

June 1

Martyr Justin the Philosopher and those with him

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 2,
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

When frosty ignorance had beset creation with hostile assault, and widespread idolatry, O glorious martyrs, you abolished this with zealous heart and the fervour of divine faith, shedding your blood with love for him who shed his blood on the cross.

When, at God's behest, you set yourselves apart for supernatural struggles, ignoring your corruptible bodies, strengthened by the power of the Most High, you were undaunted by the fire or the cutting sword; as, bending your necks before God, O blessed ones, you accepted death with joy.

Valiant athletes Peon, Valerian, Chariton and Charita, godly Justin, Evelpistus and glorious Hierax, who dyed your vesture in your divine blood and arrayed yourselves thus together: with the angels you stand before Christ the king and master of all in Heaven.

*But if Alleluia is sung Matins, the above is preceded by these verses of the Mother of God,
in the same tone and melody.*

Rejoice, star of solar radiance; rejoice, immaculate Lady, the cause of all good things; rejoice, container of the uncontainable God, and who has budded forth the grain of immortality; rejoice, divine furrow, most splendid portal; rejoice, O Lady, bringer of good, who has abolished the condemnation of our first parents.

Joy of all who sorrow and protector of the oppressed; the nurturer of the poor and comfort of the suffering; a staff for the blind and a visitor for the sick; shelter and comfort for those weakened by pain and helper of those who are orphaned: O mother of God the Most High and immaculate maiden, we pray to you to save your servants.

You are the protection and help of us Christians and a mighty refuge, O Mother of God the Most High. Now, as ever, never cease to pray with your vigilant supplication, that he save your servants from evil circumstances; for we Christians have you, with God, as our help and refuge.

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

June 1

Theotokion We have truly acquired no other mighty refuge, or pillar of strength, or insuperable fortress than you, O most pure Lady. To you we flee, and to you we cry out: Help us, O Lady, lest we perish. Bestow upon us your grace, and the glory of your might, and the magnitude of your loving kindness.

Theotokion of the Cross The unwedded one, seeing you nailed to the tree of the cross, O Jesus, weeping said: O sweet child, why have you left me, who gave you birth, the unapproachable light of the unoriginate Father? But hasten to glorify yourself, that those who glorify your divine passion may receive divine glory.

Aposticha from the Octoechos.

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. || Through their intercessions, save our souls.

Matins

Canon of the martyrs, tone 2

Ode 1

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.

Adorned with the splendour of martyrdom, O martyrs, you stand before the pure throne of the Master of all, granting release from our offences.

The pious champions of the truth, striving with unity of mind before the tyrant's tribunal, cast down the devil's deception with the power of the Spirit.

With their wounds, scars and suffering the renowned great-martyrs purchased the kingdom of Christ, wherein they now live, wearing crowns.

Theotokion Taking pity on the creation of your hands, O Lord rich in mercy, you made your abode within the unwedded Virgin, and have revealed her to us as an intercessor.

Ode 3

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.

Bearing the steadfastness of Christ in your heart, O Justin, you manfully opposed the interrogator who iniquitously commanded you to commit things unlawful.

That choir shining with divine radiance, the army of holy martyrs chosen by God, the holy assembly, are gathered now, their bodies having vanquished the bodiless foe.

The martyrs of great bravery, giving their bodies over to wounding, rejoiced to look towards the eternal delight, the radiance and glory to come.

Theotokion O light cloud of the Sun of Glory, dispel the clouds of my soul and with light guide my mind, darkened by the blackness of evil.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 5,
to the Special Melody* O Word equally unoriginate...

With loud voice let Justin and Chariton, Peon, Evelpistus and Charita, Hierax and Valerian, be praised with faith, for they are radiant beacons illuminating the ends of the earth with the beams of their struggles, as they entreat Christ that we be saved.

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

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

Theotokion of the Cross

Your Mother, O Christ, seeing you willingly hanging
upon the cross between the thieves,
said maternally, inwardly rent asunder:
O my sinless Son,
how is it that you can be unjustly nailed to the cross as a malefactor,
desiring to bring life to the human race,
as you are compassionate?

Ode 4

Irmos I have heard the report of your dispensation O Lord, and I glorify you, the one who truly loves mankind.

Through their sufferings Justin, Chariton, Charita and Peon astonished the angelic ranks: the bodies of these valiant ones, broken with wounds, have won divine blessedness.

Like noetic embers you burned away falsehood with divine fire, O martyrs, and became beacons for the world.

June 1

The princes of darkness were terrified of the courage of the unbowed martyrs Evelpistus and Hierax.

Theotokion O Virgin who received the fire of the divinity within your womb, deliver me from fire and torment.

Ode 5

Irmos O Lord, bestower of light and creator of the ages, guide us in the light of your commandments, for we know no other God than you.

Full of the divine Spirit, suffering mightily, with the torrents of your blood you choked the cruel wicked ones, O blessed Justin.

O Charita, namesake of grace, you were full of the grace of God; and disregarding your womanly weakness, you suffered lawfully and received glory.

Having graced your soul with sacred confession, you blunted the malice of the ancient foe, O athlete Chariton, precious adornment of divine passion-bearers.

Theotokion O pure one who gave birth to Christ the Saviour, who became like mortals in the excess of his rich loving kindness, entreat him as God, that he save your servants.

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.

Let us all glorify the memory of Justin and Chariton, Peon, Valerian and Charita, Hierax and Evelpistus.

You safely traversed the abyss of tortures with divine passage, O martyrs, and have reached the calm haven of the kingdom of Christ.

Illumining the honoured firmament of the Church like fixed stars, you enlighten the world with the brightness of your suffering.

Theotokion O Lady, Mother of God, deliver me from endless blindness, who is held fast by many offences and deserving the fire of Gehenna.

Kontakion, tone 2

The whole Church of God is armed
with the wisdom of your divine words, O Justin,
and with the radiance of your life it illumines the world:
having received a crown through the outpouring of our blood,
standing with the angels before Christ pray unceasingly for us all.

Ode 7

Irmos The wise children would not worship the golden body, but having entered the flame themselves they mocked their gods. In the midst of the flame they cried out and an angel bedewed them, saying: The prayer of your mouth has already been heard.

Having dried up the abyss of falsehood with the flow of your blood, you flow with torrents of miracles, extinguishing the burning embers of evil passions, O martyrs, for those who ever cry: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

With the fire of your love for the divinity, O wise ones, with valiant mind you consumed the tinder of evil; and, shining with the brightness of fire, you illumine the hearts of all who piously cry: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Adorned with the wisdom of God, through grace wise Justin showed the wisdom of the Greeks to be foolishness, convincing them to worship the Trinity and to cry out in the Orthodox manner: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O honoured Virgin, the pure and blessed one who knew not wedlock, the raising of the fallen and forgiveness of sinners: save me, the prodigal, who cries out to your Son: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

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.

Slowly tried in torture as in a fiery furnace, O passion-bearers of the Lord, you truly shone with greater lustre than gold, singing: Let us exalt Christ above all for ever.

Let Charita and Chariton be hymned with wise Justin and Peon, the great Hierax and Valerian, who drove falsehood away by their suffering and have joined the choirs of the angels.

Led to life everlasting, O wise martyrs, with valiant resolve you bowed your necks beneath the sword with unanimous soul, offering yourselves to God as sacrifices.

Theotokion As the fountain of him of life, as you gave birth to the water of life, O Virgin Mother of God, give drink to my soul, which withers under the flame of sin, that I may glorify you for ever.

Ode 9

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.

June 1

Resplendent with divine glory, O valiant athletes, you destroyed the shame of deception and shared in the sacred sufferings of him who for our sake assumed the flesh; and you rejoice with him eternally in heaven.

The angels truly marvelled at the wisdom of Justin, the courage of Charita, the boldness of Chariton, the valiant struggle of Peon and Hierax, and Valerian's great endurance of torture.

Gloriously mounting your blood as a divine chariot, O wise ones, you joyously soared aloft to heaven, and received crowns from the hand of the bestower of life, praying unceasingly for us.

Theotokion O pure unwedded Virgin who in a manner past recounting gave birth to the Word, rescue us from perils, from misfortunes, from soul-corrupting harm and the passions, from the eternal flame and condemnation.

June 2

Our father among the Saints, Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these in tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

O divinely inspired one, manifest in sanctity, * we know you to be the ground of the truth, * the confirmation of the faith, * the expounder of dogmas, * the advocate of piety, * the abode of purity, * the chosen receptacle, the sweet fragrance of the Spirit, * the great treasury of doctrines, * the foundation of the Church of Christ.

O wise, blessed and holy hierarch, * we praise you, the successor of the apostles, * who shared in the ways of the martyrs, * the emulator of the fasters, * the seal of teachers, * the divine model, * the initiate of the mysteries of Christ, * the divinely flowing river of understanding, * drowning the thoughts of the iniquitous and blasphemous.

Having increased the talent of wisdom, * O father most rich, * you were granted the joy of your Lord. * Adorned with the grace * of divine radiance, * and shining noetically with the glory of the Spirit, * you stand now at the right hand of the bestower of life, * ever illumined, O glorious one, * with the rays that emanate therefrom.

*And 3 verses, tone 8,
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O venerable father, * as a hierarch of the law of God * you entered within the divine and impassable tabernacle of the truth, * which the Lord erected, * not with another's blood, but with your own, * and emulating Christ * in not submitting to the vengeance of the council, * you thereby pleased God utterly, O father.

Adorned with your words and deeds, * with your episcopal vesture * and the rightness of your doctrine, * O wise Nicephorus, who nurtures with wisdom, * wasted away by imprisonment * you receive them through your confession, * and zealously endured * all the evils which beset you * with strength of mind, O blessed one.

You were proven to be an instrument of the Spirit, * sounded on high by divinely inspired voices, * trumpeting the ineffable mystery of the Saviour, * as a divine clarion * truly renowned, * proclaiming aloud the incarnation of the Word to us, * which is beyond comprehension * and transcends all minds and thoughts, * O father most honourable.

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

Theotokion Save me, O most pure Lady, * who ineffably gave birth to Christ the Saviour; * for I have gained you as my sole intercessor, * an insuperable rampart, * my protection and joy, * and divine consolation of my soul. * Deliver me from the unsleeping worm * and from the eternal fire, * O Mother of Christ our God.

Theotokion of the Cross When she saw you, O Jesus, * nailed upon the cross, * willingly accepting suffering, * your virgin Mother, O Master, cried out: * Woe is me, my Son, so sweet * How is it that you endure unjust wounding, * O physician who cures the infirmity of man * and delivers all from corruption * in your loving kindness?

Troparion, 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 Nicephorus, pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos; and that of the holy hierarch, tone 4,
composed by Theophanes
upon the acrostic* With songs I hymn victorious Nicephorus

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 mightily proved your active vision to be an ascent, O Nicephorus most rich; for you actively called your soul and excellently soared aloft to the uttermost vision.

Having mortified earthly-mindedness by abstinence and guided your soul with zeal, O divinely inspired Nicephorus, you reached the havens of undisturbed delight.

Wretched and mindless Leo, infected with the heresy of Mamon, dashed himself against you as against a hard rock, O God-pleasing Nicephorus, and was quickly broken down in Hades.

Theotokion Immaculate Bride of God, in giving birth to the creator you healed the broken state of mankind, raising us cast down through the fall of our first parents.

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, the lover of mankind.

Having adorned your life with your virtues, you became a beacon of the Word of life and a guardian tending the sacred flock of Christ.

Your divinely eloquent tongue of fire has burned away the thorns of heresy with the fire of understanding, O divinely wise and glorious father.

Having plumbed the depths with your love of wisdom, O wondrous father, with the cords of your doctrines you strangled those who rejected the image of Christ.

Theotokion Confessing as equally unoriginate with the pre-eternal Father the Son born of you in latter times, O most pure Lady, we truly glorify you as the Mother of God.

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

The grace of your wise discourses and the loftiness of your mystic teachings have become a ladder of divine ascent for us; for you acquired a spiritual trumpet, O father, with which you announced divine doctrines. You have made your abode in a place of verdure and have driven the wild beast away with the sling of your words, O blessed Nicephorus. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your precious memory.

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

With divine power, O father great in sanctity, you stopped the jaws of the impious, vanquishing them with your steadfast discourse, teaching all to venerate the divine image of the Saviour.

You splendidly adorned the divine priesthood by your confession, subduing the savagery of Leo, O father Nicephorus, God-pleasing servant of ineffable mysteries.

Fighting like a youth with the pious teachings of the honourable Church, O Nicephorus, with wounds inflicted by your words you drove away the wolves who betrayed the right faith.

Theotokion In giving birth to God the incarnate Word, who before was incorporeal, O immaculate Lady, you restored the world: O Bride of God, we honour you with Orthodox faith.

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.

Possessed of a pure mind ascending to heaven, O blessed father, you grasped the never-fading flower of understanding and wisdom.

You let fall the healing of your words upon the souls of the Orthodox, O divinely revealed one, and by your teachings overturned the ground of the ignorant.

Shining like the sun, your discourse active and your life inviolate, you illumine the foundation of the honoured Church.

Theotokion O immaculate Lady, you were the annulment of the condemnation of our first mother, having conceived him who has crowned us with divine blessings.

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.

Shining radiantly with spiritual rays, O divinely wise one, you have appeared to the Churches as an upright pillar and cloud leading to a heavenly inheritance.

You dedicated your whole life to God, and, remaining a leader for the whole world, you were glorified, O blessed father manifest in sanctity.

Your divinely inspired discourse cut apart the bonds of ungodly heresies with the two-edged sword of the Comforter, and have shown the light of truth to all.

Theotokion Most gloriously have the laws of nature been set aside; for a virgin has given birth and an unwedded maiden, having conceived the creator and Lord of all, has nourished him.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the special Melody You have appeared...*

As you have received a crown of victory from God in heaven, O Nikephorus, save those who honour you with faith as a hierarch of Christ and teacher.

Ikos The great hierarch stood, set like an unassailable city of God upon a mountain, protecting the world with his prayers and conquering hordes of the ungodly; and he remained unharmed, untouched by the bolts of the enemy, bearing the king and Lord of all in his heart. He illumines those who venerate Christ in his icons, for from the heights of the virtues and the tower of good works, with his sling he rained down stones upon the hordes of the enemy, yet mercifully opened its gates for those who with faith hymn him as a hierarch of Christ and teacher.

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.

We know you to be a living temple of the living God, having the understanding of the Trinity within you as a lamp. Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

You demolished the blasphemies of the heretics, O Nicephorus, convincing to venerate the icon of Christ those who sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Possessing a wealth of wisdom and a godly life, you noetically transformed your senses, and now you converse with Christ, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Theotokion Without dividing or confusing that which is united, we glorify the one Christ, the Word incarnate of you, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

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.

Delivered by the blood of Christ, you underwent death in mind for his sake; for you endured torment of conscience, shining with the grace of confession, crying: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

June 2

Purified in body and soul, with words you sacrificed to the all-seeing Word, showing him as having first been incorporeal and unoriginate, but later incarnate in his mercy; as you sang: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

That you might receive a heavenly inheritance and immutable glory, O glorious and wise father, you forsook fleeting glory, valiantly enduring exile and affliction, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Immaculate Lady, the noetic Bridegroom found you alone to be a pure turtledove, a most fragrant lily, an all-comely flower and a splendid bridal-chamber; and he led you forth as his bride: we hymn and exalt you above all as Virgin 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.

When shadowy reflections passed away and the truth was made manifest, you found a blessed end through the vision of incorrupt beauty; and delighting now therein, remember us in your supplications.

Surrounding the divine shrine of God-bearing Nicephorus, come, Christians, let us earnestly hymn him as victor, and with gladness celebrate his festival.

Having grasped every virtue, O hieromartyr, at the end of your struggles you were adorned with the crown of confession, with which you stand now before your Master.

Theotokion Knowing you as the root, fount and cause of incorruption, O Virgin, we the faithful honour you with praises, for you poured upon us him who is immortality.

Exapostilarion, to the Special Melody When the disciples beheld...

As an excellent victor over the passions, O Nicephorus, you have received a twofold crown from Christ the Saviour; for, casting down the God-opposing heresy of those who reject the divine icons, O wise hierarch, you were a champion of athletes of piety: O blessed father, pray for us who honour you.

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

Theotokion Without leaving the bosom of the Father, you were incarnate of the Virgin, O Lord; for, bowing down the heavens, you descend to save fallen man, desiring to rescue from the mouth of the noetic beast we who are held in his clutches: delivered, we glorify your power.

June 3

Martyr Lucillian and those with him

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 1,
to the Special Melody O most praised martyrs...*

The cruel children of those who put the Lord to death, * consumed with envy, * betrayed you, O glorious one; * but, invincibly brave, * you have received the delight of paradise, * O Lucillian. * Therefore pray * that Christ grant to our souls * peace and great mercy.

The sacred children * and glorious and holy Paula, * the truly wondrous martyr, * who submitted to you as to their father, * suffered steadfastly with you; * and with them you now dwell in heaven. * Entreat Christ, * that he grant to our souls * peace and great mercy.

Your shrine ever flows * with the waters of healing for those who have recourse thereto, * O much-suffering martyr; * and washes away sufferings * and drowns hordes of demons * through the activity of the Holy Spirit. * Therefore pray * that he grant to our souls * peace and great mercy.

*If Alleluia is sung Matins, the above is preceded by these verses of the Mother of God,
in the same tone and melody.*

Rejoice, O pure one, of strange report; * rejoice, O holy portal, * garden of paradise planted by God. * Rejoice, destruction of evils demons; * rejoice, two-edged sword * severing the head of the enemy * by your strange birthgiving. * O most holy and immaculate Lady, * call us back who have wandered astray.

O most holy Lady, * heal my soul * sick with wicked passions, * for you gave birth to Christ, * the healer and Saviour of all, * who heals every wound * inflicted by the devil's malice, * and rescues us from death.

O most holy temple of God, * more spacious than the heavens * and holier than the cherubim, * O divinely joyous and most holy Maiden, * fill my mind with grace * and illumine the eyes of my heart, * granting me forgiveness of all offences * by your truly acceptable mediations.

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

Theotokion Woe is me, for what shall I become, * having defiled mind, soul and body * with my transgressions? * What shall I do? * How shall I bear the unbearable flame * and the unbreakable and everlasting bonds? * O immaculate Lady, * before the end entreat your Son, * that he grant me remission.

Theotokion of the Cross Our Lady, the unblemished lamb and mother, * seeing her lamb upon the cross, * bereft of form and beauty, * lamenting, said: Woe is me; * for where has your beauty gone, O most sweet one? * Where is your splendour? * Where is the beauteous grace of your image, * O my most beloved Son?

*No Troparion for these martyrs is provided,
but this may be used, tone 4*

In their suffering, 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

*Canon of the martyrs, tone 8,
upon the acrostic I hymn the glory of the martyr Lucillian*

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.

I hymn you, O Lucillian, the favourite of God the Word and the glory of the martyrs: by your supplications grant me cleansing of evils and healing.

With all your mind and soul you wholly cleaved to the love of Christ, O wise one, and rejected the falsehood and weakness of idolatry.

Preferring the dishonour of the tyrant to all earthly glory, O divinely blessed one, you inherited the glory of heaven which ages not.

Theotokion You are the ladder which Jacob saw, O Mother of God; for through you the Word united himself to those on earth and has drawn human nature up to the heights.

Ode 3

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.

Of old Judas betrayed Christ the deliverer to the deicides; and now you have been betrayed to the iniquitous Jews.

The deceiver, striving to lead you astray with flattering words, O athlete, by your words appears as if stoned with rocks.

You were a luminous beacon for those who suffered with you, radiantly guiding them to the divine paths of heavenly delight.

Theotokion By your boldness before him who was born of you, O Lady, move him to be merciful to me on the day of judgment.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Your tomb, O Saviour...

Coming to the fire, you were in no way burnt,
O valiant-minded athlete Lucillian;
for you acquired the cooling dew of God,

in manner transcending nature.
With your holy children you finished your struggles, rejoicing.
With them remember us.

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

Theotokion

Most holy Virgin, the hope of Christians,
unceasingly implore God,
to whom you gave birth in manner past understanding and telling,
that he grant remission of our sins to us who hymn you
and correction of life to us
who ever glorify you with faith and love.

Or Theotokion of the Cross

The immaculate Mother, beholding you, O Christ,
stretched out dead upon the cross, cried out:
O my Son, co-unoriginate with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
what is this indescribable activity,
whereby you save the work of your most pure hands?

Ode 4

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

Having shone forth in your words, you illumine the world with your sufferings; for you dispelled the opposition of the tyrants as though it were insubstantial gloom.

By your faith you appeared as a new Abraham, like him who of old was justified in Christ; for recognizing your creator, you spurned all vanity.

Having acquired you as a destroyer of falsehood and a physician of painful passions, O glorious martyr, we the faithful ever delight in your healings.

Theotokion The mystery of your birthgiving is past all understanding, O Ever-virgin; for, having conceived God, you gave birth to him at his ineffable word.

Ode 5

Irmos Enlighten us through your commandments, O Lord; and with your upraised arm grant us your peace, O lover of mankind.

O Christ, the true physician of souls and bodies, through the entreaties of the martyrs heal the pangs of my suffering.

You were revealed as a sacred flower through the activity of the Spirit, O glorious martyr, showing fruitfulness in your sufferings.

Having the words of life in your heart, O wise and glorious one, by your opposition you mortified the threats of the tyrants.

Theotokion Having you as an insuperable rampart, a refuge and foundation, our hope and divine weapon, O pure Mother of God, we are saved.

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.

Mystically elevating the divine desire of your soul, you boldly hastened to the withering fire, and with the dew of the Spirit you and the children were cooled, O blessed athlete.

Strengthened by your exhortations, the wise martyr Paula courageously opposed the deceiver and received a crown of righteousness from the hand of Christ, the judge of the contest.

The enemy could not bear to see you unbowed, like the immovable mountain of Sion, for he was disgraced and cast down to the ground by you, O divinely wise Paula, and was trampled underfoot in the arena.

Theotokion You truly conceived the divine Word and supernaturally gave birth to him, O most pure Lady: by your supplications render him merciful, that he deliver your servants from misfortune.

No Kontakion is provided for these martyrs

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.

With Paul you cried out, O Martyr: What can separate me from the love of Christ? Neither tribulation, nor affliction, nor wounds, nor the sword: as you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You set your feet upon the rock of your divine confession, as one unshaken by the turmoil of tribulations, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion We have been delivered from passions and misfortunes, from evil circumstances and various afflictions, by your entreaties, O most pure virgin Mother of God, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Irmos The king of heaven who is hymned by the angelic hosts; praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Truly planted by divine waters by your faith in the Lord, you appeared as if a life-bearing tree, O blessed one.

Adorned with the beauty of their precious confession of the Lord, the athletes have fittingly received crowns from heaven.

Theotokion O Mother of God, raise me up who is bowed down by pain and fallen, that I may glorify you for ever.

Ode 9

Irmos We magnify you, the immaculate Mother of Christ our God, whom the Holy Spirit overshadowed.

Beholding the martyrs of Christ as fragrant flowers of the noetic garden of paradise, we magnify them today with praises.

The martyrs, truly appearing as luminaries of the Church of Christ our God, shine with the light of their confession.

O lover of mankind who has healed the pangs of suffering through the prayer of the passion-bearers, heal also my pangs.

Theotokion Immaculate Lady, we the faithful have gained you as a protecting fortress and a calm haven; and through you we have been saved.

June 4

Our father among the Saints Metrophanes, Patriarch of Constantinople

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 6,
to the Special Melody Having set aside all...*

You are seen as a God-bearer * wholly consecrated, * the holy anointed of God, * clad in the Holy Spirit, * ever entering with splendour * the holy of holies, * illumined with divine radiance, * partaking of the grace of the holy mysteries * as a true and glorious hierarch, * praying with boldness * for our souls.

Your life was illumined * with the radiance of the virtues, * enlightening the faithful * and driving away the darkness of falsehood; * for you appeared as the bright sun of the truth, * O blessed and holy hierarch Metrophanes. * Now you have made your abode * where shines the never-waning light, * made a child of the day through the grace of the Holy Spirit. * As we gloriously celebrate * your divine and luminous memory, * we honour you with love, O ever-memorable father.

Your mind made beautiful by faith * and through yearning for God, O divine wise one, * you appeared as one radiant. * Having learned incorruption in your mortal and corruptible body, * you acquired the splendours of the incorporeal ones, * becoming a stranger to pleasures, * adorned with dispassion, * O wise father and hierarch Metrophanes, * the radiant lamp * and intercessor for those who honour your memory with love.

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

Theotokion Rejoice, O fulfillment of the law. * Rejoice, incorrupt bride, the temple of the Holy Trinity. * Rejoice, divine chariot of the king of all. * Rejoice, immaterial fire, * bearing the burning ember in you arms * as with tongs, * O new paradise of him who closed the garden of Eden, * O divine and all-radiant table, * undefiled dove, * throne of the Most High, * noetic bower of God, * O Maiden whom the Holy Spirit overshadowed.

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, 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 Metrophanes, pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and this canon of the holy hierarch, tone 6,
upon the acrostic I sing the glory of the great Metrophanes.*

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.

Standing with the heavenly choirs as a holy hierarch and servant of God, pray earnestly for us, that by your supplications we may receive eternal good things.

Chosen to serve the honoured Gospel of the Lord, O blessed father Metrophanes, with your wise teachings you caused men to grow in goodly understanding.

Enriched with the understanding of God, you poured the word of life from your heart, watering souls hardened by the passions, O wise and blessed Metrophanes, hierarch of God.

Theotokion From afar the sacred choir of prophets revealed you as the one who would become the Mother of God, O pure one, more exalted than the cherubim and all creation.

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.

Letting divine sweetness fall from your lips, O father, you dried up the flow of bitter godlessness, giving the pious the understanding of God to drink.

Chosen by the judgment of God, O father Metrophanes, you were made a hierarch, offering unbloody sacrifices to God who was sacrificed for our sake.

The tomb where your precious body rests pours sweet fragrance as if it were the garden of God, perfuming the faithful, O glorious and honourable Metrophanes.

Theotokion The mind of man cannot grasp the ineffable depth of your maternity, O pure one; for God, abasing himself in compassion, has wholly renewed me within you.

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

You powerfully preached the faith of Christ, and preserving it, you truly caused your faithful flock to grow into a multitude. Therefore, you rejoice with the angels, O Metrophanes, entreating Christ unceasingly for us all.

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

Having gained dominion over carnal passions, you proved to be a godly hierarch, venerable and divinely inspired; and gloriously shepherded the imperial city, driving away the hordes of heretics with the staff of your divine words. After your end you worthily inherited endless grace, O blessed and holy hierarch, and so we cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your precious 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

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.

Full of the Holy Spirit, O sacred father Metrophanes, you drove evil spirits out from men and by your spiritual teaching you have rendered them faithful.

You theologized concerning the uncreated unity indivisible in three persons, inseparable and unconfused, illumining the pious with your sacred theology.

June 4

Having first mortified carnal thoughts by asceticism and labour, you proved to be a godly hierarch and sacred intercessor before the Trinity.

Theotokion Through you, the most pure Mother of God, the curse of our first mother has been annulled, for you gave birth for us to the fountain of holiness, to life everlasting.

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.

Performing the divine mysteries in a godly manner and touching pure things with most pure mind, you served God as one immaculate, as a sacred hierarch of God.

Adherents of idolatry became favourites of God through your honoured teaching; and, removing them from unworthy things, you proved to be a worthy favourite of Almighty God.

Called by grace, you destroyed the ungodliness of idolatry, O venerable father, and with the rain of your discourse you rendered stony hearts fruitful through the grace of God.

Theotokion After your strange birthgiving you remained a virgin as you were before; for God was born, transforming all things by his will, O Mary, unwedded Bride of God.

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 tongue, wisely sharpened by the Spirit like the pen of a scribe, inscribed the words of grace upon the hearts of the pious at the behest of God, O sacred father.

Learning things divine through entering the mystic sanctuary, with the radiance of the Trinity and by the Spirit you rendered men faithful, O sacred father, most perfect Metrophanes.

Closing off the turgid commands of the impious with the stream of your precepts, you were like a river of peace, watering the congregations of the faithful with piety, O honoured and holy hierarch.

Theotokion Without seed the Word made his abode within you and revealed himself as perfect man, restoring nature in godly manner, as he alone knew how to do, O God-receiving and immaculate Maiden.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have appeared today...*

From childhood you were seen to be a precious vessel, becoming a chosen hierarch of God, and to him you cry out in gladness: O Christ, you are equal to the Father and the Spirit.

Ikos Such a high priest is fitting for us, a participant and servant of the Word, as the divine Paul, the instrument of Christ, cries out; as one blameless and honourable, ever offering service to God. Though seen to be clad in a corrupt body, he conversed in service with the bodiless ones, removing the offences of the people with a just scale. And now, as a great hierarch, Metrophanes has appeared among us, preaching with boldness: O Christ, you are equal to the Father and the Spirit.

Ode 7

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.

Illumined with the grace of the Spirit, by participating in the will of God, you became a radiant star, O wise one, enlightening those who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The uncreated Trinity living within you, O sacred one, illumined you in virtuous deeds, illumining the holy Church to sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Driving slumber from your eyes with divine wakefulness, you received the radiance of God from an angel of light, making of you a pillar and support of the faithful, a true holy hierarch.

Theotokion The unconfined one who sits in the bosom of the Father, now sits, confined, at your bosom, clad in your form, having become confined for the salvation of Adam.

Ode 8

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.

You laid low the prideful serpent by your lowliness, O blessed one, being raised to God by your pure mind: we honour you, exalting Christ above all for ever.

You theologized concerning the incarnate Word, and saved men from slavery to falsehood, driving away the impiety of idolatry, O Metrophanes, wise hierarch and God-bearing father.

Having a life like that of your Master, and discourse befitting such a life, you passed over to the place of rest on high, O father, full of the spiritual days.

Theotokion Delivered from the primal curse by your birthgiving, O most blessed and divinely joyous Maiden, we sing to you the cry of Gabriel: Rejoice, cause of the salvation of all.

Ode 9

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.

As one meek and innocent have come to dwell in the land of the meek, O holy hierarch, joining the armies of heaven, wholly adorned with the splendour of the virtues and clad in the light of holiness.

You see the splendour of God and the angels and the beauties of the patriarchs, martyrs and apostles, with them entreating him who loves mankind, that he grant remission of sins and amendment of life to us who praise you, O venerable one.

Firstly you splendidly adorned the throne of the foremost of cities, having lived there like an angel, adorning it with you episcopate, where anointing, you sanctified the people, rendering them divinely wise.

Theotokion Like a heavenly rain God descended into you, O Virgin, and dried up the torrents of falsehood, raining down incorruption upon all men, for deliverance has been granted us through you, O divinely joyous Lady.

June 5

Hieromartyr Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,
to the Special Melody Your martyrs, O Lord...*

You are seen as the tablet of the Spirit of God, O divinely blessed father, bearing the doctrines of God engraved upon your divine mind, and in disclosing them you illumined those who languished in ignorance: by your supplications, O father, entreat great mercy for us all.

Having dyed your priestly raiment in the streams of your divine blood, O Dorotheus, you rejoiced to enter the temple of heaven, to appear before our God, who bestows crowns upon those who have suffered. Earnestly entreat him, that he impart great mercy to us all.

Angelic was your life and splendid your martyrdom, for which you were brought to dance in joy with the angels, O father Dorotheus, illumining the land with divine miracles and teachings: in your entreaties ask God to grant great mercy to us all.

*If Alleluia is sung Matins, the above is preceded by these verses of the Mother of God,
in the same tone and melody.*

Rescue me from the hands of the serpent, the slayer of men, who through deception engages me in mortal combat, O Lady. Crush his jaws, I pray, and destroy his wiles, that, delivered from his claws, I may magnify your power.

I am a barren tree devoid of the fruit of salvation, O immaculate Lady. Therefore, I tremble at the thought of being cut down, lest, in my wretchedness, I be cast into the unquenchable fire. I fall down before you and pray: Deliver me from such a fate, and make me fruitful, O pure one, by your mediation before your Son.

The deadly sting of desire has pierced my heart, and wounded by ignorance, I am in incurable pain. O Mother of God, forsake me not, wretch though I be, but grant me healing, in that you gave birth to the Lord and Saviour who alone is compassionate.

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

Theotokion My mind is impure, my mouth deceitful, and my deeds defiled: what then shall I do? How shall I meet the judge? O virgin Lady, entreat your Son, who alone is the compassionate creator and Lord, that he accept my soul in repentance.

Theotokion of the Cross Beholding her son as a sacrificial victim nailed to the tree of his own will, the Mother cried out, lamenting bitterly: Woe is me, O most beloved child. How can the ungrateful assembly of the Jews reward you thus, desiring to leave me bereft of you, O most beloved?

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, || Hieromartyr Dorotheus entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Matins

*Canon of the hieromartyr, tone 8,
composed by Joseph,
upon the acrostic* I honour you as the gift of God, O blessed father.

Ode 1

Irmos Let us sing to the Lord, who led his people through the Red Sea, for he alone has gloriously been glorified.

By your perfect life and honourable martyrdom you presented yourself to God as a precious gift, O blessed Dorotheus.

Pressing your thoughts like ripe grapes, O father, you presented your teachings to the faithful as a cup of gladness.

With the torrent from your wise tongue you stopped the streams of falsehood, O Dorotheus, and watered the minds of the faithful.

Theotokion Rain down upon me drops of remorse, O Virgin, washing away the defilement which clings to me, that I may glorify you.

Ode 3

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 dispelled the night of vanity with the brilliance of your wise preaching, O holy hierarch and father.

With miracles and sacred teachings you made firm the minds of the faithful, O wise one, as a sacred pastor.

The Lord anointed you with the oil of consecration, O father, ordaining you a chief shepherd of his divine Church.

Theotokion Illumine my heart with divine light, O portal of the light, driving away the darkness of sin.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 3,
to the Special Melody* Of the divine faith...

Ever glorious with divine dogmas,
you offered yourself to the immortal king
as a holy gift, O Dorotheus, having suffered;
and now in gladness you ever dwell in the city on high.
O venerable father, entreat Christ our God,
that he grant us great mercy.

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

Theotokion Without separating yourself from the divine essence when he took flesh within you, the one Lord remained God when he became man, preserving you, his virgin Mother, immaculate even after giving birth, as you were before. Earnestly beseech him to grant us great mercy.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb, the incorrupt virgin mother of the Word, beholding him born from her without pain suspended upon the cross, cried out, lamenting maternally: Woe is me, O my child. How is it that you willingly suffer, desiring to deliver man from the indignity of the passions?

Ode 4

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

You reviled the winter of ungodliness which had arisen, O venerable one, and with the fervour of the divine Spirit you preserved your heart unharmed.

The heights of the demons' violence were reduced to dust before your face, O blessed Dorotheus, and the arrogance of impious men withered away.

Persecuted and driven from city to city, you endured; therefore, you received the blessed glory and splendour of the martyrs.

Theotokion Save me from the violence of temptations and soul-destroying passions, that with faith I may call you blessed, O most holy virgin Maiden and Mother.

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.

Gazing noetically toward divine rewards, O Dorotheus, you endured great tribulations and trials.

Preaching the Trinity in the unity of the Godhead, O Dorotheus, you destroyed the vainglorious arrogance of the madness of polytheism.

Refusing to worship the works of the hands of the iniquitous, O martyr Dorotheus, you endured trials, tribulations, wounds and pangs.

Theotokion You were the dawning of him who is the sun shining before the morning star, O pure one, and through you those who were in the darkness of evils see the light.

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.

Through the inspiration of the Spirit, O Dorotheus, you acquired a burning heart which destroyed the onslaught of the adverse spirits.

With sacred writings you set forth the lives of the saints, O divinely inspired father, enlightening your soul with divine understanding.

The sound of your words and the power of your beautiful teachings have passed round about the world with divine grace, O blessed one.

Theotokion O Virgin, entreat God, to whom gave birth as a man, that he deliver me from fire and torment.

Kontakion, tone 5

Resplendent with virtues brighter than the sun
and with your sufferings, O blessed Dorotheus,
you shone forth and illumined the land,
dispelling the darkness of polytheism and vile heresy;
and therefore we celebrate you memory with splendour.

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.

You were a star of great brilliance, O Dorotheus, illumining with the radiance of your sufferings the souls of those who sing with faith: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Treading the straight paths, you felled the groves of the deceiver, guiding to the paths of life those who sing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

With the showers of your blood you extinguished the furnace of deception, O glorious one; and made your abode by the waters of life, singing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Theotokion Deliver my wretched soul from the bonds of sin, O Mother of God, and bind it perfectly to the love of God, that with faith I may glorify you for ever.

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.

Having humbled yourself in the Lord, O father, you laid low the serpent who boasted in malice; and you cried: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

When at an advanced age, you were brought by the creator to dwell in places of rest not subject to age, O sacred father, adornment of martyrs.

Possessed of an angelic life, you stand with the angels before the throne of your Master, crying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion Having given birth to the comely Word, you appear as a comely virgin: to him we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Ode 9

Irmos The birth giving of the Ever-virgin, foretold to the lawgiver in the fire and the bush on the mountain, for the salvation of us the faithful, with undying hymnody let us magnify.

You guided the flock of Christ to the divine havens, having protected them unharmed by the storm of the adversary, as an excellent hierarch and a fulfiller of the commandments of God, O wise father.

June 5

As a pure celebrant of the sacred mysteries, a valiant martyr, a wondrous worker of miracles, a recorder of divine things, an unshakable pillar of the faith, O father, you have received eternal glory.

Having endured many trials and pangs in the tribunal, you passed over, rejoicing, to the divine life which is devoid of pain, where you partake of divinity in a pure manner, O wondrous martyr Dorotheus.

Your divinely radiant memory enlightens the world, illuminating the faithful with rays of divine gifts: O father, may we who glorify it be partakers also of your divine radiance.

Theotokion Bearing in your arms Christ who bears all things in his divine hand, O pure one, ever entreat him, that he receive the offerings of our hands as incense before his face.

June 6

Venerable father Bessarion the wonder-worker, and Venerable Hilarion the New of the Dalmatian Monastery

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these 3 of Venerable Bessarion, tone 8,
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

You were a light for monastics, O wise Bessarion, * as by the rays of your virtues *
and the shining of grace * you were a radiant lamp for those in the desert. * From the
gloom of the passions and the darkness of wickedness, * from all sorrow and temptation, *
deliver those who fervently honour you * and hymn with faith * your divine repose.

Enduring the thorns in which you stood * in your divine love * of ineffable
struggles, * you showed an effort equal to that of the martyrs. * You sweeten the bitter
waters of the sea * and give drink to thirsting souls, O wise one. * You traversed the
rushing torrents of the Nile, * passing over its waters dryshod, * O exalted father.

Knowing you to be like wise Elias, * we mightily praise you, father Bessarion, * for
you caused torrents of water to fall as rain from the sky * through God's mercy to you, *
and by your honoured supplications * you bestow fountains of rain and divine dew * from
on high upon the faithful * as well as grace and power * and invincible protection.

*And 3 verses for Venerable Hilarion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given as sign...*

Having attained a life undefiled, * patience, meekness and love unfeigned, *
boundless abstinence, * standing all night, * divine remourse, * faith, true hope and
mercy, * you lived on earth like an angel in the body, * O blessed father Hilarion, *
intercessor for our souls.

You were an earthly angel and a heavenly man, O venerable one; * a fount of
contrition, * a torrent of mercy, * an abyss of miracles, * a surety for sinners, * a truly
fruitful olive-tree of God, * anointing with the oil of your works * the faces of those who
praise you with faith, * O wondrous Hilarion.

Your mind shining * with divine understanding, * you transcended the passions of
the body, * unconfused by things below, * bearing the lineaments * and depicting the
beauty of God within yourself, * and known as wholly luminous * through the activity of
the Spirit, O Hilarion our father, * the adornment of monastics.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *from the Pentecostarion,
or Theotokion, same melody*

Rejoice, beam of sun-like radiance, * throne of the never-setting sun, * who shone forth the true sun. * Rejoice, mind which sheds light upon all by divine radiance, flash of lightning illumining the ends of the earth, * true lustre of gold, * O good and immaculate Lady, * who has shone upon the faithful * him who is the never-waning light.

Troparion of the venerable ones, tone 4

O God of our Fathers,
deal with us always according to your kindness;
take not your mercy from us,
but through the intercessions of these holy ones,
direct our lives in peace.

Matins

Ode 1

*Canon of Venerable Bessarion, tone 2,
composed by Joseph*

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.

The Church sings to God, joining chorus today in your memory, O divinely inspired father Bessarion, and with faith it glorifies your great struggles.

As a slave of God, you enslaved the passions of the body by the strength of your soul, and proved to be free of evil, O wondrous father.

Adorned with the beauties of your struggles, you were a suitable vessel of the divine Spirit, containing his activity, O blessed Bessarion.

Theotokion The deceiver of souls drags me down into the pit of destruction; but extend to me your mighty hand, O Mother of God, and quickly bring me up to the light.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion, tone 8

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.

Having fled to the immaterial and noetic light from the darkness of material things, O venerable Hilarion, illumine me by your supplications to God.

Having imbibed virtue from infancy, you attained manhood by the pangs of abstinence and the sweat of fasting, reaching the spiritual measure of the stature of Christ.

Having traversed the abyss of the passions and escaped the stormwaves of the demons, you hastened to the dry haven of dispassion, O venerable father.

Theotokion As you surpass creation, O Mother of God, in latter times, unwedded you gave birth without father to the Word begotten of the Father without mother.

Ode 3

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

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 ascended to the heights of dispassion, through darkness attaining the vision of God, and receiving the divine law within your heart: strengthened thereby, you became a radiant beacon for monastics, O venerable one.

You were a fruitful olive-tree planted in the house of God, O father, and with the oil of your struggles you anoint the faces of us who praise your miracles, O venerable Bessarion.

Having lived a life of non-acquisition, like that of the birds, O blessed one, soaring on wings of dispassion you attained the mansions of heaven, rejoicing: with faith we call you blessed.

Theotokion Having lived my life in slothfulness and defiled my heart with passions, I approach you with compunction of soul, O Lady, and entreat you to have compassion and save me, making me strong as a model of repentance.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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.

With the burning ember of abstinence you utterly consumed the thorns of the passions, O venerable one, and you cool the minds of the faithful.

Having acquired through the Spirit the sharp arrows of virtue, as one mighty you wounded the heart of the cruel adversary.

Armed with the sword of abstinence, and with prayer as your breastplate, O venerable one, you vanquish legions of the invisible foe.

Theotokion On the day of judgment be merciful to me, I pray, O Lady, in your boldness before him who was born of you.

*Kontakion of venerable Hilarion, tone 2,
to the Special Melody* The steadfast...

Like a shepherd you preserved your flock in the fold of life-bearing pasture, and were proven to be great by the loftiness of your works, O Hilarion the New, having endured much suffering and sorrow in your piety; and so you have made your dwelling in the most joyful life of the heavenly Sion: pray for us, O venerable father.

*Sessional Hymn of venerable Bessarion, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Your tomb, O Saviour...

Having burned up the passions with the fire of abstinence, you became a radiant lamp of dispassion, dispelling the darkness of our souls by grace: with gladness of heart we celebrate your light-bearing memory today, O Bessarion our father.

Glory be to the Father...

*Sessional Hymn of venerable Hilarion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Go quickly before...

You dedicated your life to God, O blessed one, as a truly exemplary cleric, O priest of Christ. After much toil and pain, you passed over to the immaterial habitations, rejoicing; and now you pour upon us streams of healings.

Both now and for ever... *Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion, or a Theotokion*

Theotokion Immaculate Virgin, who gave birth to the transcendent God, unceasingly entreat him with the bodiless host, that before the end he grant remission of transgressions and amendment of life to us who, with faith and love, hymn you, the exalted Lady.

Theotokion of the Cross 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.

Ode 4

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

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.

From the depths of grace you received drops of healing, O wise and wondrous father; and from there, by your supplication, you transformed the water of the sea into fresh, healing the thirst of your disciple.

Never did you weaken in your life, even in old age, O divinely wise father, wandering in the desert places and the mountains, choosing to seek God who illumined you with splendour surpassing noetic miracles.

You were lowly and small but elevated by dispassion, yet you put down the uprisings of demons, as a beacon for monastics who piously praise you with faith, O father.

Theotokion Heal the passions of my soul which grow within me, wretch that I am; illumine my mind, O pure one, driving far away the darkness of the demons which afflict me and ever set their snares for me.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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

Planted by the waters of abstinence, O blessed father, you were a flourishing vine producing the grapes of piety.

Being wholly godly and Spirit-bearing, you departed to God, O blessed Hilarion; where you ever dance with the angels.

You set the feet of your heart upon the rock of faith, and remained unshaken, undaunted by the assaults of the demons.

Theotokion We hymn you, O most pure Lady, more exalted than the cherubim and seraphim; for you carried on your arm our God before whom they tremble.

Ode 5

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

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.

The shining of the Comforter within your soul, O blessed one, showed the path to the kingdom; and treading it, you eluded the snares of the demons and spiritual darkness.

Shown to be a new Joshua, O blessed God-bearer, adorned with divine words, enlightened with the splendour of miracles and made comely by the many wonders of God, you halted the passage of the sun by your luminous entreaty.

You were recorded in the book of life, having fulfilled all that is written in the divine books. I cry out to you: By your entreaties to the all-seeing God rend asunder the record of my evil deeds, O father.

Theotokion Following the steps of him who shone from you in an ineffable birthgiving, O virgin Mother, the assembly of the venerable joined the choirs of heaven: pray with them, and beg cleansing for us who honour you.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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 the unsleeping eye of your heart you unwaveringly dwelt upon the divine commandments, O glorious one.

O God-bearer, by your activity and through abstinence you ascended the mountain of the virtues to the vision of God.

In pouring out mercy for the poor, O venerable Hilarion, you drew heavenly richness from your heart.

Theotokion The Lord of the Law showed you to be the Ark of the Word, O Mother of God, wherein he ineffably made his abode.

Ode 6

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

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.

You did not weaken in your many struggles, O venerable one; for you remained standing for forty days and nights, unmoved by the demands of nature.

Having mortified your earthly limbs on earth, O wondrous one, you were enriched with the vital activity of healing: now you live in heaven, ever healing the passions of our dying souls.

Ever lamenting your life, you reposed; for divine desire kindled a fire within you, O father. Now you have found consolation in heaven, joining the choirs of the venerable.

Theotokion The Lord was born of you, making you the queen of all creatures, O pure Lady; entreat him to deliver our souls from the enemy who has dominion over them.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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 faith you slayed with dust the noetic Goliath, who rose up in malice against your unarmed warfare; and, uprooting his trophies of victory, you felled him who boasted greatly.

You emulated Hilarion in the virtues and, spiritually following in his steps, in abstinence became supreme and a model for your flock, O venerable father.

With the sweat of abstinence you utterly quenched the burning darts of the enemy, and having kindled the fire of faith, you consumed the insolence of the heretics' unbelief.

Theotokion You truly conceived God the Word and gave birth to him supernaturally, O immaculate Lady: by your supplications entreat him for those who hymn you as truly the Mother of God.

*Kontakion of Venerable Bessarion, tone 2,
to the Special Melody* The steadfast...

Emulating the powers on high,
your life was like that of the birds, O venerable father Bessarion.
Having put transitory things from your mind,
you were led to the heavenly beauties of Christ the king, your constant desire:
having come to him, entreat him unceasingly on behalf of us all.

Ode 7

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

Irmos The wise children would not worship the golden body, but having entered the flame they mocked the pagan gods; and in the midst of the flame they cried out and an angel bedewed them, saying: The prayer of your mouth has been heard.

Having renewed your soul with the pious plough of abstinence, O father, you cultivated fruitful grain; and stored in the granaries of heaven, it nourishes those who sing with faith: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

United to the immaterial Light, you became a pure light; and you traversed the rushing torrent of the river without your feet becoming wet. You trod the straight paths, O divinely wise Bessarion, having dried up the turgid waters of sin.

What an awesome wonder it is that, by the invocation of God, you rendered potable waters which once could not be drunk, and traversed the rushing torrent of the river, and held the passage of the sun, O divinely wise Bessarion, magnified by sacred and divine signs.

Theotokion The incarnate Wisdom of God was born of you, O pure one, who destroyed the evil philosophers and gave the multitude of monastics and the venerable the wisdom to sing with grace: Blessed are you, who gave birth to God in the flesh.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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.

From the expanse of the kingdom on high you nurture your flock, O father; and, driving away the wild beasts of heresy with the staff of your teachings, you sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Putting forth the radiance of miracles, you dispel the gloom of infirmity and shine beams of health and healing today upon those who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You entered the wedding feast of Christ the king in the highest, clad in vesture befitting an invited guest: reclining, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Transcending nature and speech you gave birth to the Master of all, and you nourished at your breast him who will prepare a table for all in good time: earnestly implore him for us, O most pure Lady.

Ode 8

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

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.

The light shone upon your righteousness; joy and gladness were given you, O father, as one who wept earnestly on earth and was a stranger to it in your lack of acquisition and your endurance of all manner of evils.

Without attaining your ultimate desire, O venerable father, you passed through many cities and deserted places until you attained the city on high, splendidly adorned.

With the bright radiance of virtue you shine the dawn upon us, ever illumining our minds: therefore we celebrate this day of your illustrious memory, O father Bessarion.

Theotokion O pure one, you gave birth to a new Son, equally unoriginate with the unoriginate Father, and you alone have renewed our nature grown old through the grievous transgression. Therefore, we hymn you, the Mother of God.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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 the streams of your tears you drown the stirrings of the passions and wayward thoughts, for you were an abyss of patience, O venerable one, leading to the tranquility of quietude those who cry: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Having your diamond-hard teaching of abstinence, O venerable Hilarion, we confirm our hearts and vanquish legions of the passions, crying out in faith: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Having caused the passionate nature of the flesh to wither through abstinence and temperance, O venerable one, you filled yourself with the spiritual activity of the Spirit and attained the paths of dispassion, crying out: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Beneath the shelter of your holy wings, O Lady, we all flee who are afflicted by cruel offences, temptations and tribulations. With you as our intercessor, we cry out: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of Venerable Bessarion

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.

Girded with might, you cast down the might of the deceiver, and were powerful against the passions, O blessed one: receiving the grace of miracles from God, you heal the incurable ailments of the faithful.

The greatness of your glory has, through God, been shown to all creation, illumining the faithful with the sacred scenes of your blameless life, O divinely wise Bessarion, truly the adornment of monks and paragon of the fathers.

Groaning, lamenting and grieving, you ever sprinkled the ground with tears of remorse, O divinely wise father, until you acquired divine consolation, making your abode in the city of God with all the saints.

You flourished like a lily with the fragrance of the virtues, perfuming our souls, O father: we keep your memory, O Bessarion, entreating that, for your sake, we may be delivered from the stench of offences and from all demonic affliction.

Theotokion Sinning insanely, I remain uncorrected, having become foolish in my great senselessness. Therefore, I cry out to you, O Lady: Visit me now, in my need, and cure the passions of my lowly heart.

Canon of Venerable Hilarion

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.

Christ has truly shown you to be a fountain of miracles, O blessed one, washing away the painful defilement of the passions and readily drowning the pangs of infirmity. Therefore we all call you a river of spiritual cleansing.

Spiritually flourishing like a palm-tree in the house of God, you bring forth the sweet fruits of abstinence, whereby you sweeten your noetic flock, O wise father, who has received heavenly crowns of glory.

You were a standard of abstinence, O father Hilarion, a model of meekness and a serene instructor for all: by your entreaties to the Lord calm the storm of my passions, and grant profound peace to me who asks, that I may call you blessed.

Theotokion We have you as a weapon amid tribulations and dangers, a haven and fortress amid sorrows, a noetic shield amid battles, and a great mercy-seat amid grievous offences and temptations: we rightly honour you, the Mother of God, and magnify your birthgiving.

June 7

Hieromartyr Theodotus, Bishop of Ankyra

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you ... 6 verses,
beginning with these of the hieromartyr, tone 1
to the Special Melody Joy of the heavenly hierarchies ...*

With joyous heart and firm resolve
you truly braved the struggles, O martyr,
undaunted by the pain inflicted by the tyrant or by violent death.
Having contended lawfully,
you were crowned with splendour, O Theodotus.

With the tortures of your body, O blessed one,
you wounded your opponents;
with your reproofs you pierced their hearts as with arrows,
and with the drops of your blood, O father,
you dried away up the torrents of ungodliness.

Patiently bearing the burning of torches,
your back lacerated with wounds, O martyr,
you endured, as you cried out:
Neither death, nor life, nor any kind of torment
will in any way separate me from the love of Christ.

Verses to the Mother of God, same tone and special melody

We who are bound by unwanted afflictions have gained you as our only protection, O pure Virgin, and we call to you with thanksgiving: Save us, most holy Bride of God, for you are the refuge of the world and the helper of our race.

With the staff of your intercession, O pure Mother of God, direct my wretched passion plagued soul to the holy fold of your chosen sheep, there to abide in peacefulness of life.

Enclosed in the depths of sin, we have recourse to calm haven of your most pure prayer, O bearer of God. We cry to you: Save me, and extend to your servant the strength of your right hand, O immaculate one.

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

I recline, prone and enmeshed in earthen ways, and seek refuge in your calmness, O Virgin. Free me from the storms that come upon me, and from manifold temptations, that I may unceasingly hymn your grace, O ever virgin Mother of God.

Or this Theotokion of the Cross

Standing by the cross of her Son and God, the most pure Mother looked upon his long-suffering and said, weeping: Woe is me, my sweetest child; what are these things you endure, O Word of God, in order to save mankind.

Aposticha from the Octoechos

Troparion of the hieromartyr, 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 Theodotus. Entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Matins

Both canons from the Octoechos; and the canon of the Hieromartyr.

*Canon of the hieromartyr, tone 6,
upon the acrostic You were truly a gift from God, O blessed one
composed by Joseph*

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.

The noetic sun, making you a divinely radiant star in the firmament of his Church, O blessed one, has illumined the whole world with the splendour of your sufferings.

Inclined to God from your youth, O Theodotus, you enlightened your soul with divinely bestowed virtues, and adorned the world with your honourable sufferings.

Perceiving the snares which the deceiver spread on the earth, the glorious martyr passed through them all, making the souls of the pious firm with doctrine and grace.

Theotokion Bowing down the heavens in his extreme loving kindness, the Son of God descended and took flesh of you, O pure one, saving man from the deception of the serpent.

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.

Ever lifting your noetic eyes to God, O ever-memorable martyr, subjected to all manner of tortures, you did not feel the wounds inflicted upon your body.

