

November 1

Cosmas and Damian, miracle workers and unmercenary physicians

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... we sing 6 verses, in tone 6,
to the special melody* Having placed all hope...

Having placed all their hope in heaven,
the holy ones laid up for themselves
a treasure which cannot be stolen away;
for they freely received,
and freely gave healing to the infirm.
Obedient to Christ and following the Gospel,
they acquired neither silver nor gold,
and bestowed benefactions
upon both men and beasts,
as with boldness they pray
to Christ our God for our souls. *twice*

The two holy, like-minded companions
who shared a single character and a single soul,
rejecting corruptible things on earth
became like the angels of heaven,
though dwelling in the flesh.
They granted healings to those who suffered,
bestowing benefactions upon those in need,
without exacting any fee.
Let us give them fitting honour with an annual festival,
for with boldness they pray
to Christ our God for our souls. *twice*

Divinely wise Cosmas and Damian,
the ever-memorable pair,
having made themselves
wholly the abode of the Trinity,
flow torrents of healing waters
from the life-bestowing source;
and their relics cure suffering by their touch;
and their very names drive away infirmities
from those who come to these saving havens in Christ;

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who with boldness pray
to Christ our God for our souls.

Having spurned the tyranny of suffering
and, in Christ, having trampled down
every plot of the evil serpent,
O holy unmercenaries,
Cosmas and Damian,
you have become as radiant as beacons,
ever illumining the whole world with divine signs,
driving away darkness and infirmities by grace,
and proving to be
the saviours of those with firm faith
who celebrate your glorious memory, O wise ones.

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

Boundless is the grace of the saints, received from Christ:
their relics ever work miracles through the power of God,
and their names, when invoked with faith, heal incurable sicknesses.
Through them, O Lord, free us from the passions of soul and body,
as you are loving to mankind.

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 Octoechos¹ and then
Glory be to the Father... *tone 6*

With Christ ever within you, O holy unmercenaries,
you work wonders in the world and heal the sick.
For your healing is an inexhaustible fountain:
drawn from, it flows abundantly;
it gushes forth, flowing every day in great quantity,
granting healing to all, yet remaining undrained;

¹ The Typikon gives text for a 6-stichera commemoration as provided here, whereas the Slavonic Menaion gives Aposticha verses as well as Sessional Hymns, hymnody for the Polyeleos (and appoints the Great Doxology) at Matins, as well as another Canon in tone 6.

filling those who draw from it, yet remaining full.
What, therefore, can we call you?
Healing physicians of souls and bodies?
Healers of incurable sufferings who heal all
and have received this gift from Christ the Saviour,
who grants us great mercy.

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 3

O holy unmercenaries and wonder-workers Cosmas and Damian,
visit our infirmities:
as you have freely received, so freely give to us.

Matins

*We sing both canons from the Octoechos, without the martyria;
and that of the unmercenaries, tone 1,
composed by John of Damascus
upon the acrostic With hymns I honour the wise unmercenaries.*

Ode 1

Irmos To him who rescued Israel from the bitter bondage of Pharaoh and guided them through the depths of the sea with dryshod feet, let us all sing a hymn of victory, O people, for he has been glorified.

Illumined by the grace of the ruling Trinity, the two wondrous and honoured unmercenaries grant ever-flowing healings to all who approach with faith.

Mystically taught life-bearing reasoning and shining like beacons in the world, you readily drive away the darkness of suffering with the fervour of faith, O blessed ones.

Submitting to the law of the Saviour, O glorious ones, you rejected the enjoyment of pleasures; and, resplendent most radiantly with virtuous souls, you achieved pre-eminence in the world, O truly wondrous ones.

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Theotokion The most divine Son who shone forth timelessly from the Father, and who dwelt within you, O Mother of God, ineffably clothed himself wholly in man. We sing to him, for he has been glorified.

Ode 3

Irmos Establish me on the immovable rock of your commandments, O Christ, and illumine me with the light of your countenance: for there is none more holy than you, who is loving to mankind.

As is fitting, let us all hymn the fountains of healings, the streams of divine gifts and splendid receptacles of the immaterial Light.

As benefactors curing sufferings and pangs of body and soul, O honoured ones, you heal those who fervently come to you.

Adorned with the fruits of the virtues, you pruned away every corrupting pleasure of life, looking unceasingly toward the beauty of God.

Theotokion He who before was invisible has appeared in our form, O Mother of God, when he united his divinity to the flesh in your most holy womb, O Bride of God.

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

Beautifully drawing streams of miracles from your deep well,
with mystic showers you expel the dark passions and grant healing to the ailing.
Receiving the gladness of health through you, O glorious ones, we cry out in awe:
O God-bearing unmercenaries, entreat Christ our God,
that he grant remission of offences to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

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

Theotokion As the immaculate Bride of the creator, the unwedded Mother of the deliverer and the vessel of the Comforter, O exalted Lady, hasten to deliver me from the machinations of the demons who have made me their vile house of iniquity and plaything; and make me a splendid dwelling place of the virtues, O unblemished bearer of the light. Drive away the cloud of the passions by your supplications, that I may share the never waning light of the Most High.

Theotokion of the Cross When she who gave birth to him saw the Lamb and Shepherd and Saviour of the world raised unjustly upon the cross, with bitter weeping she cried out: The world rejoices, for it receives deliverance, but inwardly I burn, seeing your crucifixion suffered for all mankind in your merciful compassion, O God most good and my sinless Son. O long-suffering Lord, abyss and inexhaustible fountain of mercy, have pity, and grant remission of offences to those who with faith hymn your passion.

Ode 4

Irmos I have understood your dispensation, O Almighty, and I glorify you with fear, O Saviour.

Manifestly ascending to divine love, O godly ones, you acquired neither the lustre of gold nor silver.

Resplendent with divine miracles, the unmercenaries do good to all, bestowing grace.

Stretching forth your healing hands, you proved to be wise physicians of the pain of sufferings.

Theotokion Let those who do not confess you to be the Mother of God now be smitten, O most pure Lady.

Ode 5

Irmos Rising at dawn out of the night, we hymn you, O Christ, the Saviour of our souls, who is equally unoriginate with the Father. Grant peace to the world, O lover of mankind.

As torrents poured forth by God, O glorious unmercenaries, you pour forth the waters of benefaction upon the faithful, healing infirmities of body and of soul.

O honoured unmercenaries, opening springs of grace, you impart health to those who with faith and love come to you.

The radiant and wise stars who have rendered the earth celestial unceasingly illumine us with the likeness of the splendour of the angels.

Theotokion Having conceived and given birth to the Lord and Saviour who is equally unoriginate with the Father, O virgin Mother, you are more exalted than all things.

Ode 6

Irmos As you saved the prophet from the sea monster, O lover of mankind, lead me up from the abyss of transgressions, I pray.

Let us fervently honour godly Cosmas and Damian, the saving healers and divinely wise benefactors.

Having preserved their chastity, godly Cosmas and Damian rejoice with Christ, adorned with understanding.

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Having lived in oneness of mind and fasted in oneness of soul, together you have been given to us to grant healing.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, you have given birth in the flesh to him who is the unapproachable light who illumines the whole world with rays of divinity.

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

Having received the grace of healings,
you extend health to those in need,
O most glorious physicians and wonder workers.
By your visitation, cast down the audacity of the enemy
and heal the world with miracles.

Ikos The discourse of the wise physicians surpasses all reason and wisdom and imparts understanding to all; for, having received grace from the Most High, they invisibly grant health to all. Grace has been given even to me to recite the narrative of the God-bearing favourites and ministers of Christ and how they bestow a multitude of healings; for they deliver all from sickness, and heal the world with miracles.

Ode 7

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

Through divine wisdom you came to belong wholly to God, as you both contained God, for whose sake you abandoned the world, following divinely in the steps of the Saviour, O glorious ones, honouring the God of our fathers.

O excellent physicians, with mystic action you supernaturally heal every wound of the infirm, drawing saving cures from the divine treasures, hymning our glorious God.

With the crown and radiant purple robe of your kingdom, O Christ our Master, you divinely enhanced those who loved exceedingly the unapproachable beauty of your comeliness, making them common benefactors of the faithful.

Theotokion When the Orient appeared on earth from on high, O most pure Lady, you became the most magnificent and radiant gate, illumining the world with beams of purity, ever shedding rays of miracles upon the faithful.

Ode 8

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

Dying to the beauties of this world and cutting off the sickness of avarice, O wise ones, you are called unmercenary by those who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

You are partakers of eternal life, for you forsook the beauties of corruptible life, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

O Master Christ, through the supplications of the unmercenaries deliver us all from bitter ailments, and ever grant that we may sing to you: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Rejoicing and strengthened by grace, and delivered by your birthgiving, O pure virgin Mother, we sing unceasingly: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Irmos With hymns we magnify you, the radiant lamp, the Mother of God, the wondrous glory who is higher than all creation.

We unceasingly bless with hymns the two wise ones who shine with the radiance of the noetic light and impart enlightenment to all.

Creating the strength of spiritual health for the faithful, as saviors you also cure the bodily sufferings entrusted to you; therefore, you are ever hymned.

The beacons of divine brilliance who now unceasingly impart light noetically illumine the heaven of the honoured Church with an outpouring of radiance.

The laudable pair divinely called by the adorable Trinity pour gifts of healing upon all who ask and bless them with love.

Theotokion With hymns we magnify you as the Mother of God: the cloud of the light, the holy ark, the most radiant portal of the noetic sun.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

You received from God the grace of healing, to cure ailments and heal all who have recourse to your divine temple with faith, O blessed unmercenaries; therefore, together we fittingly bless your honourable memory.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, who gave birth to God, the Word of God, who most wisely accomplished the excellent dispensation of salvation for the world; we all fittingly hymn you as the one who prays to him, that we be delivered from sickness and every misfortune.

*At the Praises, 4 verses, tone 1
composed by Anatolius*

Having received the grace of healings from God,
most comely unmercenaries,
you fervently healed without fee the passions of souls and bodies.
Bestowing health upon the faithful through you,
Christ displays you to the universe as steadfast luminaries:
beseech him that our souls be saved.

Drawing an abyss of healings from the mind of the Most High,
O unmercenaries, you flow with healings upon the faithful;
supernaturally drawing from the treasures of the Spirit,
saving remedies for those suffering ailments
as with mystic therapy you heal the afflicted.
Having become temples of the life-creating Trinity,
the divinity clearly dwelt within you.
Pray to the Trinity, that our souls be saved.

Composed by Germanus, tone 2

The choir of saints rejoices eternally, for they have inherited the kingdom of heaven; and the earth which received their relics emits a sweet fragrance, for they were servants of Christ, who have made their abode in everlasting life.

O physicians of the infirm, treasures of healing, saviours of the faithful, most glorious unmercenaries: heal those in pain who cry out in their affliction, and with Theodota entreat the good God, that we be delivered from the snares of the enemy.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 4
composed by Theophanes*

The holy unmercenaries, possessed of a fountain of healings,
granted healing to those in need,
having been given great gifts by Christ the Saviour, the ever-flowing source.
For the Lord told you, as you are emulators of the apostles:
Behold, I have given you authority over unclean spirits and every disease.
Having lived well in his commandments, you freely received:
and you freely give also,
healing the sufferings of our souls and bodies.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, in the same tone
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Rejoice, O refuge and confirmation of Christians: * rejoice, ladder of heaven; * rejoice, treasury of virginity; * rejoice, O Mother of God, * the living ark of divine glory; * rejoice, boast and establishment of the whole world, * the restoration of the fallen, * most radiant tabernacle, * holy and most comely.

Theotokion of the Cross, in the same melody

Beholding Christ who loves mankind, crucified, O most pure one, * his side pierced by a sword, * you cried out, weeping: * What is this, O my Son? * How have the thankless people rewarded you * for the good you did for them? * And now you hasten to leave me childless, O most beloved: * I marvel, O compassionate one, * at your voluntary crucifixion.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
and this verse, tone 6*

Verse Behold how good and how lovely it is, when brothers live together in unity.

The radiant and luminous memory of Christ's unmercenaries today shines splendidly with rays of miracles upon the lands of the earth. Come, those who love the feasts of the Church, let us celebrate with faith: come, let us ardently hasten to the relics of the saints, that we may receive speedy healing from them in abundance; for through the activity of the Holy Spirit they grant gifts of healing to all without fee.

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

Who will not marvel, who will not render glory, who will not hymn with faith the miracles of the wise and glorious unmercenaries? For even after their holy repose they richly impart healings to all who have recourse to them with faith, and their precious and holy relics pour forth the grace of healings. O holy and honourable pair; how great is the wisdom and glory which comes from the grace given you by God: we cry out in hymns to God our benefactor, who has given you to us for the healing of our souls and bodies.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

*Theotokion of the Cross, same tone
to the Special Melody Your martyrs...*

O my child, I cannot bear to see you asleep upon the tree, who gives wakefulness to all; for to those who of old fell into the sleep of perdition through eating the fruit of disobedience you give divine and saving watchfulness: thus with weeping said the Virgin, whom we magnify.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 verses:

4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the unmercenaries.

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

Alleluia, tone 2

Behold how good and how lovely it is, when brothers live together in unity.

For there the Lord commanded the blessing, life for ever more.

Gospel according to Matthew, number 34, from the midpoint

Communion

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

November 2

Martyrs Acindynus, Pegasius, Afthonius, Elpideforus and Anempodistus

Vespers

*At Lord, call to you... these verses, tone 4
to the special melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Let us hymn the company of the five martyrs: * the wise Acindynus, * Pegasius and Elpideforus, * Afthonius and Anempodistus, * the valiant athletes * and fervent protectors, * who pour forth grace unhindered * and hope unashamed, * bestowing them freely upon the pious.

Neither hunger, nor tribulation, * neither life, nor death, * neither the boiling of cauldrons, * nor the precipices of the earth, nor yet the mouths of the wild beasts * could separate your brave deeds of patient endurance * from the love of Christ; * for, directing your gaze continually toward him, * and desiring him alone, * you vanquished the enemy.

Delighting in sweetness * and full of light, * having inherited everlasting life, * from misfortunes, bondage and imprisonment * deliver those who have recourse to you * at the site of your martyrdom, O divinely wise ones; * for you have boldness before God * and evident loving kindness, * as you are truly emulators of Christ.

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

Today the martyrs' choir of fivefold splendour, as a constellation illumining the faithful, summons all to mystical gladness. Today the servants of the noetic sun, the destroyers of the traditions of the Persians who adore the material sun and worship fire, lead all to piety. Having filled the cup of their suffering to abundance, they have been crowned with their blood shed for the sake of Christ, calling us, the lovers of piety, saying: Come, feast your eyes upon our sufferings, and behold our crowns and honours; for he who endures to the end is saved, Christ has truly said, that you may share our crowns and have us as intercessors before the Lord.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the special melody On the third day...*

The pure virgin, * your Mother, * beholding the most iniquitous men * unjustly nailing you to the tree, * was wounded inwardly, * as Simeon foretold.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
and this verse, tone 1*

Verse God is wondrous in his saints, the God of Israel.

The martyrs of fivefold radiance, equal in number to the wise virgins, have shone in beams of light; and, gazing upon their icon, we commune with their memory. Through their supplications, O Christ, save our souls from the foe and preserve our life abundantly, for you pour your rich mercies unceasingly upon those who glorify you without hesitation. Through their prayers grant great mercy to the souls of those who trust in you.

Glory be to the Father...
Tone 2, to its own melody

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord today, on the day of the commemoration of the passion-bearers. Those who love the feasts of the Church, come, let us praise them, mystically offering laudation to them: Rejoice, O Acindynus; rejoice, O Pegasus; rejoice, O Anempodistus; rejoice, O Elpidoforus; rejoice, O Afthonius: who all drowned in the abyss the deception of idolatry and preached Christ the Lord openly in the midst of the arena. O blessed ones who suffered exceedingly, pray without ceasing for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the special melody* When from the tree...

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

Troparion of the martyrs, tone 2

O athletes of the Lord, blessed is the earth which drank in your blood,
and holy are the habitations which have received your bodies;
for you vanquished the enemy in the arena and preached Christ with boldness.
We pray you to entreat his goodness, that our souls be saved.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos;
and that of the martyrs.*

Canon of the martyrs, tone 4,

*composed by Theophanes,
upon the acrostic* By the entreaties of the multitude of your martyrs preserve me.

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 have Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, ever illumining you with immaterial light, O holy ones, dispel the clouds of my ignorance.

Now free from danger, O holy ones, you pour forth grace unstintingly upon those who approach with faith, causing all tribulation, despondency, storm and stress to cease.

Girded with invincible might, O holy ones, you gave no thought to the weakness of the flesh; but, fearlessly showing wisdom, you braved fire and torment.

Theotokion You alone, O Bride of God, carried in your arms him who is enthroned in the highest, though he took flesh; for from ages past you were shown to be a worthy receptacle for the Almighty.

Ode 3

Irmos Let us not boast of wisdom, power and wealth, but of you O Christ, wisdom in person, for none is holy but you, O lover of mankind.

Made strong by the power of Christ, O excellent ones, with firm resolve in your suffering you passed through fire and water to heaven.

Taking heart with an unfaltering hope of things to come, O glorious martyrs, with resolute courage you put aside your present pangs.

Reasoning like the three youths in Babylon, O exulted ones, you quenched the thirst of the Persians' foolishness, bedewed by the Spirit.

Theotokion Having acquired you as a renowned intercessor, O Mother of God, and placing our trust in you, we are saved, and having recourse to you we are kept safe.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 8
to the special melody* Of the Wisdom...

Suffering in their struggle, with hope the truly glorious ones ran the race of piety unharmed, strengthened by their crowns; for utterly destroying the adversaries, they gained their victory without faltering; and so they ever flow with a multitude of healings, pouring abundantly upon those who ask with faith. To them we cry out together: Entreat

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Christ our God that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

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

Theotokion All of us, the generations of men, call you blessed, as the virgin who, alone among women, gave seedless birth seed to God in the flesh; for the fire of the divinity dwelt within you, and you gave suck to the Creator and Lord as a babe. We, the generation of angels and of men, fittingly glorify your most holy birthgiving and together we cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offenses to those who with faith worship your most holy birthgiving.

Theotokion of the Cross 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 long-suffering Lord, abyss of mercy and inexhaustible fountain: take pity, and grant remission of offenses to those who with faith hymn your divine sufferings.

Ode 4

Irmos Seated in glory upon the throne of the cherubim, 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.

Made brilliant by the beauty of an excellent contest, O splendid luminaries, you became martyrs of Christ, enlightening with splendid rays those who sing: Glory to your power, O Christ.

The blood of the martyrs was an offering of propitiation, freely giving a truly fragrant sacrifice to God, and pouring upon all a fountain of healing.

By your supplications you avert the assaults of temptation and misfortune for those who diligently keep your sacred and festive memory, O truly wondrous ones.

Having rejected the idolatrous ungodliness of deception, and displaying the life-creating activity of the God of all by your deeds, O blessed ones, you sang: Glory to your power, O Christ.

Theotokion We wield you as a most mighty weapon against the enemy; we hew down all sorrow and the harm of grievous circumstances; and we flee the clamour of the heretics, O Mother of God.

Ode 5

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

You offered yourself to Christ, O glorious Afthonius, mightily denouncing the ungodly wickedness of the tyrant; and, rejoicing, you hastened to the light of faith.

When you emulated the suffering of Christ, O Afthonius, for his sake in particular your head severed, as you hastened toward immutable and undying rest.

Steadfast in unshakeable hope, you spat upon the beautiful things of the earth, O most wise Elpideforus as you hastened to the arena of your contest.

Theotokion The noetic sun, shining from you, has shed upon all the radiant beams of his divinity, O Lady, Mother of God; therefore, we all glorify you.

Ode 6

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

Having spurned that which is in corruptible and transitory, you were granted that which is incorruptible; therefore, from temptations and misfortunes deliver those who call to you with faith, O exalted ones.

O most glorious martyrs, by your entreaties move the unoriginate Trinity to take pity and loose those who are cruelly bound and held inescapably in prisons.

Committing themselves to death for you, O my Saviour, the heroic ones received immortality and have become the saviours of those in tempest, dangers and sorrows.

Theotokion Tear apart the record of my transgressions, O Maiden; grant release from the grief and sufferings which hold me fast, and ever preserve me unharmed, O Lady.

*Kontakion, tone 2,
to the special melody* The steadfast...

You have received into the delight of your good things and into your rest the pious and God-bearing martyrs who on earth forsook all things, Acindynus, Pegasius and Anempodistus, and with them Afthonious and Elpideforus; for you alone are supremely good.

Ikos Open my mouth, O Christ my Lord, that I may hymn and praise with honour the struggles of your athletes; for, forsaking all, and loving you, the creator of all, they considered all things on earth corruptible. Making the honoured sign of your life-bearing cross, they have diligently taken their place before their king, as valiant soldiers and martyrs, crying out to you, for you alone are supremely good.

Ode 7

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

As you delivered the three pious youths from the flame, so also you preserved in the midst of a fiery furnace the athletes who sang to you with divine wisdom: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You bestow abundant gifts and pour miracles, O Christ, acting and working through your athletes, as you are full of loving kindness; and you reveal this to those who sing to you: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

A multitude of martyrs truly assembled by faith you brought to Christ, manifesting most glorious miracles, and singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Delivered from the ancestral curse by you, and having passed on to everlasting sustenance, we cry out to you: Rejoice, O all-glorious Lady, who gave birth to the incarnate God for us.

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.

The devout festival of the martyrs has now joyously arrived, illuminating the world, bringing gladness to all and splendidly adorning those who sing with faith: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Having as your helper the invincible Lord of glory, O excellent ones, you braved wild beasts, the pit and cruel tortures. To him we sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With you as a mighty rampart, O valiant athletes Acindynus, Pegasius and Anempodistus, with Afthonius and ever-memorable Elpideforus, we hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Adorned with crowns of victory, and resplendent in diadems of beauty, O blessed martyrs, you ultimately received the unwaning radiance of heaven, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Regarding you as the Mother of God, with mouth and mind we hymn you, O immaculate Lady; for you gave birth to Christ, the creator, God and king, who wrapped himself in flesh; and so we hymn you and exalt you above all for ever.

Ode 9

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

For your labours on earth you received the gladness of heaven, where the choirs of martyrs and the armies of the godly and all the first-born rejoice in your triumph, O blessed ones.

O blessed ones, from cruel bonds and misfortunes deliver those who with faith celebrate your holy festival, asking peace, tranquility and salvation.

Illumined with rich light and shining with grace, O athletes, entreat the benefactor, that he grant to those who have recourse to you and those who struggled with you, remission of offences and grief.

Theotokion Eve was driven away from the tree of life of which she had been forbidden to eat; but you, O virgin Mother of God, have given birth to eternal life, granting life-bearing activity to the world through faith.

*Exapostilarion,
to the special melody* Hearken, O women...

With hymns we crown Acindynus, Pegasius and Elpideforus, together with Afthonius and Anempodistus; for, having denounced the superstitious deception of the Persians, and endured beating and wounding for Christ, they have received ineffable glory.

Theotokion Rejoice, O palace of God; rejoice, mountain overshadowed; rejoice, bush unconsumed; rejoice, throne of glory; rejoice, divine table; rejoice, golden jar; rejoice, fiery candle stand; rejoice, O Mary, virgin Mother, the light cloud.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
and this verse of the martyrs, tone 2*

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

Having empurpled your body with streams of blood, you trod the path of martyrdom without faltering, O athlete Acindynus. Girded with divine strength, you hewed down the devices of the enemy: entreat Christ our God on our behalf, that our souls be saved.

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

The five-lighted lamp of the athletes hewed down the deceit of the enemy like an axe in a grove of trees, as David described; and having confessed Christ before the emperor, they pray unceasingly for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the special melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

As she beheld you * nailed to the cross, O Lord, * the lamb, your Mother, marvelled and cried out: * What is this sight which I see, * O my most desired Son? * Thus has the unbelieving and most iniquitous crowd dealt with you, * which enjoyed your many miracles. * But, O Master, * glory to your ineffable condescension.

Liturgy

Prokimenon tone 4

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Verse I have set the Lord always before me: he is at my right hand and I shall not fall.

Epistle to the Ephesians, number 233

Alleluia tone 2

Verses 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 ever more.

