you endured sufferings for Christ; like the holy hierarchs you proclaimed God the Word; and with the venerable you shone forth the grace of God. Therefore the Lord has exulted the depths of your humility above the heavens, and has given us your name as a source of wonderful miracles. O wonder worker, take pity on those who are in misfortune, and hear your children who call to you in faith, righteous John, the beloved pastor.

*Or this Troparion, tone 4*

O wonderworker, who lives in Christ for ever, take pity in your love upon people in misfortune; hearken to your children who with faith call upon you, expecting compassionate aid from you, O John of Kronstadt, our beloved pastor.

*If it be a vigil, the troparion of the saint twice, and Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once.  
But if it is not a vigil, then after the troparion we sing:*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion* The mystery hidden from before the ages, and unknown even to the angels, through you O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth: God incarnate in unconfused union, who willingly accepted the cross for our sake, and thereby raising up the first formed man has saved our souls from death.

## Matins

*After the first reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

You turned away neither stranger nor sojourner, O father John, but were merciful and compassionate to all: a father for orphans and a defender for widows, vesture for the naked and food for the hungry. Remember us also, your poor children, and deny us not your gracious love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Joseph marvelled to see that which transcends nature, your conceiving without seed, O Mother of God. He remembered the dew upon the fleece, the burning bush which remained intact and the blossoming rod of Aaron. In witness to these things, your spouse and guardian proclaimed to the priests: The Virgin bears a child and after childbirth still remains a virgin.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 5*

Strengthened by divine power, you overcame the temptations of the invisible foe and have passed on to the unwaning light. Heal the sufferings of our souls and guide us by your counsel, O John, our father, given by God to all as a physician and comforter.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O unwedded bride who gave birth to God, who turned the grief of Eve into joy; we the faithful praise and honour you, for you have led us back from the ancient curse. Most holy and exalted Lady, pray without ceasing that we be saved.

*Polyeleos and Magnification*

We magnify you, O holy and righteous father John, and we honour your holy memory, for you entreat Christ our God for us.

*Verse* Blessed is the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commandments.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8*

You were a fiery servant of the Word of God and a vessel of faith, O divinely inspired John; therefore, the Lord appointed you a new Abraham, a father of many. Pray therefore that we may all be children of God and that our souls may be saved.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Let us hymn the heavenly gateway and tabernacle, the holy mountain, the bright cloud, the ladder to heaven, the spiritual paradise, the deliverer of Eve, and the mighty treasure of the whole earth; for through her came the salvation of the world and

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the pardon of the transgression of old. We therefore cry out to her: Intercede with your Son and God that he grant remission of sins to those who reverently worship your most holy child.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4.*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness and let your faithful ones shout for joy.

*Verse* Lord, remember David and all his trouble.

Let everything that has breath... *and the rest, with the Gospel of Luke, number 24* (6:17-23).

*After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 6*

O earthly angel, friend of men, instrument of the Spirit, bearer of the love of Christ, griever for the world and mouth of the faithful, consolation of the grieving and sorrowful, help of the persecuted, physician of our souls and bodies, father and intercessor, holy and righteous John: come and stand with us, that with you we may offer praise and thanksgiving to God the Saviour, celebrating this great occasion.

*Canon of the all-holy Mother of God (the Paraklisis), and that of righteous John, tone 4,  
upon the acrostic My life is in Christ, to whom I sing for ever.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Strengthen my senses and mind, O my Saviour, that I may worthily hymn the supplications and struggles of your servant John our father, who loved you and was beloved of you.

O blessed one who from youth was chosen to sing to the first-called apostle in his holy church, illumined with the radiance of the cross you fled the gloom of sin, unceasingly offering prayers and hymnody to God our Saviour.

Like Elias on the fiery chariot, you ascended as if on a chariot of the virtues; hence, beseech the Lord that he impart to us correction of life.

*Theotokion* Through you, O virgin Mother of God, we , once deprived of life in paradise, have received eternal life; for you gave birth to him who alone is without beginning and gives life to all.

*Katavasia* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it; and I will sing to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen keeping festival with splendour; and rejoicing I shall hymn her wonders.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

O divinely inspired one who shared in the manner of life of the apostles and emulated them, you proclaimed the word of truth to the end.

The eye of your soul beheld the kingdom of heaven, for it was pure; therefore, you splendidly lived your life, and, honouring it in God, we glorify you.

Let him who does not labour not eat: these words of the Apostle Paul you proclaimed to your brothers. Therefore you built a house of industry for the sake of the poor, where the impoverished and ailing might be provided for, being sustained by the work of their own hands.

*Theotokion* You are all light, all goodness, all wisdom; you can, as Mother of the Almighty, do all things: you alone are perfect, as you are the Mother of the all-perfect king of glory.

*Katavasia* O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir in your divine memory, and grant them crowns of glory.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8*

O blessed John, lamp of Kronstadt, whose activity and preaching were continual, who offered before the throne of the Most High lamentation over the sins of many, and who in the Spirit beheld the bowing down of the heavens at the holy liturgy: Pray for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O most pure Lady, you are an immovable foundation and divine gift for our souls; falling down before you we cry out to you with the Archangel: Rejoice, O Lady who gave birth to our Saviour; rejoice, helper and intermediary for the Christian race.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

## **October 19**

Having a firm foundation in Christ, you imitated Abraham of old in your hospitality, receiving those who came to you from all lands and leading them to the Lord; and thus you did what is pleasing to God.

Desiring to make of your heart a temple of God, it was your wish to serve unceasingly in the house of God, adorning your soul with the beauties of heaven.

Having quenched bodily passions with the dew of your feats, you kindled the light of dispassion: therefore, you became also a child of the eternal day, O blessed father.

*Theotokion* Divine Ezekiel called you prophetically the closed gate, O most pure Lady, through which he who alone is pre-eternal has passed without change, granting his peace.

*Katavasia* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

### *Ode 5*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

Unceasingly serving your Lord and ever emulating the labours of the apostles, O father, you were granted heavenly gifts.

Having slain the passionate pleasures of your corruptible flesh, you enlivened your incorruptible soul with piety and made of it a house of the divine Spirit.

Earnestly proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to all, you were a daily communicant at the Lord's banquet, making yourself and your flock a living offering, holy in God's sight.

*Theotokion* O all-pure one, you gave birth to one of the Trinity, who, because of his loving kindness, came to earth in two natures: ever entreat him to save our souls.

*Katavasia* All things are filled with awe at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who has not known wedlock, held in your womb God who is over all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

### *Ode 6*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

You were a fruitful olive tree in the house of the Lord, O divinely manifest John, for the Lord gave you divine wisdom and strengthened you in your apostolic work.

You are a members of the body of Christ: thus, with the Apostle Paul's words you preached, and taught your flock to love Christ alone, that all may be one.

Your life was holy, your discourse filled with the grace of God, and your heart a vessel of grace-filled prayer, O divinely wise one: with faith and love we honour you.

*Theotokion* The angelic beings marvelled at the ineffable wonder fulfilled within you, O most holy Virgin; how he who is incorporeal and sustains all things took flesh of you.

*Katavasia* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God who was born of her.

*Kontakion of John of Kronstadt, tone 4*

Father John, namesake of grace, chosen by God from childhood: in your youth you miraculously received from him the gift of learning, and in a dream you were gloriously called to be a priest. Entreat Christ that we may be with you in the kingdom of heaven.

*Ikos* The Holy Spirit who spoke in the prophets and enlightened the whole world through the apostles, who gave strength to the martyrs and made clear the Orthodox faith through the holy hierarchs, poured forth his grace abundantly upon you, O father John; for by your discourse, by your works and your whole life you proclaimed the faith of Christ, and so the Lord has called you to his dwelling: as you now stand before the throne of his glory, entreat Christ that we may be with you in the kingdom of heaven.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

By the providence of God you were a light of piety amid the heavy darkness of godlessness and unbelief, O father, calling all to sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Man is in the image of God; and you, O father John, were a splendid reflection of the love of God and a dwelling place of the Holy Trinity, whom we sinners also glorify.

From the Lord you received grace to heal the infirmities and passions of men; visit us also with it, that with you we may sing in oneness of mind: Blessed are you, O Lord God for ever.

## **October 19**

*Theotokion* O Lady, save your people of the same blood as you: save us, O Mother of life and of the human race, and, even though we are unworthy to call you our mother, sanctify, strengthen and save us by your supplications.

*Katavasia* The divinely wise youths worshipped not a creation rather than the creator, but bravely trampling the threat of fire underfoot, they rejoiced shouting: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Cleanse our hearts and minds by your supplications, that we may be fertile ground, girded with virtue and singing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

You were crowned with a crown of gifts of grace, contemplating heavenly wisdom, ever singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*To the Trinity* Glory to you, O most holy, life-creating Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and ever rests in the Son. Glory to you, O Son of God, who sanctifies through the Holy Spirit, and strengthens and makes us wise. Glory to you, O Father, ever well pleased with us through the Holy Spirit: O indivisible threefold unity, have mercy upon us.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O blessed one who gave birth to the world's salvation, for through you we have been raised to heaven. Rejoice, O blessed one, protection and dominion, wall and foundation of those who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Katavasia* The birthgiving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

Truly you were a light to the world, O holy father, for, having adorned your soul with godly works, you became an eminent pastor of the Orthodox Church, being a model for the faithful in word and life; therefore, we bless you.

Keeping before your mind the one creator, through whom and in whom all things have their being, with a pure heart and guileless soul you laboured all your life for the Lord, in no way in bondage to Mammon.

Princes praised you and many people glorified you; but, scorning earthly glory, you desired to be in the eternal mansions of God, there to glorify the Lord for ever.

*Theotokion* He who is pre-eternal descended into you, O most holy Virgin, and ineffably, transcending comprehension and recounting, was born of you, that he might renew Adam of old; therefore, we ever magnify you as the cause of our renewal.

*Katavasia* Let all mortal flesh leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the orders of the angelic powers celebrate, honouring the sacred triumph of the Mother of God; and let them cry out: Rejoice, O most blessed ever virgin Mother of God.

*Exapostilarion*

Performing your priestly ministry in the church of the first-called of Christ, and zealously emulating his apostolic service of faith, you were a good labourer of the garden of Christ, and brought the faithful to the Lord as a bountiful harvest, ever proclaiming through your whole life: My life is in Christ.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* He who was born of you, O most holy Virgin, and has poured forth his Spirit upon all flesh, sanctified, glorified and received into his mansions his faithful servant, intercessor and prophet; with him never cease to pray for those who honour you.

Everything that has breath... *and the Praises, 4 verses tone 8,*  
*to the Special Melody* O most glorious wonder...

O most joyous tidings: \* the child John entreated God, \* asking God's mercy, \* that he enlighten his mind; \* he cast himself down before the icon, \* confessing to God the sorrow of his heart. \* Then the bindings fell from the eyes of the child's mind, \* and the boy was illumined with the light of Christ, \* that he might do mighty things and teach many. *Twice*

O abundance of wonders: \* who will not marvel at your beneficence \* and your loving kindness to the destitute? \* In the countless number of your miracles \* you were like the glorious and holy hierarch of Myra in Lycia. \* Therefore, the cities and villages of the land of Russia, \* O righteous John, \* through you beheld the light of Christ.

As light and warmth \* cannot be separated from the sun, \* so in you sanctity and learning, \* love and compassion were present, \* O sacred father John \* given by God to the people. \* Therefore, O pastor, \* warm us and enlighten us; \* be the sun for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 7*

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Bowing down before the holy icons, I glorify Christ, God incarnate, the image of the glory of the Father. I confess the Father, who begat the Son without beginning. I glorify the divine likeness of men, who are temples of the Holy Spirit. Beholding the image of the cross, I sense its power. This is your theology, O holy father, wherein you emulated the great teachers of the Church, honouring the iconographic images to the glory of their prototypes.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion*    Ineffably you were born of the Virgin, O Christ, and have enlightened those in darkness who cry out: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, eight verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the saint's canon*

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall put his trust in him.

*Verse*   Hear my voice O Lord in my complaining.

*The First Epistle General of John, number 73 in the middle (1 John 4:7-11).*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

For they are planted in the house of the Lord, and flourish in the courts of the house of our God.

*The Gospel of Luke, number 26 (Luke 6:31-36).*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **October 20**

### **Great Martyr Artemius**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Giving your agonized and long-suffering body to be scourged \* with the varied torments of cruel wounds, \* O divinely wise Artemius, \* you did not reject Christ, \* nor did you sacrifice to idols. \* But you were patient, \* as though another were suffering in your place, \* as you awaited future rewards \* and immortal glory. *Twice*

Mangled while suspended aloft, \* broken by stoning, \* wounded on every side by heated irons, \* and beheaded with a sword, \* you remained resolute, \* having founded the house of your soul on the noetic rock, O glorious one. \* Through your victories \* you have joined the angels and martyrs, \* filled with ineffable light. *Twice*

Your relics, O glorious one, \* ever flow with the grace of healings \* for those who love you, \* and they drown passions and infirmities, O Artemius, \* and rout legions of evil demons; \* watering the hearts of the faithful, \* causing the divine fruits of the virtues \* and the knowledge of piety \* to spring forth. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2, composed by Joseph the Studite*

Let us honour Artemius, the spiritual beacon of faith, who denounced the hateful emperor, and whose blood of martyrdom has been given to the church by God. He has received the abundant grace of healing, to cure the infirmities of those who approach the shrine of his relics with faith.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

When the unblemished lamb and Mother beheld her lamb as a man led forth of his own will to the slaughter, she said, lamenting: Why do you now hasten to leave me childless who gave you birth, O Christ? Why are you doing this, O deliverer of all? I hymn and glorify your utter goodness which passes understanding and recounting, O lover of mankind.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 6*

Having suffered for Christ in accordance with the law, O Artemius, bringing down both an earthly emperor and the spiritual foe, you have rightly received a crown from the

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Saviour, the judge who determine your ordeal. Now you rejoice in heaven with the ranks of the angels, delighting in the radiant light on high, abundantly partaking of the primal and threefold light. We, the right-believing people who love the martyrs, with hymns cry out to you: Rejoice, invincible strength of soul and mighty warrior of Christ: rejoice, destroyer of the falsehood of idolatry and radiant champion of the truth: entreat the Lord, that through you we also may receive a place at the throne of his majesty.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* On the third day...

Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave birth to you cried out: What strange mystery is this that I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, your body hanging on the wood of the cross, O bestower of life?

*Troparion, tone 4*

In his suffering, O Lord, Artemius your martyr received an imperishable crown from you, our God. Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By his intercessions, save our souls.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, without the verses to the martyrs;  
and this canon to the Great Martyr, tone 2,  
composed by Joseph the Hymnographer  
upon the acrostic Grant me your rich grace, O blessed one.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* The almighty power once overwhelmed the army of Pharaoh in the deep, and the incarnate Word has destroyed pernicious sin. The Lord is all-glorious, for he has been greatly glorified.

Having fought the good fight, O martyr, and received a splendid crown, you are now illumined, sharing in the immaterial light: we entreat you: Enlighten us by your prayers.

Your radiant festival, O martyr, joyously summons us to a banquet today, setting before us the struggles of your suffering, your courage and resolve; and, delighted thereby, we bless you with faith and love.

Slain upon a cross, O blessed one, you perceived the Lord the cause of life who is not perceptible to the flesh; and you loved your voluntary death through suffering. Therefore you have received immortal glory.

*Theotokion* The incorporeal Word, incarnate of you in a godly manner in the abundance of his love for mankind, O most pure Lady, has poured forth dispassion upon us, for he has been greatly glorified.

*Ode 3*

*Imos* The desert flowered as a lily at your coming, O Lord, just as the temple of the heathen that was barren; and thereby my heart is established.

Wishing to be adorned with the crown of martyrdom, O glorious one, with divine grace you endured wounds and the bitter pain of being rent asunder.

The pillar of your heart did not quake at the bitter prospect of torture, for it was firmly established upon the immovable rock of the Spirit.

Suspended upon a tree, densely wounded on all sides, you directed the gaze of your eyes to him who can save, O truly glorious one.

*Theotokion* Incarnate, of his own desire, of your most pure blood, O Lady, the Lord saves mankind and has gathered multitudes of martyrs.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of Wisdom...*

Pleasing the king of the ages, you spurned the counsel of the iniquitous emperor, and did not sacrifice to graven images, O glorious one. Hence you brought yourself in sacrifice to the Word who had himself been sacrificed, suffering mightily. You pour forth streams of miracles, healing the faithful who approach you. O passion-bearer Artemius, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Cloud of the noetic Sun, golden lamp stand of the divine light, O undefiled, unblemished, immaculate Lady: I pray you, with the radiance of dispassion illumine my soul darkened by the blindness of the passions, and with torrents of compunction and tears of repentance wash my defiled heart, and cleanse me of the mire of my deeds, that I may cry to you with love: Ever-virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ our God that he grant me remission of transgressions; for I your servant have you as my hope.

*Theotokion of the Cross* At the sight of you, the lamb, shepherd and Saviour of the world upon the cross, she who gave birth to you said with weeping: The world rejoices, for it receives deliverance, but inwardly I burn, seeing your crucifixion suffered for all mankind in your merciful compassion. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have pity, and grant remission of offenses to those who with faith hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* You came forth from the Virgin, not as a mediator or angel, but the Lord himself incarnate, and have saved me, and the whole of mankind. Therefore I cry to you: Glory to your power O Lord.

Emulating him who was crucified, you were willingly lifted upon a tree, stretched out and inexorably flayed, divesting yourself of the vesture of mortality.

The pains of your flesh and the intensity of the evils inflicted upon you have clearly brought you rest where there is no pain, O martyr; and, delighting there, you alleviate the pain of our souls.

Having become equal to the angels through the radiance of your suffering, through the hand of an angel, he who is our life, the bread of heaven, send food which strengthened you, O martyr worthy of praise.

The grace of the Spirit adorned you with a wealth of spiritual gifts, O martyr who drives infirmities from those who have recourse to you in faith.

*Theotokion* After giving birth you were kept by Christ an incorrupt virgin, O Lady, for he was pleased, in his extreme goodness, to assume full manhood within you.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* You are the mediator between God and man, O Christ our God, for by you, O Master, we are led up from the night of ignorance to your Father, the author of light.

You appear as a lamp made brilliant through the Spirit, O Artemius, illumining the faithful and dispersing the gloom of evil and the spirits of darkness.

Having anchored the pillars of your soul to the rock of life, though crushed by stones and covered with wounds, you remained unshaken, a true passion-bearer.

Armed with the precious powers of the Spirit, O victorious martyr, you did not feel the three-pronged blades, thereby removing the sting of the enemy.

*Theotokion* He who was born of you, O Lady, having willingly endured the cross and burial for us, as he is mighty, has made Artemius a mighty witness through his sufferings.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I call upon the unfathomable abyss of your loving kindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God.

You brought yourself as a lamb and a whole-burnt offering, O Artemius, to him who accepted voluntary crucifixion that we might be restored.

When your body was rent asunder by unremitting flogging, O Artemius most patient in endurance, by faith you maintained uncompromised your spiritual nobility.

O Artemius, emulator of the Saviour: from afflictions, temptations, passions and sorrows deliver us who have recourse to you.

*Theotokion* O virgin Mother of God, save me, your servant, in the midst of a raging sea of sorrows and surrounded by the billows and storm waves of temptation.

*Kontakion, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody* The steadfast...

Coming together, let us fittingly praise with hymns  
the pious and crown-bearing martyr Artemius,  
who has won the trophy of victory over the enemy.  
He is most great among the martyrs  
and the abundant bestower of miracles,  
for he entreats the Lord on behalf of us all.

*Ikos* Who can recount your struggles or the pains which you bravely endured for the sake of your faith in the Lord, or the gifts which you were granted, O passion-bearer? Human lips are unable to proclaim them; for, adorned with wisdom and courage, disdaining wealth and transitory honour, you became a dedicated warrior, and entreat the Lord on behalf of us all.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God, raised a lofty flame; but Christ spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths: blessed is he and glorified above all.

Acquiring an invincible mind through firmness of spirit, O Artemius, you foiled the wiles of the enemy, singing, O martyr: Blessed are you and glorified above all.

With the flow of your blood you quenched the fire of torture, O blessed one; and raised on high and drenched with the dew of the Spirit, you sang, rejoicing: Blessed are you and glorified above all.

Flowing with gifts of healing, you extinguish the fire of the passions with grace divine, and drive away evil spirits by your visitation, O Artemius, singing: Blessed are you and glorified above all.

*Theotokion* O immaculate Virgin, you gave birth to him who has poured immortality upon the dead: entreat him to slay the passions of our bodies and grant us eternal life.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* In Babylon of old by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in divided ways: while it burned the Chaldeans, it refreshed the faithful as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

You endured the wasting of your body with cruel wounds by three-pronged claws, directing your gaze to the future reward which God, the Master and Lord of all, has granted you, O glorious one.

You have sanctified the earth with your blood and your suffering body is seen to be a source of healing, ever driving away every infirmity, affliction and demonic harm from those who have recourse to you in faith.

You are the adornment of passion-bearers, piously spurning the things of this world and purchasing with your precious blood transcendent things for the lowly, O honoured one, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* You have restored us who fled after the bitter tasting of the fruit of the tree and fell headlong, O most pure Lady who gave birth to our creator, the incarnate Word; to whom we cry: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Ode 9*

Irmos Our God and Lord has appeared to us, the Son of the Father without beginning, incarnate of the Virgin, to give light to those in darkness and to gather the dispersed. Therefore let us magnify the exalted Mother of God.

Wishing to behold the beauty of heaven, you avoided the visible beauties of this world; and, adorned with the beauties of the passion-bearers, O brave martyr, rejoicing, you received the greatest of blessings.

O blessed one, your memory, illumining the hearts of the faithful like the dawn, has shone like the sun; for you are a radiant heir of the light and of the day, O Artemius, dispelling gloom from our souls.

Let us leap for joy, O people, spiritually hymning this, the commemoration of the divine martyr Artemius; and with praise let us sing to God who is wondrous in his saints and who sanctifies those who with faith honour him.

Your shrine, unceasingly flowing with healing, summons the faithful to draw from it with love, for the health of their bodies and the true salvation of their souls, O blessed Artemius, intercessor for those who praise you.

*Theotokion* With the light of your countenance, O Lord, illumine me, enshrouded in dark despair, for I have as intercessors your Mother, the angelic hosts and glorious Artemius.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody O immutable light...*

Light shone within your heart, O passion-bearer Artemius, and you bravely endured the most bitter of tortures; and you have received from on high the grace of healing, that you might ever cure infirmities.

*Theotokion* The Light which shone timelessly from the Father before the ages has now in these latter days sprung forth in time from you, O Virgin, for the salvation of the world: never cease to entreat him on behalf of the world.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 6*

Today the whole world is enlightened with the rays of the passion-bearer, and the Church of God, adorned with flowers, O Artemius, cries out to you: O favourite of Christ and fervent intercessor, never cease to pray for your servants.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody On the third day...*

*Theotokion of the Cross* Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave birth to you cried out: What strange mystery is this that I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, your body hanging on the wood of the cross, O bestower of life?

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## Liturgy

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the Martyr's canon.*

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall put his trust in him.

*Verse* Hear my voice O Lord in my complaining.

*The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy, number 292 (2 Tim 2:1-10).*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

For they are planted in the house of the Lord, and flourish in the courts of the house of our God.

*The Gospel of John, number 52 (John 15: 17-16:2)*

*Communion Verse*

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 21**

### **Venerable Father Hilarion the Great**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

Being meek of soul and heart, \* wounded with divine love, \* you chose to withdraw from the tumult of life \* through sacred yearning, \* then, armed with the power of the cross, \* you advanced upon the demons \* waging battle, O blessed one, \* and fashioned for yourself a diadem of victory; \* and now you dwell in the splendour of the saints. \* With them ask for us \* enlightenment and peace, \* and deliverance from offences. *Twice*

With the luminous beams \* of your healings \* you gloriously enlighten the world, \* O truly glorious father, \* dispelling the profound darkness of infirmities. \* We all acknowledge you \* to be another sun, \* the confirmation of monastics, \* who by the divine Spirit guides those who are saved. \* And we now celebrate \* your radiant and saving memory, O Hilarion, \* receiving remission of transgressions through you. *Twice*

By abstinence, O father, \* you made the carnal passions \* subject to your reason-endowed soul, \* and, adorned with wings of dispassion, \* you received the grace to heal, \* to expel evils spirits \* and to save those who come to you. \* Therefore, the choirs of monastics bless you, \* O glorious one, \* and all creation honour your struggles, \* O Hilarion. *Twice*

*Glory be to the Father... tone 2,  
composed by Anatolius*

Bearing the wisdom of perfection from your youth, and taking upon yourself the yoke of Christ, O Hilarion, you emulated the life of godly Anthony, imitating his virtue in many ways. You caused the flesh to wither for it was needful that your soul tame it, which leapt about like a colt, as you fulfilled the contest of fasting. O blessed father and miraculous God-bearer, entreat cleansing and great mercy for those who celebrate your memory with love.

*Both now and for ever... Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

Seeing you nailed to the tree of the cross, O Jesus, she who knew not wedlock said, lamenting: O my child most sweet, how can you abandon me who alone gave you birth?

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O unapproachable light of the unoriginate Father, hasten and glorify yourself, that those who glorify your divine sufferings may receive divine glory.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... idiomelon, tone 8*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, the venerable Hilarion set at nought the wiles of the demons; for, armed with the Cross, and being of good cheer therein, by his word he healed all sicknesses, the passions of the soul and every bodily infirmity. Through his supplications, O Christ, impart peace to us, as you are the lover of mankind.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O most glorious wonder...

The Mother, as an unblemished heifer, \* seeing her sacrificial calf \* nailed to the tree of his own will, \* cried out, lamenting piteously: \* Woe is me, most beloved child, \* for how can the ungrateful gathering of the Jews reward you thus, \* desiring to leave me bereft of you, \* my child, most beloved.

*Troparion, tone 8*

With the streams of your tears you cultivated the barrenness of the desert, and with the sighs of your labours from the depths of your soul you brought forth fruit a hundredfold: shining with miracles you were a shining light for the whole world. Hilarion our father, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos without the martyria; and that of the venerable one, tone 2,  
composed by Theophanes  
upon the acrostic I hymn the splendour of our miracles, O blessed one.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* The almighty power once overwhelmed the army of Pharaoh in the deep, and the incarnate Word has destroyed pernicious sin. The Lord is all-glorious, for he has been greatly glorified.

With the serenity of your splendour illumine me, eager to praise joyously your luminous and radiant life, O blessed father, and drive from me the despondency of sin.

Removed from the flesh and the world, O blessed one, rejoicing, you cleaved to God with all your being; and through abstinence you kept your mind untroubled and steadfast, joining yourself to him with the divine dispassion which comes from him.

Illumined with the splendid rays of the unoriginate and uncreated Godhead, you did not choose the false belief of your father, but, turning away from his tumultuous ignorance, united yourself to the Trinity alone.

*Theotokion* The invisible Sun who shone from the Father before time began and through you became gloriously confined by a visible body, O ever-virgin Mother, has illumined men with the light of piety.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Established upon the rock of faith, I may boast over my enemies; and my spirit rejoices and sings: There is none as holy as our God, and none righteous but you, O Lord.

You dried up the risings of the poisonous passions, restraining them with the medicine of fasting, O ever-memorable one, crying out: There is none as holy as our God, and none righteous but you, O Lord.

Having cut away garments of mortal skin with the knife of abstinence, you fashioned a robe of salvation, crying out to your creator: You are our God and there is none more holy than you, O Lord.

Strengthened by the hope of things eternal, and brought to God by the hands of the divinely wise Anthony, O venerable God-bearer, emulating him you became a beacon, shedding the rays of glorious miracles.

*Theotokion* He who formed all things by his divine desire deigned to form himself as a man within you, O Mother of God. To him do we cry out: You are our God, and there is none righteous but you, O Lord.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Spiritually emulating the virtuous life of the godly Anthony, you took the cross of your Lord on your shoulders, forsaking the cares of life; and, having mortified the passions, you lived your life in the Spirit, filling creation with glorious miracles through the grace of the Spirit. O venerable Hilarion our father, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All of us, the generations of mankind, bless you, the Virgin who alone among women gave seedless birth to God incarnate; for the fire of the divinity made his abode within you, and you nurtured the creator and Lord with milk as a child; and so we, the race of angels and men together sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who with faith worship your most holy maternity.

## **October 21**

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding her lamb, the shepherd and redeemer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing your crucifixion, which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O longsuffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible source of compassion, take pity and grant remission of sins to those who with faith hymn your divine passion.

### *Ode 4*

*Irmos* I hymn you, O Lord, for I have heard your report and was afraid. You came to me, seeking me who had gone astray. Therefore I glorify your great providence for me, O most merciful one.

Having mortified the flesh and its wisdom, O venerable father, escaping the torrent of the tumult of iniquity and the wiles of the demons, you have found rest with the righteous in the serenity of the divine Spirit.

Irrigated by the watery torrent of your tears, O venerable father, through the husbandry of the Saviour you made the meadow of your soul to be fertile, increasing the companies of fasters.

*Strengthened by the communion of the Holy Spirit, O God-bearer, you cast down evil spirits, and healed men's infirmities with the power of Christ, enriching them with the purity of prophecy.*

*Theotokion* O blessed Mother of God, we understand you to be the animate temple and bridal-chamber, the noetic table and lamp stand, from which the light, the shining glory of the Father, has shone upon those in darkness.

### *Ode 5*

*Irmos* O Christ my Saviour, the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and the salvation of the despairing, I rise early to you, O king of peace: enlighten me with your shining radiance, for I know no other God than you.

Illumined with the light of piety, O divinely blessed one, you drove away the prince of darkness, shining in the world like lightning, emulating the bodiless ones in your purity of life and manner of living.

Resplendent with miracles and illumined by the grace of God, you became known as a treasury of healings to all who love you, O God-pleasing father, known to be a prophet of God.

With the splendour of your meek corrections, O father, you drove away the dark hosts of the enemy; and rescuing from their rage those who have recourse to you, you have lighted their way toward the faith by your divine teachings.

*Theotokion* You alone, O blessed one, gave birth ineffably for us to God, God the Word, the one visible person in two natures, who became incarnate in his ineffable mercy: pray that he preserve those who hymn you.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I call upon the unfathomable abyss of your loving kindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God.

Serving the single unoriginate divinity, you denounced polytheism, demolishing the impiety of idolatry by grace, O wise one.

Springing forth, you flourished in the Church like a palm-tree, O divinely wise and blessed father, gladdening the fulness of the faithful with the sweetness of your fruits.

You were an invincible conqueror of the evil spirits, O glorious and blessed one, having received rich gifts from Christ.

*Theotokion* Without knowing man, you gave birth, O Virgin, yet remain for ever a virgin, revealing the true divinity, your Son and God, through images.

*Kontakion, tone 3,  
to the Special Melody* Today the Virgin...

Coming together today, we praise you in hymns, as a never-fading luminary of the noetic sun; for you have shone forth upon those in the darkness of ignorance, guiding all up to the divine heights, O Hilarion. Therefore we cry out: Rejoice O father, the foundation of all fasters.

*Ikos* Loving the divine commandments of Christ, and hating the pleasures of the world, you zealously went to him, and became a luminary, enlightening the ends of the earth with the radiance of the Spirit. Falling down, I entreat you: Enlighten also the eyes of my soul, that I may hymn the struggles which you undertook on earth for the sake of the life to come. Enjoying them now, be mindful of those who cry out to you: Rejoice, O father, the foundation of all fasters.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God, raised a lofty flame; but Christ spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths: blessed is he and glorified above all.

The sound of your words and the divine grace of your miracles has gone forth into all the earth, O blessed one, shining the serenity of miracles with the radiance of piety upon those with faith.

## **October 21**

Protected by the cross of the Saviour, you were unshaken when the savagery of the demons mindlessly assaulted you, O wise one; for God the Most High knows how to protect those he favours.

Through fasting you were an unshakable pillar reaching to the heavens, an immovable rampart, shining with miracles, bestowing healings and pouring divine teachings from the ever-flowing fount of divinely inspired writings.

*Theotokion* Remaining a virgin, the Virgin, the cloud, gave birth to the Sun of Righteousness who shared in the coarseness of the flesh, becoming man in his compassion and condescension: him we hymn as glorified above all.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* In Babylon of old by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in divided ways: while it burned the Chaldeans, it refreshed the faithful as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Illumined by divine understanding, you were truly a throne of sensibility; and guided with divine wisdom by the command of God, you shone in virtue, crying: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

By the splendour of your words, the manifestation of miracles and the purity of your life you were a mystic chariot bearing the name of the Lord, O venerable one, crying: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Adopted by divine grace, you became an heir with Christ and have received the riches of heaven and the kingdom which will never be superseded, O divinely eloquent one, crying: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* O Virgin, you carried the Son, the noetic myrrh poured forth, perfuming mortals with the incense of divinity and delivering from corruption those who cry out: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Our God and Lord has appeared to us, the Son of the Father without beginning, incarnate of the Virgin, to give light to those in darkness and to gather the dispersed. Therefore let us magnify the exalted Mother of God.