Planted firmly upon the hard rock of the faith of Christ, you were in no way shaken by the assaults of pain or the flattery of the tyrants, O glorious Theodotus.

Afflicting your body with various wounds, the tormenter was in no way able to weaken the strength of your soul, for you were strengthened by the divine love of the Saviour, O blessed one.

Theotokion The divinely eloquent choir of the prophets, perceiving from afar the depth of your mystery, O all-pure Bride of God, proclaimed you with various voices to be the pure Mother of God.

*Sessional hymn of the hieromartyr, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Your tomb, O Saviour...

You were truly a star of great radiance, blessed Theodotus, illumining creation with gifts of miracles and sacred sufferings. Celebrating your radiant memorial today, we magnify Christ with gladness of heart.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the feast, or Theotokion, same tone*

Unwedded and pure virgin Mother of God, true advocate and protection of the faithful, save from danger and need, and from encompassing evil all who hope in you, O maiden: and by your divine prayers save our souls

Or Theotokion of the Cross

When the immaculate lamb and mother saw the lamb and shepherd lying dead upon the cross, she cried out in tears, lamenting maternally: How can I praise your condescension that is beyond description, O my Son, and your voluntary passion, O God supremely good?

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.

With the wisdom of your words and the grace of your deeds you put the prince of darkness to shame, O Theodotus; and contending gloriously, you snatched the victory from him.

With the fire of your sufferings you consumed the falsehood of polytheism; and mystically lighted by the Holy Spirit as a lamp, O martyr, you illumined the whole world.

Your flanks deeply lacerated, and truly beset on every side with pangs, in your faith you showed yourself to be unshaken in mind, O ever-memorable one.

Theotokion Preserving you as incorrupt after giving birth as you were before, the creator made his abode within you, and has restored those who corrupt through many offenses.

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.

Protected by divine aid, with patience you endured the attacks of the iniquitous, and the infliction of tortures and burning, O wise martyr.

You made long journeys proclaiming the word of piety, O divinely wise martyr, and those lost in the darkness of vanity you turned to the light.

Uplifted upon a tree like a lamb, O blessed martyr, you endured laceration by iron claws, like one of the incorporeal ones, shedding the coarseness of mortality.

Theotokion O pure Virgin, you gave birth to the Word of the Father who had truly become incarnate of your pure blood, in two perfect natures, but a single person, O divinely joyous one.

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.

With your sacred words you anointed the pure women for the contest, O martyr; and having cast the enemy down with manly struggles, they wove wreaths of incorruption for themselves.

Protecting your soul with the strength of the Spirit, by the enduring of wounds you cast down the spirits of wickedness and received the crown of victory from God, O wondrous one.

With the drops of your blood you extinguished the flame of idolatry, O martyr of Christ; and with the dew of your pangs you bedew the souls of the pious, delivering them from the flame of deception.

Theotokion As God who cannot be contained by all creation, seen or unseen, he truly made his abode within you, O ever-virgin, and became man, edifying men.

*Kontakion of the hieromartyr, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up upon the cross...

As one among the hierarchs who lived piously and traversed the path of martyrdom, you extinguished the immolations of the idols, and became a champion for your flock, O divinely wise one. Honouring you, we mystically cry out to you: By your entreaties deliver us from misfortunes, O Theodotus our father.

Ikos Gathering with faith and love for the memorial of the sacred athlete, let us praise him with hymns today, that we may delight in the grace which comes from him; for as a martyr, a faithful hierarch and a champion he saves from sufferings and tribulations the souls of those who entreat him with all their heart. Therefore, we cry out to him: By your entreaties deliver us from misfortunes, O Theodotus our father.

Ode 7

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.

With the fire of your pangs you extinguished the heat of the idols, O divinely blessed one; and in torrents of your blood you drowned the incorporeal foe, O Theodotus, crying out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Like fragrant incense you offered yourself to the judge of your contest, O wise ones, dispelling rank falsehood with grace divine. Therefore, you sing with joy: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having observed your discourses, O martyr Theodotus, holy Fortus gave you to God-bearing Fortunus for the construction of an honoured Church, for the cleansing of the pious and the preservation of their souls.

Theotokion O Virgin Mother, you gave birth to the Word, a single person possessing two volitions and two natures, for he who was incarnate for us is both God and man.

Ode 8

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.

An unshakable pillar, an indestructible rampart, an insuperable bulwark, a ladder of faith, a divine gift, a champion of piety and destroyer of deception were you shown to be, O passion-bearer.

Steered by grace divine, O wise one, you traversed the great deep of tortures, and, rejoicing, reached the calm haven of the kingdom on high, O glorious one.

Your steps and feet were directed toward Christ, the God and Lord of all, whose hands received your soul, O thrice-blessed martyr and passion-bearer Theodotus.

Theotokion Even the tongue of rhetors cannot describe the inconceivable depth of your mystery; for you ineffably gave birth to the Word of God for the salvation of all, O most pure Virgin.

Ode 9

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.

That you might receive heavenly glory, rejoicing, you overcame visible glory; and submitting to wounds at the behest of God, you were undaunted by the sight of the torturers and bitter death: having struggled, you were crowned with the martyrs.

You were a pure temple of the Trinity, adorned with an edifice of goodly divine works and the radiance of splendid sufferings, O martyr Theodotus most rich. By the divine power of the Advocate you cast down the temples of demonic idols, O wise one.

O glorious martyr, you are seen to be a mountain flowing with divine sweetness, a fount of miracles and an abyss of divine gifts, a stream of the radiance of the Holy Spirit, watering men's souls, drowning their sufferings and mediating joy for all who piously hymn you.

Theotokion Through the voice of the Angel you gave birth to the Word who received body, mind and spirit from your most pure blood, O exalted Virgin, dispersing the bodiless foe and saving all of us who confess you to be truly the Mother of God.

June 8

Great Martyr Theodore the General

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses,
beginning with these in tone 2,
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

You perfectly offered yourself to him who gave you a perfect life, O blessed one, as a living and breathing whole-burnt offering, a sacrifice most pure and well-pleasing. Therefore, you have become an acceptable intercessor, rescuing from the storm all who hymn you with faith and call upon you, O martyr Theodore.

Diligently you cultivated the seed of the Word sown in your soul, and increased it through the pangs of your suffering; and wisely laid up in the granaries of heaven, you found incorruptible delight in which you now bask. O blessed one, by your mediations before Christ save those who hymn you with faith.

O martyr and passion-bearer of Christ, by your entreaties save those who are in various needs, repelling every evil circumstance, driving away soul-destroying grief, and entreating mercy and grace for us, that, saved by your supplications, we may hymn your honoured struggles rejoicing, O Theodore.

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

Through the Holy spirit * you were a courageous athlete, * and an invincible warrior, * having cast down the aggressor * by the wisdom of your words * and wisely by patient manifestations of your deeds. * Therefore, you received crowns of victory * and have been joined to the choirs on high, * O great martyr Theodore.

As a pillar of godly piety, * O rich martyr, * you detested the temples of the impious, * brought as a perfect lamb * and an acceptable immolation * to him who was blamelessly sacrificed for your sake, * who glorifies your holy memory, * and gives you as a treasury of miracles * to those who are in the world, O Theodore.

Lifted up upon a cross, * your flesh lacerated, * wounded with sharp arrows, * beset with pain through all manner of the tormentors' skills, * you proved to be unbowed and invincible * through the power of him who was nailed to the cross, * O Theodore, glory of the martyrs.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 5*

Today the honoured memory of Christ's passion-bearer shines more brightly than the morning star, invisibly illumining the hearts of the faithful and dispelling the clouds from their souls through the activity of the grace of the Spirit. To him let us cry out, you that love the martyrs: You, the divinely bestowed grace revealed to the faithful, have spread a multitudes of miracles upon those who flee to you, O blessed Theodore. Unceasingly entreating Christ, and fail not to gain eternal blessings for those who honour your memory with faith.

Both now and for ever... *of the feast, or Theotokion;
or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody Rejoice...*

Theotokion of the cross The lamb and mother, seeing from afar her own lamb hastening to the slaughter, followed after him eagerly, crying out thus: O my sweetest child Jesus, where are you going? By what grace do you run this course without hesitation, O long suffering Christ, sinless Lord of many mercies? Speak to me, your servant, and do not pass me by in silence, O my beloved Son, for I gave birth to you in a strange manner, the God and giver of life, who bestows great mercy upon the world.

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

O faithful, let us fittingly bless the great and noble martyr Theodore, as the namesake of God's gifts and the heir of his blessedness, the champion of the world; for he entreats Christ our God for our souls.

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

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

Through true recruitment you became a most comely general of the heavenly king, O passion bearer Theodore; for you wisely arrayed yourself with the weaponry of faith and became a victorious athlete; and so we ever bless you.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, without the martyrica; and the canon of the great martyr, tone 4,
upon the acrostic With divine praises I hymn you, the namesake of divine gifts
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.

A martyr splendidly adorned, you stand before Christ the benefactor, arrayed by him, for you are the namesake of divine gifts, O martyr Theodore.

Armed with the divine weaponry of faith, you bravely cut down the soul-destroying legions of the enemy, O Theodore; and as victor you were crowned with the martyrs.

Displaying the splendid courage of your soul before the impious emperor, O divinely wise one, you shamed him by the wisdom of your words and the grace of your deeds, O Theodore.

Theotokion By the will of the Father and through the divine Spirit you conceived the Son of God without seed, and gave birth in the flesh to him who was begotten of the Father without a mother, and who for us was born of you without a father.

Ode 3

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

Like a mighty commander you vanquished the legion of the impious one, and trampled upon the wiles of the perverse serpent.

As you were earnest of soul, O glorious one, with pious intent you destroyed the adulterous temples of the impious.

With strength of mind you endured the assaults of the cruel foe, emulating the life-creating death of the judge of the contest.

Theotokion O Mother of God, transcending nature you alone have become the mediator of blessings for those on earth: therefore, we cry to you: Rejoice.

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

Having taken up the armour of God and destroyed the falsehood of idolatry, you moved the angels to praise your struggles; for, having set your mind afire with divine love, you bravely endured a fiery death. True to your name, you bestow divine gifts upon those who ask, O passion-bearer Theodore; and so we cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who lovingly honour your memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the feast, or a Theotokion*

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 Virgin and Mother of Jesus, beholding the creator upon the tree, groaned and wept, and was smitten with grief, her soul and body rent asunder. Beating her breast, she cried out to him bitterly, lifting up her voice: Woe is me, O my Son; for how can I endure your passion, the nails and the spear, I who without pain gave you birth? But hasten to arise, that I may see you, my Son and God, that my lamentation and pain may cease, and that those who hymn your passion may receive remission of their offences.

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.

You wounded the serpent that wished to wound you, and in your steadfast opposition you proved to be a martyr, earnestly singing to him who gave you strength: Glory to your power, O Lord.

With resolute mind you laid waste to your flesh through your wounds, O thrice-blessed one, singing earnestly to him who gave you strength: Glory to your power, O Lord.

You adorned yourself, joining your honoured sufferings to the sufferings of the Master, O wise one, and were granted his radiance and desired comeliness.

Theotokion Without tasting of wedlock you gave birth, O Virgin, and after your birthgiving you retained your virginity. Unceasingly and with steadfast faith we cry out to you, O Lady: Rejoice.

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 bodily shedding of your blood you ended the blood offerings to the demons which lead to destruction, O invincible Theodore.

How pious your demeanor and how noble your mind, O honoured passion bearer of fervent faith, whereby you acquired God.

Possessed of a mind illuminated by the light of God, you cast into darkness the serpent, the champion of evil, O God-bearing Theodore.

Theotokion We place you as an invincible weapon against the enemy; for we have acquired you as the confirmation and hope of our salvation, O Bride of 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.

Stretched upon a cross and transfixed with nails, presenting an image of the saving passion of the creator, O blessed one, with bold ardour you inspire those cast down.

When imprisoned in the dungeon, lawfully contesting, Christ appeared to you, raising you to feats of battle against the enemy, for he is the judge of the contest, O glorious one.

To him who willingly offered himself as a sacrifice for your sake, you brought yourself as a sacrifice pure, holy and unblemished, O passion-bearer Theodore.

Theotokion A wonder, the greatest of all wonders: as Virgin you seedlessly conceived him who sustains all things, yet you did not confine him.

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

Arrayed in faith with manliness of soul, and taking in your hand the word of God as a spear, you conquered the enemy, O Theodore, great among the martyrs: with them, never cease to entreat Christ our God on behalf of us all.

Ikos Come, you faithful, and with wreaths of hymnody let us crown Theodore, the radiant adornment of athletes; for in the splendour of his miracles he is God's great gift to the world. Having vanquished Belial the enemy by his honoured sufferings, he imparts as dew streams of healings with the drops of his blood. In all these things Christ rejoices, and grants everlasting peace, and so we cry out to the martyr: Never cease to entreat Christ our God on behalf of us all.

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.

June 8

In the furnace of your struggle you consumed the fuel of impiety, O glorious martyr, as a beacon of piety singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

As a commander wise and sober in deed, you prevailed over the senseless and impious emperor; and, strengthened by the power of the Spirit, you caused him to be powerless.

Your praiseworthy greatness overcame the natural law, as with the radiance of torment you shone forth, O Theodore, singing to your Master: Blessed is the might of your dominion.

Theotokion Rejoice, O divine and sanctified habitation of the Most High, for through you, O Mother of God, joy has been imparted to those who cry: 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.

Trusting in you, who for my sake endured the cross and death, I am lifted up upon a cross, O Master, pierced by arrows and touched by bitter wounding: thus you cried out in your suffering, O noble-minded martyr Theodore.

Rejoicing, you offered yourself as a pure sacrifice to your creator, O Theodore, and translated to the kingdom of heaven, with the martyrs you ever sacredly cry out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Like a lily and like a noetic rose you perfume us with the fragrance of your sufferings, ever expelling the stench of our passions with grace, and causing us to sing with fragrant souls: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion You alone among all generations were the Mother of God, O most pure Virgin: you were not consumed by the fire of the unapproachable light, and so we all bless you, O Mary, Bride of God.

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.

Adorned through suffering, abiding and rejoicing with the gathering of the blessed and the choir of martyrs, wearing your crown you stand before him whom you desired, O Theodore.

Caught up to the heights of heaven, forsaking earthly things, you were granted the end for which you longed, receiving the very perfection of desires, rejoicing, O Theodore.

Having boldness before God, as a noble and wise athlete, ask remission of offences for us who praise you with love, delivering us from suffering and sorrow.

The divinely wise martyr, desiring you alone, the immortal Word who suffered and died, having received your immortality, has come to dwell in heaven, in the presence of you, the almighty creator of all.

Theotokion Come all, and with faith and love let us unceasingly praise blessed Mary, the virgin Mother of God, having through her received him who is eternal joy.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody Adorning the heavens with stars...

Adorned with comeliness, a mighty commander, a warrior glorious among athletes, you offered yourself to Christ, and became a divine gift to the world, O Theodore.

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

Theotokion By your mighty protection keep all of us, your servants, unharmed by the assaults of the enemy, O pure one, for you alone have we acquired as a refuge in our need.

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

Having set for yourself a feat of prowess, you manfully contended against deception, O Theodore; and with the fiery eloquence of your tongue you put to shame the inhumanity of Licinius. Rejoicing with the angels, O blessed one, entreat Christ our God, that he be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

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

Liturgy

*Beatitudes, eight verses: 4 of the feast, or of the Octoechos;
and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon to the great martyr.*

Prokimenon, tone 8

The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall put his trust in him.
Verse Hear my voice O Lord in my complaining.

Epistle of Paul 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 36 [10:16-22]

Communion Verse

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

June 9

Our father among the Saints, Cyril of Alexandria

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Having illumined your mind * with the radiance of the Spirit, * you became a radiant sun, * for, extending the beams of your teachings * to the ends of the earth, * you enlighten the fulness of the faithful, * O blessed God-bearer, * driving away the darkness of heresies * with the power of him who shone forth from the Virgin. *Twice*

With the goodly utterance of your discourses, * O sacred Cyril, * the whole Church is adorned * and piously ornamented with comely beauties, * and honours in a sacred manner * your holy and excellent memory, * O boast of the Orthodox, * summit of the fathers, * champion of the most holy Virgin at the council. *Twice*

With your fiery teachings * the tinder of heresies was consumed, * O wise father, * the army of the impious * who would not submit to the truth * were drowned in the depths of your understanding, * O sacred Cyril, * and the Church of the faithful is ever adorned with your doctrines, * honouring you with mighty voices. *Twice*

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

O good and faithful servant, labourer in the vineyard of Christ, bearing the burden of the day, you increased the talant entrusted to you, not envying those who came after you. Therefore, the portals of heaven were opened to you: enter into the joy of your Lord, and pray for us, O Cyril our father.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody Having placed all hope...*

The undefiled lamb, the mother and immaculate Lady,
of old beholding her lamb upon the tree of the cross,
exclaimed maternally and, marvelling, cried out:
O my child most sweet,
what is this new and all-glorious sight?

How can the thankless crowd betray you to the judgment of Pilate
and condemn to death the life of all?
— yet I hymn your ineffable condescension, O Word.

Aposticha from the Octoechos; and Glory be to the Father... tone 6

O man of God, faithful servant and minister of the Lord,
man of divine longing, chosen vessel, pillar and foundation of the Church,
heir to the kingdom:
never cease to cry out to the Lord for us.

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 you birth cried out: What is this
strange mystery that I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, hanging bodily upon the
tree, O Bestower of life?

Troparion, tone 8

Instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity;
beacon of all the world and divinely inspired adornment of monastics:
O Cyril 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

*Both canons from the Octoechos, without the martyria; and that of the saint, tone 4,
composed by Theophanes
upon the acrostic Cyril is the harp of divine visions.*

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.

Receiving light-giving grace from God, O Cyril, revealed as a radiant beacon, at
this your commemoration, shine upon us the rays of the Word, as we fittingly hymn you.

As a keeper of the commandments of Christ you were replete with the Spirit's
radiance, O wise Cyril; for, cleansed of the passions, you truly became a dwelling-place of
the supremely divine Trinity.

As one full of zeal and boldness, O glorious Cyril, in contending for the right faith you truly denounced the God-opposing blasphemies of impious heresies.

Theotokion In giving birth to the creator of all who has lifted us up who were laid low by the fall of our first father, O most immaculate Bride of God, you have healed the broken state of mankind.

Ode 3

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

Strengthened in Christ, O Cyril, with steadfast mind you brushed aside the wiles of the evil serpent like a spider's web.

You shook the mire of the passions from your soul, O Cyril, and cast down the uprising of every thought which exalts itself against Christ.

As a successful athlete, O father, you steadily turned away from carnal pleasure as something harmful and detrimental.

Theotokion With joy we splendidly glorify you as the truly blessed one among women, who became the habitation of God.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 3,
to the Special Melody* Awed by the beauty of your virginity...

As a pillar and offering of the Church of Christ, O father,
with wisdom you guarded it unshaken by the trials of the evil one;
for you destroyed the evil works of Nestorius
and proclaimed her who gave birth to God to be the Mother of God.
Therefore we gather to honour you,
O divinely blessed father Cyril.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *from the Pentecostarion, or a Theotokion*

Theotokion As an uncultivated vine you produced most comely grapes
pouring for us the wine of salvation which gladdens the souls and bodies of all.
Ever blessing you as the vine of incorruptible and everlasting sweetness,
with the angel we sing to you:
Rejoice, O full of grace.

Theotokion of the Cross Seeing you dead upon the tree, O Christ,
your pure unwedded Mother said, weeping maternally:
How can the iniquitous and thankless assembly
reward you thus, my Son,
who delighted them with your manifold and great gifts?

I hymn your divine condescension.

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.

Seeing you, O God-bearing father Cyril, who vanquished soul-corrupting passions and restrained carnal thoughts, Christ set you as a primate of his divine Church.

Inheriting the paternal virtue of Mark as a beloved son, you were a successor of his divine throne, following in the footsteps of the evangelist.

Tended by Christ like a lamb, O father, as a shepherd you pastured your flock on your spiritually nourishing discourses, feeding them grace as though grass and flowers.

Theotokion Giving birth to the incarnate Word of God who before was incorporeal, O exalted Lady, you have restored the world: with Orthodox faith we proclaim you.

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.

Your discourse, O Cyril, was like a mighty torrent, a flooding stream which scoured the craftiness of the heretics.

The vile division of Arius and the abominable confusion of Sabellius you equally consigned to the abyss, O Cyril.

You have left to the Church of Christ your enriching discourses like gold, O Cyril, and your treasures like precious stones.

Theotokion Let heaven drop down gladness and grace upon the earth, for it has now sent us gladness from on high, the true Mother of 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 tongs the seraph gave the prophet an ember; and by your hands, O servant of sacred mysteries, you gave the Church of Christ a purifying ember from the divine fire.

You not destroy aliens like Samson, O Cyril, but cast down every foreign doctrine of the heterodox, giving strength to the Orthodox.

Heading the divinely elect council, O father, you cast down the impiety of Nestorius and his Christ-opposing audacity, breathing with zeal for the Mother of God.

Theotokion You budded forth the fruit of incorrupt understanding, O Mother of God, revealed to the world as an ever-living mediator of incorruption for those who hymn you with faith and love.

*Kontakion, tone 6,
to the Special Melody* Fulfilling the dispensation...

You pour upon us the depths of the doctrines of theology from the Saviour's fountain, drowning heresies and saving your flock unharmed from storm-waves, O blessed Cyril, the guide for all lands, the venerable one who has revealed things divine.

Ikos When the great, beauteous and radiant sun shows itself at dawn, darkness is driven away and the moon retreats, for night cannot abide it: it shines with the light of day, illumines the air, shows the sky to be beautiful for us, adorning the earth and causing plants to grow; it makes bright the sea and adorns the land. Alike in all is radiant Cyril, whose wise teachings saved the world. For he illumined the souls of the faithful therewith and vanquished heresies with piety; the guide for all lands, the venerable one who has revealed things divine.

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.

Moses of old, entering the darkness on Mount Sinai, received the Law, the letter of which slays; but you, O blessed Cyril, have disclosed the hidden beauty of the Spirit.

As revelation was made to the children of old in the indistinct images of the law, O father, you have lifted the lid from the cup given you, opening it like a rose of understanding, mightily speaking in images.

Describing the three persons of indivisible distinction in an unconfused divine unity, O father Cyril, you uttered the immutable truths of the one essence and divinity.

Theotokion The angels observed strange things in your birthgiving, O Mother of God: the corrupt nature of the earthly race hastening toward the life of incorruption and the glory of heaven.

Ode 8

June 9

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.

Like a wave of the sea fount of wisdom truly flowed forth in you; for ever-flowing streams of the doctrines of piety issued from within you, as Christ foretold, O father; for your divinely chosen words surpass the sands.

You were a wise pastor and teacher of the Church, O venerable Cyril, mightily interpreting both covenants; for, possessing your discourses as an anchor and a paternal inheritance, it cries out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

You taught the ineffable union of the Word, the fashioner of all, indivisible and unconfused, who was incarnate for us, O Cyril who ascribed an individual will for each nature, crying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion The Son and Word of God, wholly unapproachable in his essence, made his abode within you, O most pure Lady: clothing himself in our being, in his mercy he appeared to us, tangible in the flesh and dwelling among us who 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.

You cast down the contempt directed against the understanding of Christ and his divine Mother, the might of ungodly Nestorius, the dual sonship, and the mingling of the essences of the Acephali.

With strength of mind and the enlightenment of grace, O blessed one, you theologized concerning the consubstantial Trinity and the incarnate Word of God; and proven to be champion of the Mother of God, you are now glorified in the heights.

Ever-memorable father, from on high mercifully look upon us who hymn you, granting victory over heresies to our right-believing hierarchs; and by your supplications raise the strength of the Orthodox, and illumine those who magnify your memory.

Theotokion Beset by many falls and the cruelty of misfortunes, O exalted Lady, I offer you a sacrifice of praise and earnestly cry to you: O holy Mother of God, help me, as I finish my hymnody glorifying you.

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

The divine recorder of the mysteries of the divine Trinity, who transcended sense and understanding and learned the depths of the Spirit, let us hymn as a holy hierarch of the Lord and a champion of piety.

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

Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion

He who will not kiss your image with love, O immaculate Mother of God, will be cast into the fire of Gehenna like the mindless Nestorius; but we venerate you with love, O most holy Lady.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos;
with Glory be to the Father... tone 6*

O Cyril our father, heir of God, companion of Christ, servant of the Lord: your life was in accordance with your name; for understanding shone forth in your gray hairs, the splendour of your countenance bore witness to the innocence of your soul and your untroubled discourse proclaimed your meekness. Your life was glorious, and your repose is with the saints: may you pray for our souls.

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

Standing by the cross with the young disciple at the time of the crucifixion, the Virgin cried out tearfully: Woe is me; how can you suffer passion, O Christ, the dispassion of all?

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the designated Ode from the canon of the Pentecostarion, or 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 334 [Heb 13: 7-16]

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 Matthew, number 11 [Mat 5: 14-19]

Communion

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

June 10

Hieromartyr Timothy, Bishop of Prussa

Vespers

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

Raised above earthly things * by your acts of purification * like an animate cloud,
O blessed hierarch, * you cast down the perverse serpent * with the thunderclaps of your
miracles * and the awesome lightning-flashes of your words, * for you received the grace *
to consume totally * adverse carnal serpents * with the divine covering of the sacred gifts.

O holy hierarch Timothy, * boast of the people of Prussa, * universal champion *
and beacon of the world, * adornment of the Church, * sacred sacrifice of faith, * and
precious and lustrous ornament of the martyrs: * pray you that those who celebrate your
most honoured memory with faith * may be delivered from corruption and misfortunes.

Through your pangs, O Timothy, * you wove a comely garment dyed in your
blood, * and ineffably received from on high * a heavenly vesture * of incorrupt purity *
and immutable life. * Wearing this immaterial robe in the heights, * pray for us all * who
honour you with piety, O athlete.

*But if Alleluia is to be sung at Matins, we firstly sing these verses of the Mother of God,
in the same tone and melody.*

Most holy Bride of God, * deliver my lowly soul * from condemnation and bitter
transgressions, * and by your supplications rescue me from death * and grant that on the
day of trial * I may receive the justification * which the assemblies of the saints have
received; * and let me be cleansed before the end * by repentance and the flow of tears.

With the showers of the Holy Spirit * bedew my mind, O most pure one, * who
has given birth to Christ, * the infinite drop of rain * who with his compassion washes
away * the iniquities of mortals. * Dry up the source of my passions, * and grant me a
torrent of sweetness * by your ever-living supplication.

O Virgin who gave birth to God my Saviour, * by your supplications grant me *
the excellent and saving cure of repentance, * torrents of tears, * the thought of the dread
and awesome hour * and the unyielding judgment, * that I may escape terrifying torment
* and receive divine grace.

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

Theotokion Thousands of times, O most pure one, I have promised to repent of my offences; * yet my unseemly and evil habits * will not depart from me. * Therefore, I cry to you, * and falling down, I pray: O Lady, rescue me from such affliction, guiding me to higher things * which are closer to salvation.

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?

No Troparion is provided, but this may be used, 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 Timothy. Entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Matins

Canon of the hieromartyr, tone 4

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.

Possessed of invincible strength and immutable and unchangeable might, O good Lord, with your ineffable power confirm the weakness of my tongue to hymn you; and through the supplications of Timothy take pity on me.

With godly might you grew a sacred garden from a sacred root, O Timothy, and became a divine adornment of the virtues; for you put forth abundant fruits of suffering and offered them to the Master of all.

Adorned in the dye of your blood with purity of mind and splendour of soul, O God-bearing Timothy, you now reign with the Master of creation and intercede for your flock with faith.

Theotokion O good Mother of God, animate and radiant house of God, and joy of the world: put me not far from you, but take pity and deliver me from all temptations, that I may dance within your protection.

Ode 3

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

As a splendid martyr with the martyrs of Christ, O glorious one, you have become a jewel of priests among wise priests.

Come, you faithful, the flock of the primate of Prussa, and hymn today the temple of the Lord, the treasury of wisdom.

Mingling your blood with the sweat of the virtues, O wise Timothy, you offered it to the Lord as a pure, divine and beautiful drink.

Theotokion O Mary, Mother of God, the pure one more exalted than the cherubim, Queen of all the earth: save me by your divine entreaties.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 5,
to the Special Melody* The Word who is equally unoriginate...

Irrigated with the showers of your blood, O hieromartyr of the Lord, in the good soil of your heart you produced fruit, the inexhaustible sustenance which you received from God. We entreat you to deliver from misfortunes those who honour your memory.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *from the Pentecostarion, or a Theotokion*

Theotokion Finding you to be a haven, a bulwark, a refuge, our hope, protection and fervent help, we the faithful, hasten to you and cry earnestly, exclaiming with faith: Have mercy upon those who trust in you, O Mother of God, and deliver us from transgressions.

Theotokion of the Cross The falsehood of idolatry has been abolished by the cross of your Son, and the might of the demons has been trampled underfoot. Therefore we the faithful, as is fitting, hymn and bless you, O full of grace; and magnify you, confessing you to be truly the Mother of God.

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.

Acquiring a life of heavenly wisdom, and resplendent with the thunderings of the Spirit, you wasted the pernicious serpent, O glorious one, strengthened by divine grace.

Adorned with vision and activity, O Timothy, like a Levite you disemboweled the serpent, using as a two-edged knife the covering of the consecrated bread.

Acknowledging Christ, the great High Priest, not with another's blood, but with your own, O martyr, brought before the Father as his companion, you offered yourself in sacrifice.

Theotokion The many-eyed ones who keep unceasing watch are overcome by your purity, O pure Mother of God, who ever anticipates our need and watches over us.

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.

Waging war against the hordes of the iniquitous like a swift scythe and a mighty sword, you were crowned with victory.

As a radiant beacon of the day, you enlightened the queen whose face was enveloped in the darkness of evil, O glorious one.

Beholding the confusion of the abominations of the idols, you gave yourself over to the shedders of blood like a lamb, O blessed one, and offered yourself in sacrifice to God.

Theotokion O Virgin, pure turtledove who extends the protection of the wings of your supplication over your servants in the world, forsake me not.

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.

The world is glad today, rejoicing in your memory, O blessed one; for with rays of miracles you shed light from on high upon the souls of those who hymn you.

You appear now as a servant not of an earthly altar, but, entering the chambers of heaven, you eat at an ineffable table, where may you grant us your food and refreshment.

Completing your sacred struggle lawfully and boldly, O divinely wise Timothy, you denounced the mindlessness of the emperor and demolished the temples of the idols.

Theotokion Your Son, the creator of all, who has been God since before time began, is hymned with angelic voices, O Bride of God: as you reign with him, save me.

No Kontakion is provided.

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.

The grace of God rightly crowned you before your suffering as a treasury rich in the virtues, and, resplendent with gifts of miracles, it has made you radiant in the world.

Seeing the threat of the sword and the fiery flames, O martyr, you armed your mind and soul with faith, and with fearless understanding preached Christ, your creator, fashioner and Lord.

Theotokion Holding within you him who as God holds all things in the palm of his hands, O Mother of God, you preserve those who sing: Blessed are you among women.

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.

Strengthened with the power of divine faith, O wise Timothy, you seem to be a new Daniel, destroying the pernicious serpent; and translated to the heights, you cry out, ever singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

As a sacred servant you have entered the joy of your Lord; for you vastly increased the talant of faith with your pangs, sufferings and miracles, O glorious one, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Dispelling the infirmities of men, O wise one, you perfume their souls with your anointings, subdue painful wounds by your mighty gifts, and deliver from evil spirits those who ever sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion Through your divine birthgiving our nature has received a glorious crown: grant that I may become a victor in battle against the foe, and be crowned with the splendid crown of your gifts, and 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.

We have seen glorious miracles in you, O God-bearing Timothy; for the shrine of your relics flows with streams of healing upon us and banishes the pangs of infirmities: we glorify you with honour.

June 10

Joining with the angelic hosts, O Timothy, rejoicing with the assemblies of the martyrs and singing with the ranks of the hierarchs, unceasingly entreat the Lord, that he save those who praise you with faith.

Heed the sounds of our hymnody and entreaty, O honoured martyr of Christ; attend to our desire and love, and lift up your eyes to him who is invincible in wrath; and from on high grant your protection to those who praise you with faith.

Theotokion Let your gracious supplications be raised, O pure Lady, and be brought to the Lord with the ranks of angels, the choirs of apostles and prophets, and all the righteous and the martyrs, that we who honour you may be saved.

June 11

Apostles Bartholemew and Barnabas

*and on the same day, the Martyrs of the Boxer Rebellion, whose service follows this;
and on the same day, the feast of the icon of the Mother of God Truly it is right...
the service of which follows that of the Martyrs*

Great Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man...

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, beginning tone 4 with these verses of the Apostle Bartholemew,
to the special melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

With the net of your words, * O divinely eloquent apostle, * you drew the ends of the world * out of the abyss of vainglory * and wicked ungodliness, * and brought them with faith to Christ our God * who had given you such grace, * as his divine disciple and the recounter of his mysteries, * O apostle Bartholemew. *twice*

Jesus our God, the Sun of Righteousness, * sent you out to the whole world * like a ray of light, O glorious one, * mightily dispelling the gloom of ungodliness * and illumining all * who sit in the darkness of ignorance, * whom you made heirs of the light, * O divinely wise Bartholemew. *twice*

Submitting to the will * of him whose will all things obey, * and emulating him * as a teacher of righteousness, * rejoicing, you imbibed the cup of death, * that is, his suffering on the cross. * Now you stand before your ultimate desire, * joining chorus with the angels and the apostles, * O glorious Bartholemew.

*And 3 verses of the apostle Barnabas, same tone,
to the special melody You have given a sign...*

You received invincible authority and power * over demons, O Apostle, * in the name of Christ, * expelling the princes of darkness; * as you travelled the earth, * shedding light like the sun; * and, being the first to arrive in glorious Rome, * you preached the salvific advent of Christ, * O glorious Apostle.

Emulating the primal goodness * and the divine essence who is life, * you attained innermost goodness, * O Apostle Barnabas; * receiving a name signifying Son of Consolation, * as by the goodness of your character * and the purity of your mind * you became a true disciple of Christ.

As an instrument well tuned * by the action of the Spirit, O Barnabas, * you committed yourself to summon the gentiles, * guiding them to the knowledge of Christ * by your words and deeds, * and enlightening all * to confess the true divinity of Jesus, * the Saviour of our souls.

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

Praiseworthy Apostle Barnabas,
radiant vessel of the Holy Spirit and Son of Consolation,
even before Paul you were foremost of the Seventy Apostles,
and with Paul you preached the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
Fulfilling your discourse of grace with your deeds,
you offered yourself, a pure wholeburnt offering to Christ your teacher:
we pray you, ever entreat him, O glorious apostle,
that in peace our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever... *Doxastikon from the Pentecostarion,*
or this Dogmatikon, 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 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 with Incense, Prokimenon of the day and the three readings.

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

For the Lord’s sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. honour the emperor.

Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.

Aposticha

*We sing the verses of the Pentecostarion inserting the Doxastikon provided below,
but if the feast is during the Apostles’ fast, we sing all the following.*

*Verses of the apostles, tone 1
to the special melody O most praised apostles...*

Your proclamation of salvation has gone out through all the world,
O apostles, eyewitnesses of God:
it has illumined the souls of the lost and brought to Christ

those who were enlightened by grace;
and so we pray that through your intercession
he may grant our souls peace and great mercy.

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

Most radiant beacons of Christ and truly precious vessels,
through your faith, O apostles most wise,
you came to hold the radiance of the Spirit,
O pillars of the Church and glorious heavens declaring the glory of God:
implore him O glorious ones
to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

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

O blessed ones who brought to Christ our God
the nations, delivered by the blood
of him who was pleased to be born on earth
who willingly endured the cross and death:
entreat him now, O glorious ones,
that he grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

Most praised Barnabas, apostle of the Saviour,
receptacle of faith, the Son of Consolation,
calm of those who are storm-tossed,
pray unceasingly as you have boldness,
that our souls be kept in peace on this, your commemoration.

Both now and for ever...

Doxastikon from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion, tone 8

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 of the apostle Bartholomew, tone 3

Holy apostle Bartholemew,
intercede with the merciful God,

that he grant to our souls remission of transgressions.

Glory be to the Father...

Troparion of the apostle Barnabas, tone 8

O most praised Barnabas, apostle of the Saviour, and receptacle of faith,
the Son of Consolation, and calm of those who are storm-tossed,
pray unceasingly as you have boldness, that our souls be preserved in peace
on this the day of your commemoration.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, same tone*

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.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion above, repeating the first.,

*After the first reading from the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

The apostles as a spiritual choir were mystically sent into the world by God the Most High, and they were unwittingly seen as physicians of the suffering, calling upon the unity in three persons, and wisely describing the divine incarnation of the Lord Emmanuel. *twice*

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

Theotokion O Virgin, we hymn you as the unburnt bush which Moses saw, the mountain of God, the holy cloud, the undefiled tabernacle, the God-pleasing table, the palace of the king the Most High, the most radiant and impassable gate.

*After the second reading from the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have appeared today...*

Like stars you enlighten the ends of the earth with splendid radiance, the divine doctrines of your holy preaching, O apostles of the Lord, initiates of the mysteries of heaven. *twice*

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

Theotokion O faithful, let us bless the Mother of God, the fervent aid of those in need, our help and reconciliation with God, by whom we have been delivered from corruption.

Polyeleos, and this magnification

We magnify you, O holy apostles Bartholemew and Barnabas, and we honour the 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, this Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Dragging the nations up from the depths of ignorance in a godly manner with the net of the Word, you brought them in with faith; and as a fountain of spiritual water you have drenched the world with grace. We who are saved bless you, O divinely eloquent Bartholemew, as the close friend of Christ, and sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love. *twice*

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

Theotokion All of us, the generations of men, bless you as the Virgin who, alone among women, without seed gave birth to God incarnate; for the fire of the divinity dwelt within you, and you nurtured the creator and Lord with milk as an infant. We, the generation of angels and men, fittingly glorify your all-holy birthgiving, and together we cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who worship your most holy birthgiving with faith.

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.

And the rest, with the Gospel of John, number 67

After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 1

Your proclamation of salvation has gone out through all the world,
O apostles, eyewitnesses of God:
it has illumined the souls of the lost and brought to Christ
those who were enlightened by grace;

and so we pray that through your intercession
he may grant our souls peace and great mercy.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklisis],
and two canons for the Apostles.*

Ode 1

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew, 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.

God who sees all things beforehand, perceiving your mind, chose you and enrolled you in the choir of the apostles, O exalted Bartholemew, illumining your heart with grace.

Ascending the heights of the virtues, as an apostle of Christ you were enriched with the divided tongue of fire breathed by the Spirit, burning away up the tinder of impiety and ignorance.

As a God-bearing ember afire with the radiance of the divine Spirit burning the chaff of fallacy, O Bartholemew, enlighten the hearts of those who hymn you with faith.

Theotokion O pure one, tell us how it is that you suckle, and how can you to be a mother, resplendent with the seals of your virginity intact? It is the one God and Lord of all, who transcends nature and who, plumbs the depths, to whom I gave birth.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas, same tone and Irmosi

As one good and known as the son of consolation, dispel the affliction of my soul and the soul-destroying grief of sin, that, full of gladness, I may hymn you.

Encircled by the radiance of Christ the king of all, O blessed one from the tribe of Judah and from sacred Levitic kinship, you preached the supplanting of the Law by grace.

Your splendid life of pristine goodness was rendered blessed by graces derived from God, O wise and glorious Barnabas, offspring of divine consolation.

Theotokion The divine choir of maidens hymns you, the Mother of God, as one blessed among women and adorned with the beauties of divinity; for in a manner past recounting you gave birth to the Word, our benefactor.

Ode 3

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

Irmos 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.

Like rain from heaven, you watered the whole world which parched under the darkness of ungodliness, O wise and right wondrous eyewitness of God.

You gave a stream of the drink of salvation, O honourable Bartholemew, and brought forth manifold fruit of salvation for the nations, O wondrous one.

With the salt of grace you ended the putrefaction of idolatry, O wise one, delighting the hearts of those who honour you with the sweet discourse of faith.

Theotokion We honour you, the only virgin Mother, as the vehicle of our salvation who delivers the world by your supplications, O immaculate Lady.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

Glorious Barnabas, you appeared as a willing cloud bearing rain for us from the source of grace and dropping a torrent of nourishment down upon us.

The authority of the omnipotent Spirit, seeing you to be a servant of the mysteries of Christ gifted with diverse splendours, set you apart, O exalted one.

Barnabas and Paul, the divinely wise and glorious apostles, enlightened by the grace of your cross, through faith brought the nations to you, O Master.

Theotokion You were like a lily in your purity, shining forth amid thorns in the radiance of your virginity, O most pure Mother of God.

Kontakion of the Apostle Barnabas, tone 3

You became a perfect and faithful servant of the Lord, O Barnabas, and were foremost among the seventy apostles. Worthy to be the companion of Paul in his preaching, you proved to all that Christ was the Saviour; therefore we celebrate your divine memory with hymns and songs.

Ikos The Son of God, equally eternal with the Spirit, who in his good pleasure became incarnate on earth as a man, granting dispassion through his honoured suffering, ordained you an apostle, a herald of the faith wise in discourse and truly wondrous, and a true worshiper of the Trinity, O blessed one. Therefore, the precious and radiant morning-star has shone upon the faithful, illumining your divine memory, which we rightly celebrate.

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

Dragging the nations up from the depths of ignorance in a godly manner with the net of the Word, you brought them in with faith; and as a fountain of spiritual water you have drenched the world with grace. We who are saved bless you, O divinely eloquent Bartholemew, as the close friend of Christ, and sing to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

Sessional Hymn of the Apostle Barnabas, same tone and melody

Endowed with reason, you were like the heavens declaring the glory of God, dispelling the night of ignorance with the effulgence of miracles, with rays of power and grace, and illumining the ends of the earth with beams of divine knowledge. We, the faithful, glorify your splendid and holy memory, and cry out to you: O most praised Barnabas, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion

All of us, the generations of men, bless you as the Virgin who, alone among women, without seed gave birth to God incarnate; for the fire of the divinity dwelt within you, and you nurtured the creator and Lord with milk as an infant. We, the generation of angels and men, fittingly glorify your all-holy birthgiving, and together we cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who worship your most holy birthgiving with faith.

Ode 4

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

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.

Protected by the cross of the Lord, excellent Bartholemew, you brought down the savagery of the demons, and by your preaching dispelled their soul-destroying deception.

Christ made you a light to the world, a divine radiance of glory, O God-pleasing Bartholemew; for you enlightened creation with divine knowledge, O blessed one.

Like an excellent steed, the chariot of the Word, you trampled the pagan seas; and with faith you consumed the uttermost parts of bitter ungodliness.

Theotokion Healing the ancient transgression of Eve, O most pure one, the supremely divine one made his abode within you and has restored me, a fallen man.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

Following the commandments of the Master, O most praised apostle Barnabas, you distributed your property among the poor, becoming an eloquent preacher of Christ.

You attained the uttermost splendour of the virtues, and with Paul, the divinely eloquent apostle, you proclaimed to all the unfathomable depths of the mysteries of God.

Passing over the ends of the world like the sun in your radiance, O honoured Barnabas, following Paul you illumined all with your discourse of grace.

Having shared the sufferings of the Saviour, O Barnabas, you are glorified with him in the mansions of heaven in manner past understanding, delighting in gladness.

Theotokion The condemnation of Eve our first mother was abolished by you, O immaculate Lady; for you gave birth to the eternal Word incarnate, who has crowned the world with blessings.

Ode 5

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

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 first conversed with Christ, the uncreated light who appeared to us among created things, O apostle; and you were enlightened by him with divine rays.

You lived in the world like a divine dew, granting healing to men, O blessed Bartholemew, and with prophecy laid waste the land of impiety.

Coming to the primal light, you were a secondary luminary, illumined with his brilliant radiance, for you yourself saw the Word, O wise Bartholemew.

Theotokion Mindful of your words, we call you blessed; for through you, O immaculate Lady, we have found blessedness, and are enriched with a truly honourable life.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

Having passed through the shadow of the law shining with grace, you illumined the gentiles, publishing glad tidings by preaching Christ.

Arrayed in the mighty dominion of the Holy Spirit, O apostle, you cast down evil spirits, delivering the world from their malice.

You were the voice of one crying among the barren nations, O wise Barnabas, proclaiming to all the unapproachable mystery of the divine incarnation.

Theotokion As Isaiah foretold, O most pure Mother of God, in manner past recounting you held Christ our God within you and gave birth to him supernaturally.

Ode 6

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

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.

Having received the grace to work miracles and enriched with the ability to accomplish healings, O wise Bartholemew, you tended the flock of the nations.

Your fiery tongue has burned up all falsehood like chaff, O glorious one, and has illumined the hearts of the faithful with divine preaching.

Having your teacher, the unoriginate Word, as a fount of wisdom, O glorious preacher of God, with grace you showed the wisdom of the world to be foolish.

Theotokion You gave birth in manner beyond nature, O Virgin, and remain eternally a virgin, revealing in images the true divinity, your Son and God.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

Shining upon the world resplendent with rays of light, O Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, you illumined Barnabas and Paul.

You were a scythe which severed weeds at the root, cutting down inveterate falsehood with your miracles, O wondrous and divinely eloquent Barnabas.

You were seen to be a lawgiver of grace, applying the images of the Old Testament to the true divine manifestation, O God-pleasing Barnabas.

Theotokion He who stretched out the heavens by his will has shown you to be another, earthly, heaven, O most pure Mother of God, and appeared, shining forth from you.

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

You appeared as a great sun for the whole world,
shining with the radiance of doctrines and awesome miracles,
and illuminating those who honour you,
O Bartholomew,

apostle of the Lord.

Ikos You appeared to be like heaven, declaring the glory of God through the Holy Spirit, O apostle who saw God; and were seen as a radiant sun for the world, dispelling the gloom of deception by divine grace. Therefore, I pray to you and offer entreaty: With your divine rays enlighten the blind eyes of my soul, O most rich, and grant me discourse, that I may open my mouth and sing on the day of your commemoration, on which the faithful praise you in gladness, O Bartholemew, apostle of the Lord.

Ode 7

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

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.

You revealed to the world the great mystery of the divine incarnation, infinite and beyond understanding, O Bartholemew, and which, though ineffable, is accessible and credible to the faithful alone.

As a stone rolling in the physical universe, holy Bartholemew, you overturned the basis of falsehood; and as an invincible foundation of the Church, you keep it unshaken.

You portray the divine likeness using the virtues as paint, blessed Bartholemew; and as a divine apostle, you preached to all the greatly hymned advent of Christ.

Theotokion Not subject to cultivation, O pure one, you gave rise to the ripe cluster of grapes; and, seeing him suspended upon the tree, you cried out: O my sweet child, you pour forth the sweet new wine whereby the drunkenness of the passions is dispelled.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

In holiness, O Barnabas, you preached the Son who rests in the saints, equally unoriginate and enthroned with the Father, and who, having become man, wrought salvation for us.

Honoured Barnabas and God-pleasing Paul, preachers of Christ, with the light of divine radiance have illumined the inheritance of the nations with their discourse of grace.

He who nurtured you, O divinely blessed Barnabas, who caused the word of grace to bloom, rejoices today, having put you forth as a shoot for Christ; and having become his successor, by your supplications deliver us from our present captivity.

Theotokion Guide my life to your tranquil haven, O most pure Lady, who by giving birth to God is the source of good things, who grants abundant goodness to the faithful.

Ode 8

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

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.

Most wisely you taught the Gospel of the Saviour to great and small, to the many and the few, O divinely wise Bartholemew, and through your discourses you worked great and glorious signs for all.

Issuing from Sion like a river, O apostle most rich, you water the congregations of the Church, and cause a stream of spiritual food to flow, crying out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

As an apostle you were divinely adorned with the most splendid and great gifts of God: O blessed one, your rank transcend in grace all glory in the sight of men.

Theotokion The dispassionate mind abode within you, beyond the understanding of men, O Lady, as he who is beyond time came under time by taking upon himself the baseness of the flesh; and so, with faith and love we glorify you, the Mother of God.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

As our benefactor, O giver of life, you summoned your steeds, glorious Barnabas and wondrous Paul, to stir the sea of the nations, driving out the falsehood of polytheism by the doctrines of piety.

As God the all-accomplishing Spirit and Advocate, you set within your Church shining beacons, proclaiming your power, who cry out the to Son and the Father: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

You shone radiantly, like the sun in the world, O God-pleaser, conversing with him who is the noetic sun; for, afire with his radiance, you became a secondary luminary, revealing to all the power of his mystery.

Having illumined the world with your teachings, you fittingly gained blessedness past understanding, receiving from the Master a crown of splendour in the mansions of heaven, O honourable Barnabas.

Theotokion That you might abolish the primal curse and condemnation to death of our first mother, O Word of God, you were born of the virgin Mother of God and have granted all imperishable immortality.

Ode 9

Canon of the Apostle Bartholemew

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.

As one who beheld and served the Word, as his disciple and godly preacher, you have been brought to live where the Word is, as the supremely good one truly promised.

Standing before the throne of your Master, illumined by the rays emitted thereby, O divinely wise Bartholemew, looking down, you deliver those who hymn you from sufferings and divers evil circumstances.

Made a son of God because of your faith, you were an heir to the treasures of the Father: how wondrous are those hands which bestow such great gifts, and how generous is our supremely exalted Christ, who has glorified you, O blessed eyewitness of God.

Theotokion The prophets, perceiving you from afar with clear-seeing sight, proclaimed you to be the one who would become the Mother of the creator and Master of all. Therefore, we declare you to be the exulted Mother of God.

Canon of the Apostle Barnabas

Having become bright through virtue, and standing before the great light, O apostles, implore the Master to grant peace to the world and to save our Church, which you have formed.

You consumed the rhetors' malice with the flame of your wisdom, O divinely revealed Barnabas, for within you was a fountain of divine radiance: therefore, we honour your sacred feast.

Celebrating your memory with faith, O apostle, we set you before the Master as our intercessor, O honoured Barnabas sacred preacher of God, praying that, through your mediation, we may obtain remission of our offences.

Theotokion You were found to be like the dawn of the morning, shining with rays of virginity within the night of life and revealing to us the Orient, the noetic Sun of Righteousness, O most pure Mother of God.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody You have visited us...

Come, you people, let us hymn the apostles of Christ, godly Bartholemew and wise Barnabas, the preachers of the faith, for they pray to Christ for our souls. *twice*

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

Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion

O pure and holy Lady who knew not man: as our salvation and hope, entreat our deliverer who was born of you, that he save the world from falsehood, tribulation and sorrows.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, inserting 4 verses, tone 4, to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

Jesus our God, the Sun of Righteousness, * sent you out as a ray of great brilliance * to the fullness of the world, * O divinely wise apostle, * dispelling the gloom of malice * and enlightening hearts darkened with ignorance * and by the assaults of the passions, * O Bartholemew most rich. *twice*

As a pure vessel of the Trinity, * lustrous with the splendour of the virtues, * O Barnabas; * and, receiving in your heart * the radiance thereof * and the most splendid light of the Sun, * you reflected it upon the ends of the earth, * illumining those who sit in the darkness of ignorance, * O God-pleaser.

Like clouds, O blessed ones, * you released the rain of heaven upon the ends of the earth * to water the souls of the faithful * with grace divine, * drowning the weeds of bitter ungodliness * and rendering fruitful * the souls of men. * Therefore, we honour you in praise, * O apostles of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 5, composed by Byzantius*

As the Wisdom of God, the ever-existing Word of the Father, foretold in the Gospels: You are fruitful vines, O exulted apostles, bearing ripe and beautiful grapes in your orations. We, the faithful, eating of them, gladly delight in their taste, O God-pleasing Bartholemew, and Barnabas the son of consolation: pray earnestly for our souls.

Both now and for ever... *Doxasticon from the Pentecostarion, or the Theotokion*

We bless you, O virgin Mother of God, for from you shone forth Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, who has great mercy.

Great Doxology. Litanies. Dismissal.

Liturgy

*Beatitudes, 8 verses, 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of Bartholemew,
and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of Barnabas.*

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.

Acts of the Holy Apostles, number 28

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

Communion Verse

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

June 11

The Protomartyrs of China, slain during the Boxer Rebellion

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 1
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

From Christ, the judge of the contest, you have received celestially woven wreaths, O glorious new-martyrs of the land of China, who are emulators of the angels in love for God. Pray for us, that we may sail across the sea of this deceptive life and reach the harbour of heaven. *Twice*

O choir worthy of heaven, you sacrificed yourselves for the risen Christ, that you might obtain higher things, and by your pangs and sufferings you have gladdened multitudes of angels and men: heal the many pangs and sufferings of those who celebrate your memory. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... *same tone and melody*

You are seen as luminaries of the Far East, full of heavenly light, for you destroyed the hellish gloom of the dark ancient madness. Reject not the paucity of our praises, but enlighten with rays of heavenly wisdom the souls of those who honour your struggle.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Abundant healings are bestowed upon all who have recourse to you with faith, O most pure Lady, since for us you gave birth to Christ, the healer of infirmities. By your supplications heal my soul, that with a pure heart I may hymn your loving kindness.

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

Hymning the beautiful corrections of the martyrs of China, we find the faithful intercessors for the faithful to be curative springs of heavenly dew.

Verse The righteous cry and the Lord hears them.

Having received enlightenment through the laver of regeneration, you were afterwards more perfectly baptized in your own blood, O passion-bearers.

Verse The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers him from them all.

Seated upon the chariot of your blood, O glorious new-martyrs, you travelled the path to heaven, and thereby have come to dwell in the new Jerusalem.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, tone 5*

Who can worthily hymn the depths of your loving-kindness, O immaculate Bride of God? The wise fall silent and the eloquent are at a loss. But as your children we cry out to you: Rejoice, joy of the sorrowful, wealth of the poor, mother of orphans and glory of the despised.

Troparion, tone 5

In a pagan land you were enlightened by the Orthodox faith,
and having lived in the faith but a little time,
you inherited the eternal kingdom.
By your Christian purity you proved Confucian piety to be false
and trampled demon-inspired Buddhism underfoot as refuse,
sanctifying the land of China with your blood.
Entreat the Master of all, we pray you,
that he enlighten your land with the Orthodox faith,
and therein strengthen us.

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

Theotokion 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.