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

Gospel according to Matthew, number 36

Communion

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

November 3

Martyrs Akepsimus the Bishop, Joseph the Priest and Aithalas the Deacon; commemoration of the dedication of the church of St George at Lydda where his body was placed

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... six verses,
beginning with these of the martyrs, tone 8
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O most glorious wonder, * comely Akepsimus * who ministered to the martyrs, * is crowned today with a wreath of hymns. * We see how he suffered for his worship of God, * in wounding the spiritual foe. * How liberal were the gifts of grace he received: * through his prayers save our souls, O Christ, * as you are full of loving kindness.

O most glorious wonder, * Joseph the priest shines as a star from Persia. * Destroying the abomination of sorcery * by the Holy Spirit. * He extinguished the impious worship of fire * with the outpouring of his blood. * How great was the strength by which he cast down demons: * through his prayers, save our souls, O Christ, * as you are compassionate.

O most glorious wonder, * the steadfast Aithalas, * the namesake of a champion of suffering, * is seen to be an ever-blossoming garden, * cut down, he blooms with wounds, * and slain, he begins to live. * How strong was his endurance of character: * through his prayers, save our souls, O Christ, * as you are compassionate.

*And 3 verses to the Great Martyr, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As valiant among the martyrs...*

O passion-bearer George, * conversor with the angels, * dweller with the martyrs, * ever the refuge of the sorrowful: * Be a haven of tranquility for me * who sails upon the sea of life, * and pilot my life, I implore you, * that with unwavering faith * I may bless your supernatural struggles.

Protect me as I sail upon the sea, * as I set out upon the way, * and as I sleep at night; * and when I am awake * illumine my mind, O George, * and instruct me to do the will of the Lord, * that on the day of judgment * I may find remission of the sins of my life, * by fleeing to your protection, O glorious one.

Arrayed in the breastplate of faith, * armed with the shield of grace * and the spear of the cross, * you were invincible to the adversary, O George. * And as a divine warrior * having conquered legions of demons, * you now sing with the angels, * and, entreated by the faithful, * you sanctify and save them, protecting them.

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

You lived in accordance with the meaning of your name, as is fitting, O warrior George; for, taking the cross of Christ upon your shoulders, you worked well the ground made barren by the deceit of the devil, and, having uprooted the thorns of idolatrous worship, you planted the vine of the Orthodox faith. Now you flow with healings upon the faithful throughout the world, having become a righteous labourer of the Trinity. We entreat you, pray for peace for the world and the salvation of our souls.

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

Beholding our life * hung upon the tree, * the immaculate Mother of God cried out, * lamenting maternally: * O my Son and my God, * save those who hymn you with love.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
with Glory be to the Father... to the martyrs, tone 6,
composed by Ephraim of Karyes*

The three youths who were preserved unconsumed by the fire in Persia were mystically a foreshadowing of your thrice-radiant oneness of mind and your martyrdom in Christ, O athletes of the ineffable Trinity and supernatural unity; for as they stood up against the flame and did not rail against God, so you, in love of Christ, accepted death when your lives were taken. As a fourth one appeared there in their midst who bedewed them, so also Christ, one of the Trinity, has received them in a place of coolness. Akepsimus, Joseph and Aithalas, chosen of God, pray for our souls.

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

Beholding you crucified, O Christ, * she who gave you birth cried out: * What strange mystery * is this that I see, O my Son? * How is it that you die, * suspended aloft in the flesh, O giver of life?

Troparion of the martyrs, tone 4

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs received imperishable crowns from you, our God. Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. Through their intercessions, save our souls.

Troparion of St George, same tone

As a liberator of captives, a helper of the poor and a physician of the infirm, O champion of kings, and victorious great martyr George, entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, the canon to the martyrs, and that to the great martyr.

Ode 1

Canon to the Martyrs, 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 rich martyrs, equal in number to the most holy Trinity which you honourably worshiped, intercede before the throne of the Trinity for those who have recourse to you, O fervent helpers.

As worshippers of the thrice-radiant Trinity, you destroyed the deception of polytheism, enduring various torments and unjust death, O blessed of God.

By faith you sailed over the depths of torture without being capsized, O blessed ones; and came to anchor in the harbour of heavenly radiance, in the land of life without grief, to your ineffable joy.

Theotokion O immaculate Lady, you became the bringer of joy for us, for you received within yourself the fullness of the divinity: therefore we all call you the joy of the angels, O divinely joyous one.

*Canon to the Great Martyr, tone 4,
upon the acrostic* O blessed one, I glorify you, husbandman of God

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.

You showed fruitful cultivation of God, O passion-bearer George, nurturing by your pious example the faithful who celebrate in a sacred manner your splendid memorial and fervently glorify you.

November 3

Divine love truly inflamed your heart, O passion-bearer, and, unbidden, you went to torture, consuming the deception of polytheism with fire and illumining your mind with rays of salvation.

Confident as a lion, you confronted the tribunal, proclaiming the incarnation of Christ whereby the world has been delivered from the ancient fall; and you received man's pristine fruitfulness, O thrice-blessed George.

Theotokion Delivering us from our ancient condemnation, the Son of God became man, the Son of the Virgin. With Orthodox hearts, we glorify him in two natures and wills.

Ode 3

Canon to the Martyrs

Irmos Let us not boast of wisdom, power and wealth, but of you O Christ, wisdom in person, for none is holy but you, O lover of mankind.

Not in the learning of Hellenic vanity, O wise ones, but with divine knowledge you denounced the godlessness of the Persians, bringing down their madness.

Illumined with the divine anointing of the episcopate, O sacred Akepsimus, you adorned yourself with the blood of martyrdom.

With the crushing of your limbs you crushed the wiles of the deceiver, O ever-memorable Joseph, and it has brought you imperishable glory.

Theotokion Finding you a most pure habitation, the Wisdom of God took flesh of your blood, yet revealed you as incorrupt even after you had given birth.

Canon to the Great Martyr

Irmos The bow of the mighty has become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

Joyously renouncing the glories of lineage and homeland, you followed Christ, O martyr, and have become a comely citizen of the heavenly Zion.

As a special heir and dutiful son of the living God, you endured the tormentors' waves of scourging, O valiant martyr.

Theotokion O immaculate Lady, he who alone created man, putting on all of Adam, has become a new Adam through you, for the sake of his loving kindness.

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

You celebrated the mysteries blamelessly, O wise one, and were yourself an acceptable sacrifice. With glory you shared the cup of Christ, O holy Akepsimus, and with your fellow-sufferers you now pray unceasingly for us all.

Ikos Who among the faithful can in any wise fittingly hymn the wise hierarch Akepsimus, the beacon of Christ? For he has destroyed the deception of idolatry and has shamed the demons' wiles by the mighty power of Christ our God, instructing us piously to worship the most holy Trinity and to honour the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a single divinity; and he prays unceasingly for us all.

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

Joseph the heroic struggler, Akepsimus the destroyer of deception, and Aithalas, | the invincible and glorious sufferers and radiant stars, are today given fitting praise by the faithful in hymns. | They did not harbour the deception of the Persians and did not sacrifice to the sun nor honour fire. | To them let us cry out with love: Entreat Christ our God, || that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... *that of the great martyr, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Your tomb...*

Rejecting military service on earth, you desired glory in heaven, O martyr, and endured pain and a grievous death. Celebrating your holy memory today, we offer praise to Christ, O thrice-blessed George.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Helper of Christians, most holy Virgin who has given birth to God in a manner surpassing mind and words; pray unceasingly for those who sing your praises, granting forgiveness of all our sins and upholding the lives of us who with faith and love ever glorify you.

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

Ode 4

Canon to the Martyrs

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.

November 3

Spurning that which is below and turning their gaze to that which abides, valiant Akepsimus with glorious Joseph and Aithalas received dwelling places there; and so they are praised.

O mighty martyr Joseph, wondrous passion-bearer of Christ, during your suffering you extended your mind to the only Master, and he lightened your unbearable torments.

O passion-bearer Aithalas, harvested like a fruitful vine, your martyrdom pours the wine of contrition upon the faithful who sing in gladness: Glory to your power, O Christ.

Theotokion The Father's equally-divine Word was pleased to dwell within the holy Mother of God: she did not lose her purity, nor was she wearied by the pangs of labour; for she gave birth to Emmanuel, both God and man.

Canon to the Great Martyr

Irmos As an example of mercy and love, you mounted the cross and the nations were scattered before you: you are the lover of mankind, my strength and my praise.

O blessed one, your body, slain by torture, is an image of the sufferings of the Word, who was slain and who has given you eternal life.

Protected by the shield of truth, with your mighty mind you destroyed the false contenders, O divinely wise George.

The Word, who on earth adopted our weakness, has been glorified by your body; and so we ever glorify you, O George.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, he who gave existence to men, in becoming a man, has granted the possibility of being betterment to those corrupted by the transgression.

Ode 5

Canon to the Martyrs

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.

Calling upon the great and precious name of the Lord, O Akepsimus, with rejoicing you drained the saving cup of sufferings.

The Most High who is our food, has received you who was summoned through wounding, O Joseph, as have the choirs of martyrs with whom you now rejoice.

O blessed Aithalas, you are truly shown to be an ever-flowering garden which nourishes the ends of the earth with the fruits of your struggles.

Theotokion O immaculate Lady, you gave birth for us in time to the radiance of the Father, the light which is beyond time, becoming a wealth of goodness.

Canon to the Great Martyr

Irmos You have come as a light into the world...

Having manfully entered upon the struggle of martyrdom, you brought to an end the audacity of idolatry with your broken body, O passion-bearer.

The Master has set you in his crown as a brilliant gem, thus illumining his Church, O passion-bearer.

Slaughtered like a lamb, you were an image of the death of the good Chief Shepherd, and offered yourself as an unblemished sacrifice at his exalted altar.

Theotokion By your prayers, O most pure Mother of God, save us from coming misfortune, tribulation and the torment.

Ode 6

Canon to the Martyrs

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

When your head was severed, O Akepsimus, by faith you joined your soul to Christ inseparably, ever enlightened by rays of heavenly light.

Slain by stoning like the first martyr, you did not deny Christ, the living stone, O martyr, but passed over to the radiant mansions of heaven.

Beaten mercilessly with staves, you rejoiced, possessed of a staff of power, the cross and boast of the Lord, O passion-bearer Aithalas, divinely wise and most rich.

Theotokion The bush prefigured the great mystery of your birthgiving, which surpasses comprehension, for it was in no way harmed by the fire nor consumed, O exulted Virgin.

Canon to the Great Martyr

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.

November 3

Though the vessel of your body was broken by sufferings, O martyr George, you manfully destroyed every evil machination of the enemy.

Aflame with the love of God, in no way did you fear the hot irons of the furnace or the blades and wheels which lacerated your body, O martyr.

Theotokion O ever-virgin Mother of God, you were a holy temple for him who abides among the saints: sanctify us who faithfully hymn you.

*Kontakion to the Great Martyr, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* To you, the champion leader...

Having recourse to your elect and speedy aid, O athlete of Christ, we the faithful pray that those who hymn you may be delivered from the snares of the enemy and from all tribulation and affliction, that we may sing: Rejoice, O martyr George.

Ikos You appear as one great among earth's intercessors, O friend and favourite of the Lord; for, protected by you, faithful people are ever saved. With faith and love we cry to you, O glorious martyr: Rejoice, by whom the world is enlightened; rejoice, by whom the army is made splendid; rejoice, deliverance of the faithful from captivity; rejoice, ready aid of the imprisoned; rejoice, summit of those who fervently have recourse to you; rejoice, enricher of those who love you; rejoice, the protection of kings; rejoice, giver of victory in battle; rejoice, star which illumines those at sea; rejoice, overcoming of all misery; rejoice, to whom all the faithful have recourse; rejoice, by whom the creator is praised: Rejoice, O martyr George.

Ode 7

Canon to the Martyrs

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

Divinely bedewed amid the fire of torture, you set the adversaries afire with the flames of your patience, O passion-bearers, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The fire-worshippers became inheritors thereof as they coerced those who worship the Sun of Glory to worship fire, but they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Let Akepsimus, Joseph and Aithalas, the three beacons of the most honoured Trinity, who illumined the ends of the earth with rays of piety, be honoured for ever.

Theotokion Blessed is the fruit of your womb, whom the hosts of heaven and the assemblies of earth bless, and who has delivered us from the original curse, O blessed one.

Canon to the Great Martyr

Irmos The three youths in Babylon, having mocked the tyrant's command, cried out in the midst of the flame: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

You were a living sacrifice to him who was sacrificed for us like a lamb; and, strengthened by Christ, you denounced the sacrifices vainly offered to demons.

You appear as a fruitful branch which bears for us the grapes of patience which produce the divine wine which makes glad the hearts of all the pious.

You zealously gave your limbs to be severed for Christ's sake, and, gladdened, you remained inseparable from his love, O blessed one, and an heir to all blessings.

Theotokion All creation offers praise to God who was born of your most pure womb, O immaculate maiden, and who has delivered us all from the ancient curse.

Ode 8

Canon to the Martyrs

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.

As abodes of the Word and through the savagery of the tormentors, bearing the burden of his scars as though lifeless already, you set yourselves against the mindless, O valorous martyrs, who, tested by much torture, exalt Christ above all for ever.

O ever-memorable martyrs, mediators of eternal glory, adorned you went forth with joy, loving the path of his testimony, singing: Praise the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Neither fire, whips, beasts, nor the sword; nor family or death could separate the martyrs from your love, O Lord, the fountain of blessings, flowing with inexhaustible streams of love. Praising them, O Christ, we bless you for ever.

Theotokion Praising the Mother of God, the Mother who alone knew not man, alone the most exalted of all created beings, the holy mountain, the golden altar; with hymns, we sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Canon to the Great Martyr

Irmos O almighty deliverer of all, descending into the midst of the flame, you bedewed the pious youths and taught them to sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

O George, the special helmsman of those who sail and a great helper amid tribulation, save those who have recourse to you with faith and an unwavering heart.

November 3

You are the champion of truth, a denouncer of falsehood, and the confirmation of us who sing with faith, O passion-bearer: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

With the shedding of your blood you extinguished the burning coals of deception, O George, and you water the hearts of the faithful who hymn you and keep your glorious memory.

Theotokion Sprung from the root of Jesse, you have uprooted the root of malice by putting forth the fashioner of creation, O maiden: to him we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Ode 9

Canon to the Martyrs

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, O Mother of God.

Let us praise the beacons of piety and destroyers of deception, the fragrant blossoms of the rational paradise, the honoured vessels, the beholders of God's beauty.

You received into your hearts the glowing ember which Isaiah saw of old, O martyrs; and illumined by its brilliance, you brought down the dark worship of fire.

Adorned, you stand before the life-creating Trinity, and, illumined with crowns of comeliness, you remember those on earth who ever keep your memory, O blessed ones.

Theotokion O Virgin, who conceived the Saviour and gave him birth in the flesh, save me who is in despair. Weighed down by the burden of sin, I cry to you in pain: Have pity, and help your servant.

Canon to the Great Martyr

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

Radiantly shining like the dawning sun, you enlighten creation with the unwaning rays of your sufferings and the manifestation of your many miracles, O George, joy of martyrs: we bless you with love.

You bring drops of divine sweetness which take away the bitterness of our passions and ever delight the souls and hearts of those who bless you with faith, O glorious one.

You have hallowed the earth with your blood and have filled heaven with the spirit of gladness, O martyr: therefore all the souls of the pious love you as a favourite of Christ and call you their sure helper.

Theotokion We offer you the cry of gladness of the divine Gabriel, crying out: Rejoice, joy of the universe, who gave birth to him who has abolished sorrow, and who has removed the reproach of Eve: rejoice, O unwedded Virgin.

Exapostilarion
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

You endured unendurable torture as if one of the bodiless host, O exulted Akepsimus, wondrous Joseph and marvellous Aithalas the deacon, servitors of the mysteries: the incorporeal hosts are ever amazed at the pain of your sufferings.

Glory be to the Father... *to the Great Martyr, same melody*

You quenched the flames of delusion with the streams of your blood and utterly destroyed the audacity of your tormentors, and glorified Christ, O passion-bearer George; and so you received a crown of incorruption and life from the right hand of the Most High.

Theotokion There is no hope of salvation for me, O Virgin, for I have miserably fallen into the abyss of transgressions and await the menace of dreadful torments and the place of the goats. Take pity on me before the judgment, O Mother of God our fervent aid.

Aposticha, from the Octoechos,
and this verse to the martyrs, tone 2

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

Having steadfastly struggled in piety for Christ, you cast down the audacity of the tormentors and threw the summit of idolatry into the abyss, O holy Akepsimus, Aithalas and Joseph. Now, holding chorus in heaven, O crowned ones, pray for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 4,*
composed by a Studite hymnographer

Brethren, let us spiritually praise the patience of George, the glorious martyr. He is like a noetic ingot, who, heated for Christ, was forged by misfortunes and sharpened by torture, and whose body, corrupt by nature, was laid waste by various torments. For desire conquered nature, through death forcing the lover to pass on to Christ our God, the object of his desire, the Saviour of our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody As valiant among the martyrs...*

The lamb, your Mother, * beheld you nailed to the cross, O Lord, * and she marvelled * and cried out: * What is this I see, * O my longed-for Son? * How can the unbelieving and iniquitous gathering thus repay you, * which benefited from your many miracles? * Glory to your ineffable condescension, O Master.

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.

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians, number 233

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.

The Gospel of Luke, number 106

Communion

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

November 4

Our Venerable Father Ioannicius the Great; the Hieromartyr Nicander, Bishop of Myra; and Hermas the Priest

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... six verses,
beginning with these of the venerable one, tone 4
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

You were illumined * by light divine, * when with purity of mind you lifted your eyes; * and likewise preferred things which are to come eternally * to things which are ephemeral. * Receiving fire in your heart, O father, * like a deer you thirsted * for divine love; * and, unmindful of flesh and blood, * you prepared yourself for the struggles of asceticism, * for which you made the passions of your body * subject to your soul.

To ascend the mountains of God * you made your dwelling in the heights, * without being brought low by the unsleeping needs * of this lowly body, O father Ioannicius; * for, uniting yourself to the good one * by standing whole nights and days in prayer, * you were illumined * and received the gift of prophecy, * to see things far off as though they were near, * and to foretell to the faithful that which would take place. * Therefore, we glorify you * as a divine teacher.

The assaults and darts of the demons * you mightily blunted * with the entreaties of your prayers, * and by the power of God, O truly glorious one, * you triumphed over them, * refreshed by the humility of your heart. * He who is supreme in goodness * has honoured you with miracles; * and so your precious relics * pour forth fragrant myrrh, * for you have become the sweet fragrance of Christ, * O father Ioannicius.

*And 3 verses of the hieromartyr, tone 2,
to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

Receiving a fitting name through divine providence, O father, you confirmed it, actually signifying it; for your endurance conquered multitudes of adversaries and the throng of torturers. Receiving a crown of victory, you cried out with faith: Glory to your invincible might, O lover of mankind.

On this, your divine memorial, you pour forth the most fragrant myrrh of healings upon us today, O wise Nicander; you drive away the darkness of sorrows and bodily sufferings, and fill with rich grace the gathering of all who cry out to Christ: You are the inexhaustible myrrh perfuming all who hymn you.

As you have boldness before Christ, who alone is glorious in his saints, entreat him, O venerable Nicander, for all who with love celebrate your memory and praise your admonitions, that through grace we may become partakers of his ineffable good things and incorruptible glory.

Aposticha, of the Octoechos; and, Glory... idiomelon, tone 8

We honour you as the instructor of a multitude of monks, O Ioannicius our father; for through your steps we have truly recognized how to walk rightly. Blessed are you for, labouring for Christ, you denounced the power of the enemy, O conversor with angels, companion of the venerable and the righteous: with them pray to the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

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

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

Troparion of the venerable one, tone 8

With the streams of your tears you cultivated the barrenness of the desert, | and with the sighs of your labours from the depths of your soul you brought forth fruit a hundredfold: | shining with miracles you were a shining light for the whole world. || O Ioannicius our father, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Troparion of the hieromartyr Nicander, tone 4

In his suffering, O Lord, Nicander your martyr | received an imperishable crown from you, our God. | Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By his intercessions, save our souls.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos; and two for the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of Venerable Ioannicius, tone 4,
composed by Joseph,
upon the acrostic I praise you, the emulator of the Forerunner*

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.

Illumined by the light of grace, O venerable Ioannicius, enlighten those who with faith celebrate your memory, and by your prayers deliver them from the darkness of sin.

Without turning back you trod the path which leads to the heavenly city, O Ioannicius, for the Holy Spirit guided you, abiding in your heart.

You were possessed with exalted humility, O Ioannicius; and so we entreat you: Take pity on our lowliness, O venerable one, and ease the pangs of our hearts.

Theotokion O immaculate one, as you are the restoration of the fallen and strengthening of those who persevere, I entreat you: Raise up my mind, fallen through sin, that I may glorify you.

Canon of the martyrs, tone 4

Irmos The choirs of Israel, hastening across the Red Sea and the watery depths with dryshod feet, and seeing the mounted captains of the enemy drowning there, sang with gladness: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

The most sacred Church of Christ is now adorned with hymns, celebrating with sanctified hymns the honoured feast of the honourable athletes and hieromartyrs today.

Anointed with the precious oil of the priesthood, O hierarch Nicander, by faith you made it yet more precious with the dye of your blood, crying out in joy: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Running the course of martyrdom with true gladness, you were enriched with the grace of miracles and heavenly gifts, crying out together, O martyrs: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Theotokion Christ, uncircumscribable in the bosom of the Father became circumscribed, incarnate within his Mother, preserving her a true Virgin even after giving birth in a manner past understanding. We sing to him: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Ode 3

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

November 4

You exchanged transitory things for those which last, consciously taking up your cross, O Ioannicius, and ascending unscalable mountains like great Elias, you remained there.

You greatly-deisired path was indicated by two of the fathers, whom you found secluded in the mountains for many years, O blessed one illumined with the gift of prophecy.

Beset by various passions, we flee with faith to your protection, O Ioannicius: visit us with your holy mediation, entreating him who loves mankind.

Theotokion With the sprinkling of your mercy, extinguish the burning embers of my passions, and having quenched them, light the lamp of my heart, O immaculate one, the golden lampstand.

Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos Like a barren woman, the Church of the nations has given birth, overcoming the assembly which was great with children. Let us cry out to our wondrous God: Holy are you, O Lord.

Spreading out noetic nets, by miracles you caught those who dwelt in falsehood, bringing them as a great offering to him who shone forth from the Virgin, O Nicander.

You were a fruitful branch of the plant of Titus, the enlightener of Crete, O blessed Nicander, bearing noetic grapes which exude for us the sweetness of salvation.

With godly Hermas you cultivated stony hardened hearts with the plough of the cross, O wise ones, and made them fertile through grace, and so you are blessed.

Theotokion Even a heavenly intelligence cannot describe your birthgiving which passes understanding, O Maiden; for you conceived the primal mind who has formed all things by his word.

Sessional Hymn of the venerable one, tone 8 to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...

Having washed away the darkness of the passions and truly received the light of the commandments of Christ, you shone forth in fasting; and having mortified the body, you lived in the Spirit and trampled the snares of the enemy underfoot, O blessed one. Therefore, through the grace of the Spirit you became a companion of the angels on high. O Ioannicius our father, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Sessional Hymn of the martyrs, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Having been lifted up...*

Truly illumined with the divine anointing of the truth of the hierarchy and with the truly sacred blood of martyrdom, O glorious ones, you have joined the ranks of the incorporeal angels, rejoicing. We celebrate your honoured memory, praying that, through your supplications, O holy ones, cleansing be given to all.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion By your divine birthgiving, O pure one, you restored the dead nature of mortals, corrupt in the passions, and you have raised all from death to a life of incorruption. Therefore we all bless you, O most glorious Virgin, as you foretold.

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 the Venerable One

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.

Reaching the loftiest summits, you brought down the upraised heads of demons by your humility, contending bravely against them, O glory and confirmation of monastics.

Armed with the fear of Christ as if a two-edged sword, you noetically and perceptively overcame the apostate serpent, O blessed one glorified by sacred victories.

Wholly enkindled by the divine Spirit, O father, you endured the cold, dwelling in the wilderness for many years, seeking the Lord, who kept you warm by divine grace.

Theotokion With faith I fall down and entreat you, the cleansing of all mortals: Render your Son the judge merciful to me, that I may fittingly glorify you.

Canon of the Martyrs

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

You were the chariot of the Word, bearing him noetically; and bound to horses and cruelly dragged along, you did not deny him, nor were you defeated as you were drawn to the path of heaven.