Having reached the end of your holy life, you were brought to the habitations of the saints: with the thrice-radiant light shining upon you, you received from him twofold gladness.

Receiving from Christ the reward of your labours, having partaken of eternal life and having past understanding become excellent in the beauties of splendour: O father, pray to the Master for those who hymn you.

Exalted in virtue like a lofty cedar, O God-bearer, you were planted in the courts of God, like a walled orchard, a flourishing garden of paradise, and a fountain flowing with gifts of healings.

*Theotokion* You were the bridal-chamber of the Word who, in a manner past understanding, became incarnate, O virgin Mother who was clothed and adorned with the glory of the virtues. O immaculate Lady, we declare you to be the Mother of God.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, you women...*

You avoided attachment to the world as passionate, and having caused your flesh to wither away by not eating, you restore those who hold bit and bridle, enriching them with glory and working excellent miracles, O God-pleasing Hilarion, summit of chief shepherds.

*Theotokion* Immaculate virgin Mother of God, you ineffably gave birth to God in two natures and wills, but in a single person, who for us has abased himself, willingly taking upon himself the cross, and giving us the riches of divinity.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... idiomelon, tone 2*

Beholding your life as tranquil and pure, meek and quiet, O father, Christ made his dwelling within you, and you became a divine habitation. Now you abide with the angels in heaven, O blessed one.

*Both now and for ever... Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody When from the Tree...*

When the spotless lamb saw her lamb driven voluntarily as a man to the slaughter, she wept and said: O Christ, you are now hastening to make me childless who gave birth to you. O deliverer of all, what is this that you have done? I praise and glorify your extreme goodness which is beyond mind and description, O lover of mankind.

**October 21**

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos; and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the venerable one.*

*Prokimenon, tone 7*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.  
*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

*Epistle to the Corinthians, number 185 [2 Cor 9: 6-11]*

*Alleluia, tone 6*

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.  
His children shall be mighty in the land.

*Gospel of Luke, number 24 [Luke 6: 17-23]*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **October 22**

*Also the Kazan icon of the Mother of God, whose service follows this*

### **Averkius, Bishop of Hierapolis, miracle worker; also the Seven Youths of Ephesus**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these for the hierarch, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

With the splendour of divine teachings you destroyed the night of polytheism, O father Averkius, and, shining as the dawn, you made those in darkness children of the day, showing glorious miracles. We celebrate your holy memory with faith, hymning you, O divinely inspired one.

Working a miracle, O father, you mingled wine and oil in a single vessel becoming another form, but caused them to separate by divine grace when needed; and by your supplication you caused a gift of warm water to flow, healing the infirmities of those who approached you with faith and called you blessed, O Averkius.

Cleaving to God, O Averkius, you became a fulfiller of divine teachings; and receiving grace from on high, you drove away the infirmities of men; you destroyed the temples of the idols and planted divine knowledge in those who before languished wretchedly in ignorance, O blessed one.

*And 3 verses of the youths, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Submitting to God, \* the blessed youths spurned \* the greatly iniquitous commands, \* and being bound \* they broke the bonds of falsehood, \* and, rejecting worldly rank, \* have received a glory which made them gloriously perfect \* and won for them \* the enjoyment of the heavenly kingdom.

Having mightily trained yourselves \* for the struggles of suffering, O holy ones, \* you hid in the cave, \* entreating the Lord \* with unceasing supplications, \* that he grant might and power in ways \* which only he who loves mankind knows; \* and in godly manner \* he commanded all of you to fall asleep in peace.

Come all, and let us earnestly hymn \* the witnesses to piety, \* the divinely assembled regiment, \* the blessed choir, \* the invincible company of martyrs, \* the beautiful triumph of the Church of God, \* the indivisible assembly, \* the unvanquished army, \* the unshakable foundation of piety.

**October 22**

Glory be to the Father... *tone 3, composed by John the monk*

O venerable hierarch, blessed father Averkius, wonderworker and favourite of God, who shone in your prophetic life, you were granted apostolic gifts, unceasingly ministering to the Saviour with the angels: pray that our souls be delivered from every threat.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* Great is the power of your cross...

At the sight of your Son upon the cross, a sword pierced your heart, O most pure Virgin, and you cried out: Do not leave me childless, O my Son and God who preserved me a virgin even after childbirth.

*Troparion of the hierarch, tone 4*

Truly you were revealed to your flock as a standard of faith, a model of humility and a teacher of abstinence. Thus you reached the heights through lowliness and wealth through poverty. Holy hierarch Averkius pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

*Troparion of the martyrs, tone 4*

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs received imperishable crowns from you, our God. Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By their intercessions save our souls.

## Matins

*One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.*

*Ode 1*

*Canon of the holy hierarch, tone 2,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic I hymn the great glory of Averkius*

*Irmos* Come, you people, let us sing a hymn to Christ our God, who divided the sea and guided the people whom he had led forth from the bondage of Egypt, for he has been glorified.

Illumined with the radiance of the three-sunned divinity, O Averkius, you became a light for those in darkness, dispersing the darkness of the demons.

You lived a heavenly life on earth, O blessed one, living in the body as one of the bodiless, mortifying the passions; and you receive the gift of the priesthood.

Having within yourself the gift of proclamation, O father, you destroyed the irrationality of the vain-minded, casting down the temples of the demons and their false graven images.

*Theotokion* The tongues of orators cannot describe your conceiving, which is beyond recounting; for you gave birth to God incarnate, O most pure one, who in his goodness became like us.

*Canon of the Holy Youths, tone 8*

*Irmos* The rod of Moses, working wonders in times past, marking the sea in the form of the cross, struck it and parted it, and sank Pharaoh driving his chariot, saving Israel who fled across on foot, while singing a hymn to God.

You seven holy youths, honoured by the number seven, as radiant stars shining in the firmament of the Church, by your witness you have come to dwell in heaven: be mindful of those who honour you with faith.

Forming a lamp of sevenfold brilliance with the sevenfold radiance of the Spirit, O seven martyrs, you caused the darkness of falsehood to diminish, and with the light of piety you now illumine us all with sevenfold radiance.

*Theotokion* I place my hope of salvation in you, O Virgin; wash from me the mire of sin and make me pure, that I may be pleasing to your Son and do his most holy will.

*Ode 3*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* Establish us in you, O Lord, who has slain death by the tree; and plant the fear of you in the hearts of us who sing to you.

By sacred words and the performing of miracles, O Averkius, you have gloriously guided those who sail the sea of deception to the haven of salvation.

Working healings, performing excellent miracles and dispelling the fantasies of the demons, you have been the cause of salvation for many and an intercessor for the rich.

O father, your discourse was sacred, your life godly, your character resplendent with miracles, your manner of living glorious, and your death honourable.

*Theotokion* God became visible, who before was invisible, O Virgin, being incarnate of you in his compassion: we bless you with faith.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* Christ, who in the beginning established the heavens with wisdom and founded the earth upon the waters, confirm me upon the rock of your commandments, for none is holy but you, the true lover of mankind.

Appearing on earth in sevenfold radiance like lamps of the virtues, and shining brightly in the radiance of your struggles and the brilliance of your miracles, you have shone the light of the knowledge of God upon the world.

Offered to the creator in your youth, for his sake you spurned glory, royal honours and transitory riches, for which you have received the glory of incorruptible honours.

*Theotokion* With the activity of the life which through you appeared to the world, O immaculate Lady, raise my deadened mind, destroying the wounds and types of sin.

*Kontakion of the martyrs, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Having been lifted up...*

O Christ who has glorified your holy ones in earth, before your awesome second coming you showed the resurrection to those who knew it not, through the most glorious raising up of the youths, showing their clothing and bodies to be incorrupt; and you caused the emperor to proclaim: There is resurrection for the dead.

*Ikos* When the bishop of Ephesus beheld the wondrous and exalted resurrection of the youths, astonished in mind he wrote with haste to the faithful emperor, describing their rising: May your highness deign to come here, that you may see the power of our God which is to be revealed to you. Immediately, he made the journey, rejoicing, as a charioteer like Elias, crying out: Truly there is resurrection for the dead.

*Sessional Hymn of the hierarch, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

You appeared as a hierarch anointed divinely with precious oils, O honoured father Averkius, working all things through grace, adorned with the splendour of divine gifts and miracles, healing sicknesses, consuming demons, and converting multitudes of the deluded. We cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the youths, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...*

As pillars of the Church of Christ you mightily destroyed the walls of unbelief, O seven martyred brethren: before your death you destroyed the rage of the heathen, and after your death you destroyed the storm of heresy, praying for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O pure, immaculate and unwedded Lady, who alone gave birth within time to the timeless Son and Word of God, with the holy and honoured patriarchs, martyrs, prophets and the venerable, entreat him to grant us purification and great mercy.

*Theotokion of the Cross* O immaculate Virgin Mother of Christ our God, a sword pierced your most holy soul when you saw your Son and our God voluntarily crucified: therefore, most blessed one, pray without ceasing that he grant forgiveness of our transgressions.

*Ode 4*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* I hymn you, O Lord, for I have heard your report and was afraid. You came to me, seeking me who had gone astray. Therefore I glorify your great providence for me, O most merciful one.

You greatly adorned your throne, O venerable hierarch, rendering it magnificent with miracles and your splendid life: our supremely great God has glorified you.

Knowing that the Lord desires mercy, O God-bearer, you implored him to cause a wondrous outpouring of fervent waters for the healing and salvation of many.

By the grace of God you made childless women fertile and fulfilled their hopes; for having sown your words as seed, O blessed Averkius, you reaped grain a hundredfold.

*Theotokion* O Bride of God, you have healed our ancient condemnation, giving birth to Christ, who took upon himself our infirmities in his ineffable compassion.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* You are my strength and power O Lord my God, you are my rejoicing, who without leaving the bosom of the Father, has visited our lowliness. With the Prophet Habakkuk, I therefore cry to you: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Bound together with a fraternal bond, and afire with divine desire, O martyrs of the Lord, agreeing in the true confession and faith, you shamed the vain-minded understanding of the tyrant and the false teaching of polytheism.

Persecuted for Christ and with Christ, hiding in caves and mountainous ravines, for his sake you slept a life-bearing sleep instead of death for many long years, confirming the general resurrection of mortals.

*Theotokion* That in the richness of your goodness you might restore your image dimmed through the passions, you made your abode within the Virgin, thus we call her wisdom and the temple of God through which you came to dwell with man and save the world, O compassionate one.

*Ode 5*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* O Christ my Saviour, the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and the salvation of the despairing, I rise early to you, O king of peace: enlighten me with your shining radiance, for I know no other God than you.

Having set your feet upon the rock where your heart lies, O divinely wise and blessed one, with divine words you taught those fallen into perdition who were worshipping stones to worship the rock, Jesus Christ our God.

Let us honour Averkius the teacher of sacred things, the excellent physician of the infirm, the guide of those deceived by evil counsel, the phial of precious gifts, the receptacle of the divine Spirit.

When wine and oil were placed together in a single vessel and mixed together at your command, at the appointed time they were poured forth gloriously separated, mightily revealing your excellent grace, O sacred one.

*Theotokion* In you, O Virgin, the laws of nature are gloriously restored; for without seed you gave birth to God the Saviour, and you remain a virgin still. How awesome is the wonder; therefore, we piously declare you the Mother of Emmanuel.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

Having died to the world, you rejected the beauties of life, committing your life to him who has dominion over life, and sleeping a life-bearing sleep for many years as an image of the general resurrection.

Enduring long persecution, you showed yourselves to be athletes by your life, bearing hunger and thirst and tribulation, sorrow and misfortune, yet rich in tranquility.

*Theotokion* Rich in your defence and protected by your intercession, boasting in your divine glory, we call you blessed; for you, O most holy Lady, pour joy upon our souls.

*Ode 6*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I call upon the unfathomable abyss of your loving kindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God.

You went from the East to the West, O venerable one, driving away the queen of demonic and cruel passion by the power of the Spirit.

You appeared strange to the world, O sacred Averkius, working strange and awesome miracles, walking in the body and departing therefrom.

Seen as bright as lightning, O divinely inspired father Averkius, you vanquished hordes of the demons who were unable to bear the threat of you.

*Theotokion* Through you, O most holy Bride of God, we, who are dead, have been given life, and we who are in thrall to corruption are enriched by incorruption.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

With love for God, O wise ones, you left your Ephesian homeland, your splendid family, lustrous riches and honourable glory, preferring to inherit heaven.

The seven-member choir of athletes, joining in godly manner, cast down the multitude of the enemy and received the glory of confession and crowns for their suffering.

*Theotokion* The majesty of the Most High shone from Sion, through union with the flesh which he received from you, O unwedded Lady; and he has enlightened the world.

*Kontakion of the hierarch, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody As firstfruits...*

The whole Church of the faithful considers you to be a most great priest and dweller with the apostles, O Averkius. By your supplications preserve it invincible, unassailed and undefiled by heresy, as you are ever-memorable.

*Ikos* Mindful of the vanity of this world, as a stranger to the world and an emulator of the suffering of Christ you mortified the carnal passions, and taking up your cross, O blessed one, you followed your creator. Abiding with him now, pray for those who truly honour you, as you are ever-memorable.

*Ode 7*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* When the golden image was worshipped on the plain of Dura, your three youths spurned the ungodly command; and, cast into the fire, bedewed they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As a godly shepherd, as a performer of miracles, O father, by your prayer you granted the blind to see and the deaf to hear; and you have bestowed cleansing upon lepers and the mobility to the lame, who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The bubbling spring of warm water and the pillar which were on your grave, which the wicked spirit, driven out by you, O father Averkius, carried back from great Rome, proclaim your ability to work miracles for ever.

You were a guide for humble folk, being revealed as exalted in vision and activity and power, O sacred one, a favourite of the most high king to whom we cry: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* He who was begotten of the Father before the morning-star was born of you in two natures and wills, as both God and man, O Maiden, is known to all who cry out with faith: Blessed are you who gave birth to God incarnate.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* At the condescension of God the fire in Babylon was struck with awe, and so the children, dancing with joyful feet and rejoicing in the furnace as in a meadow sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Submitting to God and guided by divine law and with upright mind, you scorned the iniquitous commands of the torturer, O youths, acquiring life and incorruption through death, enriched in your mortal bodies.

Desiring to drink the cup of death for the creator, for the sake of immortality and incorruption you endured the burial of your bodies, making plain the resurrection by your glorious rising from the dead, O martyrs.

*Theotokion* You shone like the morning, having the Sun of righteousness, who with divine knowledge takes away the darkness of ignorance from the world. To him we sing, O most pure Lady: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Ode 8*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* God who descended into the fiery furnace for the Hebrew children and transformed the fire into dew, praise as the Lord and exult above all for ever.

Let Averkius be honoured as a glorious shepherd, an inexhaustible fount of healings, a pillar of the Church, the strengthening of the faithful, a great luminary and a splendid teacher of sacred things.

Like the palm-tree of the psalms you flourish in the courts of the living God; you multiply like the cedar, O wise one, and are like the olive-tree, causing the faces of all to shine with faith through the oil of your works.

Through your active life, you were like a city standing on the summit of a mountain, O venerable one; and your city, which of old was sunk in error, you made an heir to the city of the Most High.

*Theotokion* You are the bridal-couch of Solomon now surrounded by the mighty prophecies of the divinely inspired Scriptures, and one which Christ our God has rested in his divine incarnation, O blessed and joyous Lady.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Your memory shines with sevenfold radiance today like the beams of the sun, illuminating the earth with the splendour of your suffering and the brilliance of your miracles, and with the rays of divine dogmas wherewith you assure all of the resurrection of the body and the incorruption of mortals, O wise ones.

God once preserved Abimelech that he might not see the destruction of Jerusalem; and he preserved you asleep for a great many years in the cave as an assurance of the resurrection of all, O youths, lamps equal in number to the seven ages.

*Theotokion* Sanctified by the Spirit, O Mother of God, you received the unoriginate and everlasting Son, incarnate of you for the benefaction of those who cry out with faith: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Canon of the Hierarch*

*Irmos* God the Word who came from God in his ineffable wisdom, to restore Adam who had grievously fallen into corruption through eating, and who ineffably was incarnate of the holy Virgin for us; with oneness of mind, O faithful, let us magnify in hymns.

As your life was splendid and your feet beautiful, and your yearning for God and neighbour was greatly wondrous, and the grace given you from on high was magnificent, O wise Averkius, we honour you with faith.

With faith we glorify you, O Averkius, as one who dwells with the holy martyrs, an emulator of the divine disciples, a peer of the patriarchs, prophets and the venerable, and a conversor with the servitors of heaven.

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Your holy memory, which extends throughout the world, illumines the souls of men with the rich light of grace. By your supplications, O Averkius, deliver us who celebrate it with love from the passions and from perilous darkness.

*Theotokion* The prophet saw you as a radiant lamp stand bearing within you as a truly divine lamp the transcendent God who, in his compassionate mercy became man through you, O most holy Virgin.

*Canon of the Holy Youths*

*Irmos* Heaven was struck with awe and the ends of the earth were amazed, that God should bodily appear to men and that your womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore the ranks of angels together with mankind magnify you O Mother of God.

All born on earth marvel at this, and every mind is amazed, that mortals who lay buried for many years in a cave seemed to have slept for an evening, rising up in the morning as usual, assuring all of the general resurrection of mortals.

O seven radiant luminaries and martyrs, shining beacons of Ephesus, intercessors for the world, fervent advocates, proclaimers of the general resurrection and guardians of the faithful: ask for us tranquility and salvation, and peace for the ends of the world.

*Theotokion* As the Mother of him who suffered for us, and as you are full of loving-kindness, deliver me from soul-corrupting passions, and break the bonds of my transgressions, O virgin Mother of God, that I may hymn you, the most hymned one.

*Exapostilarion of the hierarch,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, you women...*

Because of the encumbering demon you had to hasten to the city of Rome, for he had entered into the daughter of the emperor, O divinely eloquent Averkius; but you drove him from her like a dog, and compelled him to carry a pillar back to Hierapolis.

Glory be to the Father... *Exapostilarion of the martyrs*

Your athletes, O Lord, protecting themselves with the weapon of your precious cross, mightily vanquished the adverse powers, put the tyrants to shame and suffered for you; and they reign together with you, O Christ, the king of all.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* How great are your wondrous mysteries, for how is it that even after giving birth you remain a virgin as before birthgiving? How could you contain God who is in no way confined? Truly ineffable are all your works, O blessed Mary.

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the hierarch.*

*Prokimenon, tone 1*

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be full of understanding.

*Verse* Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world.

*Epistle to the Hebrews, number 318 [He 7: 26-8: 2]*

*Alleluia, tone 2*

The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom and his tongue speaks what is right.

The law of his God is in his heart and his footsteps will not slip.

*Gospel of John, number 36 [John 10: 9-16]*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **Appearance of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God (also July 8)**

### **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses: four tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

As the beauteous palace of the Word \* and his light-bearing throne, \* you held within you, O Lady, \* the Word who is equally enthroned with the Father. \* In giving birth to the never-waning light, you have brought light to our darkness, \* driven away the falsehood of the serpent and destroyed corruption, \* and by your birthgiving have granted everlasting life to the world. \* You have opened the gates of paradise and bestowed all manner of blessings upon human nature. \* By your entreaties, O Lady, deliver your servants from misfortune.

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As mother of the king, \* you are the queen of the exalted hosts in heaven, \* where, stretching forth your pure hands, \* you intercede for us in supplication; \* while on earth, as a mighty helper, \* you dwell with us in spirit and in your divine icon, \* and gladly save and deliver from all temptation \* those who piously confess the Mother of God.

As a paradise of golden radiance, \* an all-beauteous palace of divine light, \* a holy tree overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, \* a habitation of the never-waning light, \* shining with divine splendour upon those who know you, \* you illumine all creation through your infant; \* and entreating him, O queen and Mother of God, \* from all misfortune save Orthodox hierarchs \* and people who flee to you.

The Church of God, made splendid \* with the icon of you and your Son, O Mother of God, \* as with royal purple and fine linen, \* is adorned with miracles. \* Today, at the revelation of your image, it calls all to celebrate, \* shining with the grace of the Holy Spirit more brightly than the radiance of the sun, \* pouring streams of healing \* upon the sick and the infirm, \* and granting rich mercy to all.

*And these verses, tone 8*

O Jesus, exalted and unapproachable king, enthroned with the Father and the divine Spirit, who was well-pleased to be born on earth of the unwedded Virgin: taking pity on your creation, bestowing ineffable beauties upon human nature, accept the supplications of your Mother offered to you for us: do not call to mind our iniquities, but, as you are compassionate, remember and save our souls. *twice*

Bowing down the heavens, the king of glory condescended to restore Adam who had become corrupt through his transgression; he made his abode within you, O pure Virgin, was born without violating the seal of your virginity, and, though king of the archangels, was borne in your arms, a lowly infant. Now he accepts your entreaty, and fulfills your petition in all things, as he is your Son and God. Implore him earnestly, that he save our souls, as he is compassionate.

God hallowed you with the Holy Spirit, O Mother of God, more than the tabernacle of Moses, though it was fashioned according to a heavenly plan; and, having dwelt wholly within you, he has given life to all. Likewise, your icon is filled with the grace of God more than the ark of Aaron, and pours sanctification upon souls and bodies. Bowing with love before it, we ask of you great mercy, O blessed helper.

*Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... tone 8*

Come, rejoice in the mighty helper of our race, the queen and Mother of God. Come, bow down before her serene, wondrous and precious image, venerated by angels. For the Mother of God gives abundant gifts of healing to the faithful, flowing never-failing grace from the inexhaustible spring of her holy icon. She delivers from the darkness of temptations, misfortunes and every sin, us who piously and in a God-pleasing manner glorify and honour her radiant and wondrous holy icon. In song we cry out to its prototype: Rejoice, loving help of the world, the salvation of our souls.

*Entrance, Prokimenon of the Day, Readings:*

A reading from Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Genesis 28: 10-17)

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord: When these days are over, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your offerings of well-being; and I will accept you, says the Lord God. Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. The Lord said to me: This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince, because he is a prince, may sit in it to eat food before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way. Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and lo! the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord; and I fell upon my face. (Ezekiel 43:27-44:4)

A reading from the Proverbs.

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, “You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you. Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. (Proverbs 9:1-11)

*Entreaty, tone 2*

As your icon is truly more venerable than the ark of old before which David danced, having assembled the ranks of Israel, O Mother of God, there now stand before it the councils of hierarchs with the ranks of the angels, kings and princes, and all the multitude of the Christian people; and they bless you, the Mother of God; they glorify you as befits servants, and honour and bow down before you; and after God, they pray to you, that you grant the world peace in Orthodoxy, strengthen the scepters of kings, and save your servants from all evil, in that you are blessed.

Before your image, O most pure Mother of God, stand the company of hierarchs, kings and princes, and all the people, monastics and laity, who know you truly to be a powerful and invincible helper; and they are moved to offer you supplication with all their soul, and needful of your aid are impelled to pray to God, that you might stretch forth your God-bearing hands and pray for the world. Hearken, O Lady, and grant consolation to your servants, lest our heavy and grievous sins gain the victory over us; for we are all in need of your assistance.

*Tone 8* When first your icon was painted by Luke, the Evangelist of the mysteries of the Gospel, and was brought to you, O Queen, that you might make it your own and impart to it the strength to save those who honour you, you rejoiced; and as you are the merciful collaborator in our salvation, having conceived God within you, you sang a hymn to the icon, giving mouth and voice thereto: Behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed. And, gazing at it you said with authority: My grace and power are with this image. We truly believe what you said, O Lady, for in this image you are with us. Standing reverently before it, we your servants bow down before you: may you visit us with your maternal compassion.

*Tone 7* Surpassing Mount Sinai you are a great and glorious mountain, O Mother of God, for, unable to bear the descent of the glory of God in types and shadows, it caught on fire, and thunder and lightning struck it; but you bore God the Word within you as divine light without being consumed, and with the milk of your breasts nurtured him who holds all things in his hand. And now, with maternal boldness toward him, O Lady, help those who faithfully celebrate your honoured festival, and visiting us in your mercy, forget us not; for from God you have received the gift of ordering and protecting the Christian flock, your servants.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 6*

To you do all the generations of men offer gifts of praise, and they entreat you as Queen and the Mother of God: the prophets proclaimed you most wisely, the Levites blessed you, the apostles and martyrs confessed you, kings and princes bow down before you, hierarchs proclaim you, monks and layfolk render you reverence, rich and poor, orphans and widows, of every age and station, old and young, flee to your mighty protection with faith. By your prayers, O Lady, protect and preserve us, and save our souls from misfortune.

*Aposticha, tone 8*

O Mother of God, honoured habitation of him who is the most pure light, how can we, your servants, worthily hymn you? For by the revelation of the pure icon of you and the pre-eternal infant all are sanctified.

*Verse* I will make known your name to every generation.

Undefiled Virgin, full of divine joy, what thanks can we ever offer you? For by the brilliant radiance of your blessed birthgiving you have led all up from corruption to life.

*Verse* Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

Virgin Lady, Mother of the creator, joy of the ranks of heaven and blessed helper of the human race: pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 5*

O people, let us splendidly sing the hymn of David to the maiden Bride of God, the Mother of Christ the king: At your right hand stands the queen, O Master, arrayed in a vesture of woven gold and adorned with divine splendour. Making her more beautiful than all the world, as she is good and elect among women, you were pleased to be born of her in your great mercy, and have given her as a helper to your people, to save and protect them from misfortunes by your omnipotent and divine power. By her supplications, Christ our God, have mercy on us.

*Troparion, tone 4*

Sincere helper and mother of the Lord, the Most High, who entreats Christ, your Son and our God, bringing salvation to all who have recourse to your mighty protection; O Lady, Queen and Sovereign. Help us, burdened with many sins amid temptations, sorrows and sickness, who stand before your most pure image with contrite soul and broken heart, who with tears pray with unfailing hope in you: grant that which is beneficent and deliverance from every evil, O Virgin Mother of God, the divine protection of your servants.

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the icon, thrice.*

*After the first reading of the Psalter,  
this Sessional Hymn, tone 3*

Pious people, gatherings of Orthodox Christians, all draw near with faith, falling down before the divine image of the Mother of God; for she joyfully grants healing to the

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ailing, wounds the heretical like a shaft from a bow, makes us all radiantly glad, and illumines us with grace by her supplications.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

God made you wholly good and undefiled among women, having prefigured you honourably through the prophets; and having blessed you by his priests, he caused you to dwell in the Holy of Holies and be nurtured by an angel, giving you bread from heaven. And the same supremely good one, the only-begotten Word of God, made his abode within you and issued from you in the flesh. We worship and honour you truly as the Mother of God.

*After the first reading of the Psalter,  
this Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

Let all the multitude of the faithful radiantly join chorus, and let the army of demons lament, beholding the manifold feasts of the Mother of God shining forth, praising her with divine hymns; for where the blessed Lady, the Mother of God and divinely elect Maiden is glorified in a God-pleasing manner, there is the downfall of wickedness and the mighty confirmation of Christians.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

Most blessed Lady, Mother of God and divinely elect Maiden, splendid fulfillment of prophecy, boast of the apostles, crown and confession of the martyrs, greatly hymned one honoured by the angels and the generations of men, longed-for helper of the whole world: deliver your servants from future damnation and the lake of fire, truly blessed one.

*Polyeleos, Magnification, Little Litany,  
and Sessional Hymn, tone 1*

O Mother of God, save those who honour you in the Orthodox manner, who flee to you and lovingly bow down before your holy icon; and give us not as plunder to our adversaries, neither let all the evils which our sins have prepared for us come upon us, nor let our iniquities gain ascendancy over our heads; but may your God-pleasing maternal prayers to God win the victory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

Your pure icon, O virgin Mother of God, is spiritual healing for the whole world; and having recourse to it, we bow down before you, and venerate, kiss and honour it, drawing from it the grace of healing of bodily infirmities and passions of soul; and thus are we freed by your supplications.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

I will make known your name to every generation.

*Verse* Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

Let every breath praise the Lord... *and the rest,*  
*with the Gospel of Luke, number 4 [Luke 1:39-49, 56]*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... verse, tone 8*

Come, rejoice in the mighty helper of our race, the queen and Mother of God. Come, bow down before her serene, wondrous and precious image, venerated by angels. For the Mother of God gives abundant gifts of healing to the faithful, flowing never-failing grace from the inexhaustible spring of her holy icon. She delivers from the darkness of temptations, misfortunes and every sin, us who piously and in a God-pleasing manner glorify and honour her radiant and wondrous holy icon. In song we cry out to its prototype: Rejoice, loving help of the world, the salvation of our souls.

*We sing the two Canons of the feast of the icon*

*Ode 1*

*Canon to the most holy Mother of God, ‘She who indicates the Way’ tone 4  
composed by priest-monk Ignatius*

*Irmos* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it; and I will sing to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen keeping festival with splendour; and rejoicing I shall hymn her wonders.

Joyously I begin my foremost praise: Rejoice. And with gladsome voice I sing to you, the indicator of the way: Fill me with understanding as I begin to hymn you.

Rejoice, O exalted Lady who gave birth to Christ our everlasting joy. Exalted Virgin, Directress and hope of the Orthodox, fill me with the joy which the world desires.

All men and angels join chorus, ever singing together in heaven and on earth, O Directress: Rejoice, O Virgin, for by your birthgiving you have filled all things with joy.

O Directress, give joy to those who with fear cry out to you Rejoice, O Mother of joy who delivers from all tribulation; and have mercy on all who have recourse to you.

*Another canon of the feast, same tone and Irmos*

The leaders of the angels reverence you, O Mother of God; and the ranks of the saints serve you with honour; the righteous adorn themselves and bless you as the vehicle of heavenly things; heaven and earth together praise you splendidly in gladness, as we sinners ask mercy: Illumine our hearts, O Lady, that we may sing a hymn to the revelation of your holy icon.

Come Christian people, and having mystically cleansed your minds, assemble in the holy church of the Mother of Christ our God; for from her holy icon pours upon us inexhaustibly a spiritual spring which heals the souls and bodies of those who sing: Blessed is our God who was born of you.

The strange wonder of your divine birthgiving strikes every ear with wonder and awe, O immaculate one: how you conceived the creator of the cherubim; how you carried him who is life, and for the whole world gave birth to him who is life, both God and Man.

We, the generations of man, flee beneath your shelter, O virgin Lady. With the light of your birthgiving enlighten us, your sinful servants who earnestly pray, bowing down before your pure icon, asking to receive from you great mercy.

*Katavasia*      I shall open my mouth...

*Ode 3*

*First Canon*

*Irmos* O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir in your divine memory, and grant them crowns of glory.

Rejoice, unshakable, pure and animate palace of Christ the king, the Most High. Rejoice, Directress, Rejoice; for by you our city is kept safe.

In your unwedded womb you actually contained him who creation cannot contain, O virgin Directress. Magnifying you fittingly, we sing: Rejoice.

O exalted joy of the world, ever hymning you with joy, O pure one, we are granted everlasting joy by your maternal supplications to him who was born of you, the Directress.

O Directress, we invoke you as the golden jar, the candlestick, the rod and the table; and we ever raise the cry Rejoice. to you when we use these terms.

*Second Canon*

What worthy praise can our utter infirmity offer? For through the manifestation of your pure and divine icon you pour forth bountiful streams of healing upon your servants who faithfully have recourse to you.

The holy revelation of your divine icon, O virgin Mother of God, has shone upon us like the radiant sun, emitting rays of glorious miracles and dispelling a myriad of evil circumstances by your sacred intercessions, O Lady.

Once you filled your first-painted icon with grace, O virgin Mother of God; and now that same grace speaks truly in the shining of the wonders of faith, as the first one did for the sake of you, depicted there, to those who with faith have recourse to you after God.

We bow down before the pure image of you and your child, Christ the pre-eternal and never-waning light, O Mother of God, by whom you have saved all human nature from cruel evils and mortal corruption.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

The divine apostles of the Word, the clarion-voiced universal heralds of the Gospel of Christ, having founded a divine church in your holy name, O Mother of God, approached you, entreating you to come to its consecration. But you said: Go in peace, and I shall be with you there. And they found there, on the wall of the church, the likeness of your image depicted powerfully in colours; and seeing it, they rendered homage to you and glorified God. We also, with them, bow down before your divine icon, asking of you great mercy. Grant remission of sins to your servants, O truly blessed Lady.

*Ode 4*

*First Canon*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

Rejoice, O Directress, wonder of wonders. Rejoice, joy of all cities and towns, impregnable fortress and defence for Christians amid misfortune, victory over the enemy.

Rejoice, boast of Orthodox kings, for you, the queen of all, accompanies Christ-loving armies. Rejoice, Directress, the refuge and confirmation of us all.

Rejoice, deliverance for all amid misfortune. Rejoice, ready consolation for the sorrowful. Rejoice, exalted Lady. Rejoice, most blessed Directress, healer of all the infirm.

Rejoice, Lady whose mighty works all creation hastens to give fitting glorify; yet it is unable, and so it cries out to you. Rejoice, O Lady, dwelling-place which held God.

*Second Canon*

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You pure people, let us honour the icon of the virgin Mother of God and of the divine infant Christ our God; and let us kiss it and glorify her with fear and trembling; for we honourably venerate the icon and honour even more the pure Mother of God.