Great Vespers

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

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 5,
to the Special Melody Rejoice...*

Behold, now bless the Lord, O you faithful. Rejoice now, O Orthodox Church, wondrously hymning the joy of the martyrs; for heaven is adorned with new luminaries; and the angels join chorus, giving them crowns; men rejoice, offering up praises; the land

of China, adorned, is triumphant; and we celebrate the radiant glorification of the holy martyrs. *Twice*

Rejoice now, O father John, beacon of Tobolsk, who sent the first preachers of Orthodoxy into China. And rejoice also, wondrous Innocent, lamp of Irkutsk, protector and fellow-labourer of the Orthodox evangelizers in China. Behold, your children are glorified as the valiant protomartyrs of their land. See, that which was barren gives birth; a waterless desert pours streams of life: how wondrous the miracle and how great is the joy. Entreat Christ for us, O martyrs. *Twice*

And 4 verses, tone 8

O Lord, it was your good pleasure that light be revealed to your land and its pagan people, and you extend the wings of the preaching of the truth. Thus the martyrs cried out when they were slaughtered for your sake, O Jesus most sweet; and thus we likewise glorify you. Glory to you O Lord, our light and resurrection. *Twice*

How wondrous is the mystery of the faith; how deep is your wisdom, O Christ. Your salvation is among all the nations, for you were pleased to bestow repentance freely upon our fallen race. What, therefore, shall we render to you? Thus said the assembly of the holy new-martyrs, through whom we now pray with tears: From all misfortunes free us who honour you with love. *Twice*

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

O council of holy new-martyrs, divine regiment of the land of China, confirmation of the faithful, joy of all the saints. O wondrous ones, you endured all the pangs of bitter laceration, the shedding of torrents of blood, beheading, dismemberment, and the excision of your flesh. Established firmly upon the rock of the true faith, you gave hymnody to God amid your torments; and having been made lustrous like gold in a crucible, you strengthen amid sorrows those who magnify you.

Both now and for ever...

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.

Entrance. Prokimenon. 3 Readings:

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the former things? Let them

bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, "It is true." You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the Lord. I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it? Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

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.

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.

Entreaty

Tone 1 O most lauded martyrs, divinely crowned assembly of China, forget not your race, but as ones called from on high fervently entreat God the Most High, that he be not utterly angered by our sins, that he consume the blasphemies of the heretics with the

word of wisdom, that he increase the true faith in your land, melt our hardened hearts, and illumine with salvation and divine light those who honour you.

Tone 2 With what hymns of praise shall we glorify your radiant end, O unblemished lambs of Christ, who now glorify the Trinity with sacred mouths, O champions of piety, lovers of heavenly glory, inexhaustible fountains of gracious healing, ardent allies of the faithful, who entreat Christ to grant us great mercy?

Tone 4 Once the divinely eloquent David sang: You shall guide the nations of the earth upon your path. Then the time came, in accordance with the prophecy of the Psalmist, for the land of China to bear sweet and good fruit for the cultivator, the radiant multitude of new-martyrs, who entreat Christ for the salvation of our souls.

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

Celebrating the splendid festivity of your memorial, we are filled with gladness. As you are bold intercessors for us, pour fervent entreaty for us: heal the infirm; grant health to the sick and consolation to those who suffer and are afflicted, humility to those who rejoice, chastity to those smitten by the storm of the passions, enlightenment to unbelievers, and the forgiveness of all sins to the faithful.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Now the counsel of the devil has been brought down; now the might of Satan has been crushed; for by your child, O virgin Mother, the new-martyrs were delivered like birds from a snare, and illumined with the light of the truth. Standing with you before the throne of God, they pray for the salvation of those who honour you as truly the Mother of God.

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

O divinely wise company, your radiant memorial has dawned today, O heirs to the kingdom of Christ, strugglers to the death for obedience and love divine. The Church hymns you with love, the sun and the stars join chorus together. Grant peace, joy and hope of salvation to those who gather in your church.

Verse From the rising of the sun to its going down, let the name of the Lord be praised.

O most glorious wonder, O Christ our God, you have revealed the passion-bearers of China to be the destruction of demons and helpers of men; for, arrayed in the armour of light, they endured cruel torture; and soaring aloft like eagles, they confounded the aerial spirits and made their abode in the bridal-chamber of heaven.

Verse He has gathered them from every land, from the east and from the west; from the north and from the south.

Rejoice, O divinely gathered company of martyrs; rejoice, divinely planted garden of radiant fruit, godly body two hundred strong. China has given you, her fruit to the fashioner of all: your blood is a stream of healing for the faithful, the mortification of your flesh gladdens the angels, and your supplications are salvation for all.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 5*

Rejoice, divine assembly of passion-bearers, who broke the fangs of the invisible beasts, O emulators of the angels, fervent intercessors for men, weepers over the land of China, protectors of the Russian who there sojourn, who fervently pray for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

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, the Sun of Righteousness, has revealed himself to those who sleep in darkness, desiring to enlighten that which he 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.

Troparion of the new-martyrs, tone 5

In a pagan land you were enlightened by the Orthodox faith,
and having lived in the faith but a little time,
you inherited the eternal kingdom.
By your Christian purity you proved Confucian piety to be false
and trampled demon-inspired Buddhism underfoot as refuse,
sanctifying the land of China with your blood.
Entreat the Master of all, we pray you,
that he enlighten your land with the Orthodox faith,
and therein strengthen us. *Twice*

*And Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once,
or if it not a Vigil service, the troparion with Theotokion, as at Matins.*

Matins

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the new-martyrs, twice;
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... Theotokion, in the same tone*

Theotokion 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.

*After the first reading of the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 6*

When the Emperor Huan-tsu reigned in the land of China, Christ made his abode within you, O mighty martyrs, and invisibly bestowed upon you his own kingdom; for, wearing upon yourselves the image of him who wrought salvation upon the cross, you were granted paradise in a single moment: remember us before the throne of the Master.

Glory be to the Father... *another Sessional Hymn*

Martyrs of Christ, lamps made luminous by God, enlighten your race amid the darkness of life, that having passed through the night of unbelief, they may come to love the nobility of Christ, and strengthened by your following of him, may they sing to you a hymn of thanksgiving.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Prefiguring you of old, the most pure Lady, Israel traversed the Red Sea dryshod; and now the New Israel hymns your unwedded state, and cries out with the martyrs: O Lady who has illumined the human race with never-waning rays, enlighten those who seek the Lord, your Son.

*After the second reading of the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 3*

Christ has acquired you as the first-called martyrs of the Chinese race, for you cast down the pride of the serpent and, hastening boldly to the contest, glorified Christ in your bodies. May you earnestly entreat him, O holy ones, that he grant us great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... *another Sessional Hymn*

Born in the darkness of unbelief, you came to full of divine radiance after death. How great was your love for God, for even though you lived in the faith for a short time, amid torture you remained strong for Christ. Therefore, we song to you: Rejoice, beacons of the Chinese race, leading them to God.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady who gave birth to Christ, the author of light, with the holy hierarchs of the Far East, Innocent, John, Nicholas, and the newly glorified John and Jonah, fervently pray to him, that with the brilliance of the divine word he may further proclaim his glory among the Chinese people, O virgin Mother of God.

Polyeleos, and Magnification

We magnify you, O holy new-martyrs of China, and we reverence your honoured sufferings, which you endured for Christ.

Verse God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

After the Polyeleos, Sessional Hymn, tone 8

Enlightened with exalted mind through the wood of the cross, O company sanctified in tortures, headed by Metrophanes you initiated a splendid undertaking for your race. May your tearful entreaties never cease, that all who honour you with love may safely pass through this life which is full of tears.

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

Theotokion O most pure Mother of God, unblemished lamb, who can describe your love for all men? For by you all creation is gladdened; in you the newly-glorified protomartyrs of China rejoice. Accepting their supplications for us, bring them to your Son, that he save our souls.

Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4

Prokimenon, tone 4

The righteous cry and the Lord hears it, and frees them from all their affliction.

Verse The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers them from them all.

Let every breath... *and the rest,*
with the Gospel of Matthew, number 36 (Mat 10: 16-22)

After the Psalm Have mercy...

The land of China is sanctified today with radiant blood; the passage of time is rendered luminous by the splendour of the martyrs; and the Church of Christ is adorned with brilliant stars. Enlightened by the light of Christ's sufferings, the new-martyrs gloriously finished their contest, received crowns of eternal life, and were made radiant guides for all who thirst after righteousness.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklisis],
and that of the new-martyrs of China, tone 6*

*We sing the Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklisis];
and that of the new-martyrs of China, tone 6*

Ode 1

Irmos He who in ancient times buried the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is buried beneath the earth by the children of those he had saved. But, like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

Refrain Holy new-martyrs of China, pray to God for us.

I do not hide your truth in my heart, O Christ our God, but I hymn your salvation among the nations: touch my mouth, and purify my defilement with the burning coal of the Spirit, O Word, that with good words I may hymn the beautiful struggle of the protomartyrs of China.

Holy Apostle Thomas, first to preach the Gospel in the land of the Yellow Emperor, rejoice now, as you see a worthy branch of Christ, the choir of the new-martyrs for the Orthodox faith preached by you of old, a new boast and joy for the faithful.

When you sat in darkness and the shadow of death, you were illumined by the light of Orthodoxy, and with your whole heart hastened to the one God, the Trinity alone. Wherefore, the faithful are now enlightened by your radiance.

The most sacred name of Christ has now been magnified by you in China, O honoured passion-bearers; for remaining unshaken in your confession to the end, you emulated the angels and astonished men.

Theotokion Truly, all generations magnify you, O blessed Virgin. For even the land of China speaks gratefully to you by the mouths of the new-martyrs, saying: Rejoice, O Lady who without corruption gave birth to our Savior.

Ode 3

Irmos You suspended the earth immovably upon the waters: now creation sees you suspended on Golgotha, and it quakes with great amazement and cries: There is none holy but you, O Lord.

Though you were born in a godless land, with love for God you searched for the truth; and in the Orthodox Church you found the living water of life everlasting.

An unexpected downpour of trials fell; rivers of wrath arose; and the storms of the heathen beset you, O valiant martyrs of Christ; but, faithful to Christ to death, you calmly endured to the end.

We hymn your journey to the Jerusalem on high, and are amazed by your brave heroism, O wondrous ones; and our souls are delighted by your love for God: travel with us amid both joys and sorrows.

If we are amazed at the lily which grew tall amid thorns, how much more are we astonished by these brilliant stars which shone clearly amid the depths of pagan darkness? We hymn you, O divinely radiant luminaries of the Far East.

Theotokion Having made his abode within you, God in no way disturbed the key of your virginity, O pure one. Implore him, that he make strong those who hymn you.

Sessional Hymn, tone 8

Today this holy church shines with heavenly light. The company of the new martyrs, an inexhaustible fountain healing infirmities, gives the life-bearing sweetness of its waters to those who honour them with love, and dries up the bitter spate of pleasures.

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

Theotokion Having torn themselves from their sojourn in this deceptive life, and cut themselves off by the torments of their crucified flesh, they remained faithful to death, to our crucified God who was incarnate of you, O virgin Mother. By their supplications and the divine cross, in your goodness, cleanse us of every sin.

Ode 4

Irmos Foreseeing your divine self-emptying upon the cross, Habakkuk cried out marvelling: You have shattered the strength of the powerful, O blessed and almighty one, and preached to those in Hades.

O blessed martyrs, you gave yourselves over to voluntary slaughter, sanctifying China with your blood: entreat Christ our God for those who celebrate your memory with love.

O martyr Paul, namesake the great apostle of the nations: full of joy, you advanced the preaching of the Gospel, and with prayer on your lips surrendered your soul to God whom you greatly loved.

Ya Un, the blessed instructor in the faith, did not fear to suffer for Christ: twice tortured, he finished the beautiful race with pure faith as an unblemished lamb of Christ.

O John, a child in the world for eight years from birth, you attained the measure of the stature of Christ, for you were slain for Christ, and like a lamb were consumed by fire. Rejoice now, O new Isaac; rejoice, O wondrous martyr.

Theotokion O wondrous Mother of God, who gave birth to the enlightenment of the world, with the new-martyrs now glorified never cease to entreat your Son and God, that he grant enlightenment also to the Chinese people, sunk deep in idolatry, even at the end.

Ode 5

Irmos Isaiah saw the unsetting light, the light of your theophany, dawning from the night in your tender love for us, O Christ, and he cried out: The dead shall arise and they that dwell in the tombs shall awaken, and all born on earth shall rejoice greatly.

Your memorial shines, O faithful servants of Christ, and illumines with fervour the hearts of the faithful who bow down with love before your honoured image and sing to you: Rejoice, for you are the great boast of the Orthodox faith.

O blessed favourites of Christ, forget not your earthly homeland; dispel the darkness of opposition to God; enlighten those who slumber in ignorance; and unfailingly entreat Christ, that he grant all a time for repentance.

Let us hymn the radiant children of China, slaughtered for Christ by the demonic pagans. Let us celebrate their memory now, looking mystically upon their struggle as upon that of the innocents in Bethlehem, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

O child John, who smiled in the face of death, you said to the torturers: It is not hard to suffer for Christ. O wondrous scion of the land of China, fill our hearts with the sweet fragrance of your meekness.

Theotokion Through the divine Spirit you conceived the creator, God and fashioner of all, O pure and immaculate Lady. Glorifying him, we sing to you, O Virgin, the palace of the king of all and the help of the world.

Ode 6

Irmos Jonah was enclosed but not held fast in the belly of the whale; for, given as a sign of your acceptance of suffering and burial, he came forth from the monster as from a chamber and called out to the guard: You that keep watch falsely and in vain, have forsaken him who is mercy.

It is especially right to sing your praise, Metrophanes the first hieromartyr for the faith in China: bless us from on high and offer prayer to God for us.

Born to a family of Orthodox Christians, O blessed Metrophanes, you were raised well in piety, and from your youth you loved the true faith.

Remaining unshaken in the faith of Christ, you were counted worthy to suffer for Christ to death. Rejoice, O standard of faith, model of meekness, boast of piety.

Though you considered yourself unworthy of the priesthood, Nicholas the great apostle of Japan raised you to the summit of pastoral service: now standing before the Trinity with your sacred instructor, pray earnestly that our souls be saved.

Having first watered the field of souls with the sweat of ministry, and then strengthening the weak plants with the outpouring of your blood, even after death you care for your people, O glorious Metrophanes.

Theotokion He who was born of you made you holier than the angels and higher than all creation: as our Lady, with the new-martyrs of China, entreat your Son for us.

Kontakion, tone 1

O martyrs of these latter times, as you shed your blood for Christ
you whitened your garments in the blood of the Lamb.
Now you minister to him day and night in the Church of heaven.
Entreat Christ for us, O glorious martyrs,
that he hide his little flock from the deception of Antichrist,
and that he lead us from great tribulation
to the land of never-waning light.

Ikos The armies of the angels rejoiced when you fled from the darkness of paganism to the light of Orthodoxy, cleansing your souls and bodies of sins through holy baptism. And having accepted the heavy calling to serve Christ in this age of new paganism, we offer up before your icon the hymn: Rejoice, O glorious martyrs of China, who strengthen us to endure to the end.

Ode 7

Irmos It is an inexpressible wonder, that he who delivered the holy children from the fiery furnace is laid in the tomb as a corpse without breath, for the salvation of us who sing: Blessed are you, O God our deliverer.

Let us praise the martyr Tatiana, beheaded for Christ; for she intercedes for us before the throne of the divine Trinity, that all who hymn her may be saved.

Possessed of prophetic zeal for Christ, O blessed Isaiah, you did not spare your material flesh, considering temporal sufferings unworthy of the heavenly glory which would be manifest through them.

O wondrous martyr Maria, betrothed of glorious Isaiah, as the namesake of the most pure Mother of God you desired to die near her church, where you were born.

Rejoice, you hard diamonds, confessors of Christ. Rejoice, sure guardians of the faithful, partakers of the cup of Christ, who were baptized with his baptism. The whole Church now hymns your great love for God.

Theotokion Through the Virgin, in place of our first mother, you became a new Adam; and in place of death became our true and immortal life. Knowing the Mother of God who gave you birth, we the faithful, fittingly bless you.

Ode 8

Irmos Be amazed with fear, O heavens, and be shaken O foundations of the earth. For, behold, he who dwells on high is numbered among the dead and sheltered as a stranger in a narrow tomb. You children bless, you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

You surrendered yourselves to the hands of the torturers with unwavering faith O new-martyrs, elect of God: children and mothers, boys and girls, young men and maidens, the old and young, those known and unknown; faithful worshippers of the true God, hymning and exalting him above all for ever.

By the severing of your limbs you rent asunder the nets of the devil, O glorious regiment of fearless warriors; and like stars of golden radiance you illumine your land. With your light enlighten us also, who glorify and exalt the Lord in your church.

We glorify you, chosen by the Lord who loves mankind; and we pray: O assembly of silvery radiance, with your fervent supplications to God luminously shine rays of Orthodoxy in your land.

O divinely eloquent prophet David: as you said, the Lord has brought together the nations he has delivered from the hand of the enemy; from the east, the west, the north and the south. For having found the Word of God to be living water, they water the souls of those who hymn them with love.

Theotokion Rejoice, O Lady who shone the Sun of Righteousness upon the world, star of golden radiance, now illumining with rays of joy the first-crowned martyrs of China. With them entreat your Son, that he grant the world peace and great mercy.

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.

O assembly of wondrous saints, our joy: honouring your great torments and tears, we implore you with all our soul: Fail not to entreat Christ the king, that he grant salvation to us who hasten to your church.

We hymn you, O exalted martyrs, pillars of the Orthodox Church established firmly in the Far East: make us also firm in the faith, and impart streams of healing to the faithful.

Though sharing a body with men, you transcended the infirmity of human nature and became the astonishment of angels. You strengthen the weak, heal the pangs of those who ask you with faith; and as passion-bearers purge the passions of those who pray to you.

Theotokion As the intercessor for all Christians, O immaculate Mother of God, as you are merciful deliver your sufferings servants from misfortune and temptation, and heal those afflicted with cruel transgressions and beset by grievous wounds and ills.

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

Today the firmament of heaven is adorned with new stars, with whose radiance the earthly sea reflects rays of joy; and the faithful, illumined thereby, join chorus, singing a hymn of victory to the bestower of light.

Theotokion Entreated by the supplications of the honoured new-martyrs of China, O Virgin, queen of all, remove darkness of soul from us, as you gave birth for all to the true Bestower of light.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, 4 verses, tone 4,*
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...

The land of China now produces for Christ a choir of blessed passion-bearers, the ten-score fruit of the two-century sowing of Russian preachers. They have enriched the beautiful wilderness with the outpouring of the blood of sacred martyrdom, whose healing memorial the Church of Christ now celebrates, on which we also offer the heartfelt praise: Rejoice, sure intercessors for those who hymn you.

Today is glorified the choir of the holy new-martyrs who pleased the God of all in the land of China; and as we stand with fervour in their church, they invisibly pray for us to Christ, to heal the infirm, comfort the sorrowful, and grant peace and spiritual light to the tempest-tossed, by their splendid entreaties to God for us.

Today the East imparts its rays to the world: today the gloomy vales of deception are destroyed, and heathen superstition is confounded by worshippers of the bestower of light who shines among the nations. O glorious martyrs, stars illumining the setting of the corrupt world, today the divine Church is filled with your radiance, and the gathering of the faithful splendidly joins chorus for your sake.

Today the heavenly granaries are filled with a multitude of wheat; today the land of China offers you the firstfruits of its crop, O God, creator of all. Accepting it upon your supercelestial altar, confirm that which you have done for us: increase the time we have for repentance, pour mercy upon the world, and before the end enlighten the land of China with rays of Orthodoxy, having as fervent intercessors the choir of excellent new-martyrs who glorified you there.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

O vineyard planted by God,
cross-bearing multitude of wondrous passion-bearers,
on your memorial we flee to you, O kind-hearted ones.
Accept from us these unworthy praises,
and be the helpers and sure mediators
for those who with all their hearts cry out to you:
Rejoice, O greatly merciful martyrs:
never leave those who honour you.

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, from Odes 3 and 6 of the canon of the martyrs.

Prokimenon, tone 4

From the rising of the sun to its going down, let the name of the Lord be praised.

Verse He has gathered them from every land, from the east and from the west;
from the north and from the south.

Epistle to the Romans, number 99 [Rom 8: 28-39]

Alleluia, tone 6

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.

Gather to me all my faithful ones, those who by sacrifice made a covenant with
me.

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.

June 11

Icon of the Mother of God *Truly it is right* and the miracle wrought by the Archangel Gabriel

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

Come now, those who love the feasts of the Church; monastics, come, let us sing the hymn which the archangel has taught us to sing to the pure Virgin. Come, and with fervour let us hymn her divine majesty, and with love let us bless the truly ever-blessed one, rejoicing today in her Church of the Protaton. *Twice*

Weaving the hymnody which the Archangel Gabriel sang to augment the hymn of Cosmas, O divinely wise, with uplifted voices and with love and reverence, let us hymn her great miracle, wrought this day in the cell where he taught the novice monk a new hymn.

We praise you, O ever-blessed Lady, and with faith we bow down before your precious icon, the protection of the mountain, before which, in strange manner, Gabriel suddenly came down from heaven and sang, Truly it is right to call you blessed, the Mother of the creator.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 1*

Be glad today, O multitude of desert-dwellers and cenobites of the Holy Mountain, and leap up in gladness, singing hymns of thanksgiving to the Virgin. For by her forethought, through the coming of the Archangel, she has instituted a new angelic hymn for us. Truly it is right to bless and honour her as the Mother of Christ our God, the creator of all. She is more exalted than the cherubim and beyond compare more holy than the seraphim; and she saves our souls from misfortunes.

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

It is truly right to bless you, the Bearer of God, who saves those who honour you, O Mother of God.

Verse I will make known your name to every generation.

O most glorious icon of the Mother of God the Word, protector of the Protaton, protect us, preserving us from all misfortunes.

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

Coming down from heaven, the Archangel Gabriel sang an angelic hymn before your precious icon, O pure one.

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

O most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, through the grace of your icon keep your servants from all harm.

Troparion, tone 4

O faithful, let us confidently hasten
to the Mother of God, our merciful Queen;
and with contrition let us cry out to her:
Send down upon us your rich mercies;
preserve our Church and maintain your people in prosperity;
deliver our land from every evil circumstance;
grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

Great Vespers

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

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 1,
to the Special Melody O wondrous miracle...*

O wondrous miracle; God who became incarnate of you has been pleased that your hymn now be extended, O pure Lady. He sent his Archangel in suitable manner to the monk, to teach him your hymn; for Gabriel before cried out to you: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you, through you granting the world great mercy. *Twice*

How great your miracle, O pure Lady, for you are shown to be the Mother of the Most High. Now, by your forethought, the Archangel Gabriel has been sent from heaven in a strange appearance, to teach your hymnody in a perfect manner; for he before cried out to you: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you, through you granting the world great mercy. *Twice*

We glorify your forethought, O virgin Mother of God, for by the strange arrival of divine Gabriel, you have now taught us the truly wondrous beginning to your hymn. Falling down with faith, we call out to you, crying out with him: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you, through you granting the world great mercy. *Twice*

O wondrous miracle, the radiant Gabriel, in the form of a monk, appeared to the monk who remained in his cell and miraculously received the addition to your hymn, O immaculate Lady. And immediately with his finger he engraved what he had sung upon a tablet of stone, and then vanished, leaving the astonished monk to glorify you, O exalted one. *Twice*

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

It was fitting that on Mount Athos, which has you as its intercessor, O Mother of God, this your hymn of the archangel was first sung to you, O exalted Virgin, and that from here it has passed to the ends of the earth, the crown of the hymns of the Mother of God. Therefore, we cry out to you: O all-glorious Mother of God, implore your Son that our souls be saved.

Entrance. Prokimenon of the day. Three 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."

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.

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.

Entreaty

Tone 1 Today is the triumph of the Virgin: let Athos leap up, and let the Church join chorus. For the holy Mother of God summons us to the annual feast of her new hymnody, which the Archangel Gabriel has taught us, the strange beginning of her divine hymn. For having thus appeared to the monk in similar form, he magnified the Mother of God as her who held him incarnate, who is seated upon the cherubim. Through her supplications, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Tone 2 She who is more exalted than the heavens, who is more glorious than the cherubim and more honourable than all creation, who because of her great purity became the receptacle of the ever-existent Essence, is today magnified in her k Ellison by the angel with hymns. Thus are all things filled with joy, and great mercy is bestowed upon us.

The immaculate Bride and Mother, foreordained by God as a dwelling-place for him, in the good pleasure of the Father, whom the incorporeal hosts unceasingly glorify, and whom we bless as the Mother of God, the truly ever-blessed and most immaculate Mother of our God, today, through the Archangel, gives us hymnody new to the ear.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 5*

You people, hymn, O hymn the Mother of our God; for today the Archangel sang to the solitary monk the new hymn of the immaculate Virgin who is our helper, and whom we all must honour unceasingly.

*Aposticha, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Joy of the ranks of heaven...

Of old, God sent you, O virgin Maiden, the divine Gabriel, the prince of the ranks of heaven, to bear you tidings of your ineffable conceiving; and now he is first to teach us your new hymnody.

Verses I will make known your name to every generation.

O virgin Maiden, who can worthily recount this strange miracle, which took place to your glory? For the angel appeared in the form of a monk, providing a new beginning to your hymn with wondrous praises to you, and telling all to sing thus.

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

It is right, O Virgin, as the divine Gabriel truly sang, to bless you, the pure Mother of God, blessed and immaculate, truly the Mother of God, whom we magnify in hymns.

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

The monk heard a hymn which he had never known; for the Archangel taught him the beginning of your hymn, O Virgin. Marvelling, the monk asked him to set it down in writing. He therefore engraved it with his finger upon a tablet of stone, and then vanished, having ensured that in joy you would ever be hymned as the Mother of God.

After the blessing of the loaves, the troparion of the icon, tone 4

O faithful, let us confidently hasten
to the Mother of God, our merciful Queen;
and with contrition let us cry out to her:
Send down upon us your rich mercies;
preserve our Church and maintain your people in prosperity;
deliver our land from every evil circumstance;
grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls. *twice*

And Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the icon, thrice.

*After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

The multitude of the fathers of Athos now gathers to hymn your glorious festival with splendour, O Maiden; for on this day the prince of the angels gloriously proclaimed to us the beginning of your hymn.

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

*After the second reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Joseph marvelled...*

Before, Gabriel was sent to you from heaven, O pure one, to announce your awesome seedless conception. Now, appearing as a monk, he openly came to teach your hymnody, and miraculously engraved it. With the desert-dwellers and cenobites of Athos, we all sing: Rejoice, O Lady whom the ranks of angels hymn.

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

Polyeleos, and 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.

Verse Give the king your judgement, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

*After the Polyeleos, Sessional hymn, tone 3
to the Special Melody Awed by the beauty of your virginity...*

The multitudes of Athos are now glad, celebrating a splendid festival, truly knowing how to bless you, the Mother of God, ever-blessed and pure, immaculate and undefiled, the Mother of our God. With Gabriel we cry out to you: Rejoice, O full of grace.

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

Awed by the beauty of your virginity and your radiant purity, Gabriel, crying has now shown us how to sing the wondrous and excellent beginning to your hymn, and, having miraculously engraved it upon a tablet of stone, he then vanished: therefore, we honour you.

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... *and the rest with the Gospel of Luke, number 4 [1: 39-49, 56]*

After the Psalm Have mercy... the verse, tone 6

Of old, Gabriel announced to her who is full of grace: Rejoice, O unwedded Maiden. And now, appearing in a strange form to the monk, he has sung a new hymn. Before, he related his tidings to you, O pure one, and now he has wondrously hymned you, O Virgin, as the immaculate one who gave birth to the Lord.

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.

As you foretold, O immaculate Lady, Athos, which is called the Holy Mountain, now celebrates with splendour you, who is truly the holy mountain.

Gabriel ever wondrously ministers to your divine and excellent mysteries, O immaculate Lady: rejoicing now, he sings the beginning of your hymn.

O immaculate and pure Mother, you will never cease to work glorious miracles for your servants, and to pour forth your benefactions, as that you are our benefactor.

How can I recount the greatest of miracle wrought by you near the Skete of Karyes, O Archangel, when at your appearing you taught us fitting hymnody for the Mother of God?

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.

When the time came for all the fathers to assemble in the Church of the Protaton, to celebrate all-night praise, then the archangel sang your divine hymn, O pure one.

The elder of that novice went with the others; and to the one left behind the Archangel Gabriel appeared in similar form, providing a beginning for your hymn.

Adding a phrase to the beginning of that hymn which Cosmas sang to you of old, your divine servant said that it was his practice to begin your hymn thus.

How dread your wonders, O divine Archangel Gabriel: how appearing as a monk you sang to the Mother of God on this day and magnified her as is fitting?

Kontakion, tone 8

O Queen of all, we sing to you the cry of the archangel: Truly it is right to bless you, the Bearer of God, ever-blessed and most immaculate Mother of our God.

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

The monk marvelled at the hymnody of the angel, who sang an unusual hymn before you, O pure one, appearing to him as a monastic. And when the monk wished him to write it down, he miraculously engraved it on a tablet of stone, and vanished. Therefore this hymn proclaims to all that you, the Mother of God, be glorified, O immaculate Lady.

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

Ode 4

Irmos Perceiving the inscrutable purpose of God, that is the incarnation of you, the Most High, from the Virgin, the prophet Habakkuk cried out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

He began: Truly it is right to bless you, the most pure one, the Mother of God, ever-blessed and truly immaculate, the undefiled Mother of God.

When divine Gabriel strangely sang this introduction to the hymn, the monk who listened was amazed, and when he asked, the angel said it was his custom thus to sing.

The divine Archangel Gabriel commanded that this introduction be added to the beginning of the divine hymn of Cosmas, and that all be taught it.

Because the monk asked you to set down in writing the hymn he had heard, O divine Gabriel, you then inscribed it on a tablet of stone: glory to your ineffable power.

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 man was filled with awe by the marvellous wonder as he beheld a miracle when the tablet of stone was inscribed and Gabriel, the glorious and honourable supreme commander who was conversing with him, vanished.

When the elder returned to his cell in the morning, and heard of these strange things and saw the stone tablet engraved by the archangel's hand, with his disciple he then took it to the superiors of the Mountain.

These miracles are well known to all, O Virgin, for the superiors of the Mountain solemnly sent the stone immediately to the Imperial City, that all may glorify you.

All hastened to the lowly habitation where the strange wonder took place, and to your icon, before which the hymn was sung, O most pure one; and, reverently bowing down, they unanimously decreed that it be kept in the Protaton.

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.

With ineffable joy and gladness the priests and monks, the multitudes of the Mountain, hastened to take up your icon, O most pure Lady.

Holding this your divine icon with due reverence, the fathers, weaving hymnody, took it into your divine church with hymns and songs, O most pure Lady.

They celebrated an all-night vigil, with love honouring you, O Virgin, and the archangel who proclaimed your hymn; and we now likewise honour you.

After the celebration of the mysteries, the godly fathers, singing, took up your divine icon, and with great reverence placed it within the sanctuary of your church.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* You have appeared today...

The whole of Athos celebrates today, for it has miraculously received from the angel the hymn to the pure Mother of God, whom all creation honours, rendering her glory.

Ikos Let the multitude of the fathers of Athos now be glad, for to the former hymn to the Virgin which Cosmas, the divine hymnographer, wondrously sang to her, Gabriel has now added a beginning which he uttered to the monk: Truly it is right to call you blessed, the Bearer of God, the ever blessed and most immaculate Mother of our God. And he commanded him to tell all to begin your hymn thus. Having engraved it on a tablet of stone with his hand, he suddenly vanished. Marvelling, the monk hymned, as he had been taught, the pure Mother of God, whom all creation honours, rendering her glory.

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.

All the fathers, past and present, have rightly rendered excellent honour to this your divine icon, O immaculate Lady; for great honour is gloriously due you.

Your icon is worthy of great grace, O pure one; for at your pleasure the beginning of your hymn was first intoned before it: with love we fittingly bow down before it.

We do not make of your icon a deity, O Lady, as slanderers say of us; rather, rejoicing, we render it relative honour, as we your servants venerate it with respect, now and for ever.

With you, the most holy one, we will never cease to honour glorious Gabriel who has taught us your hymn, and who of old, announced to you: Rejoice, O full of grace.

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.

Emulating the pious youths, O Mother of God, hymning your wonders, which the Lord has wrought to your glory, we sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Truly blessed was he who was granted to hear your divine praises from the angel, O Virgin, as was your Son's good pleasure, for thereby he has taught all to hymn you worthily and to exalt you above all for ever.

The place where this miracle took place was fittingly called Hymnody; for this name ever fixes for us the remembrance of the miracle, O most pure Lady, that we may hymn and exalt you above all for ever.

To this day the cell where your divine icon, before which the beginning of your hymn was first sang, O pure Virgin, is called Truly it is right, that all may hymn you and exalt you 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.

We your servants hasten to your divine church, and we celebrate with splendour the annual commemoration of the miracle of the extension of your hymn, O pure ever-virgin Mother of God.

Rejoicing, let us never cease to sing: Truly it is right to bless you, the ever-blessed and most immaculate Mother of our God, as we have now learned from the angel, O pure ever-virgin.

Rejoicing and offering hymns of thanksgiving, we glorify the glorious and divine Archangel Gabriel, who by a wondrous miracle has taught all the divine hymn of the pure Mother of God; and let us cry out: Rejoice, O servant of ineffable mysteries.

Rejoice, O glorious church of the Protaton, which boasts in the treasure of the most precious and divine icon of the Mother of God, the guardian of Athos, which flows with grace; for the Mountain has become her chosen place.

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

Gather together, leap up and celebrate with splendour, for in the form of a monastic the divine Gabriel appeared to a monk, announcing for the first time the hymn of the Mother of God on Mount Athos, which has acquired her as its intercessor.

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

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 4 verses, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

Having descended from the realms of heaven, the Archangel Gabriel in unusual form today appeared to the novice monk, singing for him your unusual hymn, therewith extending that which Cosmas once sang for you, O Virgin. *twice*

Of old, Gabriel brought from heaven the announcement the Virgin: Rejoice. And today he has miraculously announced her new hymn to the Holy Mountain, singing: Truly it is right to bless the most pure one.

With love we venerate your divine icon which we kiss with faith, O pure Lady, before which the angel first sang the beginning of your hymn and together we celebrate divine Gabriel, the author thereof.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 6*

Who can describe your power, O pure Lady? Who can number the multitudes of your miracles? For in manner transcending nature you work many wonders, and how mighty are the things you do even now. For you, the most pure Virgin, through the angel have given us a beginning for your hymn, and in your forethought you were pleased that it be strangely graven upon a tablet of stone, that you might be magnified in hymns.

Great Doxology and the rest

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the Mother of God.

Prokimenon, tone 3: The Song of the Mother of God

My soul magnifies the Lord, and 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.

June 12

Venerable fathers Onuphrius and Peter the Athonite

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning tone 8,
to the Special Melody Most glorious wonder...*

Verses for venerable Onuphrius

Divinely wise father Onuphrius, * you cut yourself off from the tumult of the world
* and ascended to celestial perfection, * having desired him who is the source of good
things; * and there you found him who is true love, O blessed one. * Illumined with his
radiance, * by your supplications rescue us * from the darkness of sin.

Divinely wise father Onuphrius, * the cold of night and the burning heat of day *
you endured, O venerable one, * in hope of things to come. * Having mortified your
body on earth, * you have received the life of heaven * where you have joyously entered
the bridal-chamber, O holy one, * to behold the infinite beauty * of your creator.

Divinely wise father Onuphrius, * the glorious Paphnutius found you in the desert
* hidden like a treasure, * and he taught those in the world * the lessons of your struggles,
* enriching the faithful with his account * of your God-pleasing life. * By your
supplications, O glorious father, * may we be emulators thereof.

*And 3 verses of venerable Peter,
same tone and melody*

We recognize you, O venerable one, * as the namesake of the divine Peter; * as
one who truly followed him * and piously shared * his zeal for the faith; * for you loved
the good law, * and desired the divine precepts thereof, O father, * and adorned your
soul with the virtues. * Therefore, we honour and bless you.

Venerable father most rich, * having remorse of soul * you acquired true
patience, * love unfeigned, * steadfast hope * and perfect humility, * and became a
temple of the divine Spirit. * And having received his glory in purity, * you appeared to
mortals as a reflected luminary * through the purity of your life.

Venerable and divinely inspired father, * though you were hidden unseen * for
many years on earth, * yet you became known through the Spirit * in signs and wonders,
* and by the sweet fragrance of myrrh; * for you flowed with living radiance and holiness,
* truly showing the grace of the divine Spirit * to those who love you.

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

O venerable fathers, the sound of your teaching has gone out into all the earth; and you have found the reward of your labours in heaven, having routed the demonic horde and attained the ranks of the angels, whose life you blamelessly emulated. As you have boldness before Christ our God, ask peace for our souls.

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

Beholding you nailed to the cross, O bestower of light, the sun dimmed its rays and the earth quaked in fear. Yet iniquitous among the Jews in no way showed pity.

Aposticha, from the Octoechos,
and Glory be to the Father... tone 6

Preserving that which is in the image of God, and setting your mind to master pernicious passions through fasting, you ascended to that which is in the likeness of God, as far as you were able. Compelling your nature manfully, you strove to subdue that which is worse to that which is better, and to enslave the flesh to the spirit. We see you as the summit of monastics, a citizen of the desert, a trainer of those who run the good race, an excellent standard of virtue, who in purity now beholds the Trinity in Heaven, not as a reflection in a mirror; and you pray directly for those who honour you with faith and love.

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

Weeping, the most pure Lady exclaimed: As I think upon your seedless conceiving and ineffable birthgiving, I marvel greatly: How is it that it is your good pleasure to die thus as a malefactor, O my Son?

No Troparion is provided, but one may use this, tone 4

O God of our Fathers, deal with us always according to your kindness; take not your mercy from us, but through the intercessions of these holy ones, direct our lives in peace.

Matins

We sing one canon from the Octoechos, and two canons of the saints.

Ode 1

Canon of venerable Onuphrius, tone 4

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.

Illumined with the light of the thrice-radiant splendour, O father Onuphrius, by your supplications take me from the deadly darkness of offences, that I may hymn your memory.

Having rejected the world and cleaved to Christ, you made your flesh subject to your mind, becoming a receptacle of the Holy Spirit, O divinely wise father Onuphrius.

Guided by a pillar of divine light, you abandoned the Egypt of the passions and attained the heights of dispassion, where you conversed with God.

Theotokion You gave birth to him who was begotten of the Father, and remained an incorrupt virgin even after giving birth: we confess you to be truly the Mother of God, O exalted Lady.

*Canon of venerable Peter, tone 2,
composed by Joseph*

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.

Today the Church presents you before us as another Peter, illumining our minds with your divine memory, O father most rich.

Having washed the mire of the passions from your noetic eyes, O venerable one, you clearly saw the infinite beauty of Christ the king who has glorified you.

He who shone upon you the never-waning light of the three-Sunned divinity, O blessed and divinely wise father, made you the pure receptacle of divine gifts.

Theotokion He who for us clad himself in man through you, O Virgin, in his surpassing goodness, is supremely glorified by the assemblies of the venerable who love him.

Ode 3

Canon of Venerable Onuphrius

Irmos O Lord who directs the thunder and creates the winds, confirm my soul, that I may truly sing to you and do your will; for none is holy but you, our God.

Following the vision of the angel, you attained the desert; and having caused carnal pleasures to wither away through abstinence, you lived there as if an angel, O blessed one.

Shown to be a tree planted by springs of the waters of abstinence, O father Onuphrius, you truly produced the fruit of the virtues in due season through husbandry.

Having shone from the desert like a radiant star upon the world, you enlighten the gatherings of the pious with the beams of your struggles, O venerable father Onuphrius.

Theotokion You abolished the grief of our first parents, giving birth to him who is our joy, the bestower of life and deliverer, O most holy Mother of God: earnestly entreat him to save your flock.

Canon of venerable Peter

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.

Having mortified your members on the earth, O venerable one, with divine precepts you impart life to your soul; and you have received eternal life and splendour.

Having lived in goodness, you have joined the choirs on high, O blessed one, abiding in stillness and gazing upon the beauty of God.

Hiding in the mountains, you withdrew from the society of men, and in gladness furnished your mind with wings to soar aloft to the beauty of heaven.

Theotokion Knowing you to be a beautiful palace of indescribable richness, O Virgin, we fittingly glorify you, having been saved by your birthgiving.

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

Having withdrawn yourself from human companionship, out of divine desire and love for the Lord, O Peter, you dwelt in stony caves and deep ravines; and you have received from him a crown. Pray unceasingly that we be saved.

Ikos Having fled the tumults of the world and the tempest of life as frightful and evil, you attained the impassable places; and like a bird you lived alone for many years, hiding

away in caves, defiles and ravines, looking to the Lord and fulfilling his precepts. Having received grace from him, O venerable father, you shine like the sun: pray unceasingly that we be saved.

*Sessional Hymn of venerable Onuphrius, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...*

You withdrew, and made your dwelling in desert places, ever awaiting the Lord, who delivered you from evils. Having pleased the Master well, O blessed one, you received the unaging kingdom of heaven, and dwelling therein, be mindful of those who honour you.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of venerable Peter, tone 1
to the Special Melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

You buried the uprisings of the passions by the mortification of the flesh, O sacred father, and after death received life without end. The Church of Christ today celebrates your wondrous memory, O adornment of the venerable.

Both now and for ever... *from the Pentecostarion,
or one of these Theotokia, in the same tone and melody*

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.

Theotokion of the Cross The immaculate Mother, beholding you, O Christ, stretched out dead upon the cross, cried out: O my Son, co-unoriginate with the Father and the Holy Spirit, what is this indescribable activity, whereby you save the work of your most pure hands?

Ode 4

Canon of venerable Onuphrius

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.

Having shed the corrupt vesture of sin, O father Onuphrius, you clothed yourself in the raiment of righteousness and passed within the bridal-chamber.

By constant supplications you gathered the light of divine understanding in your heart, O Onuphrius our father, and escaped the dark deception of ignorance.

Having trodden the narrow path of sorrows on earth, O divinely wise and venerable one, you reached the wide road full of the joy of heavenly delights.

Theotokion At every hour, in every place, I call upon you, my salvation: Forsake me not, O immaculate Lady who gave birth to God, my deliverer and Saviour.

Canon of venerable Peter

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.

Appointing divine ascent in your heart while among the mountains and caves, O wise one, you caused the torrents of the passions to dry up through grace divine.

Protected by the shield of faith, you utterly escaped the arrows, darts and pursuit of the demons, O venerable one.

Beholding the lying serpent cast down beneath your feet and mocked, though he raged savagely, O glorious Peter, we praise your greatness before the Lord.

Theotokion The Lord born of you, O immaculate Lady, has delivered all from the enemy, and has magnified the venerable who love him.

Ode 5

Canon of venerable Onuphrius

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.

Paphnutius found you in the desert, a companion of angels and great luminary equal to the angels, O wise one, and piously revealed to all the lessons of your life.

The Lord, whom you desired with all your heart, shone upon you the unwaning light of dispassion, O wise Onuphrius, and the account of you blameless life has illumined the whole world.

While preaching that men ought to cleave to our God, O blessed Onuphrius, you set the hope of your soul upon him, and ever had his praise in your mouth.

Theotokion O virgin Lady, shine the radiance of your mercy upon me in the darkness of transgressions, and guide me to the light of repentance and salvation of life.

Canon of venerable Peter

Irmos O Lord, bestower of light and creator of the ages, guide us in the light of your commandments, for we know no other God than you.

Going about the mountains of the honoured commandments like Moses, O venerable one, you beheld God as if you had received them; and, illumined in every sense of your soul, you were greatly glorified.

Ever adorned with divine benefactions, O wise Peter, you remained untouched by any passion, and clothed yourself in dispassion as a garment.

Your body, hidden for many years, was revealed for our enlightenment, pouring upon us streams of healing and the myrrh of grace.

Theotokion With sacred voices we hymn you, the excellency of Jacob, who for the world gave birth to the light begotten of light, who illumines the assembly of the venerable.

Ode 6

Canon of venerable Onuphrius

Irmos I have sunk to the depths in the sea of life through my deeds. But like Jonah out of the mouth of the monster, I cry out to you: Lead me up from the depth of wickedness, I pray, O Son of God and Lord.

While your flesh was being frozen with cold, your spirit was warmed by the fervour of the Spirit; and while you were burned by the intense heat of the day, O wise one, a heavenly dew cooled you through grace.

While in the desert, God caused a bright light to go before you, there prefiguring that you would receive light and eternal glory.

He who was born in a cave and deigned to be held in the elder's arms as an infant taught you higher things, for though an elder, you were but a babe in good works.

Theotokion Immaculate Mother of God, who gave birth to him who is the abyss of mercy, having engulfed the abyss of my passions in the depths of your compassion, grant me an outpouring of tears from the depths of my soul.

Canon of venerable Peter

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.

Strengthened by the might of the Spirit, you demolished the might of the enemy; and as a victor you hastened, crowned, to Christ.

Following the footsteps of the pre-eminent Peter, the rock of faith, O venerable one, you take his name, and were well enriched with faith.

You struggled in divine feats, O father, and held to the faith; and the crown of good works was added to you.

Theotokion The Lord dwelt within you and deified all human nature, O pure one; and he has drawn to himself a multitude of the venerable through sanctity.

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

Illumined by the radiance of the most holy Spirit, you abandoned all the tumults of life, O divinely wise one, and on reaching the desert, O venerable father, you brought joy to God the creator who is over all things. Therefore Christ the bestower of gifts has glorified you, O blessed one.

Ikos Who can recount your struggles, O blessed one: who among mortals can fittingly praise your life, O father Onuphrius? For like one of the bodiless you subsisted on herbs, and had as your food Christ our God, upon whom you set your hope, going naked about the desert places, enduring burning heat and cold like one without a body. Therefore Christ the bestower of gifts has glorified you, O blessed one.

Ode 7

Canon of venerable Onuphrius

Irmos Blessed art you, the God of our fathers, who spoke on the mountain with Moses and revealed an image of the Virgin in the bush.

He who through a raven fed Elias on the mountain sent you food by an angel, O venerable one, magnifying you, who magnified him.

Like a palm-tree flourishing by streams of the waters of abstinence, you produced dates for your food, feeding yourself by the sweat of your brow.

Expanding your perception by visions, O father, you were nourished by the pangs of asceticism; and now you have received heavenly sustenance, O Onuphrius.

Theotokion Blessed are you, the Lord God of our fathers, who dwelt within the Virgin's womb and made to be more spacious than the heavens.

Canon of venerable Peter

Irmos The wise children would not worship the golden body, but having entered the flame they mocked the pagan gods; and in the midst of the flame they cried out and an angel bedewed them, saying: The prayer of your mouth has been heard.

Taking your cross upon your shoulders with steadfast resolve, as a consecrated monk you followed him who was crucified, O blessed one, burning up the passions like tinder, singing: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

The divine Word revealed you as a treasure hidden in secret for many years, an heirloom revealed, O venerable Peter, and an advocate for all who have in secret acquired sinful defilement and who openly repent.

By the vow you made to Christ, you became an incense of sweet fragrance, pouring myrrh from your precious relics to the astonishment of all who see it; for you lived an angelic life while in the flesh.

Theotokion Having found you to be good and beautiful among women, the most beautiful Word made his abode within you, illumining the choirs of the venerable, who sing: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of venerable Onuphrius

Irmos O earth and all that is therein, O seas and every shower and dew, heavens of above the heavens, light and darkness, frost and burning heat, children of men and priests: bless the Lord, praise and exalt him above all for ever.

Forsaking the world below, you gained a heavenly life, enrolled among the choirs of the incorporeal even while bearing flesh, O blessed Onuphrius; and you have inherited the land of the meek, which Christ has given you for ever.

You truly acquired teardrops as a means of extinguishing the burning of the passions, and to the dew of dispassion you were united by the love of the divine fire, Christ our God: we honour you, O divinely wise Onuphrius.

O father, Christ, who is truly the Angel of Great Counsel, showed made you to be an emulator of the life of the angels through unceasing supplications, and by the hand of his angel brought you to be a partaker of his mysteries: Him we exalt above all for ever.

Theotokion Immaculate Mother of God, the holy ground from which Christ, the grain of life, sprang forth: you have built up human nature, of old ruined by the famine of the ancient evil. Therefore, we hymn you for ever.

Canon of venerable Peter

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.

You were truly granted divine blessedness, O divinely wise Peter, having humbled yourself; and ever weeping and embracing meekness, you inherited the land of the meek.

With vigilance of mind, you lulled to sleep the uprisings of the passions; and having fallen into the sleep which befits the righteous, you are a tireless advocate for all who honour you.

Diligently seeking God in stillness, you made your abode on Mount Athos, as did Elias the Tishbite on Carmel of old, O divinely wise and wondrous Peter; and as one venerable you were granted the vision of him.

Theotokion With downcast mind and a soul burdened by the passions, O pure Mother of God, fleeing to you I cry: Raise me up and save me, despairing and condemned.

Ode 9

Canon of venerable Onuphrius

Irmos He who is mighty has magnified me; and holy is his name: his mercy is on those who fear him in every generation.

Your gaze ever directed to God, O divinely wise father, and deified by communion with him, you became like him; and offering worship with the angels, you ever glorify him.

In mortifying the flesh, you vanquished the enemy; and you passed over to the never-waning light, as an heir of the good things of heaven, O father Onuphrius.

By your entreaties you ever deliver from the stormwaves of the passions those who with love celebrate your holy feast, O Onuphrius, for you have found boldness before the Saviour.

Theotokion We who have you as a hope and fortress, O most pure Lady, trust that through your supplications we may obtain the good things which Christ, incarnate of you for us, has promised.

Canon of venerable Peter

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.

Girding you with might and strength, Christ our God made you strong, that you might overcome the machinations of the demons, O most rich father, as one who loved him with all your heart and soul: we bless you with faith and love.

O divinely wise one, you are like an olive-tree planted in the house of the Lord, anointing with the oil of your sweat the faces of us who celebrate this your glorious and divine festival, O adornment of monks, pre-eminent among the venerable.

O vessel consecrated to the Lord God, conversor with the martyrs, apostles and angels, pray for us who honour you on earth with faith, that we may all find remission of offences.

Theotokion Spare me, O Lord, when you come to render judgment, and condemn me not to the fire, nor denounce me with wrath, for the Virgin who gave you birth, O Christ, entreats you, as do the assemblies of angels and the companies of the venerable.

Exapostilarion of venerable Onuphrius

The ranks of the angels marvelled at your struggles in the desert, O God-bearing Onuphrius; for you fasted for sixty-three years. And now, O blessed and venerable one, you reign with Christ for ages without end.

Glory be to the Father... *Exapostilarion of venerable Peter*

With hymns, let us honour the namesake of pre-eminent Peter, the boast of fasters, the glory of the venerable, the pillar of heaven, the flower of Athos, for he is an intercessor for us all.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Saved through you, O Lady, we truly confess you to be the Mother of God; for you ineffably gave birth to God who by the cross has destroyed death, and has drawn to himself the companies of the venerable. With them we praise you, O Virgin.

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

O fathers, we honour you as instructors of a multitude of monks, for in your steps we have truly learned to walk in righteousness. Blessed are you, for having laboured for Christ, you put to shame the power of the enemy, O conversors with angels and companion of the holy and the just. With them beseech the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

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

The unblemished Mother, * beholding her sacrificial victim * nailed of his own will to the tree, * lamenting piteously * crying out: Woe is me, * O most beloved child; * for how can the thankless assembly of the Jews reward you thus, * desiring to leave me bereft of you, * my most beloved Son?

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 of the Canon of venerable Peter, and 4 from Ode 6 of the Canon of venerable Onuphrius.

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 according to Matthew, number 43

Communion Verse

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

June 13

Martyr Aquila, and the hierarch Triphyllius of Levcosia in Cyprus

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have granted a sign...*

Verses for the martyr

Knowing you to be an incorrupt bride * adorned by the Holy Spirit, * we celebrate your holy memory, * O passion-bearing martyr. * We piously bow down * before your relics and holy shrine, * and ever draw healing for our passions, * honouring you with faith, * O exalted Aquilina.

You offered as a gift to your bridegroom, * O honoured martyr, * the severing of your limbs. * Granted the radiant bridal chambers, * he who transcends all illumines you with the light of divine glory, * as you stand rejoicing before him. * O Aquilina, earnestly entreat him * for us who with faith glorify your suffering.

Held fast with longing for your creator, * O all-praised martyr, * you depicted his sufferings in your flesh, * enduring each billow of pain. * Now you live in heaven, * wearing an imperishable crown * and glory immune to pain, * and beholding what the ranks of angels see, * O divinely inspired Aquilina.

*And three verses of the holy hierarch, tone 8
to the Special Melody O all-glorious wonder...*

O glorious father Triphyllius, * excellently enlightened with many tears, * you took wing to the primal cause of all good, * and appeared as a pillar of light, * illumining with your words and miracles * those who with divinely dutiful minds * ever approach you. * We honour you and call you blessed.

O sacred father Triphyllius, * honourably adorned like a second Aaron * with the plumage of vestments, * you now see the Holy of Holies * being within the second veil. * You now partake of that honourable radiance * which surpasses the mind. * O divine adornment of holy hierarchs.

Possessed of a merciful soul, * of pure mind, * of a straightforward heart, * an undefiled faith, * an unfeigned love * and the dignity of hierarchal rank, O father, * you

are enrolled with honour in the choirs of the fathers. * We all honour you with sacred hymns * and piously praise and call you blessed.

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

Theotokion Rejoice, enlightenment of souls, forgiveness of sinners, and correction of the negligent. Rejoice, consolation and joy, and helper of the sorrowful. Rejoice, O good one, the healing of the souls of the weak. Rejoice, O pure one, reconciliation with God and intermediary, more holy than all the seraphim.

Theotokion of the Cross Seeing you nailed to the cross and accepting voluntary suffering O Master Jesus, you 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 of the martyr, tone 4

Your martyr Aquilina 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.

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 Triphyllius pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of the martyr, tone 8,
composed by Joseph,*

upon the acrostic Accept this hymnody, O Aquilina who the doer of good

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 glorious martyr, you truly stand in heaven before Christ, your bridegroom: by your supplications glorify those on earth who piously glorify you and let them also partake of glory who sing: Gloriously has he been glorified.

The grace of the Spirit dwelling within you made your soul pure, O glorious one who became all the more comely in the wounding of your body. Thereby the bridegroom betrothed to himself you, as one pure and incorrupt.

When of old the winter of deception cruelly grasped the ends of the earth, you, O divinely wise, wondrous and glorious Aquilina, attained the springtime of life and grasped the trophy of victory, as a true martyr of the Lord Almighty, filled with the Spirit.

Theotokion He who is equal in being with the unoriginate Father entered into you, becoming man, saving us who are weighed down by evil and enslaved to the deception of the enemy, O Mary, Bride of God. With faith and love we call you blessed.