November 4

Cast into prisons and weighed down with chains, you saved the city and men from the bonds of falsehood, bound with the bond of love of him who was bound in the flesh for us, O blessed ones.

Imprisoned, the glorious ones glorified the Master with the angels, and were given heavenly bread to eat; therefore they paid no heed to the pangs of the flesh, since they were mightier than wounds.

Theotokion He who is awesomely seated upon the lofty throne, sat as a child in his Mother's arms to restore his fallen image and grant deification to the children of Adam.

Ode 5

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

O venerable one, you trod the narrow and onerous path with heartfelt divine aspiration, augmented through vision and deified by adoption: thereby becoming the confirmation and adornment of monastics.

Venerable Ioannicius, abode of God, the grace of prophecy which cleanses the eye of the mind was given to you, to see the future as if present, and things far off as if near.

Deliver me from the pangs of sins and sorrows; ease the pain of my heart and grant remission of my falls into sin, for it is God our benefactor who heeds your honoured supplications.

Theotokion Heal the defects of my heart, cure the passions of my soul and drive away the darkness of despondency, that I may praise you in hymnody, O ever-blessed and exalted Mother of God.

Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos Impart to us your enlightenment, O Lord, and free us from the darkness of transgressions, granting us your peace, O good one.

You led people to the enlightenment of faith, O Nicander: forsaking the darkness of the madness of idolatry, they became children of the light through your mediation.

Shining with the enlightening rays of the Spirit, you passed through the night of torture, dispersing the darkness of ungodliness, O glorious luminaries.

Full of the waters of Paul, Titus gave you drink, showing you to be a river inundating the swollen streams of ungodliness, O Nicander.

Theotokion Illumine my soul, O Virgin who gave birth to the lamb and Lord incarnate; O undefiled tabernacle, divine ark and precious lampstand.

Ode 6

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

Causing the passions of the body to wither away, you became a tree of lofty stature bearing wondrous fruit and sacred admonitions, O divinely blessed one.

Through the appearance of the martyr Evstathius the Lord cured you of the deadly poison given to you to drink by an unrighteous man, O most blessed one.

Though infirm of body, O Ioannicius, you suffered myriads of pains; and so I cry to you with faith: Ease the pain of my heart.

Theotokion O only help of all, help us who are in danger: extend your hand to us, and lead us to the haven of salvation, O Maiden full of the grace of God.

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

The bodies of the martyrs, pierced with nails, were seen to emulate the sufferings of the Saviour nailed to the cross who has saved the world from corruption.

By the guidance of the holy and omnipotent Spirit, O martyrs, you passed over the deep of torments and, full of glory, reached the divine harbour.

O ever-memorable hierarch Nicander, true to your name you conquered all the opposition of the slayers of men, and, standing before God, have received crowns of glory.

Theotokion O Maiden, having given birth to him who has crowned us with blessings, you destroyed the reproach of our first mother, transforming her sorrow into true joy.

*Kontakion of the venerable one, tone 8,
to the Special Melody To the chosen...*

You were revealed as a radiant star shining in the world and bringing light to those in the gloom of the passions; and as a mighty physician who has received the grace

of healing: grant healing to those who ask it that we may sing: Rejoice, O father Ioannicius.

Ikos O wondrous father Ioannicius, you have become another physician and intercessor for those held fast by sickness and sorrows, healing all who flee to your divine protection with faith. Hearken as we sing to you: Rejoice, scion of the root of a good father. Rejoice, goodly offspring of your mother. Rejoice, for you set aside their love. Rejoice, for you accepted God alone. Rejoice, for you left an earthly army. Rejoice, for you cast down the pride of the barbarians. Rejoice, rampart and protector for kings. Rejoice, who was revealed as a weapon and tower of defense for the world. Rejoice, for you brought down the battles of the heathen. Rejoice, beacon resplendent with miracles. Rejoice, clother of the naked. Rejoice, deliverer of captives. Rejoice, O father Ioannicius.

Ode 7

Canon of the Venerable One

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

You made your heart a dwelling-place of the Trinity, and having built three churches, O Ioannicius, by divine grace you pour forth myrrh therein, for the enlightenment and purification of those who approach you with faith.

Your soul, ever illumined by the radiance of the divine Spirit and rendered wondrous by prophetic foreknowledge in sacred manner, O blessed one, counselled the souls of those who approached you with faith.

By your holy supplications, swiftly deliver me from the afflictions of soul and body which beset me, O blessed one, and cause me to sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Theotokion O divinely greeted Lady who alone gave birth to the immutable Lord, pray that by his right hand he turn to higher things my mind, bitterly crippled by the griefs of life.

Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos Once in Babylon, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace, crying out in hymns: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having stained your sacred vesture in the dye of your blood, O blessed Nicander, you rendered it resplendent, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Approaching the fire with unwavering love for the creator, O blessed ones, you were not consumed, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The flame of the furnace, prepared for your torture, you transformed into dew through the all-accomplishing Spirit, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O pure Virgin, ineffably you gave birth to the incarnate Word who delivers from death those who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

Standing high upon a mountain, like a lamp upon a lampstand, O venerable one, you illumine the minds of all with faith, pointing out most excellently the path of life by word and deed, and leading them to the summit of dispassion by your divine discourse.

You conversed with the Lord Almighty, who cleansed your mind by dispassion, O venerable one; and, taught ineffable things by him, gave utterance in prophecy, illumining men's souls as one great among the prophets; therefore we the faithful praise you.

Grievous wounds have afflicted me and various infirmities trouble me. Deliver me from them, I pray, O father Ioannicius, for you have received from God the grace to heal sufferings and ease the pain of the faithful.

To the Trinity Hymning the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the indivisible Trinity, the uncreated divinity, the one dominion, power and monarchy, with all the hosts on high let us cry out in joy: Holy, holy, holy.

Theotokion You are seen to be more exalted than the angels, having ineffably given flesh to God: entreat him, most immaculate Lady, that by the exaltation of humility I may become in mind above the carnal passions and may hymn your great grace.

Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos O 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.

As an honourable hierarch who entered the temple on high with your own blood, and not some other, O Nicander, you sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Praising the priests of the Lord at the tribunal, and adorned with the blood of martyrdom, glorious Hermas cried out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

November 4

Having sacredly offered holy rites, you became honourable sacrifices offered to the Lord as a sweet fragrance, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion O Virgin who gave birth to the deliverer and Lord, the abyss of compassion, dry up the abyss of my evil, for to him I cry: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Ode 9

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

Strengthened when God confirmed your mind to restrain the passions, O father, you became an angel incarnate: now you live for ever with the angels in heaven, standing before the throne of glory, filled with never-waning light.

You dwelt amid mountains and caves as in heaven, O venerable Ioannicius; therefore the wild beasts were tame before you: likewise you tamed the passions of your soul, which are subjugated only with difficulty, and attained righteousness, and so we honour you with faith.

Lying in the tomb, your sacred and holy relics ever drown infirmities and consume hordes of demons through the grace of God, O wise Ioannicius, and they ever pour healings upon all who bless you with faith.

Approaching Christ with greater clarity and purity, O Ioannicius, be mindful of those who commemorate you with faith, asking that we be forgiven our sins, delivered from all sickness and given a place in the kingdom of heaven.

Theotokion O pure one who gave birth to the light, illumine the eyes of my soul, lest the heavy darkness of sin come upon me and the depths of despair cover me: save me and guide me to the haven of the will of God.

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

Patiently enduring dismemberment, O wise martyr Nicander, when burnt with torches on the tree you received the dew of heaven from the hand of an angel: those also consumed by fire receive your life-bearing supplications.

Stripped naked, you were an awesome sight: bound to irrational beasts and dragged over the ground by them repeatedly, O athletes, you were seen to be whole; and though put into the fire, you were not consumed, preserved by the divine Spirit.

Today the sacred metropolitan see of Myra celebrates, loudly summoning every city to gladness on this day of your memorial, O praiseworthy ones, on which you completed your sacred suffering.

Heaven was opened to you, the angels clapped their hands at your ascent, the ranks of the venerable and the righteous rejoiced, and the martyrs leapt for joy. Dwelling with them, O holy ones, be mindful of those who commemorate you.

Theotokion Illumine me with your light, O immaculate Lady who gave birth to the unapproachable light; drive the clouds from my soul; rescue me from darkness, I pray, and grant me divine salvation.

*Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody* By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

The grace of God abounded in your soul, who lived like one of the incorporeal ones, O wise Ioannicius: deliver those who honour you from the dark clouds of the passions, leading them to the calm harbour and repelling hordes of demons.

Theotokion Through you the pre-eternal Son truly wrought great things, with the counsel of the Father; for without pain you gave birth to him who is life incorruptible, and, avoiding the pangs of maternity, even after giving birth you remain a virgin, as before childbirth.

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

Having preserved the image of God intact, and through fasting placing your mind above the pernicious passions, as one in his likeness you mightily ascended to the Master; for, manfully constraining your nature, you strove to subject that which is worse to that which is better, and to enslave the flesh to the spirit. You are seen to be a summit of monastics, a desert-dweller, an instructor of those who run the good race, and a renowned model of the virtues. Now in heaven you clearly behold the Holy Trinity, reflections having been abolished, O Ioannicius our father, and pray unceasingly for those who honour you with faith and love.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody* Having set aside...

A sword passed through your heart, * as Simeon said, * O most pure Lady, * when you beheld him who shone forth from you * at the ineffable word of the archangel * uplifted upon the cross, * condemned by the iniquitous, * given vinegar and gall to drink, * his side pierced by a spear, * and his hands and feet transfixed by nails: * lamenting, you exclaimed, * crying out maternally: * What is this new mystery, * O my Son most sweet?

Liturgy

Prokimenon, tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Epistle to the Galatians, number 213 [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 according to Matthew, number 10 [Mat 4: 25-5: 12]

Communion Verse

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

November 5

Martyrs Galaction and Epistimi

Vespers

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

Nurtured on the milk of faith,
for your coming torment and suffering,
you attained maturity in Christ,
as an acceptable sacrifice and perfect immolation
through your voluntary acceptance of martyrdom,
O Galaction most rich.
How firm and steadfast was your faith,
through which you received God,
and are now deified most perfectly.

Artfully you sought the source
of good things most earnestly desired,
and with the splendours thereof
you illumined your soul and mind,
much suffering martyr Epistimi,
with mighty opposition
you cast down the crafty tyrant of old
O blessed servant of God
the divine adornment of monastics.

The two most radiant luminaries
shine as if from the east
with the radiance with grace and piety
illumining all creation
with the transcendent splendours of their sufferings
and the divine flames of healings.
Honouring their most splendid feast,
we give glory to Christ
who for their sake illumines all.

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

*Theotokion or Theotokion of the Cross,
same tone and melody*

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 mediatrix,
 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, 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

*We sing both canons from the Octoechos,
 and this canon to the holy martyrs, tone 8,
 upon the acrostic* It is fitting to hymn the unconjugal pair of athletes.

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.

Standing with joy before the life-creating Trinity, O blessed one, illumined with
 radiant lightning, implore forgiveness for those who celebrate your holy memory.

Your soul afire with the Holy Spirit, you consumed the carnal passions by fasting
 and extinguished the fire of ungodliness with the streams of your blood.

November 5

Forsaking family, wealth and power for the sake of Christ, and taking up your cross, O venerable one, with blessed Epistimi your spouse, you struggled as monastics in a God-pleasing manner.

Theotokion O exulted Mother of God, helper of the sorrowful, salvation and hope of the hopeless: pray earnestly that we be delivered from misfortunes.

Ode 3

Irmos In the beginning you established the heavens, and founded the earth upon the great waters, O Lord: strengthen me in the singing of your glorification.

She who gave you birth brought you forth from her barren womb as the daystar which dispels the night of ungodliness.

Grasped by the purity of love, you taught your spouse to live in virginity with you; and having suffered lawfully with her, O martyr Galaction, you were glorified.

Behold a woman who through divine revelation learned all the trials of the torturers before they took place, and cast down the tormentor.

Theotokion O Maiden who gave birth to him who is life who has destroyed the power of death, give life to me, slain by harmful passions.

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

Having adorned the visage of your soul with fasting,
you enlighten the faithful with the rays of your sufferings.
Piously celebrating your holy and light-bearing day with faith,
we cry out to you, O blessed Galaction:
As you have boldness before God, pray that we be saved.

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

Theotokion By your divine birthgiving, O pure one,
you renewed the mortal essence of the earthborn
which had become corrupt in the passions,
and you have raised all from death to the life of incorruption.
As is fitting, we all call you blessed,
O most glorious Virgin,
as you foretold.

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 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 appear to be reason-endowed sheep following your shepherd, the king of all, and you celebrate with the martyrs in the heavenly fold, O crown-bearers.

You appear to be a choice team, ploughing the furrow of an honorable and valiant martyrdom; and you cultivated the grain which is laid up in the granaries of heaven.

Your noses, heads, nails and hands severed for Christ, O valiant ones, you uprooted the falsehood of impiety and became the victors.

Theotokion The tongue of mortals is not able to hymn you fittingly as the Mother of God, the refuge of Christians, O immaculate and most pure Lady.

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.

Having nurtured yourself on fasting as with milk, O Galaction, you attained the perfect fullness of the sufferings of Christ.

You were taken up far above to the resting-place of the saints, O Epistimi, where you perceive with a cleansed mind.

O venerable martyrs, you received a habitation with the martyrs in the highest and have obtained immortal glory.

Theotokion You gave birth in time to him who is beyond time, who became man, that he may save man, O most pure Lady.

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 laver of divine enlightenment you approached those who do not wed, and were subsequently most perfectly baptized by blood, O athletes.

Having enlightened your soul with the great harshness of fasting, you caused it to be beautiful in the light of suffering, O Galaction.

November 5

Having mounted the chariot of your blood, O martyrs, you reached the way of heaven, where you now rest.

Theotokion You gave birth to the Son who is equal in honour with the Father, O unwedded Lady, and in manner past understanding you fed the nurturer of all with milk.

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

Having struggled splendidly,
you are numbered among the legions of Christ's martyrs who fought valiantly,
O glorious Galaction with Epistimi, your honoured wife who suffered with you.
Unceasingly entreat the one God for us all.

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.

Wedded to the Word of God, O Epistimi, you struck the unbelievers with blindness who strove to strip you naked, and made them sons of light when they repented.

Utterly refusing to sacrifice to inanimate gods, as honourable sacrifices you offered yourselves to our true God, the Master of souls, O martyrs.

Led into the fire of torment, O wise martyr Galaction, you quenched the flame of ungodliness with the flow of blood, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion With all the ranks of heaven on high, with loud voices we who have been saved by you call you blessed, O Maiden, the Mother of God.

Ode 8

Irmos The unoriginate king of glory, before whom the hosts of heaven tremble, hymn you priests and exalt him above all for ever.

Equal in purity and equal in fasting and suffering, O valorous athletes, you have received equal gifts from God.

Desiring the life of the angels, you maintained your union with incorruption, and as is right, you joyously joined their chorus, O passion-bearers of the Lord.

Standing manfully before the tribunal, O martyr, you preached the one true God, and brought down the arrogance of polytheism.

Theotokion O people, let us hymn the only one who as a mother remained a virgin after giving birth, she who is the precious and exalted throne of the Lord the Most High.

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 are a tower of heaven, the foundation of the Church, a pillar of piety, and the confirmation and divine adornment of martyrs and fasters, O divinely wise Galaction.

Amid the flowers of virginity you bloomed like a rose, spreading your fragrance as a lily in the valleys of martyrdom, O Epistimi, virgin martyr of the Lord; and so we call you blessed.

You have now passed on to the light of the three-sunned splendour in which you were illumined, as children of the light: pray, O martyrs, that he grant enlightenment to those who praise you with faith.

Theotokion You are our sword and rampart, O Mother of God; the help of those who have recourse to you: we invoke your prayer, that we be delivered from our foes.

November 6

Paul the confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... six verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

You were ordained, O blessed one, * as the namesake and emulator * of divinely eloquent Paul, * adorned with his character and piety * and his endurance of evil circumstances, * and aflame with his zeal, * O champion of Orthodoxy. * With him you are now glorified * in the mansions of heaven. *twice*

With the strong cords of your dogmas * you strangled the ungodly Arius * and the impious Macedonius; * and with your correct discourse on doctrine * you strengthened multitudes of the Orthodox, * O hieromartyr and father. * Accepting your radiant confession, * he who loves mankind * has brought you to share in his kingdom. *twice*

Christ has crowned you * with a splendid wreath of righteousness, * O blessed hierarch * who finished your race * and kept the faith; * and he has adorned your confession, O wondrous one. * Having received a heavenly inheritance, * pray to the Saviour * for those who hymn you. *twice*

O most blessed Paul, * namesake of confession, * as intercessor for those who fervently praise you, * deliver us from all misfortune and every sin, * from the stormy passions and tyranny, * as you are an invincible martyr * and a truly acceptable hierarch, O father; * for you have acquired boldness * before Christ our God.

Glory be to the Father... composed by Germanus, tone 1

Arrayed in episcopal vestments, O venerable father, you emulated your namesake Paul: having endured persecution and tribulations, in your constant pangs you shamed the pernicious opinions of Arius; and having suffered for the unoriginate and consubstantial Trinity, you cast down impious Macedonius, the opponent of the Spirit, and, having made the Orthodox faith clear to all, you dwell with the immaterial angels, with whom, pray that our souls be saved.

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

Beholding your unjust slaughter, O Christ, * weeping, the Virgin cried out to you:
* O my child most sweet, * how is it that you die unjustly? * How is it that you hang upon
a tree, * who has suspended the whole earth upon the waters? * Leave me not alone, I
pray * O greatly merciful benefactor, * for I am your Mother and handmaiden.

Aposticha, from the Octoechos; and this verse, tone 1

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

O venerable father Paul, invested with virtue by Christ our God, strengthened in
the faith you valiantly conquered hordes of demons and barbarians, and established your
flock upon a rock, unassailed by any heresy. Joining chorus with the angels, pray to the
Saviour that our souls be preserved in peace.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Byzantium, tone 2*

Sailing the deep of fasting with the sail of abstinence, you escaped the storm of the
passions, O venerable one. As the namesake of divine Paul, you endured persecution and
tribulation, maltreated amid the blasphemies of the heretics. You cast down the opinions
of Arius and vanquished the heresy of Nestorius, as a zealot of the church of Christ,
whom may you entreat, O blessed hierarch, that our souls be saved.

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

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

Troparion, tone 3

Through your confession of the divine faith, | the Church sees you to be another
Paul, a zealot among her priests: | and with you Abel cries out to the Lord, | and
likewise the righteous blood of Zacharia. | O venerable father, entreat Christ our God,
| | that we be given great mercy.

Matins

Both canons from the Octoechos; and that of the saint.

*Canon of the hierarch Paul, tone 4, composed by Theophanes,
upon the acrostic* I most wisely hymn Paul, the teacher of the mysteries

Ode 1

November 6

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.

We proclaim you, O Paul, the confirmation of the faith, a teacher of the Church, an unshaken pillar of confession, a greatly luminous lamp of grace and the mouth of the fiery Spirit.

Paul the most great, the sun of the whole world, sets you, a second Paul, as a fire mightily consuming heresies and as a scythe which cuts down ungodliness.

You contend lawfully, O divinely eloquent one, bearing the brunt of the divine battle of preaching; and as a faithful hierarch you strangled the vain-minded Arius like a wild beast with the cords of your dogmas.

Theotokion Come, let us hymn most pure Mary, who alone has adorned the human race, given birth to God incarnate, and has remained a virgin.

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.

Adopted through divine grace, O Paul, following the teachings of God-bearing Paul, you did not accept the nature of the only-begotten Son to be a created being.

With mouth, heart and tongue you preached the wisdom and power of God, the incarnate Word, O divinely wise and venerable Paul, denouncing the impious Arius.

O wise one, you preached God who in essence is all-creating and omnipotent, through the righteous judgment of the transcendent authority of the Holy Spirit of God, whereby we are deified.

Theotokion The Word of the unoriginate Father, beyond any beginning, has now received a beginning, incarnate from you, O pure one; and he who transcends all time has come under time.

Sessional Hymn, tone 3

Holding to the teachings, you rejected ungodly words, O divinely wise Paul, thus shaming Arius, as you taught the Son of one essence with the Father, strengthening the faithful. O venerable Father, entreat Christ our God, that we be granted great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... *to the Special Melody* Of the Wisdom...

As the namesake and emulator of the chosen vessel, O father, you endured tribulations and persecution for the faith; and like him, you also went to Rome, everywhere preaching that the persons of the Trinity receive equal adoration. Having reached the end of your course in Armenia, you received from the Lord a crown, as is fitting, putting to shame Macedonius and the ungodly Arius. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who with love celebrate your holy memory.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion All of us, the generation of men and angels, bless you as the Virgin who, alone among women, gave birth without seed to God in the flesh; for the fire of the divinity dwelt within you, and you nourished the creator and Lord with milk as a child. We, the generation of angels and men, fittingly glorify your most holy birthgiving, and together cry out to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of offenses to those who with faith worship your most holy birthgiving.

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

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.

With his life-bearing right hand the creator has set upon your head the crown of confession as a precious honour, for you were victorious, O divinely revealed and blessed Paul.

As you struggled for the teachings of piety, you received rewards, having now attained the tree of life, O divinely revealed, blessed and wondrous Paul.

As a splendid struggler and champion of the truth, O honourable Paul, you have been granted to join chorus in the land of heaven, where the feet of the meek dance.

Theotokion Desiring to save humanity, O Saviour, as the Son, visibly consubstantial with the Father, you were incarnate of the Virgin in a form consubstantial with us.

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.

November 6

You ended the pasturage and corruption of heresy, O divinely wise father, applying an excellent remedy: the splendid confession of your teachings, pure beyond understanding, and your divine zeal.

The grace of the Holy Spirit was poured abundantly in your lips, O blessed one, truly finding you to be a mighty and excellent champion of Orthodoxy for the faithful.

You smote the blasphemy of Arius and Macedonius with the sling of your divinely inspired doctrines, O Paul, as David did to the Philistine, and, having first strangled them, you cast them down utterly.

Theotokion The timeless and unoriginate Word came under time, receiving animate and noetic flesh from you, O unwedded Virgin, granting peace to all who hymn you.

Ode 6

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.

Arius, who uttered blasphemy against the highest and belittled the Son and Word of God as a creature, has been damned, anathematized by you, O divinely wise one.

The mindless, foolish and ungodly Macedonius, who rejected the Spirit of God, O father, has been cast down by your mighty opposition, O divinely manifest one.

The creeping serpent who raised up a horde of heresies is slain by your vivifying words, O blessed hierarch of God, sacred and divinely eloquent one.

Theotokion O virgin Mother of God, we hymn your birthgiving and undefiled purity, which transcend nature; for in you virginity and incorrupt birthgiving wondrously meet.

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

O Paul, who shone forth upon the earth | like a star of heavenly splendour, | you now enlighten the universal Church | for which you suffered, laying down your life. || And your blood like that of Abel and Zacharia cries out to the Lord.

Ikos You received your name from on high, and your birth from the earth below, O Paul; and ripe as a comely garden, you blossomed like a garden in fasting, perfuming all with the sweet scent of the labour of your manifold struggles, your sweat, imprisonment, starvation, thirst and all your tribulations. Therein you successfully pass on, adorned with a wreath of victory, for your blood cries out to the Lord.

Ode 7

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

You passed over to the tabernacles of heaven, O divinely wise and venerable one, and, near to God, deified by communing with him, you sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Made wise by your words, O exalted Paul, we learn to worship the indivisible and inseparable divinity in three suns, and to the Trinity we sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Having purified your sacred, divine and God-pleasing confession like gold, with gladness you offered yourself to God as a truly acceptable sacrifice, O venerable one, emulating the suffering of our Saviour.

Theotokion You have become the true advocate of divine deliverance for all, having given birth to the deliverer of all, O immaculate Lady: to him we sing Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord 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.

Springs of your dogmas gush forth and water the whole Church, O father; and with your precious blood you have hallowed all who follow you in the Orthodox faith and cry out: Praise the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Having thrust aside the storm waves of life you have now anchored in a calm harbour; for steering your passage, O Paul, you have the Lord who created all things with his hand as your helmsman: him we exalt above all for ever.