David, the divine and wondrous prophet, foreseeing from afar, said: The rich among the people shall entreat your countenance. And we, the faithful, bow down and venerate the precious icon, sanctified in body and soul.

Luke, the divinely eloquent recorder of the Gospel, at the behest of God set down your pure image, O Mother of God, depicting the pre-eternal infant in your arms; and from temptations and misfortunes you deliver those who have recourse to it, and you protect and save them all by your image.

You are the boast and crown of all the saints, O queen; after God, you are our hope and help, and on you have we place our hope of salvation. We entreat you as the Mother of God: Rain down your rich and soul-saving mercies upon your sinful servants.

### *Ode 5*

#### *First Canon*

*Irmos* All things are filled with awe at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who has not known wedlock, held in your womb God who is over all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

As an abyss of goodness and compassion, rejoice, O virgin Directress. Rejoice, giver of faith to all. Rejoice, most speedy helper of those in misfortune and sorrow.

Beholding the mighty works of your wonders, we, the faithful, are filled with joy; therefore, in every place we ever sing to you, Rejoice, O Directress.

O rejoice, virgin Directress, dwelling-place of Christ our God and of his ineffable and divine glory. Rejoice, palace all adorned. Rejoice, animate city ever reigning.

Looking upon you as an untiring sea of joy, virgin Maiden Directress, rejoicing we all cry out to you: Rejoice. And in song, we ever look for divine gifts invisibly bestowed.

#### *Second Canon*

Every being is at a loss how to hymn you, the most pure one; for you are exalted far above the heavenly intelligences, having given birth to the unapproachable and dread king and God of all. As you are merciful and the ready helper of men, attend to the entreaty of your servants, and grant us your help.

Where your grace overshadows, O Mother of God, demons vanish in fear and their wickedly devised fantasy is destroyed; the dark demons flee and the faithful rejoice, singing a hymn of praise to you from their hearts: Rejoice, divine protection of our souls.

Sweet sight is given to the blind, hearing to the deaf, good speech to the mute, mobility to the lame, cleansing to the leprous, chastity to the demonized, and healing to those in sicknesses, through the overshadowing of your pure icon, O Mother of God.

O joyous Mother of God, let us never fail to hymn your mighty works with psalms and hymns; for you truly gave birth to the incarnate God, to our universal salvation and deliverance.

*Ode 6*

*First Canon*

*Imos* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God who was born of her.

Receiving Christ, O pure virgin Directress, you heard the cry: Rejoice. And having given birth to him ineffably, you ever hear from all the salutation Rejoice.

You have filled all with joy, and have united those on high with those below, O Directress. Therefore, with joy heaven and all the earth now cry out to you together.

Rejoice, exalted Directress, consolation of widows and orphans. Rejoice, you that pour forth inexhaustible riches upon the destitute.

Rejoice, Directress, dwelling-place of Christ, more lustrous than gold and more splendid than the dawning of the sun. Rejoice, O Virgin. Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

*Second Canon*

O Virgin Lady, by your exclamation of old, you imparted to your pure image the rich grace of your divine birthgiving, so that it work great and glorious miracles in abundance, for the salvation of those who hope in you.

Where the holy name of the joyous Mother of God is glorified, streams of every good thing pour forth. Come in purity, O people, for by the manifestation of the divine icon of the Virgin the presence of the queen is revealed, for the salvation of the faithful.

Approaching with faith, O immaculate Lady and Mother of God, from your pure icon we receive healing of maladies, the dispelling of the passions, salvation which nourishes the soul, forgiveness of sins, and everlasting deliverance.

The generations of the earthborn flee to you, O Lady, asking great mercy; and the infirm receive abundant healing, release from the passions, and consolation amid grief. O Lady, let fall upon me a drop of soul-saving rain, that I also may hymn your magnitude.

*Kontakion, tone 8,*

*to the Special Melody* To you, the champion leader...

Let us flee to the protection of the Virgin, O people, | that calm and good haven, the speedy helper, the ready and fervent salvation. | Let us hasten to prayer and repentance, before the most pure Mother of God | who pours upon us unfailing mercies as she goes before us to help us; || delivering her goodhearted and God-fearing servants from great misfortunes and evils.

*Ikos* Having cleansed thought and mind, let us hasten to the Mother of God, calling her blessed in splendid hymns; and let us glorify and honour her pure icon, and falling down before it, let us do homage as to herself; for the veneration shown an icon ascends to the prototype, and he who honours and bows down before it honours the prototype himself, as the divine fathers have said. And if one does not reverence the most holy Mother of God, and does not venerate her icon, let him be anathema. For she shames and destroys those who honour her not, delivering her goodhearted and God-fearing servants from great misfortunes and evils.

*Ode 7*

*First Canon*

*Irmos* The divinely wise youths worshipped not a creation rather than the creator, but bravely trampling the threat of fire underfoot, they rejoiced as they sang: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Rejoice, O Directress, who ever directs the faithful to tread the path to salvation, for by you we are delivered from the present tribulations brought about by the barbarians.

Rejoice, O Mother of God Directress, who keeps watch and prays to God for us, delivering people from every sorrow and from evil by your mediation.

Rejoice, most holy Directress, who fulfills those of our petitions which are for our profit, and ever desires our good and brotherly unity, especially among the leaders.

Rejoice, O Directress of ships at sea, who deliveries the faithful, and quickly releases their various and long-standing ailments, the deliverance from every sorrow.

*Second Canon*

Let us draw remission from the unfailing fount which flows with sanctity, the all-pure Virgin and her Son, God the Word, incarnate for us. Let us cry out to him: Blessed are you, creator and deliverer, God glorified with the Father and the Spirit.

With ever-vigilant and God-pleasing prayer, O pure one, and an insuperable dominion, crush the audacity of the enemy directed against us, that we, your servants, may rejoice in you, crying out to your Son: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

O faithful people, let us rejoice and be glad in the wondrous appearance of the icon of the all-pure Lady, the Mother of God; for it appears as an inexhaustible river flowing with the water of healing, giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, the ability to walk to the lame, and plenteous healing to all in their infirmities.

The unapproachable image of your conception, O Virgin, is an unfathomable abyss, an incomprehensible mystery; for your conception was seedless and you gave birth without a husband, as the incorporeal pre-eternal one became incarnate, an infant: the Son of God became your Son, O Virgin; and to him we sing: Blessed are you, O God.

*Ode 8*

*First Canon*

*Irmos* The birth giving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Rejoice, most blessed Mary, for through you the most blessed God has arrayed himself in all of me; and having arrayed himself in man, he has united man to his divinity in an ineffable union, O virgin Directress. Rejoice, joy of all the world.

Rejoice, dispeller of evil spirits. Rejoice, Mother of God Directress. Rejoice, whom the invisible armies of heaven ever glorify and magnify as the Mother of God. Rejoice, who has joined those who are below with those above.

Rejoice, O Directress who without exception surpasses the heavenly host. Rejoice, O exalted Lady, who gave birth to the God of all creation, and has dominion over it. Rejoice, O pure one, who even after giving birth remains a virgin.

Rejoice, glory of all women, hallowed temple of our God. Rejoice, Directress. Rejoice, who saves the souls of all on earth. Rejoice, protecting cloud broader than the heavens. Rejoice, phial of divine oil of myrrh.

*Second Canon*

The minds of angels and men are filled with awe, O Mother of God, at how you gave flesh to the God of heaven, holding him in your womb, and how, having given birth to him as an infant, you carried him as a son in your arms. Before him creation stands in awe and the heavenly thrones tremble, crying out unceasingly: Holy, holy, holy are you, O God, hymned and exalted above all for ever.

Rejoice, joy of all the world: with the Archangel Gabriel we sing to you, O Mother of God: Rejoice, for you contained the infinite one. Rejoice, full of grace, bearer of the whole divinity. Rejoice, restoration of Adam, the Lord is with you, saving us through you: him we hymn and exalt above all for ever.

O sanctified root of Jesse, you have plucked out the root of our sin, O rod of Aaron which blossomed, giving rise to a blossom, Christ the giver of life. O jar which received the Manna, you have crushed the power of death, and have brought the human race to him who is life: we hymn you, the cause of that which is good.

O Lady, the boast of Christians, a sword against our enemies and a rampart for those who have recourse to you: we call upon you for aid: do not let foes rise up against your people, for they praise neither you nor your Son, O Mother of God, nor do they bow down before your icon. Vanquish them, and save our souls.

*Ode 9*

*First Canon*

*Irmos* Let all mortal flesh leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the orders of the angelic powers celebrate, honouring the sacred triumph of the Mother of God; and let them cry out: Rejoice, O most blessed ever virgin Mother of God.

Rejoice, lamp who bore the never-waning light, whose birthgiving has destroyed the darkness of polytheism and delivered your people from the abyss of Hades. Rejoice, Mother of God, Directress, vehicle of all good things.

Rejoice, earth from whence the ear of heavenly grain has budded for the faithful; and delivered the world from soul-destroying famine. Rejoice, vine who gave birth to the cluster of life, O pure Mother of God, Directress.

Rejoice, comely paradise of mystic flowers. Rejoice, virgin Mother of God who by purity has strangely routed the invisible foe. Rejoice, Maiden, universal wonder.

By your aid, keep the rest of our life untouched by harm, O virgin Maiden, that we may receive a good end, who hymn you and sing: Rejoice, most blessed and pure Mother of God, Directress.

*Second Canon*

The choir of prophets foretold you in many and various ways, O Mary: as the holy tabernacle more spacious than the heavens, the tablet divinely inscribed, the bush unconsumed by fire, the portal through which God passes, the mountain and the ladder, the bridge and the rod which blossomed. And we magnify you as the Mother of God.

The mystery of the depth of your birthgiving moves the mind of the angels to awe, O Virgin, and your all-pure icon expels demons, darkens the countenances of the ungodly, and puts them to shame; for they cannot bear to look upon its power, so they flee and vanish. We lovingly venerate it, and magnify you as the Mother of God.

As a constant intercessor before the Most High, as one with undaunted boldness; found the life of the Orthodox in profound peace, exalt our right-believing hierarchs, and grant your servants all things profitable, that we may magnify you as the Mother of God.

O most merciful helper of Christians, the mind of men or angels cannot hymn you rightly, for you are more honourable than all creation, more glorious than all of heaven and earth; for you gave birth to the creator and God of all. O Lady, mercifully accept this hymn composed for you from the depths of our heart, and ever save us who hope in you.

*Exapostilarion*

Let the all-hymned Mother of God be honoured, who gave birth to Christ our God, our life. She is the opening of the gates of Paradise, the cleansing of the whole world, the restoration to life. And he is the one of whom the prophets spoke, whom we worship as our God, the Saviour of our souls. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Now and ever...

Come with purity, O faithful, and let us exalt the wondrous icon of the most pure Mother of our God with the divine infant Christ our Saviour. Having given birth to him and carried him in her arms, with boldness before him, she prays unceasingly for us, and bestows upon her servants rich mercies.

*At the Praises, 4 verses, tone 4*

Let us glorify the joyous Mother of God, O faithful,  
for we ever have her holy and blessed name upon our lips more than any other,  
unceasingly fleeing to her all-pure and healing icon;  
for thereby we find all things good and profitable on earth,  
and are delivered from the snares of the demons in the air.  
As the Mother who gave birth to the creator of all,  
she saves our souls from misfortunes. *twice*

Let the throng of the impious eternally lament,  
who do not bow down before your all-pure icon,  
who do not confess you to be the Mother of God pure in your birthgiving.  
But we, your faithful people, rejoicing  
rejoice to confess you the true Mother of God and Virgin,  
for you truly gave birth to Christ our God incarnate,  
and have trampled the corruption of Adam underfoot,  
have cleansed the world of sin, granting never-ending life  
and have opened the gates of paradise to the faithful  
through your divine infant.  
Implore him, that we who hymn your mystery with faith may be saved.

Let the multitude of the pious be glad  
and rejoice with ineffable joy;

**October 22**

and, falling down, let them do homage and reverence the Mother of God with fear,

giving thanks to her after God,  
for she is the vehicle of such great blessings.  
The angels desire to gaze upon those things  
which Christ our God has given the faithful through the Mother of God,  
for he has an abundance of compassion and great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 8*

The holy image of your form, O Virgin Mother of God,  
is by your grace a bounteous fountain  
which pours forth its waters for all the earth  
and enlightens the whole world with the radiance of the Holy Spirit.  
For you ineffably gave birth in the flesh to God the Word,  
hearing such things as these from the Archangel Gabriel:  
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you,  
overshadowed by the Holy Spirit at your conceiving.

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## Liturgy

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 of the first Canon, and 4 from Ode 6 of the second.*

*Prokimenon, tone 3  
the Canticle of the Mother of God*

My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

*Verse* For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant: from this day all generations will call me blessed.

*Epistle to the Philippians, number 240 [Phil 2:5-11]*

*Alleluia, tone 8*

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

The richest among the people shall entreat your favour with gifts.

*Gospel of Luke, number 54 [Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28]*

*Communion verse*

I will take up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

## **October 23**

### **Apostle James, the brother of the Lord**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

Come, you divinely wise, \* and in a sacred manner honour the memory of the brother of God; \* for, taking up the yoke of Christ with zeal, \* he was a proclaimer of the goodness \* of his Gospel and kingdom, \* and persuades us of his ineffable providence. \* Through him, O almighty one, \* grant us cleansing. *Twice*

The proclamation of your words \* has catechized the ends of the world; \* thereby are we enlightened \* in every manner of divine virtue \* and are guided by faith to acknowledge the Holy Trinity. \* We beseech you, as a hierarch: \* Pray to Jesus who loves mankind, \* that he save our souls. *Twice*

Knowing your manner of life \* from afar, O James, \* Christ who loves mankind, \* the all-wise one who sees all things, \* appointed you to be a teacher of the sacred mysteries \* for the people of Jerusalem \* and to perform the ineffable sacred mysteries. \* Implore him that our souls be saved. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

You adorned your episcopate with the blood of martyrdom, O hieromartyr and apostle; for standing on the pinnacle of the temple, you proclaimed God the Word to be the creator of all that exists. Cast down by the Jews, you were granted the mansions of heaven, O James, brother of God: entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Dogmatikon* Who would not call you blessed, O most holy Virgin?  
Who would not hymn your most pure maternity?  
For the only begotten Son  
who shone forth from the Father from eternity,  
came forth, ineffably incarnate from you, O pure one.  
He who by nature is God,  
for our sakes assumed the nature of man;  
not divided into two persons,  
but known in two natures without confusion.  
O pure and most blessed Lady,  
pray to him to have mercy on our souls.

*Aposticha, these verses, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

We the multitudes of the faithful, \* joyfully celebrating this sacred feast, \* exclaim with loud voices in praise of the brother of God, the disciple of the Lord, \* in psalms and hymnody; \* for he ever prays that we be saved.

*Verse* Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

As he had desired, you were the Lord's brother in the flesh, O wise one, \* his disciple and an eyewitness to divine mysteries, \* having fled with him to Egypt, with Joseph and the Mother of Jesus. \* With them pray that we be saved.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

The choir of the apostles chose you \* to be the first bishop in holy Sion for Christ our benefactor, \* as you were his kinsman and brother according to the flesh, \* his companion and heir to his footsteps, O James.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

You were the brother and successor of Christ, the chief shepherd who placed you forward among the apostles. You loved him for whom you died, and were not daunted by torture, O glorious James. Unceasingly entreat him that he save our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

*Troparion, tone 2*

As a disciple of the Lord you received the Gospel, O righteous one; as a martyr you possess that which is infinite; and as the brother of God, you are foremost before him. As a hierarch you are able to make entreaty: therefore beseech Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All of your most glorious mysteries  
are beyond comprehension, O Mother of God;  
for with your purity sealed and your virginity inviolate,  
you are known to be truly the mother who has given birth to God.  
Beseech him to save our souls.

## **Matins**

*After the first reading of the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

O wise James wise, blessed brother of God, apostle, eyewitness and martyr of Christ: by your supplications free those who celebrate your honoured memory from the transgressions which beset us, inheriting heaven through the power of the Spirit.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* I hymn you, O Virgin, the unconsumed bush which Moses beheld, the mountain of God, the holy cloud, the undefiled tabernacle, the God-pleasing table, the palace of the most high king, the most splendid and impassable gate.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 5,  
to the Special Melody The Word Who is equally unoriginate...*

O disciple of the Word, preacher of the truth, holy apostle, you were dispatched like an arrow, illumining those in the darkness of cruelty; and, driving the darkness of ungodliness from the earth, you have made us right believing children of the day, O holy James, beholder of Christ.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O most pure Virgin, from danger, evil circumstances and cruel misfortune free those who place their unwavering trust in you as their protection, entreating your Son with his apostle; and save those who hymn you.

*Both canons from the Octoechos, without martyria;  
and the canon of the apostle, tone 4,  
composed by Theophanes.*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

You openly taught that every good gift and ever perfect gift is given to men by the Father of lights, O apostle: pray that those who hymn you may partake thereof.

**October 15**

Illumined by the light of the divine Spirit and setting laws by him, you guided the Churches of the nations as an apostle of Christ, O blessed teacher of the sacred mysteries.

You adorned the choir of the apostles as the first hierarch, O wise one, anointed by the Word himself, as the disciple and brother of God, a sacred teacher of sacred things.

*Theotokion* Having you as a fount of healings, who gave birth to the fount of life, O pure virgin Mother of God, we draw health for our souls and restoration for our bodies.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

The tribe of Judah rejoices in you today, seeing you shining brightly with the splendour of Christ.

Having you, the glorious teacher, as a divinely shining star, the Church of the nations is illumined with divine light.

You laid down the law of life for the Church of Christ, codifying and proclaiming it through the life-giving Spirit.

*Theotokion* You gave birth in the flesh, O Mother of God, to him who has shone forth from the Father; whom James preached as the God of all.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

As the kinsman of Jesus according to the flesh, O wise Apostle James, you received much grace from him, and imparted enlightenment and understanding upon all, uprooting the falsehood of idolatry. Therefore the lying leaders of darkness unjustly slew you who preached the Saviour. And so we cry out to you: entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O cloud of the noetic Sun, golden lamp stand of the divine light, O undefiled, pure, immaculate Lay, I pray: With the radiance of dispassion illumine my soul, darkened by the blindness of the passions, purify my polluted heart with torrents of contrition and tears of repentance, and cleanse me of the mire of my works, that I may cry out to you with love: Ever-virgin Mother of God, entreat Christ our God, that he grant me remission of transgressions, for I your servant hope in you.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* As an example of mercy and love, you mounted the cross and the nations were scattered before you: you are the lover of mankind, my strength and my praise.

You led your steeds, the apostles, to the sea, O Saviour, and enlightened the nations, drawing them to acknowledge you, the Master.

You have shone upon all, revealed as a clear reflection, having received the pristine rays of the uncreated Trinity.

Consecrated prophecy perceived you as a whirling stone crushing the foul vanity of falsehood by the power of the Spirit.

*Theotokion* The pre-eternal Word who was ineffably begotten of the Father and entered into you, O Mother of God, revealed the apostle James.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

You, O Lord, the light and radiant glory, have shown James as one shining with light, drawing mortals from unbelief and darkness.

With an unrestrained tongue, O Lord, your righteous brother preached you; and slain, he became an emulator of your suffering.

What earthly mind can offer hymns of praise to you who was illumined with the graces of the virtues, O James?

*Theotokion* The Word, contemplating our salvation, O Virgin, found you a truly divine dwelling-place and made his abode in you.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

He who in his mercy accepted your brotherhood, made you a hierarch higher in honour than Aaron of old and clad you in vestments better than those of the law.

You were a lyre sounded by the movements of the Spirit, delighting our minds and leading to God those saved from cruel bondage, O excellent one.

Thirsting, you drank of the water of life, and poured forth from your divinely eloquent person streams which flow out to all the world through the divine Spirit.

*Theotokion* Through the disobedience Eve gave birth to sin, but the Mother of God, conceiving, gave birth to life which ages not and has abolished the ancient debt for us all.

*Kontakion, tone 4,*  
*to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up upon the cross...

The Word of God, the only-begotten of the Father, | who came to us in these latter times, | made you the first shepherd and teacher of the people of Jerusalem, | and a faithful servant of the mysteries of the Spirit, || Therefore we all honour you, O godly Apostle James.

*Ikos* With hymns of praise we hymn you, the son of Joseph, first hierarch of the Jerusalem and brother of the Lord, O James who saw God; and we cry out to you: Bestow upon us the perfect gift from the Father of lights, and dispel the sorrow resulting from the multitude of our sins. For our enemies crush us under their heel, the Moslems surround us, whose weapons may you swiftly break, O manifest in sanctity, O godly Apostle James.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Enlightened on the pinnacle by the divine Spirit as in a furnace, O divinely eloquent one, you sang mystically: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Mighty inspiration from on high caused the apostle to proclaim the great works of God with fiery tongue: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Producing the writing-tablet of active vision like the tablets of the Spirit, you taught men, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord my God.

*Theotokion* O Bride of God, he who created the world made James a performer of service to God, who sang: Blessed are you among women, O immaculate Lady.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Stretching forth your hands, O Saviour, you blessed your apostles, ascending to your Father, causing them to sing with gladness: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

As you promised your apostles, O Master, you sent the Spirit. James, illumined with its splendour enlightened the world with lightning-flashes, crying out to you: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

O wise James, your teacher was the incarnate Wisdom, who taught ineffable mysteries; and you roused men in piety to sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* The prophet beheld you, O pure Virgin, as a noetic mountain; for from you the most precious stone as cut, truly saving the whole world, which sing in godly manner: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Ode 9*

*Imos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

Come all, and with sacred hymns magnify James, the first-enthroned luminary of the Church, as hierarch and preacher of Christ, who was rightly named righteous.

We magnify you, O James, the godly one who shares in the eternal kingdom, called the brother of God and servant of the sacred mysteries, who has received a title corresponding to your life.

Standing, crowned, before the throne of the Trinity, O blessed James, as a pleasing hierarch entreat your Master, that those who honour your memory with faith may enjoy incorruptible honours.

*Theotokion* O divinely revealed one, you clearly taught us to worship God the incarnate Word, born of the unwedded Virgin; and, believing in him, we offer fitting magnification.

*Exapostilarion,*  
*to the Special Melody* By the Spirit in the holy place...

As is right, O divinely inspired and blessed James, we the faithful praise you as the brother of the Lord, glorifying your radiant, most honourable and light-bearing memory: pray earnestly for those who honour you.

*Theotokion* We the faithful set before you as suppliant and fervent intercessor your pure Mother: grant that your servants may partake of your glory, the portion of the righteous and the sweetness of paradise, and that we may obtain the kingdom of heaven.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 4 verses, tone 8,*  
*to the Special Melody* O Lord, even if at the tribunal...

**October 15**

O Lord, \* even as James stood \* on the pinnacle of the temple, \* he proclaimed you, crying out with boldness, \* to be God the Word, \* the creator of all \* who came into the world. \* Through his supplications grant enlightenment \* to our souls.

O Lord, \* even though the head of the apostle \* was crushed by a stave, \* the tree of life has been given him in paradise, \* and, departing from transitory things, \* he rejoices eternally. \* Through his supplications \* impart peace to the Churches.

O Lord, \* the brother of God, \* who is truly ever-memorable, \* confessing you valiantly on earth, \* put to shame and subdued \* the heretical foe; \* for having suffered, \* he stands before you, rejoicing.

O Lord, \* even though the Jews \* cast the just one down from a height, \* yet he has been brought \* to dwell in the mansions of heaven with gladness, \* and to rejoice as is right \* in the sustenance of delight. \* Therefore may you grant peace \* to our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Byzantius, tone 1*

Enlightened by the fiery beams of the divine Spirit, O James, brother of God, you were a godly lover of piety. Arraying you in the vestments of a lawful priesthood, more precious than those of Aaron of old, in his loving kindness he accepted you as his brother. Entreat him, O boast of the apostles, that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Behold, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in you O Virgin, for you have given birth and yet remain a virgin after your delivery as before; for it was God who was born of you, to restore the nature of man. Mother of God, do not reject the supplications of your servants offered in your Church, but as you held in your arms the compassionate Lord, take pity on us your servants, and pray that our souls be saved.

*Great Doxology and the rest*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the apostle.  
Prokimenon, tone 8*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

*Verse* The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

*Epistle to the Galatians, number 200 [Gal 1: 11-19]  
Alleluia, tone 1*

Let the heavens praise your wonders O Lord and let your faithfulness be sung in the assembly of the holy ones.

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 56 [13:54-58]*

*Communion Verse*

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.

## **October 24**

### **Martyr Arethas and those with him**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody O all-praised martyrs...*

You exposed your courage \* to the savagery of the Jews, \* O praiseworthy martyr Arethas, and were victorious \* by the grace of God. \* You brought to Christ, \* O glorious one, \* a militant choir of martyrs of every age, \* composed of all races.

O glorious Arethas, \* having formed a beautiful choir \* of your sacred fellow martyrs, \* with them you struggled, \* completing the good race \* and the good fight \* of your courageous contest. \* Therefore, entreat Christ, \* that he grant peace and great mercy \* to our souls.

The divinely wise martyred virgins, \* enkindled by the love of Christ, \* unmindful of the weakness of their nature, \* but mightily strengthened \* by the power of God, \* trampled upon the error of the enemy; \* and, unafraid of the pain of torture, \* they feared not the fiery furnace.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Anatolius, tone 4*

With oneness of mind, O faithful, and with hymnody let us honour today the glorious chief shepherd Arethas and those with him; for he denounced the iniquitous one and shed his blood in confession of Christ. Hence, a cloud of fire consumed the face of the earth, in reproof of the ungodliness of the all-iniquitous. O Christ God, who strengthened the athletes for your glorification, by the supplications of your holy ones preserve us also from temptations and tribulations, as you are the Master of all.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

As she beheld you, the lamb and shepherd, \* upon the tree, \* the Mother and lamb who gave you birth lamented \* and exclaimed maternally: \* O my Son most desired, \* how can you be suspended upon the wood of the cross, O long-suffering one? \* How is it that your hands and feet, O Word, \* have been pierced with nails by the iniquitous, \* and you shed your blood, O Master?

*Aposticha from the Octoechos, with Glory be to the Father... tone 8*

Knowing the wicked and evil plan of the unbelieving Jews, you struggled toward suffering with boldness of spirit for Christ, who of old in the time of the law saved them from Egypt in the wilderness, whom they condemned to the cross. Now also, infected with unbelief, they passed from words to deeds and condemned you to the fire. Suffering with manly patience and oneness of mind, you proved to be marvellous among martyrs. As you have boldness before God, entreat him, that our souls be delivered from bitter transgressions.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,  
to the Special Melody* O most glorious wonder...

What is this before my eyes, O Master? How can you die, lifted upon the tree, who sustains all creation, granting life to all: thus exclaimed the Mother of God, weeping, when she saw raised upon the cross the God and man who had ineffably shone forth from her.

*Troparion, tone 1*

May you be entreated by the agonies which these holy ones endured for you, O Lord, and we pray to you to heal our pangs, O lover of mankind.

## **Matins**

*Canon of the martyrs, tone 8,  
composed by Theophanes*

*upon the acrostic* With songs we hymn the assembly of martyrs with divine beauty.

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* Let us send a hymn to our wondrous God, O people, to him who delivered Israel from bondage, singing and crying out a hymn of victory: We shall sing to you, alone our Master.

O martyr Arethas, blessed athlete of God, illumine my mind by your supplications and of those who suffered with you, that I may hymn your radiant and divine memory.

Having acquired a life in heaven above, O divinely blessed one, by emulating Christ, desiring martyrdom you gave yourself over to the iniquitous Jews.

The iniquitous and unrighteous Jews, violating the word of God, destroyed the divinely elect flock of Christ who accepted condemnation with upright and divine intent.

Having surely trodden the path which leads to heaven, O praiseworthy Arethas, you brought to Christ a company of martyrs gathered from every age and class.

## **October 24**

*Theotokion* Let us praise most holy Mary with hymns, O faithful, she who is the joyous Mother of God, the calm haven, the intercessor for the faithful.

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* Lord the fashioner of heaven's vault and founder of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, who alone is the lover of mankind.

Seeing your Church established by the grace of the cross, the iniquitous children of the Jews, consumed by jealousy, pitilessly tortured and severely wounded your children, O lover of mankind.

The impious ones, blaspheming you with venomous tongues, slaughtered those who believe in you, O Saviour who had delivered them from the ancient torment of our first parents.

O Christ, who fashioned men's hearts with your divine hand, who can fathom the depth of your forethought? For you have given to wolves the flock which you had gathered.

Your divinely wise flock, cut down by the swords of the barbarians, earnestly called to you: Accept our spirits and souls, O Saviour, and guide them to the light of your kingdom.

*Theotokion* As you alone have given birth to the incarnate life, O most pure Lady, you have led me again to life, slain of old: stricken thereby, malicious death has burst asunder.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Armed with the power of the cross, and having fortified your city with faith, you put the tyrant's savagery to shame by your deeds; and as a model of divine hymnody, you brought martyrs to Christ. We gather to honour your most festive memory, O praiseworthy Arethas. Entreat Christ our God, O glorious passion-bearer, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Having fallen into various dangers through enemies seen and unseen, beset by the tempest of my countless offences, I flee to the haven of your goodness as to my fervent help and protection, O pure one. To him who was seedlessly incarnate of you, earnestly pray for your servants, O most pure Lady, ever entreating him to grant remission of offences to those who fittingly hymn your glory.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The lamb and mother, beholding the lamb, shepherd and deliverer upon the cross, exclaimed, weeping, and, bitterly lamenting: The world rejoices, receiving

deliverance through you; but inwardly I burn, seeing the crucifixion which you endure in the loving kindness of your mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fount of mercy, have mercy, and grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn your divine sufferings.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* You are my strength and power O Lord my God, you are my rejoicing, who without leaving the bosom of the Father, has visited our lowliness. With the Prophet Habakkuk, I therefore cry to you: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Strengthened by grace, the divine and radiant choir, the multitude of the martyrs, the victorious army, with Arethas as its commander, suffered. Let it be hymned with love and honour by those who sing: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Your divinely wise city, sustained by the knowledge of you, resplendent with honourable grey hairs and struggling manfully against the iniquitous ones, seized the trophy and sang to the Saviour: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Protected by the new law of the life-creating Spirit, and trampling upon the written law, the pious city prevailed with spiritual purity and noble character, singing to Christ: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Truly the city of God is all-honoured and a divine habitation of martyrs, and of you, O martyr, glorious, great and wondrous things are said; for you brought to the Master a choir of those who sing: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

*Theotokion* Springing from the royal house of David, O Virgin, you gave birth to the Word who ineffably reigns from before the beginning of time and has shone from you in a manner past understanding: we, the faithful, call you the blessed Mother of God.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

Called by God, the divinely blessed company struggled and, fervently encouraging one another, the victorious ones gloriously assented to be slaughtered for Christ by the iniquitous.

Fortified by faith and kindled with the zeal of piety, your favoured ones, O Christ, were not afraid of the terror of the iniquitous; and, bound by your love, they gave themselves over willingly.

Committing their life to the inescapable judgment of God's providence, the divine assembly, the valiant ones, boldly confronted the iniquitous and murderous Jews.

Trusting in you, and believing in your resurrection, O Saviour, your valiant martyrs were slain by the iniquitous for confessing you, neither protesting nor wailing.

*Theotokion* God the Word who from before time began is equally existent with the Father, making his abode within you in the richness of his compassion, impoverished himself and appeared on earth as a man, becoming flesh, O virgin Mother of God.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

Signed with the blood of Christ, the holy and glorious martyrs fervently shed their blood and have now been brought to reign with him.

Mute tongues prophetically spoke peace, speechless infants preached Christ, and divinely wise virgins offered themselves to God for piety's sake.

The light which richly shines with healing from Christ was given to you, O divinely eloquent Arethas; to which you departed, still flowing with the sweat of your contest.

A multitude of martyrs was divinely led to you, O Saviour; and dancing in chorus around you, the choirs of the saints ask remission of sins for those who ever glorify them.

*Theotokion* Ineffably arrayed in the flesh he assumed from you, uniting himself with mankind, O unwedded Lady, he who came forth in majesty from Sion on high has illumined the world.

*Kontakion, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* You have appeared today...

The feast of the passion bearers  
has dawned upon us today as the herald of gladness:  
celebrating it, we glorify the Lord who lives in the highest.

*Ikos* Illumine my mind with the splendour of the struggles of valiant Arethas and all who suffered with him; for he, first of all, faithfully battled with those who reject the incarnation of you O Christ, who, transcending nature, took flesh and was born, that you might deliver us from the deception and show us how to walk without wavering the path of witness which the athletes trod, hymning you, the Lord who lives in the highest.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* At the condescension of God the fire in Babylon was struck with awe, and so the children, dancing with joyful feet and rejoicing in the furnace as in a meadow sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The flow of the blood of your athletes pours healings upon those who praise their memory with faith and cry out earnestly to you, the creator: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The victors shamed the council of the iniquitous, for adorned with divine understanding and keenness of mind, and rejoicing while being slaughtered, they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Wounded with love for you, O Christ, the compassionate mothers spared not their children, but, burned alive in the furnace, they sang to you, the Master: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Brightly lighting lamps of virginal struggle, the God-bearers, rejoicing with the wise virgins in the bridal chamber of God, sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* You are the cleansing of souls and the vehicle of salvation for those who with faith and love proclaim you to be the Mother of God and likewise cry out to your Son: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

#### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

The martyrs cried out to the God-slayers: Perfection is not in the law; rather salvation has been given in Christ. We shall all be slain, rejoicing, and we shall die zealously, singing to him: You people exalt him above all for ever.