Canon of the Hierarch, tone 2

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.

With faith let us offer praise to God who adorned his favoured one with all manner of virtues and raised him up as a second Moses.

Having ascended the mountain of the virtues, O father Triphyllius, you received the divine law, and with the tablets of your thought showed the beauty of your soul.

Noetically you shed a sweet fragrance, O venerable one; putting forth healing for mortals, manifesting yourself as a divinely inspired balm for the faithful.

Theotokion You were the fountain of life, O pure Virgin Mary, who gave birth to the Lord and author of creation, the life of all, bedewing those who glorify you with faith.

Ode 3

Canon of the 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.

By grace you wove a robe of light, O glorious martyr Aquilina, sacredly dying it with your blood.

You were wounded with divine love, O honoured one, with which you steadfastly endured cruel wounding and pangs.

The Lord and deliverer wholly sanctified you, O honoured Aquilina who loved him with all your might and soul.

Theotokion O pure one, we know you to be the pure habitation of Jesus, O unwedded bride more holy than the cherubim.

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.

Your memory radiantly shines like the sun upon the world, O holy hierarch; and it sheds light upon the hearts of us who observe it faithfully with grace.

From a garden of the divine Spirit producing divine grapes, you have noetically pressed out the wine of faith for us, the faithful.

Taking up the sword of divine grace, you cut down the rage of Belial, and have proven to be a victor in Christ, O sacred one.

Theotokion No mortal tongue nor bodiless mind can tell of your maternity, as beyond nature and reason you gave birth to the creator, O Mother of God.

*Kontakion of the hierarch, tone 8,
to the Special Melody To you, the champion leader...*

Through the excellence of your life, O Triphyllius, you received the purity of virginity; and as the first bishop of Levcosia you were its evangelist and instructor in the knowledge of God. Therefore with joy we sing to you: Rejoice, O adornment of hierarchs.

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

Illumined with the divine light of the virtues, you were adorned with an athlete's wreath: in beauty, you were truly betrothed to the Master of all by your faith, undefiled and incorrupt. You were granted the heavenly bridal chambers, having contended well and vanquished the evil one, O divinely wise Aquilina. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Sessional Hymn of the hierarch, tone 3,
to the Special Melody Of the divine faith...*

With zeal for the faith, O blessed one, you produced ripe fruit; for you shamed the legions of the enemy and overcame the devil, O Triphyllius. Entreat Christ our God, O venerable father, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion, or one of these Theotokia

Theotokion You were the divine tabernacle of the Word, O most pure virgin Mother who surpassed the angels in purity. With the divine waters of your supplications cleanse me who, more than all others, have become dust, defiled by carnal transgressions; and grant me great mercy.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb of the Word, the incorrupt virgin Mother, beholding him who was born of her without pain suspended upon the cross, cried out, lamenting maternally: Woe is me, my child; for how is it that you suffer willingly, desiring to deliver man from the indignity of the passions?

Ode 4

Canon of the Martyr

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

In the weakness of your body you cast down the prideful serpent, doing battle splendidly and setting at nought the rage of the tyrants.

In the splendour of your martyrdom and the divine beauty of your virginity, O Aquilina, you were an excellent bride for the Master.

The torrents of your blood quenched the fire of polytheism, and the streams of your miracles wash away the infirmities of men.

Theotokion By the slumber of despondency, O Maiden, the sleep of sin has stolen over me; but rouse me to repentance by your vigilant supplication.

Canon of the Hierarch

Irmos I have heard the report of your dispensation O Lord, and I glorify you, the one who truly loves mankind.

You were truly proven to be a most pure fruit, O blessed hierarch, and the divine Spirit made his abode within you.

Illumined by the divine Spirit, you directed your mind to things above, and struggled mightily against deception, O father.

You shepherded your reason-endowed lambs like sheep, O blessed one, and brought them to Christ by your words.

Theotokion O Mother of God, we, the faithful have acquired you as an insuperable rampart and mighty hope amid dangers.

Ode 5

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos From the night of ignorance, let the day of divine knowledge shine in our hearts, with the light of your face O Christ, for your morning praises.

When you were attacked by falsehood as by a raging sea, O martyr Aquilina, you were seen to be guided by the grace of Christ.

Looking to the victor's wreaths, O martyr, you steadfastly endured the dismemberment of your limbs and a violent death.

Astonishing even your adversaries, you were radiantly adorned with your comely beauty and majesty of soul.

Theotokion All who are delivered from the ancestral condemnation by your birthgiving cry out to you: Rejoice, O joyous and exalted Lady.

Canon of the Hierarch

Irmos O Lord, bestower of light and creator of the ages, guide us in the light of your commandments, for we know no other God than you.

Arrayed mightily in divine grace, O wise and glorious one, you cast down the power of the enemy, and as a servant of the mysteries of God, you fittingly received a crown from him.

Lifting the eyes of your soul to heaven, O glorious father, you plumbed the depths of divine doctrines, revealing the radiance of the Trinity to men.

Putting on the armour of God, O sacred one, you shamed the arrogance of the foe in the council, and, having crushed his head with divine doctrines, you rejoice eternally.

Theotokion The Son, incarnate without seed, O Mother of God, have we, the faithful, recognized as true God and man by nature: therefore we glorify you.

Ode 6

Canon of the Martyr

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.

You desired to follow the glorious sufferings of Christ and with manly wisdom endured beatings and the rending of your holy body.

You endured all manner of pangs and scorned the pain of the fire. Therefore, O Aquilina, you alleviate our pain by your supplications.

Looking from above, the choir of the angels was amazed at your endurance, O glorious virgin, and at how in the flesh you vanquished the fleshless foe by grace.

Theotokion That man might become divine, God showed himself to be a man, O Virgin, born ineffably of you: that which he was, he remained immutably.

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.

Like Enoch you were translated in spirit from earthly things to the heavenly, O blessed one; and as is fitting, you received incorruption.

Levcosia had you as its confirmation, O father, its pastor and instructor in the mysteries of grace, like a radiant sun illumining the world with miracles.

By your supplications, O father, unshakable foundation of the Church, confirm the temple of my soul, which is shaken by the wiles of the enemy.

Theotokion O immaculate Lady, greater and more holy than the heavenly powers: in a manner transcending nature you contained the infinite Word within your body.

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

Having purified your soul with the beauties of virginity
and reaching the heights through martyrdom, O most honoured Aquilina,
and wounded with the love of Christ your bridegroom,
you stand before him in gladness with the angels:
with them never cease to pray for us all.

Ode 7

Canon of the 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.

Suffering, you spurned the body, O divinely wise Aquilina, looking instead to heavenly rewards, light, glory, godly beauty and divine gladness.

Possessing a body undefiled and a heart united to the Lord, O pure one of godly wisdom, you stood before the tribunal, denouncing the ignorant tyrant.

You exchanged the corrupt world for the incorrupt life of heaven, transitory food for everlasting, and a mortal betrothed for the immortal bridegroom, O virgin martyr.

Triadicon With hymns we honour the single divine monarchy, the glorious Trinity of persons, which is simple in nature; and we cry out: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Canon of the Hierarch

Irmos The wise children would not worship the golden body, but having entered the flame they mocked the pagan gods; and in the midst of the flame they cried out and an angel bedewed them, saying: The prayer of your mouth has been heard.

Rationally and in abstinence, you refused to worship the idol of the passions and the furnace of your body you consumed as with dew, O father; filled with the Holy Spirit, you sang with boldness: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

You were the first-ordained and mighty pastor of Levcosia, O wise one, and brought to your Master a great harvest of people: with faith we entreat your intercession before God for your flock, that we be delivered from corruption.

The living fount of your tears astonished all, O wise and glorious Triphyllius; for, ever enriched by the streams of healings, we hymn the grace of your relics and say: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

Theotokion O Mother of God, steadfast refuge, awesome intercessor and insuperable rampart for those who are beset with afflictions and tempest-tossed by tribulations: by your entreaties to your Son save your servants from various temptations.

Ode 8

Canon of the Martyr

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.

Illumined with the radiance of purity and arrayed in the stains of your blood as in embroidered vesture, O virgin Aquilina, you stand before Christ our God.

You offered yourself to Christ our God as a pure sacrifice, a radiant offering and an incense of sweet fragrance, O divinely wise Aquilina.

Your holy body, resting in the tomb, O glorious Aquilina, heals the ailments of men and disperses the harm of the demons.

Theotokion In a manner past recounting you gave birth to the incorruptible Word who delivers us from all corruption: therefore we glorify you, O Virgin.

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.

You opened the path of salvation to all in Levcosia, as the first to occupy the cathedra of its Church, O wise and glorious hierarch, receiving it through the divine radiance.

Entreat Christ our benefactor without ceasing, O sacred one, that he deliver those who have recourse to your shrine from misfortunes and the allurements of the foe.

The choirs of angels were amazed, the multitudes of the demons were seized with great trembling, and every created being was struck with awe by your fasting, O wise one; and the human race rightly honours you.

Theotokion Forget not the cry of those who pray to you, O awesome intercessor, but by your supplications rescue us from all pain and every threat, for your maternal entreaty persuades God.

Ode 9

Canon of the Martyr

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.

With steadfast intent, the virgin was crucified for the Saviour who had been nailed to the cross, and she trampled upon the head of the serpent.

Comely is your beauty, O Aquilina most rich, and the great nobility of your soul is now divinely revealed.

United with the choirs of the incorporeal ones and the company of the martyrs, O honoured one, entreat God for us all.

Your glorious memory, O martyr Aquilina, summons all joyfully to hymn your glorious pangs and sufferings.

Theotokion We cry to you with the cry of the angel, O most pure Lady: Rejoice, O salvation of all and divine crowning of the glorious martyrs.

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.

Lifting the eye of your soul to the heights of heaven, you perceived the glory of the Trinity, O wise one, and, illumining mortal men, in a godly manner you enrich all with divine illumination: we rightly magnify you in hymns.

You appeared to the inhabitants of Levcosia as a noetic beacon, O wise one, passing through its hinterland, adorning all in a godly manner with the knowledge of Christ, as with sacred rays of inspiration, delivering the world from deception.

Gathering now, we the faithful entreat you, O father: pray to Christ, that he deliver us from famine, barbarian depredation and all misfortune, as he is mighty, that we may rightly magnify you in hymns.

Theotokion What words of mortal men can speak of the unutterable birthgiving of your ineffable child? For God was born an infant, and you were the handmaid who bore the incarnate Son, O Mother: we hymn you and your birthgiving.

June 14

Prophet Elisha and Our father among the saints Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these 3 of the prophet, tone 8,
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

Rejoice, O wise Elisha, * for, having purified your mind * of the passions of the body, * you received rays of the Spirit, O glorious one, * which infused your being, * and imparted radiance. * Now you have made your abode amid never-waning light: * may you ever pray for us * who praise you.

Elias the zealot * left you resplendent * in a twofold measure of grace, * O blessed Elisha, * when he became a truly airborne warrior. * And emulating him, * by grace you halted the rushing torrent of the river, * and traversed it, O glorious prophet, * joyfully adorning yourself and magnifying Christ.

Of old, the Shulamite woman with faith * entrusted her child to your prayer, * and you raised him from the dead, * as a divine prophet marvellous in sanctity; * and again, through salt you transformed the water * making the unpalatable drinkable. * You worked countless miracles * through the grace of the all-accomplishing Spirit, O blessed one: * therefore, we hymn you.

And 3 verses of the holy hierarch, in the same tone and melody

O divinely wise father Methodius, * by the roaring, like a lion, * of your wise teachings * you terrified John the Grammarian, the sly fox, * for he could not endure your denunciation, * and, as a wicked wretch, was felled by a blow from your sword. * As a champion * of the Orthodox people, * you did not leave the flock of Christ to perish.

O Methodius, * you are a confirmation of Orthodoxy, * a shepherd of the Church, * an adornment of monks, * an river overflowing with the waters of the Spirit, * a cup pouring forth surpassing sweetness, * a beacon illumining the ends of the world, * a two-edged sword honed to sharpness by grace, * which cuts down hordes of the ungodly.

O glorious Methodius, * you are a model of confession, * the foundation of holy hierarchs, * an instrument blown by God, * playing the melody of doctrine, full of piety, *

a dwelling-place of wisdom, an abyss of love, * an ever-flowing stream of mercy, * a bowl pouring out the drink of contrition, * a flourishing garden of paradise.

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

Today the divine coming of the prophets shines forth, mystically beckoning to the souls of those who love the feasts of the Church. He who mounted the chariot which traversed the heavens, the star of the never-waning East, with Elisha, the wondrous man, broadens the streams of the new Jordan, making clear the proclamation of piety, and portraying by a double image the twofold blessing of the harmonious glory of the Old and the New for those who with faith celebrate their most festive memorial.

Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion;
or the 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, the unwedded one, said, weeping: O my sweet child, the unapproachable light of the unbegotten Father, how can you forsake me, who alone gave you birth? Hasten to glorify yourself, that those who glorify your divine sufferings may receive divine glory.

*Aposticha from the Pentecostarion, or from the Octoechos;
with the following, tone 4*

Verse Your priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and your saints shall sing with joyfulness.

The Church of God is today clothed in gladness, and rejoices it sings: My beauty shines forth beyond that of all other cities. For glorious Methodius, the great treasure of holy hierarchs, has passed over to heaven. Come, those who love the feasts of the Church, you gatherings of the Orthodox, form a choir at his divine shrine and receiving streams of healing therefrom, pray to Christ our God, that he deliver the world from heresy.

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

O prophet and herald of Christ, eternally present by the throne of his majesty, and, ministering in the highest, you ever intercede for those who are sick. Wholly glorious, you bless the world and entreat cleansing for our souls.

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

Seeing him who is our life suspended upon the tree, the immaculate Mother of God cried out, maternally lamenting: O my Son and my God, save those who hymn you with love.

Troparion of the prophet, tone 4

Troparion of the prophet, tone 4 Angelic in body, the foundation of prophecy, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ: the glorious Elias from on high sent down grace upon Elisha to dispel infirmities and to cleanse lepers. Therefore he pours healings on those who honour him.

Glory be to the Father...

Troparion of Methodius, 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 Methodius, pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

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

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two canons of the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of the prophet, tone 5,
composed by John of Damascus
upon the acrostic* With gladness I hymn the grace of Elisha

Irmos To God the Saviour, who led his people in the sea with dryshod feet and drowned Pharaoh and all his army: to him alone let us sing, for he has been glorified.

I sing that hymn sung to God from the early times, in honour of the hymned one who is resplendent in the praises of the prophets, and who has glorified them.

Abandoning the plough, this prophet acquired his rank with spiritual radiance, receiving the mantle from the hand of Elias, for he has been glorified.

As from the beginning you knew Elisha's disposition toward a higher calling, O Christ, you illumined him with the grace of prophecy, for you have been glorified.

Theotokion O most pure Mother of God, unceasingly entreat God, incarnate of you but not separated from the bosom of the Father, that he save from all misfortune those whom he created.

Canon of the hierarch, tone 4

June 14

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.

Enslaving your body with fasting, O venerable one, you anointed your soul with divine aspiration, and poured forth the unfailing sustenance of the kingdom on high.

Armed with the noetic sword of the Spirit, and arrayed in the breastplate of faith, you manfully felled hordes of heretics, O blessed father Methodius.

Your divine mouth was an ever-flowing river for the Church, truly drowning the heretical, O venerable Methodius, but upholding and giving drink to the faithful.

Theotokion With hymns let us honour Mary, the animate tabernacle, the ark and table, the mountain from which the Lord of all was cut without the aid of man.

Ode 3

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos By the power of your cross O Christ, confirm the thoughts of my mind, that I may hymn and glorify your saving ascension.

Abandoning earthly attachment, you served the fire-breathing Spirit, conversing as a servant pleasing to God.

In the Spirit you received the gifts of your teacher twofold, not having compromised his ascent by slothfulness.

Having stood lamenting before Elias and tearing your garments, you then parted the streams of the Jordan with his mantle.

Theotokion O pure Bride of God, unceasingly beseech him who was born of you, that he deliver those who hymn you from the deception of the devil.

Canon of the Hierarch

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.

Your tongue was a shower-laden cloud, O Methodius; for it watered the hearts of the pious with discourse, and ever chokes the weeds of the ungodly.

Teaching the faith, you suffered the trial of wounding, O father, condemned to imprisonment in a dark dungeon: in gladness you have passed over in never-waning light.

You hymned the sufferings of the martyrs and shared in their joy which cannot be taken away, O father Methodius, having suffered exceedingly through constant tribulations and wounding.

Theotokion Announcing Rejoice to the Virgin, Gabriel declared: The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, O Virgin, and you shall conceive the Lord and Saviour.

*Kontakion of the hierarch, tone 2
to the Special Melody* The steadfast...

You struggled on earth as if a bodiless being, and have inherited heaven, O Methodius. As you explained the veneration of icons to the ends of the earth you were subjected all the more to labours and hardship; and you continue to denounce those who reject the icons of Christ.

Ikos Grant that I may fittingly hymn your struggles, O glorious Methodius; for you were cast into a deep pit, thereby releasing souls buried in the abyss to the radiance of divine glory, teaching the whole world to bow down before the divine and truly ineffable image of Christ, denouncing those who cast aside the icons of Christ.

*Sessional Hymn of the prophet, tone 1
to the Special Melody* Your tomb...

With divine foresight the great Elias took you as his disciple, O wise Elisha, and showed you to be a prophet shining with the Spirit. Celebrating your holy memorial today with honourable wisdom, we honour you with him, O glorious one.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the hierarch, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* You have appeared...

Having shone forth like a radiant sun, O father Methodius, with your doctrines you illumine the world, and drive away the darkness of heresy.

Both now and for ever... *from the Pentecostarion, or one of the following*

Theotokion Stretching forth your most pure hands, O virgin Mother, cover those who place their trust in you and cry out to your Son: Grant your mercies to all, O Christ.

Theotokion of the Cross Beholding your Son upon the tree, O most pure Lady, it seemed as if your innermost being was rent asunder you cried out in pity: Woe is me, how is it that you have set, O my timeless light?

Ode 4

Canon of the Prophet

June 14

Irmos I have heard of your rising from the tomb, O Lord, and I glorify your invincible power.

As you healed the waters of old, so now by grace heal my barren mind, through the supplications of Elisha.

You appeared as one adorned with virginity, O glorious prophet, shining like a beacon from afar upon those sitting in the darkness of falsehood.

The tongue which is moved by the Spirit cannot be silent concerning your wondrous admonitions in this life, O Elisha.

Theotokion We, the faithful, truly glorify you, the unwedded Mother of God, and we flee to your haven.

Canon of the Hierarch

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.

Having moistened your lips with the noetic chalice of wisdom, O venerable father, you flow streams of doctrine upon us who piously celebrate your memorial.

O venerable and holy hierarch Methodius, you were seen as desired preacher, sweet of discourse, simple of demeanor, most rich in the gifts of the Spirit.

With the noetic spear of godly discourse, O Methodius, you caused the audacity of ungodliness to cease, striking it down amid the abomination of heresy.

Theotokion Rejoice, O noetic portal, from which the king of heaven proceeded with an ineffable voice, preserving you immaculate, leaving you sealed as before.

Ode 5

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos Rising at dawn we sing to you: Save us O Lord, for you are our God and we know no other than you.

The stillness and meekness of your soul gave you prophecy, O divinely inspired Elisha, because of your faith.

The divine action of your discourses illumine me with spiritual words, O blessed Elisha.

As you stand before the Lord as one living, O prophet Elisha, sin has been reckoned as slain.

Theotokion O Mother of God, never cease to pray to him to whom you gave birth, that he save the souls of us who hymn you, O most pure Lady.

Canon of the Hierarch

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.

Illumined by the light of the threefold sun, O glorious one, you piously dispersed the dismal darkness of heresy, and as a star illumined the faithful with splendour.

Your tongue was like the sharp stylus of a quickly-writing scribe, O Methodius, truly engraving the divine law of grace upon the tablets of men's hearts.

Bearing streams of tears like pearls amid the nights you stood at prayer, O venerable one, thereby drying up torrents of sin as a pure receptacle of the divine Spirit.

Theotokion By your supplications you deliver from every evil circumstance those who have recourse to your protection, O Mary Mother of God; for you are the intercessor for those who honour you, and their hope before God.

Ode 6

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos The abyss has engulfed me and the sea monster became a tomb for me; yet I cried to you, the lover of mankind, and your right hand saved me O Lord.

Once neither rain nor the spirit of the air filled the rivers, O prophet, but the wind of grace filled your discourse with the action of the Spirit.

As once you filled a small vessel to overflowing with oil for the woman, O Prophet Elisha, so pray that divine mercy be poured upon me.

Animated by faith, through your supplication, O prophet, the honourable woman received release from barrenness in her old age, bearing goodly offspring.

Theotokion As is fitting, O glorious Mary, boast of the Orthodox, we glorify you as the unburnt bush, the mountain, the animate ladder, the portal of heaven.

Canon of the Hierarch

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.

Like an industrious bee, you gathered honey from the Scriptures as from flowers, laying it up in your heart as in a honeycomb, and flowing upon all the stream of your teaching.

Your tongue, full of spiritual discourse, demolished the sacrilege of the blasphemers, O wise one, preaching the veneration of the incarnation of Christ and its bodily image.

Having first praised the Lord as an elder upon the judgement-seat, you were later raised up upon a hierarchal throne, shepherding the chosen people in a God-pleasing manner, O father.

Theotokion All creation acknowledges you, O Lady, as the Mother of our God, for you alone ineffably held God within you without being consumed by the divine fire.

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

You appeared as a prophet of God, | receiving a twofold measure of grace | which was truly appropriate for you, as the companion of Elias; || with whom you unceasingly entreat Christ our God for us all.

Ikos With melodious songs we hymn wise Elisha who shone forth in the law of the Lord; for he was wholly filled with twofold forms of miracles, pouring streams of healings upon us. He waters the souls of the faithful and saves them from misfortune, as of old he saved the barren people; and he sweetened waters by means of salt, mightily proclaiming the grace of baptism, and prays unceasingly for us all.

Ode 7

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos Blessed is the God of our fathers who saved the children who sang to him in the fiery furnace.

Filled with higher wisdom, O Elisha, you sang: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

As the servant of him who is life, O prophet, you brought forth the dead child, now living, to his mother.

You once fed the despairing children of the prophets, rendering their destructive food harmless.

Theotokion Blessed is the God of our fathers who was born of the Virgin and made her the Mother of God.

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.

With the dew of divine love you extinguished the burning furnace of the passions, O glorious one; and tried by perils like gold in a crucible, you shine like the sun.

Amid tribulations and persecutions your heart was like iron, O Methodius; and you now shine with fiery mouth and heavenly beams; therefore, we praise you.

Like an invincible tower you remained unmoved by assaults, laying low the basis of falsehood by the power of your words, O blessed and holy hierarch Methodius.

Theotokion You, the wondrous bridal-chamber, alone gave birth to God who has united himself to mankind, and you remained a virgin, O Mary, unwedded Bride of God.

Ode 8

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos Sing to him who bedewed the furnace and preserved the youths amid the burning flame: you children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

The prophet who at his command wrought purification, let the children hymn, the hierarchs bless and the people exalt above all for ever.

Cleansed of dross, and held fast by desire, you immaterially beheld the mind of the immaterial one, and leaping up, you sang: Exalt Christ above all for ever.

Through grace you saw things to come, and perceived the most precious cross depicted in the tree, O prophet taught by God; and rejoicing, you sang: Exalt Christ above all for ever.

Through darkness you truly halted the multitude of chariots of those surrounding you, denouncing their mindlessness and crying out: Exalt Christ above all for ever.

Theotokion The angels glorify your birthgiving, O pure Bride of God, and with them we sing: You children bless, you priests praise, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Canon of the Hierarch

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.

You cast down the arrogance of the truly wicked heretics and raised up with you the strength of the faithful of the Church, O father Methodius, rendering honour to the icon of Christ. Therefore, we hymn and honour you with love.

Christ the sun has made you a brilliant star in the firmament of the Church, O wise father, for with the radiance of your precious doctrines you have illumined the ends of the earth.

Your discourse struck the earth like thunder, O Methodius, and binding the minion of Manes, you consigned him to eternal darkness like the serpent, the father of lies.

Theotokion You are he, the sole only-begotten on high and here below as well: begotten on high of the Father without mother, and below of your Mother without father. Abasing yourself, within her you took the form of my alien nature, brought low by sin.

Ode 9

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos With oneness of mind, we the faithful magnify you, the Mother of God, who in a manner past understanding and recounting, ineffably gave birth in time to the timeless one.

Lifting up a rod of iron with a pruning staff, the prophet trained the material nature of men which had been raised up by the cross.

Revealing the honourable character of the prophet, the prince of life showed the resurrection of the body, raising up the dead man whose body was utterly bereft of breath.

In divine rest, O wondrous one, you now entreat Christ that those who ever bless you may receive blessedness.

Theotokion Rejoice, O Mother of God, Mother of Christ our God. Entreat him to grant remission of offences to those who hymn you with faith.

Canon of the Hierarch

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.

O Methodius, you are the adornment of hierarchs, the ornament of monks, a model for the faithful, the shepherd of the Church and the foundation of the Orthodox.

Having acquired the zeal of Elias, you filled with shame the iniquitous priests who refused to venerate the image of the incarnation of the Lord, O wise Methodius.

Dancing with the angels before the face of the deliverer, and delighting in his glory, by your supplications deliver us from all manner of temptations, O Methodius.

Theotokion We hymn your birthgiving, and we glorify him who was born of you as both God and man, O pure virgin Mother. Earnestly entreat him to have mercy on us.

*Exapostilarion of the prophet,
to the Special Melody* Adorning the heavens with stars...

You received from God a double measure of the grace of Elias, O divinely blessed Elisha, and you give twofold healing, to both souls and bodies, to those who with faith ask it of you.

Glory be to the Father...

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

Come O faithful, let us hymn today the divine memory of the holy hierarch Methodius, cast into a subterranean dungeon that he may deliver souls buried by the evil one in the darkness of ungodliness.

Both now and for ever...*from the Pentecostarion, or this*

Theotokion O exalted virgin Mother of God who ineffably gave birth to God, earnestly entreat your Son for us, your servants, that he take pity and save those who praise you with love.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
and Glory be to the Father... tone 6*

A star of piety has shone from the west of the visible sun; for Methodius, great among hierarchs, having cut through the darkness of the heretics, has come to rest in the true East, Christ our God the Sun of Righteousness; and, making his abode there with the incorporeal choirs, standing before the throne of the Trinity as one holy, as a martyr, as a hierarch, as a patriarch in deed and appearance, he asks great mercy for us who with faith celebrate his sacred memory.

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

June 14

Mindful of your seedless conception and ineffable nativity, I greatly marvel at how you choose to die as a malefactor, O my Son: thus cried out the most pure Lady.

Liturgy

Prokimenon, tone 4

You are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchisedek.

Verse Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.

General Epistle of James, number 57 [James 5: 10-20]

Alleluia, tone 4

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel are among those who call upon his name;

Light dawns for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.

Gospel of Luke, number 14 [Luke 4: 22-30]

Communion Verse

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

June 15

Prophet Amos

**and on the same day our venerable father, Jerome of Stridonium
whose service follows this**

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, beginning with these 3 of the prophet, tone 2,
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

The spiritual splendour of your mind, O wondrous prophet, has disclosed a purity which shines like a mirror illumining the world, radiant with the brilliance of divine knowledge, prefiguring images of the divine mysteries, and causing grace to be bestowed upon all.

As the mouth of God, following righteous teachings and divine judgments, you denounced the iniquitous, condemning them with an inescapable sentence, O prophet most rich. Seeing the fulfillment of your wise words, O blessed one, we fittingly praise you with hymns.

Standing before the throne of the Master, filled with ineffable and divine glory and beholding the good things of heaven, O divinely eloquent Amos, be mindful of all who honour you with faith, asking that salvation of soul and remission of offences be given to them all, O prophet acceptable to God.

*But if Alleluia is to be sung at Matins instead of God is the Lord...
the following verses of the Mother of God are sung before the foregoing verses of the prophet,
in the same tone and melody.*

Rejoice, O beam of solar radiance, * throne of the never-setting sun, * who shone forth the ineffable sun. * Rejoice, O mind * shining with divine splendour, * flash of lightning illumining the ends of the earth, * with lustre truly of gold, * O most comely and immaculate Lady * who has caused the unwaning light to shine upon the faithful.

Joy of all who sorrow and protector of the oppressed; the nurturer of the poor and comfort of the suffering; a staff for the blind and a visitor for the sick; shelter and comfort for those weakened by pain and helper of those who are orphaned: O mother of God the Most High and immaculate maiden, we pray to you to save your servants.

You are the protection and help and a mighty refuge for us Christians, O Mother of God the Most High. Now, as ever, cease not to pray with your ready supplication, to

save your servants from all evil circumstances: for with God all of us Christians have you as a help and refuge.

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

Theotokion Truly we have no other mighty refuge and tower of strength, no other unassailable rampart than you, the most pure one. To you we flee, and to you we cry out: O Lady, help us, let us not perish: show us your grace, the glory of your might and the magnitude of your loving kindness.

Theotokion of the Cross When the unblemished lamb beheld her lamb led to the slaughter as a man of his own will, weeping, she said: O Christ, do you now leave me childless who gave you birth? What is this you have done, O deliverer of all? I hymn and glorify your extreme goodness which transcends comprehension and recounting, O lover of mankind.

Troparion of the prophet Amos, tone 2

Celebrating the memory of your prophet Amos, O Lord, through him we beseech you to save our souls.

Matins

Canon of the Prophet Amos, tone 7

Ode 1

Irmos Let us sing a hymn of victory to God, who overwhelmed Pharaoh in the Red Sea, for he has been glorified.

Having cleansed my mind of the passions of darkened thoughts, illumine it, that it may hymn Amos your prophet, O Master.

Revealed as a servant of the mysteries of God which pass understanding, O glorious one, you were granted to see past the things of the present.

Shown to be an undefiled and pure resting-place of God, O Amos, you received the divine activity of the Spirit.

Theotokion In accordance with prophecy, O most pure Lady, you restored the fallen tabernacle of Adam, having given birth to God the Saviour.

Ode 3

Irmos Confirmed in faith, the Church of Christ unceasingly cries out in hymns, singing: You are holy, O Lord, and my spirit sings to you.

Denouncing the iniquitous, O Amos, you revealed the righteousness of the Lord, crying out, O divinely revealed one: Holy are you, O Lord, who saves our souls.

You were shown to be a pillar of the New Testament, O prophet, bearing its roof, O divinely manifest one, crying out: Holy are you, O Lord, who saves our souls.

Having mastered divine things, O divinely eloquent and godly Prophet Amos, you proclaimed, enlightening the people: Holy are you, O Lord, who saves our souls.

Theotokion Confessing your divine birthgiving, and you as our intercessor, O Virgin, I am firmly founded; and made rich, I cry: Rejoice, O Bride of God, my hope and my help.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 3,
to the Special Melody Of the divine Faith...*

As a prophet and divine instrument of the Comforter, O blessed one, you were called by his grace; for you gave utterance to the revelation of things unknown, and illumine with faith those who have recourse to you. O glorious prophet Amos, entreat Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the Pentecostarion, or Theotokion*

Theotokion Without separating himself from the divine being when he took flesh within you, the one Lord remained God though he became man; and even after your birthgiving he preserved you, his virgin Mother, as immaculate as you were before giving birth. Earnestly implore him, that he grant us great mercy.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb of the Word, the incorrupt virgin Mother, beholding him who was born of her without pain suspended upon the cross, cried out, lamenting maternally: Woe is me, my child; for how is it that you suffer willingly, desiring to deliver man from the indignity of the passions?

Ode 4

Irmos I have heard report of you, O Lord, that you have appeared on earth to save us. Therefore, we cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

You denounced the people of Israel who were worshipping deaf idols; telling them that they would be exiled, O wondrous one.

Having been a shepherd, God then revealed you be a prophet, taking you for himself, O sacred Amos. With faith we all call you blessed.

Reflecting rays of light through the radiance of the Holy Spirit like a mirror, O Amos, rejoicing, you indicated piety to all.

Theotokion The Word who made his dwelling within you, O pure one, has reformed my nature, fallen of old through the disobedience.

Ode 5

Irmos O Lord my God, rising from the night, I pray to you: Grant me the remission of my transgressions, and guide my steps to the light of your precepts.

You reviled those slain with the javelin of luxury, O blessed one, as ones who held the ease of the belly and transitory and corrupt pleasure in esteem.

Illumined with rich outpourings of light, you became divinely eloquent and a conversor with God, proclaiming to all the true way of piety.

Pray, O blessed one, that those who hymn you be delivered from the schemes and snares of the foe, and be illumined with the heavenly light of the kingdom of Christ.

Theotokion O Mother and Virgin, Mother of God, through you may we who confess you to be the Mother of God receive the kingdom and food which cannot be taken away.

Ode 6

Irmos Jonah cried out from the belly of Hades: Lead my life up from corruption. And we cry out to you: Have mercy on us, almighty Saviour.

Shining with radiant beams of the truth, you struck the prophet of falsehood, mightily denouncing him and foretelling his destruction.

You dimmed the flame of beguilement, O prophet, shining the radiance of piety upon all like the sun, since you had received the radiance of the Spirit.

Theotokion I hymn your pure virginity, O Virgin, and I glorify the ineffable and honoured birthgiving whereby I am saved from corruption and death.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* You have appeared today...

Having cleansed your radiant heart by the Spirit, O glorious prophet Amos, you received the gift of prophecy from on high, and proclaimed throughout the land: Behold our God; there is no other like him.

Ode 7

Irmos When the holy youths were cast into the furnace of fire, they changed the fire into dew by their hymnody, as they cried out: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

The divine salvation which you foretold has been revealed, O wondrous prophet Amos. Illumining the world with rays of piety, you sang: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Strengthened by the power of God, you were not harmed by foes opposed to God, but remained as hard as iron, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Theotokion We glorify the birthgiving of the Virgin, which the mind cannot approach, whereby we are delivered from death. Though born in corruption, we sing: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Irmos The only unoriginate king of glory, whom the hosts of heaven bless, and before whom the ranks of angels tremble; sing to him you priests, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

You hastened to the mountain's summit, and mastered ineffable knowledge, and were a prophet of the incarnation of the Word: we ever hymn you, O Amos.

With the keenness of your intellect you were brought to understand, as far as is possible, the Master of all, who taught you ineffable things; and you sang: You priests, hymn, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

As a prophet you receive blessedness, ineffable joy and the kingdom of heaven, O beholder of heavenly things, crying out piously: You priests, hymn, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Without seed, in a manner befitting God, O Mother of God, you gave birth to one of the Trinity in two natures, the Saviour of the world: we the faithful exalt you with love for ever.

Ode 9

Irmos Exalted Lady who is more lofty than the heavens, you conceived without seed the unoriginate Word, and for the sake of man gave birth to God incarnate, therefore we all magnify you.

Your tongue divinely moved by prophetic revelation and declaring things divine, O Amos, announced to all the loving kindness of God: we ever call you blessed.

Ineffable is the glory of the prophets; for the Holy Spirit, dwelling within them, made them to be partakers of his radiance, and by them, we the faithful are illumined.

Theotokion You have removed my garment of mortality and corruption, O Virgin, having engendered the saving garment of the incarnate God for men: we ever magnify you.

Our Venerable Father Jerome of Stridonium

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning in tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

Granted heavenly blessedness, * venerable Jerome, with heavenly intelligence, * prays with boldness to the one king of all * for us who piously celebrate his memory.

Adorned on your honourable memorial, O father Jerome, * we, the choirs of monastics, offer you hymnody, * asking your intercession: * do not deprive us of it, as we honour you with love.

Knowing you to be a wealth of divinely wise doctrine * and a treasury of exalted insight, * we cry out to you: * Rejoice, O inhabitant of the city of God, who shares the place of the wise preachers and the venerable * who shone forth in ascetic feats.

*And 3 verses, tone 4
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

You offered your creator * uprightness of mind, with purity and abstinence, * concentrated prayer and the outpouring of tears, * because of which you have been granted * to behold the glory of God, * upon which his most excellent servants gaze, * and to sing the thrice-holy hymn, * sung in heaven by the angels, * O divinely wise Jerome.

Taking the cross upon your shoulder, * and valiantly enduring tribulations, * you were pleasing to God, * bringing to him a multitude of virgins. * We see you as the adornment of the venerable, * and receptacle of the divine Spirit, * and so we, the faithful, * celebrate your yearly memorial, * asking your aid.

Glorious Bethlehem, * the city where the Lord was born, incarnate, * received your labours * and the sweat of your ascetic feats; * and there your repose took place, O divinely wise one. * Wholly illumined, O Jerome, * you have taken your place in gladness * before the judge of the contest, the Saviour of the world, * entreating him for us.

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

Truly desiring the wisdom of God, you diligently heeded the words of great Gregory, the teacher and theologian; and thus learning that which was divine, you struggled well, O venerable father, and to all you appeared honourable and pleasing to

Christ, as his sincere servant. Never cease to entreat him for those who with faith and love cherish your honoured memory.

Both now and for ever... *Dogmaticon, in the same tone*

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.

Entrance, Prokimenon and Litanies.

*Aposticha, tone 5
to the Special Melody Rejoice...*

Rejoice, O pure intelligence, wise Jerome, who received the radiance of God, imparting it to the faithful who honour your holy memory. By your wise writings, O venerable one, you move all the intelligent to the praise of God, as a skillful teacher of the Christian people and their unshakable confirmation.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Rejoice, O venerable father, made strong by the fear of God, for thereby you came to recognize divine wisdom, and with love and loving kindness made yourself your creator's own, as one full of divine understanding, virtue and zeal. O blessed Jerome, by your supplications to the Lord free those who hymn you from all want and sorrow.

Verse Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.

Rejoice, O goodly offshoot of Dalmatia, who in holiness was nurtured in the Holy Land, and who lived for many years in ascetic struggle, laying waste to yourself. Now you rightly dwell in heaven, full of glory, as a participant in the divine mysteries, as an heir to the kingdom of Christ.

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

Though a lover of outward wisdom, you were granted that which was greater and higher, O glorious Jerome. When you achieved excellence in both, your God-pleasing life was recognized by all; for your victories over the adversary proclaimed you a child of the light and a favourite of Christ, the giver of light, who by your supplications grants enlightenment, peace and great mercy to our souls.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

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 3

The assembly of the Orthodox
has you as a great intercessor, O divinely wise father,
for as you are a conversor with the venerable
and share in divine wisdom.
O wondrous Jerome, entreat Christ our God
that he grant us great mercy.

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

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.

Matins

*After the first reading from the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Your tomb, O Saviour...

Having been taught well by divinely wise Gregory, in holiness excellent Jerome hastened from the West to the East; and having struggled in a God-pleasing manner, he now prays to the Saviour for us who celebrate his glorious memory, which we honour with faith.

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

Theotokion We all know you to be the Mother of God, truly shown a Virgin even after giving birth, and with love we have recourse to your goodness. We sinners have you as an intercessor; you we have acquired as our salvation amid perils: the truly immaculate one.

*After the second reading from the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* You have appeared...

For the faithful your sacred and radiant memorial has arrived today, O venerable father Jerome, enlightening the souls of those who honour you.

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

Theotokion O blessed one, the restoration of men, you conceived when the most Holy Spirit, equally enthroned and consubstantial with the Father, came upon you at the words of the archangel.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraclisis];
and that of the saint, tone 8,
upon the acrostic, excluding the Theotokia I sing hymnody to you, O Jerome.*

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.

I offer praise to you, the divine preacher, and pray that discourse be granted to me through your prayers to God, that I may proclaim the mighty works of your honoured life, O divinely wise one.

You arose in the land of Dalmatia, rich in grace and adorned with the virtues, with wisdom and the understanding of the messages of the Spirit, O glorious Jerome, for you were dear to God.

The words of godly Gregory you held within the treasury of your heart, as you were a follower of Christ and his apostles, a servant of his mysteries and a partaker of theology, O blessed one, rich in light.

Theotokion Death has fallen upon us with unrestrained assaults; yet coming to your child, it has perished, and wounded it has been made nothing, O virgin Mother of God who truly gave birth to eternal life incarnate.

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.

Adorned with beauty of character, you were loved by all, a venerable favourite of God, and one glorious among the saints, O blessed one.

Enriched with a pure mind, you studied the wisdom of the Greeks, the Jews and the Latins, the Chaldeans and the Persians, O glorious one, yet committed yourself to Christ, who is wisdom itself.

You applied yourself to fasting and to every labour of abstinence out of love for Christ, for which sake you were divinely wise, a sweet fragrance for God and a consolation to men.

Theotokion In you, O Virgin, there is no blemish or defilement, and you became a dwelling-place surpassing the virtues of heaven, as the fulness of holiness dwelt within you.

Sessional hymn, tone 5
to the Special Melody The Word, who is equally unoriginate...

O faithful, with hymns let us honour Jerome, who honoured the works of Christ the Lord, teaching us the ways of salvation and piously to believe in the true God; for as our fervent intercessor he prays for the peace and salvation for our souls.

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

Theotokion Rejoice, O holy mountain upon which God has travelled. Rejoice, animate bush which was not consumed. Rejoice, only bridge between God and the world, leading mortals to life everlasting. Rejoice, O incorrupt Maiden who without knowing man gave birth to the Saviour of our souls.

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 came to Bethlehem, O God-bearer, and there, in accordance with the Gospel, you struggled to the end; and having made your abode in heaven with the venerable, as you are venerable, you pray there for those who hymn you with faith.

As one of the elect, a companion of the holy fathers, you lived in the Holy Land, where Christ dwelt as a man and saved us as God: O blessed father, we honour your memory.

With hymns I bless Jerome patient of mind, a favourite of God who loved the narrow way and accepted exile. By his supplications, O Lord, grant us remission of sins, as you are merciful.

Theotokion We know you to be the Bride and Mother of God, for the Word of God found you as a rose fragrant as myrrh, blossoming in the vale of lowly humanity, and he desired your beauty: issuing forth from you incarnate, has perfumed the faithful.

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.

Your honoured memorial has been established anew, O venerable one, for it is older than these times. O all-praised one, as you were of old, so be now rightly honoured.

You surpass many in divine wisdom, O excellent one, filling the faithful with gladness and sweetness, and leading them to divine heights, to the abode of grace divine.

As one full of compassion and mercy, giving rest to strangers and the homeless, helping the poor and clothing the naked, you have been granted blessedness, O truly blessed one.

Theotokion You have been adorned, O Virgin, in giving birth to the most beautiful Word: ever entreat him to take pity on those who have recourse to you, and preserve those who place their trust in you from all demonic harm.

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.

The Lord has glorified you on earth, O holy one; for in your divinely wise writings you shine forth upon the ends of the world like the radiant sun, O Jerome.

Mortifying the carnal passions by asceticism, O wise father, you wrote books and scrolls teaching and explaining the words of God.

Splendid in fasting and great in wisdom, O divinely eloquent one, you have received the title of instructor of the faithful, and are now rightly praised by us.

Theotokion You truly conceived the Word of God, O most pure Lady, and gave birth to him in manner transcending nature: may he be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

Kontakion, tone 8

to the Special Melody To you, the champion leader...

With hymns let us praise the truly praiseworthy Jerome our father, venerable among the venerable and most blessed among the blessed, the instructor and helper of the faithful, crying out to him with love: Rejoice, O divinely wise father.

Ikos O father Jerome, on earth you were like an angel, and so unbelievers and heretics maliciously cried out against you. But we Orthodox, rejoicing, cry out to you such things as these: Rejoice, offshoot of godly Dalmatia, its goodly fruit and son. Rejoice, nurtured in holiness in the Holy Land. Rejoice, boast of the pious. Rejoice, for your writings shine forth like light. Rejoice, for your asceticism is rightly praised. Rejoice, close friend of wise Augustine and fulfilled his requests. Rejoice, teacher of the faithful and opponent of the ungodly. Rejoice, O father who behold the city of heaven where you sing divine hymnody to God. Rejoice, O divinely wise 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.

With purity of mind you received rich grace from God, to do and say that which is to the profit of men's souls, O divine preacher, blessing the God of our fathers.

Emulating the industrious bee, you gathered flowers of literature like honey, laying it up in your heart and mind, and thereby you sweeten the faithful.

Full of the grace of the Lord, as his true chosen one, be a mediator for us who cry out and sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Rightly considering you, O Mother of God, we acknowledge you to be the pure bride of the incarnation of the Word in manner past recounting, and his bridal-chamber and throne; and we glorify your birthgiving.

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.

O city of David, fashion hymns to your Saviour today, for you have with your other saints the divinely wise Jerome within your walls, singing: You people exalt him above all for ever.

With divine longing in your heart, O divinely wise one, continually uniting yourself to the creator, you ascended from action to spiritual vision; and standing before your ultimate desire, you sing: You people exalt him above all for ever.

Wondrous things were wrought by you, O venerable one; for, you hastened from the West to the East, struggling patiently in asceticism in Bethlehem, as the superior of two monasteries; and even after your repose you speak heavenly things.

Theotokion O Mother of God, who gave birth to the primal light who created the angels, the secondary luminaries, who brought forth light in the beginning and the two great lights of the heavens, and breathed soul into all like light: enlighten the darkness of my mind.

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.

The divine choir of the angels rejoices to receive you, O excellent one; for you lived like an angel on the earth, the adornment of sacred teachers and boast of ascetics.

Your memory is piously glorified on earth, and you dwell now in heaven with Augustine, praying for us and those who bear your name, who honour you, O God-bearer, and venerate your image.

You dawned like the morning, and like the sun set in heaven, where you desired to be, leaving your writings behind as a treasure, O wondrous one, from which grace and heavenly gladness pour forth.

Theotokion The never-setting sun, who shone from you, preserving you a virgin, caused his servant to share in his light and ineffable joy: with him pray that he have pity on those who magnify you.

Exapostilarion

Making your flesh subject to your spirit, you laboured ascetically in the flesh as though one of the bodiless beings; and so, on high, O Jerome, you have been brought to praise the Master of all with the angels.

Glory be to the Father... *Another Exapostilarion*

Anointed with your labours and sweat, Bethlehem cries out to you, O God-bearer: O divinely wise Jerome, you are my boast and the adornment of monastics.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O virgin Mother of the Lord, sweetness of the angels, joy of the sorrowful, intercessor for Christians: help us and deliver us from eternal torment by your supplications.

At the Praises, 4 verses, tone 8
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...

O wise father Jerome, having cleansed your mind, you transcend the flesh and drew wisdom upon yourself, with which you recognized Christ our God, wisdom himself and who bestows wisdom. How divinely wise your striving, wherewith you magnified that which is God's and put down that which is of the enemy.

O wise father Jerome, through your understanding of wisdom in five languages and your divine asceticism you were a great champion of the Orthodox faith; through this, by your words and deeds, you glorified the Lord and Saviour who strengthened you.

O wise father Jerome, instructor of the faithful, true friend of Augustine, most diligent pupil of Gregory: your writings emit rays of divinely wise teaching, and, studying them, we piously praise you.

O wise father Jerome, having struggled for many years on the earth, you hastened to the heavenly city of God, which you described to your friend in a dream. Pray that we also who cherish your honoured memory may be granted to dwell there.

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

With hymns let us praise divinely wise Jerome, the preacher of piety; for, having first studied outer wisdom and been purified by God-pleasing struggles, he became an instrument of the Holy Spirit and a dwelling-place of the divine Trinity. We appoint him as our advocate before you, God in three persons, that you grant us great mercy.

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.

Great Doxology and the rest

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the saint's canon.

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 (Gal 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 Matthew, number 10 [Mat 4: 25-5: 12]

Communion Verse

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

June 16

Hieromartyr Tichon of Amathus

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,
to the Special Melody What shall we call you...*

With a life equal to that of the angels, * by spurning pleasures * you were seen to be a vessel of God; * therefore, O wise Tichon, as is fitting * he ordained you for the people * as a divine hierarch, * and showed you to be a pillar and ground of the faith, * pasturing your flock by the waters of Orthodoxy, * O divinely inspired father.

Full of divine understanding, * you were a most wise shepherd, * piously nurturing the reason-endowed flock * on the grass of true doctrines. * We honour your holy festival, * glorifying the Lord who has glorified you. * O blessed and divinely wise Tichon, * pray that our souls be saved.

God, who ever glorifies those who glorify him, * has glorified you with miracles; * for during your honoured and divine commemoration, * O wise father, * ripe grapes are seen * by those who hymn the glorious wonder. * The faithful, partaking thereof, * as they fittingly glorify you * receive sanctification and profit.

*But if Alleluia is to be sung at Matins instead of God is the Lord...
the following verses of the Mother of God are sung before the foregoing verses of the prophet,
in the same tone and melody.*

Strange and awesome is the mystery of your seedless maternity, surpassing the mind of man in majesty, O pure Virgin. For you gave birth in the flesh to him who is ever of the Father's substance, upon whom the many-eyed cherubim dare not gaze and before whom all the ranks of angels tremble. We glorify you, the Bride of God who gave him birth.

To whom may you be compared, O my wretched soul, in no way rousing yourself to repentance, neither fearing the fire which awaits the wicked? Arise, and call upon her who alone is quick to help, and cry out: O Virgin Mother, entreat your Son and our God, that he deliver me from the snares of the deceiver.

O pure and undefiled one, who gave birth to the unendurable fire which utterly consumes sins and bedews the faithful. By your supplications burn up the tinder of my countless offences, and with dew cool my soul which withers because of the passions, that I, your servant, may magnify your mercy and power.

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

Theotokion O Lady, help of all, impart a drop of the oil of your mercy to me, storm tossed upon the sea of darkness and ever compassed by the billows and waves of the evils of this life and extend to me a helping hand; grant to me the portion of the elect and the righteous, for you gave birth to the lover of mankind.

Theotokion of the cross When she beheld the lamb stretched out upon the tree of the cross, the lamb and mother cried out maternally, weeping and in pain: O my Son, what is this strange thing that I see? How is it that you die, who as Lord give life to all, O long-suffering one, granting resurrection to mortals? I glorify your great condescension, O my God.

Troparion, tone 1

Troparion, tone 1 Dwelling in the desert as an angel incarnate, | you proved to be a worker of miracles, O God-bearing father, Tichon. | Having received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigils and prayer, | you heal the infirmities and souls of those who come to you in faith. | Glory to him who gave you strength, ~| glory to him who crowned you; | | glory to him who through you works healings for all.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the holy hierarch, tone 8,
composed by Theophanes.*

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.

Full of visions transcending the mind, O blessed Tichon, and delighting in the divine radiance thereof, grant a voice of grace to those who hymn you, whereby we may recount your virtues.

Choosing the higher path from your youth, you regarded your ancestral inheritance as dust; and distributing it to the poor, you received recompense a hundredfold, trusting in the words of your Lord, O blessed one.

He who dwells in the highest, finding your heart to be an abode of the virtues, made his habitation within you and rested in you; for with the Father he made within you a dwelling-place purified beforehand by the Spirit, as he said.

Theotokion God became man through you, O most pure Lady, yet preserved you a virgin after your birthgiving; and having deified the nature which was contrary to his likeness, he bestowed upon it its primal dignity.

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.

You considered gold and silver to be like soil to be trampled underfoot, and worldly glory to be like dung; for you constantly elevated your mind to that which is incorrupt, where you made your abode, O divinely wise Tichon.

That you might obtain the higher life which abides for ever, O sacred martyr Tichon, you surpassed corrupt life, freely giving yourself over to labour for all.

You stood at the tribunal of the tyrant, confessing Christ the king with boldness, undaunted by wounds or death, O wondrous one, as by your words you repelled the foe.

Theotokion You do not spurned one clothed in base raiment, alienated from you through sin, O Christ; for, having assumed my poverty through the Virgin's womb, you deify and save it in your surpassing goodness.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Go quickly before...

Desiring to receive everlasting life, you truly purified your soul of the passions, O divinely wise father Tichon; therefore, you received the radiance of sanctity and pour forth gifts of healing upon those who have recourse to your protection with faith.

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

Theotokion O Lady who alone gave birth to the creator of all, who alone has adorned mankind with your birthgiving: deliver me from the snare of the lying foe, and set me upon the rock of desire for Christ, earnestly entreating him to whom you gave flesh.

Theotokion of the Cross 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.

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.

Receiving the might of the Spirit, O father, you were invincible and tireless; and like a commander you strengthened your warriors, urging them to advance: having attained your victory without blood, you received the crown of martyrdom.

Consecrated to God, O Tichon, and observing his sacred laws, you lived, not as a hireling shepherd, but as one laying down your life for the flock: having slain the wolves, you have nurtured the flock of Christ on life-giving pastures.

The island of Cyprus truly cherishes your honourable memory, joining chorus with all the earth, and proclaiming it with an outpouring of miracles, it calls those afar who desire to see, that they may behold the garden of the glorious offshoot of the vine.

Theotokion O Son of the Father, the timeless light from light: in this age you were born of the Virgin, correcting the progeny of Adam who had come under death of old. Truly honouring your Mother, we the faithful proclaim her to be the 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.

Full of true vision, O glorious Tichon, you denounced those who loved vain wisdom, driving out demonic falsehood and the myths and vile works of Cyprus.

Having a pure life, and performing works which pass understanding, you stood before the divine table of Christ in sacred manner: through your supplications, O divinely wise Tichon, cast down the temples of the demons.

Being crucified to the world, like Paul, and crucifying the world to yourself, O God-bearing Tichon, you did not live for the flesh, but for God the Spirit, attaining that which you desired: be mindful of us, your servants.

Theotokion O unwedded Mother, we see you as more radiant than the sun, for who in ages past ever heard of a virgin giving suck? In giving birth to your creator, O Virgin Mother, all things were accomplished in a godly manner.

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.

Driving the assaults of demons from your flock and dispelling the falsehood of the idols of polytheism, you were fearsome to the foe, O divinely eloquent and wise Tichon.

God who was glorified by you has glorified you, O God-bearing Tichon, giving you to us who bless you with faith as one awesome in signs and great in wonders.

You sanctified your life, living it honourably on earth; and passing from it to receive that of heaven, you glorified it with miracles, O Tichon, true friend of the Master.

Theotokion O Mother of God, you gave birth to the fruit of life, the divine garden, for my nature who of old in paradise ate of the fruit of mortality: eating of him, I shall no longer be enslaved to death.

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

Persevering in the struggle of the love of God, O holy one, from on high you received the power of the Comforter to cast down the idols of falsehood, to save men, to cast out demons and to heal sickness; and so we honour you as a friend of God O blessed Tichon.