Dwelling within you, the thrice radiant light of the divine Trinity has made you a reflection which illumines the council of the Orthodox and darkens the horde of the heretics, O father who sings: Praise the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion In the words of the prophets, O Virgin, we proclaim you, the Mother of God; for you gave birth to the Son, Emmanuel, more ancient than all things. To him we sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

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

I offer myself entirely to your godly protection, O divinely eloquent hieromartyr, for, having received from Christ the authority to loose transgressions, save me by your supplications and illumine me with divine light, cutting away the bonds of my offences.

You are seen to be a new Paul aflame with zeal, O excellent father Paul, in that you now hear ineffable words in Paradise; for you share his character, having shared also his name, and have received a magnificent crown in the kingdom of Christ.

You appear as a temple, a denouncer of every heresy and a godly champion of Orthodoxy, O glorious hieromartyr Paul, illumined with rays of grace and filled with the light of the uncreated Trinity.

Theotokion Clad in flesh he received from you, O immaculate one, the incarnate Word who before was incorporeal dwelt in the world, suffering no diminution: with his divine power he has cast down the one who from of old has tormented all.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the holy place...

Afire with zeal from your ardent heart, you became a spiritual champion of grace cutting down the company of the heretics with the sword of your words, O holy hierarch; and, having finished your race, you earned a place with the multitude of the martyrs.

Theotokion You were an immaculate Bride and a most honoured temple of an ineffable pregnancy, O Mother of God; for the pre-eternal light made his abode within you, and you gave birth to the Word of God. Hymning your birthgiving, we fittingly magnify you.

Aposticha from the Octoechos,
and Glory be to the Father... tone 7

Living on earth like one of the incorporeal ones, you penetrated to the depths of the Spirit; and from there you drew forth a wealth of divine knowledge and enriched men by your Orthodox teachings, O venerable father.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross

The lamb, the Virgin, seeing her lamb stretched out on the tree between two thieves, cried out: Woe is me, my sweet child: what is this strange and most glorious mystery that I see? How can the iniquitous crowd nail you to the cross and give you vinegar to drink, who has fed them with manna?

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from the Octoechos and 4 from Ode 3 of the Canon to the Hierarch.

Prokimenon, tone 7

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

Verse Sing to the Lord a new song: O praise him in the assembly of the faithful.

Epistle to the Hebrews, number 318 [Heb 8: 3-6]

Alleluia, tone 2

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

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

The Gospel of Luke, number 64 [12: 8-12]

Communion

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

November 7

The 33 Martyrs of Melitene; Our venerable Father Lazarus the Wonderworker, of Mount Galesius

Vespers

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

O glorious ones, you were truly shown to be * a divinely assembled regiment, * a sacred army, * a godly company, a holy nation, * a legion of martyrs inspired by God, * a comely gathering, * an unbreakable alliance, * inhabitants of the city on high. * Therefore, you are rightly called blessed.

Gathering together, * let us honour Nicander and Hesychius, * Athanasius and Mamas, * divine Barachius and Callinicus, * Theogenes and Nikon, * Longinus and Theodore, * Valerius and Xanthius, * Theodulus, Callimachus and Evgene, * the godly Theodochus and Ostrychius.

Together let us hymn with faith * the true witnesses: * the valiant Hieron, * the glorious Epiphanius, Maximian and Ducitius, * Claudian and Theophilus, * and the godly Gigantius, * Dorotheus and Theodotus, * Castrycius, Anicetas and Themelius, * as well as Evtychius.

*And 3 verses for our venerable father, tone 6,
to the Special Melody Having set aside...*

Having set aside the folly of the passions * and made your flesh subject to your spirit, * you became a standard of virtue, * the confirmation of monastics, * a model for fasters, the adornment of the venerable. * Now you behold the ineffable beauty of your creator, * ever nurtured by the Spirit * in the beauties of heaven. * Gathering together, * we celebrate your honoured and most festive memory * in hymns, with sweet songs.

You set aside the heavy burden of matter * and the stormy turbulence of the flesh, * and, controlling your breathing, O wise one, * you remained unaffected by the passions, * strong as a pillar, * with a spiritual breastplate and valorous mind. * Now you have truly received * the divine vision and splendour * and have taken your place before him whom you desired, * delighting in his unending radiance, * in which you are deified.

Loving the light, * like Elias and John the luminary, * you observed stillness in the mountains and arid deserts, * ever learning divine ascent * and excelling in the way of the virtues. * Thereby you attained your ultimate desire, * and stand, rejoicing, O wise one, * before the thrice-radiant light of the Trinity: * receiving divine splendour * directly therefrom, * you pray with boldness for our souls.

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

O venerable father, you gave neither sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids, until you released your soul and body from the passions and prepared yourself to be a dwelling-place of the Spirit; and Christ, coming with the Father, made his abode within you. As you are a favourite of the consubstantial Trinity, O great preacher Lazarus our father, pray for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody Rejoice...*

The lamb and Mother, seeing her lamb hastening to the slaughter, followed quickly, crying out to him such as this: Where are you going, O Jesus, my child most sweet: why do you run this course, so swift and direct? O sinless Jesus, greatly desired one, and most merciful Lord, give an answer to me, your handmaiden. O my compassionate Son most beloved, do not pass me by in silence who gave birth to you in a strange manner. O most compassionate God, grant great mercy to the world.

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

O venerable father, the sound of your admonition has gone forth into all the earth; Therefore, you have found the reward for your labours in heaven, have destroyed legions of demons, attained the ranks of the angels and blamelessly emulated their life. As you have boldness before Christ, entreat peace for our souls.

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

The Virgin, your pure Mother, seeing the most iniquitous men who unjustly nailed you to the tree, O Saviour, was wounded inwardly, as Simeon foretold.

Troparion of the martyrs, tone 4

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs
received imperishable crowns from you, our God.
Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants
and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.
By their intercessions save our souls.

Troparion of Venerable Lazarus, tone 8

With prayerful vigils and outpouring of tears you watered your pillar, | and with sighs from the depths of your soul you brought forth fruit a hundredfold, | and you were a shepherd, granting the petitions of all. | O Lazarus our father, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of the martyrs, tone 8,
upon the acrostic I offer this praise to the wise martyrs*

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 joined the divine hosts of heaven, O victorious martyrs, implore cleansing for all who praise your luminous memory.

Desiring to tread the path of martyrdom with splendour, you mightily endured every storm wave of torture, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

You were seen to be luminaries on the earth, dispelling the darkness of polytheism, O divine athletes; and so you have received the never-waning light.

Theotokion He who created all thing by his gesture and has crowned the athletes who likewise trampled down the foe, is incarnate of you ineffably, O pure Mother.

*Canon of Venerable Lazarus, tone 2,
upon the acrostic I sing entreaty to you after God, O thrice-blessed one*

Irmos Come, O 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.

Come, you faithful, rejoicing with faith and godly spirit, let us praise divine Lazarus, crying out to him: O blessed one, deliver us from misfortunes by your prayers.

God caused you to return to your native land though you did not desire it: by your supplications save me who ever desires the passions.

The radiant and divinely bestowed love which shone richly in you, O God-bearer, caused you to lay down your life zealously for your neighbour.

Theotokion From all wrath and tribulation save us who bow down before your holy image and confess you with faith to be the immaculate Mother of God.

Ode 3

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

With your sacred precepts, O glorious and divinely blessed Hieron, you trained the sacred martyrs for the divine contest and gloriously caused them to disregard torture.

Crushed by a tree, O holy ones, you emulated the precious suffering of the most good Master and with the grace of the Almighty crushed the pernicious deceivers.

With hope in the Lord of all, O martyrs who behold God, you were not moved from your great stand, but lawfully fulfilled the divine course with upright character.

Theotokion Rejoice, O pure Lady, Maiden of many names, who gave birth to the infinite Word confined by the flesh, whom the choir of much suffering martyrs confessed.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

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.

Fortified by divine strength, O wise one, you were delivered from savage beasts: therefore entreat Christ, that he deliver from noetic beasts those who hymn you.

Strengthened by the power of Christ, O venerable one, you manfully endured the hunger, privation and oppressiveness of the desert in the hope of ineffable sweetness.

Protected by divine grace, O blessed one, you escaped the assaults of the hostile spawn of Hagar, saved for the benefit of many.

Theotokion You gave birth to the Master of all, O pure Virgin, ineffably and past describing: entreat him to rescue those who hymn you from the dominion of the passions.

Kontakion of venerable Lazarus, tone 4

The Church of Christ with gladness glorifies you with psalms, | as a luminary most great: || never cease to beseech Christ to grant forgiveness of transgressions to all.

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

Having shown mighty courage, O wise ones, you foiled the malicious snares of the enemy, preaching Christ at the tribunal. When beheaded, you were crowned by the right hand of God, O thirty-three blessed inhabitants of Melitene. O honourable martyrs, be mindful of us who honour you with faith.

Glory be to the Father...

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

Your heart, possessed of divine intelligence, exchanged earthly things for things divine and lasting, O venerable Lazarus; and you joined chorus with the angels, delighting in immaterial light and rejoicing unceasingly. Therefore entreat Christ our God, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion You were the divine tabernacle of the Word, alone the most pure Virgin Mother, who surpasses the angels in purity. With the divine waters of your prayers, O pure one, cleanse me who above all others is dust, defiled with carnal transgressions; and grant me great mercy.

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

Ode 4

Canon of the Martyrs

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

With the rays of divine struggles, O rich martyrs, you gloriously enlighten the ends of the universe and disperse the darkness of the invisible foe: with pious mind we celebrate your radiant and divine commemoration.

Having completed the contest and given your blood for him who suffered and shed his divine blood willingly on the cross for our salvation, O martyrs of one mind, you have been granted equal honour: we call you blessed.

Let us praise the wise martyrs Theogenes and Mamas, Hieron, Claudian, Nikon and Nicander, Longinus and Hesychius, Barachius, the great Callinicus and godly Xanthius, Theophilus and Valerius.

Wisely hastening to the struggle, O glorious ones, you found the divine grace of the deliverer which accomplishes all things, and you wisely endured all manner of torture, singing to Christ with thanksgiving: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Theotokion The shadows of the law and the visions of the prophets proclaimed you of old to be the Mother of the deliverer; and, seeing you, O immaculate one, we sing to you, O glory of passion-bearers and might of the holy martyrs.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

Irmos I hymn you, O Lord, for I have heard your report and was afraid. You came to me, seeking me who was lost. Therefore I glorify your great providence for me, O most merciful one.

Avoiding all transitory things, passionate attachments and love, O venerable one, and placing all your hope on God, you acquired that which the hands of the poor receive.

Averting the malice of demons attacking like wild beasts, O venerable father, you remained in no way harmed, protected by the grace of God who aided you in all things.

Seeing your love and gratitude to God, O venerable one, the wicked one sought to weaken your strength, setting dogs upon you; but his wiles were shown to be in vain.

Theotokion I hymn you, O Lady, Mother of God, and cry out: Protect and sanctify me by your supplication, and guide me to salvation, for I have fallen through many sins and am beset by the assaults of demons.

Ode 5

Canon of the Martyrs

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

Let us praise the wise athletes who bravely completed the course, Maximian and the godly Eugene, Theodore and Ducitius, Callimachus, Theodulus and Dorotheus.

The valiant warriors, voluntarily slain and crushed, inherited eternal immortality, and now join chorus in the spaciousness of paradise, having received blessed hope.

Spurning the slumber of indifference, with godly vigilance you raced to your contest, the course of the divine martyrdom, and have now reached the refuge of heaven.

Theotokion Exalted Lady who loosed the bonds of Hades by your birthgiving: loose me, bound with the bonds of transgression, and direct my feet on the path that lead to life.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

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.

The evil one, hoping to cast down the steadfastness of your soul and the firmness of your resolve, O venerable one, transformed himself into a dog, and thus came to try you.

Confused and in great want, the enemy departed, O blessed one, seeing you in no way affected, for you bore want with thanksgiving.

Ever bearing the cross in your hands like a staff of power, O venerable one, you grind down all the activity of the enemy's wiles like dust.

Theotokion Save me from every assault of enemies visible and invisible, O exalted Mother of God, the hope of the despairing and intercessor of the faithful.

Ode 6

Canon of the Martyrs

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

In hymns let us bless the athletes Theodotus and Hilarion, wise Gigantius and Athanasius, and divine Evtychius and Epiphanius.

With faith let the valiant martyrs of Christ be blessed: Hieron and Diodotus, wise Castrycius and godly Ostrychius, great Themelius and Amonitus.

Having drowned the invisible Pharaoh and his army in the outpouring of your blood, O victorious martyrs, you reached heaven and adorn the Church of the firstborn.

Theotokion The weaponry of the enemy was rendered useless, O Mother of God, from the moment when Christ, to whom you gave birth, was pierced by the spear, edifying with blood and water those who had become parched.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

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.

Desiring to make your heart a temple for God, O venerable one, you visited the churches of the saints, from whom you abundantly received the grace of the Holy Spirit as confirmation for many.

Your native land received you back as a priceless treasure through the judgment of God, O divinely wise one: make me, a stranger to the homeland of Eden, to be its heir.

The church of the virgin-martyr Marina first received you as a tenant, and there you shone as a never-waning star, shedding light upon those asleep in the darkness of ignorance, O venerable one.

Theotokion Immaculate Virgin, entreat your Son and Lord for your servants who ever venerate the precious image of your countenance with faith; as you are able so to do.

*Kontakion of the martyrs, tone 8,
to the Special Melody As the firstfruits...*

The radiant choir of martyrs seems to descend to us as a luminous company, shining upon the Church today with wondrous rays. Celebrating their honoured memory, we ask you our Saviour: Through their supplications deliver us from misfortunes, that we may sing to you: Alleluia.

Ode 7

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

Seeing your precious hands severed for the truth, O glorious Hieron, you sang thanksgivings to him who sees all things, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You were a wise the model for your fellow sufferers, O glorious Hieron, with them receiving a place in the kingdom on high, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As valiant warriors of the eternal king, with the sword of your courage you destroyed the legions of the deceiver, singing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion As you gave birth to the physician, O pure Virgin, heal the sufferings of my heart and deliver me from eternal torment who cries out in hymns: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

November 7

Irmos The youths of old showed themselves to be orators with the greatest love of wisdom; for, theologising with their lips, they sang from their God-pleasing souls: Blessed are you, the most divine God of our fathers.

You prepared an abundant feast, replete with your goodly divine virtues; and as it nurtures all, you teach them to sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Following the words of your wise teachings, and having with true zeal set aside the love of all transitory things, men chose well to dwell with you, O blessed one.

Having acquired the manner of your life from the wondrous Simeon, you stood unsheltered upon your pillar, firm as stone, crying out in gladness: Blessed are you, the most divine God of our fathers.

Theotokion Save me from the snares of the enemy by your mediation, O pure one, and to the ultimate love of your good Son bind me, driven from him by wicked pleasures.

Ode 8

Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos As victors over the tyrant and the flame by your grace, and zealously keeping your commandments, the children cried out: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Having died to the world, you inherited the life to come and pour the grace of healing on those who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord; exalt him above all for ever.

Shown by the beams of your sufferings to be splendid luminaries, you illumine the world, O martyrs and passion-bearers, crying out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Cast into prison, O truly divine preservers of the truth, your flesh scourged pitilessly with leather thongs, you in no way strayed from the straight path. Therefore, you have received crowns of victory.

Theotokion As one holier than the angels, O pure one, you received the God of all who rests in the saints: all we, the faithful, hymn and glorify you for ever.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

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.

Truly studying the struggles and feats of the fathers who fasted before you, O father, you strove to be their successor; and you not only did so, but even surpassed them.

You made supplication, entreating God of old, O thrice-blessed one, offering your bread to all, saying: O Lord of glory, your own of your own we offer to you for ever.

Directing those with you to the divine path by word and deed, O father, and being yourself directed even more so, you performed miracles for them; for God increased the harvest through your supplications.

Theotokion Let heaven rejoice and let the earth and men be glad, for the Virgin Mary has ineffably given birth to the creator of all, to whom we sing: We exalt you above all for ever, O Christ.

Ode 9

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

Strengthened by divine power, O wondrous Hieron, with strength of mind you were able to vanquish the greatly devious one, and you led to Christ an assembly of athletes by your teachings, with whom we ever bless you with faith.

You were an honourable army assembled in Christ, O martyrs of great renown who opposed the powers of the prince of this world: having vanquished them with the sword of divine faith, in gladness you received crowns from the hand of the author of life.

Be exulted, O Melitene, bringing to the Almighty a goodly crowd of honoured martyrs, whose city is on high, since they have completed the sacred race; and with all cities ever bless them with faith.

O Christ the never-setting sun, through the supplications of your glorious martyrs illumine with rays of splendour and sanctify those who celebrate their radiant and divine martyrdom, and, as you are God, grant us to share in the kingdom on high.

Theotokion I tremble before your coming judgment, O king, and fear lest I be consigned to suffering and torment. But cleanse me of all defilement of sin through the supplications of your most pure Mother, as you love mankind.

Canon of venerable Lazarus

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.

November 7

Woe is me, for I have led a life of sloth and fear the dread judgment. Yet, O Lord who loves mankind, at the entreaty of Lazarus send me torrents of tears with which I may wash away the filth of my transgressions.

With a calm soul, O father, and likewise a suitably meek countenance, you appear as one consoling to all, watering men's souls with streams of your words: beseech Christ to grant this calm also to us.

Desiring to reveal divine virtue to all, O venerable father, God brought you to the wild mountain, where you illumined the world, readily emitting rays of life.

Theotokion May your Son, to whom you gave seedless birth, O Maiden, be a merciful judge when he sits upon the holy throne, as it is written, to judge all mortals for the wickedness of their life.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody Hearken, O women

Protected by the sword of your precious cross, O Word, your athletes mightily vanquished the adverse powers and put the tyrant to shame. They suffered for you, and reign together with you, O my Christ, the king of all.

Glory be to the Father...

Exapostilarion of venerable Lazarus,
to the Special Melody Adorning the heavens with stars...

Let us all praise with hymns ever-memorable Lazarus, God-bearer and emulator of the Master, who with the power of God destroyed the savagery of the demons.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Daniel describe you beforehand, O Mary the Mother of God, as the unquarried mountain from which the precious stone was cut which crushed the temples of the idols.

Liturgy

Prokimenon, tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Epistle to the Galatians, number 213 [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 [4: 25 - 5: 12]

Communion

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

November 8

Archangel Michael,

**and the Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel and
Barachiel,
together with the Angels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities,
Powers, Six-winged Seraphim, Many-eyed Cherubim,
and the other Bodiless Powers**

*If the Church or Monastery be dedicated to the Archangel Michael and all Angels,
or if the Superior so desires, a vigil is served.*

Little Vespers

*At Lord, I call to you... we insert 4 verses, in tone 1,
to the special melody O all praised martyrs...*

O bodiless angels who stand before the throne of God, luminous with the brilliance therefrom and everlastingly shining with radiance: as reflections of this light, entreat Christ, that he grant to our souls peace and great mercy. *twice*

Immortal messengers of the truly incorruptible life, most blessed ones who received life from the primal life; you have become holy beholders of the eternal wisdom, shining forth appropriately as reflecting luminaries, full of light.

Archangels and Angels, Principalities, Thrones, Dominions, six-winged Seraphim, and divine, many-eyed Cherubim, instruments of wisdom, virtues and powers most divine: pray to Christ, that he grant our souls peace and great mercy.

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

Commander of the angelic choirs, standing in heaven before the throne of the three-sunned Godhead, and richly illumined with the divine rays of light which are ceaselessly emitted therefrom: deliver from the darkness of the passions us on earth who joyously sing the thrice-holy hymn, and enlighten us with radiance, O Michael, supreme commander and intercessor for our souls.

Both now and for ever and to the ages of ages, amen.

And the Theotokion according to the day.

*Aposticha, tone 6,
to the special melody* On the third day...

The angelic hosts which stand before your throne, O Christ, pray for the human race: at their entreaties, cast down the audacity of the pagans, and bestow peace upon all the faithful.

Verse He makes his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

O ranks of angels, ever in hymnody around the throne of the king of all, preserve us who with faith call upon you, and deliver us all from torment.

Verse Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts.

The Father and God of all brought forth the only Word and the Spirit, and the hosts of heavenly intelligences, formless and immaterial, who hymn his three-sunned glory.

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

Theotokion, same tone and special melody

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God, we cry to you together with Gabriel: for, having received the first greeting from on high, you have filled us all with joy.

Troparion, tone 4

Supreme commanders of the heavenly host, | we unworthy ones implore you | that by your supplications | you will encircle us within the shelter of the wings of your immaterial glory, | and guard us who fall down before you and fervently cry: | Deliver us from dangers, || as you are the leaders of the host on high.

Great Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.

*At Lord, I call to you... we insert 8 verses,
beginning with these in tone 4
to the special melody As valiant among the martyrs...*

Revealing yourself as a most radiant intercessor * before the three-sunned divinity,
* O Michael the supreme commander, * with the heavenly hosts you sing, rejoicing: *
You are holy, O Father, * you are holy, O co-unoriginate Word, * you are holy also, O
Holy Spirit: * one glory, one kingdom and one nature, * one divinity and power. *twice*

Your visage is fiery and your beauty wondrous, * O Michael, chief among the
angels, * for in your immaterial nature * you traverse the ends of the earth, * fulfilling the
commands of the creator of all, * acknowledged as mighty in your strength, * causing
your temple to be * a fountain of healings, * honoured as is your holy calling.

You have made your angels spirits, * as has been written, * and your ministers a
flame of fire, O Lord; * and you have appointed * Michael supreme commander, *
pre-eminent among the ranks of your Archangels; * who is obedient to your commands,
O Word, * and who with fear utters the thrice-holy hymn * to your glory.

Same tone, to the special melody You have given us a sign...

The pre-eternal mind appointed you * as a secondary luminary, O Gabriel, *
shining upon the universe * with divine communications, * revealing to us the truly divine
and great mystery, * hidden from before the ages, * of him who, though incorporeal, *
was incarnate of the Virgin, * and became a man, to save mankind. *twice*

Standing before the throne * of the three-sunned divinity, * and richly illumined
by the rays of divine light * which are ceaselessly emitted therefrom, * deliver from the
darkness of the passions * those on earth who joyously join chorus and praise you; * and
illumine them with your radiance, * O Gabriel, supreme commander * and intercessor
for our souls.

Subdue the fury of the Hagarenes * who often descend upon your flock: * cause
the schisms of the Church to cease, * and quell the tempest of countless temptations. *
From misfortune and tribulation * deliver those who honour you with love * and take
refuge under your protection, O Gabriel, * supreme commander * and intercessor for our
souls.

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

Rejoice with us, angelic captains, for your chief and our intercessor, the supreme commander, appearing today in this honoured church, most gloriously sanctifies it. Singing fitting praises, we sing to him: Protect us under the shelter of your wings, O most magnificent Archangel Michael.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Rejoice with us, all you choirs of virgins,
for she who is our intercessor and mediator,
our protection and great refuge,
today brings comfort to the sorrowful in her honoured and divine Church.
Rightfully hymning her praises, we sing:
Protect us by your divine intercession,
O most pure Lady, the Mother of God.

Entrance. Prokimenon of the day and three readings.

A reading from Joshua

Once when Joshua was by Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you one of us, or one of our adversaries?" He replied, "Neither; but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped, and he said to him, "What do you command your servant, my lord?" The commander of the army of the Lord said to Joshua, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:13-15)

A reading from Judges

In those days, the hand of Midian prevailed over Israel; and because of Midian the Israelites provided for themselves hiding places in the mountains, caves and strongholds. When the Israelites cried to the Lord on account of the Midianites, the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites.

The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior." Gideon answered him, "But sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Midian." Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you." He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them." Then he said to him, "If now I have found favor with you, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. Do not depart from here until I come to you, and bring out my present, and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay until you return."

So Gideon went into his house and prepared a kid, and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour; the meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the oak and presented them. The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes; and the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight.

Then Gideon perceived that it was the angel of the Lord; and Gideon said, "Help me, Lord God! For I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." But the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you; do not fear, you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it, The Lord is peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites. (Judges 6: 2,7,11-24)

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing. The cypresses exult over you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, "Since you were laid low, no one comes to cut us down." Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. All of them will speak and say to you: "You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!" Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your harps; maggots are the bed beneath you, and worms are your covering.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon; I will ascend to the tops of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High."

But you are brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the Pit. Those who see you will stare at you, and ponder over you: "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who would not let his prisoners go home?"