A child instructed in the mysteries told the mindless ones to look to your pure image, O Christ, and to embrace faith in your coming to earth; and forced by the hands of the iniquitous ones, he entered the flame with his mother singing: You people exalt him above all for ever.

Having struggled piously on earth, O martyrs, you received crowns from Christ in heaven, joyfully departing to the habitation of those who rejoice, who sing with faith and cry out unceasingly: You people exalt him above all for ever.

Having vanquished the cruel prince of this world and those who serve his will, O holy ones, with boldness and ineffable joy you passed over to the ruler and Lord of all, singing: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

## **October 24**

*Theotokion* Pray to your Son and Lord for us who truly hymn you in a pure manner, and who confess you to be the Mother of God, O most pure Lady; and ask that salvation and remission of sins be given to those who sing with faith: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Every ear trembles with fear to hear of the ineffable condescension of God, how the Most High willingly came down and assumed flesh, and became man through the Virgin's womb. Therefore, O faithful, let us magnify the most pure Mother of God.

Having shared in death, you were partakers of the glory of Christ, O holy martyrs, and have been splendidly adorned with a diadem: now you stand before God, asking salvation of soul for us.

You were lawful soldiers of Christ and invincible martyrs, O wise Arethas and those who diligently suffered with you, together with the women passion-bearers and the virgin maidens: we beseech you earnestly: Make supplication for us.

Direct my life, O Word of God, and by the entreaties of your favoured ones who love you, O Master, pilot me, and grant me to share with them, overlooking my sins, in that you are good and loving to mankind.

*Theotokion* You were the dwelling-place of God, containing the infinite one, who before was incorporeal, and giving birth to him for us, incarnate: entreat him, O pure one, that he grant remission of transgressions to all who with faith ever magnify you.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, O women...*

God was the fulfiller of the prophecy of Arethas, raising up the courageous Elesbaan, who pursued and slayed legions of the impious, and Negrane, upborne and filled with gladness, to the downfall of impious Omiritus.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Saved by you, O Lady, we confess you to be the Mother of God; for ineffably you gave birth to God who has destroyed death by the cross and has drawn to himself multitudes of martyrs: with them we praise you, O Virgin.

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

*Verse* As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.  
I have set the Lord always before me: he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

*Epistle to the Hebrews, number 330 [Heb. 11: 33-40]*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous cry and the Lord hears it, and frees them from all their affliction.  
The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers him from them all.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 38 [Mat 10: 32-33, 37-38; 19: 27-30]*

*Communion Verse*

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 25**

### **Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius, the Notaries**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Having finished the race \* and kept the faith, \* you were crowned with the crowns of martyrdom, \* O Marcian and Martyrius, \* immovable pillars of the Church, \* breasts putting forth the milk of truth, \* lustrous pearls, \* beacons illumining creation \* with the splendour of piety.

Having between yourselves a single understanding \* and agreeing as one, \* O godly pair, \* you destroyed the division of Arius, \* teaching all to worship the Son as consubstantial with the Father \* and equally unoriginate with the Spirit: \* the Trinity in unity, \* the unity in Trinity, \* the one indivisible divinity in three persons.

You were like-minded followers, \* emulators and zealots \* of the sacred preacher Paul, \* and with the outpouring of your blood \* you drowned the enemy, \* dried up the flow of grievous heresies \* and were rivers of piety, \* watering the Church of Christ, \* O Marcian and Martyrius.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Germanus, tone 1*

As disciples and followers of the preacher and confessor of the consubstantial Trinity, O blessed ones, and therefore persecuted with him, you preferred death by the sword to blasphemous heresy. Adorned by God with crowns of martyrdom, and having received boldness before him, pray that those who honour your memory be delivered from misfortune.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,*  
*to the Special Melody O most praised martyrs...*

*Theotokion of the Cross* When she beheld the lamb upon the cross \* bereft of form and beauty, \* the immaculate lamb, our Lady \* said, weeping: Woe is me; \* where has your comeliness gone, O most sweet? \* Where is the shining grace \* of your image, \* O my most beloved Son?

*Aposticha from the Octoechos;*  
*with Glory be to the Father... tone 3*

## **October 25**

Having cast down heresies with the shield of the faith, Marcian and Martyrius, the champions of the Trinity and noetic beacons of the Church, illumined the world with the light of Orthodoxy. Obedient to Paul the equal of the apostles, the pastor and teacher of true dogmas, they brought down the distinctions of Arius and Nestorius and did away with the confusions of Sabellius and Severus. Theologizing concerning the unity in Trinity, and God who was incarnate of the Virgin, the most praised ones preached that all should piously hymn the one Christ in two natures. Having received crowns of victory from heaven, the divinely eloquent ones ask for us great mercy.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross*

*Theotokion of the Cross* At the sight of your Son upon the cross, a sword pierced your heart, O most pure Virgin, and you cried out: Do not leave me childless, O my Son and God who preserved me a virgin even after childbirth.

*Troparion, tone 4*

In their sufferings, O Lord, Marcion and Martyrius you martyrs  
received imperishable crowns from you, our God;  
armed with your might they cast down tyrants  
and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.  
By their intercessions, save our souls.

## Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos; and the canon of the martyrs, tone 4,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic I offer hymnody unto the two martyrs.*

### Ode 1

*Irmos* O virgin-born, I pray you, drown the three parts of my soul in the depths of dispassion, as of old you drowned the mighty commanders; that in the immortality of my body, as on a timbrel, I may sing a hymn of victory.

Ever illumined by the light of the Holy Trinity, O holy ones, you have become constant luminaries: celebrating your radiant feast with faith, we rejoice in splendour.

Desiring to see on earth the Word who shone forth for us from the Virgin, O athletes, confessing him to be consubstantial, with mighty resolve you suffered a violent death.

As followers and disciples of wise Paul, O divinely eloquent ones, you preached the Son as equal in honor with the Father: cut down with the sword, you have sanctified the earth with the flow of your blood.

*Theotokion* Conceiving the unoriginate Son of God, O pure one, you gave flesh to him, and he became man in his ineffable mercy: worshiping him, we piously glorify you, the cause of the deification of all.

### Ode 3

*Irmos* Let us not boast of wisdom, power and wealth, but of you O Christ, the incarnate wisdom of the Father, for none is holy but you, O lover of mankind.

Illumined by the Spirit with the divine truths of Orthodoxy, you drove away the darkness of Arius, becoming witnesses of the Almighty.

Preaching the dogma of the equality of the Word with the Father, O holy Marcian and Martyrius, you preferred to die, and have passed over to life without end.

Through sacred enlistment you are numbered with the angels, having radiantly joined the choirs of the martyrs: we praise your honoured memory.

*Theotokion* Adorned with golden robes like a queen, O Lady, you now stand before God the king, praying for your servants.

**October 25**

*to the Special Melody* Of the divine faith...

Even to the shedding of your blood, you continued to confess the faith, O glorious martyrs: you accepted the divine ordinance concerning God, denouncing the falsehood of the heretics and preserving the Orthodox faith. Pray unceasingly to Christ God, that he grant us great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Without separating himself from the divine being, the one Lord was incarnate within you; yet in becoming man he remains God, and after your birthgiving preserved you, his Mother, a virgin most immaculate, as you were before giving birth.

*Theotokion of the Cross* The unblemished lamb, the incorrupt virgin mother of the Word, seeing him who was painlessly born of her suspended upon the cross, cried out, maternally lamenting: Woe is me, O my child; for how is that you suffer voluntarily, desiring to deliver man from the dishonour of the passions?

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

The martyrs of the Lord, strengthened by their valiant mind and the perfect wisdom of Orthodoxy, fulfilled the contest of martyrdom, having dispelled the darkness of heresy.

He who did not profess that the Word is consubstantial with the Father and was mindlessly angered against you, O martyrs, was strangled with the cords of your sacred struggles and by the grace of God was drowned in the torrents of your blood.

With joyous hymnody let valiant Marcian and Martyrius be praised: the breasts of the Church pouring forth the milk of Orthodoxy and nurturing the pious.

*Theotokion* Of old, the sacred prophet called you the divine mountain of God greatly overshadowed by the virtues, O Virgin, from whom the Saviour and Word appeared for the restoration and enlightenment of our souls.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* The impious do not see your glory, O Christ, as do we who keep watch before you through the night: we praise you, only begotten Son, divine brightness of the Father's glory and lover of mankind.

You were followers of the wise teaching of Paul, O martyrs; and emulating his ways, you suffered patiently and have been lawfully crowned.

Like stars you shine radiantly at the summit of the honoured Church, driving away the most profound darkness of the heresy of Arius, O valiant martyrs.

Withdrawing from the beauties of life, you came Christ, and by shedding only a little blood you have inherited an immovable kingdom, O glorious athletes.

*Theotokion* You gave birth on earth to the Son and truth who is consubstantial with the Father and the divine Spirit, O Mother of God: unceasingly entreat him to have compassion on our souls.

*Ode 6*

*Imos* I have come to the depths of the sea, and the storm of my many sins engulfs me; but as you are God, lead up my life from the abyss, O most merciful.

Following the words of Paul, the wise pastor, you kept the Orthodox faith, and like lambs were slaughtered by the swords of the bloodthirsty.

Precious in the sight of the Lord was your death, O glorious and wise warriors; therefore, every year you are blessed by all with honour.

O blessed and valiant athletes Marcian and Martyrius, the Church of Christ ever rejoices, possessing you as a fount of miracles.

*Theotokion* With mouth and tongue we truly confess you to be the Mother of our God, O Virgin: earnestly entreat him, O pure one, that our souls be saved.

*Kontakion, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

Having struggled well from childhood, | O Marcion and wise Martyrius, | you cast down the apostate Arius, | preserving unadulterated the Orthodox faith; | following Paul the wise teacher, | with him you have found life, || as most excellent champions of the Trinity.

*Ikos* As servants of the piety of God who loves mankind, O blessed pair, go before me and deliver me from evils, bestowing discourse of wisdom that I may praise your suffering for the faith, O holy ones who suffered with constant integrity and have received heavenly crowns. You rejoice with the choirs of athletes and apostles, teachers and honored hierarchs, as proclaimers of the Word of God and most excellent champions of the Trinity.

*Ode 7*

## **October 25**

*Irmos* Once in Babylon, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace, crying out in hymns: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Following well the sacred pastor, and adorned with Orthodoxy, in vain were you slain at the hands of the heretics, O glorious warriors.

Faithfully preserving the law of God unadulterated, O divine martyrs, you suffered lawfully and were slain together at the hands of the iniquitous.

Having been sacredly buried, O holy ones, you bury the infirmities of those who come to your tomb with faith, through your holy mediation before the giver of life.

*Theotokion* Delivered from eternal damnation by your birthgiving, O Mother of God, we cry out to you: Rejoice, O ever blessed and joyous one.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* Almighty deliverer of all, descending into the midst of the flame, you bedewed the pious youths and taught them to sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Professing the Lamb of God to be consubstantial with the Father, you were slaughtered like lambs; and brought to the banquet on high, you are now counted among the company of those who suffered.

Strengthened by the power of the Spirit, you uprooted the savagery of falsehood, O wise martyrs, and, having suffered mightily, you heal those bitterly afflicted by infirmity.

As physicians of the passions of our souls, O holy martyrs, by your divine supplications free us from cruel infirmities and the uprisings of the adversary.

*To the Trinity* We hymn the unbegotten Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the one uncreated being, the one divinity; and we cry out together: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God who gave birth to him who is the life of all, glory of the martyrs and the righteous, and fervent cleansing of transgressions: you have brought life to us who are dead.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Eve, through weakness, lived under the curse of disobedience; but O Virgin Mother of God, you have put forth a blessing for the world through the fruit of your childbearing: therefore we all magnify you.

Enlivened by divine strength, O athletes, you had no fear of death, and, zealously bowing your necks beneath the sword, you valiantly finished your divine contest: therefore, you are worthily called blessed.

Like two radiant beacons you illumine the fullness of the world with the splendour of divine sufferings, O wise Marcian and Martyrius, driving away the gloom of the dark heresy of Arius.

Having vanquished Macedonius blind of mind, you received from God crowns of glory. Standing before the throne of the Master, O glorious ones, entreat for us perfect remission of transgressions.

Your divine memory shines more brightly than the sun, illuminating the hearts of all who celebrate it, O blessed ones. Entreat the Lord, that he deliver us from the darkness of our offences.

*Theotokion* As the dwelling-place of the Light, O immaculate Lady, illumine the eyes of my soul, darkened by negligence and ever afflicted with the profound gloom of ignorance, that I may bless you with faith.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...*

As followers of blessed Paul, you finished your course and with him have received the kingdom of Christ and immortal glory. Now you stand together with all the saints before the worshipful Trinity, worthily glorifying the divinity.

*Theotokion* The ranks of the bodiless praise your birthgiving; for you have filled those on earth with joy. We the faithful glorify you, praising you with hymns; for upon those in darkness you have shone the light which shines forth like the dawn.

**October 25**

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

God is wonderful in his saints, the God of Israel.

*Verse* In their choirs they bless God, those that are sprung from the fount of Israel.

*Epistle to the Ephesians, number 224 from the middle [Eph 4:7-13]*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous cry and the Lord hears it, and frees them from all their affliction.

The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers him from them all.

*Gospel according to Matthew, number 34 from the middle [Mat 10:1, 5-8]*

*Communion Verse*

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous, for it befits the just to praise him.

## **October 26**

# **Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-giver, and the commemoration of the dreadful earthquake at Constantinople in 740 AD**

*If the superior wishes, a Vigil may be held.*

## **Little Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

O God, as the creator of all, \* who shakes the foundations of the earth, and makes the seabed tremble \* deliver us from the earthquake of your righteous wrath, O lover of mankind, \* being ever entreated in your loving kindness. *Twice*

Thessalonica sings on this day of your commemoration, \* O thrice-blessed Demetrius, \* and calls upon the surrounding cities to keep your splendid festival. \* And we, gathering with them, praise your struggles in song.

Come together, you faithful, and praise the soldier of Christ, \* the valiant luminary Demetrius, \* who trampled upon the might of the enemy, \* and with faith let us cry out to him: \* Entreat Christ for us, O martyr.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

Today the universe illumined with the passion-bearer's rays; and the Church of God, adorned with flowers, cries out to you, O Demetrius: O favourite of Christ and fervent intercessor, never cease to pray for your servants.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*    O Mother of God, you are the true vine which has blossomed forth for us the fruit of life. We implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the holy apostles that our souls may find mercy.

*Aposticha, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody O House of Ephratha...*

We have you \* as a bestower of many gifts, \* O favourite of Christ, \* for you ever fulfil \* the our requests.

*Verse* The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

O blessed Demetrios, \* accept these offerings, \* these sweet hymns, \* in praise of your sufferings, \* and thanks for your graces.

*Verse* For they are planted in the house of the Lord, and flourish in the courts of the house of our God.

O comeliness of sufferers, \* splendour of martyrs, \* protector of kings: \* accept these praise \* of those who with love glorify you.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, same melody*

A thing of divine beauty, \* A virgin, who remained so after giving birth. \* God the Word, born of her, \* takes human nature \* and reveals himself, incarnate.

*Troparion of the great martyr, tone 3*

The whole world has found in you a great champion amid misfortunes and a conqueror of pagans, O passion-bearer. Therefore, as you cast down the pride of Lyaeus and appointed the brave Nestor for the struggle, O Demetrios, beseech Christ our God to save our souls.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Troparion of the earthquake, tone 8*

O Christ our God who looks upon the earth and makes it shake, deliver us from the dreaded threat of earthquake, and send down upon us your rich mercies and save us, through the intercessions of the Mother of God.

## **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon.*

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, beginning with these 4 in tone 2,  
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

O glorious martyr Demetrios, like a radiant star you illumine your native land; for you ever protect it from the destruction wrought by the foe, and deliver it from misery and storms. O blessed one, it joyously offers praise to you, keeping your yearly commemoration, hymning with faith and love the Lord who has glorified you. *Twice*

O martyr and passion-bearer of Christ Demetrios, you illumine the world with miracles like the sun. On the day of your commemoration we all delight in your wonders, O blessed one, keeping festival with faith. As you have boldness before the Lord, entreat him to save your servants from corruption and tribulations.

## **October 26**

Your side was pierced by spears for the sake of the Saviour whose side was pierced on the cross; for with love you emulated him in your wounds, O passion-bearer Demetrios, revealing the steadfastness of your witness. Therefore, the tyrant fell wounded, pierced by the shaft of your confession, O athlete of Christ.

*And four in tone 8,  
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O most glorious wonder; \* today, on the commemoration of the martyr Demetrios, \* joy shines forth in heaven and on earth. \* He is crowned with praises by the angels \* and receives hymns from men. \* O, how he suffered, \* how well he fought the fight. \* Thereby the evil foe was felled \* conquered by Christ. *Twice*

O most glorious wonder; \* with rays of miracles brighter than the sun \* Demetrios ever enlightens the ends of the earth, \* as he, illumined with the never-fading light \* delights in the unwaning light. \* By his rays clouds of barbarians have been dispelled, \* infirmities driven away, \* and demons vanquished.

O most glorious wonder; \* thrice-blessed Demetrios, \* pierced for the sake of Christ, \* has shown himself to the foe as a two-edged sword, \* mowing down the uprisings of the enemy \* and casting down the audacity of demons. \* Let us cry out to him: \* Holy Demetrios, \* save us who faithfully honour you with love.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 6,  
composed by the holy Emperor Leo 6th, the Wise, of Byzantium (862?-912 AD)*

Today the universal festival of the passion-bearer calls us together. Come, then, O lovers of the feasts of the Church, let us radiantly celebrate his commemoration, saying: Rejoice, for with faith you rent the garment of impiety and robed yourself in manliness of spirit. Rejoice, for you wrecked the schemes of the alien one with the might given you by the One God. Rejoice, for with your pierced limbs you spiritually portrayed the suffering of Christ for us: entreat him, O Demetrios, adornment of athletes, that we be delivered from enemies, visible and invisible, and that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, same tone*

*Dogmatikon* Who would not call you blessed, O most holy Virgin?  
Who would not hymn your most pure maternity?  
For the only begotten Son  
who shone forth from the Father from eternity,  
came forth, ineffably incarnate from you, O pure one.  
He who by nature is God,  
for our sakes assumed the nature of man;  
not divided into two persons,  
but known in two natures without confusion.  
O pure and most blessed Lady,  
pray to him to have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance, Prokimenon, Readings*

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and glorious habitation. Where are your zeal and your might? The yearning of your heart and your compassion? They are withheld from me. For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name. Why, O Lord, do you make us stray from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage. Your holy people took possession for a little while; but now our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary. We have long been like those whom you do not rule, like those not called by your name. O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence, as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil, to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. . . Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord came to me, saying: Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord: I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Israel was holy to the Lord, the first fruits of his harvest. All who ate of it were held guilty; disaster came upon them, says the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord.

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A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and while living among sinners were taken up. They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or guile deceive their souls. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

*Entreaty, the verse of the Church, then these for the Great Martyr, tone 1,  
composed by George the Sykeiote*

Rejoice in the Lord, O city of Thessalonica; rejoice and hold chorus, splendidly arraying yourself with faith, for you have a treasure within your bosom Demetrius, the glorious passion-bearer and witness to the truth. Delight in his miracles, see the healing he accomplishes, and look upon him who cast down the audacity of the aliens; and cry out in thanksgiving to the Saviour: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Composed by Anatolius*

Let us brighten this day with the beauty of hymns, and let us proclaim the struggles of the martyr; for great Demetrius moves us to praise. Having manfully put down the assaults of the demons, he zealously entered the stadium and, gloriously carrying off the trophies of victory, he entreats the Saviour that our souls be saved.

*Tone 2, composed by Germanus*

O wise Demetrius, Christ our God has placed your blameless soul in the dwellings on high; for you were a champion of the Trinity. Hard as iron, you manfully suffered in the stadium; and pierced in your incorrupt sides, O honoured one, emulating him who was pierced on the tree for the salvation of the world, you have received the gift of working miracles, richly bestowing healings upon men. Today we celebrate your repose, glorifying the Lord who has glorified you.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 5,  
to the Special Melody Let us trumpet forth...*

Let us hasten with faith and love, and let us cry out hymns of festivity, clapping our hands at this festival of our chief leader. Let the armies of heaven rejoice over him who was pierced for the king and Lord who was pierced with a spear, and who boldly cast down the audacity of Lyaeus. Let the earth and the sea marvel at the glorious signs wrought by the radiant luminary. Let the young praise, as is fitting, the bridler of youth, the staff of old age, the intercessor amid misfortune, the enricher of the destitute, the

guide on the good path, the ally in war, O city of Thessalonica, and in prayer let us say: Glorious Demetrios, go before us and rescue us from every need, and save your servants by your prayers.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, in the same tone,*  
*composed by Patriarch Germanus*

Let us trumpet forth our hymns, for, the virgin Mother, the queen of all, bending down from on high, crowns with blessings those who hymn her. Let kings and princes hasten here to hymn the queen who gave birth to the king who, in his love for mankind, was pleased to loose those who before were grasped by death. O pastors and teachers, gather to praise the pure Mother of the Good Shepherd, the golden candlestick, the light-bearing cloud, who is more spacious than the heavens, the living tabernacle, the fiery throne of the Master, the golden jar that held the Manna, the door of the Word which was shut, the refuge of all Christians; and praising her with divinely eloquent hymns, let us say: O palace of the Word, grant the kingdom of heaven to us, the lowly, for everything is possible by your mediation.

*Aposticha, verses for the earthquake,*  
*composed by Simeon of the Wondrous Mountain*

*Tone 2* When the earth trembled with fear at your wrath, the mountains and hills quaked, O Lord; but, regarding us with the eye of your compassion, do not be angry with us, but, taking pity on the work of your hands, free us from the dreadful threat of earthquake, as you are good and the lover of mankind.

*Tone 4 Verse* If he look upon the earth it shall tremble, if he but touch the mountains they shall smoke.

Awesome are you, O Lord, and who can abide your righteous wrath? Who can entreat you; who can render you mild concerning your sinful and despairing people, O Good One? The ranks of heaven: the angels, authorities, principalities, thrones, dominions, cherubim and seraphim, cry out to you for us: Holy, holy, holy are you, O Lord. Forsake not the works of your hands, and with compassionate mercy keep us safe.

*Verse* You have caused the land to quake, you have rent it open.

The Ninevites, because of their offences, heard the threat of destruction by earthquake, and Jonah cried out in appeal, through his resurrection signified by his emerging from the whale. Taking pity on your people and their infants and cattle, you accepted their cry: so also take pity and have mercy on us who are being chastised, for the sake of your own rising on the third day.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8, composed by Anatolius*

Ever-memorable Demetrios, your blessed and immaculate soul now has the heavenly Jerusalem as its dwelling place, whose walls have been adorned by the pure

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hands of the invisible God. On earth an eminent church possesses your precious and much-suffering body as an inviolate treasury of miracles, a medicine for infirmities; and having recourse to it we draw forth healings. O exalted one, keep this city safe from the obstacles of the adversary, for it magnifies you, as you have boldness before Christ who has glorified you.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

*Theotokion*    O Virgin unwedded,  
                who inconceivably conceived God in the flesh;  
                receive the prayers of your servants.  
                Immaculate Mother of God the Most High  
                who grants cleansing of transgressions to all:  
                receive our entreaty that we all may be saved.

*At the Blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion to Demetrios, twice,  
and Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once.*

## Matins

*At God is the Lord... the Troparion for the Earthquake, twice;  
Glory be to the Father... *that of Demetrios*;  
Both now and for ever... *that of the earthquake*.*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 4  
to the Special Melody You have appeared today...*

Today we piously celebrate the feast of the passion-bearer Demetrios, for he entreats Christ unceasingly to grant peace and mercy to all. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*    O faithful, let us bless the Mother of God, the fervent help of those in misfortunes, our helper and advocate before God, for by her we have been delivered from corruption.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 4  
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...*

Your memorial has rendered the Church of Christ splendid, O glorious martyr Demetrios, and has brought all together to praise you fittingly with hymns as a true warrior and destroyer of the enemy. By your supplications deliver us from temptations. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* We hymn you, the Bride of God, Mother of Christ our God, glorifying your unapproachable birthgiving, whereby we have been delivered from the deception of the devil and from all misfortunes, O Mother of God; and we faithfully cry out: Have mercy on your flock, O exalted Lady.

*Polyeleos and this Magnification*

We magnify you, O holy passion-bearer Demetrios, and we honour your precious sufferings, which you endured for Christ.

*Verses* God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved.

*After the Polyeleos, Sessional Hymn, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

As with rays of radiant miracles you illumine and enlighten the ends of the earth like a luminous star; and like another paradise you make fragrant and gladden souls, and cause infirmities to cease. Therefore, we rightly hymn you, O blessed one, and with love we honour your precious memory, O passion-bearer Demetrios: entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* All of us, the generations of mankind, bless you, the Virgin who alone among women gave seedless birth to God incarnate; for the fire of the divinity made his abode within you, and you nurtured the creator and Lord with milk as a child; and so we, the race of angels and men together sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who with faith worship your most holy maternity.

*Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4.*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

God is wonderful in his saints, the God of Israel.

*Verse* As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Let every breath... *and the rest, with the Gospel of Matthew, number 36(10:16-22).*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 6*

Today the universal festival of the passion-bearer calls us together. Come, then, O lovers of the feasts of the Church, let us radiantly celebrate his commemoration, saying: Rejoice, for with faith you rent the garment of impiety and robed yourself in manliness of spirit. Rejoice, for you wrecked the schemes of the alien one with the might given you by

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the One God. Rejoice, for with your pierced limbs you spiritually portrayed the suffering of Christ for us: entreat him, O Demetrios, adornment of athletes, that we be delivered from enemies, visible and invisible, and that our souls be saved.

*Three canons: one for the Earthquake, and two for the Great Martyr.*

### *Ode 1*

*Canon for the Earthquake, tone 6,  
composed by Joseph,  
upon the acrostic O Christ, quickly put an end to the quaking of the earth.*

*Irmos* Traversing the deep on foot as if it were dry land, Israel looked upon the tyrant Pharaoh as he drowned and cried out: Let us sing to God a song of victory.

As your wrath is dreadful, you have delivered us from it, O Lord, not having buried our work in the ground:, we ever glorify you with thanksgiving.

O Master, you shook the earth like a dry leaf, confirming the faithful in the fear of you, and we ever rejoice at our unending correction.

Deliver us from earthquakes which threaten us, O Lord, and grant that your heritage may not perish utterly, having angered your longsuffering with many evils.

*Theotokion* As servants we cry to you, O Mother of God: rescue us from oppressive earthquakes and from damage, mercifully showing your usual mercy upon us.

*Canon I to the Great Martyr Demetrios, tone 4,  
composed by Theophanes,  
upon the acrostic I address the victorious Demetrios.*

*Irmos* Traversing the depth of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, Israel of old vanquished the might of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of a cross.

Crowned with a divine crown of martyrdom, you dance in the presence of God, shining with splendour and filled with radiance, O wondrous great martyr.

The Master received you, a witness to the truth, who struggled patiently even to the shedding of your blood, and showed firm opposition to the tyrants, O blessed one.

You cast the author of evil to the earth, O Demetrios, slaying him with the spear of your martyrdom, strengthened with divine grace and power which passes understanding.

*Theotokion* He who as God was first begotten motherless has come among us, receiving flesh and uniting himself to it through you without a father, O Mother of God, transcending comprehension and recounting.

*Canon 2 to the Great Martyr, tone 8,  
composed by George of Skilitsa  
upon the acrostic I honour the grace of the myrrh of Demetrius.*

*Irmos* The rod of Moses, working wonders in times past, marking the sea in the form of the cross, struck it and parted it, and sank Pharaoh driving his chariot, saving Israel who fled across on foot, while singing a hymn to God.

O Demetrios, flowing fountain of fragrant and precious myrrh, washing my heart clean of the filth of the passions, imparting the fragrance of Christ through the exercise of the virtues, inspire my mind that I may hymn your divine graces.

Streams of living water shall flow from the midst of the faithful, says the God the Word: ever-flowing springs of your myrrh are poured forth, whose streams gladden the city of God, which glorifies your martyr's boldness.

Of old, the staff of Moses, striking the rock in the desert, disclosed gushing streams of water; and your body, O Demetrios, pierced by a spear, became a spring of myrrh, refreshing the new Israel.

O Demetrios, who has received a recompense for the wounds of your martyrdom such as eyes have not seen, nor ear heard; you now pour a sea of myrrh, the reward of purity, upon the ends of the earth, washing away the passions of our souls.

*Theotokion* The Word of God, finding you to be an undefiled dwelling, O most pure Lady, made his abode there; and having anointed with his divinity that which he took from you, he came forth with both and called himself flowing Chrism, for Christ is both God and man.

*Katavasia* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it; and I will sing to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen keeping festival with splendour; and rejoicing I shall hymn her wonders.

*Ode 3*

*Canon for the Earthquake*

*Irmos* There is none holy as you O Lord my God, who has exalted the strength of your faithful O good one, and has established us on the rock of your confession.

The earth is wounded because of us who conceal our evil and ever move your anger against us, O compassionate king of all: take pity on your servants.

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Having shaken it, you have made the earth firm again, O Lord, chastising and turning our weakness, to make us steadfast through godly fear of you.

O brethren, let us flee the sin which has given birth to bitter death, oppressive earthquakes and unbearable plagues; and let us please God with repentance.

*Theotokion* O pure Mother of God, who is truly good, we implore you: Earnestly entreat the supremely good Word, that we may be delivered from earthquake and wrath.

### *Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* Your Church rejoices in you, O Christ, and sings: O Lord, you are my strength, my refuge and my firm support.

You considered the tyrant's command to be nothing, for you honoured the Word of God above all, O passion-bearer.

You were a splendid candlestick in the midst of the tabernacle of martyrdom, shining with divine light, O Demetrios, martyr and athlete.

Your city, having you as a sacred and wondrous fountain of healings and an inviolable treasure, is enriched with all gladness.

*Theotokion* O most pure Lady, healing the corrupted image of the earthborn, the lover of mankind clothed himself with flesh taken from you, yet remaining as he was before.

### *Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* Lord the fashioner of heaven's vault and founder of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, who alone is the lover of mankind.

Begotten by God, you were an heir of divine blessings, being called his son, a coheir with Christ; and you reign with him, as your myrrh indicates, O Demetrios.

Planted by flowing waters like the tree mentioned by David, O glorious one, you put forth the fruit of martyrdom, and are now a fount of myrrh, flowing to the ends of the earth.

Drawing the grace of Christ, from whose side flowed blood and water, you shed your blood, pierced for him, and now you pour fragrant myrrh like water upon our hearts, O Demetrios.

*Theotokion* O most pure Lady, your sacred and spiritual vessels are full of fragrance and the myrrh of the divine Spirit who descended upon you: having given birth to God, you have rescued the faithful from the stench of the passions.

*Katavasia* O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir in your divine memory, and grant them crowns of glory.

*Kontakion of the earthquake, tone 4*

Deliver us all from the dangerous trembling of the earth, O Lord and from plagues unbearable on account of our sins. Take pity on the Orthodox people whom you have purchased with your blood, O Lord and Master, and deliver us not to destruction by fearsome earthquake, for we know no other God than you, and to those who hymn you, you have exclaimed: I am with you and no one shall be against you.

*Sessional Hymn for the Great Martyr, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* Joseph was amazed...

With psalms we cry out to the valiant athlete, the mighty warrior of Christ who reigns over all: Rejoice, adornment and comeliness of martyrs; rejoice, radiant star of the Church; rejoice, rampart and refuge of those who have recourse to you. O glorious great martyr Demetrios, from every wound and affliction of the alien save those who hymn you.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...*for the Earthquake, same tone,  
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

You do not reject those who greatly sin against you, but, chastise them and mercifully correct them. You cause the earth to quake with your divine gaze, O longsuffering Master, in no way harming all your servants, in your great loving kindness. We sing your glory with thankful voices and glorify you in fear.

*Ode 4*

*Canon for the Earthquake*

*Imos* Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, sings the holy Church in reverent piety, raising her voice with a pure mind, and keeping festival in the Lord.

You shake the earth, O Lord, desiring to make firm with true fear all of us who are shaken by the assaults of the lying enemy.

You cause things to quake by your divine command, and you strike terror into the hearts of those who live on earth, O Master: calm the waves of your righteous wrath.

Those who have no fear of you in their minds are terrified by the shaking of the earth, O merciful Lord: show us the wonder of your mercies, as is your wish.

*Theotokion* Knowing you to be a temple of God, O Lady, in supplication we reach out hands of contrition in your holy church: behold our affliction, and grant us aid.

*Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* Seeing you raised upon the cross, the Sun of Righteousness, the Church stands in order, singing worthily: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Seeing you, the vanquisher of the deception of impiety, the most exalted Word has crowned you with glory, O Demetrios, who sings: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Having won a victory over delusion, you received a victor's crown of righteousness, O Demetrios, crying out to your creator: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Guided by God's life-bearing hand, you have reached the most tranquil harbours, O Demetrios, where rejoicing you cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

*Theotokion* As the most sacred of all created beings, you became the Mother of God: in giving him birth, you have illumined the world with the grace of divine knowledge.

*Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* You are my strength and power O Lord my God, you are my rejoicing, who without leaving the bosom of the Father, has visited our lowliness. With the Prophet Habakkuk, I therefore cry to you: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Having done away with the defilement of your birth through the laver of regeneration, you preserved your purity even to the end. Therefore, Christ has transformed your natural goodness into myrrh, as he changed water into wine.

As flames of fire are bestowed upon all, preserving the power of its nature, so your myrrh is drawn by all, yet it remains undiminished, O sufferer. Bowing down in worship, we piously hymn God, who has given you grace.

Who can utter suitable praises, O Christ, beholding the grace bestowed upon your sufferers? For the myrrh of the martyr Demetrios flows like a fountain, and his fragrance wafts forth, and he dispels the gloom of wickedness.

A fountain springing up from the earth gave you to drink; and hidden beneath the earth, you became a spring of fragrant myrrh, O martyr Demetrios; for a multitude of spears having opened your veins, and you now water the ends of the earth.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, we know you to be the Bride and Mother of God, for the Word of God, finding you as a fragrant rose blossoming amid the lowly valley of humanity, desired your beauty and, born from you, he has perfumed the faithful.

*Katavasia* Seated in glory upon the throne of the divinity, Jesus most divine is come upon a gentle cloud, and with his incorrupt arm he has saved those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

*Ode 5*

*Canon for the Earthquake*

*Irmos* I pray you, O good one, illumine with your divine light the souls of those who rise at dawn with love for you, that they may know you O Word of God to be truly God, who calls them back from the deep gloom of transgression.

O heart, tremble to behold the threat that hangs over you, and cry out: Take pity on your people, O Lord and Master, and cause your righteous wrath to cease.

O Jesus who has purchased with your blood, give us not over to destruction by troubling the earth with fearsome earthquake, the choir of the apostles entreats you.

Having turned away and departed in spirit from your straight ways, we have moved you to displeasure, O Master who is merciful and does not remember offences.

*Theotokion* Now is the time for aid, O pure one; now deliverance is needed: pray to your Son and God, that he spare us sinners and deliver us from the wrath which awaits us.

*Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* You have come as a light into the world, O my Lord; a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to you with faith.

Receiving the fire of divine love in your heart, you quenched the fire of the impious madness of idolatry, O glorious Demetrios.

You are one who delivers us from misfortunes, O Demetrios, protecting by your prayers those who praise you with faith and love.

Those who earnestly have recourse to your church in faith, O Demetrios, are quickly delivered from infirmities and soul-destroying passions.

*Theotokion* The Word of God, one in essence with the Father, beyond comprehension and recounting has become your Son, O Mother of God, of one essence with you.

*Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

You were a cistern collecting the mercy of him who descended from heaven, as it were rain or dew; and you stream with mystical gifts, flowing a fountain of myrrh from your tomb, O Demetrios.

After the custom of athletes, you stripped yourself naked, except for earthly love, O martyr; and anointed yourself with the oil of grace; and, having vanquished the prince of darkness, you received the reward of streaming sweet-smelling myrrh.

You were a rose in the midst of the Master's meadow, O Demetrius, made red with the blood of your torture and the wounds of your lancings, and with the pain of suffering and the burning of the furnace; and now you stream ever flowing myrrh.

The martyr's church is again seen as a divine ark holding a lamp, his tomb which streams myrrh and oil, and around which we leap in spirit; and in chorus we praise the great Demetrius.

Wounded with zeal for the love of Christ, like a new Elias you denounced the emperor and gave yourself over to death. Yet you live and have shown your tomb to be a fount of myrrh, like the inexhaustible ewer of oil.

*Theotokion* Your forefather of old told of your mystery and the glory of the daughter of the king, indicating you as one blessed among men. Rejoice, restoration of the world.

*Katavasia* All things are filled with awe at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who has not known wedlock, held in your womb God who is over all, and gave birth to the timeless Son, granting peace to all who sing your praises.

*Ode 6*

*Canon for the Earthquake*

*Irmos* Beholding the sea of life, surging with the storm of temptations, I run to your calm haven and cry to you: Raise my life from corruption, O most merciful one.

Lacking the boldness to entreat your highness, O Master, we, the lowly, move your chosen angels to fervent prayer: for their sake take your wrath from us.

Now we know how you desire us great sinners despite our grievous transgressions: we thankfully glorify you.

You command the foundations of the earth to be moved, but we the lowly are not moved by the virtues to a better state: make us steadfast through fear of you, O Word.

*Theotokion* O holy Bride of God, with your maternal prayers take pity upon your troubled people, and quickly alter the displeasure of God in our regard, we implore you.

*Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* I will sacrifice to you with a voice of praise, the Church sings to you, O Lord, cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which for mercy's sake, flowed from your side.

We gather to hymn your glorious and luminous memorial which is full of wonders and of gifts of the honoured and holy Spirit, O blessed one.

By your prayers loose the bonds of my offences, for, as an invincible martyr, you have boldness before the Master: be my refuge and protection, O Demetrios.

*Theotokion* Finding you, O pure one, as a most pure lily, a lily of the valley, among the thorns, the Bridegroom, the Word, made his abode within you, O Mother of God.

*Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* O Saviour cleanse me, for my transgressions are many, and lead me up from the depths of evil, I entreat you; for to you I cry, and you heard me, O God of my salvation.

You flourished like a fruitful olive tree, pressed at the hands of soldiers. Now you comfort the faithful, O Demetrios, flowing myrrh from your divine tomb.

Like a bee, you were cultivator of the virtues wrought by God, O blessed one, keeping your pure soul like honeycomb; and now you pour myrrh, delighting our souls.

You loved Christ with all your soul and followed him to the myrrh of sweet fragrance, partaking of a better union: now you pour unending myrrh, O Demetrios.

The drops of the blood of your sufferings, falling upon the ground, have made it a spring of fragrant myrrh: now you ever pour it out for those who seek it, O Demetrios.

Drenched with the flow of your blood, O wise one, like another spring, like a river, you richly put forth your myrrh for the healing of those who ask it.

*Theotokion* Beholding the golden and ever-burning lamp of the light, we who have darkened our souls with a multitude of sins approach, for she gives us illumination and drives away all darkness.

*Katavasia* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God who was born of her.

*Kontakion of the great martyr, tone 2*

He who gave you invincible strength, O Demetrios, has dyed the Church in the streams of your blood: he has kept your city unharmed, for you are its confirmation.

## **October 26**

*Ikos* Assembling in faith, let us hymn great Demetrios as a warrior and martyr of Christ, crying out together in hymns and songs to the Master and creator of the universe: Deliver us from earthquake and want, O lover of mankind, through the prayers of the Mother of God and of all your holy martyrs, for in you we place our trust, that we be delivered from misfortunes and tribulations. For you are our confirmation.

### *Ode 7*

#### *Canon for the Earthquake*

*Irmos* An angel moistened the furnace with dew for the holy youths, but the commandment of God consumed the Chaldeans with fire and caused the tyrant to cry out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

All-hymned and long-suffering Lord, you have not slain your servants by the quaking and dreadful shaking of the earth, but have frightened them, seeking to turn us all from evil to life.

Let us groan from the depths of our hearts and let us weep, that we may dissuade Christ from destroying us all by earthquake, because of the increase of our sins.,

Let us stretch forth our hands to God the Most High, and let us cease to do evil any longer, for the Saviour shakes the earth, wishing to strengthen us.

*Theotokion* O pure one, look down and save those who hymn you, lest we be destroyed by the wrath of God, for his threat has come upon us because of our many sins.

#### *Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* The children of Abraham in the Chaldean furnace were consumed by a burning love of godliness rather than by the flame, and they sang in the destructive fire: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Adorned with glory and grace, O martyr and passion-bearer, you brilliantly shine and illumine those who sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Arrayed in your blood as in a purple cloak, and holding the cross instead of a sceptre, O glorious one, you now reign with Christ, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

*Theotokion* O glorious and radiant Mother of God: Protect those who honour you as the Mother of God, for blessed are you among women.

#### *Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* The Hebrew children in the furnace bravely trampled upon the flames, and transformed the fire into dew as they sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Isaiah in prophecy commands the thirsting to draw water, O Demetrius: if he had seen your tomb, he would surely have sung: Come to the fount of myrrh and draw salvation.

Born of earth and making your home in the land of the meek, where the water of sweetness is found; and having drunk your fill, you now pour an ever-flowing stream of myrrh, O Demetrius.

You grew like the branch of a vine, remaining joined to God, without being cut off. Filled with ineffable sap, you now pour myrrh in streams upon all, O Demetrius.

How great were your struggles and your suffering in martyrdom, for, accepting the drops of sweat which you poured for him, Christ has made of you a fountain of myrrh.

Flowing the stream of your myrrh, O Demetrius, you spread out a great abyss of miracles and drown therein the infirmities of our bodies and souls, calming every tempest of temptation.

*Theotokion* With your milk you nourished God, born of you that he might lighten the affliction of Adam who ate of the tree of knowledge and transgressed God's commandment.

*Katavasia* The divinely wise youths worshipped not a creation rather than the creator, but bravely trampling the threat of fire underfoot, they rejoiced shouting: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

*Ode 8*

*Canon for the Earthquake*

*Irmos* You caused dew to gush from the flames upon the venerable youths, and you burnt the water poured on the sacrifice of your righteous one: for you, O Christ, perform all things by the power of your will alone, and we exalt you above all for ever.

When this, your righteous wrath, descended upon us, O lover of mankind, we were seized by boundless despair, beholding you displeased with us.

O faithful, let us stretch forth our hands and direct our gaze toward our only Master, who can save us, and let us cry: O Christ, avert your anger quickly from us.

Thousands of angels, the company of martyrs, prophets and apostles, and the holy choir of the venerable and hierarchs entreat you, O Master: Spare your lowly people.

O compassionate one, who knows our weakness and our falls uncorrected within us: Let your anger abate; calm this turmoil, and spare the world in your mercy.

## **October 26**

*Theotokion* O merciful Mother of God, behold the affliction and the groaning of your people, and hasten to offer supplication, that he have pity on them.

### *Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* Daniel stretched forth his hands, and stopped the mouths of the lions in the den; while girded with virtues, the youths who loved to worship quenched the mighty fire as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

You eclipsed the wrath of the enemy, O glorious one, arrayed for battle with the indelible power of Christ, and as a victor you cried out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Having shown the steadfastness of the martyrs, you inherited the prestige of the martyrs, being washed in the holy laver and not defiled by further sin; and, pierced by a spear, you cried out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

The multitude of your miracles and gifts from Christ, beyond comprehension, are evident to all, O glorious one; and the gift of healings transcending recounting clearly proclaims your grace to us who cry: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

*Theotokion* Let us hymn the pure Mother of God, who, alone among all generations, is a virgin Mother; for she has brought our salvation, in giving birth to the Word, the deliverer of the world, to whom we cry out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

### *Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

May God reveal you to those in this world, O Demetrios, as one who kept the lamp of your soul alight, ever filled with the oil of good works. Doors were opened to you, and he showed you to be an ever-flowing fount of divine myrrh, imparting grace as the reward of your purity.

Not of blood, nor of the lust of the flesh, O Demetrios, were you born, as the Gospel says, but of God; for you honoured the incarnate God, and zealously exhausting yourself for him, you received wondrous grace and pour divine myrrh, perfuming souls.

You appear as a living ladder firmly anchored to the ground by pillars of flesh, but reaching to the heavens; as one enriched by God. As a pillar anointed with the oil of martyrdom, you now stream divine myrrh upon those who come with faith.

David, singing prophetically, O Demetrios, described you as the river of God filled with waters; for the flow of your myrrh is inexhaustible. The watery multitude of rivers lift up their voices and clap their hands to the glory of God, who has glorified you.

You are the thrice-holy Lord, the Almighty God, whom Demetrius theologized when locked in prison, having slain the noetic serpent and cast down the audacity of Lyaeus through divine Nestor; and he was pierced by a spear, and now myrrh flows from his tomb.

*Theotokion* In place of Adam, the Lord; in place of Eve, you, O Lady; instead of the lying serpent, Gabriel; instead of the tree, the cross; instead of Eden, the garden of the tomb; Rejoice, instead of grief; the spear instead of the fiery sword, and the purple robe instead of the fig leaves: we hymn you, O maiden, the cause of these things.

*Katavasia* The birthgiving of the Mother of God saved the pious youths in the furnace: then in figure but now in deed; and it moves the whole universe to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Canon for the Earthquake*

*Irmos* It is not possible for man to see God, upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze; but through you, O most pure one, appeared to us the incarnate Word, whom magnifying with the heavenly hosts, we call you blest.

We have sinned, but the earth which has not sinned suffers dreadfully as the lover of mankind, chastising us, shakes it. Let us come to our senses and care for our salvation.

As you are the Lord of times and seasons, O Master, wishing to lay your servants low in the twinkling of an eye, you restrain yourself according to your great compassion: we who are without excuse give you thanks, O lover mankind.

From earthquake, the sword, bitter bondage, pagan invasion, defeat, famine, pestilence, and every affliction, O Christ, deliver us and every land that hymns you with faith.

Groaning, the earth cries out wordlessly: Why do you pollute me with many evils, O men? Sparing you, the Master wounds me alone. Come, then, to your senses, and move God to mercy by repenting.

*Theotokion* O Virgin, who in your birthgiving received no defilement, you have rescued us from destruction and grievous earthquake and tribulation, allaying the Master's displeasure by your maternal deliverance.

*Canon 1 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* From you O Virgin, the unquarried mountain, was hewn Christ, the cornerstone not cut by man, who joined in himself the separate natures. Therefore with rejoicing we magnify you, the Mother of God.

Loosen the bonds of the transgressions of those who hymn you, O passion bearer; end the assaults of the passions; cause the tumult of heresies to cease, and calm the storm of temptations by your prayers.

O crowned martyr Demetrios, guide your sacred flock to the straight paths of the kingdom of heaven, to the pasture of salvation, to the eternal fold.

O martyr Demetrios, entreat the Lord, the bestower of life and king of hosts, that those who hymn you may obtain crowns of glory and the kingdom of heaven.

*Theotokion* Trusting in you, O Virgin, we the faithful honour you as the root, the source and cause of incorruption; for you have poured upon us immortality incarnate.

*Canon 2 to the Great Martyr*

*Irmos* Heaven was struck with awe and the ends of the earth were amazed, that God should bodily appear to men and that your womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore the ranks of angels together with mankind magnify you O Mother of God.

You received a soul like an alabaster box filled with the divine myrrh of virtue, for Christ bowed his head toward you, O martyr. You were blessed and filled with the grace to pour myrrh upon the ends of the earth.

Behold the radiant types of ineffable rewards that await you. Behold the fount of ever-flowing myrrh, O sufferer. Standing before God with the boldness of a martyr, entreat victory for Orthodox Christians over their adversaries.

With the sign of the cross you vanquished the savagery of Lyaeus, setting over him your fellow contender Nestor as the victor: subject every barbaric nation to holy Orthodoxy, O Demetrios.

O martyr of Christ, deliver from soul-destroying deeds and from the deluge of the stench of the passions us who come with fervent love from the depths of our hearts to the coffer of your relics streaming with myrrh, and by your prayers let us be sweet fragrance before the Lord.

We celebrate a day of spiritual joy, seeing the unceasing flow of your myrrh, O Demetrios: as one filled with divine light, drive away the gloom of the passions and grant that we may walk nobly, as in daylight, seeing the unapproachable light of God.

*Theotokion* You, O Lady, are a golden dove bearing the Word of God like an olive sprig, anointing your flesh with the oil of divinity. The sufferer, having accepted him into his heart as in a coffer, pours myrrh from his tomb and anoints the faces of the faithful.

*Katavasia* Let all mortal flesh leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the orders of the angelic powers celebrate, honouring the sacred triumph of the Mother of God; and let them cry out: Rejoice, O most blessed ever virgin Mother of God

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody* O immutable Light...

You armed Nestor with the cross, destroying the audacity of Lyaeus through him in the stadium, O Demetrios; like Christ, your side was opened by a spear, and with it you have preserved your flock.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the earthquake*

O Lord, who looks down upon the earth from heaven and makes all things tremble: Deliver us from earthquake through the prayers of the Mother of God, whom you have given to Christians as an intercessor.

*Let everything that has breath... and the Praises,  
with 6 verses to the Great Martyr; beginning in tone 4,  
to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

Having been pierced, \* you wounded the adversary with your spears \* and rendered him dead and of no effect: \* deliver us from his malice, O Demetrios, \* rendering us ever strong \* against the tormenting passions \* by your sacred prayers, \* piercing our hearts and souls \* with divine fear, O holy one.

Seeing you to be a river of spiritual water, O holy one, \* we pray you: \* In your great goodness \* sacredly bedew our souls, \* which have wasted away \* through offences of the passions, \* and wash those amid defilement, \* and deliver them from manifold misfortunes \* and eternal torment.

As a radiant star \* you shone forth upon the earth \* in the splendour of miracles; \* and you ever enlighten the earth, \* O glorious Demetrios, \* expelling the gloom of darkness from our souls by your prayers. \* Heal the infirmities \* of those who celebrate your memory with love, \* O glory and boast of the martyrs.

*And 3 verses, tone 5,  
to the Special Melody* Rejoice...

O martyr of Christ, come to us who beseech your merciful visitation, and deliver those afflicted with threats of torment and the mad raging of heresy. For as naked captives we are persecuted by them, moving often from place to place and straying into the caves and mountains. Spare us, O all-praised one, and grant us liberty; calm the tempest and dampen the displeasure which is directed against us, entreating God, who grants the world great mercy.

## **October 26**

O martyr who does not fear the bondage of the enemy, you have been given to us as a rampart, overcoming the incursions of barbarians and easing infirmities. An indestructible base and unassailable foundation, a governor, a citizen and champion of your city were you, O Demetrios: by your prayers save it, which now is in danger and is wretchedly oppressed, beseeching Christ, who grants the world great mercy.

The choir of passion-bearers has appeared, possessed of every virtue, by which the great martyr has worthily inherited the enjoyment of incorruptible and blessed life. Adorned there, O wondrous Demetrios, revered for your emulation of Christ and praised for the spear which also pierced you, pray yet more earnestly that he deliver us who honour you from suffering and grievous circumstances, fervently entreating him who grants the world great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2, composed by St. Andrew of Jerusalem*

Let us honour him who, through spears, has inherited the grace of the Saviour's side, which was pierced by a spear and from which the Saviour poured forth upon us the waters of life and incorruption, Demetrios, wise in teachings and crowned amid torments, who completed the course of suffering with the shedding of his blood and has shone upon the world with miracles, who loved the Master and mercifully loved the poor, the intercession for the Thessalonians amid many bitter misfortunes. Honouring his yearly memorial, let us glorify Christ our God, who for his sake works healings for all.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*      Deliver us from need, O Mother of Christ our God, who gave birth to the creator of all, for we cry out to you: Rejoice, the sure intercessor for our souls.

*Great Doxology and the rest.*

## **Liturgy**

*Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 of the canon for the earthquake,  
and 4 from Ode 6 of the 2nd canon to the great martyr.*

*Prokimenon, tone 6*

O Lord save your people, and give your blessing to your own.

*Verse* To you will I cry, O Lord my Rock: be not deaf to my prayer.

*and for the Great Martyr, tone 7*

The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall put his trust in him.

*Epistles*

*for the Earthquake, the Epistle to the Hebrews, number 331 midway (12:6-13, 25-27).*

*for the Great Martyr, the Epistle to Timothy, number 292 (1 Tim 2:1-10).*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

O God, you have cast us off and broken us, you were enraged against us: O restore us again.

You have caused the land to quake, you have rent it open.

*and for the Great Martyr, same tone*

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

*For the Earthquake: the Gospel of Matthew, number 27 (8:23-27)*

*For the Great Martyr: the Gospel of John, number 52 (15:17-16:2).*

*Communion Verses*

Praise the Lord from heaven, O praise him in the heights.

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **October 27**

### **Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O wondrous sufferer Nestor, \* you arrayed yourself in the armour of Christ; \* and, locked in mortal combat with Lyaeus, \* you overcame him, \* and with invisible arrows \* you brought down the invisible Belial. \* Therefore, the bountiful one \* has crowned you with a wreath of victory.

Strengthened with divine words, \* O wise Nestor, \* with true courage you slayed \* the proud tormentor of the martyr Demetrius; \* and confessing the immortal God \* who died and harrowed Hades, \* you received an unjust death, O glorious one. \* Therefore, rejoicing, \* you have inherited eternal life.

You were a godly youth, \* shining in comeliness of body \* and adorned with grace divine, O wise one, \* and invested with power. \* Having cast down the power of Lyaeus \* by the power of the Almighty, \* you rejoiced to suffer \* and are now counted among the choirs of sufferers. \* Rejoicing with them, be mindful of us.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* We entreat you, our intercessor, \* O most pure Lady: \* Do not overlook us, your servants, \* who are troubled amid grief, \* lest we perish utterly; \* but hasten to take us from this present wrath and grief, \* O divinely joyous, most holy and pure, \* for you are our protection, \* and unassailable assistance.

*Theotokion of the Cross* Seeing you nailed to the cross and accepting voluntary suffering O Master Jesus,        your virgin Mother cried out: Woe is me, O my sweet child; How can you bear such unjust wounding        O physician of the infirmity of men, who in your loving kindness delivers all from corruption?

*Troparion, tone 4*

In his suffering, O Lord, Nestor your martyr received an imperishable crown from you, our God. Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.        Through his intercessions, save our souls.

## Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and this canon for the Martyr, tone 4.*

### *Ode 1*

*Irmos* He who is mighty in battle cast the chariots of Pharaoh and his power into the sea. Let us sing a new hymn, for he has been glorified.

Through your blood you were brought rejoicing to sit upon the fiery chariot, and with joy you ascended to the heights of heaven, where Jesus, the ageless light, dwells.

Having arrayed yourself in the breastplate of faith, O Nestor, and having the cross in your hands as a spear, you mightily cut down legions of the enemy.

Strengthened with the fervour of Christ's love, you strode into the midst of the arena and brought down the wiles of Lyaeus and won the trophy of victory.

*Theotokion* You conceived him who is co-unoriginate with the Father, supernaturally giving birth to him, remaining truly a pure Virgin. Therefore, we honour you.

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* O Lord who establishes the thunder and forms the wind, make me strong, that I may hymn you in truth and do your will; for none is as holy as you, O our God.

Strengthened with the might of him who shattered the gates and portals of Hades, with zeal you entered the arena and mightily shattered the wiles of the enemy.

You trampled upon the ancient author of deception, as a youth you bowed your head to the sword, O Nestor, boast of martyrs: therefore, we praise you.

Defeating the pride of the iniquitous, O martyr, you offered a sacrifice to God, in shedding your sacred blood: therefore he has richly rewarded you.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, Jesus, whom you held, supernaturally transformed the ugliness arising through eating by Adam, and has granted us our pristine beauty.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody Having been lifted up...*

You did not fear the tyranny of the enemy, nor were you afraid of bodily wounding, but ran fearlessly to the conflict, O wise one, bearing the invincible divine weapon of the cross. Having slain the deceiver, you were yourself slain, O Nestor, and, standing before Christ, you have been granted life.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* As a lover of sin, O most pure Lady, I beseech you, who gave birth to the sinless God who takes away the sins of the world, to have pity on my sinful soul, and to wash away my many sins; for you are the cleansing of the sinful, the salvation and preservation of the faithful.

*Theotokion of the Cross* Seeing you hanging upon the cross, O Christ, begotten of the unoriginate Father, she who gave birth to you in latter times cried out: Woe is me, most beloved Jesus; for how is it that you, my Son glorified by the angels as God, are crucified now by the iniquitous? I hymn you, O longsuffering one.

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* I have heard of your renown O God, and am afraid: I have come to know your works, and I am amazed, O Lord; for your praise has filled the earth.

Shining with the splendid teachings of Demetrios, you put to flight the gloom of Hellenic vanity and were illumined with the light of martyrdom.

You troubled the salty sea of unbelief with the sweetness of your good faith, O martyr, and drowned an army of the impious in the depths of your blood.

You were a tree reaching up towards life, nourishing the faithful with the bounty of your struggles, O Nestor of Christ, boast of martyrs.

*Theotokion* As my cleansing of sins, extend a helping hand to me in distress, O most holy Lady, sure help of Christians.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* Shine the light of your statutes upon me, O Lord, for at dawn my soul rises and sings to you: You are my God, and to you I have recourse, the king of peace.

Having watered your thoughts with words of divine understanding, O glorious Nestor, you put forth the ripe ear of martyrdom.

With the healing of your words, O Demetrios, martyr for Christ, Nestor put an end to the iniquity of godlessness.

Locked in combat with a visible foe, you invisibly acquired the help of God, O glorious Nestor.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, who without seed gave birth to our God; rejoice, who alone are the most pure Mother of God; rejoice, O bride unwedded.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* A storm of evil thoughts, having overtaken me, drags me down into the abyss of my countless sins; but, going before me, O good helmsman, direct me and save me, as you did the Prophet Jonah.

Having sealed your heart, you courageously wounded the heart of Lyaeus with the spear of your valour, O passion-bearer: rejoicing, you were slain for Christ, the life of all.

Like a bridegroom you departed from the chamber of your flesh, O wise one; and arrayed in garments woven of your sacred blood, O martyr, you have taken your place before Christ the Master.

Having set your feet upon the rock of piety, Christ, the rock of life, guided your steps to himself, O Nestor, and put your enemies to shame.

*Theotokion* O Virgin Mary in whom I place my hope of salvation, who gave birth to God who takes away the sin of the world, you have broken the bonds of my transgression.

*Kontakion, tone 2,  
to the Special Melody Seeking the highest...*

Because you fought the good fight, you have inherited immortal glory, and through the intercessions of the martyr Demetrios you became a perfect soldier of Christ. Therefore, O wise Nestor, with Demetrios do not cease to intercede together for us all.

*Ikos* From childhood you trod the path of the Lord and piously desired his testimonies; and, having zealously taken the cross upon your shoulders, O divinely wise Nestor, you destroyed the wicked deception of the madness of idolatry, breaking and destroying the snares and nets of Lyaeus. We flee to your protection with faith, crying out: O wise Nestor, with Demetrios do not cease to intercede together for us all.

*Ode 7*

*Irmos* Blessed are you, the God of our fathers, who spoke on the mountain with Moses and revealed in the bush an image of the Virgin.

Blessed are you, the God of our fathers, who has illumined the hearts of the faithful with the splendour of the passion-bearer's struggles.

Having quenched the flame of impiety with the dew of your blood, O divine martyr Nestor, you sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Offering a living sacrifice as an odour of sweet fragrance to the Lord, O martyr Nestor, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* You are more holy than the cherubim, O most holy Lady who gave birth to the Word of God who sanctifies us.

*Ode 8*

*Irmos* O earth and all that is in it, seas and every shower and dew, heavens of heavens, light and darkness, frost and burning heat, you children of men and priests bless the Lord, praise and exalt him above all for ever.

The earth received your precious blood shed for Christ; the heavens received your soul adorned like a bride; and the choirs of martyrs and the souls of the righteous greeted you with joy, O martyr.

Your God-loving soul considered a temporal death to be nothing and chose to live in the Lord; your divine manliness was much stronger than the cowardice of the foe, for you denounced those who did not confess Christ.

Having fought the good fight, you finished your course, O wise martyr, and keep the faith: a crown of righteousness awaited you, which Christ bestowed upon you for ever.

*Theotokion* With your help I fear not the pursuit of the foe; I fear not evil men, but flee to you, O Mother of God: in you I boast, and in you I cross the wall of sin, saved by your prayers.

*Ode 9*

*Irmos* He who is mighty has magnified me; and holy is his name. He has mercy is on those who fear him, throughout all generations.

You arrayed yourself sacredly in a purple cloak dyed in your blood; and, grasping the cross in your right hand as a sceptre, you reign with Christ, O blessed Nestor.

You are a ripe cluster on the noetic vine: squeezed out by the winepress of martyrdom, you have poured the wine of compunction upon us who ever praise you.

Joining chorus with the angels before the face of Jesus and delighting in his glory, O Nestor, ever remember those who faithfully keep your honoured memory.

*Theotokion* As the abode of the light, you truly dispersed the gloom of the ancient error, O pure one, ark of holiness and golden candlestick, more spacious than the heavens.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, O women...*

By the power of the cross and the prayers of Demetrios, the glorious martyr, you cast down the magnitude of impious Lyaeus and the pride of the enemy, O Nestor, having first vanquished the passions; as an excellent martyr for Christ.

*Theotokion*    Saved by you, O Mother of God, we hymn you as an invincible weapon, an unassailable rampart, a tower of all strength, a haven of salvation, a truly divine foundation, and the bridge which leads from earth to heaven.

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

*Verse*   I have set the Lord always before me: he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

*Epistle to the Ephesians, number 233 (6:10-17)*

*Alleluia, tone 4*

The righteous cry and the Lord hears it, and frees them from all their affliction.  
The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers him from them all.

*Gospel of Luke, number 106 (21:12-19)*

*Communion Verse*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

## **October 28**

### **Our venerable and God-bearing father, Job of Pochaev, Abbot and miracle worker**

#### **Little Vespers**

*At Lord, I call to you... 4 verses, tone 7*

The day of God's good pleasure has dawned, and the feast of gladness. Let us therefore hasten to the mount of Pochaev, O faithful, and hymn blessed Job, celebrating his honoured memory.

You gave neither sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids, O venerable one, pleasing the Lord with vigilant prayers and a life of fasting; and so we joyously celebrate your memory.

Come, O faithful, to the holy mountain of Pochaev, where the favourite of God struggled during his lifetime, and mounted from glory to glory; and to him now let us pray that, having made his abode in the mansions of heaven, he pray to the Lord for the salvation of our souls.

A city set upon the brow of a hill cannot be hidden; and though you rest in your incorrupt body in a dark cave of stone, O venerable one, you beckon all to the mount of Pochaev for the sake of your splendid feast, entreating Christ God that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, tone 6*

Most holy Mother of God, through the time of my life do not forsake me: do not entrust me to human protection, but defend me and have mercy on me.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, tone 6*

Most holy Mother of God, through the time of my life do not forsake me: do not entrust me to human protection, but defend me and have mercy on me.

*Aposticha, tone 6*

Celebrating your memory today, O Job our venerable father, we cry out to you: Standing with the angels in great boldness, O father, entreat Christ the Master for us all.

*Verse* Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; he shall greatly delight in his commandments.

Your feast has dawned as a radiant day, enlightening the hearts of us who with faith praise your honourable struggles, O Job, our father.

*Verse* Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Having discovered the most precious icon of the Mother of God upon the mount of Pochaev, like the sun upon the earth, you showed yourself to be its most splendid star: through the prayers of the Mother of God, illumine with the light of divine knowledge us who hymn you, O Job, our father.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* I place all my hope in you, O Mother of God; keep me beneath your protection.

*Troparion, tone 4*

Acquiring the patience of the long suffering forefather,  
and emulating the abstinence of the Baptist,  
you shared in the divine zeal of both and were granted to receive their names,  
becoming a fearless preacher of the true faith.  
Therefore you led a multitude of monks to Christ,  
and confirmed the Orthodox faith of the people.  
O Job our venerable father, pray that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* The mystery hidden from before the ages and unknown even to the angels, through you, O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth: God incarnate in unconfused union, who willingly accepted the cross for our sake and, thereby raising up the first-formed man, has saved our souls from death.

## **Great Vespers**

*We sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon.*

*At Lord, I call to you... 8 verses,  
beginning with these, tone 1*

The day of your commemoration has come, O glorious Job, and the land of Volhynia is filled with joy; for, strengthened in Orthodoxy by your teachings and instructed in piety by your struggles, it trusts in your supplications, O venerable father, whereby you ask peace for the world and great mercy for our souls. *Twice*

The gatherings of monastics join chorus at your glorious commemoration and are aflame with zeal for your God-pleasing life, O favoured of Christ. Bowing down before your incorrupt relics, they cry out to you as to one alive in our midst: O father Job, of merciful and kindly disposition, beg of the Lord peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Who does not marvel at your long-suffering life, O venerable father? For in three monasteries your glorious deeds have been proclaimed: your fasting, tears and vigils, your seclusion within a cave, your unstinting ascesis in all things, yet compassionate love for your brethren, forgiveness of thieves, and good instruction for all people.

*Tone 2*

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown venerable Job, the teacher and champion of the Orthodox faith, the herald of the divine Scriptures and recorder of the traditions of the Fathers, yet also the fulfiller of onerous tasks who humbled himself in digging earth and planting trees, and was a model of obedience for all? Christ our God who has great mercy, now crowns him with unfading glory. *Twice*

With what worthy thanks shall we glorify Job, the boast of Pochaev and adornment of the land of Russia? By his prayers he called down the light of heaven into his cave, and even after his repose he appears from heaven and offers supplication for the people of his flock. For there Christ our God who has great mercy, now crowns him with glory.