Ode 7

Irmos The Chaldean furnace, burning with fire, was bedewed by the Spirit through the presence of God, as the children sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As a divine mouth, you made worthy men out of the unworthy, O wondrous Tichon, and so Christ truly glorified you with miracles even after your repose.

In the hope of heaven, O father, you wisely rejected every passionate attachment of the world: as a prophet, O wise Tichon, you announced your repose beforehand.

Coming together, O lovers of the feasts of the Church, let us pass over Cyprus with mystic vision, and let us behold the glorious working of the garden, through which the world embraces pure salvation.

Theotokion Your fruit, O Virgin Mother of God, pours immortality upon those who partake thereof; for having given birth to God, you have released Eve from her debt.

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.

Adorned with the beauties of the virtues, you wove a sacred vesture, O honourable Tichon: telling of your end and the manifestation of sweet fragrance, you urged those by you to glorify the Saviour, proclaiming: Exalt above all for ever.

Ignoring the law of the body, like an incorporeal being you ran to where the crown of higher knowledge was prepared for you, O divinely wise one, for it was not for flesh and blood that you promised to live, O Tichon. Therefore, you behold the beauties of the kingdom of Christ, with whom you ever reign.

You were a victor over the enemies of Christ, and suffered torture because of your conscience, voluntarily sacrificing yourself, O wise Tichon; for before your tormentors you cried out: Christ is God, let the memory of those falsely called gods perish for ever.

Theotokion Most holy Lady, helper of the world, mighty refuge of the sorrowful, sole aid of your servants in need: rescue your inheritance from misfortunes and sorrows, that we may cry out with faith: Rejoice, O joy and salvation of the world.

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.

Accept this sacred hymnody offered from unworthy lips, O Tichon, granting in recompense the deliverance from sins through your supplications to God; for we who faithfully honour your memory propose you as our advocate.

The pure and most holy Spirit anointed you with the oil of gladness, O glorious one, adorned you with a multitude of gifts, bringing you to reign with him gloriously, O Tichon, adornment and boast of hierarchs.

How great are your miracles of grace, O sacred Tichon, for no human tongue can recount what has been seen, as the thoroughly dried up vine shoot, at your behest, gloriously put forth ripe grapes.

By your supplications grant me victory over the passions, O Tichon, and grant that as I bless you ardently with love, I may attain the love of God and the delight of his good things, and receive his beauties.

Theotokion O Mother of God who gave birth to the world's salvation, by your entreaties save me from the various temptations which assail me; for I your servant place my hope of salvation in you.

June 17

Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael

Vespers

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

Like most splendid stars, * O honoured passion-bearers, * you illumine the ends of the world * with divine radiance, * dispelling the darkness of the demons, * the corrupting passions and misfortunes. * We gather today O glorious ones, * to praise your luminous, light-bearing and holy festival.

With sacred hymns * let wondrous Manuel, * blessed Sabel * and wise Ismael, be honoured; * for, in sacred confession of the uncreated Trinity * in the face of the enemy, * they extinguished the falsehood of polytheism * with the outpouring of their blood, * and have received unfading glory.

Distinguished and blessed Manuel, Ismael and Sabel, * you wisely put to shame * the lawless king * who iniquitously commanded you * to worship and render honour to his mindless, inanimate gods; * and, having suffered patiently and lawfully, * you have woven for yourselves wreaths of victory, * praying for the world.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

The glorious martyrs, loving you in purity, O Word, having forsaking fire-worship and the land of Chaldea, were illumined by your light; and armed with the weaponry of faith, they put the tyrant Julian to shame. Glorious Manuel, wondrous Sabel, and Ismael thrice rich, hymning you with the Father and the Spirit, now pray that our souls be saved.

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? * You, the sustainer of all creation * are hung upon a tree, and die, granting life to all. * Thus lamented the Mother of God, * when she saw lifted upon the cross * him who is both God and man * who had ineffably shone forth from her.

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. || Through their intercessions, save our souls.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the martyrs, tone 8,
probably composed by German the Patriarch*

Ode 1

Irmos Let us sing to Christ, who overthrew the tyranny of Pharaoh in the sea, who guided Israel across on dry land, for he has been glorified for ever.

Let us all sing a hymn to God, the almighty creator, who has honoured for all ages the glorious Manuel and those who suffered with him.

Having cast off their ancestral worship of fire, they fended off the assault of the tyrant as athletes in their honourable confession of the Trinity.

Having suffered for the Trinity, being equal in number, O martyrs, you were magnificently crowned: pray unceasingly that God deliver us all from misfortunes.

Theotokion The supernatural offspring of the Virgin, by his birth has repulsed the prince of darkness, as is written, and has opened Eden to those who confess her to be the Mother of God.

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.

We cannot praise your sacred suffering rightly, whereby you were crowned with wreaths woven in heaven, O holy ones, entreating God our deliverer that we be saved.

Consumed by fire, failing not in intelligence, forged by blows and sharpened with pangs, O martyrs, you became swords wrought in heaven against the impious foe.

The tyrant was put to shame, the iniquitous apostate suffered a terrible fall when Christ strengthened the three martyrs valiantly to oppose his ungodliness.

Theotokion O Christ our God, we bring before you the Mother who gave you birth in the flesh, and the throng of martyrs, to supplicate your might: by their entreaties grant peace to your world.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Your tomb, O Saviour...

As a thrice radiant lamp shining with the fire of the Trinity, you burned away the darkness of the fir-worshipping Persians and with boldness preached Christ who shone forth from the unwedded Virgin; and you received a blessed end, O martyrs three in number.

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

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.

Theotokion of the Cross Seeing you stretched out, dead, upon the cross, O Christ, your immaculate Mother cried out: O my Son, who with the Father and the Spirit is equally unoriginate, what is this, your ineffable providence, whereby you save that which your most pure hands have made, O compassionate one?

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.

The martyred brethren, that blessed trinity, came from a sorcerous root an ungodly father, but yet from a pious mother to produce fruits of piety.

O thrice-radiant trinity, radiant Manuel, Sabel and Ismael, like the sun you were steadfast stars of the faith, brightly shining upon the world.

O three holy martyrs, pray as one to the Trinity, that those who keep your memory with true faith may be granted cleansing and remission of offences.

Theotokion You are truly the beautiful palace of the king of all, the throne of the Most High transcending creation, O Mother of God, and an intercessor for our souls.

Ode 5

Irmos From the night of ignorance, let the day of divine knowledge shine in our hearts, with the light of your face O Christ, for your morning praises.

We rightly celebrate the memory of the martyrs, for even the air of the world been hallowed for by their blood.

Of old the Church of the faithful fought the forces of night, and the martyrs illumined it with the radiance of their Orthodox faith.

The bosom of Abraham received the souls of the martyrs who were an image, depicting the kingdom on high.

Theotokion O Mother of God who truly gave birth to the incarnate God, one of the Trinity, pray, that he deliver your servants.

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.

Saved from the waves and steered by the rudder of the cross, the holy martyrs escaped spiritual defilement.

Gaping wide, the earth absorbed your blood, O saints, and suddenly your remains were interred in treasuries below.

Grant peace to the world, O God, and as you are merciful keep your flock unharmed, through the supplications of your glorious passion-bearers.

Theotokion Having conceived God without seed, you gave birth without corruption to the creator of nature. Entreat him, O Mother of God, that we be saved.

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

Wounded by the faith of Christ, O most blessed ones, and having faithfully drained the cup thereof, you cast to the ground the worship and audacity of the Persians, and you make supplications for us all, O martyrs equal in number to the Trinity.

Ikos O Jesus, bestower of life, who has existed from the beginning, with your divine goodness illumine me, that I may hymn the martyrs who struggled for you even to death, who valiantly cast down the might of the enemy and escaped the falsehood of the idols, strengthened by the power of the cross; for, having suffered tortures, they have received the glory of the Trinity: entreat God for us all.

Ode 7

Irmos In the beginning you founded the earth, and established the heavens by your word: Blessed are you for ever, Lord God of our fathers.

The light-bearing Church of Christ kindled the three lamps as with a single light: the glorious crown-bearer and victorious Manuel and those who suffered with him.

Forsaking their Chaldean homeland, the three honoured warriors of the Trinity abandoned the Zoroastrian religion, crying: Blessed are you for ever, Lord God of our fathers.

The three children, Shadrach and those with him, spurned the worship of the Chaldeans; and the three warriors from Persia, Manuel and those with him, suffered for Christ.

Theotokion Among women, no virgin has given birth, but for you, O virgin Mother of God: no infant has ever had a father above and a mother below; yet Christ has both.

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.

Having invigorated their bodies by abstinence and strengthened their spirit with piety, the passion-bearers of Christ brought athletic ability to bear upon the invisible princes of darkness.

The Church of Christ, crowned with the martyrs' wreaths as with flowers, arrayed itself in bridal vesture dyed in blood, the martyrs' dye of incorruption.

O Christ, you have brought your martyrs to receive the inheritance of the saved, and glory which cannot be taken away, for they confessed you to be the only Son of the Father and the Virgin.

Theotokion O Mother of God, never cease to beseech the one of the Trinity to whom you gave birth, that we be delivered from our iniquities and be awarded his appearing and kingdom.

Ode 9

Irmos The birth giving of the Ever-virgin, foretold to the lawgiver in the fire and the bush on the mountain, for the salvation of us the faithful, with undying hymnody let us magnify.

Grace united you with a triple bond, O Manuel, Sabel and Ismael, uniting with unshakable faith the single-minded virtue of your confession of Christ.

With a sling of three thongs you vanquished the vile apostate Julian, the lying tyrant, O three warriors of the Trinity, and together you have been crowned.

Memorable was the miracle of the martyrs; for after their demise the earth opened and covered them; then shortly afterwards, like luminous stars they shone forth from the bosom of the earth.

Theotokion O Mother of God, virgin among mothers, who at the ineffable word of the archangel gave birth to the transcendent Word who was begotten of the unoriginate Father: save the souls of those who hymn you.

Exapostilarion

Truly the wondrous and sacred memorial of great Manuel and the glorious martyrs Sabel and Ismael, woven as of three golden strands, has dawned. It has illumined the hearts of all the faithful with light and makes glad their souls.

Theotokion As you have loving-kindness and great mercy, O exalted virgin Mother of God, look upon my lowliness; do away with the turmoil of the passions and the temptations of life and deliver me from the fire of Gehenna.

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 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 them 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.

June 18

Martyr Leontius

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* What shall we call you...

What shall we call you, O glorious one? * Offering of Hellas, * since you came from there? * Cleansing of Phoenicia, since you martyred there? * Lamp, for you shone forth in the darkness? * Valiant one, for you were not vanquished by those who beat you? * Far-reaching is your fame, * O blessed Leontius. * Pray that our souls be saved.

What shall we name you, O passion-bearer? * Soldier of Christ, as you were a destroyer of the enemy? * Ruler of the passions, for you were an athlete of piety? * Feeder of the hungry, for you loved the poor? * righteous one, as you were a zealot of heavenly wisdom? * Various were your sufferings * and splendid your contest. * Pray that our souls be saved.

Who cannot marvel at you, O Leontius? * For, receiving a fountain of incorruption as a dweller in paradise, * you flow with rivers of benefaction upon the faithful, * without fee you offer abundant gifts * to those who thirst, * and gladden those who partake * of the waters of goodness: * pray that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 1*

O praiseworthy athlete Leontius, neither fire, nor wounding, nor the sword were able to separate you from the love of Christ; but, suffering manfully in the midst of torturers, you abolished the offerings made to idols, O divinely wise crown-bearer, and now you dance in heaven: earnestly pray for our souls.

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody* Joy of the ranks of heaven...

Standing before the cross of your Son and God, and seeing his long-suffering, O pure Mother; weeping, you said: Woe is me, O my child most sweet. What are these things which you suffer unjustly, O Word of God, in your wish to save mankind?

Aposticha from the Octoechos; and Glory be to the Father... *tone 4*

Let heaven be glad in splendour today, and let us earthly faithful rejoice in the memory of the martyr Leontius; for this day which has dawned is crowned, not with

irrational sacrifices, but with the sacrifice of praise, with spiritual flowers. Standing with us, adorned, offering the unbloody service to the bestower of crowns, he radiantly offers entreaty, that those who faithfully keep his memory may attain the courts of paradise.

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

Beholding Christ crucified, who loves mankind, O most pure one, * his side pierced by a spear, * you cried out, weeping: * What is this, O my Son? * How have the ungrateful people rewarded you * for the good you did for them? * How can you hasten thus to leave me childless, O most beloved? * I marvel, O compassionate one, * at your voluntary crucifixion.

Troparion, tone 4

Troparion, tone 4 In his suffering, O Lord, Leontius 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

*Canon of the martyr, tone 4,
composed by John the monk*

Ode 1

Irmos I hymn you, O Lord my God who brought your people out from Egyptian slavery, and overwhelmed the chariots and power of Pharaoh.

Your virtue is beyond all praise, O Leontius, favourite of Christ; for he is your boast and riches which cannot be taken away.

Desiring an unsullied soul of supernatural qualities, and having adorned your body with virginity, you splendidly embarked on the path of the Most High.

Wielding might against falsehood, O venerable and glorious Leontius, you praised the honour of martyrdom for him whom you desired.

Theotokion We hasten to you as to a steadfast champion, O Mother of God, moving you to supplication, that your flock be delivered from every evil circumstance.

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.

Having acquired a beautiful character, wisdom and grace from God, O Leontius, you became a true athlete and a chosen martyr.

You said to your peers, O Leontius: Lay down your life for the living God, and as soldiers serve the king who lives eternally.

Your honeyed and God-loving tongue poured words of piety and brought down the blasphemers, the minions of impiety.

Theotokion Rejoice, O unwedded Mother who held God the Word within you and gave birth to him incarnate, both God and man.

Sessional Hymn, tone 4
to the Special Melody Go quickly before...

Having taken up the cross as a weapon, you battled invisible foes, suffering valiantly: having destroyed their power, you received the grace of miracles, O glorious martyr Leontius, praying that we be saved.

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

Theotokion O pure and immaculate Lady who alone gave birth in time to the timeless Son and Word of God, with the holy and honoured patriarchs and martyrs, with the prophets and the venerable, entreat him to grant us cleansing and great mercy.

Theotokion of the Cross When your most pure Mother saw you suspended on the cross, O Word of God, she exclaimed, maternally lamenting: What new and strange wonder is this, my Son; for how can you, the life of all, taste of death, desiring to bring life to the dead, as you are compassionate?

Ode 4

Irmos Your virtue has covered the heavens, and the earth is full of your glory, O Christ: therefore with faith we cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

He who was enveloped in the wrath of the demons mercilessly wounded you, O martyred athlete Leontius who is enveloped in the love of God.

Boldly you urged toward the truth him who wished to overtake and lay hold of you, considering him to be a blessed one of promise, O martyred athlete Leontius.

He who for your sake was nailed to the tree in the flesh, seeing you bound to a tree for his sake, filled you with strength and grace.

Theotokion Rejoice, O exalted Mother of God, who is more exalted than the ranks of the cherubim, and who physically held God seated upon your arm.

Ode 5

Irmos O Lord who by your blood has acquired us, your chosen people, grant us your peace, and preserve your flock in oneness of mind.

Led like a sheep ready for the slaughter, O glorious Leontius, of your own will you stood up for Christ before the tyrant's tribunal.

He who was guilty of falsehood sought to bring low the strength of your soul, belittling the crucified Lord as a human malefactor.

You said, O martyr: May the gods perish, who in no way created heaven and earth, for the crucified one is the fashioner of all.

Theotokion Rejoice, O pure unwedded Lady, holy Mary, Bride of God, for you gave birth to God, who has raised our race to heaven.

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.

Though peaceable to those who came to you with faith, and with discourse seasoned with divine salt, O Leontius, you were cruel to the enemies of Christ.

Rejoicing, your faithful servant Leontius gave himself over as a witness to your kingdom, O Christ, while your enemies were not able to bear the truth.

Like wild beasts the iniquitous burned with rage and fell upon the martyr as though he were their prey, pitilessly to rend asunder the invincible one.

Theotokion We who hymn your holy birthgiving have no other helper than you, O most pure Lady: therefore we pray you to render your Son reconciled with your servants.

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

You confounded the wicked plots of the tyrants, and denounced the ungodly religion of the Greeks, though your teaching of piety, O divinely wise martyr, you shone forth the knowledge of God upon all; and so with love we honour your memory, O wise Leontius.

Ikos I call upon the Lord, the mediator between God and men, who assumed the lowliness of us mortals from the pure unwedded Mother of God, was crucified, and has raised mankind from corruption, that I may now praise wise Leontius, and recognize his splendid and beautiful sufferings, which he finished well, replete with courage, faith and love. therefore, with love we honour the memory of wise Leontius.

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.

Like the captive youths, with resolute mind invincible Leontius trampled falsehood and the fire of torture underfoot, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Unmindful of the flesh with indifference to suffering, as an invincible martyr you mightily endured wounding for Christ, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Prevailing over corrupted human nature through wisdom and love for Christ, you chose life-bearing death, O Leontius, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Divinely speaking of the one being in three persons, the Word, the Spirit and the Father, the unbowed and invincible martyr sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Let us piously hymn the Mother of God who without seed supernaturally received the immutable God who in his loving-kindness mingled with men.

Ode 8

Irmos Christ our God, whose body was nailed to the cross, has shown it to us as an instrument of salvation: O you children exalt him above all for ever.

The martyr endured bodily wounding and won a great victory over the bodiless foe, singing: Exalt Christ our God above all for ever.

Amid the spines of thorns you radiantly extended your mind toward the Master, O martyr, crying out with love: Exalt Christ our God above all for ever.

Christ, whom you glorified with the wounds of your body, is your victory, as you sang: O you children, exalt Christ our God above all for ever.

Theotokion All the generations of men most gloriously call you blessed, O pure Mother of God, for through you have we been lifted up to heaven.

Ode 9

Irmos Your birthgiving was shown to be free from corruption: God issued from you, appeared on earth clad in flesh, and dwelt among men. Therefore, O Mother of God, we all magnify you.

You proved to be a servant of the Trinity, O Leontius, ministering blamelessly to him before whom every knee bends in heaven and on earth, and in the nethermost regions; whom we fittingly magnify him in song.

Desiring to look upon the glory of the Lord immaterially, your face uncovered, you divested yourself of power and authority, preaching the one divinity in three persons.

As one glad in your confession, the Saviour has confessed you before the Father: entreat him, O athlete, that all who magnify your memory with faith be saved.

Theotokion You are more exalted than the ranks on high, O virgin Mother of God, for you alone received the indwelling of the Most High: we all declare you to be the Mother of God.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody Adorning the heavens with stars...

Tried like gold by fire and torture, you proved to be a worthy gift for God the Most High, O glorious athlete: pray for us.

Theotokion With your mighty protection preserve us, your servants, unharmed by the assault of the enemy, O pure one; for you alone have we acquired as a refuge in need.

Liturgy

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.

Acts of the Apostles, number 29 [12: 1-11]

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.

Gospel of John, number 52 [15:17-16:2]

Communion Verse

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

June 19

the holy hierarch John of San Francisco

Little Vespers

*At Lord, I call to you... we sing 4 verses,
to the special melody Joy of the heavenly hierarchies...*

O lover of the saints of God, while on earth you spoke to them as to your friends, and now you reside with them eternally, praying for those still earthbound, that we lifted be lifted with you in the silent ships of paradise, upon the sea of eternity.

O lover of the cross of Christ, you see your maker stretching his hands upon the tree to embrace all mankind, and you were received by him, crucifying yourself to the world and ascending with him to heaven.

O Hierarch John, as the halting of godlessness, the champion of Orthodoxy and a teacher of truth, you answered to God alone: pray to him that he may grant us such great strength and steadfastness.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

From Abel to the blood of Zacharias and to this day, the world has sought to destroy its prophets, But you, O holy one, endured persecution in the spirit of meekness and faith, emulating Christ and thereby purifying your soul to be received by him.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O most holy Virgin whose care and love for mankind was so gloriously revealed in the life of the blessed John, keep us sinners also under your protection.

*Aposticha, tone 2,
to the special melody* When from the tree

Christ gave the Bread of Life by which men would never die, and they in their foolishness wanted only their stomachs filled; yet you, O John, deprived yourself of earthly comfort, and never hungered again.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Watch and pray, Christ said to his disciples; and you, O John, did not cease to follow this injunction, praying ever in the silent depths of your spirit, ever burning with love for God, finding true rest not on a soft bed but under the yoke of Christ.

Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

You shall perform great wonders in my name, Christ promised his apostles; and you, O new apostle, Hierarch John, were another means by which this promise was fulfilled. Like Peter you heal the infirm, and like Paul you bring multitudes to salvation.

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

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but Christ's words shall ever prevail: you, O blessed John, preached and lived these words, thereby sharing in their eternal nature and in their immutability, dwelling with Christ the victor forever.

Both now... *Theotokion, same tone*

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 6

Glorious apostle to an age of coldness and unbelief,
invested with the grace-filled power of the saints of old,
divinely-illuminated seer of heavenly mysteries,
feeder of orphans, hope of the hopeless,
you enkindle on earth the fire of love for Christ
upon the dark eve of the day of judgment;
pray now that this sacred flame
may also rise from our hearts.

Glory be to the Father... Both now... *Theotokion, same tone*

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.

Another Troparion, tone 5

Like a spiritual daystar in heaven's firmament,
you encompassed the whole world and enlightened men's souls.
Hence, your name is glorified in the East and West,
for you shone with the grace of the Sun of Righteousness,

O John, our beloved shepherd.
Therefore, cease not to entreat Christ,
that he may have mercy on our souls.

Litany, and Dismissal.

Great Vespers

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

*At Lord, I call to you... we sing 8 verses, tone 6,
to the special melody: Having placed all your hope...*

Who can say that the grace-filled power
of the first apostles has left the earth?
Who can claim that the sanctity of the ascetics of old is seen no more?
For you, O Lord, have now raised up
a new and glorious apostle,
a new ascetic who has overcome the enemy's attacks
and has won the heavenly crown of victory.

Rejoice now, O Russian people,
for from you a fiery pillar has risen to heaven,
where your new intercessor prays before the throne of God,
the holy Hierarch John,
a teacher of the Gospel to distant lands
and a pastor to all peoples.

Rejoice, O people of Serbia, China and the Philippines,
and of Africa, France, Holland and America,
for among you walked a living bearer of God,
a saint enlightened by grace and touched by divinity,
a visionary who beheld the realm beyond space and time,
where he now intercedes for you.

Further verses, tone 3

Behold the strange wisdom of God,
how the great and beautiful was manifested in a vessel small and unadorned,
how the Creator's mind was revealed to one whom the world considered mad:
Behold, O faithful, the life of John, and know the ways of God.

Behold the world turned upside down,
behold the wise and prudent put to shame,
and all the secret and hidden things revealed to babes,
to the guileless and childlike in faith,

to those who believe in simplicity and warmth of heart,
to the ever-memorable John.

What labours did you not perform, O holy one,
what suffering did you not endure for Christ's sake.
You did not withhold the love for God ever burning within you,
but spread it to the ends of the world,
enkindling the flame that ascends to the kingdom above.

The Lord did not light this candle to be put under a bushel,
but to be placed on a candlestick,
from where it enlightens the world with grace;
therefore, we honour his servant, our blessed hierarch John.

O worker of countless miracles,
feeder of the hungry and healer of the infirm,
protector of orphans and teacher of theology,
who occupied yourself in constant prayer;
who assumed the garments of a fool to be clothed in the wisdom of God,
who penetrated the hearts and minds of men,
who saw the future as if present:
how abundant were the fruits you brought for your creator.
Pray that we may not be found
with empty hands at the day of judgment.

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

Before your precious relics, O holy Father,
the faithful stand with reverence and awe,
your loved ones cease not to speak to you,
those who hurt you beg forgiveness,
sinners are moved to repentance,
those who sorrow are renewed with hope,
the cold-hearted are warmed with love,
those who stand at the abyss are drawn back by your gentle hand,
those who are dying are given the breath of eternal life,
eyes which are closed in darkness are opened to the light of Christ,
deafened ears are made to hear the voice of angels:
O new apostle,
pray that the Lord's grace be sent even to us.

Both now and for ever...

Dogmatikon, same tone

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 with Incense O gladsome light... *and Prokimenon of the day.*

A reading from the Proverbs

The memory of the righteous is a 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, 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. (Prov 10:7, 6: 3:13-16, etc)

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

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. 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. (6: 12-16 etc.)

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.

At the Entreaty

Verse of the Temple, then of the Saint, tone 2

Heavenly apostle of Christ, you ever set your affection on things above, your mind being sent aloft and estranged from things below; you ascend in prayer to realms infinite and beyond understanding, for which we aspire with hope.

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

Seeking neither glory nor power from men, O blessed one, you exalted the weak with the strength and majesty of God, you enriched the poor with the incorruptible treasures of virtue, you brought your fatherless orphans to the Father above all worlds, and received a resplendent crown of glory.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Darkened by the stains of sins, we seek your aid O most pure Mother of God. Wash us clean by your prayers, that we may be a fit habitation of grace.

*Aposticha, tone 5,
to the special melody* Rejoice, life-giving cross...

In triumph you entered God's kingdom, O blessed John,
having denied yourself on earth according to the Lord's word,
and having loved the Lord more than your own breath;
and your surpassing love was requited
with the surpassing gifts of heaven.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Armed with vigilance and vigour of prayer,
you passed through the traps of earthly desire and the snares of pleasure;
and escaped the assaults of demons;
therefore you attained the house not made with hands:
the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you.

Verse What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

Your mind set free from the disturbance
of unquiet and vain thoughts,
you beheld as in a mirror the good things of eternity,
abiding in the peace of Christ
and passing from death to life eternal.

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

Keeping in your heart the grace of divine teaching
you ever enjoyed it as a paradise:
holding it fast, you were held fast,
and in guarding it you were guarded.
You were sanctified by the truth,
for the Lord's word is truth.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, same tone*

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 O 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 6

Glorious apostle to an age of coldness and unbelief
invested with the grace-filled power of the saints of old;
divinely-illuminated seer of heavenly mysteries,
feeder of orphans, hope of the hopeless,
you enkindle on earth the fire of love for Christ
upon the dark eve of the day of judgment;
pray now that this sacred flame
may also rise from our hearts.

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

Theotokion, same tone

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.

Matins

*At God is the Lord... we sing the Troparion of the Saint, twice;
 Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... and the Theotokion from Vespers*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
 the Sessional Hymn, tone 8*

As a child of the light and a child of the day, you heeded the apostle's words by not sleeping as do others; but watching with sobriety, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

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

Theotokion How can we worthily magnify the wonder of wonders revealed through you, O most holy Virgin for you have given birth in time to him who transcends all time.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,
 the Sessional Hymn, tone 1*

The Lord, as was foretold through your beloved prophet Joel, poured out his Spirit upon all flesh and showed wonders upon the earth. And you, O John, were revealed as a new wonder, becoming the Holy Spirit's chosen vessel, which pours forth grace upon us.

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

Theotokion How can we encompass in words the ineffable miracle of your giving birth, O Mother of God, for you held within your womb him who encompasses all creation.

Polyeleos and Magnification

We magnify you, our holy Hierarch John, and we honour your holy memory, for you pray for us to Christ our God.

Verse Hear this, all you nations; give ear, all you that inhabit the world.

Little Litany and Sessional Hymn, tone 7

You were a performer of wonders, having the gifts of healing and prophecy, knowing by grace the hidden things of God, O holy Hierarch; yet all these gifts were as nothing before your greatest virtue, your overflowing love for God and your neighbour.

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

Theotokion As hurt and weeping children run to their mother for gentle care and consolation, so do we weak ones run to you, O Mother of the God the Most High. Hear our entreaty and cleanse the unclean sores of our sins.

Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4 From the days of my youth...

Prokimenon, tone 4

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be of understanding.

Verse The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom.

And the rest with the Gospel of Matthew Number 11 (5:15-19)

After the Psalm Have mercy..., *the verse tone 6*

Not trusting in the sons of men, O Hierarch John you heeded only the commands of God inscribed on the clean tablets your conscience. To God alone you answered for your deeds, and by him alone were you made glorious.

*Canon of the Mother of God [Paraklisis] tone 8,
and that of the Hierarch John.*

*Canon to the holy hierarch, John, tone 2,
upon the acrostic* Holy John, wonder worker of the latter times.

Ode 1

Irmos The almighty power once overwhelmed
the whole 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.

Help me, O Christ my Lord, to praise with purity of heart your blessed servant John, whose life of unceasing labour and prayer you have revealed to us as, both a reproof and a source of inspiration for our feeble faith.

O Hierarch John, you are a lamp that shines forth out of the dark apostasy of our evil times, beckoning us to follow you out of the nether chaos of our passions and to abide with you in Christ the Light that dies not.

Love for the all-wise and all-compassionate God, the simple unity in Trinity, gave you both the divine wisdom of the great elders of ancient times and the simple guilelessness of a child, O blessed John, enabling you to touch countless souls with the grace bestowed upon you.

Young, defenseless orphans flock to you, the old and infirm beg consolation from you, and all we who have fallen into sin seek the healing balm of your heavenly intercession. Holy Hierarch John, saint and wonderworker in our midst, pray for us.

Theotokion O blessed Mother of God, you saw John, prostrate before your sacred images, praying alone in the deep of the night, warring with sleep and keeping constant watch over his soul: warm our hearts that we too may pour out such ardent love for you.

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.

O blessed one, a saint was your ancestor, whose name you received as a monk; for truly the spirit of the great John of Tobolsk rested upon you, as you were a holy hierarch, a zealous missionary to foreign lands, and a miracle-worker even after your repose.

Having the heavenly saints as your instructors, you were as a child taught the life of ascetic struggle and unconquerable faith in Christ. Preferring this learning above all other, you become an earnest student of Orthodox sanctity.

Never ceasing to nourish your soul with the Lives of Saints, you carefully studied their every thought, word and deed, perceiving and acquiring their otherworldly mind and spirit: truly you became like your instructors, a saint by whom God is glorified.

Theotokion A child in Kharkov, blessed John devoutly prayed before your Ilyetskaya icon, O Sovereign Lady: cleanse our unclean hearts and grant us such childlike faith.

Sessional hymn, tone 2

Who can fathom the mysterious ways of sanctity;
and who can perceive the celestial beauty of your life
enshrouded in the garments of humility?
You, O John, were illumined by the light that came into the world,

and the world knew it not.

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

O Queen of Heaven, you abide now with all the saints
whom you strengthen and console during their sojourn on earth.
And behold, a new saint is among them:
the righteous John, praising Christ with you forever.

Ode 4

Irmos You have come forth from the Virgin,
neither a mediator nor an 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.

O holy Hierarch, sent to Shanghai to shepherd to Christ's flock, you became known as a wonderworker and healer of diseases, a great ascetic who gave no rest or comfort to the temple of your body, who rather sanctified it through the constant work of prayer.

Neglecting no opportunity of helping those in need, you boldly walked through the slums and dark alleys of Shanghai, gathering sick and starving orphans and providing them with your fatherly protection: take us also under your care.

Deliverer of the oppressed, you saw no separation between your good works and your constant prayers, for in both you served God and raised people from the mire of suffering.

Ever following the injunctions of Christ, you fed him when he was hungry, took him in when he was homeless, clothed him when he was naked, visited him when he was sick and in prison: in everyone you saw his divine image.

Theotokion Receive our prayers, O Mother of God, as you once received the prayers of the blessed John while he served in the Shanghai Cathedral dedicated to you, the Surety of Sinners, and besought you to save those languishing in sin and sorrow.

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 radiance,
for I know no other God than you.

When you brought your flock to the Philippines, O Hierarch John, you appeared as a new Moses, leading your people out of bondage, ever trusting in the protection of the merciful God.

Protector of those in danger and tribulation, through your holy prayers you delivered your flock on the island from certain destruction, averting violent typhoons just as your Master Christ calmed the stormy waters of Galilee.

From East to West, from the remote corners of the world, you revealed the glory with which God endows his saints, you allowed no earthly distance to hinder your heavenly ministry. Even now, from where space is effortlessly traversed by the angelic powers, come to our aid and bring our petitions before the Lord.

Theotokion Keeping vigil on the remote island, the blessed John prayed before your wondrously renewed icon. O quencher of sorrow and relief from affliction, we run to your motherly protection and tell the burdens of our hearts.

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.

Seeking refuge for your flock who had no safe place to lay their heads, you brought them under your mantle to the New World: let us also find refuge in your prayers.

Reaching the land where the ancient ascetics of Gaul attained holiness, you graced it once more with the presence of a saint, returning the Gallic people to the Orthodox and apostolic faith, and tirelessly labouring to ground them on the firm rock of salvation.

Of all the saints, both of East and West, were you an ardent disciple, O holy Hierarch; for in your travels you learned of the saints of different lands, introducing the faithful to yet more residents of the heavenly mansions, with whom you are now glorified.

Telling future events, seeing the secrets of the hearts of men, hearing prayers and thoughts across great distances, you appeared to be present in the realm beyond earthly limitations, amazing all with eyes to see and moving them to greater faith and devotion.

Theotokion You gave birth to him who gave me life, O most pure Virgin. Let me not squander this gift by desiring that which ends in death, but like our blessed John let me seek that fountain which springs up to everlasting life, your Son, Christ our God.

Kontakion, tone 8

Chosen wonderworker and superb servant of Christ,

who in this age pours out inexhaustable streams of inspiration and multitudes of miracles.

We pray to you with love and call to you,
O holy hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Ikos As an angel incarnate, were you manifested in the latter times by the grace of God, who ever cares for mankind. Seeing the beauty of your virtues, we your children now cry out to you: Rejoice, who from earliest childhood lived in virtue; rejoice, who ever lived in awe of God and did his holy will; rejoice, who showed the grace of God in numberless virtues; rejoice, who mystically hears the distant prayers of those in distress; rejoice, who was filled with love for your fellow men and did all possible for their salvation; rejoice, who brings joy to all who pray to you in faith and love; rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Ode 7

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.

Having purified yourself in your work of prayer, O holy one, you were granted to see the ineffable light that comes directly from God. Surrounded by the uncreated essence of the Divinity, you were lifted above the earth, knowing the bliss of wordless prayer, of the silence of the future age.

Elder in the tradition of the desert saints of your native Russia, seer of the heart and fountain of God-revealed counsel, you were sent at a time when men of your stature had disappeared from the face of the earth. In you we see precious gift from God and so we honour your words of wisdom.

Leaving behind the vain wisdom of this world, you choose that which is better, the foolishness of God, and thus were you chosen by him to confound the prudent and mighty, bringing to naught their carnal understanding. Marveling at his ways past speech, we cry out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Awe and wonder are born in us as we see your life, O blessed one; for you were both a wise teacher of theology and a fool for Christ's sake, a hierarch and a humble servant of the poor. You were a compassionate friend of all, yet were alone with God in the secret chambers of your soul.

Theotokion Blessed John always carried your Optina icon upon his heart, O most holy Virgin: likewise let us always remember you in the tabernacles of our hearts, for you are the sacred Tabernacle which wondrously carried God.

Ode 8

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.

Your flock from Shanghai rejoiced at your return to them in America, where you ended your days as an unrelenting champion of Orthodoxy, experiencing sorrows from those who despised you for your holy life, yet meeting your false accusers with the meekness made invincible through Christ.

As your great ascetic preceptors taught you, you knew the love of God as suffering of heart endured in the spirit of devotion, and called out in your hour of trial: praise the Lord all you works of the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Rare are those who can go on the narrow and rugged path that you trod, O holy one, for in your sorrows, with courage you placed your trust in God alone, being tested like gold in the forge and thereby entering the celestial habitations purified in spirit.

Theotokion To you, known as the joy of all who sorrow, the ever-present recourse of the blessed John in his tribulations, we cry with faith: Grant us that spiritual joy which is undiminished in adversity.

Ode 9

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 became incarnate of the holy Virgin for our sake;
with oneness of mind, O faithful, let us magnify in hymns.

Divinely, you had foreknowledge of your soul's departure, and you prepared to meet Christ the mystic Bridegroom, to whom you never cease to pray for us sinners.

Marvelling at the death of a newly manifested saint, your flock found their sorrow turned to gladness, feeling the victorious joy of Easter and glorifying God for giving them a new intercessor in heaven.

Even after your repose you grant instruction, healing and consolation to all who come to you, blessed John. As you give miraculous help to the blind, sick and sorrowing, so also pour the healing balm of your prayers on us who bear the wounds of sin.

Theotokion Silently praying before the Kursk Icon of God's Mother, the new apostle John departed from earth to paradise. And let us, knowing not the hour of the end of our sojourn here, offer such heartfelt devotion to her who reigns with the king of glory.

Exapostilarion,
to the special melody Hear, O women...

O Christ, the Light of the world, we fall down before you in thanksgiving, for you have sent us another witness to your effulgence: your blessed servant John.

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

Theotokion Most Holy Lady Mother of God, the radiant cloud of which the prophet had spoken, shine on us the light of your Son which has illumined you, that we may no longer walk in the sunless caverns of our sins.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises,*
4 verses, tone 1

Let those who are simply righteous strive also for that holiness by which the righteous merit the blessed kingdom, and such a height of virtue that they are filled with the grace of God, the grace that flows from the holy to all peoples; the same grace that issued from you, O John, and still falls on those who in faith ask your prayers.

Great is the blessedness of the saints, as once you said, O blessed one. Being filled with love for your fellow men, which proceeds from love of God, you are attentive to our needs: hear then our supplications, and appear as our intercessor before the Lord.

By what unseen exploits did you attain holiness? By fasting, vigils and ceaseless prayer, by active love for Christ's flock, by unquenchable love for Christ himself? Awesome is the mystery of sanctity hidden in the humble closet of your soul, where you spoke with God in secret.

To the world you were a fool, but to God you were a wise and faithful servant: to the world you were inglorious and poor but to God you were a rich, majestic palace of virtue. The evil of the world brought tears to your eyes, but the Lord kissed them with tender love.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

Like Christ your Master, O blessed John, you were not of this world, yet as his apostle you were sent into the world, to lead us unto his kingdom.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady, accept the prayer of your servants, and deliver us from every need and sorrow.

Great Doxology, Litanies and Dismissal

Liturgy

With the Beatitudes, 8 verses from the Saint's Canon, Odes 3 and 4

Prokimenon, tone 1

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be full of understanding.

Verse O hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world,

Epistle to the Hebrews (Heb 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.

The Gospel of John, Number 36 (10:9-16)

Beginning The Lord said, I am the door... *and ending* ...one fold, and one shepherd.

Communion

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

Prayer to our Holy and God-bearing Father John, Wonderworker of Shanghai and Western America

O beloved Hierarch John, while living among us you saw the future as if present, distant things as if near, the hearts and minds of men as if they were your own. We know that in this you were illumined by God, with whom you were ever in the mystical communion of prayer, and with whom you now abide eternally.

As you once heard the mental petitions of your far-scattered flock even before they could speak to you, so now hear our prayers and bring them before the Lord. You have passed over to life unaging, to the other world, yet you are in truth not far from us, for heaven is closer to us than our own souls.

Show us who feel frightened and alone the same compassion that you once show to the trembling fatherless ones. Give to us who have fallen into sin, confusion and despair the same stern yet loving instruction that you once gave to your chosen flock. In you we see the living likeness of our maker, the living spirit of the Gospel and the foundation of our faith. In the pure life that you led during our sinful times, we see a model of virtue, a source of instruction and inspiration. Seeing the grace bestowed upon

you, we know that God has not abandoned his people: it is rather we that have fallen from him, and so must regain the likeness of the divinity as you have done.

Through your intercession, O blessed one, grant that we may increase our striving toward our heavenly homeland, setting our affections on things above, labouring in prayer and virtue, waging war against the attacks of our fallen nature. Invoke the mercy of God, that we may one day join you in his kingdom. For our deepest wish is to live forever with him, with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages.

Akathist to the holy Hierarch, John

Tone 8

Kontakion I

Chosen wonderworker and superb servant of Christ, who in this age pours out inexhaustable streams of inspiration and multitudes of miracles. We pray to you with love and call to you, O holy hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Ikos 1 As an angel incarnate, you were revealed in recent times by the grace of God, who ever cares for man. Seeing the beauty of your virtues, your children sing to you:

Rejoice, for you lived in virtue from earliest childhood;
Rejoice, for you ever live in fear of God and do his holy will;
Rejoice, for you manifest the grace of God in numberless virtues;
Rejoice, for you mystically hear the distant prayers of those in distress;
Rejoice, filled with love for your fellow men, doing all possible for their salvation;
Rejoice, for you bring joy to all who pray to you in faith and love;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 2

Seeing the abundance and variety of your virtues, O holy Hierarch, we see in you a living source of God's wonders in our time: refresh with your love and miracles all who cry in faith to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 2 Being filled with love, you were also filled with theology, O holy Father; and in you the knowledge of God flowed with love for suffering men. Teach us also know the true God in love as we call out to you in admiration.

Rejoice, firm stronghold of Orthodox truth;
Rejoice, precious vessel of the gifts of the Holy Spirit;
Rejoice, righteous accuser of impiety and false doctrine;
Rejoice, ardent doer of the commandments of God;
Rejoice, severe ascetic who gave yourself no repose;

Rejoice, loving shepherd of the flock of Christ;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 3

By God's mercy you were a father to orphans and instructor of the young, raising them in the fear of God and preparing them for the service of God. Therefore your children look to you with love and cry out with gratitude to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 3 Dwellers in heaven should be praising you and not we on earth, for our words are feeble beside your deeds. Yet offering to God what we have we cry out to you thus:

Rejoice, who protected your children by your constant prayer;
Rejoice, who ever guarded your flock by the sign of the cross;
Rejoice, whose love knew no bounds of country or race;
Rejoice, bright luminary beloved by all;
Rejoice, model of spiritual meekness;
Rejoice, giver of spiritual consolation to those in need;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 4

Bewildered by your deeds of piety and love, we know not how to praise you worthily, O Hierarch John. You travelled to the ends of the earth to save your people and to preach the gospel to those in darkness. Thanking God for your apostolic labours, we cry out to him: Alleluia.

Ikos 4 The people of many lands beheld your life and marveled at God's mercies, even in these latter times; and so we also, marveling, cry out in awe:

Rejoice, enlightener of those in the darkness of unbelief;
Rejoice, who followed your people to the farthest East and West;
Rejoice, fountain of miracles poured out by God;
Rejoice, loving chastiser of those who have gone astray;
Rejoice, speedy comfort to those who repent of their sins;
Rejoice, support of those who go on the right path;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 5

You became a vehicle of God's power against the destructive forces of nature, O holy Hierarch, preserving your people on the island from the deadly typhoon by your prayer and the sign of the cross: protect us also who cry out in wonder to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 5 All who have trusted in your help in desperate circumstances and adversities have found deliverance, O bold intercessor before the throne of God. We also place our hope in you to protect us in dangers by your prayers before God as we call out to you:

Rejoice, who stopped the powers of nature from doing harm to your flock;
Rejoice, who provides by your prayer for all in need;
Rejoice, inexhaustible bread for the hungry;
Rejoice, abundant wealth for those who live in poverty;
Rejoice, consolation for those in sorrow;
Rejoice, quick uplifting for those who have fallen;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 6

You are seen as a new Moses, leading his flock out of slavery, O Hierarch John. Deliver us also from slavery to sins and the enemies of God as we cry out to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 6 Performing the impossible, you persuaded the authorities of this world to have pity on your flock, O good shepherd. Pray for us now that we may live in peace and tranquillity, saving our souls as we gratefully cry to you:

Rejoice, helper of all who call upon you in faith;
Rejoice, who delivers from death and disaster;
Rejoice, who preserves from lies and slander;
Rejoice, preserver of the innocent from bonds;
Rejoice, who foils the attacks of the unrighteous;
Rejoice, destroyer of lies and exalter of truth;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 7

O lover of the saints of East and West, who restored to the Orthodox Church the saints of the West, of lands which had fallen away from the truth: now with these saints you pray for us as we on earth cry out to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 7 O fervent venerator of the holy hierarchs of Gaul, you were manifest in the latter times as one of them, exhorting your flock to preserve the same Orthodox faith that they confessed, and astonishing the peoples of the West by your holy life. Now preserve us in that same faith as we cry out to you:

Rejoice, new Martin by your miracles and ascetic feats;
Rejoice, new Germanus by your confession of the Orthodox faith;
Rejoice, new Hilary by your divine theology;
Rejoice, new Gregory by your love for God's saints;
Rejoice, new Faustus by your gentle love and monastic fervour;
Rejoice, new Caesarius by your firm yet loving rule of the Church of God;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 8

At the end of your life, O holy Hierarch, you were called to the New World, to offer there witness to ancient Christianity and to suffer persecution for your righteousness, thus perfecting your soul for heaven. Marvelling at your patience and long-suffering, we all cry out to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 8 O labourer of Christ's vineyard who knew no rest even at the end of your much-toiling life, help us now in our labours as we strive to be faithful to Christ, crying out in praise to you:

Rejoice, who endured to the end and so attain salvation;
Rejoice, deemed worthy to die before the icon the Mother of God;
Rejoice, who kept your faith and courage in the midst of unjust persecution;
Rejoice, labourer to the end for your flock who met death sitting as a hierarch;
Rejoice, who returned through the air to be buried amidst the flock;
Rejoice, who works wonders for those who come to your tomb with faith and love;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 9

All angel-kind rejoiced at your soul's ascent to their celestial home marvelling at the wonders you performed on earth by the action of the Holy Spirit, to whom we sing: Alleluia.

Ikos 9 Orators cannot describe your life of sanctity with their many and eloquent words, O righteous John for you become a living house for the power of the ineffable God. Yet, unable to fall silent at the wonder shown to our age of feeble faith, we glorify you:

Rejoice, divine palace where from the counsel of the good king is given;
Rejoice, small and humble abode of the spacious beauty of angels' mansions;
Rejoice, who gained a house not made with hands, eternal in heaven;
Rejoice, infirmary wherein all manner of diseases are divinely healed;
Rejoice, closet wherein your holy labour of prayer was hidden;
Rejoice, blessed temple of the Holy Spirit;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 10

Wishing to save the world, the Saviour of all has sent a new saint among us and through him has called us out of the dark recesses of sin. Hearing this call to repentance, we unworthy ones in turn cry out to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 10 You are a wall sheltering us from adversity, O Hierarch John, for through your heavenly intercessions we are delivered from the attacks of demonic passions and from afflictions which beset us on earth. Before your firm support of prayer, we cry with faith:

Rejoice, sight to the blinded;

Rejoice, strength and life to those on the bed of death;
Rejoice, God-revealed advice to those in doubt and confusion;
Rejoice, refreshing water to those perishing in the heat of sorrow;
Rejoice, loving father to the lonely and abandoned;
Rejoice, holy teacher of those who seek the truth;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 11

Your life was a hymn to the most holy Trinity, surpassing others in thought, word and deed, O blessed John; for with much wisdom you explained the precepts of the true faith, teaching us to sing with faith, hope and love to the one God in Trinity: Alleluia.

Ikos 11 We see you as a radiant lamp of Orthodoxy amidst the darkness of ignorance, O God-chosen pastor of Christ's flock, our Father John; for even after your repose you speak the truth to the ignorant and give instruction to those who seek guidance and to all who cry to you:

Rejoice, radiance of divine wisdom to those in ignorance;
Rejoice, rainbow of quiet joys for the meek;
Rejoice, thunder to stubborn sinners;
Rejoice, lightning of the zeal of God;
Rejoice, rain of God's dogmas;
Rejoice, shower of theological thoughts;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 12

Grace has been poured out in the last days upon us all: beholding this grace coming forth from a holy hierarch who once walked among us, let us receive it with reverence and thanksgiving, crying to God: Alleluia.

Ikos 12 Singing in praise to God, the heavenly choir of saints rejoices that he has not forsaken the fallen and unbelieving world, but has manifested his almighty power in you, his meek and humble servant, O blessed John. With all the saints we greet you and give honour to you:

Rejoice, new star of righteousness shining in heaven's firmament;
Rejoice, new prophet who were sent before the final unleashing of evil;
Rejoice, new Jonah warning all of the wages of sin;
Rejoice, new Baptist drawing all to a life of prayer and repentance;
Rejoice, new Paul suffering to preach the gospel in the spirit of truth;
Rejoice, new apostle whose miracles instill in us faith and awe;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 13

We sing this Kontakion three times

O holy and most wondrous hierarch John, consolation for all the sorrowing, accept now our prayerful offering that through your prayers to our Lord we may be spared Gehenna and by your God-pleasing intercession we may cry eternally: Alleluia.

Ikos 1 and Kontakion 1 are repeated

Ikos 1 As an angel incarnate, you were revealed in recent times by the grace of God, who ever cares for man. Seeing the beauty of your virtues, your children sing to you:

Rejoice, for you lived in virtue from earliest childhood;
Rejoice, for you ever live in fear of God and do his holy will;
Rejoice, for you manifest the grace of God in numberless virtues;
Rejoice, for you mystically hear the distant prayers of those in distress;
Rejoice, filled with love for your fellow men, doing all possible for their salvation;
Rejoice, for you bring joy to all who pray to you in faith and love;
Rejoice, O holy Hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

Kontakion 1 Chosen wonderworker and superb servant of Christ, who in this age pours out inexhaustable streams of inspiration and multitudes of miracles. We pray to you with love and call to you, O holy hierarch John, wonderworker of the latter times.

June 20

Hieromartyr Methodius of Patara who opposed the heresy of Origen

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

Your anniversary has come with splendour, * O holy hierarch Methodius, * bringing to us * the skills of salvation. * Therefore, we hymn you, * confessing the radiant struggles and battles * whereby you overcame * the greatly-skilled adversary * and, rejoicing, wove a wreath of victory.

By your words you have enlightened the fullness of the Church, * O divinely revealed Methodius; * by your sufferings and radiance * you have driven away the gloom of polytheism * and have now passed over * to the never-waning light, O hieromartyr. * With the light of piety, * we celebrate today * your festive and luminous commemoration.

With your blood you dyed * your sacred vesture, * O God-bearing Methodius; * and with it you made your abode * in the holy of holies, rejoicing, O blessed one; * and you see radiantly * the divine glory of the Trinity, * mightily instructed by him who is past understanding and comprehension, * in awe of him, O excellent hierarch.

*But if Alleluia is to be sung at Matins instead of God is the Lord...
the following verses of the Mother of God are sung before the foregoing verses of the prophet,
in the same tone and melody.*

Rejoice, O beam of solar radiance, * throne of the never-setting sun, * who shone forth the ineffable sun. * Rejoice, O mind * shining with divine splendour, * flash of lightning illumining the ends of the earth, * with lustre truly of gold, * O most comely and immaculate Lady * who has caused the unwaning light to shine upon the faithful.

Take away the defilement * of my passionate heart, * O exalted and pure Lady, the Mother of God, * cleanse its wounds and befoulment * which come from sin, * and calm the wavering of my mind; * that I, your wretched and ungainly servant, * may magnify your power * and mighty assistance.

Immaculate virgin Mother, * transform the infirmity and impotence of my soul * into might and power, * that with fear and love * I may keep and observe the statutes of Christ, * that I may avoid the unbearable fire, * and, ever rejoicing, * may inherit through you * the legacy of heaven and life unsurpassed.

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

Theotokion O Lady, take pity on me * bowed down beneath the assaults of the demons * and cast into the pit of destruction. * Found me upon the rock of the virtues; * that dispelling the attacks of the enemy, * I may keep the commandments * of your Son and our God, * that I may receive remission * on the day of judgment.

Theotokion of the Cross 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.

Troparion, tone 2

Your blood mystically cries out to God from the earth like that of Abel, O divinely wise and holy hierarch Methodius, who clearly preached the incarnation of God, thereby shaming the deception of Origen. You have passed over to the heavenly bridal chamber where may you entreat Christ our God that he save our souls.

Matins

*Canon, tone 7,
composed by Theophanes.*

Ode 1

Irmos At your behest, O Lord, the former nature of flowing water was transformed and became earth; and Israel, having passed through it dryshod, sang to you a hymn of victory.

O sacred servant of the mysteries of God, teach me the quick paths which take me to God, showing me the way, that I may obtain eternal life through your prayers.

You shone brilliantly in the Church of Christ, O godly one, resplendent with twofold grace: with twofold crowns Christ has sacredly crowned you.

Adorned with the crown of martyrdom and the anointing of the priesthood, O blessed one, you shone in both, and have therefore received a divine inheritance.

You exercised sacred ministry, O glorious Methodius, as an unblemished living sacrificial victim, sacred to the Lord: therefore you were accepted upon the heavenly altar.

Theotokion O pure Virgin Mother, you gave birth for us to Christ the Saviour, the deliverer and liberator of the human race: knowing you to be the vehicle of eternal life, we glorify you.

Ode 3

Irmos At the beginning O Lord and Saviour, you founded the heavens by your almighty Word and every power thereof by your divine and all-creating Spirit: confirm me upon the unshaken rock of your confession.

Seeing the burning heresy of Origen, as an excellent shepherd you quickly consumed with divine fire its darkness, kindling the brilliant radiance of your wisdom, O hierarch pleasing to God.

With honourable virginity and the comeliness of purity, O glorious one, with wisdom and the grace of your words you revealed their beauty and lasting splendour.

The lightning-flashes of your words, the trumpet-blast of your intellect, and the harmonious proclamation of your doctrine have gone out into all the earth, O venerable and blessed Methodius, summoning the faithful to share in the delights of heaven.

Nurtured by the mighty sustenance of your spiritual outpourings, O wise one, we delight in the true and abiding sustenance thereof, ever flowing and not passing away, and causing those who partake of it to grow.

Theotokion With divine Gabriel we ever cry to you, O blessed Virgin: Rejoice; for you became the cause of joy and true gladness for us, giving birth to the deliverer and Saviour of all.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

You made your heart a beauteous altar, O hierarch, offering bloodless sacrifices to God. Suffering mightily and slain, you offered yourself as a sacrifice to him who was slaughtered for us: earnestly entreat him to save those who hymn you with love.

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

Theotokion Who can describe the multitude of my impure thoughts and the tempests of my wicked notions, O immaculate Lady? Who can recount the assaults of my bodiless foes and their malice? By your entreaties grant me deliverance from them all, O good one.

Theotokion of the Cross Beholding you hanging upon the cross who was begotten of the unoriginate Father, she who in latter days gave birth to you in the flesh, O Christ, cried out: Woe is me, O Jesus most beloved; how is it that you, O my Son, glorified as God by the angels, are now crucified by iniquitous men? I hymn you, O long-suffering one.

Ode 4

Irmos Without leaving the bosom of the Father, you came down to earth, O Christ our God. Hearing the mystery of your provision for us, I glorify you, O only lover of mankind.

Dying in martyrdom, you hastened to the summit of the virtues, receiving the munificent reward of your sacred ministry, O blessed father.