All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb; but you are cast out, away from your grave, like loathsome carrion, clothed with the dead, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the Pit, like a corpse trampled underfoot. You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have killed your people. May the descendants of evildoers nevermore be named! (Isaiah 14: 7-20)

Entreaty, tone 1

Composed by Cyprian O supreme commander of the noetic powers that stand unceasingly before the throne of the Master, pray to the Lord, that he grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

By Arsenios Michael, pre-eminent among the divine ranks, commander of the hosts on high, who ever walks with us and preserves us all from every assault of the devil,

has today summoned us to a festival. Come, therefore, you that love the feasts of the Church and Christ, and taking up the flowers of the virtues, with pure thoughts and an upright conscience gather in honour of the Archangel; for, standing before God, unceasingly singing the thrice-holy hymn, he prays that our souls be saved.

By the Studite O supreme commanders who govern the immaterial essence of the noetic host and shed light upon the whole universe with rays of three-sunned glory: with never-ending utterance you sing the thrice-holy hymn: pray that our souls be saved.

Another by Arsenios O noetic beings, divine and incorporeal, surrounding the immaterial throne, with lips of flame you sing the thrice-holy hymn to God the ruler: Holy is God, the unoriginate Father; holy is the Mighty One, the co-unoriginate Son; holy is the Immortal One, the Spirit one in essence, who with the Father and the Son is glorified.

By Anatolios With incorporeal lips and noetic mouths the ranks of the angels offer unceasing hymnody to your unapproachable divinity, O Lord, with the pure intelligences and ministers of your glory. With them Michael the incorporeal and Gabriel the magnificent, praise you, O Lord. The angelic supreme commanders, pre-eminent among the powers on high, are our hosts today, leading us to sing the hymn of hymns to your unapproachable glory, O lover of mankind, whom they entreat unceasingly for our souls.

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

With lips of fire the Cherubim hymn you, O Christ our God, and with incorporeal mouths the choir of Archangels ever glorifies you. Michael, the commander of the hosts on high, unceasingly offers a hymn of victory to your glory; for he has lighted our way to a radiant festival today, that, with lips of clay, we may fittingly raise the thrice-holy hymn of praise; that all things be filled with your glory, and that you grant the world great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

Same tone, composed by George of Nicomedia

The Mother of God, the temple which contained God,
was brought into the Temple of the Lord, where Zachariah received her;
then the Holy of Holies rejoiced,
and the choir of the angels mystically celebrated.
And we, celebrating with them, cry out with Gabriel:
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you,
he who has great mercy.

Aposticha, tone 1,
to the special melody Joy of the heavenly hierarchies...

November 8

Celebrating in the world like the angels, let us make our hymn to God who is seated upon the throne of glory: You are holy, O heavenly Father; you are holy, O Word co-eternal; you are holy also, O most holy Spirit.

Verse He makes his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

Pre-eminent with great boldness among those of heaven, and standing in glory at the dread throne, O Michael, supreme commander, beholder of things ineffable: we implore you by your supplications save us who are in need, misfortune and temptation.

Verse Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts.

You are the first among the immaterial angels, the minister of God's divine radiance, a beholder and participant in the mystery, O Michael, supreme commander: save us who in yearly round piously honour you, hymning the Trinity with faith.

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

Tone 8, composed by John the Monk

Supreme commander, captain and champion, princely leader of the angels, from all need and sorrow, infirmity and bitter sin, free those who faithfully hymn and entreat you, O glorious one; for as you clearly behold him who is immaterial, you are illumined with the unapproachable light of the Master's glory; who, in his love for mankind, took flesh of the Virgin for our sake, wishing to save mankind.

Troparion, tone 4

Supreme commanders of the heavenly host, | we unworthy ones implore you | that by your supplications | you will encircle us within the shelter of the wings of your immaterial glory, | and guard us who fall down before you and fervently cry: | Deliver us from dangers, || as you are the leaders of the host on high.

At the Vigil, we sing the troparion twice, then Virgin Mother of God rejoice...

*If it is not a Vigil, then we sing the above troparion once,
then Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...
and this Theotokion:*

The mystery hidden from before the ages, and unknown even to the angels, through you O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth: God incarnate in unconfused union, who willingly accepted the cross for our sake, and thereby raising up the first formed man has saved our souls from death.

Matins

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the angels, twice,
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...
Theotokion The mystery hidden from before the ages...*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the special melody Your tomb, O Saviour...*

Standing ever by the awesome throne, illumined with the brilliant rays of the three sunned divinity, dispelling the gloom of sin, enlighten us who celebrate your company with splendour; and pray fervently that we be delivered from misfortune, O most radiant intercessors.

*Glory be to the Father... same tone,
to the special melody The choir of angels...*

The choir of angels, having the divine Michael as supreme commander, offers hymnody with him to the Holy Trinity, for the creator of all, by a word, brought forth from of non-existence the host of the fiery ranks.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the heavenly hosts unceasingly entreat God to whom you gave birth in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, that he grant remission of all our sins and correction of life to those who ever glorify you with faith and love.

*After the second reading from the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 2,
to the special melody When you descended...*

You have been revealed as foremost among the legions of the angels, O Michael, supreme commander. Unceasingly entreat the king, the Most High, to cast down the pride of tyrants here below. As you have boldness before the fiery throne, pray without ceasing for us, your servants.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 4,
to the special melody Quickly anticipate...*

The cherubim and seraphim, the many eyed hosts of ministering archangels, together with the virtues, thrones, dominions, angels, powers and principalities, entreat you, our creator, God and master, that you reject not the supplications of sinful people, O most merciful God.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O immaculate Virgin, who gave birth to the transcendent God, with the immaterial ones ceaselessly pray that he grant remission of transgressions and correction of life before the end to those who with love fittingly hymn you, O exulted Lady.

Polyeleos, and Magnification

We magnify you, holy archangel of God Michael, and all the holy archangels and angels, principalities, virtues, thrones, dominions, powers, cherubim and awesome seraphim, who glorify the Lord.

Verse I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart: before the company of heaven will I sing your praises.

*After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the special melody Of the wisdom...*

At the command of your creator, O Michael, master of the ranks of heaven and minister of divine glory, you have worthily become a saving mediator for Christians, with your immaterial glory watching over those on earth. We all give you fitting praise, hymning your divine festivity today, O supreme commander. Entreat Christ our God to grant remission of sins to those who with love celebrate your holy feast.

*Glory be to the Father... tone 4,
to the special melody Quickly anticipate...*

The ranks of angels stand with fear before your throne, O Master, Christ our God, and, ever illumined with its rays, they unceasingly sing to you a hymn of victory. Through their sacred prayers grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O pure and immaculate Virgin, unwedded Mother, who alone gave birth in time to the timeless Son and Word of God: with the honourable bodiless hosts of heaven beseech him to grant us cleansing of our sins and great mercy.

Hymn of Degrees, tone 4, the first Antiphon.

Prokimenon, tone 4

You make the winds your messengers, and flames of fire your ministers.

Verse Bless the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God, how great you are.

*And Let every thing that has breath... and the rest,
with the Gospel of Matthew, Numbers 52-54, omitting 53*

After the Psalm Have mercy...

Glory be to the Father... Through the prayers of the archangels...

Both now and for ever... Through the prayers of the Mother of God...
Have mercy...

Then the verse, tone 6

Standing in fear before the throne of majesty, O Christ, ever illumined by your radiance, your angels render hymnody on high, and as the ministers of your counsel sent down by you from above, bestow illumination upon our souls.

*We sing the Canon to the Mother of God, tone 8;
and two Canons to the Bodiless Ones, also tone 8
Katavasia I will open my mouth...*

Ode 1

Canon to the Mother of God

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

We hymn you, O most pure Mother of God, who in manner transcending nature gave birth to the ever-existent and most divine Word.

The Virgin gave birth to you, O Christ the life-bearing cluster which exudes the sweetness of universal salvation.

The race of Adam, exalted by you to a blessedness surpassing comprehension, gives fitting glory to you O Mother of God.

*The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts, same tone,
upon the acrostic* O divinely wise, let us praise the host of the bodiless ones
composed by John the Monk, of Damascus

Irmos O people, let us raise a song to our wondrous God, who delivered Israel from slavery, singing a hymn of victory: We sing to you, the only Master.

O faithful, let us all hymn the uncreated Trinity, who governs all the immaterial ranks of the heavenly choirs, singing: Holy, holy, holy are you, Almighty God.

O creator of the angels, as a beginning to your creation you appointed the immaterial beings around your throne to cry: Holy, holy, holy are you, Almighty God.

Rejoice, O Gabriel, servant of the mystery of the incarnation, and Michael, prime of the immaterial ranks, who ever cry out: Holy, holy, holy are you, Almighty God.

November 8

Theotokion I tremble before the mystery of your dispensation, O Christ; for as God, you submitted to be born as a man, that you might save the world from slavery to the enemy.

*The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts, same tone,
also composed by John of Damascus*

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.

Come together to praise the noetic choirs of the bodiless ranks, for they are divine ministers who unceasingly pray for our salvation and rejoice at our repentance.

The chief among the angels, chosen before others, the valiant commanders, the bodiless intelligences, today stand out in the celebration of the feast of their radiant memory: with them we also rejoice, offering a hymn to the Trinity.

O people, with spiritual joy let us be glad today with the angels, for Gabriel again announces glad tidings: the union of the Churches and the destruction of all adverse heresies, in the commemoration of the supreme commanders.

Theotokion O most pure one, through the Holy Spirit you gave birth to the Word of the Father, who transcending nature made his abode in you; him who is of two natures and wills, yet immutably one person; and whose countenance we venerate.

Ode 3

Canon to the Mother of God

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.

Give us help through your prayers, O most pure Lady, repelling the onslaught of bitter circumstances.

You were the reformation of our first mother, Eve, having given birth to Christ, the author of the life of the world, O Mother of God.

Gird me with power, O most pure Lady, who truly gave birth in the flesh to God, the person of the Father's power.

First Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

Irmos O Lord, plant the fear of you in the hearts of your servants who call upon you in truth; and be also our confirmation.

You appointed the mighty ones, O immortal Lord, who with strength fulfil your most holy will, ever standing before you in the highest.

O Christ, accept those who pray for us, the commanders of the angels, participants in the mystery of your incarnation and your honoured resurrection.

In your compassion you appointed angels as guardians for men, and you have made them the ministers of the salvation of your favoured ones.

Theotokion O Bride of God, you ineffably conceived the Lord and Saviour, who delivers from evil those who truly call upon you.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

O Michael, chief captain, foremost among the angels, you have revealed yourself as a secondary luminary of the Trinity to those who faithfully praise you.

Having proclaimed the coming of God in the flesh, Gabriel has faithfully filled the whole world with the radiance of divine grace.

O ever-hymned couple, radiant and immaterial pair, shine the light of God upon those who faithfully celebrate your memory.

Theotokion O pure Lady, Isaiah hymned your child, him who transcends nature; and I also sing, that I may obtain his cleansing.

Sessional Hymn, tone 8
to the special melody That which was commanded...

Captains of the heavenly ones, foremost of those enthroned on high, and awesome in divine glory, O Michael and Gabriel, supreme commanders of the angels, and all you bodiless ones, ministers of the Master: praying unceasingly for the world, ask remission of our sins, that we may find mercy and grace on the day of judgment.

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

Theotokion O pure and blessed one, full of divine grace, from the compassion of your loving kindness, with the hosts on high, the archangels and all the bodiless ones, unceasingly entreat him who was born of you, that, before the end, he mercifully grant us forgiveness of sins and correction of life, that we may find mercy.

Ode 4

Canon to the Mother of God

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

O Mother of God, the untilled field which gave rise to the life-creating ear of grain, him who bestows life upon the world: save those who hymn you.

All we who are illumined proclaim you to be the Mother of God, O most pure Lady; for you gave birth to the Sun of Righteousness, O ever-virgin.

As you are sinless, grant cleansing for our ignorance, and give peace to your world, O God, through the prayers of your Mother.

The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

Irmos You harnessed as steeds your apostles, O Lord, and with their bridles in your hand, your chariot is the salvation of those who sing with faith: Glory to your power, O Lord.

You harnessed the angels as steeds, O lover of mankind, and with their bridles in your hand, your chariot has become salvation for those who unceasingly sing: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Your virtue covers the angels, O lover of mankind, and your divine, glorious praise, O unoriginate one, fills the ends of the earth which sing with them: Glory to your power, O Lord.

You came for the salvation of your people, O compassionate Christ, and you summoned your friends, the powers; and your coming has been the gladness of all who faithfully sing: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Theotokion Supernaturally as a virgin and mother, O most pure Lady, you gave birth to Christ who is both God and man, to whom the ranks of the angels sing with fear: Glory to your power, O Lord.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

In Jericho of old the great Michael, supreme commander of the hosts of the Lord and chief among the bodiless, appeared to Joshua, son of Nun, who was at war, and fought with him, giving the victory; and the servant of God, receiving power from him, captured the enemy, conquering with the spear.

Once the great Gabriel, the truly divine archangel, chief among the bodiless hosts, appeared, bearing the glad tidings of a child to Zechariah the priest. Then the voice of the Word, who was born John, restored the voice of prophecy to his own father.

All the ends of the earth rejoice today with joy, O God, celebrating the honoured memory of your archangels, the divine Michael and Gabriel of divine wisdom. With them the whole rank of angels rejoices, for by their protection the world is preserved.

Theotokion You alone remained pure after giving unwedded birth, O Lady who with milk nourish the true Word of the Father, who through the Holy Spirit assumed our form, that of a servant: venerating the divine likeness of his countenance, him do we honour.

Ode 5

Canon to the Mother of God

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.

Calm the unbearable turmoil of my passions, O Lady who gave birth to God, the Lord and helmsman.

The ranks of angels and the assembly of men serve your child, O most pure Mother of God.

O Mary, unwedded Mother of God, overcome the hopes of the enemy and gladden those who hymn you.

The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

Irmos Leading me with the light of your knowledge, O Lord, ever lead me from the night of ignorance to the path of your commandments, for I ever stray to the soul destroying way.

Upborne to the heights by inexorable longing for you, O Christ, the ultimate of all desires, the angelic powers unceasingly glorify you.

Through your grace you have made your angels spiritual by nature and incorrupt, fashioning them according to your image, they that may hymn your majesty, O unapproachable Christ.

You have kept your servants who are near to you uninclined towards evil, O Christ, for you are the source of goodness, benevolent to those who fittingly serve you.

Theotokion Enliven my soul, slain by vile passions, O immaculate Lady who gave birth to the preserver of life, and direct it to the path of eternal and blessed life.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

When, of old, Balaam the prophet did not submit to the ineffable and divine wonders of God, an angel appeared to his ass at the crossroads and dreadfully denounced him, and in showing his animal to be rational, he altered nature.

When Peter was arrested and languishing in prison, an angel of God appeared, delivering him from the hand of Herod, from bonds and death: come, let us all honour the wise angels as divine protectors of our souls.

Angels and archangels, divine powers, by your ever present supplications end the uproar of strife, heresies in the Church and all temptations, and maintain us in peace.

Theotokion We know you to be the God of creation: one in two natures, two actions and wills, though unconfused, the Son of God who took flesh from a woman, whose depicted image we venerate.

Ode 6

Canon to the Mother of God

Irmos Bestow upon me a robe of light, O most merciful Christ our God, who covers yourself with light as with a garment.

O Mother of God, we, the faithful declare you to be the temple and ark of God, the living tabernacle and gate of heaven.

The destroyer of pagan temples, your child, O Mary, Bride of God, is worshipped as God with the Father and the Spirit.

The Word of God showed you to those on earth as the ladder of heaven, O Mother of God, for by you he came down to us.

The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

By your Word, O Lord, you divinely brought the heavenly beings, the immortal hosts, out of non-existence, making them luminous.

You are honoured participants in the mysteries of the praise of God, O bodiless ones, citizens of heaven and truly divine tabernacles, who fittingly serve the creator.

The noetic ranks of the bodiless ones unceasingly praise and glorify you, O all-unoriginate Son of God, as the creator and fashioner of all things.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, who was granted to cradle in your embrace him who eternally sits with the Father in the highest: render him merciful to us, your servants.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

Taking flight in mind from material corruption, let us honour the immaterial ones who like fire, flame and light, are bodiless, as we hymn them with lips of clay.

Calm the storm of the passions, O archangels, and quell all revolts against the faith, for you are the holy and fiery chief commanders of the Trinity.

O captains Michael and Gabriel, chief commanders and archangels of God, leaders of the bodiless ones, preserve us from all heresies by your protection.

Theotokion Being bodiless, as God, you appeared voluntarily from the womb, from an unwedded incarnation; and you came bearing a body, as a man, O Christ, whose likeness we honour, O faithful.

Kontakion, tone 2

Supreme commanders of God and ministers of the divine glory, guides of men and leaders of the bodiless host; ask for that which is to our benefit and for great mercy, since you are the supreme commanders of the bodiless host.

Ikos In your Scriptures, O immortal lover of mankind, you said that a multitude of angels rejoice in heaven over one who repents. O sinless one, who alone knows the hearts of men, amid our transgressions we ever dare to implore you to have compassion and impart repentance to us, unworthy though we be, granting us forgiveness, as you are compassionate; by the intercession of the supreme commanders of the bodiless host.

Ode 7

Canon to the Mother of God

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.

Incarnate of the Virgin's womb, you revealed yourself for our salvation; and knowing your mother as the Mother of God, we cry out in Orthodox manner: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

From the root of Jesse, O most blessed Virgin, you put forth the rod, the flourishing fruit of salvation to those who with faith cry out to your Son: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

O wisdom of the Most High, through the Mother of God, fill with wisdom and power divine all who with faith sing to you: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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 have shown as light the immaterial nature of your angels who are ever filled with ineffable light, O compassionate one, crying: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

The myriads of ministering angels cannot endure the sight of the countenance before which they unceasingly stand, crying: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

You created the nature of the angels by the person of your Word, and having sanctified it by the divine Spirit, O God, you taught it to bless the Trinity for ever.

To the Trinity Mindful of three persons, we glorify the uncircumscribed essence of the Father, the Son and the Spirit, singing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

Come, O men, and with the choirs of the bodiless let us worship, celebrating on this propitious day the memory of the wise archangels of Christ, singing: Holy, holy, holy are you, the God of our fathers.

Of old, Abraham the prophet of God and glorious Lot gave shelter to angels; and as they were hospitable, they found fellowship with the angels, crying: Holy, holy, holy are you, the God of our fathers.

To brave Manoah and wise Tobit appeared Angels who give fitting rewards for the struggles of life; as once the Angel of the youths quenched the flame in the fiery furnace.

Theotokion All that is ours by nature you took from the Virgin, except change, O Jesus, and with the fathers we proclaim you to be of two natures, but one person; and, depicting the visage thereof, we faithfully venerate it.

Ode 8

Canon to the Mother of God

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

Quench the burning and flame-like darts of the adversary which are hurled at us, that we may hymn you for ever.

You gave birth to God the Word, our creator and Saviour, in a manner transcending nature; therefore, we hymn and exalt you above all for ever.

The unapproachable light who dwelt within you, O Virgin, has shown you to be as a golden-rayed lamp of enlightenment.

The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

Let us emulate the life of the angels and wing our thoughts to the heights, and with them immaterially sing to the Lord, hymning and exalting him above all for ever.

O angels, heavenly members of the chorus surrounding the throne of glory, ever dancing about God, hymn and exalt him above all for ever.

To the Trinity The Trinity, which unceasingly makes its ministers a flame of immaterial fire in the highest and its angels as spirits, let us worship and glorify for ever.

Theotokion You were granted to bear in your arms him before whom myriads of angels and archangels stand in trepidation, O Mother of God: pray that those who glorify him may be eternally saved.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

Michael the archangel is chief among the angels; but with him is the radiantly glorified Gabriel, participant in the mystery of grace, the honoured one who obtained the consent of the Virgin, the champion leader of the bodiless ones; and they both proclaim joy to those who cry: O you people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

November 8

Ezekiel, beholding the ranks of angels in their various forms, prophesied: Among them six-winged Seraphim stood in intercession, and many-eyed Cherubim surrounded them; and with them I see most radiant archangels glorifying Christ for ever.

Daniel foretold in revelation how dread would be the coming of your second judgment: the thrones were set, and the Ancient One sat, and he let in the myriads of angels who stand with fear and cry out with incessant voices to the Trinity for ever.

Theotokion The Word, consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit, of his own will revealed himself from the Virgin as one like us, not mingling with one another the two natures of his awesome union, but showing himself to be one and the same in both, in two natures and one person; and we bow down before the image of his likeness.

Ode 9

Canon to the Mother of God

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.

Your memory is full of joy and gladness, pouring healings upon those who approach and piously proclaim you to be the Mother of God.

We sing psalms to you, O gracious one, and unceasingly offer you the hymn: Rejoice, for you have poured forth joy upon all.

You put forth a beauteous fruit, O Mother of God, and to those who partake of it, it imparts not corruption, but life for those who magnify you.

The first Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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.

O Christ, who ineffably united those who of heaven with those on earth, and has made one Church of angels and men: we unceasingly magnify you.

O angels and archangels, thrones, virtues and dominions, principalities and powers, cherubim and seraphim: pray with the Mother of God for the world.

O Michael and Gabriel, as leaders of all, visit those who with love honour your most festive memory and faithfully sing: Save us from every evil circumstance.

Theotokion Rejoice, O holy bride of God; rejoice, birth giver of the light of the world for the faithful; rejoice, rampart and shelter of all: ever entreat God our benefactor for us.

The second Canon to the Bodiless Hosts

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 have shown yourselves to be champions for the infirm, for those who sail the sea and those in need, O Michael and Gabriel, first among the bodiless hosts.

O Gabriel, in chorus with the divine powers and thrones, who is the champion leader of the angels and an intimate of the mysteries of God, pray to the Saviour for us.

As you are the protectors of the world and commanders of the hosts on high, entreat the Saviour for us.

Theotokion Together we glorify you, O Mother of God, for you save us from the passions and fulfil those of our supplications which are to our good.

Exapostilarion,
to the special melody By the Spirit in the holy place...

O Michael, chief captain, who from the Father of lights received command of the fiery servants; with the radiant brilliance of his glory, you stand before his most honoured throne as first among the immaterial ranks.

Glory be to the Father...

to the special melody With the disciples...

O most glorious Michael, divine supreme commander, who stands before God, leader of the immaterial powers, archangels and angels, dominions, thrones and principalities: standing before the unbearable throne, protect, keep, preserve and save all who with faith honour you as the intercessor for the world.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion You are more honorable than the glorious cherubim, O exalted one, and more glorious beyond compare than the awesome seraphim, and more holy than all the holy angels, O most pure; for you ineffably gave birth in the flesh to the creator of all, O Mother of God: implore him to grant remission of transgressions to your servants.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises,*
inserting 4 verses, tone 1,
to the special melody Joy of the heavenly hierarchies...

O Michael, chief commander,
with awe we hymn you as first captain of the heavenly ranks,
mighty intercessor, protector and deliverer of men on earth:

we pray that you deliver us from every deadly pestilence.

As chief captain of the divine hosts of heaven
today you summon the choirs of men
to come together in divine synaxis
holding a radiant festival with the angels,
and with them to sing the thrice-holy hymn to God.

O Michael, intellect divine,
keep and protect all throughout this life
who with faith flee beneath the shelter of your divine wings;
and at the dreaded hour of our death, O archangel,
stand forth as a most gracious helper for us all.

*And in Tone 4,
composed by Ephraim of Karyous*

O supreme commanders, made luminous by the light of the three-sunned Divinity,
you enlighten the immaterial legions, as light with splendid brightness in the highest, as
you shine with the fire of the unapproachable divinity in the world: with lips of flame you
unceasingly sing the thrice-holy hymn: Holy, holy, holy are you; glory to you, O our
God.

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

Where your grace overshadows, O archangel, the power of the devil is expelled,
for the fallen Morning Star cannot bear to behold your light. We beseech you, by your
mediation quench his fiery darts which are hurled at us, delivering us from his
temptations, O Michael, truly the praiseworthy supreme commander.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion We bless you, O Virgin Mother of God, and as is fitting we, the faithful,
glorify you, the impregnable city, unassailable rampart, steadfast intercessor and refuge
for our souls.

Great Doxology and the rest.

Liturgy

*On the Beatitudes, eight Troparia:
4 from Ode 3 of the first canon to the angels,
and 4 from Ode 6 of the second canon to the angels.*

Prokimenon, tone 4

You make the winds your angels, and flames of fire your ministers.
Verses Bless the Lord O my soul, O Lord my God, how great you are.