With what tears of compunction shall we render our corrupt hearts contrite, beholding the incorrupt body of Job which after death is preserved as though alive, yet during his lifetime remained as though dead, worn out by fasting and vigil? Let us then strive to emulate his struggles, that Christ our God who has great mercy, may have mercy upon us in the life to come.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 3*

Venerable Job followed your words, O Lord, and all the beauties of this world he counted but dung. Paying no heed to his youth, he gave himself to monastic obedience

from childhood. Therefore, having vanquished the wiles of the demons, he became a hard diamond of Orthodox piety, and enlightened his land by his struggles. By his prayers take pity on our souls, and grant us the good intention to repent before the end.

Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion*

*Entrance. Prokimenon of the Day. Three readings.*

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect. (Wisdom 3: 1-9)

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with his right hand he will cover them, and with his arm he will shield them. The Lord will take his zeal as his whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against his frenzied foes. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap from the clouds to the target, as from a well-drawn bow, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evildoing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High; he will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There were some who pleased God and were loved by him, and while living among sinners were taken up. They were caught up so

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that evil might not change their understanding or guile deceive their souls. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; or their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

*Entreaty, the verse of the Church, and these for the saint, tone 8*

O come, all you assemblies of the Slavs, let us glorify the zealot of our common salvation, the fearless denouncer of heresy, the nurturer of the poor and meek reprover of sinners, who manifested the zeal of Paul for the people and has acquired great boldness before the Lord; for even after his repose he heals the infirm and fends off the bold assaults of the barbarians; and he fills us with thoughts of contrition, and ever prays for the salvation of our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2*

Your Lavra exults today, O venerable father Job, and all the people endeavour to venerate your relies; the demons tremble at your grace, and the angels rejoice in your aid; and we unceasingly cry out: Through your prayers strengthen the faith of the Orthodox, correct our lives, and beg salvation for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *tone 6*

*Theotokion* In you, O Mother of God, I place all my hope: keep me under your protection.

*Aposticha, tone 5*

Rejoice, O Job, sacred adornment of the land of Volhynia, for, seeing it made strong in the Orthodox faith, praying to you as to one alive, and beseeching your aid against demons, you have become its invincible protector, and an intercessor for the world.

*Verse* Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Rejoice, O venerable Job, the sacred star which proceeded from the land of Galicia to the east and made strong the souls of the weak, who in your humility has taught the Russian people boldness against heresy, and led them to the kingdom of heaven, which may you grant to us by your intercession; and be an intercessor for the whole world.

*Verse* Blessed is the man that fears the Lord; he shall greatly delight in his commandments.

Rejoice, O sacred Job, exalted by the Lord over the land of Volhynia, to whom the prince and people submitted themselves. And we, your spiritual children, falling down before you with contrite heart, entreat your aid in vanquishing the passions, for courage amid tribulation, constant remembrance of the hour of death, and your prayers for the whole world, O venerable Job.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

We honour you, Job our father; as the instructor of a multitude of monks, for by your steps have we truly learned to walk aright. Blessed are you, who serving Christ, denounced the power of the enemy, O conversor with the angels, companion of the venerable and the righteous. With them beseech the Lord that our souls may find mercy.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*     O Virgin unwedded, who inconceivably conceived God in the flesh; receive the prayers of your servants. O immaculate Mother of God the Most High who grants cleansing of transgressions to all: receive our entreaty that we all may be saved.

*Troparion, tone 4*

Acquiring the patience of the long suffering forefather,  
and emulating the abstinence of the Baptist,  
you shared in the divine zeal of both and were granted to receive their names,  
becoming a fearless preacher of the true faith.  
Therefore you led a multitude of monks to Christ,  
and confirmed the Orthodox faith of the people.  
O Job our venerable father, pray that our souls be saved.

*If it is a Vigil, the troparion of the venerable one twice,  
then Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once.*

*If it is not a Vigil, then the troparion once,  
Glory... both now... and the Theotokion as at Matins.*

## **Matins**

*At God is the Lord..., the troparion of the saint, twice;  
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...  
and the Theotokion The mystery hidden from before the ages...*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

Following the call of the Lord, you left your parents' home, and passed from a restricted life to one yet more greatly restricted; but your heart is not too restricted to hold all who flee to you. Therefore your spiritual children multiplied and rejoice in the Lord, whom you entreat, O Job, to save the souls of those who honour your holy memory with faith. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion.*

*After the second reading from the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymn, tone 5*

Let us honour venerable Job, the cave dwelling recluse who kept vigil in prayer, who humbled himself from childhood to old age and brought glory to the holy Church, who led thieves and malefactors to repentance, and who fervently prays for our souls. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion.*

*Polyeleos, and this Magnification*

We bless you, O Job, our venerable father, and we honour your holy memory, the instructor of monks and conversor with angels.

*Verse* I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined to me and heard my cry.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8*

Having acquired pastoral wisdom through humility of mind, you became a teacher for many, a father to monks and comforter of those who sorrow, an organ of the prayer of Jesus which never falls silent. Therefore, the Lord who grants rewards has glorified you in the incorruption of your relies: may you unceasingly entreat him to grant remission of sins for those who honour your holy memory. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Let us hymn the portal and ark of heaven, the most holy Mother of God, the radiant cloud, the bush unburnt, the living paradise, the restoration of Eve, the great treasure of the whole world; for in her was wrought the salvation of the world and the

remission of the ancient offence. Therefore, we cry out to her: Beg your Son to grant remission of sins to those who piously venerate your most holy maternity.

*The hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon in tone 4*

*Prokimenon, tone 4*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Let every breath praise the Lord... *and the rest, with the Gospel of Matthew, number 43*

*The Psalm Have mercy on me... and this verse, tone 6*

O venerable father, the report of your instruction has gone forth into all the earth; and so you have found the reward of your labours in Heaven, have destroyed hordes of demons, and attained the ranks of the angels whose life you blamelessly emulated. Having boldness before Christ our God, ask of him peace for our souls.

*We sing two Canons,  
one from the Pentecostarion,  
and this Canon to Venerable Job.*

*Canon to venerable Job, tone 8,  
the acrostic of which is the Slavonic alphabet*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* That which was hewn divided the indivisible, and the sun saw land it had not seen before: water drowned the cruel enemy and Israel traversed the impassable, and sang the hymn: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

O Word of God, who overlooks my transgressions and grants speech to my mouth, help me worthily to hymn venerable Job, an earthly angel and heavenly man, the boast of Volhynia.

O venerable one, truly a radiant beacon for the world indicating the way of salvation to all, be also my help, that with contrition I may glorify your life.

You first came to know the Lord in the home of your parents, O glorious Job; as child showing perfect wisdom in choosing the monastic life; and in rejecting the things of this life, you loved the one God.

Lifting your eyes and soul on high, in a life pleasing to God you quickly surpassed the brethren in the Ugornitsky Monastery; as the least of all, you appeared to Jesus to be the best, as a beloved model to young and old.

## **October 28**

Thinking of your firm battle against the demons, O venerable one, I am ashamed of my slothfulness and fear the multitude of my sins; but by your prayers, grant me the good desire to finish the rest of my life in repentance.

*Theotokion* As the Mother of God who has boldness before the only-begotten Word who was born of you, cease not to pray before his co-unoriginate Father and the consubstantial Spirit, that those who glorify you as Mother of God be saved from tribulation.

*Katavasia from the Pentecostarion.*

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos* My heart is established in the Lord and my strength is exulted in my God: my mouth is boastful over my enemies and I rejoice in your salvation.

O venerable father, within me is the desire for good reformation, but, sadly I have not learned to overcome the temptations of slothfulness. Trusting in your aid, I ward off the thoughts of despondency and direct my gaze at your glorious struggles.

Zhelezo was your family name, signifying iron and portending the firmness of your soul: enclosed in a cave of stone like hidden gold, you sanctified the place of your struggles and caused the mount of Pochaev to be a brazen rampart against the foes of Orthodoxy.

Your thoughts of the kingdom of heaven were exceeding deep even as a child, and you received the angelic habit, in which you were a faithful priest of God; and even now you offer entreaties on behalf of the people, O venerable Job.

The land of Galicia is glorified by your youth, the Dubensky Monastery proclaims the struggles of your manhood, and the Pochaev Monastery boasts in your old age and rejoices in your blessed end; and the world rejoices and hymns your wonders.

O holy one, the bestower of good things for all who pray to you, reject me not who falls prostrate; but, beholding my repentance, grant me reformation of life, and inspire me with a zeal to emulate your deeds which are beloved of God.

*Theotokion* Raise my mortified mind through the power of that life which was brought to the world through you, and guide me to life, O Lady who alone has cast down the gates of death by your birthgiving.

*Kontakion and Ikos from the Pentecostarion.*

### *Sessional Hymn, tone 8*

Today the Monastery of Pochaev is filled with joy,  
glorifying your life which is beloved of God.

Today the Christian people are enlightened with zeal for salvation: today sinful passions are expelled, and thoughts of repentance embrace our souls, as we see your relics which have been glorified with incorruption: through them strengthen all who with faith glorify your memory, O glorious Job.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *from the Pentecostarion.*

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* With noetic eyes the prophet Habbakuk foresaw your coming, O Lord; and he cried out: God is coming from Teman: glory to your power: glory to your dispensation.

O venerable Job, be a fervent intercessor for all who believe in your aid, who bitterly lament their life and trust in the loving kindness of God, though tossed to and fro by the allurements of this life.

Who among men does not marvel at your patient life, O father? Who does not glorify your zeal for Orthodoxy? For like a hard diamond, you withstood the heretics, and in your words and writings delivered to all the proclamation of the true faith.

By your prayer, O father, you vanquish the roaring lion which seeks to devour the souls of the saved and you bring to repentance those who formerly served him; for you shamed and admonished thieves with your loving kindness, putting robbers in fear with your reproof, and teaching saving repentance to all.

With your intercession disperse the gloom of my soul, O father, and illumine my wretched heart with the light of the Lord's commandments, that following your disciples, I remain not bereft of their portion, praising your holy memory.

*Theotokion* Entreat God who was incarnate of you without change, and who was and remains equal in nature with the Father, though becoming one in nature with you, O Lady who gave him birth: may he grant remission of transgressions and salvation of soul to those who hymn you with faith.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O Christ our God the giver of light, who has dispelled the primal darkness of the abyss, disperse the gloom of my soul and give me the light of your commandments, that I may arise to glorify you, O Word.

You are truly our intercessor and a splendid wonderworker, cried Dionysius, who discovered your relics to be touched by incorruption; and venerating them, we cry out: Reject not our defilement, O favoured of God, but cleanse us by your prayers.

Taught the precepts of God from youth, you firmly desired to turn from the vanity of life, O father who loved solitude: conforming to the command of Christ, you taught true confession and life according to the Gospel to those who had recourse to you.

Even after your repose you were an intercessor for the suffering and sorrowful. Thus the people beheld you issuing forth from your tomb and praying in the midst of the church with angels. What a truly glorious wonder, the joy and confirmation of the faithful.

As a lover of the kingdom of heaven, you are assured of obtaining access to it, as a sojourner in a better life, without pain and fear, the teacher and hope of your brethren.

Be the companion of my life, O father Job; hedge round my greatly troubled soul with your prayers, and lead it to the kingdom of heaven, made compassionate by your struggles and offering up tears of repentance to Christ.

*Theotokion* With you as a rampart and protected by your intercession, we bless you and revel in your divine glory, O Lady, for you pour joy and gladness upon our souls.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* You caused Jonah to dwell alone in the sea monster, O Lord; and as you delivered him from corruption, save me, entangled in many snares.

I place steadfast hope in your intercession, O venerable one, and pray with faith: Grant me victory over the cruel passions, unceasing remembrance of death, and a desire for the blessedness of the age to come.

The holy Church is strengthened by you, O venerable one, and every heresy is put to shame, having as its reproof your much-healing relies and your century-long life of labour, your pain, tears, fasting, and the wasting of your flesh from your bones.

Venerable Job triumphed over the noetic Pharaoh, ever abiding in obedience and readily aiding the storm-tossed, thus illumining three monasteries with his teaching and glorifying them with many struggles, gladdening the lover of mankind, the Saviour of all.

Job emulated the humility of Christ when he received the abbacy; for, as Abbot, he ministered to all and struggled in hard labour, and was a model for the brethren of meekness, a standard of industry, and a constant reminder of prayer.

By your prayers deliver me from the vile passions, granting me victory over them by continual invocation of divine help, by placing no trust in myself, and by not judging my brother.

*Theotokion* You have truly raised fallen human nature, O Mother of God, having carried in your womb without seed the Son, who, though visible, is immutable in his divine form and equality with the Father.

*Kontakion, tone 4,  
to the special melody* You have appeared to the whole world today...

You proved to be a pillar of the true faith,  
 a zealot of the commandments of the Gospel,  
 the reproof of pride,  
 and an intercessor and instructor for the lowly.  
 Entreat forgiveness of sins for those who bless you,  
 and keep your monastery unharmed,  
 O Job our father, the emulator of the long suffering one of old.

*Ikos* Open your mouth, O cave of stone, and tell us: How often were you washed with the streams of Job's tears? How is it that his sighs did not rend your walls asunder? Why did the divine light not set you afire? How did the angels marvel at Job's feats of vigilance? For thereby the lands of Galicia and Volhynia have been sanctified. And we, pondering all these things, fill our eyes with tears of contrition, for venerable Job is a wondrous saint, the emulator of the long suffering one of old.

#### Ode 7

*Irmos* On the plain of Dura for the torment of the Godfearing, the tyrant constructed a furnace, in which the three children hymned the one God as the three of them sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Strengthen Orthodox hierarchs against the foe, O venerable Job, for they call you blessed; and give strength to their hearts for the Church: we all implore God for oneness of mind, love for one another, and zeal in Orthodoxy.

As a wretch, I am unable to drain the cup of your life, O Lord; yet, ensnared by the thorns of the passions and the fear of tribulations, I still pray: Have mercy upon me, through the prayers of Job, your favourite, and help me to uproot sinful idleness.

Rejecting the broad path that leads the soul to destruction, O venerable Job, you confined yourself to a narrow cave: you did not swerve from the straight path, remaining day and night in prayer and labours, giving healthful instruction to all who came to you.

You were compassionate to the poor, merciful to the penitent, a mild teacher of those needing instruction, a lover of the divine wisdom, a preacher of the commandments of the Gospel, a printer of books and a fearless denouncer of heresy.

*Theotokion* Let us praise Mary, the most pure and most holy; for through her, beyond understanding, the grace of gifts is poured upon us, as from a torrent of divine goodness.

#### Ode 8

*Irmos* You, the sustainer of all things, who covered your heights with the waters and set the sands as a boundary for the sea, are hymned by the sun and glorified by the moon; and all creation offers a hymn to you as to the creator of all, for ever.

## **October 28**

Be a bestower of spiritual gifts for those who travel to your monastery and fall down before your relics; be a healer of the sick and a fervent intercessor for all before the Saviour, O Job, the glory and adornment of the land of Volhynia.

You were a youth in body, but an elder in mind at the outset of your monastic life, O father; and while aging in the flesh, you showed the agility of youth, being for all a model of humility in digging the earth and planting trees.

Your apparition in the company of angels frightened the humble virgin and granted healing to your disciple: it moves all to the glorification of God and strengthens them in the true faith and repels the assaults of heresy.

Perfume me with the incense of your prayers, O glorious Job, dispelling thereby the stench of my sins and implanting trust in the Lord in my vile soul; that, cleansed by the grace of God, I may hymn your mighty aid.

*Theotokion* O most pure Mother of God, cleanse the sinful wounds and scars of my soul, washing them with him who is the cleansing spring that flowed from your maternal womb.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who has raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of his servant David, for the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

With the hyssop of the grace of God sprinkle the hearts of us who bow down before your holy relics, O venerable Job; that, sharing in your zeal for the faith, we may make good progress in the fulfillment of the commandments of Christ.

On earth you did not cease to cry out to God in psalms and preserved the vessel of your virginity, and so in heaven you now sing hymns of paradise with the angels and all the saints, and from on high watch over the people who labour on earth.

How great is the incorrupt beauty of your life; how great the wonders and healings after your death. Forsaking earthly things, you have truly acquired, as Christ said, heavenly blessings a hundredfold in this life, and yet more in the life to come.

How great is the multitude of our sins, yet the strength of your prayer surpasses them: do not deprive us thereof, O venerable Job, friend of Christ and companion of the saints, pillar of the Church and fervent intercessor for men's souls.

*Theotokion* Without seed and without the desires of the flesh, you conceived the Word of God who has created all things, O Virgin; and without corruption and maternal pangs you gave birth to him: confessing you with heart and tongue to be the Mother of God, we magnify you.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the special melody O immutable Light...*

Today let venerable Job be praised as a warrior of Christ, an intercessor for the people, a preacher of the faith, a denouncer of heresy and the adornment of the Church.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion*

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises,*  
*inserting 4 verses, tone 4*

Your struggles shone forth in the land of Galicia, O father Job; and so the zealots of Orthodoxy summoned you to the land of Volhynia, and the Dubensky Monastery was adorned by your venerable life; but the Lavra of Pochaev received the consummation thereof, and all these lands were enlightened by your teachings. *Twice*

Your heart, full of brotherly love, drew a multitude of monks to the mount of Pochaev, O venerable one, where you were a zealot for their salvation. Mindful of the saying of the Apostle, that spiritual love never fails, we entrust our souls to your wondrous care, asking that you lead them to Christ, the lover of mankind.

O venerable one, corruption has not dared to touch your dead body, which throughout your life you mortified; and your soul, abiding with the angels in love, receives all who have recourse to you. Therefore, lead our souls to Christ, the lover of mankind.

Glory be to the Father...

*Tone 8*

Our words are not sufficient to praise your struggles, O venerable Job,  
for who can recount the fullness of your virtues?  
Who can know your silent conversation with God?  
Reject not your spiritual children who hymn you;  
and asking your aid, are moved to compunction by your holy life,  
rejoicing in your memory.

Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion.*

## **Liturgy**

*On the Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and four from Ode 6.*

*Prokimenon tone 7*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

*Epistle to the Galatians, number 213*

*Alleluia tone 6*

*Verses* Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.  
His children shall be mighty in the land.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 43*

*Communion*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

*Prayer to our venerable father Job of Pochaev*

O venerable father Job, divinely wise instructor in the labourious life of monks, indefatigable struggler in meekness and abstinence, purity and chastity, love for your brother and for the poor, patience and vigilance; from your early youth to advanced old age, a great zealot and invincible champion of the Orthodox faith, beacon of divine light for the lands of Galicia and Volhynia, and unvanquished defender of the holy Monastery of Pochaev. With compassionate eye look upon us, your unworthy spiritual children who earnestly have recourse to you every day, and upon these God-loving people assembled before your Spirit-bearing and much-healing relies, who reverently bow down before them. In your intercession before the Master, the Most High ask for them and for all of us those things which are truly useful and profitable for life and for piety: heal the sick, grant courage to the faint-hearted, comfort the sorrowful, help the oppressed, strengthen the infirm, and raise those who have been cast down. Through the grace given you by God, grant to each person all things for the soul's salvation and bodily health, whatever the need or requirement; O favourite of God, offer your all-powerful supplication for the suffering land of Russia, that therein there may again be continual peace and tranquility, piety and length of days, justice and mercy in the courts, wisdom in the councils and good prosperity, that there may be established loyalty in the hearts of the good and fear in the hearts of the wicked, that they may bring to an end their evil and do good, that thus the Kingdom of Christ may increase and multiply in our land and that God, who is wondrous in his saints, may be glorified therein. To him alone is due all glory, honour and worship: to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

## **October 29**

### **The venerable martyr Anastasia the Roman and our venerable father Avramius the Recluse**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... we insert 6 verses, beginning with these for the martyr in tone 8,  
to the special melody What shall we call you...*

O exulted martyr and athlete, \* having cast down carnal passions by abstinence, \* you slayed the adversary by your contest, \* astonishing the angels with your suffering, \* causing men to rejoice in your ordeal, \* O adornment of monastics, \* vessel of virginity. \* Pray that Christ our God save and enlighten our souls.

What shall we call you, O glorious one? \* Bride of Christ who shone in the virtues of virginity, \* chosen daughter of the heavenly Jerusalem, \* dweller and conversor with angels, \* one who delights in the noetic bridal chamber, \* O much-suffering Anastasia, \* the adornment of monastics. \* Pray that Christ our God save and enlighten our souls.

You endured the drawing of your teeth, \* the severing of your hands, feet and breasts, \* and your limbs cut off by evil torturers. \* You lifted your eyes to the comeliness of your Bridegroom, \* enduring pain in a manner past nature. \* O much suffering Anastasia, \* incorrupt Bride of Christ, \* pray that he save and enlighten our souls.

*And three verses for the venerable one, in the same tone,  
to the special melody O most glorious wonder...*

O divinely wise father Avramius, \* being like Abraham in spirit, \* you moved from your father's land, O blessed one, \* rejecting the desires of the flesh; \* and, joyfully enclosing your body \* in a small hut, \* you furnished your soul with wings to fly to the heavens, \* where you have found your life.

O venerable father Avramius, \* who, in accordance with your name, acquired the soul of Abraham, \* you endured temptations, \* strengthened by divine love; \* and united to God by love, \* you inherited the promised land, \* adorned with the splendour of the virtues. \* Therefore, rejoicing, we celebrate your memory.

O venerable father Avramius, \* by divine providence you delivered \* the woman who was cruelly devoured by the serpent through deception, \* and who was dragged down into the pit of destruction; \* and you presented her, saved, to God. \* All marvelled at her repentance, \* piously glorifying the most good God.

Glory be to the Father... both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O holy Bride of God, bearer of the divine light, \* as a most radiant lamp, \* you shone the light upon us from your pure womb, \* illumining all the ends of the earth, \* and bathing them with the rays of your grace. \* Rejoice, O pure beginning of our salvation. \* Rejoice, awesome rumour and report \* of those who hope in you.

*Theotokion of the cross* What is this sight \* which my eyes behold, O Master? \* How can you die, the sustainer of all creation, \* being lifted up on the tree, granting life to all? \* Thus said the Mother of God, weeping, \* when she saw the God and man, \* who had shone forth from her ineffably, \* lifted up on the cross.

*Troparion of the Martyr, tone 4*

Your lamb cries out to you with a loud voice, O Jesus: I love you, my bridegroom, and seeking you I pass through many struggles; I am crucified and buried with you in your baptism: I suffer for your sake that I may reign with you; I die for you that I may live with you. As an unblemished sacrifice accept me as I sacrifice myself with love for you. By her intercessions save our souls, as you are merciful.

*Troparion of the Venerable One, tone 8*

In you, O Father, that which is fashioned in the image of God was preserved; for having taken up the cross you followed Christ, and by your example you taught that the flesh is to be disdained as transitory, but that the soul must be cared for as a thing immortal. Therefore your spirit rejoices with the angels, O venerable Avramius.

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos, and the two canons for the saints.*

*Ode 1*

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr Anastasia, tone 8*  
*composed by Joseph upon the acrostic I praise your manly passion, O martyr*

*Irmos* Let us sing to the Lord, who led his people through the Red Sea, for he alone has gloriously been glorified.

O divinely wise one, grant enlightenment to me, who honours this your light-bearing commemoration, and drive darkness from my soul.

From childhood you offered yourself wholly to your creator, and with the fire of abstinence you utterly consumed the passions of your body.

You ascended the heights of torment, O martyr, without pitying your flesh, and as a virgin were granted your noetic bridal chamber.

## **October 29**

*Theotokion* We honour you, O Maiden, as the ladder reaching to heaven, where God who has made men heavenly has established himself.

*Canon of the Venerable Avramius, same tone,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic I honour your most splendid life, O blessed one*

*Irmos* Having traversed the water as though it were dry land, and escaping the evil of Egypt, the Israelite cried out: Let us sing to our deliverer and our God.

Resplendent with divine brilliance, O blessed Avramius, by your supplications deliver from the gloom of the passions those who celebrate your illustrious feast.

Divine desire set your soul afire and quenched the burning of the flesh, O blessed father, causing you to live on earth immaterially.

Having mortified your members on earth with fasting and all manner of great afflictions, you were granted the better life in heaven, O God-bearing Avramius.

*Theotokion* The Word of God the Father became supernaturally incarnate of your sacred blood, O Virgin Mary. Entreat him, that he mortify the stirrings of my flesh.

### *Ode 3*

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* You are the confirmation of those who have recourse to you, O Lord: you are the light of those in darkness; and my spirit sings to you.

You stood before the tribunal of the tyrant, preaching Christ, the Word of God, the maker and master of all, O glorious one.

When you were given over to be a spectacle, O glorious one, the beauty of your heart revealed you as one most comely to those who looked on.

Christ gave you inexhaustible riches of healing, O maiden, for you willingly loved his poverty.

*Theotokion* With the fire of your prayers consume the tinder of my sins, O Mother of the light, bringing me the divine dew of remission.

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* O Lord the fashioner of heaven's vault and creator of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, O true lover of mankind.

Desiring the end of all desires in every way, O God-bearer, you were beyond the world and the flesh. Therefore you received transcendent glory and everlasting delight.

You were a temple of the all-accomplishing Spirit, O venerable father, enclosing yourself in a hut, resplendent with rays of the virtues and sacredly deified.

By the husbandry of hardship you harvested the ripe grain of the virtues a hundredfold, which feeds those who celebrate your honoured repose with reverence.

*Theotokion* As he desired, the cause of all dwelt in you, most holy Lady, in the greatness of his loving kindness; and he has sanctified human nature which in the beginning fell headlong through the transgression.

*Kontakion of the venerable martyr, tone 3,  
to the special melody Today the Virgin...*

Cleansed by the waters of virginity and crowned with the blood of martyrdom, O venerable Anastasia, you grant healing of infirmities and salvation to those in need who come to you with their whole heart, for it is Christ who grants power to you, pouring forth ever flowing grace.

*Sessional Hymn of the Venerable Martyr Anastasia, tone 8  
to the special melody Of the Wisdom...*

With the dew of abstinence you quenched the flame of the passions in your youth, and with the fire of your blood you reduced deception to ashes. You brought your precious virginity and valiant suffering as a dowry to the Word, your Bridegroom who led you to the bridal chamber of glory, splendidly courageous, having trampled the serpent underfoot, O much-suffering Anastasia. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Sessional Hymn of the Avramius, tone 1  
to the special melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

Emulating Abraham of old, O father Avramius, you departed from your earthly kinsmen, submitting to the calling of our God. Having fasted, your soul became more brilliant than the rays of the sun, O divinely wise and blessed one.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* To the path of repentance guide us who have ever turned aside into the trackless wastes of evil and have driven away the most good Lord, O blessed and unwedded Mary, the refuge of the despairing and dwelling place of God.

## **October 29**

*Theotokion of the Cross* The unblemished lamb, the mother, beholding the lamb and shepherd hanging dead upon the tree, exclaimed, weeping and crying out maternally: How can I endure your condescension, which is past telling, and your voluntary suffering, O my Son and most good God?

### *Ode 4*

#### *Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* I have heard the mystery of your dispensation O Lord; I have understood your works, and I glorify your divinity.

From your youth you bore the most easy yoke of Christ, O martyr, and the most iniquitous ones condemned you to bear also a yoke of iron.

With drops of your blood you quenched the embers of polytheism; and with the rays of your miracles you utterly consume the tinder of the passions.

Having stripped your body, the most wicked one could not strip you of grace: rather he caused you to bear a most wonderfully woven seamless garment from on high.

*Theotokion* Even after giving birth you remain a pure virgin, as you were before giving birth; for you gave birth to a child who is known to exist from before the ages.

#### *Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* I have heard the mystery of your dispensation O Lord...

Having washed away defilement of soul with the streams of your tears, you became a divine and honourable habitation of the Spirit, O most blessed father.

You kept all-night vigil, unceasing prayer, avoidance of any passionate attachment, love unfeigned and perfect faith.

As a most true favorite of God, O venerable Avramius, you received the grace to heal sufferings and to drive out unclean spirits.

*Theotokion* O Mother of God, and ever-virgin Mother, by your entreaty deliver me held fast by despondency and now drowning in sin.

### *Ode 5*

#### *Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* Waking at dawn we call to you to save us, O Lord; for you are our God and we know no other than you.

You were seen to be unconsumed by physical fire, O martyr Anastasia, for the fire of the heart of divine love bedewed you.

Adorned by blows to your face, O martyr, you repelled the vile ignorance of the enemy.

Stretched out on the tree, O divinely wise Anastasia, you emulated the divine suffering of your Bridegroom with love.

*Theotokion* We hymn you, O exalted Lady, the Mother of God, for you gave birth in the flesh to the most-hymned God, O all-pure one.

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

Like a fruitful branch you produced the grapes of divine virtues, O father Avramius, pouring the wine of compunction, dispelling the drunkenness of the passions from men's souls, and gladdening the hearts of the faithful.

The most wicked serpent raised various temptations against you, O God-bearing father, but you slayed him with the sword of the cross; and by righteous judgment you received from God a crown of victory.

Having become through faith a house of the sanctity of the divine Spirit, O father, you erected a sacred house; and having with your instructions converted the unhallowed council of unholy deception, you consecrated them all to God.

*Theotokion* Enlightened by the divine Spirit, O most pure one, with sacred voices the prophets proclaimed you beforehand to be the Virgin Maiden from whom God the Word became incarnate in his infinite loving kindness, beyond cause and understanding.

*Ode 6*

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* Bestow upon me a robe of light, O most merciful Christ our God, who covers yourself with light as with a garment.

Wracked with wounds, your body revealed the rightness of your conscience to Christ our God, O athlete.

You were suspended aloft, O most praiseworthy martyr, enduring wounds and preserving your nobility of soul unharmed.

## **October 29**

You endure the removal of teeth, hands and feet, O much-suffering martyr, lifting your eyes to Christ your Bridegroom.

*Theotokion* Having given birth to God who loves mankind, O truly loving Lady, entreat him that we be delivered from the fire of Gehenna.

### *Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* I pour out my prayer to the Lord, and I declare my grief to him; for my soul is replete with evil and my life approaches Hades; and like Jonah I pray: Lead me up from corruption O God.

Those in the darkness of deception find in you a guiding beacon the path of life, O God-bearing Avramius: leaving the darkness of ignorance they are luminous by faith.

Vigilantly entreating God, you sent the light of salvation to those in the night of the madness of idolatry, O Avramius; and by grace you made them children of the light.

Peacefully reaching your end amid a life of stormy tumult, O Avramius, with godly hope you attained the calm haven of the heavenly kingdom and divine splendour.

*Theotokion* Through your mediation, raise me, heavy with the slumber of despondency, that I not sleep the sleep of death, O Virgin, for you are my intercessor and guide.

### *Kontakion of the venerable Avramius, tone 3, to the special melody Today the Virgin...*

On earth you were like an angel incarnate, and through fasting you became like a planted tree, thriving on the water of abstinence, and washing away defilement with the torrent of your tears. Therefore you have been revealed, O Avramius, as a divine dwelling of the Spirit.

*Ikos* Having spurned corruptible things, you received incorruptible beauty: rejecting the pleasures of the flesh, you came to love purity from your childhood, O wise one. Fleeing a worldly bridal chamber and rejecting a noble spouse and your parents, you desired the one, loving God, truly loving him with all your soul and heart, O father: therefore you have been revealed, O Avramius, as a divine dwelling of the Spirit.

### *Ode 7*

### *Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* The Hebrew children in the furnace bravely trampled upon the flames, and transformed the fire into dew as they sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

With the virgins you dance where is the sound of the voices of those who keep festival, O athlete, singing to God the creator: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Seeing your limbs broken and enduring the rending of your nails, you offered yourself to God as a sacrifice, singing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

As a vine, with hands and feet pruned like branches, O divinely wise one, you pour for us noetic wine which consoles our hearts and dispels the drunkenness of the passions.

*Theotokion* The undefiled one, having clad himself in all of man but sin, issued from you as a mortal, O pure one. Entreat him, that he save those who honour you with faith.

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* The Hebrew children in the furnace...

To receive the kingdom on high and ineffable glory, O wise one, with intelligence and knowledge you wisely rejected downtrodden and corruptible glory.

When the wicked wolf deceitfully rent your ewe-lamb apart, O wise one, you broke his jaws; and as a most exemplary shepherd you brought her to life.

Obeying the Master's laws, you sought the stray, and having found it, like a shepherd you took it on your shoulders, and brought it to the fold of repentance.

*Theotokion* You alone, O Virgin, gave birth to one of the Trinity, to him who is seen in two natures and one being. To him we sing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

*Ode 8*

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones, but seeing them saved by a higher power, he cried out to the creator and deliverer: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

With vigour, O athlete, you won the victory over deception; for you endured the deprivation your limbs, singing with joy: O people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

Glorious as the sun in the radiance of virginity, and shining with beauty in torment, you illumine the world with the brilliance of your endurance, O athlete, singing: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

By your entreaties, O bride of God, cleanse my soul, defiled by the passions and darkened by the assaults of evil, and with your radiant overshadowing illumine it, that I may sing: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

**October 29**

*Theotokion* Desiring you, the pure and unblemished one, the virgin Anastasia kept her body and soul untainted through patience; and having endured much torture, she now dances with you in the mansions of heaven, rejoicing for ever.