Possessing a hierarch's throne and living a sacred life, O honoured one, you proclaimed and taught your flock the Orthodox faith.

The spiritually profitable sweetness of your doctrines flowed like a spring, bringing gladness to those who partake thereof, and delighting the senses of our souls.

Theotokion O Christ our God, who did not leave the bosom of the Father when incarnate of the Virgin: preserve the flock of your dispensation which worships you.

Ode 5

Irmos O Lord my God, rising from the night, I pray to you: Grant me the remission of my transgressions, and guide my steps to the light of your precepts.

Before your repose you were invested with a life-bearing mortality, O father, and, cut down by the sword of your martyrdom, you were translated to an abundant and higher life.

O glorious servant of the ineffable mysteries, who shares in the choirs on high: save those who honour you with love, averting the assaults of bitter temptations by your supplications.

With boldness before the Master, whose suffering you also zealously emulated in your struggles, O wise father, entreat divine peace and tranquility for the faithful.

At first you served the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; then slain, you offered yourself to him as a rational and living sacrifice, O father Methodius.

Theotokion I pray you, O pure Mother of God, the habitation of the never-waning light and temple of the divine glory: by your light illumine my darkened soul.

Ode 6

Irmos Sailing with the ship of sin amid the billows of the cares of life, I founder and am cast to the monster that destroys the soul; and like Jonah I cry to you O Christ: Lead me up from the deadly deep.

You gave no slumber to your eyelids nor sleep to your eyes, O blessed one, until you were free of the passions and made yourself a temple to house the brilliant lightning of the Spirit.

Uniting yourself wholly to the divine radiance, O divinely wise Methodius, you became a model of godly hierarchy and a mediator before God for the faithful of the whole Church.

The splendid revelation of those things that truly exist, joined to your brilliant life, O divinely eloquent one, made you a beacon for the world, dispelling the prating of the heretics and the darkness of ungodliness.

Theotokion Knowing you to be the queen of all, O Mother of God, with the angel Gabriel we sing hymnody of gladness to you, for you gave birth to God who brought all things out of non-existence.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

You were a servant of the mysteries of the Holy Trinity which pass all understanding, a proclaimer of the commandments of God and the confirmation of the Orthodox, O Methodius; having denounced the notions of the heretics for the sake of the right faith, even to the shedding of your blood as a hieromartyr: standing before Christ with the angels, entreat him that we be saved.

Ode 7

Irmos When the holy youths were cast into the furnace of fire, they changed the fire into dew by their hymnody, as they cried out: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Sanctified and radiantly resplendent in your blood martyrdom for the truth, O divinely wise one, you sing unceasingly with them to the Master: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Made firm by faith, you quenched the flame of idolatry with the flow of your holy blood, O martyr, crying out: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Taught by the transcendent vision of God, you wisely illumined your mind, O father, joining with those who sing with faith: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Theotokion All creation glorifies your birthgiving with hymns, O Virgin, as knowing God and worshiping him with adoration it sings: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Irmos The only unoriginate king of glory, whom the hosts of heaven bless, and before whom the ranks of angels tremble; sing to him you priests, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Seeing you, who is invisible, the divinely wise hierarch endured wounding by the torturers and was invested with a crown as he sang: singing: Sing to him you priests, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Radiantly desiring the eternal kingdom of Christ, O holy hierarch, you sang to Christ who granted it to you by the right path: You people, exalt him above all for ever.

O God-bearer, Christ has given you a twofold reward for your labours, which transcends every mind, as you piously hymn his kingdom for ever.

We know you as an abyss of doctrine, a tablet of the precepts of God, a treasury of lofty vision and a throne of sensibilities, piously hymning Christ the king for ever.

Theotokion With faith I approach you as a servant, O Mother of God, for you conceived the Master of all: save me from persecution and tribulation as I hymn God who was incarnate of you.

Ode 9

Irmos O Mother of God and Virgin, you gave birth while remaining in virginity; not as a work of nature, but rather of the condescension of God; and so we ever magnify you as the one who has been granted wonders divine.

Ever entreat Christ, O divinely blessed father, that he halt the wiles of heresy directed against us and drive their pervading gloom from us; for, as a mighty hierarch, you are our intercessor.

You were translated from earth to the heavenly life, receiving honour for your ministry and suffering: sharing incorruptible life there, you have been brought to be with Christ for eternity.

Acquiring immortal life with the creator of man, O blessed one, you receive the fruit of the Tree of Life: richly delighting in his joy, pray for those who hymn you.

Directing your mind to the goodness of life, you have been granted the vision of Christ and the beauty of gladness, as a hieromartyr, a preacher and champion of piety.

Theotokion O joyous and exalted Mother of God, we call you the ark of the new law and the divinely inscribed tablet, whereon the Word of God was written, becoming man to save the world from the deception.

June 21

Martyr Julian of Tarsus

Vespers

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

Perceiving you, * O blessed martyr Julian, * as a brilliant sun * illumining the fullness of the world * with noetic splendour, * we celebrate your radiant and divine memory, * and bow down before the shrine of your relics, * evoking health for our souls.

Beaten, wounded and bitterly whipped, * imprisoned in a dungeon, O blessed one, * driven from place to place, * caged with wild beasts, * brought into the abyss * and drowned in the sea, * you received a blessed end, * refusing to deny the Master of all, * O most enriched glory of the martyrs.

Cast up upon dry land * out of the bosom of the sea * by the action of the Spirit, * you were seen by an honourable woman, * who faithfully took you up, O martyr Julian, * and committed to burial * your immaculate and much-suffering body, * which had vanquished the tyranny of the devil * through the workings of grace.

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

Having drawn the inexhaustible drink of the immaculate faith, O blessed one, you extinguished the worship of idols, and victoriously traversed the contest, made luminous with dew, shining like a never-waning star of Christ, the ever-shining sun; and, emitting rays of martyrdom in each city, you received a blessed end in the sea, and came before the face of Christ as a crown-bearer. Entreat him, O glorious Julian, that he save those who celebrate your memory with faith.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody Having set all aside...*

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.

Aposticha from the Octoechos, and Glory be to the Father... tone 6

Come, those who love the martyrs, let us piously glorify the glorious Julian, the athlete of Christ, the compatriot of Paul, who was his fellow teacher of the mysteries, and who likewise finished the race; for, entering the water, he crushed the head of the serpent with the aquatic beasts, sanctifying the earth with his blood and the sea by his passage, passing from things here to the eternal mansions, and receiving honour for his struggles from the hand of the Almighty; and he asks cleansing for our souls and great mercy.

*Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody On the third day...*

Standing by the cross with the young disciple at the time of the crucifixion, the Virgin cried out tearfully: Woe is me; how can you suffer passion, O Christ, the dispassion of all?

Troparion, tone 4

In his suffering, O Lord, Julian 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 supplications save our souls.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos; and this canon of the martyr, tone 8,
composed by John the Monk
upon the acrostic With hymns I crown the martyr Julian.*

Ode 1

Irmos Let us sing to the Lord, who led his people through the Red Sea, for he alone has gloriously been glorified.

Let your glorious athlete and his honoured memory be praised with sacred hymns, for he has been glorified with unapproachable glory.

Waging the contest of martyrdom in the weakness of your flesh even to the shedding of your blood, you did not fall through stumbling, O warrior of Christ.

You were adorned with the wounds of martyrdom, shining with lustre greater than that of gold and precious stones, O holy one.

Theotokion O pure Mother of God, we hymn you who gave birth to the incarnate Word, eternal and all-divine, in manner transcending nature.

Ode 3

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.

To the insane judge Julian replied: I have not been commanded to worship stones wrought by men's hands, as though they were God.

You stood before the tribunal of the tyrant, O martyr Julian, as though standing before Christ, the judge of the living and the dead.

And you said: I have not been foolish in confessing God who alone is hymned in an indivisible Trinity.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, grant us help through your supplications, turning back the assaults of bitter circumstances.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody* Your tomb, O Saviour...

You came to your end in the flooding waters, O wise martyr, drowning the multifarious serpent, and you received the victory. Celebrating your truly praiseworthy memory with love, we pray: Entreat Christ for us.

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

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.

Theotokion of the Cross The immaculate Mother, beholding you, O Christ, stretched out dead upon the cross, cried out: O my Son, co-unoriginate with the Father and the Holy Spirit, what is this indescribable activity, whereby you save the work of your most pure hands?

Ode 4

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

Julian surrendered his body to various wounds without sensing pain, for it was preserved by the love of Christ.

Desiring the purple cloak of heaven, O glorious Julian, as a favourite of Christ you abandoned your earthly cloak to the persecutors.

It was not the power of your body but your invincible desire for the sufferings of Christ which made you a victor over the deception of the demons, O martyr most rich.

Theotokion As you are sinless, O God, grant us cleansing of our ignorances and give peace to the world, through the supplications of her who gave you birth.

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.

Emulating the Master in all things, O honoured martyr, you stood, condemned, before the tribunal of the iniquitous.

Struggling lawfully, like an innocent lamb you were slaughtered for the Master at the hands of the iniquitous, O blessed Julian.

You considered neither family nor earthly rank higher than your Christianity, O glorious martyr.

Theotokion O Mary Mother of God who knew not wedlock, render the expectation of the enemy in vain, 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.

Your glorious favourite was not ashamed of you who was nailed to the tree, O Christ, but cherished you as a treasury of glory.

The divine mysteries of the martyrs of Christ have been revealed by divinely eloquent tongues, but they have not spoken vile deceptions.

O glorious athlete of Christ, entreat healing of passions and the remission of offences of those who hymn you.

Theotokion Be our entreaty to our Saviour and yours, O most pure Lady, for you are the boast and help of our race.

*Kontakion, tone 2,
to the Special Melody* The grave and mortality...

Let us all give fitting praise today to Julian, the invincible warrior of piety and harmonious swordsman of the truth; and let us sing to him: Entreat Christ our God on behalf of us all.

Ikos You trod the path of the Lord from childhood, O thrice-blessed one, and piously desired to bear witness to him. Eagerly taking the cross upon your shoulder, O divinely wise Julian, you overcame the falsehood of the madness of idolatry, demolishing the temples of the enemy, his wiles and snares. With faith we hasten to your protection, O martyr most rich, crying out: Entreat Christ our God on behalf of us all.

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.

Your praiseworthy and glorious memory, O warrior of Christ, brings a fragrant myrrh to those who sing unceasingly: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Ineffable glory crowns those who are gathered to praise you, O warrior of Christ, and who sing unceasingly: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Refusing to obey the edict of the tyrant, you did not worship a created thing, O invincible one, but sang to the living God alone: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Theotokion He who dwelt within the immaculate Virgin has annulled the curse of Eve, flowing a torrent of blessing upon those who sing: Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O Lady.

Ode 8

Irmos When the musical instruments sounded and countless people bowed down before the idol at Dura, the three children, refusing to obey, hymned and glorified the Lord for ever.

The deceiver flattered you and sought to draw you into deception by torture, O Julian, but you cried out: Hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Mightier than a lion, you set the tyrant at nought during your tortures, O Julian, crying out in gladness: Hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

The cruelty of the fire could not separate you, nor the keen edge of the sword cut you off from God the creator, as you exclaimed: Hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion We, the faithful, cry out in song to you who gave birth to the Lord of all, O Mary, who remained a virgin even after giving birth; and we exalt you above all for ever.

Ode 9

Irmos O people, with glory let us honour the pure Mother of God, who received the fire of the divinity without being consumed, and let us magnify her with hymns.

O warrior of God, you cast down the haughty eye of the incorporeal deceiver, having struggled manfully in the flesh, ever magnifying Christ.

Cast into the depths of the sea, you eluded the nest of the serpent, the enemy, the author of evil, O wise and blessed one; therefore, we bless you with hymns.

As you struggled well in suffering for the Master, you have been crowned with beauty by the right hand of the Master; therefore, we rightly bless you.

Theotokion O pure one, in the bush on the mountain Moses beheld you who received the unbearable fire of the divinity without being consumed. Therefore, we all magnify you.

Exapostilarion

Like the radiant sun you guide all creation with beams of miracles, O glorious passion-bearer: celebrating your memory, we ask that we be delivered from misfortune.

Theotokion Strengthen your heritage amid battles, O Word, and grant victories over barbarians to kings, through the supplications of the Mother of God, whom you have given to Christians as a helper.

Liturgy

Prokimenon, tone 4

Those who are held holy on the earth, the Lord displays them as a fair land.

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 [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: 12-18]

Communion Verse

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

June 22

Hieromartyr Evsevius of Samosata

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 8,
to the Special Melody What shall we call you...*

What shall we call you, O glorious one? True hierarch and sacred teacher, confirmation of the Orthodox and eye of the Church, beacon shining with noetic light, one glorious among the martyrs, a champion of truth, and great accuser of falsehood: pray that our souls be saved.

What shall we call you, O holy hierarch? River flowing from the noetic Eden, watering the earth with spiritual dew; cup full of divine water drowning the partisans of Arius; pillar of fire guiding the new people by divine grace: pray that our souls be saved.

What shall I call you, O Evsevius? Bestower of piety and destroyer of impiety, adornment of passion-bearers and joy of priests; sickle which cuts down the weeds and gathers in the wheat of heaven; ever-flowing fount of miracles which relieve the burning heat of infirmity: pray that our souls be saved.

*But if Alleluia is to be sung at Matins instead of God is the Lord...
the following verses of the Mother of God are sung before the foregoing verses,
in the same tone and melody.*

Strange and awesome is the mystery of your seedless maternity, surpassing the mind of man in majesty, O pure Virgin. For you gave birth in the flesh to him who is ever of the Father's substance, upon whom the many-eyed cherubim dare not gaze and before whom all the ranks of angels tremble. We glorify you, the Bride of God who gave him birth.

To whom may you be compared, O my wretched soul, in no way rousing yourself to repentance, neither fearing the fire which awaits the wicked? Arise, and call upon her who alone is quick to help, and cry out: O Virgin Mother, entreat your Son and our God, that he deliver me from the snares of the deceiver.

O Lady, the help of all, as you gave birth to the lover of mankind, impart to me a drop of your mercy and extend to me ever-tossed on the abyss of darkness and overwhelmed by the stormy waves of the evils of life; and grant me a share of the elect and the righteous.

Troparion, tone 1

Dwelling in the desert as an angel incarnate,
you proved to be a worker of miracles, O God-bearing father, Evsevius.

Having received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigils and prayer,
 you heal the infirmities and souls of those who come to you in faith.
 Glory to him who gave you strength,
 ~ glory to him who crowned you;
 glory to him who through you works healings for all.

Matins

*The canon to the hieromartyr, tone 8,
 composed by Joseph
 upon the acrostic I honour the namesake of piety.*

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.

Illumined with perfect light, numbered among the sacred choirs and adorned with the glory of martyrdom, O blessed Evsevius, preserve those who celebrate your memory with faith, rendering Christ merciful.

Sweetly aflame with desire for Christ from your youth, you subjected your flesh to your soul with sacred power, becoming a sacred vessel, O all-blessed one, shepherding your people in sanctity, anointed with the chrism of grace.

The Holy Spirit appointed you as a chief shepherd who expelled the gloom of the heretics with your brilliant words, O wise one, clearly indicating the right path, to which you are a beacon for the hearts of us who enter it.

Theotokion O blessed one, who gave birth to God: bless those who bless you; guide them toward good initiatives; fill them with divine blessings, and strengthen them to hymn: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

Ode 3

Irmos O Lord, plant the fear of you in the hearts of your servants who truly call upon you; and be also our confirmation.

You were meek and guileless, humble-minded and gentle, and full of divine love; and at your repose were adorned with the crown of martyrdom.

Resplendent in garments of your blood, O sacred Evsevius, you ascended to the holy places, splendidly crowned with the glory of the saints.

Denouncing the partisans of Arius, O blessed one, you laid yourself open to persecution and a violent death, and so you have been granted undying glory.

Theotokion By the will of the Father and the intervention of the divine Spirit you gave birth to the Word, O most holy virgin Mother, glory of hierarchs: we therefore hymn you.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Go quickly before...

Having made your life radiant with the beauties of the virtues,
you were named pastor and honoured hierarch, O blessed Evsevius;
and with the blood of your martyrdom you adorned yourself
and departed on high to the immaterial choirs:
with them, O father, entreat Christ for us,
that he have mercy on our souls.

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

Theotokion O pure and immaculate Lady who alone gave birth in time to the timeless Son and Word of God, with the holy and honoured patriarchs and martyrs, with the prophets and the venerable, entreat him to grant us cleansing and great mercy.

Theotokion of the Cross When your most pure Mother saw you suspended on the cross, O Word of God, she exclaimed, maternally lamenting: What new and strange wonder is this, my Son; for how can you, the life of all, taste of death, desiring to bring life to the dead, as you are compassionate?

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.

You halted the decay of deception with the salt of your excellent teaching, and healed those afflicted with the heresy of impiety, O blessed Evsevius.

Guiding your people to the harbour of salvation, you drowned the disbelief of Arius with your blood, O pastor and martyr, adornment of the hierarchy.

You shone in the world as a brilliant star, enlightening the minds of the Orthodox with sacred splendour, O blessed one, therefore, we faithfully bless you.

Theotokion With lips, tongue and heart I confess you to be the Mother of the creator, and I entreat you: Illumine my soul, darkened through my offences.

Ode 5

Irmos O Lord who has illumined the ends of the earth with divine knowledge, with the dawning of your love for mankind bring me into light from the darkness of ignorance.

Confirming the wisdom of the Orthodox by your teachings, O blessed one, you endured imprisonment for piety's sake.

We know you to be a pillar of Orthodoxy and a fount of healings, O wise hierarch, confirmation of the Church.

Striking out against the iniquitous with your divine precepts, O Evseвий, you endured an unjust death at the hands of transgressors.

Theotokion O Mother of God, you are acknowledged to be the radiant candlestick which bears the divine lamp which illumines the ends of the earth.

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 taught the consubstantial Word, the Son who with the Father is unoriginate; and you destroyed the vain philosophizing of the madness of vile Arius, O Evseвий, impregnable and steadfast protection of the pious.

You dyed a robe of royal purple in the flow of your precious blood, and rejoiced to enter the divine kingdom to stand before the king of the ages, O blessed Evseвий.

You were be like a rose, like a fragrant lily, like the paradise of God, having the Tree of Life, the Lord and fashioner of all, in your midst, O Evseвий; and now you fill us with the fragrance of the divine Spirit.

Theotokion The divinely eloquent prophets, perceiving the unfathomable depth of your mystery, O Maiden, clearly proclaimed it through images and divine prophecies; for, past recounting, you gave flesh to the Word of the Father.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* You have appeared today...

Having piously lived in the rank of hierarch
and having traversed the path of martyrdom,
you extinguished the burnt offerings of the heretics, O holy Hierarch Evseвий.
As you have boldness before God,
entreat him that our souls be saved.

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.

Devoting your time to hymns and supplications, O holy hierarch, you slayed the passions, becoming a watchful guardian for us, the faithful who piously hymn you and keep your memory.

As both martyr and holy hierarch, in a divine manner you inherited the blessings of heaven; and standing before the throne of the creator you cry out: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

You shone as the dawn, proclaiming Jesus Christ who shone forth from the Father before the morning star, O beacon of the Church, adornment of hierarchs and ornament of sufferers.

Theotokion By your birthgiving you most gloriously renewed the laws of nature, O Virgin, cleansing us, corrupted through the evil transgression: we rightly praise you.

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.

As a holy hierarch and martyr, O sacred preacher Evseвий, entreat the Saviour of all with the holy hierarchs and martyrs, that he disclose to us his mercy.

Living blessedly, you shepherd your sacred flock with the staff of your words and drove away the wild beasts of heresy, O blessed one.

Denouncing those afflicted with the drunkenness of deception who vainly propounded heresy, you were slain by them, O Evseвий, having suffered steadfastly.

Theotokion As you are more highly exalted than the heights of heaven, you gave birth to the exalted Word who has raised from earth fallen human nature, O exalted Lady.

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 were granted the vision of those distant things for which your sacred soul longed, O father; and, rejoicing, you have come to dwell in unwaning splendour.

Through your divine eloquence, good works and the splendour of your sufferings, you have become adorned, O blessed Evseвий.

Let us form a joyous chorus, praising sacred Evsevius who was adorned with the comeliness of piety.

Your shrine bestows the grace of healing, and your holy memory illumines the world like a great sun, O Evsevius.

Theotokion O truly beloved Virgin, bless you my soul afflicted by sin, O Lady who gave birth to our supremely good God incarnate.

June 23

Martyr Agrippina

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

Rome has produced you * as a blossoming rose of sweet fragrance, * perfuming the thoughts of the faithful with the scent of the virtues * and ever dispelling the stench of the passions by grace, * O much-suffering Agrippina, * adornment of the martyrs, * confirmation of the Church, * boast of virgins * and abyss of miracles.

Having suffered in Rome, * you have been given to Sicily * by Christ our God * as riches beyond count; * and having arrived there, O glorious martyr, * you drove away the evil multitude of demons by your intercession. * Therefore, we bless you * and celebrate your suffering today, * O much-suffering Agrippina.

Bassa and Paula bore you on their shoulders * at the command of him who upholds all things, * moving you from place to place * and making a long journey over the deep. * Working awesome miracles through divine grace, * O martyr Agrippina, * you came to rest in the place * which God had appointed, * becoming a place of rest for the heavy-laden.

*But if Alleluia is to be sung at Matins instead of God is the Lord...
the following verses of the Mother of God are sung before the foregoing verses of the prophet,
in the same tone and melody.*

Rejoice, O beam of solar radiance, * throne of the never-setting sun, * who shone forth the ineffable sun. * Rejoice, O mind * shining with divine splendour, * flash of lightning illumining the ends of the earth, * with lustre truly of gold, * O most comely and immaculate Lady * who has caused the unwaning light to shine upon the faithful.

Take away the defilement * of my passionate heart, * O exalted and pure Lady, the Mother of God, * cleanse its wounds and befoulment * which come from sin, * and calm the wavering of my mind; * that I, your wretched and ungainly servant, * may magnify your power * and mighty assistance.

Immaculate virgin Mother, * transform the infirmity and impotence of my soul * into might and power, * that with fear and love * I may keep and observe the statutes of Christ, * that I may avoid the unbearable fire, * and, ever rejoicing, * may inherit through you * the legacy of heaven and life unsurpassed.

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

Theotokion O Lady, take pity on me * bowed down beneath the assaults of the demons * and cast into the pit of destruction. * Found me upon the rock of the virtues; * that dispelling the attacks of the enemy, * I may keep the commandments * of your Son and our God, * that I may receive remission * on the day of judgment.

Theotokion of the Cross 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.

Troparion, tone 4

Your martyr Agrippina 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

*Canon of the martyr, tone 4,
upon the acrostic I praise Agrippina, the bride of Christ*

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.

With radiant grace which illumined you from on high, O martyr Agrippina, dispel the gloom of my ignorance and grant me the grace to hymn your wonders.

In the firmament of the Church of Christ you shine more brightly than the sun, and you enlighten the ends of the earth with the beams of your struggles and miracles.

Desiring the immortal Bridegroom, the giver of life, you offered him suffering as a gift, and received the heavenly kingdom and an eternal crown, O glorious martyr.

Guided by the hand of the Master, you sailed the moving sea of ungodliness, O honoured one, reaching the harbour of heavenly radiance, O Agrippina blessed of God.

Theotokion The morning-star shines in the hearts of those who with faith honour you, the Mother of God, for Christ, the radiant day who shone forth from you, has dawned.

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.

Beaten with staves, you rejoiced, thereby shattering the bones of ungodliness, and crying out: Nothing shall separate me from your love, O Christ.

Stripped of your garments, O martyr, you denounced the nakedness of the enemy; therefore, Christ has given you the vesture of incorruption.

The mouths which iniquitously spoke against you were stopped, O martyr of Christ, when you proclaimed the mighty works of the Saviour.

In vain the servants of ungodliness stretched out your body upon the ground, for your mind was stretched forth to the Master.

Theotokion The words piously uttered by Isaiah have been fulfilled, for the Virgin has given birth to the incarnate giver of life and Saviour of our souls.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Go quickly before...

They who, greatly deceived, worshiped stones, with stones weighed you down, who confessed Christ, the invincible rock; therefore, when you reposed, O glorious Agrippina, you emitted the radiance of glorious miracles, enlightening the souls of us who praise you.

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

Theotokion O Bride of God, who alone has adorned mankind with your giving of birth to the creator of all: Deliver me from the snare of the deceitful foe, and set me upon the rock of Christ's will, earnestly entreating him to whom you gave flesh.

Theotokion of the Cross When your most pure Mother saw you suspended on the cross, O Word of God, she exclaimed, maternally lamenting: What new and strange wonder is this, my Son; for how can you, the life of all, taste of death, desiring to bring life to the dead, as you are compassionate?

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.

He who heeds those who fear him, by an angel released you from bonds and imprisonment, O martyr who destroyed ungodliness with the bond of the love of Christ, your Bridegroom.

Having died for the love of him who has slain the might of death, you pour forth the grace of eternal life and heal those slain by the passions, O Agrippina, adornment of the martyrs of Christ.

Having surpassed carnal love with the love of your Bridegroom, you were steadfastly patient when painfully beaten, crying out: The threat of tortures shall not separate me from your love, O Christ.

Who can describe the courage of Bassa and chaste Agrippina, who suffered in their desire for blessed union with the Trinity? Through them the might of the idols was mightily shown to be feeble.

Theotokion The virgin queen, adorned with golden vesture, now stands before the king, her Son, indisputably surpassing the angels, who cry: 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.

The never-waning light which dwelt within your body revealed you to those who looked upon you, emitting the radiance of miracles night and day.

Following the steps of the shepherd, the unblemished lamb Agrippina divinely offered herself to him as an immaculate sacrifice.

Possessed of a splendid intelligence and full of prophecy, O glorious Bassa, in the present you were granted to speak of things of the future.

Theotokion Heal the affliction of my soul, O Mother of God who gave birth to the supremely good Word who blesses all.

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.

Receiving the body of the holy martyr like a never-setting sun which shone forth from Rome, Sicily is delivered from the cruelty of demonic darkness.

The thrice-rich holy martyrs, who in the expectation of martyrdom died before natural death would come, valiantly bore your life-bearing dead body away.

The weaponry of the enemy was ineffective, for with the labour of your glorious struggles, O Agrippina, you demolished his pride like a city having no foundation.

A woman with an issue of blood was healed by touching your body, and lepers who approached you with faith were cleansed; and every other ailment flies away when your holy name is invoked, O martyr.

Theotokion Having heard the words of Gabriel, O immaculate Virgin, we cry out: O only blessed Mother, rejoice, O portal of the Sun of Righteousness.

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

The radiant day of your splendid struggle has dawned, on which the divine Church, in honour of them summons all together to sing to you with gladness: Rejoice, O virgin and martyr, most honoured Agrippina.

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.

Like a golden dove protected by the sword of the cross, you destroyed the Moslems who came to your city at night, and thus you saved the faithful from a vile death at their hands, O martyr.

Enduring many tortures for the sake of Christ, devoid of pain and death you found delight, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

The priest rejoiced to see your resplendent miracles, O Agrippina, and he magnified God, singing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

Bearing your body firmly against the senses with steadfast intent, O virgin, you never experienced womanly weakness, singing to the Master: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted God of our fathers.

Theotokion You remain a virgin even after giving birth, O Lady who gave birth to God, and as a mother you nourished him who sustains the world, to whom we sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

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.

Night was like day by those who bore your relics, O martyr, and the place which received you was filled with sweet fragrance: hordes of demons were driven far away, and drops of healing are poured upon those who exalt Christ above all for ever.

Desiring the immortal Bridegroom, you followed his sweet footsteps, emulating his suffering and death, O glorious martyr, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With unwavering faith, and lighting your lamp with the oil of your blood, O martyr, you entered into the bridal-chamber, singing hymns of heavenly joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Desiring the beauty of the Lord and to visit his temple, ascending on the chariot of your blood you reached him, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion The bush of old, which prefigured the strange mystery of your birthgiving, remained unburnt, O immaculate Lady; for you gave birth to the fire of the divinity, yet remained unconsumed. Therefore, we hymn 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.

At the behest of him who created all things, Agathonica, Bassa and Paula eagerly hastened to the goal of martyrdom: together they truly attained their utmost desire.

Dwelling in the mansions of heaven, O virgin martyr, gazing upon the beauties of things invisible, and receiving the radiance of God, illumine those who hymn you.

A wreath of grace has been placed upon your brow, O Agrippina, for you finished the race and keep the faith intact, and the ranks of the righteous have received you in beauty.

Standing with boldness before the creator and Master, O martyr Agrippina, with all the saints from ages past ask forgiveness of offences for those who hymn you.

Theotokion O virgin Mary, who as a mother held in your arms him who upholds all things: Deliver me from the hands of the adversary, that, saved, I may praise your mighty works.

June 24

Nativity of John the Baptist

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

You were born of a barren womb, * O glorious forerunner of the coming of Christ, * who has loosed the barrenness of our hearts, * giving utterance to our souls * and fruitfulness in faith and truth. * You are clearly revealed * as the far-famed voice of the Word, * the clarion-voiced herald of repentance, * the divine mediator * between the old and the new covenants: * in gladness we celebrate * your nativity with love. *Twice*

Now the fatted calf of abstinence * is born of the barren one, * pointing out to us * the lamb who was born * of the virgin Maiden, * who takes away the sins of the world, * shining forth in the wilderness as a turtledove, * heralding the divine springtime. * At the sound of his voice the cruel winter of ungodliness has ceased, * for John, the true friend of the bridegroom, * has splendidly arrived, * praying that our souls be saved.

O John, born in accordance with the promise of God, * when your father was praying in the Temple * and the wondrous and great archangel * announced your nativity, * then, as it is written, * Gabriel sentenced the protesting and disbelieving priest, * that he be mute and deaf * until your birth. * But when you, O blessed forerunner, * were born of your father, * you released his tongue, * and pray for us all.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8, ideomelon*

Sweet fragrance is due to John; the beauty of hymns is fitting for the Baptist. For the warrior of the king, the forerunner of grace, proclaims the beginning of our salvation, leaping up in his mother's womb and crying out in the wilderness, announcing the lamb and entreating the Saviour for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

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

You caused your tongue, * to shine forth with splendour, * crying out, O Zacharias: * This child will be a prophet of God, * the forerunner of the divine Word.

Verse Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

From your mother's womb, O John, * you were revealed * sanctified for God; * for no one greater than you * has ever arisen among men.

Verse And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High.

You loosed the muteness of your father, * O most blessed one, * as you likewise opened * the lock of your mother's barrenness, * being born through divine grace.

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

Behold Elizabeth, who said to the Virgin Mary: Why do you come to me, O Mother of my Lord? You bear the king, I bear the warrior; you the Law-giver, I the upholder of the Law; you the Word, I the voice which shall announce the kingdom of heaven.

Troparion, tone 4

O prophet and forerunner of the coming of Christ,
we who honour you with love cannot praise you worthily;
for your glorious and honoured nativity
saved your mother from barrenness and your father from muteness,
and proclaimed to the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

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, tone 4, Ideomela*

By John the Monk When John was born, he loosed the muteness of Zacharia, for it was not fitting for the father to be silent when the voice of the Word arrived. But since, when the priest had not believed in the beginning, his tongue was bound, so, when John

appeared, he set his father free. To him was announced and born the voice of the Word, the forerunner of him who is the light, praying for our souls. *Twice*

Today the voice of the Word looses the voice of his father, constrained because of his unbelief; the loosening of his mother's barrenness indicating the coming fruitfulness of the Church. The lampstand of the light emerges; the splendour of the Sun of Righteousness announces his coming, for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

By Anatolius When the Word of God wished to be born of the Virgin, his angel, the highest of the prophets and greatest born of women, was born from elderly loins; for it was fitting that he be the glorious beginning of things divine: an offspring produced past the age of fertility, a conception accomplished without seed. Glory to you O Lord who works miracles for our salvation.

By Andrew of Crete Today the great forerunner, the greatest of all the prophets, has appeared, born from the barren womb of Elizabeth. There is no one like him, nor has any other such arisen; for the supremely luminous light followed the lamp of the Forerunner, the Word followed the voice, the bridegroom followed the bridal attendant, who prepares an excellent people for the Lord, cleansing them beforehand with water in the Spirit. He is the offspring of Zacharia, the wondrous son of the wilderness, the preacher of repentance, the cleanser of sins, who announces to those in Hades the resurrection of the dead, and prays for our souls.

You were a prophet and forerunner from your mother's womb, O John, baptizer of Christ, leaping up and rejoicing within her when you beheld the queen, bearing the timeless one who was begotten of the Father without a mother, who had come to her handmaid and to you, who shone forth from a barren woman and an elderly man according to God's promise.

O most glorious wonder; he who did not believe the word of the angel, who said that Elizabeth would conceive and bear a son, saying: How can such a one give birth, as I am stricken with age, and her body is withered? Condemned to muteness for his unbelief, today he sees the fulfillment of the promise: his silence is broken, and he enters into gladness, crying: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them, granting the world great mercy.

O most praiseworthy John, apostle to the whole world, the glad news of Gabriel, child of the barren woman, good son of the wilderness and true friend of Christ the bridegroom: entreat him to have mercy on our souls.

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

Today the lamp of the light
as a radiant star, heralds the coming of the Word of God.
Today the tongue of Zacharia is loosed, commanded by the angel to be silent.
Thus it was fitting for the father to hold his tongue

for him who had issued from the barren womb,
who with great boldness
proclaims the deliverance of the world.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of grace,
and the Virgin conceived the Lord of glory.
Both mothers kissed each other, and the infant leapt up,
for within her, the servant praised the Master;
and the mother of the Forerunner marvelled and exclaimed:
And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
May he who has great mercy save a despairing people.

Entrance, Prokimenon and Readings

A reading from Genesis

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant.

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?"

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

A reading from Judges

There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now be careful not to drink wine or strong

drink, or to eat anything unclean, for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name; but he said to me, ‘You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.’ ”

Then Manoah entreated the Lord, and said, “O Lord, I pray, let the man of God whom you sent come to us again and teach us what we are to do concerning the boy who will be born.”

The angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Let the woman give heed to all that I said to her. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine. She is not to drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. She is to observe everything that I commanded her.”

Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that we may honour you when your words come true?” But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name? It is too wonderful.” The angel of the Lord did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah realized that it was the angel of the Lord.

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the Lord have created it.

Sing, O barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have not been in labour. For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married, says the Lord.

Entreaty, tone 1

You mountains, put forth sweetness; you hills, leap up like lambs, for the forerunner of the Lord, who loosed the muteness of his father at his birth, is born of Elizabeth, coming to dwell among us. Let us cry out to him: O baptizer of Christ, entreat him that our souls be saved.

O voice, the sign from God, candlestand of the light, Forerunner of the Lord, the foremost of the prophets and giver of witness through Christ: make supplication for the world, and be especially mindful of your flock, that it be saved unharmed.

As a herald of the Word and Lamb of God, O prophet and forerunner John, you told of things to come, and gave prophecy to the ends of the earth, saying: Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and shall grant great mercy to all.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 5*
composed by Andrew of Crete

On this day Elizabeth gave birth to the ultimate prophet, the first of the apostles, the earthly angel and heavenly man, the voice of the Word, the soldier and forerunner of Christ, who before his birth leapt up in token of the promise, and proclaimed the Sun of Righteousness. Elizabeth rejoices and Zacharias is astonished in his old age, putting aside his silence imposed upon him as a bond; and as the father of the voice he foretells: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High and shall go to prepare his way. O angel, prophet, apostle, warrior, forerunner, baptizer, preacher and instructor of repentance: as the voice of the Light and of the Word, pray unceasingly for us who keep your memory with faith.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

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;
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.

Aposticha, tone 2

With psalms, hymns and spiritual songs let us praise glorious John, the prophet of prophets, offspring of Elizabeth, greatest of all born of women, citizen of the desert; and let us cry out to him: O baptizer and Forerunner of the Saviour, as you have boldness before him because of you honoured nativity, entreat Christ, that he grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Verse Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

John the Forerunner has come: the voice of the grace of the Word, the herald of the sun, born on this day of a barren and childless woman, according to God's promise. Rejoice, O people, for he comes to prepare for us the way of salvation. Leaping up,

he paid homage, while yet in his mother's womb, to the lamb who takes away the sins of the world and grants us great mercy.

Verse And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High.

He who was sanctified from his mother's womb as the fulfillment of the prophecy, is born today of a barren woman, proclaiming the coming of the Lord, saying: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8,*
composed by Cassiani the nun

Today is fulfilled the saying of Isaiah the prophet concerning the birth of the greatest of the prophets; for he said: Behold, I shall send my angel before your face, who shall prepare your path before you. This warrior of the king of heaven, running ahead, truly made the paths straight for our God, being a man by nature, but an angel in his life: for, having utterly preserved his purity and chastity, he possessed them by nature; and avoiding that which is unnatural, he struggled supernaturally. Emulating him in his virtues, O faithful, let us all pray, that he make entreaty for our souls to be saved.

Both now and for ever...

Behold Elizabeth, who said to the Virgin Mary: What is this to me, O Mother of my Lord? You bear the king, I the warrior; you the Law-giver, I the upholder of the law; you the Word, I the voice who proclaims the kingdom of heaven.

At the blessing of the loaves,
the troparion of the forerunner, tone 4

O prophet and forerunner of the coming of Christ,
we who honour you with love cannot praise you worthily;
for your glorious and honoured nativity
saved your mother from barrenness and your father from muteness,
and proclaimed to the world the incarnation of the Son of God. *twice*

and Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once
or if it is not a Vigil, then the Troparion of the Forerunner and Theotokion as provided for Matins

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the forerunner, twice;

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

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.

*After the first reading of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Joseph marvelled...

Now the fruit of Zacharias, the adornment of the desert, the foundation of the prophets, has sprung forth, bringing mental gladness to the minds of the faithful: the forerunner of Christ has appeared, the true witness of his coming. With spiritual songs let us together cry out to the Baptist: O prophet and preacher of the truth, pray that we be saved. *Twice*

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

O most praiseworthy John, truly gloriously born as the herald of the coming of Christ, the chief of the prophets: as the voice of the Word, you cried out: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Having prepared the way of the Lord, you were revealed the ends of the earth as the forerunner of grace. O baptizer and apostle, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of transgressions to those who celebrate your holy memory with love. *Twice*

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

Theotokion O pure Virgin, Mother of Christ, pray for the healing of the bitter sufferings of my soul, and for the forgiveness of my sins mindlessly committed, staining my soul and soiling my body, in my wretchedness. Woe is me, for what shall I do when

the angels take my soul from my wretched body? At that time be my helper and protector, for I am your servant and you are my hope.

Polyeleos, and magnification

We magnify you, O John, Forerunner of the Saviour, and we honour your most glorious birth from a barren woman.

Verses Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us | in the house of his servant David.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the Special Melody That which was commanded...*

Let the father rejoice: be glad, O mother, for today you have given birth on earth to a prophet, the Forerunner summoned by God by the promise. The barren woman nurtures the Baptist as an infant, and Zacharias rejoices, saying to the child: My tongue has been loosed by your advent on earth, O candlestand of the light, a truly glorious miracle. *Twice*

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

Theotokion We ever thank you, O Mother of God,
and we magnify, venerate and hymn your maternity, O full of grace;
and unceasingly we cry out: Save us at the time of trial, O Virgin merciful and good,
and let not your servants be put to shame.

Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4.

Prokimenon, tone 4

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High

Verses Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

Let every breath... *and the rest,*
with the Gospel of Luke, number 3 [Luke 1: 24-25, 57-68, 76, 80]

After the Psalm Have mercy... *the verse, tone 2*

He who was sanctified from his mother's womb as the fulfillment of the prophecy, is born today of a barren woman, proclaiming the coming of the Lord, saying: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Ode 1

*Canon 1, tone 4,
composed by John the Monk*

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 child of the barren woman proclaims the birthgiving of the Virgin, preceding the sun like a magnificent dawn, and now shining with the light of piety and grace upon the universe.

Truly you are called the prophet of the Most High; for you go before the face of Christ, to prepare the way for the creator: thus Zacharias cried out to you, his son, upborne by the most Holy Spirit, O honoured John.

Hearing the words of Gabriel's divine news, Zacharias was intractable, and was stricken with muteness; but he was suddenly loosed therefrom, for John the Forerunner, the voice of the Word, was born.

Theotokion O immaculate Mother of God, the godly city of the king of all, habitation pleasing to God, precious treasure: preserve your heritage which ever praises you and honours your birthgiving with faith.

*Another Canon, tone 4,
composed by Andrew*

Irmos Let us sing to our deliverer and God, who of old guided Israel, who were fleeing the slavery of pharaoh, and fed them in the wilderness, for he has been glorified.

The silence of the father is a symbol of the mysteries of the Scriptures of the Law; for when grace arrived Moses fell silent: it was fitting that all fall silent in the presence of the treasure of wisdom which was revealed.

As the priest was censuring in the temple, an angel from on high stood before him and cried out: I come to you bearing news of a strange birthgiving, O elder, for you shall receive from the barren woman the baptizer of Christ as your child.

Why do you marvel, O elder? Why stand there, refusing to believe the one who tells you these things? For he is an angel, even if he appears as a man. Be mute then, until the time of the birth of the voice of the Word.

He who made the silence of Zacharias a symbol of the written law has made me to be a preacher of repentance who cries: He gives the barren woman a son who is the voice who cries out.

How glorious are the pronouncements of Christ's Forerunner who is born today of Elizabeth and who loosed the voice of his father; for even before he was wrapped in swaddling bands, he recognized him who loosed our bonds and sanctified the nations.

Theotokion You are the habitation of God and the noetic ladder whereby God has descended and, taking form, has led our nature up to heaven: we all praise you, the vehicle of our salvation.

Katavasia I shall open my mouth...

Ode 3

The first Canon

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.

The birthgiving of the Master is accomplished through the Virgin, while that of his beloved servant is through an elderly and barren mother; a wonder of wonders, he comes to splendour.

The elderly and barren woman kisses the virgin Mother, truly recognizing her birthgiving, for the bond of her barrenness had been loosed by the will of God.

Theotokion O Lady who gave unwedded birth to the incarnate God, make me strong against the assaults of the passions; for I have no other helper than you.

The second Canon

Irmos O Lord who directs the thunder and creates the winds, confirm my soul, that I may truly sing to you and do your will; for none is holy but you, our God.

Formerly barren Elizabeth prefigured your people from the nations, O Christ; as giving birth gloriously, she shows as fertile that which was once barren.

Making straight the ways of the Lord and preparing his path, O prophet and herald of Christ, you showed men the fruits of repentance and taught them the way of life.

Dancing today, Elizabeth holds you in her elderly arms, O Forerunner, and cries out in these words: None is as holy as you, O Lord our God.

Theotokion O Mother of God, you loosed the grief of our first parents, giving birth for us to the creator of life and deliverer: entreat him that your flock be saved.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* That which was commanded...

The Forerunner, the voice of the Word, splendidly loosed the voice of Zacharias when he was born, revealing to all the barrenness of the law, crying out: Repent, you who are on earth, for Jesus is coming, desiring to deliver all from the primal curse, illumining them with baptism. Truly this is a most glorious wonder.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Joseph marvelled...

Like the radiant sun, the son of Zacharias shone forth upon us through the womb of Elizabeth, and has loosed the muteness of his father, crying out with great boldness to all: Make straight the way of the Lord. For he frees and saves those who have recourse to him. Entreat him whom you proclaimed, O John, that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion By your divine birthgiving, O pure one, you have renewed mortal nature which has become corrupt in human passions, and have raised up all from death to the life of incorruption: we rightly call you blessed, O glorious Virgin, as you foretold.

Ode 4

The 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.

A mystery precedes ineffable mysteries, proclaiming release from pain by a new disposition of nature, its correction and deification, O Christ.

Isaiah prophesied that when the Son would become flesh, the Father would say: Behold, I send before your face an earthly angel, the equal of the angels, who cries out: Glory to your power, O Christ.

I have been born to serve the Master as a servant: for this reason have I come, to announce his coming, and that the barren and elderly woman, putting forth fruit, may believe beforehand the birthgiving of the Virgin.

Theotokion The womb of the holy Mother of God, in whom it was your good pleasure to make your abode as in a fragrant dwelling, O divine Word of the Father, neither became corrupt nor suffered pain; for she gave birth to Emmanuel, who is God and man.

The second Canon

Irmos I have heard of your glorious dispensation, O Christ our God, how you were born of the Virgin, that you might deliver from the deception those who cry: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Repentance was made accessible through your nativity, O Forerunner and herald; for you proclaimed him crying out: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Virginity is established and chastity triumphs; the desert rejoices, and the world holds festival at your nativity, O Forerunner.

Elizabeth rejoices and Zacharias speaks once again. Both become young in their old age and are made luminous through John the voice of the Word.

Theotokion Of old, the lawgiver saw you as the bush unconsumed by the fire, and Daniel envisioned you as a holy mountain, O Mistress who alone art Mother and Virgin.

Ode 5

The first Canon

Irmos Now I shall arise, said God through the prophet; now I shall be glorified and now I shall be exalted, for I shall take fallen nature from the Virgin and lift it towards the noetic light of my divinity.

The earth gives rise to the true herald, the voice who with the tongue of the Spirit proclaims to all the Son of the Virgin, righteousness from heaven which bends down to us in bodily form.

The Lord has appointed you the true luminary of Christ, enlightening all: coming as a garment, he clothes only his enemies in shame, forthrightly proclaiming the Word and Son of God.

All creation rejoices in your nativity, O Forerunner who came as an earthly angel and a heavenly man, proclaiming the God of heaven, incarnate for us.

Theotokion He who is begotten of the Father is born of you and is ever with you: the ever-existing and indivisible Word, the only-begotten Son, who, in latter days is incarnate of the Virgin and the Holy Spirit.

The second Canon

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.

O Sun of Righteousness, you have prepared a star, your baptizer John, born today according to your promise and loosing the voice of his father.

Utter no words of protest, O sacred elder; for Gabriel, the foremost among the archangels, tells you the mysteries of God, recounting his descent to us.

Do not disbelieve, O elder; for God promises that you shall have a son in your old age, in whose birth many shall rejoice, for he shall come with the power of Elias.

O prophet, herald and forerunner, son of the barren one, preacher of repentance, lamb of the wilderness, lamp-stand of the light: pray for all who honour you with faith.

Theotokion We hymn you, Mother of the creator of all, the closed door, the unburnt bush, and the uncut mountain from whom was hewn the stone, He-who-is, incarnate of you.

Ode 6

The first Canon

Irmos 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.

Even within your mother, as a prophet you recognized the Word of God, and, deified by light unapproachable, you uttered theology in that dark chamber, employing her tongue.

As the voice of one crying unceasingly, O Baptist, never cease to entreat the deliverer of the world, to loose the spiritual barrenness of those who hymn your birth.

Theotokion Your womb, O pure Mother of God, became the dwelling-place of the unapproachable divinity, upon whom the heavenly ranks cannot gaze without fear.

The second Canon

Irmos A storm of evil thoughts overtakes me, and drag me down into the abyss of my countless sins; but going before me, O good helmsman, guide me and save me, as you did for the prophet.

Today John is born: the citizen of the desert, the preacher of repentance, the true witness of grace, the forerunner of the Word, the star which shines before the light.

Today, the axe, forged for the hewing of barren souls, plants the fruits of the virtues, and comes forth steadily in your nativity, O forerunner.

Jordan rejoices gloriously and leaps up, learning that John is born of the barren one; and the sea dances with leaping waves.

Coming forth, the candlestand of the light preaches the coming of the Saviour, the Lamb of God, who shines light upon the earth, offered spiritually for all nature.

Theotokion O Mother of God who gave birth to the abyss of mercy: in the depths of your compassion, grant a flow of tears to my soul, drowning the abyss of passions.

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

Today, she who before was barren gives birth to the forerunner of Christ, and he is the fulfillment of all prophecy. For, laying his hand in the Jordan upon him whom the prophets foretold, he is seen to be in himself the prophet, herald and forerunner of the Word of God.

Ikos Let us now praise the forerunner of the Lord, to whom Elizabeth gave birth for the priest through her barren womb, though not seedlessly; for Christ alone passed through an inviolate dwelling without seed. The barren woman gave birth to John, but with the aid of her husband; but the pure virgin gave birth to Jesus through the overshadowing of the Father and the Spirit of God. Through the barren woman is seen in himself the prophet, herald and forerunner of the Word of God.

Ode 7

The first Canon

Irmos The three youths in Babylon, having mocked the tyrant's command, cried out in the midst of the flame: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

Before, all of human nature was in darkness, O forerunner; but you appeared as the dawn, crying out: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

Your nativity through the barren woman has healed all afflicted nature, O forerunner, teaching it to sing: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

You were born of a barren woman, O forerunner, for, since the law is barren, grace has truly come, singing to Christ: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

Theotokion O blessed Virgin, pray for us who implore you; for we place our hope in you, and to you we cry out: O Lady, reject not your servants.

The second Canon

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.

Mute, Zacharias explained his silence by writing; and, provided again with speech through your birth, O forerunner, he gloriously announced the grace of the Spirit.

Honoured Elizabeth, the barren and childless woman, is like the Church, previously darkened with sacrifices and filth, and now boasting in beauty and birthgiving.

Today the spiritual axe, whereby all the uprisings of the passions are hewn down, is honed at the nativity of the forerunner; and the fruits of repentance mystically flourish.

We honour you, O John, as the mediator between the old and the new Covenants, the one who makes straight the paths of Christ who cleanses the threshing-floor of transgression with the winnowing-fan of the Spirit.

We hymn glorious John, born from the barren woman, the Forerunner, the preacher of repentance, who hastened before the sun, Christ our God, like a star.

Theotokion O virgin Mother of God, never cease to pray to him who without seed made his dwelling within you; who, in his ineffable and utter humility, was born and humbled himself for us.

Ode 8

The first Canon

Irmos Almighty deliverer of all, descending into the midst of the flame, you bedewed the pious ones and taught them to sing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Moses the lawgiver was a servant to the Law, but Jesus is the God of the new Covenant; and now the Forerunner hymns both, as one between them both, saying: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Like a divinely planted grove, the barren one brings forth for the Church the turtledove, the Forerunner, and sings: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

O God-bearing people, holy nation, be like the turtledove of Christ and, abiding in chastity, sing with voices flowing with honey: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

To the Trinity Illumined with the threefold light, we worship the one uncreated divinity, ever singing in the Orthodox manner: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

The second Canon

Irmos You have formed all things with wisdom, O Master, and have founded the earth in accordance with your knowledge, planting it firmly on the boundless waters. Therefore, we all sing: Bless the Lord without ceasing, all you works of the Lord.

Before your birth, before your own swaddling-clothes, O Forerunner, you recognized Christ, the given of life, whom you worshipped and indicated by your leaping, naming him your Lord, borrowing your mother's tongue to sing to Christ our God.

The ends of the earth celebrate the feast today; the angels and the souls of the righteous rejoice; the quick and the dead are gladdened by the birth of John, receiving through him the preaching of the Saviour and Lord of all.

Today the Jordan, likening itself to John, leaps up gloriously in its fluid torrents, listening to him whose life is like that of the angels, born of a barren and elderly woman, who makes straight the ways and paths of the Lord and has baptized the world.

Zacharias noted on a slate the name of the prophet and forerunner designated by God; and in his silence he declared: Let him be called John who is born to me in my old age. This marvellous naming befits one born according to God's promise.

Theotokion Your people have you as a mighty consolation, O Virgin, a hope unashamed, an unassailable rampart and divine intercession; and, saved, they glorify and sing to you: Bless the Lord without ceasing, all you works of the Lord.

Ode 9

The first Canon

Irmos A hidden and ineffable mystery is revealed and accomplished in you, O most pure Virgin, for God through pity is made flesh from you. Therefore we all magnify you as the Mother of God.

The voice of the Forerunner falls upon barren and empty hearts, crying: Prepare the way of Christ, for he shall come in glory. Submitting ourselves, we magnify him.

As of old, O Forerunner, through the Holy Spirit you preached the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world: ask remission of offences for your flock.

To the Trinity Singing in Orthodox manner, O faithful, let us glorify the threefold unity, the consubstantial Trinity, who illumines us divinely and fills our souls with the splendour of the never-waning light.

Theotokion O Lady who over all creatures has granted the trophy of victory to your people, place the feet of Orthodox hierarchs upon all heresies and schisms, that we may magnify you as the Mother of God.

The second Canon

Irmos The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

Behold, in you, O priest, has God wrought a great and all-glorious sign; for you fathered a son, the forerunner, in your old age and the mortality of your members.

Let barren women hearken and sing to God, for Elizabeth cries out: I give birth to the son of my old age and in the mortality of my body.

Be glad and rejoice in God, O Zacharias, for Elizabeth nourishes the son of her old age at her breast and in the mortality of her body gives birth to the Forerunner.

Glory to him who has given fruit to the barren woman in her old age and has bestowed upon the aged prophet a son, the divine forerunner, who prepares for him a perfect people.

Theotokion He who was begotten in the bosom of the Father without passion and corruption, having made his abode within you, in his loving kindness has led us to the Father and the divine Spirit.

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

Today the joyous birth of the Forerunner looses the grief of his father's muteness and the barrenness of his mother. He declares our present joy and gladness; therefore, all creation celebrates it with splendour. *Twice*

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

The prophets preached, the apostles taught, and with godly wisdom the martyrs openly confessed your Son to be the God of all, O most pure Lady: with them we glorify you, delivered by you from the ancient sentence.

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

O most glorious wonder, * from a mother advanced in age * John, the proclaimer of God the Word * hastens to come forth, born today. * By his nativity he most clearly causes * the formerly bound tongue to speak. * How wondrous your ineffable dispensation, O Master, * thereby, O Christ, save our souls, * as you alone are merciful.

O most glorious wonder, * the prophet who is the greatest * among those born of women * looses the condemnation of his mother's barrenness, * coming with the spirit and power of Elias * to make straight the way of the Lord. * How wondrous your ineffable loving-kindness, O Master, * thereby, O Christ, save our souls, * as you alone are merciful.

O most glorious wonder, * he who preached to men the condescension of Christ * with his voice indicates him who transcends all, * and with power divine * looses the barrenness of his mother * and the tongue of Zacharias. * How great your wonders, O Master, * thereby, O Christ, save our souls, * as you alone are merciful.

O most glorious wonder, * the prophet and Forerunner * is seen to be the greatest born of women, * and the most sublime prophet * and herald of the coming of Christ, * leaping up in his mother's womb. * How wondrous you exceeding great gifts, O lover of mankind. * Thereby, O Christ, * save our souls, as you are almighty.