Epistle Hebrews 305

Alleluia, tone 5

Praise the Lord from heaven, O praise him in the heights.
Praise him all his angels, O praise him all his hosts.

Gospel Luke 51

Communion

You make the winds your angels, and flames of fire your ministers.

November 9

Martyrs Onesiforus and Porfyrius of Ephesus; Our Venerable Mothers Matrona, Abbess, of Constantinople and Theoctiste of Lesbos

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... six verses, beginning with these to the martyrs, tone 8
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O martyred athlete, * blessed Onesiforus, * you confessed Christ our God, * suffering greatly before the tribunal of the iniquitous, * enduring the wounding of beatings * and the immolation of your whole body. * Therefore you have been crowned with the wreath of victory * by the hand of the creator of life, * O exalted one.

O martyred athlete Porfyrius, * by the grace and power of the Spirit, * you dyed a purple robe for yourself, * bathed in your blood, and, arrayed therein, * you appear most splendid, * reigning with our one God, * who reigns for ever, O glorious one: * implore him * that we all be saved.

O truly victorious martyrs, * you were slain in a sacred manner * for him who is the life of all; * and, rejoicing, you were stretched out on a searing gridiron, * tied to horses and dragged about, * and you thus received a blessed end. * Therefore you are glorified and blessed, * O ever-blessed ones, * who ever pray for us.

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

The uprisings of the flesh * you honourably subjected to your soul * through ascetic feats of fasting, * and you followed Christ, * dwelling most devoutly * in the midst of the fasters, O Matrona, * quenching the burnings of pleasure * with divine showers of tears, * enkindling a most intense longing for the creator.

You built up in many * a sacred habitation for the use of God, * being yourself a temple of the Spirit, O wise one; * and by your spiritual purity * you guided souls * to the beneficial struggles of fasting, * and you brought them, saved, to the Master * as a dowry, O Matrona. * With them we faithfully honour you.

The maidens loved * the Bridegroom and Lord, * submitting to his teaching; * and having rejected in the Spirit the weakness of the flesh, * with diligence they piously * restrained the passions, * and with you, O Matrona, * have been led into the heavenly bridal chamber of God, * ever rejoicing.

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

Theotokion O most pure Lady, who received the infinite God * who, in his love for mankind, became man * and received from you our nature, * wondrously deifying it: * reject me not, who sorrows, * but quickly take pity and free me * from the various hostilities * and assaults of the evil one.

Theotokion of the cross Seeing you nailed to the cross, * O Lord, the lamb, your Mother, * marvelled and cried out: * What is this that I see done to you, * my most beloved Son, * by the iniquitous and unbelieving throng, * which before delighted in your many wonders? * Glory to your ineffable condescension, * O Master.

Troparion of the martyrs, tone 4

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs received imperishable crowns from you, our God. Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By their intercessions save our souls.

Troparion of Matrona, tone 8

That which was created in the image of God was preserved in you, O Mother; for taking up the cross you followed after 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 Matrona your soul rejoices with the angels.

Compline

Canon of venerable Theoctiste

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.

As your manner of life was wondrous, O Theoctiste, the immaterial angels were touched by your extraordinary character and life of restraint which transcended nature.

From childhood you spurned all worldly food and every carnal pleasure., loving fasting, with which you restrained all the movements of your body.

The Sower of the good seed found good soil in the childlike innocence of your soul. and he planted there the seed of life and gathered fruit a hundredfold.

Theotokion Loving you with all her soul from childhood, the pure maiden Theoctiste, the mighty aid of the faithful, became a receptacle of the virtues, in a manner surpassing nature.

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.

Living a God-pleasing life, you did not escape the evil one, for he beset your shoulders with evils and led a multitude of Arabs against Lesvos, your native land.

The enemy strove to hand you over, bound, to the enemies of the righteous. but the Redeemer, rescuing you from the vile ones, preserved you in purity.

Like a bird escaping the hands of your foes on the island of Paros, you desired to become a nun, ever abiding as custodian of its Church of the Ever-virgin Mother of God.

Theotokion Placing all her hope in you, O virgin Mother and Maiden, Theoctiste acquired you as her protection, nourishment and mighty aid amid evils.

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.

Secretly departing to the inner and material islands, you escaped your visible enemies, and the intense battle of your invisible foes launched against you.

Who call recount the struggles you underwent engaging the princes of darkness whose darts were of fire and whose words were perplexing.

How great was divine grace which protected you, for young in years and alone, you shamed the noetic horde of Ethiopians, routing them with in womanly nature.

Theotokion Theoctiste, living in her young body with perfect understanding, set all her hope in your Mother, O God, and reached a goodly age.

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.

Elevating your mind to God, you surpassed bodily needs and desires; so neither hunger or thirst, cold or nakedness, nor burning heat vanquished you, O glorious one.

Seeing your strange manner of life, the enemy raged with hatred, vexing and tempting you with all kinds of snares; yet he could not cause your steps to falter, O blameless one.

Treating the temptations of the evil one as if the arrows of children, you ended the race of asceticism without turning back and put to shame his vain arrogance.

Theotokion As you are blessed among women, O most blessed Mother of God, our noetic helper asset you apart for himself, creating power in you, and bringing down those who oppress us.

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.

Living without necessities, you transcend nature, desiring things invisible, and though a physical being you abode as one of the immaterial ones.

Through the Holy, Spirit you foresaw your end; then, as was God's good pleasure, you were found by a hunter, that your strange way of life might be known.

What a great wonder it was, when the hunter saw you in the church, appearing as one beyond flesh and blood, O venerable one: he marvelled, thinking that he beheld a phantom, so much had you changed.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, reject me not, full of grievous iniquity: be merciful and agreeable to me, and accept me who brings in supplication the entreaties of Theoctiste.

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

Dedicated to God from childhood, O Theoctiste, as a virtuous building fit for the creator, taking up his easy yoke, you did not follow the turmoil of life; for, guarding all your senses like one of the incorporeal ones, you lived a strange life on earth.

Theotokion O pure unwedded virgin Mother of God, the sure intercessor and protection of the faithful, deliver those who trust in you from misfortunes, sorrows and grievous circumstances: O Maiden, by your divine supplications save our souls.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb and Mother, seeing the lamb and shepherd hanging dead upon the tree, with maternal weeping exclaimed: How can I bear to see your condescension and voluntary passion which surpass understanding, O my Son and supremely good God?

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.

You quickly ended all fear of him who confronted upon, revealing what had befallen you in the providence of God, O pure one, for which you now give glory to God with thanksgiving in his presence.

Having fasted for thirty six years, unable to receive the Saviour's body and blood, you asked him who chanced upon you mercifully to bring you a portion thereof.

He came, bearing what you desired, and with all reverence placed it in your hand: receiving it you said to God in gladness: Lord now mercifully let me, your servant, depart, for your word has been fulfilled.

Theotokion O exalted Lady, you were pleased to receive your servant, to grant her ineffable good thing: by her supplications may we also partake of incorruptible food.

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.

Having partaken of the dread mysteries with faith as you desired, O venerable mother, you left dust to dust as with honour the angels bore your precious soul to the Lord.

The faithful hunter, approaching you again to receive a blessing, found you lying dead in your mortal nature; and he marvelled that the same would befall him.

He who was not accustomed to doing good pondered in his mind, and boldly taking your precious hand in a God-pleasing manner, he promised to keep it in honour of your holy victory and as a remembrance of your life, O blessed one.

Theotokion I honour your holy virtues, O Lady, though I have in no way acquired the deeds of virtue; but as you are merciful, have pity on my senses and deliver me from my wicked ways.

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.

You restrained the ship of him who stole your hand, together with its sailors, at the island of Paros until understanding, he returned it, replacing it with the rest of your precious body.

Those cast forth and restrained, having experienced your inherent power, hastened together to your relics to venerate them and embrace them, yet they found nothing, for they had vanished from sight, in a way which God alone knows.

Having accepted the infliction of great pain, especially for Christ, O venerable one, and possessing great boldness to entreat him, be mindful of those who honour your divine memory and for us ask cleansing of sins and correction life.

Theotokion Desiring to save all, the Lord chose you as his Mother and has given you to the faithful as the cause of all good. Having embittered him by our iniquity, O merciful Lady, we hope to obtain mercy through you.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.

Ode I

*Canon for the Martyrs, tone 4,
composed by Joseph upon the acrostic* You bring benefits to those who praise you.

Irmos I shall sing to you, O Lord my God, for you led your people from the bondage of Egypt and overwhelmed the chariots of Pharaoh and his might.

The day of your honourable memorial has dawned, bringing divine profit to those who praise you well; upon which we entreat you, O blessed one: Remember us all.

With your valorous mind willed with boldness, O divinely inspired one, you scorned the mindless command, and suffered with rejoicing, O blessed one.

Empowered with heavenly might, O Onesiforus, you hastened to cruel torments, and overcame all the strength of the adversary.

Theotokion Having given birth to him who is immortal life, Christ our creator and deliverer, O unwedded Virgin, you abolished the tyranny of death.

*Canon for venerable Matrona, tone 8,
composed by Joseph upon the acrostic* I hymn the glory of Matrona, as is meet.

Irmos Let us sing to the Lord, all you people, for he overwhelmed Pharaoh in the Red Sea, singing a hymn of victory, for he has been glorified.

Ever with the ranks of angels and deified by communion with God, by your supplications save those who honour you.

November 9

Consumed with divine desire, with showers of abstinence you quenched the burnings of soul-destroying pleasures.

You were an honoured vessel of the Master, having cleansed your heart of carnal passions through fasting, O Matrona.

Theotokion O divinely joyous Lady, entreat him who was pleased to be born of you in manner surpassing nature, that he save and bring peace to all.

Ode 3

Canon to the Martyrs

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.

Confessing the Word equally with the Father and the Spirit, the martyrs bravely repelled the storm-waves of torments in the arena.

Having set your feet firmly upon the rock of confession and faith, O martyr Onesiforus, you were not moved by the winds of wounds.

Striving with all your mind towards the longed-for Christ, O blessed martyr, you did not feel the pains of your wounds.

Theotokion Look down and save me, O most pure one, for at the divine behest, indescribably and inconceivably, you gave flesh to God the Word, who orders all things.

Canon of venerable Matrona

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 staff of divine faith you cleaved the sea of the passions, in godly manner creating a straight passage for souls.

Having attained the pure and blameless life of monastics, O honoured one, you became the adornment of solitaries.

You stripped yourself of the mortality of destructive passions, and by your pious life stripped the enemy naked.

Theotokion The creator united himself to the flesh in your womb, O pure one; and, abiding there, he became man, that he might give men that which is good.

*Kontakion of venerable Matrona, tone 2,
to the Special Melody* Having received grace...

Out of love for the Lord, you ignored your need for rest, O venerable Matrona, illumining your soul with fasting: by your supplications cast down the arrogance of the adversaries, for you powerfully vanquished the wild beasts.

Ikos O my God, grant me a stream of discourse, make my mind a well-ordered spring, and bless my tongue that I may hymn the lamb whom you have crowned with your goodness; for if you do not grant fitting words, how shall I be able to offer even a meagre gift to her who is rich in both words and deeds? Therefore grant me the power to confess her contest, who powerfully vanquished the wild beasts.

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

Consumed with the fire of divine desire, you were in no way scorched by the touch of earthly fire, O blessed ones, and you burned up deception: mercilessly stretched out, O passion-bearers, you received an ever-memorable end, and have obtained glory.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn to the venerable one, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* That which was commanded...

O mother, elect of God, you passed unfoundering through the tempest of life to the harbour of life, where you hymn the deliverer and pray unceasingly for us, that Christ will grant us grace and mercy; and you preserve the flock gathered by your efforts.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Having given birth to the immutable God, in the bounty of your maternal intercession, strengthen my heart ever swayed by sin, sloth and the attacks of the deceiver; that I may thankfully glorify you, Mary, the spotless Mother of God: Have mercy on the flock you have acquired.

Theotokion of the Cross Ever protected by the cross of your Son and God, O Virgin, we overcome the allurements and intrigues of the devil. Praising you as truly the Mother of God, with love all generations bless you, as it was foretold, O most pure one. Therefore through your intercession grant us forgiveness of our sins.

Ode 4

Canon to the Martyrs

Irmos As an example of mercy and love, you mounted the cross and the nations were scattered before you: you are the lover of mankind, my strength and my praise.

Emitting the radiance of your pangs, O blessed martyr Onesiforus, by your love you drew blessed Porfyrius to suffer with you.

November 9

Laying them on a fiery gridiron, the torturers bound together the warriors of Christ, who rejoiced and burned in spirit.

Rejoicing, O passion-bearers, you offered yourselves to the Master of all as a perfect immolation and pure sacrifice; therefore, you are blessed.

Deceitful discourses were in no way able to deceive you who were knowingly inclined toward the Master, O divinely wise, and most rich Porfyrius.

Theotokion O Maiden, you gave birth to God the Word incarnate, whose good pleasure it was to become like us all in the loving kindness of his mercy, O immaculate Lady.

Canon of venerable Matrona

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

Having watered your heart with the drops of your tears, O Matrona, with the grace of God you cultivated the grain which bears the fruit of the virtues a hundredfold.

Setting the degrees of your thought towards Christ, O glorious one, you remained undistracted by the temptations of the wicked demons.

Having left behind a husband and the tumults of life in your valorous wisdom, you loved the yoke of Christ and followed his steps.

Theotokion Without departing from heaven, God poured himself into your womb, O most pure one: the infinite became finite, loosing the boundless offences of the world.

Ode 5

Canon to the Martyrs

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.

O immovable pillars of the Church of Christ, through the might of the Spirit you were unaltered by the persuasion of torture.

You shattered the idols of abominable gods and were models of piety and bravery, O honourable great martyrs.

Having through faith forsaken transient might, you were invested by God with a true warrior's skill, as you rejoiced to suffer.

Theotokion The infinite one, limiting himself, made his abode in you, O Virgin, and made you to be more spacious than the heavens: therefore, we call you blessed.

Canon of venerable Matrona

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.

Vested in the holy habit, O Matrona, you clothed the malicious enemy in shame.

You traded transitory things for that of the future, and a husband for the immortal Bridegroom, who leads our souls to God.

Offering up night-long praise to the Master, O Matrona, you lulled to sleep the pleasures of the flesh.

Theotokion You gave birth to the Master of the living and the dead, O immaculate one: slay the passions of my heart.

Ode 6

Canon to the Martyrs

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.

You endured the pain of wounds, O martyr Onesiforus; and having finished the contest and emerged a victor, you received heavenly honours.

Bound to one another by love, tied up and led forth together, united to the Lord, as mighty athletes you achieved separation from your bodies.

Bound to horses and forcibly dragged to the most cruel of torture at the behest of the judge, you were granted a blessed end, O glorious martyrs of the Lord.

Theotokion Transcending the laws of nature, O Virgin, you gave birth to the giver of the Law, who renewed our damaged nature: entreat him to save me, crushed by sins.

Canon of venerable Matrona

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.

Like a melodious bird raising its sweet voice in the meadow of fasting, you attracted a gathering of sacred women as though they were noetic sparrows, escaping the net of the enemy with the aid of the Spirit, O Matrona.

Restraining the flesh through love of wisdom, reining in the passions, splendidly bedecking your soul as a most comely adornment for Christ, you are known to be beauteous and magnificent in the Spirit, O Matrona.

You loved the angelic life on earth, unceasingly hymning him who for us became incarnate of the holy Virgin in the magnitude of his goodness and who strengthened your womanly nature against the wicked foe.

Theotokion Human nature was enslaved to sin; but you delivered it from evil bondage, O Mother of God, in giving birth to the Master of all who has shown us the ways of entering into life.

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

In mighty suffering, the two martyrs cast the arrogance of the enemy down to the ground, being illuminated by the grace of the uncreated Trinity, O glorious Onesiphorus and Porphyrios. Pray unceasingly on behalf of us all.

Ikos Made steadfast by divine might, the warriors of Christ were able to put down the counsels and devices of the enemy; bound together to wild horses and suffering in accordance with the law, they ask of God for us the remission of sins, freedom from the trials to come, and deliverance from evil. We ever praise them, as great favorites of God who pray unceasingly on behalf of us all.

Ode 7

Canon to the Martyrs

Irmos Once in Babylon, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace, crying out in hymns: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Showing the noble traits of your most noble soul, you confessed the incarnate God before your tyrant, O Onesiforus.

Enamoured of the everlasting freedom of God, as an obedient slave you shared in your master's suffering, and with him you now join chorus, O blessed Porfyrius.

Having extinguished the burning flame of godlessness with drops of your divine blood, O exalted ones, you cried out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

That you might receive blessed and immortal glory, you suffered a blessed death, O divinely radiant stars of the noetic Sun.

Theotokion You gave birth to the Word incarnate of your blood, whose good pleasure it is to deify those who sing on earth: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Canon of venerable Matrona

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.

Like a comely turtledove, for God you protected the fruitfulness of chastity from the barrenness of the passions, O blessed one, having truly deified those saved by you.

Having abandoned the world and all things of the world, with hope in God, you inherited a heavenly bequest, O honoured Matrona, truly the adornment of solitaries.

Theotokion He who lifted the curse of Eve dwelt within the Virgin, flowing a fountain of blessings upon those who sing: Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O most pure one.

Ode 8

Canon to the Martyrs

Irmos Christ our God, nailed to the cross bodily, and revealing it to us as a sword of salvation, O children, exalt above all for ever.

Giving your limbs to rending, you rent asunder the insensitive heart of the enemy, remaining unshaken in mind, O greatly renowned and crowned ones.

The fire of ignorance was extinguished by your blood, O sufferers who water the hearts and souls of all the faithful with the restoration of the knowledge of God.

By the guidance of Christ you passed through the waves of cruel torture, and in incorruption you found shelter in the harbour of God's heavenly kingdom.

An embers burning with the fire of the Paraclete, the martyrs burned up the deceit of the enemy and illumined the whole world.

Theotokion The Word of God found you to be a choice flower in the vales of life, and he desired your beauty and, incarnate, has perfumed the whole world.

Canon of venerable Matrona

Irmos As victors over the tyrant and the flame by your grace, and zealously keeping your commandments, the children cried out: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Your soul adorned with qualities of piety, O pure Matrona, through the divine Spirit you brought to God a choir of virgins, who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works, and exalt him above all for ever.

Through divine grace the torrents of your sweat dried up the turbid torrents of the passions, and they ever water the hearts of those who approach you with faith. Therefore, we honour you for ever.

Arrayed in the armour of faith and abstinence, you were not wounded by the arrow of pleasure, though you lived among men; and him who of old wounded Eve you wounded with the spear of chastity, O blessed Matrona.

Theotokion Behold, as Isaiah said in the Spirit, a virgin shall conceive him who delivers from the belly of Hades us who piously sing: Bless the Lord, all you works, and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon to the Martyrs

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

The hard diamonds and pillars of the faith, strengthened by the might of Christ, were able to battle the bodiless foe while in the flesh, and now they rejoice in the heavens with those who suffered from of old.

Like a sacred chariot of the Word, you were harnessed to irrational beasts, O divine martyrs, and, rejoicing, you attained the refuge of heaven and received crowns of honour: thus you are fittingly blessed.

The glorious city of Pangeanon now has your bodies, O divine martyrs, and it is enriched by you, its helpers and physicians, who ever heal the infirmities of the souls and bodies of those who approach with faith.

Divine and splendid pair, glorious passion-bearers Porfyrius and wise Onesiforus: Entreat the most holy Trinity, that peace and freedom from evil be granted to our souls.

Theotokion Having clothed himself wholly in me, O immaculate one, the Master issued from your divine womb like a Bridegroom; and he, who sustains all creation with a gesture, is fed with milk, O blessed ever-Virgin.

Canon of venerable Matrona

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.

As a divine dove, O glorious Matrona, you flew aloft on golden wings of virtue, and now abide where the choirs of the venerable are, and the ranks of the righteous, and eternal gladness and ineffable joy.

Loving the Sun of Righteousness, who in the loving kindness of his compassion was born of a woman, O pure one, you easily traversed the hot and barely passable path of fasting, burning the demons and withering the passions of the flesh.

Your divine memorial shines upon us more brightly than the sun, illumining our hearts and minds: be mindful of us who celebrate it faithfully, O glorious Matrona, who truly has boldness before God.

Theotokion O Maiden, who held in your arms him who holds all things with only a gesture: deliver me from the hands of the alien by your mediation, illumine my mind with your light, and dispel the passions which persistently war against me.

Exapostilarion, to the Special Melody Harken, O women...

Let us honour the glorious martyrs Onesiforus and Porfyrius, brilliant in sufferings who enlighten the world with the splendour of martyrdom; for they pray for us who celebrate their memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

To the venerable one You dwelt among men, O glorious Matrona, receiving the monastic habit. What a strange wonder, for how did you hide from the tyrant, who persistently spreads bitterness? By fasting, prayer and unceasing vigils you crushed his head.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Rejoice, palace of God; rejoice, mountain overshadowed; rejoice, bush unburnt; rejoice, throne of glory; rejoice, divine table; rejoice, golden jar; rejoice, most splendid candlestick; rejoice, O Mary, virgin Mother, the light cloud.

November 10

Apostles Erastus, Olympus, Rodion, and those with them

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... three verses, tone 1
to the Special Melody O all-praised martyrs...*

O sacred proclaimers * who like winged eagles * most splendidly traversed * the fullness of the world: * you brought to the inviolate faith * those who were pursued * by the evil-doer. * May you pray * that our souls be granted * peace and great mercy.

With sacred voices * we honour Tertius and Sosipater, * Olympus and Rodion, * and with them Erastus, the servant of the mysteries, * and divine Quartus, * who all glorify Christ our God * and implore him * that our souls be granted * peace and great mercy.

You led the gentiles to Christ our God, * O blessed ones, * delivered by the blood of him * who was pleased to be born on earth * willingly enduring the cross and death, * O wise ones. * Implore him, * that our souls be granted * peace and great mercy.

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

Theotokion O exalted Lady, * the hope and confirmation, * refuge and help of the faithful, * we implore you to protect * from all misfortunes * who worship your child with faith. * Entreat, him, * that he grant our souls * peace and great mercy.

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?

Troparion, tone 3

O holy apostles,
entreat the merciful God,
that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos,
and one for the holy apostles tone 1,
composed by Joseph upon the acrostic I earnestly hymn the divinely eloquent disciples.*

Ode 1

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

As divine disciples of our God, incarnate in his loving kindness, beseech him to grant forgiveness of sins to those who keep your memory, O blessed ones.

As splendid mirrors of God, you reflected his benefactions upon all the faithful, graciously bestowing rays of salvation, O apostles, beholders of God.

We piously bless Erastus and Tertius, Olympus, Rodion and Sosipater, together with Quartus, who, as a source of radiance have shone enlightenment upon all.

Theotokion O Virgin, by your birthgiving you have renewed the human race, giving birth to the Word of the Father who clothed himself in mortal flesh and has shown us the way of immortality.

Ode 3

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

Bearing the Word as a noetic torch, O apostles, obedient to God you traversed creation, dispelling its gloom and through grace revealing as sons of light those who enslaved to the night of unbelief.

The saving proclamation of your words has prophetically gone out into all the world, and the radiant manifestation of your deeds has gone all about the earth enlightening souls, O divinely eloquent apostles of the Lord.

Making his abode in your hearts, O wise ones, the most Holy Spirit made you great beholders of God; going everywhere about the world, you destroyed the temples of idols by grace and raised up churches to God.

Theotokion O Mary, Bride of God, knowing the only-begotten Word of the Father, begotten without a mother and born of you without a father, we confess you to be the Mother of God who gave birth without pain and inexplicably remained a virgin.

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

Today has dawned the honoured festival of the apostles which clearly bestows the remission of sins upon all who keep their memory.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Your grave...*

Together let us honour the memory of Erastus and Olympus, Sosipater and Tertius, Rodion and Quartus, singing to them: O divine preachers and servants of the Word, by your prayers deliver us from eternal torments.

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

Theotokion O unwedded and pure virgin Mother of God, the sole intercessor and protection of the faithful: from misfortunes, tribulation and evil circumstances deliver all who put their trust in you, and by your divine prayers save our souls.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb and mother, seeing the lamb and shepherd hanging dead upon the tree, with maternal weeping exclaimed: How can I bear to see your condescension and voluntary passion which surpasses understanding, O my Son and supremely good God?