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* As victors over the tyrant and the flame by your grace, and zealously keeping your commandments, the children cried out: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

The serpent malefactor cast your pure dove into the pit of perdition; but you brought her out, O divinely wise father, singing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

As you made your rounds in this life, O father Avramius, so after your end you became by the divine grace of the Spirit a physician of the sick, singing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Shining in simplicity, righteousness, chastity and faith, O blessed and venerable one, you are counted among the angels, singing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* We see you as the most holy dwelling place of the stream of life, from whence drinking, we who have been dead inherit life, singing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Canon of the Venerable Martyr*

*Irmos* Heaven was struck with awe and the ends of the earth were amazed, that God should bodily appear to men and that your womb became more spacious than the heavens. Therefore the ranks of angels together with mankind magnify you O Mother of God.

Hung upon a tree, bringing to mind the blessed suffering of the Word of God, you endured the cutting off of your limbs, the uprooting of your teeth, and the severing of your tongue and breasts, O pure Anastasia, glory of monastics and adornment of martyrs.

Adorned as a bride, betrothed to the bridegroom by well-accomplished suffering, and as one chosen you rejoice in his splendid chambers, bearing the lamp of virginity; and now you reign for ever in splendour with him who lives, O Anastasia.

Your pangs let fall a sweetness which takes away the bitterness of sin, and your shrine flows with rivers of healings and drowns all sufferings and cruel afflictions, to the glory of the Saviour who glorifies you as is meet, O honoured Anastasia.

Strengthened by your cross, O almighty Christ, brave women have manfully crushed the head of the exceeding crafty foe, O Word of God; and having received a dwelling place of joy in paradise, they attained wondrous deification, hymning you.

*Theotokion* Adorned with rays of virginity and in the purple vesture of the blood of her torment, knowing you to have taken flesh of a woman, your martyr, O Lord, is gloriously brought before you, our God who reigns over creation, in the retinue of your Mother.

*Canon of the Venerable One*

*Irmos* We who are saved by you, O pure Virgin, confess you to be the true Mother of God, and with the bodiless choirs we magnify you.

O God-hearing father, because of your hope you were granted to behold things longed for from of old, which eye has not seen, nor ear heard.

You appear shining and comely with divine rays of the virtues, O Avramius, and rejoicing, you stand before the comely Master.

You joined yourself to the choirs of the venerable; and having received deification with them, O venerable one, pray that we all be saved.

Honouring your life and your sacred repose, O Avramius, the Church joyously introduces a day of gladness.

*Theotokion* O light-loving Virgin, bless my soul which has been afflicted by sin, and make me a partaker of the good things of heaven.

## **Liturgy**

*Prokimenon tone 7*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

*Verse* How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

*Epistle to the Galatians, number 213*

*Alleluia tone 6*

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments. His children shall be mighty in the land.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 43*

*Communion*

The righteous shall be held in everlasting remembrance: he will not fear bad tidings.

**October 30**

## **October 30**

### **Hieromartyr Zenovius and his sister the martyr Zenovia**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... these verses in tone 4,  
to the special melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Having dyed your vesture with the blood of martyrdom, \* O glorious Zenovius, \* through grace you accomplished what is most sacred \* and therewith entered into the Holy of Holies \* as a wise hierarch. \* Then as an unblemished sacrifice \* and an all-pure and perfect offering \* you brought yourself, O sacred one, \* to him who sacrificed himself for you.

When your body was lacerated, \* the most splendid beauty of your soul \* was beautifully shown forth, \* O hieromartyr Zenovius, divinely wise and all-rich, \* the adornment of hierarchs, \* and boast of martyrs, \* ever-flowing fountain of miracles, \* dispeller of unclean spirits, divine champion of Christ.

Your sister Zenovia, \* being of one mind with you, \* as well as sharing your blood, \* resolved to suffer with you, O wise one; \* for she manfully endured the raging of wild horses, \* the threat of fire and violent death. \* With you she has received a crown of victory \* and the kingdom on high, \* O Zenovius, participant in the sacred mysteries.

Glory be to the Father...

*Composed by John the Monk, tone 6*

Let us who love the martyrs form a choir of hymnody today, in honour of the most pious athletes Zenovius and Zenovia; for they were champions of the Trinity, and with their precious blood manfully choked the invisible enemy in the arena, and have gloriously received crowns of victory. Let us cry out to them: O holy pair, luminous couple blessed by the Lord, entreat the Saviour on behalf of our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the cross,  
to the special melody On the third day...*

The immaculate Mother of God, beholding our life upon the tree, \* cried out, exclaiming maternally: \* O my Son \* and my God, \* save those who lovingly hymn you.

*Troparion of the martyrs, tone 4*

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs | received imperishable crowns from you, our God. | Armed with your might, they cast down the tormentors | and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. | | By their intercessions, save our souls.

## **Matins**

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the saints, tone 8,  
composed by Joseph,*

*Ode 1*

*Irmos* O people, let us send a hymn to our wondrous God who freed Israel from slavery; and singing a hymn of victory and crying out, let us sing to him who alone is our Master.

Before the throne of Christ as a worthy priest and excellent martyr, O blessed Zenovius, from the trials of life deliver those who with love honour your radiant memory.

Enlightened by the radiance of the effulgence of the threefold sun, you dispel the gloom of the false religion of the pagans; and, having illumined all with the light of your words, you have now passed over to never-waning splendour.

Seen as a noetic ember kindled by the fire of the divine Spirit, you set the hearts of all afire with desire for God, O servant of the sacred mysteries, consuming all falsehood.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, most holy temple, fleece bedewed by God, sealed fountain flowing with immortality: O Lady, preserve your flock from assault by all our enemies.

*Ode 3*

*Irmos* Plant the fear of you in the hearts of your servants, O Lord, and be the confirmation of us who call upon you in truth.

Anointed with the myrrh of spiritual anointing, O Zenovius, you minister like an angel, adorned at your end with crowns of martyrdom.

Accepting the care of souls, through divine cultivation you made them fertile, O venerable one; therefore, you have been granted the joy of your Lord.

Sacred Zenovia, your sister by blood, was shown to be of one mind with you; for with you she desired to suffer and to enjoy everlasting glory.

*Theotokion* Most pure virgin Mother, you gave birth to the one of the Trinity who clothed himself in humanity: beseech him to save those who hymn you.

**October 30**

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,  
to the special melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

Anointed with precious myrrh, you were shown to be a priest of God the Most High, O most blessed one. Strengthened by him, O hierarch Zenovius, you became a martyr and a fellow citizen with the angels. Therefore, celebrating your most holy memory today, we hymn you.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* O pure and unwedded Virgin Mother of God, sole intercessor and protection of the faithful, from misfortunes, sorrows and cruel circumstances deliver all who place their hope in you, O Maiden, and save our souls by your divine supplications.

*Theotokion of the cross* Seeing you stretched out, dead, upon the cross, O Christ, your immaculate Mother cried out: O my compassionate Son, equally unoriginate with the Father and Spirit, what is this ineffable dispensation whereby you have saved that which your most pure hands have created?

*Ode 4*

*Irmos* You have ridden your apostles like steeds, O Lord, and taken their reins in your hands; and your riding has is for the salvation of those who sing with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Exalted by honourable sufferings, O wise and most sacred one; you have received crowns of victory and have attained everlasting joy. Therefore, we honour you, O hierarch Zenovius our father.

Willingly emulating him who was stretched out on the tree, O glorious Zenovius, you were lifted up, unafraid; and you put off corruption and the coarseness of mortality, O father, the boast of priests.

Your mighty soul cast down the fortresses of the demons and collapsed pagan temples, destroyed by your most firm faith, O glorious Zenovius, boast of hieromartyrs.

*Theotokion* By your strange birthgiving you reconciled to God those who had been estranged from him, O exalted lady. Therefore, we all glorify you with loud voices and cry out to you with faith: Rejoice, O restoration of mortals.

*Ode 5*

*Irmos* O light that never sets, why have you turned your face from me? Why has an alien darkness covered me, a wretched one? But turn me back I entreat you, and guide my paths to the light of your commandments.

A womanly being has been strengthened by the Spirit, has trampled underfoot him who of old ensnared our first mother in paradise, and has been granted divine glory in the heavens, resplendent in her virginity and sufferings.

Your tongue became a shower-laden cloud, letting fall the rain of piety and watering the hearts of the faithful, bringing them to produce virtuous works as fruit in a most sacred manner.

With the rays of your virginity you dispel the darkness of wantonness, and with the light of your sufferings you destroyed the night of ungodliness, O martyr Zenovia, beauteous bride of Jesus, dwelling-place of the divine Spirit.

*Theotokion* Ever weighted down with the heavy burden of sin, we cry to you, O most pure one: Lighten it by your divine mediation, for you are the all-glorious intercessor for sinners, having given birth to the deliverer and Saviour.

*Ode 6*

*Irmos* I pour out my prayer to the Lord, and I declare my grief to him; for my soul is replete with evil and my life approaches Hades; and like Jonah I pray: Lead me up from corruption O God.

The prayer of your divine soul was accepted as incense, O father Zenovius; for you hastened to the fragrance of the sweet savor of the sufferings of him who shone forth from a woman, illumining all creation, O blessed one.

You hallowed the ground with the blood of your suffering, O blessed one; and your spirit, ascending to heaven, has divinely illumined the Church of the firstborn, O Zenovius, radiant boast of hierarchs and martyrs.

With the expanse of true piety you restrict ungodliness, O blessed one, you indicated to a straying people the paths which lead there; and you saved those cruelly drowning in the waters of falsehood.

*Theotokion* O Virgin, adorn my soul, held fast in the ugliness of the passions; make firm my wretched heart with thoughts of true repentance; and save me, who places unwavering hope in you, O Virgin.

*Kontakion, tone 8,  
to the special melody As firstfruits...*

With hymns divinely inspired let us worthily honour Zenovius and the wise Zenovia, | for they were true witnesses and proclaimers of piety as they lived and departed this life together, || receiving the imperishable crowns of martyrdom.

*Ikos* With hymns and songs let us praise the valiant and great Zenovius, and the good and pure virgin Zenovia, his fellow sufferer; for they laid low the savagery of the enemy,

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denounced the ungodliness of idolatry and made clear the Christian faith. Therefore, they have joyfully received crowns of incorruption.

### *Ode 7*

*Irmos* The Hebrew children in the furnace bravely trampled upon the flames, and transformed the fire into dew as they sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Having quenched the fire of ungodliness with the outpourings of your blood, O ever memorable Zenovius, with the rain of miracles you ever bedew us who bless the Master, crying: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Entering the divine darkness, you beheld the Invisible One as far as you were able, O martyr; and he illuminates the soul and mind of those who with pious thought sing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

The Master rendered honour to you who suffered steadfastly, cast down the wiles of the enemy, and who sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

*Theotokion* O Virgin, you are seen as the sacred place from which God appeared, sanctifying us who sing with faith: Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O most pure one.

### *Ode 8*

*Irmos* The God-proclaiming children in the furnace trampled the flames of fire underfoot, as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Unafraid of the sword, O hierarch, and undaunted by tribulations nor terrified by death; through them all you became a partaker of immortal glory.

As a minister of the sacred mysteries, O Zenovius, you consecrated yourself, and became a fragrant sacrifice fit for the banquet-table on high.

You shine radiantly, resplendent with miracles and the beams of martyrdom, O hierarch; and you utterly dispel the gloom of falsehood.

*Theotokion* O Virgin Mother who conceived the uncultivated grapes which exude the wine of remission, take away from me the drunkenness of the passions, I pray.

### *Ode 9*

*Irmos* Every ear trembles with fear to hear of the ineffable condescension of God, how the Most High willingly came down and assumed flesh, and became man through the Virgin's womb. Therefore, O faithful, let us magnify the most pure Mother of God.

You stood before the tribunal of the tyrants, O all-glorious one, proclaiming with splendid voice the incarnation of the Almighty and his sufferings; the cross, his death and resurrection whereby he has saved us, as he loves mankind.

How wonderful it is, that he has vanquished incorporeal enemies with the flesh; and how has he brought low the greatly crafty one by weakness. How can a mortal succeeded in uniting himself to the celestial ministers? Rendering him honour, we piously magnify him.

You gave your bodies over to various wounds, looking to eternal blessedness, O honoured martyrs; for bound together with fraternal love one for another, you were illumined with the beauties of martyrdom; and so you are called blessed.

Shining with the effulgence of the Spirit, your memory shines upon all today, brilliant with the grace of miracles, abundantly flowing with streams of healings. Celebrating it, we call you blessed, O martyrs of Christ.

*Theotokion*    O portal of the light, enlighten the eyes of my heart, I pray, driving far away from my wretched soul the most heavy darkness of sin, that I may magnify, glorify and hymn you with love, O most praised one.

*Exapostilarion,*  
*to the special melody Hearken, O women...*

O how wonderful, for how have mortals made of dust be shown to be golden in essence? For neither fire, nor the sword, nor the fangs of wild beasts, nor tortures nor wounds harmed them; but, having cast down the incorporeal one while in the flesh, they pray to the Lord for us.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion*    Awesome is your intercession, O divinely beauteous Mary, the Mother of God; awesome also is your glory for all the earth; for in you we boast, having you as our mediator before your Son and Creator, for we are saved by your never-tiring supplication.

## **October 31**

### **Apostles Stachys, Amplius and those with them, Martyr Epimachus**

#### **Vespers**

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these of the Apostles, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody O all-praised martyrs...*

Your saving proclamation has gone forth \* through all the earth, \* O glorious apostles of the Lord, \* illumining the ends of world \* with the radiance of grace, \* and dispelling the gloom of deception. \* Therefore, make supplication, \* that he grant our souls \* peace and great mercy.

The most godly Stachys, \* preacher and apostle of Christ, \* and wondrous Apellius, \* Aristobulus and Urban, \* Amplius and divine Narcissus, \* who preached the most Holy Trinity, \* have enlightened the nations \* and delivered from bondage \* those who faithfully bless them.

O radiant beacons of Christ, \* most pure vessels \* who, through faith, contained the radiance of the Spirit, \* O pillars of the Church, \* most glorious heavens \* declaring the glory of God: \* entreat him, \* that he grant our souls \* peace and great mercy.

*And 3 verses of the martyr, tone 4,  
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

You became a divine habitation \* by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, \* O glorious Epimachus, \* and, receiving from him the ability to accomplish healings, \* you richly impart health to the sick, \* who ever cry out: \* O Jesus, bestower of life, \* you are the gladness, the glory and boast \* of your martyrs.

With boldness you preached the truth, \* O glorious one, \* as a lawful warrior of Christ, \* unafraid of the bestial rage of him who judged you. \* By your divinely inspired words \* you put to shame \* him who commanded you to worship gods who do not exist, \* O athlete, \* and you proclaimed to all \* our God who reigns over all.

As your feet are beautiful, \* they were adorned \* to traverse unhindered the path of martyrdom. \* And, finishing your course, \* you preserved the faith, \* receiving a crown from the hand of the Master: \* may you entreat him, \* that those who with faith celebrate \* your honoured memory \* be delivered from corruption and tribulation.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *same melody*

## **October 31**

*Theotokion* I am cast down to the ground: \* I am slain by sins, \* by passions, spiritual and bodily; \* and so I am covered with the darkness of despair. \* But raise me up now, \* guiding me to the life of incorruption \* and to the homeland on high, \* where the pure voice of those who keep festival is heard, \* O most holy Bride of God.

*Theotokion of the Cross* When she saw you, \* the lamb and shepherd, upon the tree, \* the lamb who gave you birth lamented \* and maternally exclaimed: \* O my Son most desired, \* how can your hands and feet \* be pierced with nails by the iniquitous, O Word? \* How can you shed your blood, O Master?

*Troparion of the apostles, tone 3*

O holy apostles, entreat the merciful God, that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

*Troparion of the martyr, tone 4*

In his suffering, O Lord, Epimachus your martyr received an imperishable crown from you, our God. Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. Through his intercessions, save our souls.

## **Matins**

*One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.*

*Ode 1*

*Canon of the apostles, tone 1,  
composed by Joseph  
upon the acrostic With faith I praise the servants of God.*

*Irmos* As befitted your divine majesty, your triumphant right hand has been glorified in strength. In its almighty power it smote the enemy, O immortal Lord, and made a new path through the deep for the people of Israel.

Deliver from the darkness of the passions those who honour your memory with faith and celebrate it joyously, O eloquent ones, and make them partakers of eternal joy.

Following the steps of Christ, incarnate in his loving kindness, O apostles, and serving his divinely authored precepts, you have become guides to piety for those astray.

Having assembled with faith, let us bless those who were disciples of Christ: Stachys and the wise Amplius, Urban and Apellius, Narcissus and Aristobulus.

*Theotokion* Let us bless her who is blessed among women: revealed as the mountain of God, the holy tabernacle and table, the golden jar, the pure palace of Jesus.

*Canon of the Martyr, tone 4*

*Irmos* I shall sing to you, O Lord my God, who guided your people from the bondage of Egypt and drowned the chariot and power of Pharaoh.

I raise a hymn to you, O Lord my God, for you have brought us to the memorial of the martyr, which illuminates all things, as you alone are greatly merciful.

I raise a hymn to you, O Lord my God, for you have made your martyr to be invincible, a champion among martyrs against ungodliness.

I raise a hymn to you, O Lord my God, for you have adorned your athlete Epimachus with divine gifts, and have crowned him with honour.

*Theotokion* I raise a hymn to you, O Lord my God, born without seed from the Virgin, for whose sake you save all, as you alone are greatly merciful.

*Ode 3*

*Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* As you alone know human frailty, having in mercy assumed its form, gird me with strength from on high that I may cry out to you, O holy one: indescribable is the living temple of your glory, O lover of mankind.

You were greatly fertile grain, nurturing with the word of knowledge those having a hunger for faith, O divinely blessed and wise Stachys, making them partakers of better food through grace, by the power of the Spirit.

Casting skillfully with the net of your tongue, you drew divine food from the depths of deception, O apostle Narcissus, and offered it to the king and Master of creation who came to save the lost.

You proceeded from the east like a star and reached the cities of Britain, preaching the Gospel and illuminating with grace those who accepted your word with faith, O blessed Aristobulus.

*Theotokion* You were the splendid bridal chamber and exalted throne of Christ, O immaculate Mother of God; for he alone, resting within you, has taken away our toils and prepared future ease for those who are worthy.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* The bow of the mighty has become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

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Boasting in the most praised cross, the martyr Epimachus, the invincible one crowned by Christ, cast the savagery of the impious into darkness.

Forsaking transitory glory, the divinely wise martyr Epimachus, the heir of Christ, rejoiced, drawn to his contest.

*Theotokion* Rejoice, O ever-virgin Mother, who held God the Word within you and gave birth to the incarnate one who is both God and man.

*Sessional Hymn of the apostles, tone 1,  
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

Your proclamation went forth to the earth, enlightening the souls of unbelieving men with your sacred mediations, O glorious apostles. We joyfully celebrate your honourable and splendid memory today, rejoicing with faith.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the martyr, tone 3,  
to the Special Melody Of the divine faith...*

As an animate tower, you were a witness to the truth in your suffering, vanquishing invisible foes with visible torturers and receiving a crown from Christ, O excellent martyr. We cry out to you: Never cease to pray that we be granted great mercy, O glorious one.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion* Incarnate of you without separating himself from the divine essence, God became man yet remained God, the one Lord. He preserved you immaculate after giving birth as you were before, O virgin Mother. Earnestly entreat him to grant us great mercy.

*Or Theotokion of the Cross* The unblemished lamb and virgin Mother of the Word, beholding him who was born of her without pain suspended upon the cross, cried out, lamenting maternally: Woe is me, O my child; for how is it that you suffer willingly, desiring to deliver man from the dishonor of the passions?

*Ode 4*

*Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* Habakkuk with prophetic eyes saw you, O mountain, overshadowed by the grace of God, and he foretold that the holy one of Israel should come from you for our salvation and regeneration.

Shining upon the earth, the Sun of Righteousness emitted mystic rays: Stachys and Narcissus, Urban and Amplius, Aristobulus and Apellius, who enlighten those in darkness.

Fortified by the divine Spirit, O apostle Amplius, you made children of light those in darkness, performing glorious miracles and bringing down legions of demons.

Full of divine waters, O blessed Urban, you flowed like a torrent of salvation, driving away bitter and unpalatable waters and watering the pious with grace.

*Theotokion* You surpass the angels, O Lady; for you ineffably contained him whom they hold in awe, and held in your arms as an infant him who is more ancient than time itself.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* Proclaiming the your coming appearance on earth, O Christ our God, the prophet cried out with gladness: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Scorning the threats of the ungodly, glorious Epimachus arrayed himself for the struggle, crying out with boldness: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Having spurned earthly things, glorious Epimachus inherited the kingdom through death, crying out with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

*Theotokion* In the arena victorious Epimachus preached to the ignorant him who through the faith and in the Spirit is glorified in the highest.

*Ode 5*

*Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* O Christ who has enlightened the ends of the earth with the light of your coming and has made them shine by your cross, enlighten with the knowledge of God those who in the right faith sing your praises.

The divinely chosen sheep of the good shepherd were sent by him among wolves, taming and leading them to the noetic fold by faith.

Great Andrew ordained you bishop of Byzantium, O sacred Stachys, who by divine grace guides to calm havens those who sail there with faith.

The honourable Church of Heraclium has you as its precious cornerstone, O blessed Apellius, strengthening it with the word of truth: we rightly honour you.

*Theotokion* Transcending speech you conceived and gave birth to the Word whom the Father begat before time began, O pure one: we call you, his Mother, blessed, as is fitting.

*Canon of the Martyr*

## **October 31**

*Irmos* O Lord, send your light and deliver us from the darkness of sin; in your goodness, grant us your peace.

Defending himself with the weapon of the grace of the cross, the martyr cried out to the impious ones: Neither the sword nor fire will cut me off from the love of Christ.

Standing before the tribunal of the iniquitous, glorious Epimachus cried out with great boldness: Your gods did not create heaven and the earth; let the ungodly perish.

Inspired by God, glorious Epimachus preached to the ignorant the Trinity: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit.

*Theotokion* Who can describe the glorious manner of your birthgiving which transcends speech, O pure one? For you indescribably gave birth to God the incarnate Word.

### *Ode 6*

#### *Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* The uttermost depth has encompassed us and there is none to deliver us: we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. But save your people, O our God, for you are the strength and restoration of the weak.

Having stirred the sea of the nations with divine aspirations, O divinely blessed ones, you saved those of old drowned in the bitter sea and brought them, saved, to the deliverer.

You preached God who desires mercy, O divinely blessed and godly Narcissus, as the primate of the Athenians and planter of beautiful gardens.

Pouring life-giving discourse and the grace of healings, divine Urban drew men to the enlightenment of divine knowledge, as an emulator of him who was incarnate to save the world.

*Theotokion* We hymn you, through whom we the condemned have been justified, and through whom we have joined the immaterial servitors and have been brought to paradise, O divinely joyous one, blessed among women.

#### *Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* The prophet Jonah in the belly of the whale, prefiguring your burial for three days cried out and prayed: Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus king of hosts.

Epimachus forsook the world and the things of the world and manfully gave his body over to tortures for the Master, becoming an heir of Christ.

Epimachus abolished the falsehood of the idols and was given true glory, receiving the grace of healings from which the faithful draw.

Sharing the sufferings of Christ through the power of Christ our God crucified in the flesh, Epimachus received crowns of glory from him, as one who is faithful.

*Theotokion* O virgin Mother of God, entreat our God, incarnate of you, on behalf of your servants, for we know you to be our only intercessor.

*Kontakion of the apostles, tone 8,  
to the Special Melody As firstfruits...*

Let us worthily hymn the wise apostles,  
Apellius, Urban and Aristobulus, Amplius, Narcissus and Stachys,  
whom the grace of our God has brought together, as sacred treasures  
of the most holy Spirit and the radiance of the Sun of Glory.

*Ode 7*

*Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* We the faithful perceive you as if a furnace, O Mother of God, for as the Most High saved the three children, so he fully restored the world through your womb, the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

By enduring perils you were delivered from the enemy who tested you, and with the showers of the living Word you quenched the flame of deception, O glorious apostles, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

Splendidly and excellently you taught your disciples, O blessed Aristobulus, and perfectly instructed them; for you possessed the incarnate wisdom, instructing you to proclaim the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

With sacred voices the hallowed concourse of the faithful calls you blessed, O Apellius, who lived and angelic life and reached a blessed end, ever hymning the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

*Theotokion* Deliver us from perils, tribulations and grief, and from the invasion of foreigners, O exalted Lady, that we may glorify you and cry out to your Son: The God of our fathers is praised and glorified above all.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* Once in Babylon, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace, crying out in hymns: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

## **October 31**

Bravely trampling upon falsehood with the fire, victorious Epimachus cried out to the crucified one: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Fearing neither the flame, nor wild beasts, nor tortures, invincible Epimachus cried out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Proclaiming the Father, Son and most Holy Spirit to those who knew not God, Epimachus cried out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

*Theotokion* You were prefigured by the unburnt bush and the dew-laden furnace, O pure Mother; for you ineffably gave birth to Christ our incarnate God, O blessed one.

### *Ode 8*

#### *Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* In the furnace as in a crucible the children of Israel shone purer than gold with the beauty of godliness as they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

You appeared in the world like lightning bolts, O beholders of God, consuming falsehood and making children of the day those who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

With the sweet salt of your teachings, O Amplius, you cleansed the corruption of falsehood. Honouring you, we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Let glorious Stachys and Amplius, Apellius and Narcissus, Urban and wise Aristobulus be hymned, singing with faith: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* Knowing you to be a rampart, a refuge and a ladder which leads mankind to heaven, O pure one, we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

#### *Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* Christ our God, who appeared in the form of an angel in the fiery furnace of the youths who sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord; praise him and exalt him above all for ever.

Having showed crowned Epimachus as the victor over the iniquitous, you children bless, you priests praise, and you people, exalt him above all for ever.

Having given the athlete Epimachus as a physician of suffering and cruel infirmity, you children bless, you priests praise, and you people, exalt him above all for ever.

Christ who has magnified the memory of Epimachus on earth and through him has healed infirmities, you children bless, you priests praise, and you people, exalt him above all for ever.

*Theotokion* The Virgin, who ineffably conceived and gave seedless birth to Christ our God, you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt above all for ever.

*Ode 9*

*Canon of the Apostles*

*Irmos* Burning but unconsumed, the bush prefigured your pure birthgiving, O Mother of God. Therefore we now entreat you to quench in us the raging furnace of temptations, that we may never cease to magnify you.

That you might illumine with the light of the goodness of knowledge the ends of the earth, filled with the deception of the enemy and replete with the darkness of ungodliness, you sent your saving rays upon them, O compassionate one.

You are the namesake of the wheat of salvation bearing for those in need the grain which imparts confirmation of divine knowledge and eases the noetic starvation of those who with faith and love hymn you, O glorious and sacred preacher.

You were living and God-seeing heavens, O divine apostles: grant that those who honour you on earth in a pure manner and ever sincerely call you blessed may be partakers of eternal radiance.

*Theotokion* You held him who holds all things and you nurtured with milk him who gives food to all: great and awesome, and past understanding is your mystery, O virgin Mother of God, ark of precious sanctity; whom with faith we call blessed.

*Canon of the Martyr*

*Irmos* O pure Mother of God, who contained the infinite Word within you, and are more spacious than the heavens and more glorious than the cherubim: with hymns we magnify you.

As your love was perfect, you desired to die for Christ who died for us. You have been enrolled by him in his army in the highest, O martyr: with hymns we magnify him with the Father and the Spirit.

As you with faith confessed God the Saviour on earth before the impious torturers, O martyr Epimachus, you have now been crowned by him and the Father and the Spirit in the highest, in the presence of the angels.

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*Theotokion* You, the pure and glorious Virgin and Mother of God, the light-bearing cloud, the unconsumed bush who mystically appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai, we magnify in hymns.

*Exapostilarion,  
to the Special Melody Hearken, you women...*

Let godly Aristobulus, Stachys most rich, divinely wise Apellius and Narcissus, and wise Amplius and Urban now be honoured by us as apostles of Christ by whom the world has been delivered from all manner of deception.

*Theotokion* You surpass the cherubim, O highly hymned one; for you held in your embrace him who sits upon their shoulders, O Maiden who nourished him with milk as an infant: earnestly entreat him for us who hymn you as truly the Mother of God.

# **Resurrectional Theotokia**

## **Tone 1**

*Dogmatikon* Let us praise the Virgin Mary,  
who arose from the human race,  
to be the Mother of the Master,  
the glory of the world and gate of Heaven;  
hymned by the angelic hosts, she is the adornment of the faithful,  
revealed as Heaven and the temple of the divinity.  
It is she who, breaking down the middle wall of enmity,  
established peace and opened the kingdom.  
Therefore with her as the anchor of our faith,  
we receive as our defender the Lord who was born of her.  
Be of good courage, then, people of God,  
be of good courage,  
for in his almighty power he will prevail over the enemy.

*Aposticha* Behold, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in you O Virgin,  
for you have given birth  
and yet remain a virgin after your delivery as before;  
for it was God who was born of you, to restore the nature of man.  
Mother of God, do not reject the supplications  
of your servants offered in your Church,  
but as you held in your arms the compassionate Lord,  
take pity on us your servants, and pray that our souls be saved.

*Dismissal* At the sound of Gabriel's voice  
calling to you: Rejoice, O Virgin,  
the Master of all was conceived in you, the holy tabernacle,  
of which righteous David spoke.  
In bearing your creator you surpass the spaciousness of the heavens.  
~ Glory to him who dwelt in you;  
~ glory to him who came forth from you;  
glory to him who set us free by your giving of birth.

## **Tone 2**

*Dogmatikon* The shadow of the Law passed away with the coming of grace;  
for as the bush that burned was not consumed,  
so you, O Virgin have given birth while remaining a virgin.  
In place of the pillar of fire has dawned the Sun of Righteousness;  
and in place of Moses,  
we see Christ the salvation of our souls.

*Aposticha*

Here is a new wonder greater than all the miracles of old,  
for who has ever known a mother to bear a child without a man,  
and to hold in her arms him who encompasses the whole creation.  
It was the will of God to be born,  
and you, the immaculate one, carried him as an infant in your arms.  
Therefore with your maternal boldness,  
pray to him without ceasing for us who honour you,  
that he save our souls and have mercy on us.

*Dismissal*

All of your most glorious mysteries  
are beyond comprehension, O Mother of God;  
for with your purity sealed and your virginity inviolate,  
you are known to be truly the mother who has given birth to God.  
Beseech him to save our souls.

**Tone 3***Dogmatikon*

How can we not wonder, O most honoured one,  
at your bearing of both God and man?  
Without blemish and even without knowing a man,  
you have brought forth a fatherless Son in the flesh,  
begotten motherless of the Father before the ages,  
who suffered no change, mixture nor separation,  
but kept in full the identity proper to each nature.  
Therefore, O Lady, Virgin and Mother,  
entreat him to save the souls  
of those who in the true faith confess you to be the Mother of God.

*Aposticha*

By the will of the Father, through the divine Spirit  
you seedlessly conceived the Son of God  
who existed before the world began,  
begotten of the Father without a mother.  
You gave birth to him and fed with your milk as an infant  
him who for our sake was incarnate from you without a father.  
Therefore never cease to entreat him  
to deliver our souls from danger.

*Dismissal*

We sing your praises, O Virgin Mother of God  
who has mediated the salvation of our race;  
for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you  
and accepting suffering through the cross,  
has delivered us from corruption,  
as he is the lover of mankind.

## **Tone 4**

*Dogmatikon* David the prophet,  
who through you became the ancestor of God,  
raised his voice to sing in prophecy  
of the great things done for you, saying:  
The queen stands at your right hand.  
For God who was pleased to be made man of you fatherless  
has shown you to be the mother and mediator of life,  
to restore his image corrupted by the passions and save the world:  
for finding the stray sheep lost in the mountains,  
Christ takes it upon his shoulders and brings it to his Father  
and by his will unites it to the heavenly hosts, O Mother of God,  
he who has great and abundant mercy.

*Aposticha* Regard the supplications of your servants, O immaculate one:  
crush the savage assaults that beset us and calm all our distress,  
for your protection is our safe and secure anchor:  
let us not be put to shame, O Lady,  
for in you we have found an intercessor, and we call upon you.  
Speedily heed the entreaties of those who call to you in faith:  
Rejoice, O Lady, the helper of all,  
our joy and protection, and the salvation of our souls.

*Dismissal* The mystery hidden from before the ages,  
and unknown even to the angels,  
through you O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate in unconfused union,  
who willingly accepted the cross for our sake,  
and thereby raising up the first formed man  
has saved our souls from death.