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

The Forerunner, the star of stars, John who longed for God, was born on earth today from a barren womb, revealing the radiance of Christ, the Orient from on high, for the straight pathway of the faithful.

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.

Great Doxology, litanies and dismissal.

Liturgy

*Beatitudes, 8 verses,
4 from Ode 3 of the first canon of the Forerunner, and 4 from Ode 6 of the second.*

*At Little Entrance, the troparion of the Church if it is of Christ, or of the Mother of God;
then the troparion of the Forerunner.
Then the Kontakion of the Church of Christ; Glory be to the Father... that of the Forerunner;
Both now and for ever... that of the Church of the Mother of God.
If the Church is not dedicated to the Mother of God:
Both now and for ever... Kontakion of the Church of Christ.*

*But if the Church is not dedicated to Christ, we begin with the troparion of the Forerunner;
Glory... the Kontakion of the Forerunner;
Both now and for ever... Unfailing intercessor of Christians...*

We use the Prokimenon, Epistle, Alleluia, Gospel and Communion Verse of the Forerunner alone.

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.

Epistle to the Romans, number 112 [Rom 13:11-14: 4]

Alleluia, tone 1

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High

Gospel of Luke, number 1 [Luke 1:5-25, 57-68, 76, 80]

Communion Verse

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

We transfer the Epistle and Gospel of the daily cycle to the previous day.

*When the feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner falls on a Sunday,
the hymns of the resurrection precede those of the feast.*

June 25

After feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist, Nun-martyr Fevronia

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses,
beginning with these of the Baptist, tone 4,*

By John the monk When John was born, he loosed the muteness of Zacharia, for it was not fitting for the father to be silent when the voice of the Word arrived. But since, when the priest had not believed in the beginning, his tongue was bound, so, when John appeared, he set his father free. To him was announced and born the voice of the Word, the forerunner of him who is the light, praying for our souls.

Today the voice of the Word looses the voice of his father, which was constrained because of his unbelief; the loosening of his mother's barrenness indicating the coming fruitfulness of the Church. The lampstand of the light emerges; the splendour of the Sun of Righteousness announces his coming, for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

By Anatolius When the Word of God wished to be born of the Virgin, his angel, the highest of the prophets and greatest born of women, was born from elderly loins; for it was fitting that he be the glorious beginning of things divine: an offspring produced past the age of fertility, a conception accomplished without seed. Glory to you O Lord who works miracles for our salvation.

*And 3 verses of the martyred nun, same tone,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

You endured a twofold suffering * in your contest, * O exalted Fevronia, * mingling the blood of martyrdom with the sweat of your ascetic labour; * therefore, the benefactor has given you * a twofold crown; * and you have been brought to him, * splendidly adorned, * as an immaculate virgin * and an invincible martyr.

The divine beauties of your soul * came with the comeliness of your body, * and you shone like a white lily * in the habitations of the venerable, * yet empurpled by the streams of your blood, * O immaculate bride. * The comely Bridegroom of heaven * and the indestructible bridal-chamber * have received you as a virgin and martyr.

O most lauded Fevronia, * the angel of deliverance * has come to you; * for from childhood you feared the Lord, * and brought yourself to the Almighty * as a pure and

cherished offering. * You trampled the foolishness of Selenus underfoot * and earnestly hastened * to Christ, your Bridegroom.

Troparion of the Forerunner, tone 4

O prophet and forerunner of the coming of Christ,
we who honour you with love cannot praise you worthily;
for your glorious and honoured nativity
saved your mother from barrenness and your father from muteness,
and proclaimed to the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

Glory be to the Father...

Troparion of Fevronia, tone 4

Your martyr Fevronia 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.

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

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the Forerunner, twice;
Glory be to the Father... that of the martyred nun;
Both now and for ever... Theotokion, or Theotokion of the Cross.

One canon from the Octoechos; and two from the Menaion:
of the Forerunner, and of the martyred nun.

Ode 1

Canon of the forerunner, tone 8,
composed by John the Monk

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.

With an angel of heaven foretelling your divine nativity, O glorious forerunner, you appeared as an earthly angel and heavenly man.

In the supernatural exaltation of your life you were a reason-endowed heavenly firmament, having Christ in its midst like the sun, and the virtues like stars.

Precious is your death in the sight of the Lord who sacrificed himself for our sake, O wise one who as a man was like a lamb of the Word.

Theotokion Making his abode within you, O Maiden, the deliverer has truly cast out the lamentable sin which made its abode within me, and has made me a dweller in paradise.

*Canon of the martyred nun, tone 8, composed by Theophanes
upon the acrostic Wisely I hymn you with songs, O Fevronia*

Irmos Having traversed... *as before*

O pure Fevronia, champion of the glory of Christ, grant me grace and your enlightenment, that I may joyfully praise your luminous feast day.

Continually enlightening your soul with the thought of death, O martyr Fevronia, you arose to the height of martyrdom, offering yourself to Christ in your agony.

Having renewed the meadow of your heart through your pangs, O martyr, you received the crown of martyrdom as you sang to our God in your suffering.

Theotokion By a gesture, he who created all things was incarnate of you, O Mother of God: piously desiring him, the maiden Fevronia came to him through martyrdom.

Ode 3

Canon of the Forerunner

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.

O flourishing offshoot of a barren one, let my barren soul be greatly fruitful with goodly offshoots, like a growing vine producing the sweet grapes of the virtues.

The beauteous branch of sacred lineage gave rise to a truly sacred root and pure seed, the blessed Baptist of Christ, the life-bearing offspring of the root of Jesse.

O all-praised one, grant me continual sighs, frequent tears, a contrite heart, a humble spirit, sorrowful lamentation, fervent compunction and abiding pangs.

Theotokion Having sprung forth from an earthly root, O pure Lady, you gave rise to Christ, the ever-flowering and beauteous offspring of nature, the flower of the divinity; for the rod of Aaron was a representation of you.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

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.

Strengthened by the Spirit, you cast down the savagery of the tyrant and the polytheism of the ungodly, O glorious Fevronia.

With your mighty arm, O Master, you rendered glorious Fevronia steadfast, who struggled in martyrdom.

Your body, torn asunder in your martyrdom for Christ, O wise and pure one, won for you the delights of paradise.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, the glorious martyr Fevronia found you, the Mother of God, to be her help; and she put the tyrant to shame.

*Kontakion of the martyr, tone 6,
to the Special Melody O helper...*

The martyr Fevronia cried out thus: O my Bridegroom, Jesus most sweet, it is not difficult for me to follow you, for the sweetness of your love has given wings of hope to my soul, and the beauty of your mercy has sweetened my heart, that I might drain the cup of sufferings in emulation of you, that you may count me among the wise virgins who dance with you in your bridal chamber. O venerable passion bearer, honouring the struggles of your labours, we entreat you: May the doors of the bridal chamber not be barred to us.

*Sessional Hymn of the Forerunner, tone 8,
to the Special Melody That which was commanded...*

The fruit of Zachariah, the flower of the barren woman, the honoured forerunner John has been born for us today according to the promise; and, leaping up within his mother's womb, even before his birth he proclaimed the creator of all. He has revealed the ineffable and salvific manifestation of God, and we all honour him.

*Glory be to the Father... Sessional Hymn of the martyr, same tone,
the Special Melody Of the wisdom...*

Your soul bound by the love of Christ, O wise martyr, as a disciple of the Word your mind surpassed corruptible and transitory things; and having first mortified the passions with fasting, you later put the deceiver to shame with suffering. Therefore, you have been granted twofold boldness before the creator, O glorious Fevronia most rich, in

that you were obedient to him. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offences to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion As the immaculate bride of the creator, the unwedded mother of the deliverer and the receptacle of the Comforter, O exalted Lady, hasten to deliver me, the vile abode of iniquity and in mind the plaything of the demons, from their wickedness, and make of me a radiant dwelling-place of the virtues. Drive from me the cloud of the passions that I may share the never-waning light of the Most High, through your supplications.

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

Canon of the Forerunner

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 mouths of men are unequal to the task of praising you, whom the sweet and honeyed mouth of Christ, full of life, praised, though he grants his words to all; yet accept my hymnody and this entreaty, O martyr who knew him who is demanding love.

Your pure heart was a phial of the Holy Spirit, holding the virtues like scents, perfuming men's minds and sweetening their good works, O Forerunner; for blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

The time comes when the axe shall be laid to the root; and witness is borne that every tree not bearing good fruit will be felled by the axe and cast into the fire of Gehenna; and so, bring forth fruits of repentance, O my soul.

As you dwell in heaven and have received a city having unshakable foundations, you had no desire for a city here, for you have revealed the abiding Jerusalem, the free mother of Paul, the Zion most high.

Theotokion Fervent faith is declared, but your awesome mystery is not explained, O Maiden; for, though seen, it can in no way be recounted, and though witnessed, it is unapproachable. For with you it eludes and avoids comprehension; and, revealing itself, discloses little of its essence.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

Irmos You are my strength and power... *as before*

There was no fault in you, O divinely wise and most rich Fevronia; for him who was both your deliverer and your desired lover you strove to please, adorned with the pangs of asceticism and the sufferings of martyrdom.

From infancy you desired the love of the ever-flowing spring desired by all the reason-endowed; and, full of the pangs of martyrdom, you endured, burned with fire and your limbs severed, O Fevronia, boast of virgins.

Nurtured on the words of God, O divinely wise one, and sacredly commending the salvific discourse of sacred books to those who desired to learn of God, you extended your hands to receive the reward of your teaching, enriched with the glory of the martyrs.

Theotokion O immaculate one, you are revealed as the portal of the light, having shone upon all in darkness Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, the infinite light; and Fevronia, strengthened by his rays, has acquired the glory of the martyrs.

Ode 5

Canon of the Forerunner

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.

The eloquent language of those who with philosophy thunder with discourses and words of power, who in number and council flow with elaborate wisdom, are unable worthily to praise you.

Christ has made you to be a laden cloud showering with understanding, O Forerunner, bedewing those withered by the flame of ignorance and cooling the perishing.

With gifts of incorruption, divine benefactions and bestowals enrich me, poor and stripped bare of virtue, and with your salvific protection clothe me with a divine robe.

My soul, rife with vile thoughts and corrupt fantasies, O blessed one, has been made barren because of the thorns of the passions; but, having burned away its weeds, cleansing it with the fire of your supplications, sow in it the fear of God.

Theotokion O Lady and Virgin, called the city of Christ the king which is gladdened by the flowing of the mystical river, bring my wretched soul to dwell with those who rejoice.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

Irmos O light that never sets... *as before*

Clad in a purple robe woven for you of your blood, you laid bare your body, casting off the garments of the passions; and, standing before the tribunal of the tyrants, O Fevronia, you emulated the nakedness of Christ.

Kindled by the love of your noetic bridegroom and set afire by his incorrupt beauties, you endure the painful wounds of dismemberment, O martyr Fevronia, the boast of the martyrs.

The flow of your blood quenched the flame of polytheism, and your uprooted teeth extracted the falsehood of idolatry as you tasted the food of eternal beauty, O Fevronia.

Theotokion Your severed feet trod the path of the divine martyrs, going to him who was born of the holy Virgin, joyously walking into paradise, O virgin Fevronia, bride of God.

Ode 6

Canon of the Forerunner

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.

Learning the immortality of the immaterial ones in your mortal and material flesh like one incorporeal and immaterial, O Baptist, in fasting you adorned yourself with supreme love of knowledge, and shared both angelic and human nature.

As a radiant sun among stars, a sweet spring among seasons, enriching all of nature with impeccable majesty, you stand above the council of the saints as the sun is above all stars.

O great aid of Christians, fervent comforter of sinners, herald of the heavenly kingdom, initiator of divine baptism, preacher of repentance: make me a strong model of repentance.

Theotokion You are the ladder reaching from earth to heaven, O Lady; you are truly the impassable gate, the golden jar, and bridge leading to heaven, giving access to life.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

Irmos I pour out my prayer to the Lord... *as before*

By God's providence, you put down the godless prideful savagery of Selenus who sought your blood, O glorious one; and godly Lysimachus was saved by your endurance.

The wise and God-bearing Bryene, your teacher in the faith, made you as a divinely radiant lamp, O maiden; for in no way did you disappoint her hope; for she presented you to Christ as an undefiled bride.

Theotokion The living bridal-chamber of the Master, radiant with the bright beams of virginity, the pure Virgin Mother of God of godly magnificence is glorified, a lily among a mass of thorns.

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

Today, she who before was barren gives birth to the forerunner of Christ, and he is the fulfillment of all prophecy. For, laying his hand in the Jordan upon him whom the prophets foretold, he is seen to be in himself the prophet, herald and forerunner of the Word of God.

Ikos Isaiah and all the prophets of old beheld Jesus Christ, our true God, in images and shadows; but this prophet was the greatest of them, as is written, for he beheld God the Word incarnate, whom he foretold, and touched him, and even before his birth proclaimed him, the joy of all the world, by his leaping within his mother's womb, for he was first to be the prophet, herald and forerunner of the advent of the Word.

Ode 7

Canon of the Forerunner

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.

Christ, the true head of the Church, showed, O blessed one, to be the summit of the prophets, the seal of the apostles, the first of fasters, the perfection of the righteous and the confirmation of the martyrs.

From your mother's womb you were filled with the Holy Spirit, O forerunner, and you quaffed neither wine nor strong drink, as the angel told your father: thus you are called great in the sight of God.

He who first baptized men in fire by the Holy Spirit will later plunge into the fire of Gehenna those who do not believe on him: O Baptist, deliver me from that bitter baptism.

Theotokion The inanimate jar of old called you the animate jar, O Lady; for you held Christ, the Manna of life who takes away the bitterness of death, the true sweetness and enlightenment of the world.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

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.

You flow streams of healing upon those who come to your tomb with faith, O Fevronia, and cry out to your Bridegroom: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

How good is your commerce, O divinely wise one; for with a cup of blood you purchased the kingdom of God, crying out: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Theotokion You dance with the choirs of virgins, O wondrous virgin Fevronia, crying out to the virgin Mother of God: Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O most pure Lady.

Ode 8

Canon of the Forerunner

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.

Through wounding by the staff of Moses, the dry, hard and uncut stone flowed sweet drinking water for the disobedient and ignorant people of Israel; and from a barren and childless womb a stream of healings has flowed upon us.

The assembly of the righteous, the company of the prophets, the army of the martyrs and the band of ascetics, the ranks of the venerable and all the saints, with praises keep your memory, O prophet; for the memory of the righteous is truly celebrated with hymns of praise.

Let the Forerunner be hymned: the animate heaven adorned with the virtues as with stars, the golden sun shining with rays of gold, the lamp of grace, the treasury of the Spirit, the great preacher of the kingdom, the divinely inspired orator, the tongue with voice of thunder, the great clarion.

Theotokion Strange, wondrous and awesome is your strange and glorious birth giving, O exulted Mary. For the Lord of glory, before whom the cherubim and seraphim stand, one of the Trinity without confusion, was immutably born, incarnate of you without seed.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

Irmos In his wrath... *as before*

We celebrate your memory, O Fevronia brilliant as lightning-flashes; for you came to him who is the light and became light, singing to the creator and bestower of light: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

You were first made marvellous by ascetic feats, and then adorned by feats of martyrdom; for you hastened after your lover, O radiant maiden. Both of your breasts, more goodly than wine, were cut off, O Fevronia, for piety's sake, and the sweet scent of your fragrance perfumes the faithful.

Burdened by transgressions and battered by the waves of the passions, I flee to your protection, O praiseworthy Fevronia, seeking deliverance from both. As you are wondrous and chosen of the Master, reject me not who sings to you, but by your supplications rescue me from soul-destroying snares.

Theotokion The tongues of orators cannot hymn you, O Mary Mother of God, Bride of God; for from your unwedded womb you gave birth to him who is God over all, to whom Fevronia now sings: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of the Forerunner

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.

Behold this poor offering I bring to you, my blessed Master, the fervent helper of my soul, wisely fulfilling my ministry as a servant: hearken to it, value my intention rather than my deeds, and my thought above my gift.

With impure and defiled lips I, impure, defiled and besmirched with pleasures, entreat you, the pure kinsman of the most pure Virgin, O blessed one: Wash my body, cleanse my spirit and sanctify my soul.

O sharer of the mysteries of the heavenly bridal-chamber, true friend of Christ the Bridegroom, worthy to stand and listen to his joyous voice: let me also be pleasing to God who with blessings summons the heir of his kingdom into his inheritance.

Theotokion O most pure virgin Mother of God, animate tongs of the seraph who immaterially held the ember who burns away the dross from men's souls; flaming throne of him who is upborne by the cherubim: with immaterial fire burn away the dross of my soul, and deliver me from the unquenchable fire.

Canon of the Martyred Nun

Irmos Heaven was struck with awe... *as before*

O divine turtledove of the Master, rendered golden by the splendour of virginity, who has made your body bright by asceticism and furnished yourself with golden wings through the golden luster of your confession and your divine blood: illumine those who hymn you.

Conversing with the mind of God, your own mind laid bare, O divinely wise Fevronia, you utterly trampled upon carnal desires and have attained a blessed end; and now you reign in splendour with Christ your Bridegroom, abiding in gladness within the ineffable mansions of heaven.

You flow streams of healings upon those who come to your precious shrine with faith, O godly Fevronia, pillar of virginity, beautiful flower of nature, daughter of the King, who has within you the blessedness of divine glory.

Theotokion You have put right the inferiority of women, O Virgin, by giving birth to the Word who raises on high the fallen, as he is good and mighty in power, whom glorious Fevronia ardently desired, crying out in rejoicing: I hasten after you.

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

Today the joyous birth of the Forerunner looses the grief of his father's muteness and the barrenness of his mother. He declares our present joy and gladness; therefore, all creation celebrates it with splendour.

Theotokion O Virgin who gave birth to the incarnate Wisdom, the transcendent Word, the physician of men's souls and bodies, heal the grievous and burdensome sores and wounds of my soul, and cause the pangs of my heart to disappear.

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

As the prophet higher than all the prophets, the fruitfulness of a fruitless woman, and dweller in the wilderness; with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs we praise you, O glorious John, singing: O Forerunner and Baptist of the Saviour, as you have boldness by your honoured birth, pray to Christ that he grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy.

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

The unwedded one, seeing you nailed to the tree of the cross, O Jesus, weeping said: O sweet child, why have you left me, who gave you birth, the unapproachable light of the unoriginate Father? But hasten to glorify yourself, that those who glorify your divine passion may receive divine glory.

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 Corinthians, number 181 [2 Cor 6:1-10]

Alleluia, tone 1

I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He brought me up from the pit of roaring waters, out of the mire and clay.

Gospel of Luke, number 33 [Luke 7:36-50]

Communion Verse

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

June 26

Venerable David of Thessalonica

**on the same day, the Appearance of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God,
the service for which is printed after this**

Vespers

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

O blessed father David, * who eminently irradiated your mind with abstinence, *
you take wing to the prime cause of all good * and appeared as a pillar of light, * with
godly understanding * ever illumining with your words and deeds * all who have recourse
to you. * Therefore, we honour and bless you.

Like a melodious bird * you established your shelter * in the branches of a tree, O
father, * frozen by the cold * and burned by the heat; * and there you received golden
wings * of dispassion and perfection, * and made your abode in the heights of heaven, *
ever praying for us who praise you.

Having consumed the pleasures of the flesh * with the divine ember of dispassion,
* you remained unconsumed, O venerable one, * holding burning embers in your hand *
before the face of the emperor, * who was amazed at your radiance. * Therefore, great
favour was given you by God, * who through grace has made you a great intercessor.

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

Venerable father David,
word of your teaching has gone out into all the earth;
therefore you have found the reward for your labours in heaven,
having destroyed hordes of demons
and attained the angelic ranks whose life you blamelessly emulated.
As you are foremost before Christ our God,
implore peace for our souls.

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

Pondering your seedless conception and ineffable birthgiving,
I marvel greatly:
How is it that it is your will
to die as a malefactor, O my Son?
Thus the most holy Lady cried out, weeping.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
with Glory be to the Father... tone 8,
to the Special Melody O glorious wonder...*

We honour you as the instructor of a multitude of monks, our father David; for, following your steps, we have truly learned how to walk the straight path. Blessed are you who laboured for Christ, and denounced the power of the enemy, O conversor with angels and companion of the venerable and the righteous. With them entreat the Lord, that he have mercy on our souls.

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

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 of venerable David, 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 David your soul rejoices with the angels.

Matins

*Canon of venerable David, tone 5,
composed by Joseph,
upon the acrostic* With divine words I hymn your life, O blessed one.

Ode 1

Irmos Halting the battle with his upraised arm, Christ shook the horse and rider into the Red Sea, while he saved Israel singing a hymn of victory.

We gather to honour with hymns your radiant and divine memory, O blessed David, through the divine Spirit recognizing you as an heir of the light and the day.

Having mortified your body on earth, O father, you had Christ our life dwelling in your heart, who has destroyed the power of the devil which brought death to mankind.

Submitting to the laws of the Master, O venerable one, you took your cross upon your shoulder: following his steps, you cast down the pride of the deceiver.

Theotokion Adorned with the beauty of the virtues, O ever-virgin, you gave birth to the comely Christ who has adorned men with the comely beauties of divinity.

Ode 3

Irmos By your ordinance you established the earth upon nothing, and suspended its weight unsupported: build your Church upon the immovable rock of your commandments, O Christ who alone is good and loving to mankind.

Causing the comeliness of your body to wither away through abstinence, O father, namesake of the prophet, you received rays of the divine Spirit and emitted splendid beams of dispassion and gifts of healing.

Following the lives of the saints, O blessed and God-bearing father most rich, you were sanctified by divine deeds. Therefore, you mystically sanctify those who celebrate your holy festival with faith.

Having lulled to sleep the pleasures of the body by prayers, vigils and ascetic struggles, O venerable father, you truly reposed in peace. Therefore, those who honour you with love have acquired you as an ever-vigilant protector.

Theotokion You are proven to be more honourable than the angels, O Virgin, having given birth to their creator: I entreat you, O pure one, to sanctify my mind and illumine my heart, dispelling the cloud of the passions.

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

Subduing the passions of the flesh by abstinence, O wise and blessed father, you appeared as an angel with a body; and like a melodious bird you establish your shelter in the branches of a tree and furnished your mind with wings. Enriched by deeds of miracles, you pass on to the Lord whom you desire from childhood. O glorious David, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour you.

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

Irmos Perceiving your divine condescension O Christ, Habakkuk with prophetic eyes cried to you in fear: You have come for the salvation of your people, to save your anointed ones.

Heeding the Spirit's words of life, and forsaking the salty sea of life, with your tears you dried up the torrents of the passions.

Full of understanding and grace, O father David, in stillness you sought the Benefactor of all and received his radiance.

Having splendidly shown your life of the violence to your nature, O venerable one, with the cooperation of the Spirit you delivered men from evil offences.

Theotokion O exulted Lady, we hymn you who ineffably gave birth to God and who incomparably transcends the choirs of the angels in beauty.

Ode 5

Irmos I come early in the morning to you, who is clothed with light as with a garment, and I sing to you: Enlighten my darkened soul O Christ as you alone are compassionate.

Lifting your eyes and thoughts to him who was lifted upon the cross, O father, you persisted in the branches of your tree, burned by the heat of day and frozen by the cold.

Your appearance was like lightning, O blessed one, bearing fire in your hands and incensing the sovereign with incense.

O blessed and venerable one, you now behold the beauty of God not in indistinct images nor by illusion, but face to face, directly.

You appeared as a comely grape of the divine vine, O venerable David, pouring forth the wine of compunction for those made foolish by the drunkenness of the passions.

Theotokion O Mother of God, direct my life and the movements of my mind to the will of God who has ineffably come to us through you.

Ode 6

Irmos O Master Christ, calm the sea of the passions raging like stormy waters which destroy the soul, and lead me up from corruption in your compassion.

You appeared as a temple of the divine Spirit, O venerable David, having confined yourself to a little perch, obtaining spaciousness through confinement.

You inclined your soul to the laws of the Master, O father, and were full of light as a recipient of the gifts of the Spirit.

Your life was revealed to the ends of the earth as truly adorned with miracles, O God-bearing father, whom we praise with faith.

Theotokion In a manner transcending nature you wove flesh of your pure blood for him who fashioned man, O Mother of God; therefore, we fittingly hymn you.

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

You appeared as an ever-flowering garden bearing the fruits of the virtues, and as a truly melodious bird in the tree of the grove, O divinely wise one. Receiving the Lord, the tree of life in your heart all the more, and cultivating it like a garden, you have thereby nurtured us with grace: pray for us, O most blessed David.

Ikos The everlasting flame kindled the furnace of my pleasures, O venerable David; but may you extinguish it by your supplications as with your copiously flowing tears, lighting the ember of the love of my creator, O blessed one, as of old you held one in your hand as a sacrifice, astonishing the emperor, that I may hymn you, O light-bearing and most blessed David.

Ode 7

Irmos The supremely exulted Lord of our fathers extinguished the flame and sprinkled the children with dew as they sang together: Blessed are you, O God.

You placed yourself firmly in the branches of the tree, O venerable one, ever watering it with the outpourings of your tears, and ever singing: Blessed are you, O God.

You extended all your longing to God, O God-bearer, and made your whole heart a receptacle of divine gifts, singing: Blessed are you, O God.

When the emperor beheld you shining with light and holding a burning ember in your hand, he marvelled and fell at your feet.

Theotokion The curse of mankind was abolished by your birthgiving, O Lady who alone is most blessed; therefore, we glorify you for ever as full of grace, O Mother of God.

Ode 8

Irmos The children in the furnace weaving a universal chorus, sang to the creator of all: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exult him above all for ever.

You are dawning of understanding for those amid the darkness of life, O blessed one, shining the light of knowledge upon all who honour you with love and who exalt Christ above all for ever.

You were upright, humble and meek, faithfully emulating David your namesake; therefore, with him you have inherited the land of the meek for all ages, O father.

You were a divinely radiant pillar of monastics, O blessed David, and another prophet of God, foretelling the coming divine manifestations of the Spirit of God.

Theotokion You, the excellency of Jacob, whom God loved and whom he chose, O Virgin, we all hymn as the truly blessed one, for all ages.

Ode 9

Irmos Isaiah dance for joy, for the Virgin has carried in her womb and given birth to a Son, Immanuel, he is both God and man, his name is Orient, and magnifying him we hail the Virgin as blessed.

Gathering today, O faithful, let us celebrate the sacred festival of the sacred father, who shone in abstinence and dedicated himself wholly to God through a life of perfection.

Like a tree planted by waters, you were fruitful, through streams of spiritual virtues; and establishing your nest amid the branches of a tree like an eagle, O father, you furnished your mind with wings to fly to heaven.

Prophetically knowing the time of your departure, you foretold it to the people when you were sent to avert the sovereign's great displeasure against them, O wise one.

Today your holy memory sanctifies us who keep it faithfully, O venerable David; for having led a holy life, you ever rejoice with the saints.

Theotokion Ezekiel foresaw you as a splendid portal through which Christ our true God passed: earnestly entreat him, O pure one, that he open to me the portal of repentance.

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

You avoided the gladness of the world as though it were filth, and, causing your flesh to wither away through fasting, you renewed the strength of your soul, O venerable and glorious one, and were enriched with heavenly glory: never cease to entreat the Lord for us.

June 26

Theotokion O Lady, we who are saved by you confess you to be the true Mother of God; for you ineffably gave birth to the Lord, who by his cross has destroyed death and drawn to himself the assemblies of the venerable, with whom we praise you, O Virgin.

*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, dwelt with you, and so you were a favorite of the Trinity. O great teacher, David our father, pray for our souls.

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

When she beheld the unplanted vine, which she had put forth as a shoot, hanging upon the tree, his divine side pierced by a spear, she said: What is this, O my Son and God? How is it that you accept suffering, having healed every infirmity and passion, being in your divinity dispassionate by nature? What have these ungrateful people rendered to you, their benefactor, for all the good you did for them? But pray unceasingly that he deliver me from my passions by his sufferings, that I may glorify you.

June 26

The Appearing of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

The hosts of heaven rejoice * in your glorious benefactions, O Mother of God, * and, calling mortals to spiritual gladness, * they show salvation to this world, * steadfast defence and protection * to all the Russian land. *Twice*

Moved to contrition and joy * by your glorious manifestation, O Lady, * the people kiss your pure image * as a treasury of miracles * which illumines the faithful with the grace of God * and delivers from misfortune those who have recourse to it with love.

O faithful, let us rejoice spiritually today * with the glorious ranks of the angels, * splendidly celebrating * the radiant festivity of the Mother of God; * for her pure image

has appeared * like an ever-flowing spring, * ever streaming abundant gifts of healing upon the world.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 5*

Strange and ineffable is the wonder of the appearing of your image, O Lady. It amazes the inhabitants of heaven and moves those on earth to awe, and illumines them with the radiant grace of Christ our God who was born of you. Entreat him, O pure one, on your divine festival, that he grant us enlightenment and great mercy.

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

O immaculate Virgin, * what thanks can we offer you? * For by the radiant manifestation of the most pure icon * of you and the child who was born of you * you confirm the hearts of the faithful.

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

O most holy Queen and Lady, * do not forget us, your servants, * who bow down before your wonder-working icon * and piously sing to you: * Deliver us, O Lady, from all misfortunes and temptations.

Verse I will make known your name to every generation.

O exulted Mother, * take pity on our entreaty; * for we are the heritage of you and your Son. * Save and have mercy upon us all, * that we may magnify you unceasingly.

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

Your monastery, O Bride of God, is a calm haven for all who have recourse to it with faith; for it has within it your all-precious icon, which imparts abundant grace to all.

Troparion of the Tikhvin Icon, tone 4

Today your most precious icon shines upon us in the air like the radiant sun, O Lady, illumining the world with rays of mercy; and the expanse of Russia, reverently receiving it from on high as a gift of God, glorifies you as the sovereign of all, O Mother of God, and joyously magnifies Christ our God who was born of you. Entreat him, O Lady, our queen and Mother of God, that he preserve all cities and lands where Christians live unharmed by all the assaults of the enemy, and save those who with faith worship before your most honoured image of him and you, O unwedded Virgin.

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* With what wreaths of praise...

With what pure lips * shall we bless the Mother of God, * who is more honourable than the cherubim, * more holy than the seraphim, * and more glorious than the angels * and all the saints, * the immovable throne of the king, * the house where the Most High made his abode, * the salvation of the world, * the sanctification of God; * who on her godly festival * richly impart great mercy * to the faithful?

What spiritual songs * shall we now offer you, O most pure one? * For by the wondrous transit * of your precious icon * you have sanctified the world; * by its wondrous appearance * you have amazed the whole Russian land; * and by its radiant arrival * you have illumined the desolate and trackless place * where you now abide * in your divine icon, * unceasingly imparting great mercy to the world * through your omnipotent intercession.

What cries of compunction * did they offer to you, O Mother of God, * when the pious people beheld your radiant icon * miraculously suspended in the air, * shining with beams of splendour? * With lamentation they prayed, * weeping and crying out: * Come to us, O Queen, come down, O Lady. * Send down the compassion of your love for mankind, * and visit us from on high. * With your radiant coming illumine those who are in darkness, * and remain with us for ever, * richly imparting great mercy to the world.

What shall we offer to you, O all-holy Virgin, * for your great goodness and love for mankind? * For gloriously you have imparted * through the air, upon the land of Russia, * your divine gift, your greatly wondrous icon, * O pure divine Maiden; * and by the grace of God, * through the miracles which proceed therefrom, * we are delivered from misfortune, * receive in abundance * healing of every illness for our bodies and souls, * and unceasingly draw forth great mercy.

*And 4 verses tone 5,
to the Special Melody* Rejoice...

Rejoice, O pure Mother of God, our hope; rejoice, O Lady, greeted by the angel with joy; rejoice, birthgiver to the radiance of the Father; rejoice, O blessed, pure and all-holy Virgin, alone hymned by all; rejoice, speedy helper and fervent aid of Christians amid tribulations; rejoice, exalted boast and most high glory of Orthodoxy, who gave birth to the good Shepherd who has sought us who were lost, has loosed us who were bound with the bonds of sin, and who grants the world great mercy. *Twice*

Rejoice, O all-holy Virgin, vehicle of our salvation who has poured forth joy and blessing upon all, having given birth in the flesh without seed to the source of good things, who is more comely in beauty than all the children of men: Jesus, the deliverer of all the world. whom you held on your most pure arm. And now we gaze upon him lovingly in the precious image, who with you has radiantly come to us for the healing of our bodily infirmities and the salvation of our souls.

Rejoice today, O Christ-loving land of Russia, for the glory of the Lord has shone upon you in the glorious appearance of the icon of the Mother of God. In accordance with the providence of God, it has come wondrously and in splendour to you through the air. Dance now and be glad, O Novgorod the Great, for you have received within the boundaries of your dominion her who has emitted divine radiance from on high, pouring forth the grace of miracles. Adorn yourself and keep splendid festival, O honoured monastery of the Mother of God, for your comeliness has most beautifully been made clear; within you is the great treasure of the whole world, the miraculous icon of the Lady, which arrived gloriously upon the air, granting great mercy to the faithful.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 6*

Today multitudes of the faithful rejoice; for your divine icon has appeared on the air, O Lady, like a sun of surpassing radiance, shining with great light, and, emitting rays of mercy in all directions, it illumines the faithful. Joining chorus, the angels minister to you today, and honouring you, they have invisibly transported your icon from place to place, O Mother of God; and when they had borne it to the place chosen by God, they reverently set it down with due glorification. But what shall we, who are clay, offer you? And what fitting hymns can we raise for your arrival? We are at a loss and merely marvel, magnifying the loving kindness you have shown us. But earnestly entreat your Son and our God, O most holy Lady, that he grant victory over heresies to our Orthodox bishops, peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

Entrance. Prokimenon of the day. Three 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 Come, all you who love the feasts of the Church, let us bless the wondrous appearance of the icon of the Mother of God; for it has gloriously shone forth in godly manner, and the world has been enlightened by its holy manifestation. With lips and heart, with hymns and spiritual songs, let us splendidly celebrate this holy day with all who have come here.

Tone 8 When your icon was first painted by the proclaimer of the mysteries of the Gospel, and was brought to you, for you to take and impart to it the power to save those who honour you, you rejoiced, as you are the merciful collaborator in our salvation, and gave utterance and voice to the icon, and, as once when you conceived God, you sang the hymn: From this day all generations will call me blessed. And, gazing at the icon you said with authority: My grace and power is with this image. And we truly believe what you said, O Lady, that in this image you are with us. Standing before it with reverence, we your servants bow down before you: visit us with your maternal compassion.

Who can fittingly acknowledge the great depth of your miracles, O pure one? For in your loving visitation the wilderness has received your miraculous icon from on high. Then a pious man beheld you in splendour, conversing with the holy hierarch Nicholas, and, unable to bear your ineffable radiance, he fell upon the ground, bereft of sight until that wondrous hierarch raised him up, dispelling his fear with kindness. And you, O pure one, illumining him with the light of your mercy, commanded that it was your good pleasure that a cross be erected, to benefit the salvation of the faithful.

Tone 4 Let the clouds drip with sweetness, and let the earth rejoice in gladness for your ineffable mercy, O most pure one. For a wondrous miracle is seen, O Lady: what before was a wilderness bereft of any splendour and known and traversed by no one, is now, by your visitation, O Mother of God, shown to be a monastery adorned like a city, and an ever-splendid church, wherein a divine treasure, your wondrous icon, is shown. And we, gazing upon its magnificence and falling prostrate with fervour, kiss it with joy and fear: fear, for we are unworthy because of our sins; and joy, because of the mercy which you impart to us, your servants, as you are full of loving-kindness.

O good Lady, mighty helper of the world: make mighty our Orthodox hierarchs against heresies and schisms, as once God did for gentle David; and as of old you saved the Imperial City from the assault of foreigners, so now save this land from the attacks of adversaries, and preserve it from all the incursions of the foe. For with God you, the Bride of God, are the protection and salvation of all the faithful.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 5*

The land of Russia rejoices today with the host of heaven, enriched from on high with the icon of the Mother of God; and it cries out, summoning the Christ-loving flock: Come, you faithful, and adorn yourselves with light for the festival of the Mother of God. Come, those who love the feasts of the Church, and be glad on the wondrous feast of the Queen of all. Behold the divine treasure which abundantly imparts gifts of miracles to all. Delighting in his great loving-kindness, let us joyfully send cries of thanksgiving, singing with gladness to her who gave birth to him: Glory to Christ our God who was incarnate of you, O Lady, who has given such grace to us.

Aposticha, tone 2,
to the Special Melody When from the Tree...

When Moses beheld the bush burning without being consumed, which prefigured your most pure womb, where dwelt the divine fire, O Virgin, he was seized with fear, marvelling at the mystery; so also, O Lady, when your people beheld your pure image, which, by the good pleasure of him who was incarnate of you, remained unconsumed by the material fire through the immaterial power of God, and with grace shone brighter than the sun, illumining the hearts of the faithful, they cried out to your Son with joy: Glory to your loving-kindness, O lover of mankind.

Verse I will make known your name to every generation.

When amid the horrible earthquake stones buried the builders of your church, O Lady, the people were pierced with sorrow, certain that they were dead. What a glorious wonder it was, as of old the Word of God and God of all, whose will it was to be incarnate of you, preserved Jonah unharmed for three days in the belly of the whale, so he worked a miracle through your intercession: for though they were buried for three days, you preserved them alive and unhurt, and taught them to sing with joy: Glory to

the magnitude of the love for mankind and the compassion of him who glorifies you who gave seedless birth.

Tone 5

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

When, with great sorrow, the people wished to take up the remains of those builders who had been buried under the stones for a space of three days, O full of grace, then, as your Son and God wished to glorify yet more your intercession for the holy monastery, they discovered them to be alive and unharmed, through your protection. Filled with gladness, they glorified you, their kind Lady, and him who was born of you, and they cried out with joy: Glory to your compassion, O lover of mankind.

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

Come, all you faithful, and let us make haste to the church of the Mother of God; for her precious icon shines there like a beacon of piety, illumining with the grace of God the minds of those who love the feasts of the Church; and, driving away the darkness of the gloom of sin, it works glorious miracles for those who have recourse to it, and expels evil spirits. It gives strength against heresies to the Orthodox hierarchs, is a rampart and bulwark for all the earth, makes her monastery strong by her mighty assistance, is glorified in glorious victories over the enemy, summons the faithful to keep festival, and teaches them to cry out with joy to the Mother of God: O Mother of God, you are our might and confirmation, our hope and salvation with God, and we pray to you: Entreat your Son and our God, to deliver us from torment on the day of judgment, and grant us his heavenly kingdom.

Troparion of the Tikhvin Icon, tone 4

Today your most precious icon shines upon us in the air like the radiant sun, O Lady, illumining the world with rays of mercy; and the expanse of Russia, reverently receiving it from on high as a gift of God, glorifies you as the sovereign of all, O Mother of God, and joyously magnifies Christ our God who was born of you. Entreat him, O Lady, our queen and Mother of God, that he preserve all cities and lands where Christians live unharmed by all the assaults of the enemy, and save those who with faith worship before your most honoured image of him and you, O unwedded Virgin.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the icon, 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 4*

With divine rays enlighten and make firm the minds of those who hymn you, O immaculate Virgin, the mighty helper for the world; that with love we may celebrate, praising you and glorifying the glorious coming of your image, as we pray: From every evil circumstance save your servants by your supplications, O most blessed Lady.

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

By the omnipotent power of your Son and God, O Bride of God, your image has come like a star of surpassing radiance and has gloriously arrived, travelled from the East to the West, illumining those held fast by the darkness of sorrows, delivering them from the threats of the enemy, loosing their bonds, and revealing your mighty intercession to all the world as an invincible weapon; for the Master of all, who took flesh of you, glorifies your pure image, and as a Son he honours you as his Mother.

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.

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 6

You are truly the help of the helpless, O most pure Mother of God; therefore, we, the lowly, are exalted by you and caught up to the heights. You are a refuge for all and a most merciful intercessor before God.

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 6

Today multitudes of the faithful rejoice; for your divine icon has appeared on the air, O Lady, like a sun of surpassing radiance, shining with great light, and, emitting rays of mercy in all directions, it illumines the faithful. Joining chorus, the angels minister to you today, and honouring you, they have invisibly transported your icon from place to place, O Mother of God; and when they had borne it to the place chosen by God, they reverently set it down with due glorification. But what shall we, who are clay, offer you? And what fitting hymns can we raise for your arrival? We are at a loss and merely marvel,

magnifying the loving kindness you have shown us. But earnestly entreat your Son and our God, O most holy Lady, that he grant victory over heresies to our Orthodox bishops, peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

We sing two canons of the Mother of God

Ode 1

*The first Canon, tone 8,
upon the acrostic* O full of grace, grant me the grace to sing a simple hymn

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 omnipotent Trinity, three-sunned unity, having illumined my soul, heart and mind and sanctified them with grace, I pray you, lead me to your divine love and teach me to hymn the compassion of the blessed Ever-virgin with devotion.

O good Mother of the good king, who readily heeds the petitions of all and mighty in favour, shine upon us and fill us with your grace today, O Lady full of the grace of God, that we may begin to sing hymnody to you.

The glorification of your present feast gives joy to the choirs of the angels O Lady, for today they are moved to praise. But what shall we, who are clay, offer to you? Only fervent hymns of thanksgiving.

We sing to you the cry of the archangel: Rejoice, O pure one. Even though we are unworthy, O Lady, accept this hymnody instead of goodness, illumining us with the light of your mercy and granting grace to all.

A second canon, tone 4

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.

O Christ, giver of light, on this eminent day of the glorious appearing of the icon of your Mother, may I splendidly celebrate and gladly hymn her miracles, in fear and joy.

O Virgin who gave birth to the incarnate light-bestowing Word of God, the Wisdom of the Father: enlighten the profound darkness of my ignorance and provide me with the words to hymn your wonders.

Today the congregations of the faithful are enlightened and the hordes of heretics are put to shame, O Lady, seeing your icon traversing the air like the sun, destroying the gloom of impiety and illumining the faithful.

With God, O divine Bride, you alone are our greatness and boast; for through you are we saved from misfortunes: O Lady, from eternal torment deliver your servants who hymn your wonders.

Katavasia I will open my mouth...

Ode 3

First Canon

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.

Come, behold a glorious sight, you faithful, and look upon the most pure Virgin, who with reverence shines on high in her pure image, illumining with grace us who reverently sing: There is none more pure than you, O Lady.

The mind of each of the faithful is hallowed by your grace, O Mother of God, and exalted by the wondrous coming of your icon. Grant to us, your servants, who honour it with piety and glorify you with faith, O Lady, to partake thereof.

O Bride of God, may we tread the heavenly path unassailed, strengthened to do godly works; that leaving the path of the evil one's wiles by your help, O Virgin, we may have a share in eternal glory.

With the beams of Christ the true light, who shone forth ineffably from you, O Mother of God, and with your own grace, illumine the souls and hearts of us who are in darkness. O full of grace, sanctify us, guiding us to love of the heavenly light.

Second 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.

O Christ the pre-eternal king, illumine us with the pure image of you and your ever-virgin Mother, and grant us remission of offences and deliverance from misfortunes.

When the people beheld your most pure icon invisibly upborne by the angels and suspended in the air amid radiance, O Lady, illumined with the light of your mercy they were filled with ineffable joy.

O God-loving hierarchs and priests, monarchs and all the people, radiantly join chorus today, for a radiant beam has shone forth on high, holding the true light depicted in the flesh. With him she has come down to us, granting enlightenment to the world.

Through your precious icon the creator of all worked wonders of old and saved the Imperial City from the incursions of foreigners. So also be a protection and help for the land of Russia, O Lady and Queen, saving it from every assault of the enemy.

Sessional Hymn, tone 4

Your most pure image, O Lady, truly more precious than the ark of old, shining more brightly than amber, emits rays of mercy revealing them to all, in every place, in abundance, and with the grace of God mercifully preserves those who honour its glorious coming. Rejoicing in this, O Lady, we glorify your maternal loving kindness toward us.

Ode 4

First Canon

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 creator and fashioner of all, who with supreme power uphold all things, has today arrived most gloriously, O pure Virgin, borne on your arm in his and your divine and miraculous image, for the salvation and healing of men.

Come, O faithful, bow down before the ineffable gift of God, the icon of Christ the light and the most pure Virgin, and with love cry out: For the sake of the kind ever-virgin who gave birth to you, impart grace and mercy to us, your servants.

O Queen of the Angels, and noetic Ark: God has adorned and glorified your pure image with miracles and grace beyond that of the Ark of the Law, commanding even the angels to venerate it: with them pray to him for us who glorify his saving providence.

O most good and immaculate helper given by God in his grace to us Christians, entreat him, that he overlook our countless offences and deliver us from fiery retribution and the outermost darkness, and from every torment.

Second 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.

Let the earth and the air be glad today, and let the clouds cause joy to fall in drops, for by the miraculous journey of the precious image of the Mother of God the land of Russia is gloriously illumined.

As befits servants, the ranks of the angels minister to you, the Queen of all, and they reverently honour your most precious icon, hymning you, the most holy Virgin: but how can we lowly ones worthily hymn you, the most pure one?

We cry out to you the hymn of the archangel: Rejoice, O Bride of God, the Lord is with you; rejoice. Save the souls of those who hymn you, O pure Mother of God.

O Mother of God, bestower of joy: fill with ineffable joy those who glorify you and hymn you with all their soul, and grant them the unfading light, O Lady full of grace.

Ode 5

First Canon

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.

In your merciful good pleasure, O full of grace, you have graciously enlightened our land with your godly appearance, imparting the mystical illumination of your light upon the world, guiding the faithful to the light of heavenly glory.

Darkened in mind and weighed down by sins, O Lady, we are at a loss how to confess your radiant grace and mercy; but illumine us, visit us and make us rich through your mystical gifts of divine longing, directing us to the light of the right path.

Lead those who, from every direction, hasten to your honoured icon, O Mother of God, to bow down before it with fervour and call upon you with faith; and save them from misfortune, imparting tranquility and health, O Lady.

Forsake us not who are cruelly troubled by grievous thoughts, vile memories and the wicked foe; but cover us with your grace, to help and protect us from them, O blessed of God.

Second 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.

In the wilderness, the reverent man beheld you with the holy hierarch, O Mother of God, and he received from you the words of your good pleasure, for the confirmation and salvation of the world.

As one wretched and unworthy to behold you now, O most pure Lady, yet grant that I may behold you in the future, and meet your Son who shall come in glory.

We flee to your goodness, O pure Virgin, and direct the eyes of our hearts at you; and bending our knees while weeping, we entreat you: Reject not our sighing, and be a protection and helper for us on the day of judgment.

As the intercessor for all Christians, O most pure Mother of God, hearken to our supplication: look upon us, save your city and monastery, and illumine your flock with the radiant grace of your aid.

Ode 6

First Canon

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.

In the glorious arrival of your icon, O Queen, our wide land and its air are filled with the grace of your miracles and divine gifts, to the confirmation of the faithful.

Preserve your holy dwelling from the assaults of the adversary and the attacks of the enemy, O city of God and virgin Bride; and the cities and lands where Christians live, who hymn you with love and with faith honour your precious image.

O Mother of God, ever give sanctification, health and salvation to the souls and bodies of us who piously venerate your divine icon, reverently and fearfully kiss it with mouth and heart, and faithfully hymn you with all our soul.

With you as a mighty protection, O Ever-virgin Mother of God, after God it is on you that we, the faithful, hope: by your power render the darts of the enemy and all the wiles of the demons impotent and ineffective.

Second Canon

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.

How wondrous your miracle, O Lady; for in disobeying your command, a man was caught up in horror from the pinnacle of the church, but, by your mercy, he found himself on the ground, unharmed.

No one has disobeyed the commands of God as have I, a wretch. Therefore, falling down before you, I pray, O Lady: Before I perish utterly, guide me to the path of truth, and save me.

O Mother of God, who has given birth to him who endured crucifixion on the tree of the cross for us, ever ask that we who commemorate his holy suffering may do his divine will and become heirs to the eternal good things.

Deliver us from cruel circumstances, O virgin Lady, entreating him who nailed our sins to the cross, that we may worthily stand at his right hand when he comes in glory.

Kontakion, tone 8

Let us hasten to the virgin Mother of God and Queen, O people, and give thanks to Christ our God; and gazing with contrition upon her miraculous icon, let us fall down and cry out to her: O Mary, our Lady who has visited Tikhvin with the miraculous appearance of your precious icon, save our Orthodox hierarchs and all Christians in peace and prosperity; may we be inheritors of the life of heaven who with faith sing to you: Rejoice, O Virgin, salvation of the world.

Ikos Beholding the wondrous appearance of the Mother of God, let us ascend to the summit of the virtues and lift our mind up to heaven; for she has come, traversing the heavens, that she may draw up to the heights those who cry out to her: Rejoice, intercessor given by God to the Christian people: earnestly preserve them from every misfortune and evil, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O Virgin, salvation of the world.

Ode 7

First Canon

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.

Your image, O Lady, which even the angels revere, ever shines with ineffable grace and power; for today you illumine mortals with its gifts, guide them to heaven, and lead them to eternal life, in your ineffable goodness, O full of grace.

The mouths of orators are unable to confess your godly manifestation, the glorious arrival of your icon, and the abyss of your miracles, O pure one. What then shall we, who are coarse, say? Only: have mercy and save us, O most merciful Lady.

O renowned helper of the faithful and bestower of all good things: accept us who fall down in faith and cry out to you with love: Have mercy upon us, O Lady, have mercy upon us; and today, as in the age to come, be our helper and aid.

O merciful Mother of God, open to us today the portals of your mercy, and snatch us from the jaws of the noetic wolves who would devour us and destroy us utterly. O Lady, have mercy; turn not away from your servants.

Second Canon

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.

How wondrous it is, that your only-begotten Son, the God of all, kept your pure image safe amid the flames, O Mother of God; for it was found, shining more brightly than the sun, illumining the faithful who sing with faith: Blessed are you, O God.

The ranks of heaven rejoice with those born on earth on your splendid festival, O Mother of God: with the light of your radiance, illumine us who celebrate it and who stand with fear before your pure image.

O Queen who gave birth to the incarnate Word, the King of Heaven, one of the Trinity: implore him, O Lady, that victory be given to our Orthodox hierarchs over heresies and schisms, and to the faithful aid, remission of sins and salvation of soul.

As you gave birth to the benefactor of all, O pure one, with your light-giving and divine grace cover your servants, who hymn you and pray to you with unwavering faith; protect and preserve us from every assault of the foe.

Ode 8

First Canon

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.

The excellent ranks of heaven piously reverence your pure image and its wondrous arrival, O most pure one, and it gloriously moves the Orthodox people to raise their voices in hymnody and glorify your Son as creator of all, for ever.

With glorious hymns today, with devotion and love we bow down before your image, which is revered even by angels, O Lady and Queen. Cover our hierarchs with your divine grace and strengthen them against heresies and schisms, and maintain their authority in peace.

Rejoice, O blessed and immaculate one, cause of joy: rejoice, O full of grace, our might, rampart and refuge. Save us, your servants, who have no help than you before God; for in you we trust, and you we hymn for ever.

With God, you are the preserver of our life and our mighty hope of salvation, O gracious one: we implore you to mediate for us until the end, that we may be delivered from the reckoning to come, and find your Son and God merciful on the day of judgment.

Second Canon

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.

How glorious are your wonders, O pure one, for the builders of your holy church, buried beneath the stones for three days, were found alive and unharmed, preserved by your protection; and they sent up cries of praise to you, the Queen of all.

You gave life to one who had died, O Mother of God: keep us safe, who have been slain because of our many sins, and lead us up to the higher life, saving our souls.

Today the faithful are filled with joy and gladness because of your icon, O Mother of God, a cause of life for those in the jaws of death, an ever-flowing fountain pouring forth gifts of healing and salvation to all.

Accept the supplication of the people who have gathered from all places, fittingly to hymn the glorious arrival of the pure image of you and the child to whom you gave birth, the true God.

Ode 9

First Canon

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.

Your icon, O Lady, moved by God on its path through the luminous air, and radiantly traversing invisible ways, has illumined with grace on earth the faithful who cry with faith: Truly you are higher in honour than all, O pure Virgin.

We cannot fittingly adorn the accounts of your exalted miracles with rhetoric, O pure Queen; we can only pray fervently to you, that you entreat your Son, who has given you to us as an glorious helper, that he grant us his heavenly kingdom.

O full of the grace of God, accept from us this hymnody in thanksgiving for your ineffable loving kindness, fulfilling those of our petitions which are beneficial; and lead us to the heights of heaven who cry out to you with faith: Truly you are higher in honour than all, O immaculate Virgin.

All of us, the generations of men, joyously call you blessed, O Mother of God, for you fill us with joy by the glorious arrival of your icon. Bowing down before it today, we entreat you: In the age to come, O Lady, grant your servants the joy of the elect.

Second 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.

Who cannot marvel at the appearance of your precious icon, O Lady; who cannot be amazed? For you sent it as a light-bearing gift through the air to the land of Russia, which hymns you with joy and magnifies you with faith.

O Lady, who has given ineffable joy to the world through the manifestation of your pure icon: from every grief deliver those who bow down before it with faith and kiss it with fear: save and have mercy upon all, and grant us the kingdom of heaven.

O Lady, who gave birth to God who loves mankind, in your love for us you have visited us in your divine icon; and ever having recourse to it and gazing upon its magnificence, we sing to you: O Mother of God, ever save your heritage.

With humble lips I have offered you this meager hymnody, O exulted Lady. Though I am coarse and full of sin, and unworthy to hymn you rightly, yet I trust fervently in your compassion, as you gave birth to the Saviour of the whole world. Reject this not, O Queen, but accept it and save me.

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

Honouring your pure image, whereby you have illumined us, O divine virgin Maiden, we celebrate its arrival, receiving, through your grace and that of your Son, deliverance from tribulations, misfortune and danger, O Mother of God the Most High.

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

O glorious wonder; * the icon of the Mother of God * shines with universal joy * upon us from on high, * and, imparting enlightenment to all the world, * confirmation of piety, and salvation for the faithful, * this divine gift is bestowed upon mortals. * Rejoicing therein, O Christ, we entreat you: * Save our souls, as you are full of loving kindness. *twice*

O glorious wonder; * the land of Russia is honoured above all others * by the providence of the Most High. * For it, and none other, has been granted, through his grace, * to receive this icon of the Mother of God * as a radiant and heavenly gift * gloriously sent by God from on high. * Rejoicing therein, O Christ, it cries out to you with compunction: * O good one, save our souls, as you are full of loving kindness.