Ode 4

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

Fortifying the wavering, with your divine teachings you overthrew the strongholds of the enemy, making them a desolation, O apostles of the Saviour who beheld God.

O great preachers, divine apostles, you preached the mighty works of Christ, and radiantly enlightened utterly degraded mortals, acting through the mighty works of grace.

Let divine Olympus be praised with hymns and with him let Rodion be piously magnified, for in Rome they completed the course of martyrdom with Peter, the proclaimer of God, their heads being severed.

Theotokion We see in you a newly-wrought wonder, greater than all wonders; for you gave birth to God incarnate who in unconfused union has united himself to the earthly in his loving kindness, O Bride of God.

Ode 5

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

The Wisdom of the Father, who brought everything into being, sent you to the world as teachers, O glorious ones who made all wise in the wisdom of the Spirit and by the revelation of truth.

Casting the hook of the Word, O wise ones, by grace you drew voiceless fish from the deep of ignorance and brought them, believing, to the Lord.

Let us praise Olympus, and great Rodion, with Tertius, Sosipater, together with Erastus and divine Quartus: the preachers of Christ and defenders of all the pious.

Theotokion O Mother and Bride of God, at a word you conceived the Word and, in a manner surpassing comprehension and recounting, gave birth to him as man: therefore, with divinely inspired words we ever bless you.

Ode 6

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

O honourable ones, rolling like stones upon the earth you did drive to piety those who with wicked intent had worshiped stones, O blessed and God-beholding servants of the mysteries of the Word.

Preaching the unconfused and indivisible unity in three persons, you uprooted the falsehood of polytheism from the earth, O true apostles of Christ, and led the cruelly deceived to the light of divine knowledge.

O wise apostles, with beautiful knowledge you brought down the foolishness of the foolish and made them strong in belief in the one God, the king of all, who adorns all creation with outpouring of divine light.

Theotokion We glorify you, O Lady, seen to be another heaven yet more exalted than the first, and who shone forth upon us the Sun of Righteousness, dispelling the deep darkness of unbelief.

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

Having illumined your minds with divine light, you wisely destroyed the wiles of the orators; and having brought all the pagans into your nets, O glorious apostles, you brought them to the Master, teaching them to glorify the divine Trinity.

Ikos As disciples of the Master of all, O witnesses of God, from the abyss of transgressions draw forth with the net of your prayers my lowly soul which has been ensnared in the nets of the demons' wiles; that, passing well through the remaining time of my life, I may hymn you with love and glorify your blameless lives which you brought to an end on earth, having enlightened those who were grievously benighted, teaching them to glorify the divine Trinity.

Ode 7

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

In his epistle the Apostle Paul proclaimed you to be the treasurer of the sacred Church of Christ in Jerusalem, O Erastus. With them we honour you, singing to Christ: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers who is praised and glorified above all.

Proven by the enduring of trials and tribulations and persecutions, and adorned with the wounds of Christ, O Erastus most rich in grace, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

You were a proclaimer of the new law, O Quartus, leading the estranged away from the old iniquity and bringing to renewal of life those who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O Maiden, you gave flesh to the consubstantial Word of the Father, who bodily appeared to those who are on earth, and you gave birth to him as man, that the praised and most glorious God of our fathers might save mankind.

Ode 8

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

As indestructible pillars of the Church of Christ, you destroyed the ramparts of impiety, founding upon the rock of faith like stones the faithful who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

As lawgivers inscribing the law of the Spirit in the hearts of the faithful, O blessed ones, you enlightened thereby those who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Blessed Olympus, having adorned yourself, you met your end on the same day as great Peter, dying by the sword with Rodion at the command of iniquitous Nero the emperor.

Theotokion O pure one, of old the jar of manna prefigured you; for you carried within you Christ our sweetness, and you gave birth to him who delivers from the bitterness of wicked transgressions all who exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

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

Equally completing the course and equally enriched by the Word and Master, you were granted equal gifts of the Spirit and have received equal honours, O apostles of the Lord, enlighteners of our hearts.

Like the stars of Heaven you illumine the earth with divine signs, dispelling the deep darkness of unbelief and showing forth as children of the day those who of old were enslaved.

You destroyed a legion of the evil-minded, who of old escorted nations of men into the abyss; and you led a multitude of the saved to God, O most elect apostles of Christ who have joined the ranks of the bodiless host.

Having passed on to that which is above the world, the great Olympus and Sosipater, Tertius and Rodion, Quartus and sacred Erastus now entreat the deliverer for the world.

Theotokion Spare your people, O Lord, and deliver them from barbarian assaults, from sins, temptations and eternal torment, through the prayers of the most holy Virgin who gave you birth, and of your glorious apostles.

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

We the faithful glorify in hymns the apostles, those radiant habitations of the Holy Spirit, and most luminous rays of the unwaning day, those brilliant flashes of lightning.

Theotokion We sinners have you as our helper, O most holy Virgin: by your maternal entreaties, may your Son be benevolent to us.

November 11

Martyrs Minas, Victor, Vincent and Stephanida; our venerable father Theodore the Studite, the Confessor

Vespers

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

Torn by iron claws, * beaten with a whip of cords, * your body burned with fire, *
you did not deny the saving name of Christ, * nor were you vanquished in mind, * nor
did you sacrifice to graven images, * but were a willing wholeburnt offering, * a pure and
perfect sacrifice to your Master, * O martyr Minas.

Your eyes put out, * hung upon a tree, * burned all over by candles, * whipped
with thongs by the cruelty of the judge, * your head cut off by the sword, * you rejoiced,
O glorious Victor, * passion bearer of the Saviour, * vanquishing legions of the enemy *
by the activity of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord has crowned you with a diadem of grace, * O much suffering
Stephanida, * for willingly you gave yourself over to torture * with spiritual valour; *
bound between two palm trees, * you were ripped apart, * and like a sparrow took flight
to God, * leaving your flesh in the hands of your tormentors, * O truly glorious martyr.

*And 3 verses for venerable Theodore, tone 8,
to the Special Melody O all-glorious wonder...*

Venerable father Theodore, * true to your name * you have given those who
piously love you * the gifts you received, passing understanding. * Having increased your
talant, O blessed one, * you heard the voice of God * calling you to his bridal-chamber, *
where you now live * by the throne of the king of all, O truly wondrous one.

O Theodore, father of fathers, * you brought before Christ * multitudes of
monastics * and were the godly cause of their salvation, * illumined with doctrines, * as
prophetically the mouth of the Lord, O wise one: * standing before him, * remember us.

The abundant grace of the Spirit * was poured into your mouth, * O wise servant
of sacred mysteries, * and caused a fountain of doctrines to flow, * as a champion of piety,
O Theodore, * a zealous conveyor of the truth, * a pillar and fortress of the Orthodox
faith, * and an excellent model * of the monastic life, O wise father.

Glory be to the Father...

Tone 6

Again has dawned for us the yearly commemoration of the beacons of the world: Minas, Victor, and Vincent, who enlighten the hearts of the faithful by their struggles for Christ and his cross. In hymns let us honour Christ our God, who has crowned them with glory and honour.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody On the third day...*

The pure Virgin, your Mother, beholding the iniquitous ones who nailed you unjustly to the tree, was inwardly wounded, O Saviour, as Simeon foretold.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos
with the verse to the martyrs, tone 2*

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

Come, you that love the martyrs, let us honour the thrice-radiant chorus of martyrs: Minas, Victor, and Vincent, who paid with blood and purchased life eternal. They spoke out against the author of evil: We do not prefer corruptible things to incorruptible; we do not battle for an earthly and mortal king; but we fight for the living king who ever cries to the faithful: He who believes in me, though be dead, he shall live.

Glory be to the Father...

of the venerable one, tone 6

O venerable father, the proclamation of your admonition has gone out into all the earth; thereby you have found the reward of your labour in heaven. You destroyed hordes of demons and attained the ranks of the angels, whose life you blamelessly emulated. As you have boldness before the Lord, implore peace for our souls.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross,
to the Special Melody On the third day...*

Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave you birth cried out: What is this strange mystery which I behold, O my Son? How is it that you die, suspended upon the tree in the flesh, O giver of life?

Troparion of the martyrs, tone 4

In their sufferings, O Lord, your martyrs received imperishable crowns from you, our God. Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of demons. By their intercessions save our souls.

Glory be to the Father...

Troparion of the Studite, tone 8

Instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity; beacon of all the world and divinely inspired adornment of monastics: O Theodore most wise, you have enlightened all by your doctrines. O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and 2 canons for the saints.

Ode 1

Canon of the martyrs, tone 4

Irmos The people of Israel, having fled across the watery deep of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, beholding the mounted captains of the enemy drowned therein, sang with gladness: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

O sacred people, now passing gloriously not over the depths of the Red Sea but the sea of the struggles of Minas the sufferer, with glorious Moses and Miriam the wise woman and prophetess, let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

O Minas, champion of piety, pleased to stand as a warrior of Christ before the fierce destroyer and the wicked tormentor who breathed the anger of threats and the heat of wrath: you were his beacon, singing: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

O Christ, you foretold: When I be lifted up, I will draw those born of earth; and you truly did this, summoning from the ends of the world the ranks of martyrs and the people who sing with joy: Let us sing to our God, for he has been glorified.

Theotokion The rod of Aaron which budded prefigured you, O Virgin, the root which sprang forth from Jesse, which shone forth to the world God incarnate, the imperishable bloom. Ever entreat him for us who have recourse to you, O Mother of God.

*Canon of Venerable Theodore, tone 8,
composed by Theophanes
upon the acrostic* In hymns I honour glorious Theodore.

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.

Illumined with the radiance of the Holy Spirit, you were a brilliant pillar, O divinely eloquent father, guiding those who with godly mind hasten to the promised land, O Theodore, servant of ineffable mysteries.

Arrayed in life-bearing mortality before your end as you departed joyfully to God with unwaning longing, O venerable one, you have now received unaging life.

Vanquishing the uprisings of the passions and torments like a youth, you overcame them; and with courage you taught that it is right to venerate the image of Christ and the depictions of the saints, O God-pleasing father.

Studying the divinely inspired Scriptures with a purified mind, O wise and venerable one, you amassed a wealth of virtues and the dogmas of piety, and were enriched by divine vision and the splendour of your life, having been illumined by both.

Theotokion You gave birth to the incarnate Word of God, who before was incorporeal, yet lived supernaturally in the world as God made man, O immaculate virgin Mother of God, whom we all honour as our intercessor before God.

Ode 3

Canon of the Martyrs

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 tormentor, stung by your most wise words, wounded you without mercy with rawhide thongs, thinking thereby to bow you down, O invincible martyr.

Directing the eyes of your mind to the Lord, you endured unbearable oppression with a most courageous spirit, O truly glorious one.

Fearing not greatly painful torture, but breathing with divine zeal, you departed for the struggles, crying: Unsought and uninvited, I have come.

Theotokion He who was incarnate of you and who accepted voluntary death has led up from the gates of Hades me, slain by the evil tasting of the tree.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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, O true lover of mankind.

Fortified by the armour of Christ, O blessed one, bitterly wounded and imprisoned in a dungeon, you endured the pain of whipping as one who shares his sufferings and kingdom.

Protected by God and aflame with zeal for him, with your doctrines you destroyed the vile teachings of the iniquitous, rightly enriched by grace from God, O father.

Toiling with vision, O divinely eloquent one, you were a theologian for us, a learned faster, a glorious martyr, a pillar of Orthodoxy, the confirmation of the Church.

Theotokion God the Word, who with the Father and the Spirit is ever-existing, desiring to restore the father of our race, received his nature from you, O pure Mother of God, and found you to be more holy than all.

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

With the struggles of suffering you adorned your angelic life of fasting, O divinely blessed Theodore, and you now abide with the angels. With them, never cease to pray to Christ our God for us all.

Ikos We praise Theodore, the radiant beauty of fasters, the confirmation of the Church of Christ; for he appeared as a new pillar of fire, burning the heads of the heretical but illumining the souls of those who believe the Orthodox faith, leading them to the Jerusalem on high, the city of God, as to another Israel. Let us harmoniously cry out to him: O blessed father, forget us not, and never cease to pray to Christ our God for us all.

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

Egypt, held fast by the cruel darkness of ignorance, shone you forth, O divinely wise martyr Minas, as a beacon to all the world, who by the rays of your divine struggles mightily disperses the night of ungodliness. Radiantly celebrating your bright and honoured day, we earnestly cry out to you: O adornment of sufferers, entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who with love honour your holy memory.

*Glory be to the Father... Sessional Hymn of the venerable one,
tone 3,
to the Special Melody Of the divine faith...*

Enriched with divine dogmas, you held fast to the Orthodox faith, braving danger for it, suffering scourging and incarceration, and enduring affliction in prison. O venerable father Theodore, entreat God that he grant us great mercy.

Theotokion You were the divine tabernacle of the Word, O most pure virgin Mother, who excelled the angels in purity. With the divine waters of your entreaties cleanse me who has, more than all others, become dust, defiled by carnal transgressions, and grant me great mercy, O pure one.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb of the Word, the incorrupt virgin Mother, beholding him who came forth from her without pain suspended aloft, cried out, maternally lamenting: 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

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

By the shedding of your blood, the ember of polytheism was extinguished, the legion of demons was drowned, and the Church of Christ, which praises you, was watered, O most blessed passion bearer Minas.

O valorous martyr, being lifted up on the tree you emulated the passion on the cross of him who slew the cruel serpent; and you endured lacerations which have won you that delight which is in Heaven.

You bore a trial of pain past nature, O sufferer, and divine love, strengthening your nature, caused you to receive forgetfulness, urging you to reach out for wounds, rejoicing.

Theotokion Ineffably you gave birth to God incarnate, who made for himself a home from your blood, and who is divinely known in two essences and wills, O unwedded one.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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.

O blessed Theodore, namesake of the gifts of God, given to the world, resplendent with rich gifts, truly possessed of a fount of radiance, you have been granted to join chorus with the multitude of fasters and martyrs.

How firm and mighty was your opposition, whereby you trampled the savagery of the tyrants. For this you have attained utter beatitude, in a manner past understanding, O divinely wise one, and sing with the bodiless: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

The Word of God, most obviously dwelling within you, abundantly flowed rivers of teaching, O wise Theodore; and your disciples, delighting therein, thankfully cry out with never-ceasing voices: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Theotokion United wholly with you, O most pure one, he who did not leave the bosom of the Father wholly renewed man in you; he was pleased to dwell within you, impoverishing himself voluntarily in the richness of his compassion, thus enriching the world with divinity.

Ode 5

Canon of the Martyrs

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

Shining with the bright rays of your witness, O exalted one, having overshadowed dark godlessness, you enlighten all the faithful who hymn you.

Every device of the foe has withered away through your mighty endurance, for neither hunger, wounds, immolation, nor subjection to iron hooks clouded your resolve.

Surrounded by faith as the sun is by its rays, you made your abode in the desert and enlightened all the cities, preaching Christ, the incarnate Son of God, O glorious one.

Theotokion The deliverer, born of you in manner beyond nature, renews me, subject to corruption, freeing me from the ancient curse, O Mother of God: entreat him to save me.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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

Having cleansed mind, soul and body by your word, you became an honourable living temple of the God of all, offering your whole self as a fragrant sacrifice to Christ, O father, being both priest and sacrifice.

Illumined with the radiance of the Spirit, O blessed father, you shone upon all with your divinely eloquent tongue the pure light of the Trinity and the ineffable incarnation of God the Word, a mystery which passes understanding.

Now dwelling noetically with the angels, entreat Christ, that he deliver from suffering and misfortune those who bless and honour the most precious and blessed memory of your sufferings, O God-bearing Theodore.

Theotokion The Son of God who made his abode within you in ineffable manner, became man; he who shone forth from the Father before time began has delivered man from corruption and led him up to light and incorruption, as he alone is compassionate.

Ode 6

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

Burned by fire, your wounds rubbed raw with haircloth, yet you remained without pain, for divine grace strengthened you, O Minas.

You stood condemned before the tribunal of the tyrants, denouncing the falsehood, O ever memorable one, giving yourself to the faithful as a pillar of piety.

With the sweat of your struggles you dried up the falsehood of idolatry, and formed yourself as a temple of the honourable Trinity, O truly wondrous passion-bearer Minas.

Theotokion With the balm of your goodness heal the incurable passions of my soul, O immaculate Lady, who for those in the world gave birth to Christ, the good Saviour.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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.

Ending your life of chastity, O Theodore of sacred eloquence, and, adorned with righteousness, courage and wisdom, you mounted the most beautiful chariot of the virtues.

Your divine discourses on the dogmas emit a magnificent fragrance, O wise one, and bring all from the abyss of evil heresies up to the highest summit of Orthodoxy.

Light and its divine partner, radiant gladness, have now shone forth in you, O father; for you flourished like a palm-tree and grew like a cedar, O wondrous Theodore.

Theotokion Through your supplications may we be delivered from bitter transgressions, and attain the divine radiance of the Son of God ineffably incarnate of you, O pure one.

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

Christ our God, the imperishable crown of martyrs,
took you from a transient army, O passion bearer Minas,
and brought you to share in that which is incorruptible and heavenly.

Ikos The memory of the martyrs is a cause of great gladness for us, showing us courage amid suffering and victory over the enemy in the radiant and joyful confession of grace. Come therefore, all who love this festival, and let us be glad in it, keeping the memory of the passion bearer Minas as the best and abiding time of gladness, receiving the gift of release from our passions, for Christ our God is the giver of such, he who is the imperishable crown of martyrs.

Ode 7

Canon of the Martyrs

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.

Through wounding you shed sin's garment of skin and robed yourself in the vesture which grows not old, which grace wore, appearing to you, O blessed one.

By the burning zeal of your honourable and mighty struggles, wicked and thorny godlessness has been utterly consumed, O martyr, and the leaping flame of ignorance was extinguished by the streams of your blood, O blessed one.

Possessed of abundant gifts, you pour miracles upon those who celebrate your honoured festival, O wondrous Minas; and you aid those who sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O blessed one, blessed by the hosts of Heaven and the assemblies of the earthborn, blessed is the fruit of your womb, who has delivered us from the ancient curse.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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.

He who sees all, perceiving the purity of your mind, appointed you shepherd of his reason-endowed sheep, O blessed father Theodore, and to him you now sing in gladness: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Venerating the divine likeness of the image of Christ's manhood, O thrice-blessed Theodore, you sustained your opposition to the enemies of God even to the shedding of your blood, singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Your discourse, O father most rich, was seen to be seasoned with salt, and your life was illumined with the radiance of the Spirit: shining now therewith, you sing, rejoicing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Behold, the divine prophecy of godly David is now fulfilled: those rich in grace now truly entreat before you, O Mother of God, blessing the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of the Martyrs

Irmos Almighty deliverer of all, descending into the midst of the flame, you bedewed the pious youths and taught them to sing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord.

O Minas, you were revealed as a crown bearer, for having brought down the enemies of the cross of your Lord, you put them to shame and sang: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

God has wrought wonders in your memory, flowing healings, spiritual and bodily, through your relics upon us who sing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

You offered God your service; and having bowed your head to the ground, you were beheaded by the sword, O martyr, singing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Today the holy Church is adorned with your blood, as with purple and fine linen, O Minas, Victor and Vincent, who sing: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Virgin remained the womb of her that bore the Saviour who without seed was conceived of the Holy Spirit, God uncircumscribable wrapped in flesh, the Word co-unoriginate with the Father, whom all his works praise and exalt above all for ever.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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.

You showed the adherents of vile heresies to be anathema, O God-bearing Theodore, teaching all to honour the all-pure image of Christ, to venerate it with Godly wisdom, and to sing to the Master: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Throughout your life, O divinely eloquent Theodore, you were a guide to Orthodoxy, a radiant beacon, an instructor of divine visage, a model for monks, and a renowned recorder of laws, teaching all to sing: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

You struggled on the earth as a defender of piety and a denouncer of injustice, O blessed one: as a gift of God, you were crowned in heaven with a crown of righteousness, having finished the race and kept the faith, exalting Christ above all for ever.

You adorned your mind with understanding, your desire with chastity, and restrain your anger with the girdle of courage, O wise Theodore, sacredly directing the powers of your soul with righteousness, and singing melodiously: Bless him, you children; you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of the Martyrs

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, O Mother of God.

You loved no less than you were beloved, O passion bearer, laying down your life for Christ who loved you and glorified your witness in himself, O ever-memorable one.

The three inseparable martyrs appear as a lampstand aflame with the light of three suns: Minas, Victor and Vincent, illumining the faithful and dispelling demonic gloom.

Accept the due praises which proceed from an intention which we know surpasses our words; and from your treasures bestow upon us gifts without number.

Theotokion Of old all the prophets rightly praised you, the Mother of the king and Master; and now, the apostles and martyrs magnify you, glorifying you with us.

Canon of venerable Theodore

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.

Illumined as a faster with the streams of your tears, and as a martyr of Christ by the outpouring of your blood, you are resplendent in both, O venerable one: arrayed in righteousness as a priest, you now dwell with the choirs of God, enlightened in the inaccessible heights.

Having passed your life in purity, you dwell now in the holiest of holy places, receiving a crown of magnificence and royal vesture, sumptuous and sacred; and resplendent therein, you stand before the Bridegroom, delighting in deification.

You were granted the sight of the fountain of good things, O God-bearing Theodore, for, having passed through your divine life and freed your mind from its earthly state by purity of life, you became a witness and athlete.

The proclamation of your words was a gift of God audible to us like thunder, O most praised one, and the writings of your doctrines flow like rivers to the ends of the world; and so we fittingly call you theologian and herald of God.

Theotokion You are the Mother of God, O Virgin, having given birth bodily to the good Word, whom the Father put forth from his own heart before time began, in that he is good, and whom we now acknowledge as transcending all bodies, even though he arrayed himself in a body.

*Exapostilarion from the Octoechos,
and that of the martyrs,
to the Special Melody* Adorning the heavens with stars...

The stars adorn the heavens, O Jesus; and Minas, Victor, Vincent and Stephanida adorn the Church. For their sake grant Orthodox Christians victory over their adversaries.

Glory be to the Father...

of the venerable one

In your piety you were shown to be an animate tower of the dogmas of Orthodoxy, denouncing the deception of the iconoclasts. Having ended your confession with suffering, you have been glorified.

Both now and for ever...

All we the faithful, place you as an intermediary before him who was born of you, and also the many who were crucified for him: cease not, O Virgin, to intercede for us.

*Aposticha from the Octoechos,
and verse to the Martyrs, tone 2*

Verse The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them.

Come, you faithful, let us honour Minas, the glorious passion bearer of Christ, mighty in battle, who struggled well in piety, and brought down the dominion of emperors and tyrants. As he has boldness before Christ our God, he prays unceasingly that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father...

of the venerable one, tone 8

We honour you as the instructor of a multitude of monks, O Theodore our father, for we have known you to have truly trod your path aright. Blessed are you, for serving Christ, you denounced the power of the enemy, O conversor with the angels, companion of the venerable and the righteous. With them entreat the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

Both now and for ever...

*Theotokion, or this Theotokion of the Cross
to the Special Melody* O Lord, if at your tribunal...

O Lord, * when the sun saw you, * the Sun of Righteousness, * suspended upon the tree, * it hid its rays, * and the moon turned its light into darkness; * and your immaculate Mother * was wounded inwardly.

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

*For the martyrs: Epistle to the Ephesians, number 233 [6: 10-17]
For the venerable one: Epistle to the Hebrews, number 335 [13: 17-21]*

Alleluia, tone 4

The righteous cry and the Lord hears it, and frees them from all their affliction.
The trials of the righteous are many but our God delivers him from them all.

*Gospel of Matthew, number 38 [10: 32-33, 37-38, 19: 27-30]
(Only one is given)*

Communion

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

November 12

John the Almsgiver, Patriarch of Alexandria; our venerable father Nilus

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... six verses, beginning with these to the hierarch, tone 4
to the Special Melody* You have given a sign...

You distributed your bread * to those who were in need, O wondrous John, *
emulating in your mercy * the most merciful Master. * Therefore your memory * truly
remains for ever, O holy one. * By your supplications * may those who celebrate it with
faith * be saved from temptations and tribulations, O hierarch most rich.

Foreseeing your purity, * the rightness of your mind and your godly demeanour, *
he who sees things that are hidden * elevated you to a most magnificent throne, *
anointing and perfecting you with chrism, O wise one, * and appointing you the pilot of
his flock * which you guided to the heaven * of divine desire, * O divinely eloquent John.