## **Tone 5**

*Dogmatikon* In the Red Sea of old,  
the image of the unwedded bride was depicted:  
there Moses parted the waters;  
here Gabriel is the servant of the mystery.  
Then, Israel passed dryshod through the deep,  
while now the Virgin gives birth to Christ without seed.  
After the passing of Israel, the sea remained untrodden:  
after the birth of Emmanuel, the undefiled Virgin remains incorrupt.  
O God who existed eternally as now,  
and who has appeared as a man,  
have mercy on us.

*Aposticha* O most honoured Virgin,  
the temple and gate, the palace and throne of the king,  
through whom Christ the Lord, my deliverer,  
appeared to those bound in darkness;  
as he, the Sun of Righteousness, wished to enlighten  
his creatures formed by his hand in his image;  
as you have the boldness of a mother towards him,  
we entreat you, O exalted one,  
unceasingly implore him that our souls be saved.

*Dismissal* Rejoice, gateway of the Lord  
through which none may pass:  
rejoice, wall and protection of those who flee to you:  
rejoice, haven untroubled by storms:  
rejoice, for you have not known wedlock  
and have borne in the flesh your maker and God.  
Do not fail in your intercession  
for those who praise and worship your giving of birth.

## **Tone 6**

*Dogmatikon* Who would not call you blessed, O most holy Virgin?  
Who would not hymn your most pure maternity?  
For the only begotten Son  
who shone forth from the Father from eternity,  
came forth, ineffably incarnate from you, O pure one.  
He who by nature is God,  
for our sakes assumed the nature of man;  
not divided into two persons,  
but known in two natures without confusion.  
O pure and most blessed Lady,  
pray to him to have mercy on our souls.

*Aposticha* Christ the Lord, my creator and redeemer  
proceeded from your womb, O most sanctified Virgin;  
clothed with my flesh, he released Adam from the original curse.  
Therefore most pure one, truly the Mother of God and Virgin,  
we sing unceasingly to you the greeting of the angel:  
Rejoice, O Lady,  
intercessor, protection and salvation of our souls.

*Dismissal* He who called you his blessed mother,  
went to his voluntary suffering,  
shining forth upon the cross in his wish to recover Adam,  
and saying to the angels:  
Rejoice with me, for I have found the lost coin.  
Glory to you, O God, who has ordered all things in wisdom.

## Tone 7

*Dogmatikon* You, the Bearer of God, are known to be a mother  
who past nature remained a virgin.  
This is beyond words and understanding,  
and no tongue can describe the wonder of your maternity.  
Most glorious was your conceiving, O pure one;  
and inconceivable the manner of your giving of birth.  
For when God so wills, the order of nature is overturned.  
Therefore, knowing you to be the Mother of God,  
we all fervently beg you to pray that our souls may be saved.

*Aposticha* All we who dwell on earth take refuge  
under your protection, O Lady,  
and cry out to you: O Mother of God, our hope;  
deliver us from our countless transgressions  
and save our souls.

*Dismissal* As the exalted treasury of our resurrection,  
raise from the pit and depths of transgression those who hope in you;  
for by giving birth to our salvation  
you have saved those who are subject to sin:  
a virgin before and during giving birth,  
you have remained in virginity,  
even after giving birth.

## Tone 8

*Dogmatikon* The king of heaven in his love for man,  
appeared on earth and dwelt with mankind.  
He came forth from the pure Virgin,  
with the flesh he had received from her:  
he is the only Son,  
twofold in nature but not in persons.  
In proclaiming him truly to be perfect man and perfect God,  
we confess Christ our God.  
Beseech him, O unwedded Mother,  
to have mercy on our souls.

*Aposticha* O Virgin unwedded,  
who inconceivably conceived God in the flesh;  
receive the prayers of your servants.  
Immaculate Mother of God the Most High  
who grants cleansing of transgressions to all:  
receive our entreaty that we all may be saved.

*Dismissal*      For our sake you were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion, O good one,  
and destroyed death by death and as God revealed the resurrection.  
Forsake not those who were fashioned by your hand but show your love for mankind, O merciful one.  
Receive the intercession for us of the Mother of God who gave you birth, and save us, your despairing people, O our Saviour.

**Theotokia sung at the Verses<sup>1</sup>,  
that is, at *Lord I call to you . . and at the Aposticha,  
after Both now and for ever . . .*  
**and according to the tone of the Glory verse****

**Tone 1**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*      Creation rejoices to see within you the wonder of wonders, O full of grace; for you conceived without seed and ineffably give birth to him whom the ranks of angels cannot see: entreat him on behalf of our souls.

*Monday Lauds*                            O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*      O Mother of God, full of grace, who without being burnt conceived the divine fire; who without seed gave birth to the Lord, the source of life: save those who magnify you.

*Tuesday Lauds*                            You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*   In you we have an advocate, O most pure one, and by your supplications we are delivered from danger. Guarded in all things by the cross of your Son, we all magnify you with due reverence.

*Wednesday Lauds*                        O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins*   O Mother of God, full of grace, who without being burnt conceived the divine fire; who without seed gave birth to the Lord, the source of life: save those who magnify you.

*Thursday Lauds*                            You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*      Having gained your intercession, O most pure one, delivered from evils by your supplications, and protected wholly by the cross of your Son, we all piously give you fitting praise.

*Friday Lauds*                            O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

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<sup>1</sup> These being, with a few exceptions, the Theotokia provided in the Octoechos for the Aposticha of Vespers and Matins.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins* At the sound of Gabriel's voice | calling to you: Rejoice, O Virgin, | the Master of all things was conceived in you, the holy tabernacle, | as the righteous David said. | In bearing your creator, you surpass the spaciousness of the heavens. | ~ Glory to him who dwelt in you; | ~ glory to him who came forth from you; || glory to him who set us free by your giving of birth.

*Saturday Lauds*

You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

## **Tone 2**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins* As the source of him who is compassion, grant mercy to us, O Mother of God. Look upon us sinners and reveal your power as of old; for, trusting in you, we cry out to you, Rejoice! as once did Gabriel, the supreme commander of the bodiless ones.

*Monday Lauds*

O holy Mother of the ineffable light: we piously magnify you, honouring you with angelic hymns.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins* Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become sharers of the divine nature, since for us you gave birth to God incarnate; and so we all piously give you fitting glory.

*Tuesday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, cloud of the unwaning light, who carried the Lord of glory.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* We sing to you, the most glorious Virgin Mother of God, for through the cross of your Son, Hades has been destroyed and death put to death; we mortals have risen, and have been granted life and have received paradise, our ancient delight. Therefore, giving thanks, we glorify Christ our God who alone is mighty and most merciful.

*Wednesday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, staff from which God issued without seed, who destroyed death on the tree.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become sharers of the divine nature, since for us you gave birth to God incarnate; and so we all piously give you fitting glory.

*Thursday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, cloud of the unwaning light, who carried the Lord of glory.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins* We sing to you, the most glorious virgin Mother of God, for through the cross of your Son, Hades has been destroyed and death put to death; we mortals have arisen, and have been granted life and have received paradise, our ancient

delight. Therefore, giving thanks, we glorify Christ our God who alone is mighty and most merciful.

*Friday Lauds*                    We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, staff from which God issued without seed, who destroyed death on the tree.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*     All of your most glorious mysteries | are beyond comprehension, O Mother of God; | for with your purity sealed and your virginity inviolate, | you are known to be truly the mother who has given birth to God. || Beseech him to save our souls.

*Saturday Lauds*                    O holy Mother of the ineffable Light: we piously magnify you, honouring you with angelic hymns.

### **Tone 3**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*     Awed by the beauty of your virginity and the radiance of your purity, Gabriel called to you, the Mother of God: What worthy praise can I offer, and by what name shall I invoke you? I am in doubt and stand in awe, and as I was commanded, I raise the cry: Rejoice, O full of grace.

*Monday Lauds*                    Each of us rightly runs to where he is saved; and what other refuge can protect our souls as well as you, the Mother of God?

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Lauds*     O Mother of God who alone is blessed, our refuge and strength, the mighty help of the world: by your supplications protect your servants from every necessity.

*Tuesday Lauds*                    Each of us rightly runs to where he is saved; and what other refuge can protect our souls as well as you, the Mother of God?

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*     Having gained the cross of your Son as a staff of power, O Mother of God, therewith we cast down the arrogance of the enemy, unceasingly magnifying you with love.

*Wednesday Lauds*                    O Mother of God who alone is blessed, our refuge and strength, the mighty help of the world: by your supplications protect your servants from every necessity.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins*     The prophets proclaimed, the apostles taught, the martyrs confessed, and we believe, that you are truly the Mother of God; therefore we glorify your ineffable birthgiving.

*Thursday Lauds*                    Each of us rightly runs to where he is saved; and what other refuge can protect our souls as well as you, the Mother of God?

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins* Having gained the cross of your Son as a staff of power, O Mother of God, therewith we cast down the arrogance of the enemy, unceasingly magnifying you with love.

*Friday Lauds* O Mother of God who alone is blessed, our refuge and strength, the mighty help of the world: by your supplications protect your servants from every necessity.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins* We sing your praise, O Virgin Mother of God | who has mediated the salvation of our race; | for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you | and accepting suffering through the cross, | has delivered us from corruption, || as he is the lover of mankind.

*Saturday Lauds* The prophets proclaimed, the apostles taught, the martyrs confessed, and we believe, that you are truly the Mother of God; therefore we glorify your ineffable birthgiving.

#### **Tone 4**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins* To her, raised at the Holy of Holies in the Temple, arrayed in faith and wisdom and perfect virginity, Gabriel the supreme commander brought from heaven the salutation: Rejoice. Rejoice, O blessed one. Rejoice, most glorified one, the Lord is with you.

*Monday Lauds* Unable to hymn you worthily, O Mother of God who is more exalted than all creation, we entreat you: generously have mercy upon us.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins* To the Mother of God let us now run most earnestly, | we sinners all and wretched ones, | and fall down in repentance calling from the depths of our souls: | O Lady come to our aid and have compassion on us; | hasten for we are lost in a throng of transgressions; | turn not your servants away with empty hands, || for we hope in you alone.

*Tuesday Lauds* We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the bush unburnt, in which Moses beheld the fire of the divinity as flames.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* O immaculate Virgin Mother of Christ our God, a sword pierced your most holy soul when you saw your Son and our God voluntarily crucified: therefore, most blessed one, pray without ceasing that he grant forgiveness of our transgressions.

*Wednesday Lauds* We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the mountain, from which was ineffably cut the stone which has destroyed the gates of Hades.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* We acknowledge that Christ our God, the Word of the Father, was born of you, the Virgin Mother of God, who alone is pure and who alone is blessed. Therefore we magnify you, singing your praises without ceasing.

*Thursday Lauds*                      Unable to hymn you worthily, O Mother of God who is more exalted than all creation, we entreat you: generously have mercy upon us.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*    Immaculate Virgin Mother of Christ our God, a sword pierced your most holy soul when you saw your Son and our God voluntarily crucified: therefore, most blessed one, pray without ceasing that he grant forgiveness of our transgressions.

*Friday Lauds*                      We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the mountain, from which was ineffably cut the stone which has destroyed the gates of Hades.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*    The mystery hidden from before the ages, | and unknown even to the angels, | through you O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth: | God incarnate in unconfused union, | who willingly accepted the cross for our sake, | and thereby raising up the first formed man | | has saved our souls from death.

*Saturday Matins*                      We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the bush unburnt, in which Moses beheld the fire of the divinity as flames.

## **Tone 5**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*    With the angels of heaven and with those on earth, we cry out to you with joyful voices, O Mother of God: Rejoice, portal more spacious than the heavens. Rejoice, the only salvation of those on earth. Rejoice, O pure one, full of grace, who gave birth to the incarnate God.

*Monday Lauds*                      O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*   Show your ready assistance and mercy to your servants, O pure one; calm the waves of vain thought, and raise up my fallen soul, O Mother of God; for I know, O Virgin, that you have the power to do as you desire.

*Tuesday Lauds*                      Most holy Mother of God, the protection of Christians: as is your way, deliver your people who earnestly cry out to you; battle against our shameful and prideful thoughts, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O Ever-virgin.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*   Through the cross of your Son, O blessed by God, the deception of idolatry has been destroyed, and the power of the demons trampled down; therefore, we, the faithful, rightly hymn and bless you, acknowledging you to be truly the Mother of God.

*Wednesday Lauds*

O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* The strange and saving mystery of the Virgin has been revealed to all the world: you were born from her without seed, and showed yourself bodily without corruption. Glory to you O Lord, the joy of all.

*Thursday Lauds*

Most holy Mother of God, the protection of Christians: as is your way, deliver your people who earnestly cry out to you; battle against our shameful and prideful thoughts, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O Ever-virgin.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*

Through the cross of your Son, O blessed by God, the deception of idolatry has been destroyed, and the power of the demons trampled down; therefore, we, the faithful, rightly hymn and bless you, acknowledging you to be truly the Mother of God.

*Friday Lauds*

O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

Rejoice, gateway of the Lord | through which none may pass: | rejoice, wall and protection of those who flee to you: | rejoice, haven untroubled by storms: | rejoice, for you have not known wedlock | and have borne in the flesh your maker and God. | Do not fail in your intercession || for those who praise and worship your giving of birth.

*Saturday Lauds*

O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

## **Tone 6**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

The announcement of Gabriel to the Virgin was the beginning of our salvation; for she heard Rejoice. She did not reject or doubt the salutation, as did Sarah in the tent, but said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: let it be done to me as you have said.

*Monday Lauds*

You received the word of the Archangel, and were shown to be the throne of the Cherubim; for you carried the hope of our souls in your arms, O Mother of God.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*

O blessed virgin Mother of God the hope of the world, we implore your intercession which alone is mighty: take pity on us, who have no other intercessor; beseech the merciful God, that our souls be delivered from every threat, as you alone are blessed.

*Tuesday Lauds*

No one who has recourse to you, the most pure virgin Mother of God, departs from you ashamed; for he who asks a favour receives a gracious gift for his favourable petition.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* O Virgin Mother of God, entreat your Son Christ our God, who delivered the world from deception when he was willingly nailed to the cross, that he have mercy on our souls.

*Wednesday Lauds*

The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* O holy Lady, the pure Mother of our God, who ineffably gave birth to the creator of all: with the sacred apostles ever entreat his grace, that he deliver us from the passions and grant forgiveness of our sins.

*Thursday Lauds*

You were granted great gifts, O pure virgin Mother of God, for you gave birth in the flesh to one of the persons of the Trinity, Christ, the giver of life, for the salvation of our souls.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*

O Virgin Mother of God, entreat your Son Christ our God, who delivered the world from deception when he was willingly nailed to the cross, that he have mercy on our souls.

*Friday Lauds*

The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

Gideon foretold your conceiving, | and David proclaimed your birthgiving; | for as the dew descended upon the fleece, | so the Word descended into your womb, | and you, O holy ground, without seed produced Christ our God, the salvation of the world, || O Mother of God, full of grace.

*Saturday Lauds*

The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

## **Tone 7**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

O undefiled Virgin Mother of God, with the hosts of heaven pray to your Son that before the end comes, forgiveness of transgressions be granted to us who faithfully glorify you.

*Monday Lauds*

You have surpassed the heavenly hosts, O blessed Mother of God, for you became a divine temple, in giving birth to Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins* O Mother of God we offer you the cry Rejoice; for, having given birth to God, you have become more exalted than the angels.

*Tuesday Lauds* Through the prayers of the Mother of God impart peace to the lives of us who cry to you: Glory to you, O merciful Lord.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* Unceasing entreat Christ our God, crucified for us and destroying the dominion of death, O virgin Mother of God, that he save our souls.

*Wednesday Lauds* Deliver us from the sins which cling, O Mother of God, for we, the faithful, have no other hope but you and God who was born of you.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* O most pure one, the fruit of your womb is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law, in the knowledge of which we piously glorify you, magnifying you as the Mother of God.

*Thursday Lauds* O Bride of God, the fruit of your womb is shown to men as the mediator of salvation; and so, glorifying you with mind and tongue, we the faithful magnify you as the Mother of God.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins* Unceasing entreat Christ our God, crucified for us and destroying the dominion of death, O virgin Mother of God, that he save our souls.

*Friday Lauds* Deliver us from the sins which cling, O Mother of God, for we, the faithful, have no other hope but you and God who was born of you.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins* As the treasury of our resurrection, hymned by all, | raise from the pit and depths of transgression those who hope in you; | for by giving birth to our salvation | you have saved those who are subject to sin: | for you were a virgin before and during giving birth, | and you have remained a virgin, || even after giving birth.

*Saturday Lauds* Rejoice, O Lady who held within your womb him whom the heavens cannot hold. Rejoice, Virgin preached by the prophets, through whom Emmanuel has shone forth. Rejoice, Mother of Christ our God.

## **Tone 8**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins* Rejoice, O woman through whom the Angel received the joy of the world. Rejoice, O Virgin who gave birth to your creator and Lord. Rejoice, for you were to be the Mother of God.

*Monday Lauds* Rejoice, portal of the king of glory, through which the Most High alone passed, and which he sealed, for the salvation of our souls.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins* O faithful, let us magnify with hymns the Mother of God, the steadfast confirmation of the faith and the precious gift to our souls: Rejoice, for you

held in your womb the stone of life. Rejoice, the hope of the ends of the earth and aid of the sorrowful. Rejoice, O bride unwedded.

*Tuesday Lauds*

O most pure Virgin, with the depths of your maternal compassion, save us by your supplications to your Son and our God.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* Seeing you the lamb and shepherd and Saviour of the world upon the cross, she who gave birth to you said, weeping: The world rejoices to receive deliverance, but my womb burns at the sight of your crucifixion, which you endure for all, O my Son and God.

*Wednesday Lauds*

O most pure one, the fruit of your womb is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law, in the knowledge of which we piously glorify you, magnifying you as the Mother of God.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* O most pure Mother of God the noetic portal of life, deliver us who have recourse to you in faith, that we may glorify your most holy birthgiving, for the salvation of our souls.

*Thursday Lauds*

O most pure Virgin, with the depths of your maternal compassion, save us by your supplications to your Son and our God.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins* Seeing you the lamb and shepherd and Saviour of the world upon the cross, she who gave birth to you said, weeping: The world rejoices to receive deliverance, but inwardly I burn at the sight of your crucifixion, which you endure for all, O my Son and God.

*Friday Lauds*

The fruit of your womb, O all-pure one, is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law; therefore, glorifying you in knowledge, we piously magnify you as the Mother of God

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins* For our sake you were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion, O good one, | and destroyed death by death and as God revealed the resurrection. | Forsake not those who were fashioned by your hand but show your love for mankind, O merciful one. | Receive the intercession for us of the Mother of God who gave you birth, || and save us, your despairing people, O our Saviour.

*Saturday Lauds*

O most pure Virgin, with the depths of your maternal compassion, save us by your supplications to your Son and our God.

**Dismissal Theotokia,  
used after the Troparia of the saints at Vespers  
and again at Matins after *God is the Lord ... and at the end of Matins***

**Tone 1**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*      Creation rejoices to see within you the wonder of wonders, O full of grace; for you conceived without seed and ineffably give birth to him whom the ranks of angels cannot see: entreat him on behalf of our souls.

*Monday Lauds*                            O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*      O Mother of God, full of grace, who without being burnt conceived the divine fire; who without seed gave birth to the Lord, the source of life: save those who magnify you.

*Tuesday Lauds*                            You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*   In you we have an advocate, O most pure one, and by your supplications we are delivered from danger. Guarded in all things by the cross of your Son, we all magnify you with due reverence.

*Wednesday Lauds*                        O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins*   O Mother of God, full of grace, who without being burnt conceived the divine fire; who without seed gave birth to the Lord, the source of life: save those who magnify you.

*Thursday Lauds*                            You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*      Having gained your intercession, O most pure one, delivered from evils by your supplications, and protected wholly by the cross of your Son, we all piously give you fitting praise.

*Friday Lauds*                            O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*      At the sound of Gabriel's voice | calling to you: Rejoice, O Virgin, | the Master of all things was conceived in you, the holy tabernacle, | as righteous David said. | In bearing your creator, you surpass the spaciousness of the heavens.

| ~ Glory to him who dwelt in you; | ~ glory to him who came forth from you; || glory to him who set us free by your giving of birth.

*Saturday Lauds*

You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

## **Tone 2**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

As the source of him who is compassion, grant mercy to us, O Mother of God. Look upon us sinners and reveal your power as of old; for, trusting in you, we cry out to you, Rejoice! as once did Gabriel, the supreme commander of the bodiless ones.

*Monday Lauds*

O holy Mother of the ineffable light: we piously magnify you, honouring you with angelic hymns.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*

Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become sharers of the divine nature, since for us you gave birth to God incarnate; and so we all piously give you fitting glory.

*Tuesday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, cloud of the unwaning light, who carried the Lord of glory.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*

We sing to you, the most glorious Virgin Mother of God, for through the cross of your Son, Hades has been destroyed and death put to death; we mortals have risen, and have been granted life and have received paradise, our ancient delight. Therefore, giving thanks, we glorify Christ our God who alone is mighty and most merciful.

*Wednesday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, staff from which God issued without seed, who destroyed death on the tree.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins*

Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become sharers of the divine nature, since for us you gave birth to God incarnate; and so we all piously give you fitting glory.

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We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, cloud of the unwaning light, who carried the Lord of glory.

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We sing to you, the most glorious virgin Mother of God, for through the cross of your Son, Hades has been destroyed and death put to death; we mortals have arisen, and have been granted life and have received paradise, our ancient delight. Therefore, giving thanks, we glorify Christ our God who alone is mighty and most merciful.

*Friday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, staff from which God issued without seed, who destroyed death on the tree.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

All of your most glorious mysteries | are beyond comprehension, O Mother of God; | for with your purity sealed and your virginity inviolate, | you are known to be truly the mother who has given birth to God. || Beseech him to save our souls.

*Saturday Lauds*

O holy Mother of the ineffable Light: we piously magnify you, honouring you with angelic hymns.

### **Tone 3**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

Awed by the beauty of your virginity and the radiance of your purity, Gabriel called to you, the Mother of God: What worthy praise can I offer, and by what name shall I invoke you? I am in doubt and stand in awe, and as I was commanded, I raise the cry: Rejoice, O full of grace.

*Monday Lauds*

Each of us rightly runs to where he is saved; and what other refuge can protect our souls as well as you, the Mother of God?

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Lauds*

O Mother of God who alone is blessed, our refuge and strength, the mighty help of the world: by your supplications protect your servants from every necessity.

*Tuesday Lauds*

Each of us rightly runs to where he is saved; and what other refuge can protect our souls as well as you, the Mother of God?

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*

Having gained the cross of your Son as a staff of power, O Mother of God, therewith we cast down the arrogance of the enemy, unceasingly magnifying you with love.

*Wednesday Lauds*

O Mother of God who alone is blessed, our refuge and strength, the mighty help of the world: by your supplications protect your servants from every necessity.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins*

The prophets proclaimed, the apostles taught, the martyrs confessed, and we believe, that you are truly the Mother of God; therefore we glorify your ineffable birthgiving.

*Thursday Lauds*

Each of us rightly runs to where he is saved; and what other refuge can protect our souls as well as you, the Mother of God?

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*

Having gained the cross of your Son as a staff of power, O Mother of God, therewith we cast down the arrogance of the enemy, unceasingly magnifying you with love.

*Friday Lauds*

O Mother of God who alone is blessed, our refuge and strength, the mighty help of the world: by your supplications protect your servants from every necessity.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

We sing your praise, O Virgin Mother of God | who has mediated the salvation of our race; | for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you | and accepting suffering through the cross, | has delivered us from corruption, || as he is the lover of mankind.

*Saturday Lauds*

The prophets proclaimed, the apostles taught, the martyrs confessed, and we believe, that you are truly the Mother of God; therefore we glorify your ineffable birthgiving.

#### **Tone 4**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

To her, raised at the Holy of Holies in the Temple, arrayed in faith and wisdom and perfect virginity, Gabriel the supreme commander brought from heaven the salutation: Rejoice. Rejoice, O blessed one. Rejoice, most glorified one, the Lord is with you.

*Monday Lauds*

Unable to hymn you worthily, O Mother of God who is more exalted than all creation, we entreat you: generously have mercy upon us.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*

To the Mother of God let us now run most earnestly, | we sinners all and wretched ones, | and fall down in repentance calling from the depths of our souls: | O Lady come to our aid and have compassion on us; | hasten for we are lost in a throng of transgressions; | turn not your servants away with empty hands, || for we hope in you alone.

*Tuesday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the bush unburnt, in which Moses beheld the fire of the divinity as flames.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*

O immaculate Virgin Mother of Christ our God, a sword pierced your most holy soul when you saw your Son and our God voluntarily crucified: most blessed Lady, pray without ceasing that he grant forgiveness of our transgressions.

*Wednesday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the mountain, from which was ineffably cut the stone which has destroyed the gates of Hades.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins*

We acknowledge that Christ our God, the Word of the Father, was born of you, the Virgin Mother of God, who alone is pure and who alone is blessed. Therefore we magnify you, singing your praises without ceasing.

*Thursday Lauds*

Unable to hymn you worthily, O Mother of God who is more exalted than all creation, we entreat you: generously have mercy upon us.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*

Immaculate Virgin Mother of Christ our God, a sword pierced your most holy soul when you saw your Son and our God voluntarily crucified: therefore, most blessed one, pray without ceasing that he grant forgiveness of our transgressions.

*Friday Lauds*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the mountain, from which was ineffably cut the stone which has destroyed the gates of Hades.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

The mystery hidden from before the ages, | and unknown even to the angels, | through you O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth: | God incarnate in unconfused union, | who willingly accepted the cross for our sake, | and thereby raising up the first formed man | | has saved our souls from death.

*Saturday Matins*

We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: You are the bush unburnt, in which Moses beheld the fire of the divinity as flames.

## **Tone 5**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

With the angels of heaven and with those on earth, we cry out to you with joyful voices, O Mother of God: Rejoice, portal more spacious than the heavens. Rejoice, the only salvation of those on earth. Rejoice, O pure one, full of grace, who gave birth to the incarnate God.

*Monday Lauds*

O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*

Show your ready assistance and mercy to your servants, O pure one; calm the waves of vain thought, and raise up my fallen soul, O Mother of God; for I know, O Virgin, that you have the power to do as you desire.

*Tuesday Lauds*

Most holy Mother of God, the protection of Christians: as is your way, deliver your people who earnestly cry out to you; battle against our shameful and prideful thoughts, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O ever-virgin.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins*

Through the cross of your Son, O blessed by God, the deception of idolatry has been destroyed, and the power of the demons trampled down; therefore, we, the faithful, rightly hymn and bless you, acknowledging you to be truly the Mother of God.

*Wednesday Lauds*

O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* The strange and saving mystery of the Virgin has been revealed to all the world: you were born from her without seed, and showed yourself bodily without corruption. Glory to you O Lord, the joy of all.

*Thursday Lauds*                            Most holy Mother of God, the protection of Christians: as is your way, deliver your people who earnestly cry out to you; battle against our shameful and prideful thoughts, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O Ever-virgin.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*       Through the cross of your Son, O blessed by God, the deception of idolatry has been destroyed, and the power of the demons trampled down; therefore, we, the faithful, rightly hymn and bless you, acknowledging you to be truly the Mother of God.

*Friday Lauds*                            O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*      Rejoice, gateway of the Lord | through which none may pass: | rejoice, wall and protection of those who flee to you: | rejoice, haven untroubled by storms: | rejoice, for you have not known wedlock | and have borne in the flesh your maker and God. | Do not fail in your intercession || for those who praise and worship your giving of birth.

*Saturday Lauds*                            O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

## **Tone 6**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*       The announcement of Gabriel to the Virgin was the beginning of our salvation; for she heard Rejoice. She did not reject or doubt the salutation, as did Sarah in the tent, but said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: let it be done to me as you have said.

*Monday Lauds*                            You received the word of the Archangel, and were shown to be the throne of the Cherubim; for you carried the hope of our souls in your arms, O Mother of God.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*      O blessed virgin Mother of God the hope of the world, we implore your intercession which alone is mighty: take pity on us, who have no other intercessor; beseech the merciful God, that our souls be delivered from every threat, as you alone are blessed.

*Tuesday Lauds*                            No one who has recourse to you, the most pure virgin Mother of God, departs from you ashamed; for he who asks a favour receives a gracious gift for his favourable petition.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* O Virgin Mother of God, entreat your Son Christ our God, who delivered the world from deception when he was willingly nailed to the cross, that he have mercy on our souls.

*Wednesday Lauds* The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* O holy Lady, the pure Mother of our God, who ineffably gave birth to the creator of all: with the sacred apostles ever entreat his grace, that he deliver us from the passions and grant forgiveness of our sins.

*Thursday Lauds* You were granted great gifts, O pure virgin Mother of God, for you gave birth in the flesh to one of the persons of the Trinity, Christ, the giver of life, for the salvation of our souls.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins* O Virgin Mother of God, entreat your Son Christ our God, who delivered the world from deception when he was willingly nailed to the cross, that he have mercy on our souls.

*Friday Lauds* The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins* Gideon foretold your conceiving, | and David proclaimed your birthgiving; | for as the dew descended upon the fleece, | so the Word descended into your womb, | and you, O holy ground, without seed produced Christ our God, the salvation of the world, || O Mother of God, full of grace.

*Saturday Lauds* The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

## Tone 7

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins* O undefiled Virgin Mother of God, with the hosts of heaven pray to your Son that before the end comes, forgiveness of transgressions be granted to us who faithfully glorify you.

*Monday Lauds* You have surpassed the heavenly hosts, O blessed Mother of God, for you became a divine temple, in giving birth to Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins* O Mother of God we offer you the cry Rejoice; for, having given birth to God, you have become more exalted than the angels.

*Tuesday Lauds*

Through the prayers of the Mother of God impart peace to the lives of us who cry to you: Glory to you, O merciful Lord.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* Unceasing entreat Christ our God, crucified for us and destroying the dominion of death, O virgin Mother of God, that he save our souls.

*Wednesday Lauds*

Deliver us from the sins which cling, O Mother of God, for we, the faithful, have no other hope but you and God who was born of you.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* O most pure one, the fruit of your womb is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law, in the knowledge of which we piously glorify you, magnifying you as the Mother of God.

*Thursday Lauds*

O Bride of God, the fruit of your womb is shown to men as the mediator of salvation; and so, glorifying you with mind and tongue, we the faithful magnify you as the Mother of God.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins*

Unceasing entreat Christ our God, crucified for us and destroying the dominion of death, O virgin Mother of God, that he save our souls.

*Friday Lauds*

Deliver us from the sins which cling, O Mother of God, for we, the faithful, have no other hope but you and God who was born of you.

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

As the treasury of our resurrection, hymned by all, | raise from the pit and depths of transgression those who hope in you; | for by giving birth to our salvation | you have saved those subject to sin: | for you were a virgin before and during giving birth, | and so you have remained, || even after giving birth.

*Saturday Lauds*

Rejoice, O Lady who held within your womb him whom the heavens cannot hold. Rejoice, Virgin preached by the prophets, through whom Emmanuel has shone forth. Rejoice, Mother of Christ our God.

## **Tone 8**

*Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins*

Rejoice, O Lady through whom the Angel received the joy of the world. Rejoice, O Virgin who gave birth to your creator and Lord. Rejoice, for you were to be the Mother of God.

*Monday Lauds*

Rejoice, portal of the king of glory, through which the Most High alone passed, and which he sealed, for the salvation of our souls.

*Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins*

O faithful, let us magnify with hymns the Mother of God, the steadfast confirmation of the faith and the precious gift to our souls: Rejoice, for you held in your womb the stone of life. Rejoice, the hope of the ends of the earth and aid of the sorrowful. Rejoice, O bride unwedded.

*Tuesday Lauds*

O most pure Virgin, with the depths of your maternal compassion, save us by your supplications to your Son and our God.

*Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins* Seeing you the lamb and shepherd and Saviour of the world upon the cross, she who gave birth to you said, weeping: The world rejoices to receive deliverance, but my womb burns at the sight of your crucifixion, which you endure for all, O my Son and God.

*Wednesday Lauds*

O most pure one, the fruit of your womb is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law, in the knowledge of which we piously glorify you, magnifying you as the Mother of God.

*Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins* O most pure Mother of God the noetic portal of life, deliver us who have recourse to you in faith, that we may glorify your most holy birthgiving, for the salvation of our souls.

*Thursday Lauds*

O most pure Virgin, with the depths of your maternal compassion, save us by your supplications to your Son and our God.

*Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins* Seeing you the lamb and shepherd and Saviour of the world upon the cross, she who gave birth to you said, weeping: The world rejoices to receive deliverance, but inwardly I burn at the sight of your crucifixion, which you endure for all, O my Son and God.

*Friday Lauds*

The fruit of your womb, O all-pure one, is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law; therefore, glorifying you in knowledge, we piously magnify you as the Mother of God

*Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins*

For our sake you were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion, O good one, | and destroyed death by death and as God revealed the resurrection. | Forsake not those who were fashioned by your hand but show your love for mankind, O merciful one. | Receive the intercession for us of the Mother of God who gave you birth, || and save us, your despairing people, O our Saviour.

*Saturday Lauds*

O most pure Virgin, with the depths of your maternal compassion, save us by your supplications to your Son and our God.