Most gloriously, O Mother of God, * your monastery boasts in you, * among all lands, O Bride of God, * for it has within itself your miraculous icon * which was

wondrously and gloriously * transported through the air by the angels; * and receiving ineffable healings from it, * we cry out with words of thanksgiving to you: * O holy Virgin save our souls, as you are full of loving kindness.

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

As once the Imperial City rejoiced to possess your icon, O most pure Virgin, vanquishing the adversary with the aid of God,
so now the land of Russia, having wondrously acquired your image as its aid, celebrates with gladness, O Lady.
Your honoured monastery is also greatly adorned,
with you, its protection and firm defence against the assaults of the foe.
And your church, O Mother of God, like that of Blachernae of old,
shines with your pure image, illumined with glorious miracles;
and, rejoicing spiritually, it sings today with all the faithful:
Rejoice, most holy Virgin, our majesty, our boast and eternal gladness;
you enrich us with wondrous miracles and divine gifts,
O Lady, the inexhaustible fountain of healings,
consolation for those amid misfortunes
and protection and salvation of the faithful.

Great Doxology, troparion, litanies and the rest

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 of the first Canon and 4 from Ode 6 of the second.

Entrance: the troparion of the icon;

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *the Kontakion of the icon.*

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.

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

Alleluia, tone 2

Arise, O Lord, into your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.
The Lord has sworn an oath to David, which he will not break.

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

Communion Verse

June 26

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

June 27

The uncovering of the relics of the 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 formed 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 lampstand, * 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 noetically before God, * protected by the shelter of his wings, * bearing the spirit of peace, * thereby drawing 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 dispassion * 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,

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 wonderful 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 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 Nikon 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 heaven. * Then you abandoned 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 things in the world; * but, considering all things as dung, * you hastened to please God, * founding yourself on 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,
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 neighbour,
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 the 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 you lived in humility on earth, freely healing the sufferings of the infirm; and you became conversors with the angels, O blessed fathers of Optina. By your supplications heal also 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, as 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 praise the Lord... *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 Paraclisis], 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 became 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 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.

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 genuine obedience, the begetter of dispassion; and as one meek, pure and merciful, you said: I am useless without my father.

Chaste-minded Joseph faithfully followed the steps of his father: he humbled himself even to death, thus emulating Christ the Master. We implore 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.

Isaacus, 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, Isaacus and Nikon 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.

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 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 seen, * 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.

June 28

Translation of the Relics of the Unmercenary Healers Cyrus and John

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

With hymns let us honour Cyrus * and with him great John, * the two martyrs *
who possessed the radiance of the Trinity , * the foundation of the faith, * the flowers
breathing forth * the true fragrance * of the understanding of Christ, * for they pray
unceasingly for us to the Lord. *Twice*

With fasting and radiance of life * you shone forth, * and later you adorned your
soul with suffering, * O glorious Cyrus. * You abandoned an earthly army, * O wise
John, * and found the army of heaven. * Entreating the Savior, O blessed ones, * you
both pray for those who bless your memory. *Twice*

You were physicians of the infirm, O blessed ones, * and never-waning luminaries
* of the divine faith, * uttering confession together * and sharing in the lot of the martyrs.
* Having truly received crowns from Christ, * O glorious Cyrus and wise John, *
unceasingly entreat the Saviour * for those who hymn you with faith. *Twice*

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*

Two martyrs shine upon us today,
healing the pangs of our souls:
Cyrus and John, the wonder-workers.
One, embracing the angelic life and living it to the end,
united himself to Christ through the blood of martyrdom;
and the other, shining among the military ranks,
is now enrolled in the armies of heaven.
They impart healing to those who with faith celebrate their memory,
as they pray for our souls.

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

I cannot bear to see you, my child, * who gives vigilance to all, * asleep upon the
tree, * in your wish to bestow divine and saving wakefulness * upon those who of old fell *

into the sleep of perdition * by eating the fruit of disobedience: * thus spoke the Virgin, weeping. * Her do we magnify.

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

Come, you gatherings of the faithful,
with hymns let us crown Cyrus and John today:
the soldiers of grace and generous fulfillers of petitions;
for in many ways they are presented to us as most splendid physicians,
who pray for our souls.

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 forth of his own will, as a man, to the slaughter, she said, weeping:
Why do you now hasten to leave me childless who gave you birth, O Christ?
What is this that you have done, O deliverer of all?
I hymn and glorify your utter goodness
which transcends understanding and speech, O lover of mankind.

Troparion, tone 5

You have granted us the miracles of your holy martyrs
as an impregnable stronghold, O Christ our God.
Through their intercessions, keep us safe from all strife
and preserve our country in peace;
for you alone are good and loving to mankind.

Matins

Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the saints, tone 8

Ode 1

Irmos Let us sing to Christ, who overthrew the tyranny of Pharaoh in the sea, who guided Israel across on dry land, for he has been glorified for ever.

O faithful, let us sing to him who has revealed honourable Cyrus and John as wonder workers and physicians in the world: let us honour the memory of the martyrs who heal the sufferings of all by grace.

Rejecting temporal things, by shedding their blood the lovers of that which is to come followed him who truly loves; and suffering amid wounding, they endured valiantly.

Having fortified themselves with boldness and strengthened their souls, taught by Christ they bravely struggled in martyrdom and wisely plaited wreaths for themselves.

Theotokion O Mother of the truth, save me, bitterly bestormed by the passions and often drowning, and guide me to the safety of the calm haven.

Ode 3

Irmos There is none as holy as the Lord, and none as righteous as our God, whom all creation hymns. There is none more righteous than you, O Lord.

You honed your holy ones with faith, O Christ, forged them with hope, and fired them with love; and with tridents you wove for them a three-stranded wreath.

Valiantly you withstood the ungodly tyrants, O invincible martyrs, passing unharmed over the snares of deception; for armed by Christ, you now rejoice with him.

Like divinely erected pillars upon firm foundations the martyrs were planted upon the rock of faith, having drunk the water of immortality from the cup of Christ.

Theotokion You became the dwelling-place of the Spirit, having received the fullness of the Godhead in the Son and given birth to the Saviour, Lord and deliverer of our race.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Lifted up...

Trampling underfoot the pleasures which drag men down,
by grace you were taken up in splendour to the divine heights of martyrdom,
O athletes Cyrus and John, luminaries of all the world.
We implore you to free us from the darkness of sin and affliction,

entreating him who is God over all.

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

Theotokion As a lover of sin, I beseech you, O most pure Lady,
who gave birth to the sinless God who takes away the sins of the world,
to have pity on my 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 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.

With faith you sacrificed to Christ body, soul and mind, and the workings of your
heart; and vanquishing the savagery of the tyrants you were rightly crowned, O holy
ones.

Surrendering your bodies to the sword and to fire, you became sacrifices
acceptable to God, and on a mystical altar you gave yourselves as a fragrant offering.

The relics of your martyrs shine upon the world with inextinguishable radiance, O
benefactor; thereby the darkness of ignorance has been dispelled and the knowledge of
God has been instilled.

Theotokion O pure Lady, portal of the divine Word, from all evils protect and preserve
those who assemble in your church and praise you with hymns, the most pure one.

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.

The virgins, having acquired the passion-bearers as companions, laid hold of the
perfect crown of victory, rejoicing.

Illumined by the radiance of the divine glory, O exalted martyrs, you ever enlighten the world.

Emulating the sufferings of the Lord, O invincible passion-bearers, with valiant mind you endured pain.

Theotokion Still the inconstant turmoil of my passions, O Lady who gave birth to God the helmsman and Lord.

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.

Valiantly arrayed in the breastplate of the faith, O martyrs, you grievously wounded the adversary.

In hymns we glorify the memory of your saints, O Christ, and to you our God we offer worship with faith.

Emulating your sufferings, O Christ, the glorious martyrs endured tortures: through their supplications, save us all, O God.

Theotokion O Mother of God, we the faithful declare you to be the ark and temple of God, the living bridal-chamber and portal of heaven.

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

Receiving the gift of miracles
from divine grace, O holy ones,
unceasingly you work wonders,
cutting away all our afflictions with invisible skill,
O divinely-wise Cyrus and glorious John,
since you are divine physicians.

Ikos Offering yourselves to God, O holy ones, you endured every trial for his sake, dying zealously, O valiant martyrs; and even after your repose you pour divine gifts upon all in their various infirmities, healing the afflictions of many, of whom I am first, wretch that I am. For I ail in body and soul through cruel wounding, and with faith I cry out to you: Heal me, since you are divine physicians.

Ode 7

Irmos By an angel you saved the youths from the fire and changed the raging furnace into dew: blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Your saints Cyrus and John, O Lord, as lovers of the glory of heaven, forsook transitory and corruptible glory.

Giving up their bodies as a reasonable sacrifice and shedding their blood for you, their God, your passion-bearers were wholly consumed in worship, O Jesus.

Awesome is the company of the martyrs, for even after their death they drive away evil spirits and impart healing to the infirm.

Theotokion Immaculately you gave birth to him who is the cause of all, who in his surpassing goodness became man; therefore, we bless you, O pure one.

Ode 8

Irmos Begotten of the Father before time began, and incarnate of his Mother in latter days, sing to him you priests, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Repelled by idolatrous sacrifices, O valiant martyrs, you offered yourselves as spiritual sacrifices on the altar of heaven.

Performing mystical services, you offered the severing of your limbs as acceptable sacrifices to him whose body and blood are offered on the altar and in the chalice.

Having eluded him who caused our first mother to fall, you embraced him who is the torrent of sustenance, and tasted of the divine tree, O virgins who adorned yourselves with sufferings.

Theotokion The prophecies of the prophets received their divine fulfillment in you, O most holy Lady, and they move the world to hymn you as is fitting.

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.

Cyrus and John, warriors of Christ and physicians of the ailing, heal us all, for you have received the grace of miracles from God.

Standing forth, invincible Cyrus and John utterly dispel the passions of the soul by faith and the power of Christ.

O God our creator, whom Cyrus and John professed of old, have pity on those who celebrate the memory of their martyrdom.

Theotokion Let us all divinely honour the Mother of our God; as for her sake we who hymn her have been granted heavenly honour.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody Adorning the heavens with stars...

O wonder-working luminaries Cyrus and John, having received from the Lord the grace of healings, cure our infirmities of soul and body.

Theotokion You were the cause of the good things given by God to the world, O Mother of God. Entreat God, who is readily reconciled, for the salvation of us all.

Aposticha from the Octoechos; and Glory be to the Father... *tone 4*

With hymns of beautiful praises, O faithful, let us magnify Cyrus and John, who in spirit were of one blood and in the flesh were of brotherly mind; we praise with them valiant Athanasia and her children, the ever-virginal athletes Theodote, Evdoxia and Theoctiste, who entreat Christ 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...

Beholding Christ crucified, who loves mankind, O most pure one, * his side pierced by a spear, * you cried out, weeping: * What is this, O my Son? * How have the ungrateful people rewarded you * for the good you did for them? * How can you hasten thus to leave me childless, O most beloved? * I marvel, O compassionate one, * at your voluntary crucifixion.

Liturgy

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

Prokimenon, tone 4

Those who are held holy on the earth, the Lord displays them as a fair land.
Verse I have set the Lord always before me: he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

Epistle to the Corinthians, number 153 [1 Cor 12:27-13:8]

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 Matthew, number 34 from the midpoint [10: 1, 5-8]

Communion Verse

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

June 29

Apostles Peter and Paul

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

You have given your honourable apostles,
to your Church as its praise, O Lord,
where Peter and Paul, the stars of the Word,
shine forth as noetic luminaries,
shedding light upon the whole world.
By them you have enlightened the darkness of the West,
O Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

You have given strength to your Church, O Lord:
the steadfastness of Peter,
the understanding and splendid wisdom of Paul,
and the truly divine proclamation of them both,
which dispelled the deception of the Greeks.
Therefore, having come to know the mysteries by both of them,
we sing to you Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

You have given to the sinful
a model of repentance in your two apostles.
For one denied you at the time of your suffering, yet repented;
while the other opposed the preaching of you, but later came to believe.
And both are pre-eminent among the company of their peers,
Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 8,
composed by John the Monk*

You troubled and persecuted the Church, O blessed Paul, but when you were called from heaven, you defended it most gloriously. Pray that it be delivered from misfortune, and that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever... same tone

Theotokion Your protection is healing for our souls, O virgin Mother of God: fleeing to it, we are delivered from the ailments of our souls.

Prokimenon of the day.

*Aposticha, tone 2,
to the Special Melody* When from the tree...

O Peter, foundation of the apostles, rock of the Church of Christ, prince of Christians: gloriously tend the sheep of your fold, protect your lambs from the wolves of falsehood, deliver your flock from grievous perils; for we have truly acquired you as a never-tiring advocate before God, and, boasting in you, we are all saved.

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

O Paul, fisher of the nations, intercessor for Christians, beacon for the whole world, ever-speaking mouth of Christ the living God, who in preaching the divine faith has passed over the ends of the earth like the sun: from the bonds of sin release all who praise you and are adorned by your supplications.

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

O Peter, pre-eminent disciple, and Paul who supplemented the rank of the apostles: foremost preachers, earnestly pray with boldness to God, and impart speedy help and release from misfortune to us who are sorrowful, that we may boast in faith in your tabernacle, by deeds revealing your protection.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 4,*
composed by John the Monk

Having chosen you as the first, O Peter foundation of the faith, Christ crowned you, as he, the Master of all, foretold, saying to you: Blessed are you, O Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood has not disclosed and made you my sacred herald, but my Father in the heaven. Entreat him, O divinely blessed apostle, to grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever... *same tone*

Theotokion Save your servants from harm, most holy Mother of God, for after God we all flee to you, as to an unassailable wall and intercessor.

Troparion of the Apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4

First-enthroned among the apostles
and teachers of the whole world:
entreat the Master of all,
that he grant peace to the world
and great mercy to our souls.

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

Theotokion, tone 4 The mystery hidden from before the ages,

Great Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man...

At Lord I call to you... *we insert 8 verses, beginning tone 2*
with these verses composed by Andrew of Pyrrus

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul,
who were separate in body yet united in spirit,
the foremost of the preachers of God;
one, the leader of the apostles,
and the other who laboured more than the rest?
Christ our God, in his great mercy,
has surely crowned them fittingly with diadems of glory.

With what beauties of song shall we hymn Peter and Paul?
They are the wings of divine knowledge
who soared above the ends of the earth and up to the heavens,
the hands of the grace of the Gospel, and the rivers of wisdom,
the arms of the cross with which Christ in his great mercy,
has cast down the pride of the demons.

With what spiritual hymns shall we praise Peter and Paul?
They closed the gaping mouths of the ungodly,
they are the awesome swords of the Spirit,
the splendid adornments of Rome, and nurturers of the whole world,
the noetic and divinely graven tablets of the New Covenant,
which Christ, in his great mercy, proclaimed in Zion.

*[– and rather than repeat the above in order to total 8 verses,
we provide these from Little Vespers, tone 4]*

You have given your honourable apostles,
to your Church as its praise, O Lord,
where Peter and Paul, the stars of the Word,
shine forth as noetic luminaries,
shedding light upon the whole world.
By them you have enlightened the darkness of the West,
O Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

You have given strength to your Church, O Lord:
the steadfastness of Peter,
the understanding and splendid wisdom of Paul,
and the truly divine proclamation of them both,
which dispelled the deception of the Greeks.
Therefore, having come to know the mysteries by both of them,
we sing to you Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

You have given to the sinful
a model of repentance in your two apostles.
For one denied you at the time of your suffering, yet repented;
while the other opposed the preaching of you, but later came to believe.
And both are pre-eminent among the company of their peers,
Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

Glory be to the Father...

Composed by John the Monk, tone 4

By his thrice-repeated question, "Peter, do you love me",
Christ set aright the three denials;
and Simon said to the author of mysteries:
"Lord, you know all things, you understand all things,
you know that I love you."
And so the Saviour said to him: "Feed my lambs; feed my chosen ones;
feed my sheep, which I have gained for salvation by my blood."
Entreat him, O divinely bless'd apostle,
that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

Dogmatikon, tone 4

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, O gladsome light... Prokimenon and readings.

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance.

Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. (1:13-19)

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

For the Lord’s sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. honour the emperor.

Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered

for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. (2:11-24)

*Aposticha, tone 1,
to their own special melody
composed by Andrew of Crete*

Who can describe what you endured in every city, O glorious Apostle Paul,
the labours, pains, vigils, oppressive hunger, thirst and winter cold,
the basket, beatings with clubs and stones,
your journeys and the time you were thrown into the deep?
You were a spectacle for angels and for men,
enduring all things for the sake of Christ who strengthened you,
that you might gain the world for Jesus Christ the Lord.
We who honour your memory, beseech you with faith:
Pray unceasingly that our souls be saved.

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

Who can describe your imprisonment and trials
in every city, O glorious Apostle?
—or imagine your struggle and exertion to spread the glad news of Christ,
that you might obtain all and lead the Church to Christ?
Pray that it preserve your goodly confession
even to its final breath,
O Paul, apostle and teacher of the Church.

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

Let us praise Peter and Paul, the lights of the Great Church,
shining forth in the firmament of the faith brighter than the sun,
with the rays of their preaching
leading the nations from ignorance.
For one, put to death upon a cross, made his journey to heaven
where he received from Christ the keys of the kingdom;
and the other, beheaded by the sword,
passed over to the Saviour.
Both are therefore fittingly blessed,
for both proclaimed to Israel, who unjustly lifted its hand against the Lord himself.

Through their supplications, O Christ our God,
cast down those who rage against us, and strengthen the Orthodox faith,

for you are the lover of mankind.

Glory be to the Father...

Composed by Ephraim of Karyes, tone 6

A joyous feast shines today upon the ends of the earth:
the most honoured commemoration
of the all-wise and pre-eminent Apostles Peter and Paul.
Rome, joining chorus, rejoices in hymns and songs;
and we celebrate, O brothers,
observing this most honoured day, as we sing:
Rejoice, apostle Peter,
the true friend of your teacher, Jesus Christ our God.
Rejoice, most lov'd Paul,
the preacher of the faith and teacher of the world.
As you are foremost, O holy and chosen pair,
entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion, same tone

Christ, my creator and redeemer
proceeded from your womb, O most sanctified Virgin;
clothed with my flesh, he released Adam from the original curse.
Therefore O 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.

Lord, now let your servant depart... *and the rest*

Troparion of the Apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4

First-enthroned among the apostles
and teachers of the whole world:
entreat the Master of all,
that he grant peace to the world
and great mercy to our souls.

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

Theotokion, tone 4

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.

and the Dismissal.

*If it is a Vigil, at the Blessing of the Loaves we sing Virgin Mother of God rejoice... twice,
then Troparion of the Apostles once.*

Matins

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the apostles, twice;
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...
and the Theotokion in the same tone, as above.*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the special melody Of the Wisdom...*

Forsaking the fishing of the deep, having received from the Father in heaven
the divine revelation of the incarnation of the Son,
boldly you cried out with faith to your creator:
I know that you are the consubstantial Son of God.
As is fitting, you were truly shown to be a rock of faith and the key-bearer of grace.
O Apostle Peter, entreat Christ our God,
that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Another Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the special melody When the stone was sealed...*

O faithful, let us give fitting praise
to Paul the champion, the net of the world,
and exalted Peter, the rock of the Church
who holds the keys of heaven:
for the world has been enlightened by them with the faith of the Trinity.
Glory to him who has glorified you.
Glory to him who has strengthened you.
Glory to him who because of you has given us eternal life.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

Stretching forth your hands which held the creator
who had become incarnate in his goodness, O most holy Virgin,
implore him to deliver from temptations, passions and misfortunes
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.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the special melody Of the Wisdom...*

Receiving from Christ a calling from the heavens,
you became a proclaimer of the light who illumined all with the teachings of grace;
for having cast off the worship of the letter of the law, you made plain to the
faithful the understanding of the Spirit.

And so you were fittingly caught up on high to the third heaven, and have attained
paradise.

Apostle Paul, entreat Christ our God that he grant remission of sins to those who
celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Another Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the special melody You have appeared today...*

With luminous radiance you enlighten
the ends of the earth like stars
with the doctrines of holy preaching,
apostles of the Lord, participants of the mysteries of heaven.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

We, the faithful, bless the Mother of God,
through whom we have been delivered from corruption:
the fervent ally of those in tribulation,
our helper and reconciliation with God.

Polyeleos, and this magnification

We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your
teachings, and led all the ends of the earth to Christ.

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

After the Polyeleos,

*the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the special melody Of the Wisdom...*

Pre-eminent among the disciples, exalted Peter and most wise Paul,
the great and radiant luminaries,
shining with the fire of the divine Spirit, burning away every deceptive shadow:
You rightly became warriors of the kingdom on high, equally enthroned in grace,
and so we cry out: O apostles of Christ our God, ask remission of transgressions
for those who celebrate your holy memory with love. *twice*

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

As the immaculate Bride of the creator, as the Mother of the deliverer,
the exulted one who knew not wedlock, and the vessel of the Comforter,
since I am the vile abode of iniquity, hasten to deliver me
from the machinations of the demons which trifle with my mind,
and make me the splendid habitation of the virtues.
O radiant and incorrupt one, dispel from me the cloud of the passions,
and grant me communion on high and the never-waning light, through your
supplications.

We sing the Hymn of Degrees, tone 4, the first Antiphon

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 praise the Lord... *and the rest,
with the Gospel of John, number 67*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse,
to its own special melody, tone 6*

With hymns of praise let us honour
the true preachers of piety and most radiant stars of the Church:
Peter, the rock of faith,
and Paul, the teacher of the truth and participant in the mysteries of Christ.
For both of them, having sown the word of truth in the hearts of the faithful,
beseech Christ our God who gives fruitfulness to all,
that our souls be saved.

*We sing two canons composed by John of Damascus:
the first to the holy apostle Peter, and the second to the holy apostle Paul.*

Ode 1

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter, tone 4

Irmos There is none like you, the most glorious Lord; for with your mighty hand you delivered the people whom you had made your own, O lover of mankind.

With divinely inspired songs let us hymn today the foremost of the apostles among the first-called of Christ.

Having foreknown you, blessed Peter, the pre-eternal one ordained you from of old as the leader of his church, the first-enthroned.

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father inspired you to theologize Christ as the true Son of God the Most High, O apostle.

Theotokion We hymn you, the holy mountain, the most exalted chariot, the Mother of God and true Virgin.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul, tone 8

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.

When Christ called things into existence from non-existence, O blessed Paul, he chose you from your mother's womb to carry before the nations his divine name, which is above every name; for gloriously has he been glorified.

Declaring to you the coming brilliant radiance of piety and the cleansing of falsehood, O Paul, Christ, who revealed himself as bright as lightning on the mountain, dimmed your bodily eyes while enlightening the eyes of your soul with the understanding of the Trinity: for gloriously has he been glorified.

Circumcising on the eighth day as a zealot of the traditions of your fathers, O Paul, and as a legalistic Pharisee, a Jew by birth of the tribe of Benjamin, you came to consider all such things as but dung, and acquired Christ: for gloriously has he been glorified.

Theotokion O Lady, pure mother of almighty God, who from royal stock gave birth physically and supernaturally to God who alone reigns over all: Save me from misfortune, who sings to your Son: For gloriously has he been glorified.

Ode 3

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

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.

The sweet mouth of Christ our God made of you a blessed and sure treasure of the kingdom; therefore, we hymn you, O Apostle Peter.

Jesus the Master established the Church unshakably on the rock of your theology, and therein we glorify you, O Apostle Peter.

How greater than the angels was Peter; for Christ our God said that at his radiant coming he would be a judge and would be equally enthroned.

Theotokion Unwed mother, who gave birth to God: make me strong and unshaken by the assaults of the passions, for we have no other help than you, O pure one.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

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 are placed as a precious foundation stone for the souls of the faithful, a cornerstone of the Saviour and Lord.

O blessed Paul, pray that on your foundations the splendours of most laudable virtues may be set firmly.

Ever perfectly bearing the mortality of Jesus on your body, O Paul, you were granted true life.

Theotokion All of us Christians have gained you as our rampart and refuge, and we glorify you without ceasing, O unwedded mother.

Υπακοί, tone 8

What dungeon could hold you as a prisoner? What Church would not have you as an orator? Damascus extols you, O Paul, for it knew you to be blinded by the light; and Rome, which received your blood, also boasts in you; but Tarsus rejoices even more and loves you, honouring your infancy. O Peter, rock of the faith, and Paul, boast of the whole world, coming together from Rome, strengthen us.

Ode 4

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos This is our God, who became incarnate of the Virgin and has deified our nature: as we sing to him we cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

As he promised, Christ made you a divine fisher of men for his Church, firstly entrusting its helm to you.

Entreated by you, O Peter, may Jesus, the bestower of life, who gave you the authority to bind and to loose, be merciful to me.

Pray earnestly, O Peter, that the kingdom of Christ be opened to those who honour your divine memory with unwavering faith.

Theotokion Exalted Lady, the Mother of God, having cleansed my evil thoughts by your supplications, make me fruitful, O mother of the God of all.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos You mounted your steeds, your apostles, O Lord, and took their bridles in your hands; and your chariot has become salvation for those who sing with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Once Saul crouched like a lion, wrathfully destroying the Church of Christ; but he was seized by the divine voice of the Lamb of God, whom he had persecuted, and who entrusted his flock to him as shepherd.

He who would enlighten the whole world was struck blind; but Ananias was sent to him, imparting enlightenment of soul and body through divine revelation, and making him a chosen vessel.

Damascus was fittingly given drink by Paul; for from him, as from the garden of paradise, a great fount of divine waters flowed forth and irrigated the earth abundantly with knowledge divine.

Theotokion The Lord has cast down the mighty from their thrones, as the Virgin Mother said, and with divine good things he has filled the hungry who cry out with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Ode 5

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos O Lord who acquired us, the chosen people, by your blood, grant us your peace, and preserve your flock in oneness of mind.

He who through love received boldness before God has fittingly become wondrous, though he was an ignorant fisherman, and he now works glorious wonders through grace.

Your godly apostle, O Christ, having acquired neither gold nor silver for your sake, but rather virtue, has been enriched by the power of miracles.

By your effective utterance the feet and joints of the lame were set aright, for glorious things were accomplished by the divine Spirit.

Theotokion God was incarnate, and his very being was united to the flesh he received from you, O pure one; yet remaining immutable, incorporeal in his divine nature.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos Enlighten us through your commandments, O Lord; and with your upraised arm grant us your peace, O lover of mankind.

You receive true praise, O Apostle Paul, ever bearing the cross of Christ the king as a trophy.

For you to live is Christ, and to die is an excellent acquisition; for through love you were crucified with him who was crucified for our sake, O glorious Paul.

You truly rejoice in the Lord, O honourable Paul, having departed from the body and passed over to Christ our God, the giver of life.

Theotokion Ever implore your Son and our God, O pure Mary who knew not wedlock, that he send his mercy upon us, the faithful.

Ode 6

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos Jonah, who was three days in the sea monster, prefigured you, the immortal one, O Christ, for you voluntarily died and were three days in the heart of the earth.

As with your right hand you saved Peter who walked upon the waters, O Christ, save me, drowning amid the storm of cruel perils, as you are full of loving kindness.

You gave up things which were not essential, O Peter, and attained that which is essential; and like that merchant you searched for Christ, the pearl beyond price.

O Peter, you slayed those who mindlessly tried to tempt the most holy Spirit, whom before you had theologized, openly confessing him as God, O blessed one.

Theotokion You gave birth for us to the incarnate Word of God who transcends all nature; therefore, with lips and soul we profess you to be the Mother of God.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

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.

Spurning all the beauties of the world, you were wounded by the love of the Master, and for the general salvation of man, you wished to bear witness to him, O blessed Paul: may you now pray for the whole world.

As an excellent emulator of the Master, clothed in him, O Paul, you were truly all things to all men, that you might acquire and save all people; and pursuing the ends of the world for Christ, you truly saved them.

Christ has fittingly given you life in heaven, O Apostle Paul; for you did not desire an earthly city, but were a faithful minister and celebrant of his mysteries.

Theotokion The Lord, the mighty one looked upon you, restoring my nature; and doing mighty works, O immaculate one, through you my God has saved me from corruption, as he is full of loving kindness.

Kontakion, tone 2

O Lord, you have taken to your eternal rest and to the delight of your good things those infallible and divinely eloquent preachers, the foremost of your apostles; for you have accepted their struggles and death as greater than any holocaust, as you know the hearts of men.

Ikos Fill my tongue with light, O my Saviour, and having opened my mouth and filled it, have pity on my heart, that I may firstly do that which I speak, follow, and teach: for you said that he who does and teaches is great. For if I speak only, and do not act, I am accounted as sounding brass. Therefore, grant that I may speak fitting things and do that which is profitable, O Lord who knows the hearts of men.

Ode 7

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos O unoriginate Word, only-begotten Son, who existed in the beginning with the Father and the Spirit: blessed are you and exalted above all, O God of our fathers.

Chastened by the divine providence of Christ, you came to emulate the merciful one, O Peter, that your distress over denying him before his suffering might be relieved.

Having risen from the dead, Christ appeared to you, the first-called and beloved, the truly glorious one who was first to preside over the apostles.

The Master, healing your threefold denial before his suffering, O Peter, confirmed his love by a threefold divinely uttered question.

You called the all-seeing God the Word as witness to your love for Christ, O Peter; therefore, he entrusted the beloved flock to you.

Theotokion We all bless you as the Mother of the God of all, who conceived bodily the pre-eternal Word who shone forth from God the Father.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos On the plain of Dura the tyrant once built a furnace to torment the God-bearers; and therein the three youths together as one sang hymns to the one God: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

He who in latter times was called and surpassed all others in zeal became the seal and crown of your apostles, O Christ. With him the people of the Church sing to you: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Even though Paul the persecutor first attacked your Church, O Christ, he later replaced his former ferocity with zeal for you, and gathered together the nations who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having from Jerusalem preached the Gospel to all, you took it to the world, O Paul, and, teaching even to the far ends of Illyricum, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Caught up in awe, you attained the third heaven, O most enriched one; and hearing ineffable words, you cried out: Glory to the transcendent Father and the Son, and to the equally-enthroned radiance of the Spirit of God who searches the depths.

Theotokion Like rain upon the fleece, Christ our God descended upon you, O Virgin, and came forth from you bodily, uniting those things that before were separate, granting peace on earth and in heaven. Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos O Christ who upholds all things by your unapproachable power, you bedewed your venerable youths who cried out in the midst of the flames: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

They shall stretch out your arms and bind you to a cross, the Master foretold, commanding you to follow him as you sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Working wonders by words of grace, you healed bitterly paralyzed Annaeus and raised Tabitha from the dead; and they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

O Christ who announced to Peter the cleansing of the nations, by spiritual radiance purify my thoughts, as I sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion O virgin Mother of God the incarnate Word, dispel my soul's darkness by your supplications, illumine me who sings: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

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.

Bound to you by your love, Paul underwent a goodly change; for the glorious one lived not for himself, O compassionate one, but had you ever living within him.

You betrothed the Church to Christ, presenting it to him as a bride, for you became its wedding-escort, O God-bearing Paul: therefore, it glorifies you for ever.

You fought the good fight, and finishing your race lawfully, you preserved the treasure of the faith. Therefore, you were granted crowns of righteousness, O Paul.

Theotokion Rejoice, fiery throne of the Lord: rejoice, unwedded virgin bride: rejoice, cloud who shone forth the Sun of Righteousness whom we exalt above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos The most glorious bride and most holy Mother of God, who gave birth to the creator of all things, seen and unseen, we magnify with hymns.

Your excellent grace is rightly glorified, for even your shadow dispelled the suffering of the sick, O Peter; therefore, we magnify you.

Blessed is Peter, who with ineffable divine power cast down Simon the magician, who through sorcery had soared into the heights of the air.

By your supplications grant remission of offences, enlightenment of heart and gladness of soul to those who hymn your memory, O apostle.

O Peter, your words, relics and dust are replete with glory, sanctity and miracles for those who with faith bow down with love before your divine chains.

Theotokion The fruit of your womb caused the heavenly chorister to hymn your name, as with resonant voice he announced Rejoice, to you who gave birth to joy.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos You transcended the laws of nature, conceiving the creator and Lord, and became the portal of salvation for the world. Therefore we magnify you unceasingly, O Mother of God.

We bow down before your chains, which as if a malefactor you carried for Christ, O Paul, and we kiss the wounds which you endured on your glorious and victorious body.

You have departed to him whom you unceasingly desired, O apostle; and dwelling with him as a servant, with unceasing entreaties draw you your servants to yourself.

No longer is Christ visible to you in shadows or in a reflection, but you gaze upon him face to face; and he perfectly reveals to you the understanding of the divinity.

Theotokion O most holy Mother of God, the boast of the apostles of Christ, the glory of the martyrs and the foundation of the prophets; we all fittingly magnify you.

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

Let us all hymn the foremost among the apostles, godly Peter and Paul, the universal luminaries, the preachers of the faith, the divinely sounded clarions, the speakers of dogmas, the pillars of the Church and destroyers of falsehood.

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

Theotokion O divinely greeted Maiden, Mother of God and Virgin, great and most glorious is the mystery of your birthgiving, as the prophets proclaimed, the apostles preached and the martyrs confessed; the angels hymn it, and men bow down before it.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises*
inserting 4 verses, tone 4
to the Special Melody Called from on high...

When the Saviour put the question * to the twelve disciples and apostles: * Whom do men say that I am? * Peter, the foremost of the apostles, * receiving grace from heaven, * answered, theologizing, * and proclaiming clearly: * You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. * Therefore, he is fittingly blessed * as one who received revelation from on high, * rightly receiving the authority * to loose and to bind.

When Christ, the Word of God * who revealed himself through the Father, * asked: Whom do you suppose that I am? * Speaking to all with divine eloquence, * you immediately cried out: * You are the Son of the living God. * And so you received as your reward * the Saviour's words: Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. * For God glorifies those who glorify him * and calls them to rich delight; * and he has set you as the prominent rock, * the foundation and ground of the Church.

Called from on high, * and not by men, * when earthly darkness * covered your
bodily eyes, * putting an end to your ungodly plans, * a heavenly light illumined * your
noetic eyes, * disclosing the beauty of piety. * Therefore, you recognized Christ our God *
who brought forth light out of darkness. * Implore him to save * and enlighten our souls.

As a preacher of Christ * bearing the boast of the cross, * more than others you
discerned * the most ardent divine love * which binds to the desired one * those who gaze
upon it. * Therefore, you called yourself a prisoner of Christ, * who desired the burden of
dangers * as something sweeter than any food, * and who lived for your Master. *
Implore him to save * and enlighten our souls.

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

The honoured feast of the apostles
has arrived for the Church of Christ,
bringing salvation to us all.
Mystically weaving hymns for them, let us say:
Rejoice, lamps for those in darkness, shedding rays of the noetic sun.
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, unshakable foundations of the divine doctrines,
friends of Christ, and precious vessels.
Come among us, and bring immaterial gifts
to those who praise your feast with hymns.

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.

Great Doxology and the rest.

Liturgy

*At the Beatitudes, 8 verses:
4 from Ode 3 of the first canon and 4 from Ode 6 of the second 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, number 193 (2 Cor 11: 21-30)

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 67 (Mat 16: 13-19)

Communion

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

June 30

The twelve Apostles

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... we insert 6 verses, beginning tone 2
with these verses composed by Andrew of Pyrrus*

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul,
who were separate in body yet united in spirit,
the foremost of the preachers of God;
one, the leader of the apostles,
and the other who laboured more than the rest?
Christ our God, in his great mercy,
has surely crowned them fittingly with diadems of glory.

With what beauties of song shall we hymn Peter and Paul?
They are the wings of divine knowledge
who soared above the ends of the earth and up to the heavens,
the hands of the grace of the Gospel, and the rivers of wisdom,
the arms of the cross with which Christ in his great mercy,
has cast down the pride of the demons.

With what spiritual hymns shall we praise Peter and Paul?
They closed the gaping mouths of the ungodly,
they are the awesome swords of the Spirit,
the splendid adornments of Rome, and nurturers of the whole world,
the noetic and divinely graven tablets of the New Covenant,
which Christ, in his great mercy, proclaimed in Zion.

*And 3 of the twelve apostles, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs*

As witnesses and beholders of the incarnation of the Word, * you are blessed, O
disciples most rich; * for you appeared to the world, * as bright as lightning, * and pour
forth the sweetness * of the noetic mountain. * As separate and ever-flowing rivers of
paradise * you irrigate the Churches of the nations * with divine waters.

As rays shining with spiritual lustre * you were sent throughout the whole world, *
abundantly showing * the working of miracles, * you who were servants of the mysteries
of Christ, * divine graven tablets * of the law ordained by God, * inscribed by the grace of
God, * O initiates of divine mysteries who are most rich.

The pen of the fishermen * has effaced the arrogance of the philosophers * and the prating of the orators, * while manifestly setting forth * the glad tidings of the good mysteries, * the divinely wise teachings of the dogmas, * the partaking of eternal nourishment, * the delight of the angels, * and everlasting glory.

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

The honoured feast of the apostles
has arrived for the Church of Christ,
bringing salvation to us all.
Mystically weaving hymns for them, let us say:
Rejoice, lamps for those in darkness, shedding rays of the noetic sun.
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, unshakable foundations of the divine doctrines,
friends of Christ, and precious vessels.
Come among us, and bring immaterial gifts
to those who praise your feast with hymns.

Both now and for ever... *in the 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, tone 4,
to the special melody You have given a sign...

You have given your honourable apostles, O Lord,
to your Church as its praise,
where shine forth as noetic luminaries,
Peter and Paul, the stars of the Word,
shedding light upon the whole world.
By them you have enlightened the darkness of the West,
O Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

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

You have given strength to your Church, O Lord:

the steadfastness of Peter,
the understanding and splendid wisdom of Paul,
and the truly divine proclamation of them both,
which dispelled the deception of the Greeks.
Having come to know the mysteries by both of them,
we sing to you Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

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

You have given to the sinful
a model of repentance in your two apostles.
For one denied you at the time of your suffering, yet repented;
while the other opposed the preaching of you, but later came to believe.
Both are pre-eminent among the company of their peers,
Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls.

Glory be to the Father...

Composed by Ephraim of Karyes, tone 6

A joyous feast shines today upon the ends of the earth:
the most honoured commemoration
of the all-wise and pre-eminent Apostles Peter and Paul.
Rome, joining chorus, rejoices in hymns and songs;
and we celebrate, O brothers,
observing this most honoured day, as we sing:
Rejoice, apostle Peter,
the true friend of your teacher, Jesus Christ our God.
Rejoice, most beloved Paul,
the preacher of the faith and teacher of the world.
As you are foremost, O holy and chosen pair,
entreat Christ our God, 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 of the Apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4

First-enthroned among the apostles
and teachers of the whole world:
entreat the Master of all,
that he grant peace to the world
and great mercy to our souls.

Matins

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the apostles, twice;
Glory... Both now... Theotokion [of the day of the week]*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody You tomb, O Savior...*

The spiritual choir of the apostles has been mystically sent into the world by God Most High, appearing as physicians for the suffering. Calling upon the unity in three persons, they have wisely described the divine incarnation of the Lord Emmanuel.

Glory... Both now...

Theotokion O Virgin, we hymn you, the unburnt bush which Moses saw, the mountain of God, the holy cloud, the undefiled tabernacle, the God-pleasing table, the palace of the king the Most High, the most splendid and impassable gate.

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
Sessional Hymn, tone 3,
to the Special Melody Of the divine faith...*

Divine clarions of the Comforter declaring the inspiration of the words of salvation, you proclaimed to the world, and roused those asleep in the darkness of deception and led them to the light of divine knowledge, O apostles of the divine light who entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Glory... Both now...

Theotokion Without separating himself from the divine essence when taking flesh within you, the one Lord remained God while becoming man, and even after your birthgiving he preserved you, the Virgin Mother, immaculate as you were before giving birth. Earnestly entreat him to grant us great mercy.

*We sing two canons composed by John of Damascus:
the first to the holy apostle Peter, and the second to the holy apostle Paul.*

Ode 1

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter, tone 4

Irmos There is none like you, the most glorious Lord; for with your mighty hand you delivered the people whom you had made your own, O lover of mankind.

With divinely inspired songs let us hymn today the foremost of the apostles, the first-called of Christ.

Having foreknown you, blessed Peter, the pre-eternal one ordained you from of old as the leader of his church, the first-enthroned.

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father inspired you to theologize Christ as the true Son of God the Most High, O apostle.

Theotokion We hymn you, the holy mountain, the most exalted chariot, the Mother of God and true Virgin.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul, tone 8

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.

When Christ called things into existence from non-existence, O blessed Paul, he chose you from your mother's womb to carry before the nations his divine name, which is above every name; for gloriously has he been glorified.

Declaring to you the coming brilliant radiance of piety and the cleansing of falsehood, O Paul, Christ, who revealed himself as bright as lightning on the mountain, dimmed your bodily eyes while enlightening the eyes of your soul with the understanding of the Trinity: for gloriously has he been glorified.

Performing circumcision on the eighth day, as a zealot of the traditions of your fathers, O Paul, and as a legalistic Pharisee, a Jew by birth, of the tribe of Benjamin, you came to consider all such things as but dung, and acquired Christ: for gloriously has he been glorified.

Theotokion O Lady, pure mother of almighty God, who from royal stock gave birth physically and supernaturally to God who alone reigns over all: save me from misfortune who sings to your Son: For gloriously has he been glorified.

Ode 3

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

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.

The sweet mouth of Christ our God showed you to be blessed and a sure treasure of the kingdom; therefore, we hymn you, O Apostle Peter.

On the rock of your theology Jesus the Master has established the Church unshakably, and therein we glorify you, O Apostle Peter.

How greater than the angels was Peter; for Christ our God said that at his radiant coming he would be a judge and would be equally enthroned.

Theotokion Unwed mother, who gave birth to God: make me strong and unshaken by the assaults of the passions, for we have no other help than you, O pure one.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

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 are placed as a precious foundation stone for the souls of the faithful, a cornerstone of the Savior and Lord.

O blessed Paul, pray that on your foundations the splendours of most laudable virtues may be set firmly.

Ever perfectly bearing the mortality of Jesus on your body, O Paul, you were granted true life.

Theotokion All of us Christians have gained you as our rampart and refuge, and we glorify you without ceasing, O unwedded mother.

Υπακοί, tone 8

What dungeon could hold you as a prisoner? What Church would not have you as an orator? Damascus extols you, O Paul, for it knew you to be blinded by the light; and Rome, which received your blood, also boasts in you; but Tarsus rejoices even more and loves you, honouring your infancy. O Peter, rock of the faith, and Paul, boast of the whole world, coming together from Rome, strengthen us.

Ode 4

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

Irmos This is our God, who became incarnate of the Virgin and has deified our nature: as we sing to him we cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

As he promised, Christ made you a divine fisher of men for his Church, firstly entrusting its helm to you.

Entreated by you, O Peter, may Jesus, the bestower of life, who gave you the authority to bind and to loose, be merciful to me.

Pray earnestly, O Peter, that the kingdom of Christ be opened to those who honour your divine memory with unwavering faith.

Theotokion Exalted Lady, the Mother of God, having cleansed my evil thoughts by your supplications, make me fruitful, O mother of the God of all.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

Irmos You mounted your steeds, your apostles, O Lord, and took their bridles in your hands; and your chariot has become salvation for those who sing with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Once Saul crouched like a lion, wrathfully destroying the Church of Christ; but he was seized by the divine voice of the Lamb of God, whom he had persecuted, and who entrusted his flock to him as shepherd.

He who would enlighten the whole world was struck blind; but Ananias was sent to him, imparting enlightenment of soul and body through divine revelation, and making him a chosen vessel.

Damascus was fittingly given drink by Paul; for from him, as from the garden of paradise, a great fount of divine waters flowed forth and irrigated the earth abundantly with knowledge divine.

Theotokion The Lord has cast down the mighty from their thrones, as the Virgin Mother said, and with divine good things he has filled the hungry who cry out with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Ode 5

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

Irmos O Lord who acquired us, the chosen people, by your blood, grant us your peace, and preserve your flock in oneness of mind.

He who through love received boldness before God has fittingly become wondrous, though he was an ignorant fisherman, and he now works glorious wonders through grace.

Your godly apostle, O Christ, having acquired neither gold nor silver for your sake, but rather virtue, has been enriched by the power of miracles.

By your effective utterance the feet and joints of the lame were set aright, for glorious things were accomplished by the divine Spirit.

Theotokion God became incarnate, O pure one, and his very being was united to the flesh he received from you, yet remaining immutable, incorporeal in his divine nature.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

Irmos Enlighten us through your commandments, O Lord; and with your upraised arm grant us your peace, O lover of mankind.

You receive true praise, O Apostle Paul, ever bearing the cross of Christ the king as a trophy.

For you to live is Christ, and to die is an excellent acquisition; for through love you were crucified with him who was crucified for our sake, O glorious Paul.

You truly rejoice in the Lord, O honourable Paul, having departed from the body and passed over to Christ our God, the giver of life.

Theotokion Ever implore your Son and our God, O pure Mary who knew not wedlock, that he send his mercy upon us, the faithful.

Ode 6

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

Irmos Jonah, who was three days in the sea monster, prefigured you, the immortal one, O Christ, for you voluntarily died and were three days in the heart of the earth.

As with your right hand you saved Peter who walked upon the waters, O Christ, save me, drowning amid the storm of cruel perils, as you are full of loving kindness.

You gave up things which were not essential, O Peter, and attained that which is essential; and like a certain merchant you searched for Christ the pearl beyond price.

O Peter, you slayed those who mindlessly tried to tempt the most holy Spirit, whom before you had theologized, openly confessing him as God, O blessed one.

Theotokion You gave birth for us to the incarnate Word of God who transcends all nature; therefore, with lips and soul we profess you to be the Mother of God.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

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.

Spurning every worldly beauty, you were wounded by the love of the Master, and for the general salvation of man, you wished to bear witness to him, O blessed Paul: may you now pray for the whole world.

As an excellent emulator of the Master, clothed in him, O Paul, you were truly all things to all men, that you might acquire and save all people; and pursuing the ends of the world for Christ, you truly saved them.

Christ has fittingly given you life in heaven, O Apostle Paul; for you did not desire an earthly city, but were a faithful minister and celebrant of his mysteries.

Theotokion The Lord, the mighty one, looked upon you, restoring my nature; and doing mighty works, O immaculate one, through you my God has saved me from corruption, as he is full of loving kindness.

Kontakion, tone 2

O Lord, you have taken to your eternal rest and to the delight of your good things those infallible and divinely eloquent preachers, the foremost of your apostles; for you have accepted their struggles and death as greater than any holocaust, as you know the hearts of men.

Ikos Fill my tongue with light, O my Saviour, and having opened my mouth and filled it, have pity on my heart, that I may speak, follow, and teach that which I first do: for you said that he who does and teaches is great. For if I speak only, and do not act, I am accounted as sounding brass. Therefore, grant that I may speak fitting things and do that which is profitable, O Lord who knows the hearts of men.

Ode 7

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

Irmos O unoriginate Word, only-begotten Son, who existed in the beginning with the Father and the Spirit: blessed are you and exalted above all, the God of our fathers.

Chastened by the divine providence of Christ, you came to emulate the merciful one, O Peter, that your distress over denying him before his suffering might be relieved.

Having risen from the dead, Christ appeared to you, the first-called and beloved, the truly glorious one who was first to preside over the apostles.

The Master, healing your threefold denial before his suffering, O Peter, confirmed his love by a threefold divinely uttered question.

You called the all-seeing God the Word as witness to your love for Christ, O Peter; therefore, he entrusted the beloved flock to you.

Theotokion We all bless you as the Mother of the God of all, who conceived bodily the pre-eternal Word who shone forth from God the Father.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

Irmos On the plain of Dura the tyrant once built a furnace to torment the God-bearers; and therein the three youths together as one sang hymns to the one God: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

He who in latter times was called and surpassed all others in zeal became the seal and crown of your apostles, O Christ. With him the people of the Church sing to you: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Even though Paul the prisoner first persecuted your Church, O Christ, he later replaced his former ferocity with zeal for you, and gathered together the nations who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having from Jerusalem preached the Gospel to all, you took it around the whole world, O Paul, and, teaching even to the far ends of Illyricum, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Caught up in awe, you attained the third heaven, O most enriched one; and hearing ineffable words, you cried out: Glory to the transcendent Father and the Son, and to the equally-enthroned radiance of the Spirit of God who searches the depths.

Theotokion Like rain upon the fleece, Christ our God descended upon you, O Virgin, and came forth from you bodily, uniting those things that before were separate, granting peace on earth and in heaven. Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

Irmos O Christ who upholds all things by your unapproachable power, you bedewed your venerable youths who cried out in the midst of the flames: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

They shall stretch out your arms and bind you to a cross, the Master foretold, commanding you to follow him as you sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Working wonders, by the word of grace you healed Annaeus who was bitterly paralyzed, and raise up Tabitha from the dead; and they sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

O Christ who announced to Peter that the nations were cleansed, by spiritual radiance purify my thoughts, as I sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion O most holy Virgin who gave birth to God the incarnate Word, driving the darkness from my soul by your supplications, illumine me who sings: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

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.

Paul was bound to you by your love and underwent a goodly change; for the glorious one lived not for himself, O compassionate one, but had you living within him for ever.

You betrothed the Church to Christ, presenting it to him as a bride, for you became its wedding-escort, O God-bearing Paul: therefore, it glorifies you for ever.

You fought the good fight, and finishing your race lawfully, you preserve the treasure of the faith. Therefore, you were granted crowns of righteousness, O Paul.

Theotokion Rejoice, fiery throne of the Lord: rejoice, unwedded virgin bride: rejoice, cloud who shone forth the Sun of Righteousness whom we exalt above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of the Holy Apostle Peter

Irmos The most glorious bride and most holy Mother of God, who gave birth to the creator of all things, seen and unseen, we magnify with hymns.

Your excellent grace is rightly glorified, for even your shadow dispelled the sufferings of the sick, O Peter; therefore, we magnify you.

Blessed is Peter, who with ineffable divine power cast down Simon the magician, who through sorcery had soared into the heights of the air.

By your supplications grant remission of offences, enlightenment of heart and gladness of soul to those who hymn your memory, O apostle.

O Peter, your words, relics and dust are replete with glory, sanctity and miracles for those who with faith bow down with love before your divine chains.

Theotokion The fruit of your womb caused the heavenly chorister to hymn your name, as with resonant voice he announced Rejoice to you who gave birth to joy.

Canon of the Holy Apostle Paul

Irmos You transcended the laws of nature, conceiving the creator and Lord, and became the portal of salvation for the world. Therefore we magnify you unceasingly, O Mother of God.

We bow down before your chains, which as if a malefactor you carried for Christ, O Paul, and we kiss the wounds which you endured on your glorious and victorious body.

You have departed to him whom you unceasingly desired, O apostle; and dwelling with him as a servant, with unceasing entreaties draw you your servants to yourself.

No longer is Christ visible to you in shadows or in a reflection, but you gaze upon him face to face; and he perfectly reveals to you the understanding of the divinity.

Theotokion O most holy Mother of God, the boast of the apostles of Christ, the glory of the martyrs and the foundation of the prophets; we all fittingly magnify you.

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

Let us all hymn the foremost among the apostles, the godly Peter and Paul, the universal luminaries, the preachers of the faith, the divinely sounded clarions, the speakers of dogmas, the pillars of the Church and destroyers of falsehood.

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

Theotokion O divinely joyous Maiden, Mother of God and Virgin, great and most glorious is the mystery of your birthgiving, as the prophets proclaimed, the apostles preached and the martyrs confessed; the angels hymn it, and men bow down before it.

At the Praises, 4 verses tone 4,
to the Special Melody Called from on high...

Supreme foundation of the apostles, * having forsaken all things * you followed your Teacher, * crying out to him: I will die with you, * that I may life the blessed life. * And you were the first bishop of Rome, * the glory and boast of the greatest of cities, O Peter, * and the confirmation of the Church * against which the gates of hell will truly not prevail, * as Christ has foretold. * Entreat him * to save and enlighten our souls.

Parted from your mother's womb, * you avoided every burden of material greatness, * truly soaring aloft on wings of divine love * to heights divine, O Paul, * where, entering the all-radiant darkness * of the divine Light * like one of the incorporeal ones, * and being enriched with the teachings of ineffable discourses, * you were sent to those in darkness, * to proclaim the light of Christ our God. * Entreat him * to save and enlighten our souls.

O Saviour, the Light from before time began: * when it was your good pleasure to come to me, a man, * in your ineffable love for mankind, * and to be incarnate in your goodness, * you made the apostles, your disciples, * as secondary lights * of your radiance, * brilliant flashes of lightning; * and when they were sent forth * they illumined all creation with your divine light, * entreating you * to save and enlighten our souls.

O Peter and Paul, * you husbandmen of the Word, * O Andrew, James and John all-wise, * Bartholemew and Philip, * Thomas and Matthew, * Simon, Jude and godly James, * you twelve universally honoured disciples * who preached throughout the world the most Holy Trinity, * God who is eternal in essence; * as truly impregnable ramparts * and unshakable pillars of the Church: * entreat the Master of all, that we be saved.

Glory be to the Father...

Composed by Cosmas the Monk, tone 8

O disciples of the Saviour, you traversed creation, enlightening it and consuming the falsehood of idolatry like tinder with your teachings, and, having drawn the nations out of the abyss of ignorance to divine understanding, you saved them. And now, pray to Christ, that he be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

Great Doxology, Litanies and Dismissal

Liturgy

*At the Beatitudes, 6 verses:
3 each from Odes 3 and 6 of the Canon to the 12 Apostles.*

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

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 Mark, number 12

Communion

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

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.

Resurrectional Theotokia

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.

Resurrectional Theotokia

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.

Resurrectional Theotokia

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.

Resurrectional Theotokia

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.

Resurrectional Theotokia

Dismissal
one,

For our sake you were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion, O good
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 at the Verses

**Theotokia sung at the Verses¹,
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.

¹ These being, with a few exceptions, the Theotokia provided in the Octoechos for the Aposticha of Vespers and Matins.

Theotokia at the Verses

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

Theotokia at the Verses

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?

Theotokia at the Verses

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.

Theotokia at the Verses

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.

Theotokia at the Verses

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.

Theotokia at the Verses

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.

Theotokia at the Verses

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

Theotokia at the Verses

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

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.

Dismissal Theotokia

| ~ 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.

Dismissal Theotokia

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.

Dismissal Theotokia

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.

Dismissal Theotokia

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.

Dismissal Theotokia

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.

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Dismissal Theotokia

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.

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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.

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Dismissal Theotokia

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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.

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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.

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Dismissal Theotokia

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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.

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