The Lord granted * every request of your heart, * O truly wondrous one, * for you
observed every precept of salvation. * For God and neighbour * you unendingly loved, O
divinely blessed one, * as your very self; * and you satisfied those in need. * Therefore we
honour you today, O John.

*And 3 verses for the venerable one, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* What shall we call you...

What shall we call you, O holy one? * A river issuing from the noetic Eden, * a
torrent of gifts bestowed by God, * a flood of the grace of doctrine, * a cup of wisdom and
knowledge, * a most mighty intercessor, * a most active teacher. * Pray that our souls be
saved.

What shall we name you, O venerable one? * Cultivator of the gardens of
immortality, * tiller of the noetic paradise of the faithful, * one most skilled in the laws
given by God, * one who knows the divinely inspired dogmas, * speaker of that which is
essentially good, * and most satisfying instructor. * Pray that our souls be saved.

What shall I call you, O wondrous one? * One who laid down the rules of
marriage, * governor of chastity, * instructor of monastics, * guide of virginity, * one who
rightly balanced both, * as having by experience passed through both. * Many were your
goodly deeds * and great your fasting for God. * Pray that our souls be saved.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2, composed by Anatolius*

John, the emulator of Christ, the great pastor and beacon of the Alexandrians, the fountain of mercy, developed his sympathetic compassion for those in need. Come, let us who are poor in spirit drink our fill, emulating his serenity; for having with compassionate demeanor shown hospitality to the wandering Christ through the poor, like Abraham of old he was granted blessedness, and he prays with boldness that our souls find mercy.

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

The unwedded Maiden, seeing you nailed to the tree of the cross, O Jesus, said, weeping: O my sweet Son, why do you abandoned me who gave birth to you, the unapproachable light of the unoriginate Father? Hasten to glorify yourself, that those who praise your divine sufferings may receive divine glory.

Aposticha

Glory be to the Father... *of the venerable one, tone 8*

We honour you, the instructor of a multitude of monks, O Nilus our father; for by your steps have we truly known how to walk aright. Blessed are you who, labouring for Christ, denounced the power of the enemy, O conversor with angels, who shares the lot of the venerable and the righteous. With them entreat the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

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

The Virgin, your Mother, O Jesus, seeing you nailed to the cross and accepting voluntary suffering, cried out: Woe is me, O my sweet Son, for how is it that you endure wounds unjustly inflicted, O physician who has healed the infirmity of man and has by your loving kindness delivered all from corruption?

Troparion of John the Almsgiver, tone 8

Through patience you acquired your reward, O venerable father; | you laboured in prayers unceasingly and loved the poor and saw to their needs. || O blessed John the merciful, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Troparion of venerable Nilus, tone 8

With the streams of your tears you cultivated the barrenness of the desert, | and with the sighs of your labours from the depths of your soul you brought forth fruit a hundredfold: | shining with miracles you were a shining light for the whole world. || O Nilus our father, entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints

Ode 1

*Canon of the holy hierarch, tone 8,
composed by Joseph*

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.

Enlightened with sympathy of mind and illumined with the love of Christ, O father, shining with rays of almsgiving, you became a pure habitation of the merciful God; therefore, we call you blessed.

Ever looking to the eternal, O sacred father, with wise intent you splendidly exchanged corruptible things for the incorruptible; and now you dwell in heaven, crying out with the bodiless choirs: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

With godly intervention you took pity on many, O venerable one, having endowed your mind with mercy; and you became a bestower of alms, for the consolation of men's souls and care for the poor.

Theotokion O blessed, pure and exalted one, who alone gave birth to the incarnate God, the fountain ever-flowing with healings upon us, the faithful who hope in you: implore your Son that he grant the world great mercy.

*Canon of the holy hierarch, tone 8,
composed by Theophanes upon the acrostic* Nilus waters me with noetic abundance

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.

Richly irrigating my budding mind with your mystic waters, O blessed one, grant that by your supplications it may bring forth hymns to you like grain.

The streams of your words, issuing forth as from Eden, O Nilus most rich, irrigate all the ever-flowing face of the Church.

The flooding river of your dogmas and words, O divinely eloquent one, waters the hearts of the pious and drowns the throng of the impious.

Theotokion The destroyer and enemy vomited soul-destroying venom into the ears of Eve; but you, O Mother of God, having given birth to Christ, have healed his harm.

Ode 3

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

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.

The sympathetic grace of him who is mercy appeared to you, O wondrous one, as a maiden of divine beauty, wearing a wreath of olive and leading you to divine mercy.

Seated on a sacred throne as a godly judge, O glorious father John, as one who lived like an angel, you offered sacred sacrifices of peace to the most compassionate one.

Emulating the compassion of our merciful Lord who humbled himself in the flesh in his loving kindness, O father, you tended the poor, gathering the waifs and strays, thus fulfilling the commands of God.

Theotokion Having dwelt bodily within the Virgin, O Lord, you revealed yourself to men, as it was fitting that they should see you; and you truly made her to be the Mother of God, the help of the faithful, O lover of mankind.

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

Your mind possessed the gifts of the Spirit, O father, driving away thoughts of wickedness.

As a sacred minister, O oil most fragrant, you have breathed upon us your prayers, in for you lived by vision made active.

As from a fountain you poured forth heavenly teachings, O wise one, and you have enriched the pupils of the Church.

Theotokion You mortify the wisdom of our flesh, O most pure one, and pour forth a fount of immortality upon men.

*Kontakion of venerable Nilus, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* To you, the champion leader...

In your vigilant prayer you cut down the undergrowth of insurgent bodily passions as with a scythe; and as you have boldness before the Lord, free us from all misfortune that we may sing to you: Rejoice, O father Nilus, given for the world.

Ikos Who among mortals can recount the suffering of your manner of life, your countless labours, the many efforts which you made on earth like one of the bodiless? Yet I cry out: Rejoice, river of divine graces; rejoice, pipe of the teachings of Christ. Rejoice, cup of wisdom and knowledge; rejoice, cultivation of the plantations of immortality. Rejoice, most active dogma of divinely inspired words; rejoice, most skilled interpreter of the God-given law. Rejoice, tiller of the noetic garden of paradise; rejoice, great treasury of virginity. Rejoice, beautiful harp of the Spirit; rejoice, sword which cuts at the root of the passions. Rejoice, pinnacle of the righteous; rejoice, intercessor for the faithful born of earth. Rejoice, O father given for the world.

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

With merciful demeanor, goodness of heart and generous to the poor and needy,
O divinely inspired John,
with a title befitting your actions, more than all other saints Christ the bestower of
good things greatly enriched you.
Pray to him, O divinely wise hierarch most rich,
that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Sessional Hymn of the venerable one, in the same tone,
to the Special Melody That which was mystically commanded...*

Having adorned your mind with heavenly visions, you poured forth rivers of
theology, O God-bearing Nilus, watering the hearts of those who with faith draw the
clear and pure drink of your teachings, and who honour your radiant and precious
memory, O adornment of the venerable and boast of the fathers.

Theotokion Having given birth to the immutable God, in the bounty of your maternal
intercession strengthen my heart ever swayed by sin, sloth and the attacks of the deceiver;
that I may thankfully glorify you, Mary, the spotless Mother of God: Have mercy on the
flock you have acquired.

Theotokion of the Cross When you saw him who had taken flesh from your pure blood, and
who was born of you in a manner beyond understanding hanging on the cross between
two criminals, you were wounded in the depths of your being and cried out with a
mother's tears: Woe is me, my child, how divine and indescribable is your providence by
which you give life to your creation: I hymn your compassion.

Ode 4

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

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

You became a pure habitation of the Holy Trinity, O venerable one, the treasury of the temple of God and the firstfruits of hierarchs.

The kindhearted Lord, remarking your great mercy, sanctified your soul, O sacred father John.

You were a steadfast performer of the commandments of the most compassionate one; and filled with his good things, you dwell in the holy habitations.

Theotokion As you are sinless, O God, grant us cleansing from our ignorant deeds, and bring peace to your world, through the prayers of the one who gave you birth.

Canon of the Venerable One

Irmos I have heard the mystery...

Raise me from the captivity of the passions, O wise one, offering your supplications to God as the price of my deliverance.

Cleansed through the trials of fasting, O blessed one, you dispensed the dogmas of the wisdom of Christ in sacred manner.

You put down every haughty thought demonically inspired, O father, destroying the memory thereof with the greatness of your wisdom.

Theotokion The Word, equally eternal with the Father, and who as God was first incorporeal, became incarnate of your pure blood in latter times, O most honoured one.

Ode 5

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

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.

Emulating him who in his mercy died a voluntary death, O wise father, you crucified yourself to the world and the passions, and were granted celestial life.

As meek, compassionate and peaceful, you attained blessedness, O unfailing bread of the hungry, bestower of benefactions upon the poor, and the clothing of the naked.

Made beautiful by divine communings, like an angel you served God blamelessly as a hierarch, illumining the faithful with your sacred teachings.

Theotokion We hymn the pure Mother of God who without seed carried the God of all and gave birth to him in the flesh for us, as the salvation of our souls.

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

Chastely desiring divine purity, O wise, one, you forsook every passionate attachment of life.

Taught by the divine unity, O father revealed by God, you noetically attained contemplations higher than mere knowledge.

We know you, O God-bearer, to be the cloud which inundates all ignorance with showers of knowledge.

Theotokion Finding you as a lily shining amid thorns, the bridegroom loved you, O virgin Mother.

Ode 6

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

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 fasting and entreating God in vigils you were granted divine revelation and visions, O divinely wise father, taught a purity beyond understanding and comprehension.

You lived on earth as an angel with flesh, joyously offering to the creator the unbloody sacrifices of peace with faith and contrite heart and spirit, O blessed John.

Your life, shining more brightly than the sun, emitted beams of loving kindness upon those in need, dispelling the dark cloud of poverty and warming those held fast in the cold of evil, O rich and divinely inspired one.

Theotokion Cease not to pray for us, O holy virgin Mother of God, the confirmation of the faithful; for we are strengthened by hope in you and love for you, and we unceasingly glorify him who was incarnate of you.

Canon of the Venerable One

Irmos I pour out my prayer to the Lord...

Adorned with the gift of wisdom and beautified by the splendour of your life, you became a godly sacred minister, mediating between creator and creation; and you were a radiant and eminent teacher, O father.

Having come to the mountain of the virtues, O father, you received from God divinely inscribed tablets of the dogmas, as a second Moses, a lawgiver of grace.

Having mystically consecrated yourself as a voluntary sacrificial victim, O Nilus, adorned with visions and spiritual activity, as you now stand before the creator, remember us who with faith keep your memory.

Theotokion Beholding the profundity of your dread mysteries in the manifestations of figures, the prophets proclaimed that God would make his abode within you, O immaculate one; and we, beholding the fulfillment of their prophecies, glorify you.

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

You distributed your wealth to the destitute, and have now received heavenly riches, O John the most wise. Therefore, celebrating your memory we all honour you, O model of almsgiving.

Ikos Trusting in the mercy of God, O John, enriched with compassion and gifts by him, you showed yourself to be merciful, having compassion upon all, as he did. Taking pity on my poverty, grant me the riches of your supplication, and fill my starving heart with godly words, O divinely wise one, as of old you fed the hungry, O model of almsgiving.

Ode 7

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos The Hebrew children in the furnace bravely trampled upon the flames, and transformed the fire into dew as they sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

With deeds you proclaimed the words of the Saviour, and as one merciful and pure of Spirit, O God-bearing father John, you were joined to the choir of the blessed.

The taste of honey most sweet was transformed for you into tried gold; for the creator, remarking your rich willingness, gave you rich rewards.

Illumined by the unwaning light of the Trinity, O favourite of the Trinity, you now enlighten those who honour you and sing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Theotokion O Mother of God, the joy of the apostles and glory of athletes, we faithfully entreat you: May we who hymn you unceasingly be granted eternal joy.

Canon of the Venerable One

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.

Watered by heavenly showers, O father, you were fertile, producing beautiful fruit for the Master, who cry out with faith: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Opening the flood gates of dogmas, O blessed one, your tongue mightily deluged the error of heresy, teaching the faithful to sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

On earth you lived an angelic way of life, O father; and delighting in the divine visions of heavenly sights, you sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion For our salvation you revealed yourself incarnate of the Virgin's womb. Knowing your mother as the Mother of God, we sing in thanksgiving: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos As victors over the tyrant and the flame by your grace, and zealously keeping your commandments, the children cried out: Bless the Lord all your works of the Lord.

Revealing you as a radiant star in the firmament of the Church, O father, through you Christ enlightens those who sing with faith: Bless the Lord all your works of the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

As one merciful, meek, compassionate and guileless, the wealth of the poor and the adornment and vesture of the naked, O father, through your almsgiving and loving kindness you are called merciful more than all the saints who have shone in compassion.

Sacredly you adorned the throne of Mark, especially with godly deeds, O father; and because of your almsgiving and loving kindness you are called merciful more than all the saints who have shone in loving kindness.

Theotokion As the daughter of fallen Adam, O Virgin, as Mother of God you have restored my nature. Bless the Lord all your works of the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Canon of the Venerable One

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 all ages.

Having received perfect virtue and loved him who is first among the good, now enlightened with his radiance you sing: Hymn the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Enriched by the art of knowledge, you attained active glory, sending beams of grace upon those who sing: Hymn the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Fleeing the tumults of the world, you reach the haven of calm, having slain the assaults of the passions, singing: Hymn the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Knowing well the Word of God who was born of you, O Virgin, we hymn you most piously, singing with faith: Hymn the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

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.

After your repose, O father, two of the holy fathers set you in their midst, rendering you most sacred honour in the tomb.

Like the dawning of the day, your splendid repose shone forth, O father John, enlightening those who bless you with faith.

You joined the choirs of hierarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs, O father; with them remember those who praise you.

The shrine where your sacred and holy relics rest, O father John, is a fountain of miracles for those who have recourse to you.

Theotokion O beautiful Virgin, who gave birth to the good God and Lord, make good my soul which is afflicted with sin.

Canon of the Venerable One

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 destroyer, seeing you breaking the bonds of earthly attachment and drawing to God, O father, raised storm waves of barbarians against you, thinking to weaken your might; but by divine providence you defeated his machinations.

Shining with rich rays of teachings, you illumine the souls of those who have recourse to you with faith in piety; for, touching to your lips the cup of pure wisdom, O Nilus most wise, you imbibed deeply and you present it to those who love you.

Ardently you mystically sanctified yourself as an unblemished sacrifice to the creator, loving him with sincerity. Standing before his throne, O blessed Nilus, earnestly pray that those who celebrate your memory with faith receive your splendour.

Theotokion You corrected the fall of the woman, O Virgin, having given birth to the Word who raises the fallen; for he is good and mighty in power who was incarnate of you in his supreme compassion, who has saved the world by his passion-slaying suffering.

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

Emulating the mercy of the God of loving compassion, O John, you distributed riches to the poor; and so you have received inexhaustible riches in heaven. We now entreat you: Pray unceasingly for those who praise you.

Glory be to the Father...

*Exapostilarion of the venerable one,
to the Special Melody* Adorning heaven with stars...

Aspiring to the life of the angels, you withdrew yourself to the desert; and having subdued the passions of the flesh, you became an equal of the angels, O our God-bearing father.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion You were the cause of the good things given by God to the world, O Mother of God: may you now render the kindly God merciful, for the salvation of all.

Aposticha from the Octoechos, with

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

O venerable father, report of your teachings has gone forth into all the earth; Therefore, you have found the reward of your labours in heaven. You destroyed legions of demons, and attained the ranks of the angels, whose life you blamelessly emulated. As you have boldness before Christ our God, implore peace for our souls.

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

She who knew not wedlock, seeing you nailed to the tree of the cross, O Jesus, said, weeping: What is this strange mystery I see, O my Son: how is it that you die, suspended bodily upon the tree, O giver of life?

Liturgy

*At the Beatitudes, we insert 8 verses,
4 from the Octoechos and 4 from Ode 3 of the Canon of the hierarch.*

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 Hebrews, number 311 [Heb 6: 4-10]

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 Luke, number 24 [Luke 6: 17-23]

Communion

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

November 13

St John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople

Little Vespers

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

In abstinence you emulated well * your namesake the Baptist, O father, * and imitated great Elias in purity and fasting. * Wounded by the zeal of both, O Chrysostom, * as a pastor of the Church of Christ * you spoke out boldly, even against the imperial majesty. *twice*

The sound of your dogmas, * passing over all the world, as is written, * has illumined the world with the divine inspiration of the Word: * you have thrown open to us the gates of repentance, * embodying the Gospel of Christ * in your care for the poor.

The pure and undefiled light of your soul * shines upon the world * the sun-like beams of the dogmas of piety, * O wise father John Chrysostom, * dispelling darkness * and illumining the universe with piety.

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

You were a divinely inspired instrument through which the Holy Spirit has sounded to us; for with magnificent voice your doctrines have passed to the ends of the earth. As an emulator of the apostles, O venerable one, you attained their choir as you desired. Pray to the Lord, that he give peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Deliver us from our needs, O Mother of Christ God, who gave birth to the creator of all, that we all may cry out to you: Rejoice, O only intercession for our souls.

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

You have appeared to be * a golden clarion, O John, * splendidly sounding forth * the mighty works of God * to the ends of the earth.

November 13

Verse My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be full of understanding.

You received the law * from the Lord * like Moses, O Chrysostom, * illumining and making wise the world * with your divine doctrines.

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

O Chrysostom, * you were truly * a preacher of the kingdom of God, * crying out: Repent. * and drowning despondency.

Glory be to the Father...

O Chrysostom our father, * you have taught us to believe * in the single governing principle * of the worshipful Trinity, * the Father, the Word and the Spirit.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Virgin Mother of God, * with John Chrysostom * entreat God the Word, * who was born of you, * that he save our souls.

Troparion, tone 8

Grace has shone forth from your mouth with the brilliance of fire enlightening the universe. | You gathered not the miserly treasures of this world, but have revealed to us the heights of lowliness of mind. | While you teach us by your words, O father John Chrysostom, || pray to Christ our God, the Word, that he save our souls.

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

Theotokion 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.

Great Vespers

After the Introductory psalm, we sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon.

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

With songs let us hymn * the golden clarion, * the divinely inspired instrument, * the unfathomable abyss of dogmas, * the confirmation of the Church, * the celestial mind, * the golden cup, flowing * with streams rivers of mellifluous doctrines * which waters all creation. *thrice*

As is fitting, let us honour * John Chrysostom, * the never-setting star * who illumines the whole world * with rays of doctrines, * the preacher of repentance, * the golden sponge * which removes the vile wetness of ignorance * and moistens hearts wasted away through sins. *thrice*

In hymns let Chrysostom be magnified: * the earthly angel and heavenly man, * the sweet-voiced and melodious swallow, * the treasury of the virtues, * the unbroken stone, * the paragon of the faithful, * the model of martyrs, * the peer of the holy angels, and equal of the apostles. *twice*

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

O venerable, thrice-blessed and holy father, good shepherd and disciple of Christ the chief shepherd, who laid down your life for your sheep: by your supplications, O most praiseworthy John Chrysostom, ask that we be given great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

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. Three readings.

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 honor. 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

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. 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. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me rulers rule, and nobles, all who govern rightly. I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High; he will search out your works and inquire into your plans. Because as servants of his kingdom you did not rule rightly, or keep the law, or walk according to the purpose of God, he will come upon you terribly and swiftly, because severe judgment falls on those in high places. For the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily tested. For the

Lord of all will not stand in awe of anyone, or show deference to greatness; because he himself made both small and great, and he takes thought for all alike. But a strict inquiry is in store for the mighty. To you then, O monarchs, my words are directed, so that you may learn wisdom and not transgress. For they will be made holy who observe holy things in holiness, and those who have been taught them will find a defense. Therefore set your desire on my words; long for them, and you will be instructed. The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her, and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality, and immortality brings one near to God; so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom. Therefore if you delight in thrones and scepters, O monarchs over the peoples, honor wisdom, so that you may reign for ever. I will tell you what wisdom is and how she came to be, and I will hide no secrets from you, but I will trace her course from the beginning of creation, and make knowledge of her clear, and I will not pass by the truth; nor will I travel in the company of sickly envy, for envy does not associate with wisdom. The multitude of the wise is the salvation of the world, and a sensible king is the stability of any people. Therefore be instructed by my words, and you will profit.

*Entreaty, the verse of the church,
and these of the holy hierarch.*

Composed by Anatolius, tone 1

O luminary John, mouth of golden lustre, ornament of divinely wrought virtues, receptacle of mystic writings: you were the pure and incorrupt treasury of the most Holy Spirit, from whence you bring gladness to the whole Church by your salvific discourse. Having found boldness before God, amid the enjoyment of heavenly delight, pray for us, O holy father.

Grace was poured into your lips, O venerable father John Chrysostom, and God anointed you a high priest for his people, to shepherd his flock in holiness and righteousness. With the armour of the mighty one, you cut down the blasphemies of heresy. Never cease to pray that peace be granted to the world, and salvation to our souls.

Composed by the Studite, tone 2

Praising you with love, the great high priest and pastor, innocent and venerable, the preacher of repentance, the golden mouth of grace, we pray: grant us your supplications, O father, for the salvation of our souls.

Composed by George of Nicomedia, in the same tone

Adorned with your golden words as with golden ornaments, O John Chrysostom, the Church cries out to you: I have drunk my fill of your flowing golden waters, adorned with your drink of golden honey mingled with gold; for I am brought from works to vision because of your teachings, and am united to Christ, the noetic bridegroom, reigning with him. Gathering to honour your memory, we also cry out: Never cease to pray to the Lord for us, that our souls be saved.

You received the most elevated philosophy, O hierarch, and transcended the world, living above visible things; and in godly manner were an undefiled reflection of God. Ever united with the light, you received the light and a most clearly blessed end. Pray, O Chrysostom, for our souls.

Tone 4

You watered the earth with words of golden lustre, possessed of a body and soul flowing with gold, O blessed one; and having by your discourses of teaching rendered all things golden, O maker of gold, and written books of golden letters, you flew up to the heavens. We cry out to you: O river and mouth of gold, entreat Christ our God, that he save our souls.

Glory be to the Father...

Composed by Germanus, in the same tone

It was fitting for the queen of cities to have John as its hierarch, as a regal adornment and a golden clarion instructing the ends of the earth with the doctrine of salvation, moving all to zeal in singing divinely splendid hymns. To him we now cry: O John of golden discourse and golden mouth, entreat Christ our God that he save our souls.

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

Theotokion We have you as a rampart, a truly tranquil haven and confirmation, O most pure Mother of God: tempest-tossed amid this life, we pray that you guide us and save us.

*Aposticha, tone 5,
to the Special Melody Rejoice...*

Rejoice, divinely inspired instrument of the Church, beauteous and of golden lustre, O tongue which lovingly describes for us images of repentance; mind of golden sheen, golden-mouthed swallow, dove who with brilliant pinions shines like gold, singing hymns amid the verdure of the virtues, golden stream flowing with water as a surety of God's love for man. Entreat Christ our God, that he impart great mercy to our souls.

Verse My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be full of understanding.

Rejoice, father of orphans, swift help of the oppressed, provision for the poor, food for the starving, correction of the sinful, pleasing and most honourable physician of souls, high fame of theology, recounting of the writings of the Spirit, most active law, rule most just, uttermost wisdom of vision and activity. Entreat Christ, that he impart to our souls great mercy.

Verse The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom and his tongue speaks what is right.

The Church cries out rejoice to you, its bridegroom, O Chrysostom who shines throughout the world with virtue and pearl-like discourses whose lustre exceeds that of the sun; O John, far more wise than the wise and more exalted than all orators, champion of true dogmas, denouncer of falsehood, teacher of repentance. Rejoice, depth of knowledge most serene, who, like great Paul, inherited the mind of Christ. Entreat him that he grant our souls great mercy.

Glory be to the Father...

Tone 6

As a clarion of golden voice, O Chrysostom of golden words, you make the hearts of the faithful golden by your golden teachings; for, as the prophet said, the sound of your teaching has gone forth, O venerable father, enlightening the ends of the world.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Christ the Lord, my creator and redeemer proceeded from your womb, O most sanctified Virgin; clothed with my flesh, he released Adam from the original curse. Therefore 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.

*After the blessing of the loaves,
the troparion of the saint, twice, tone 8*

Grace has shone forth from your mouth with the brilliance of fire enlightening the universe. | You gathered not the miserly treasures of this world, but have revealed to us the heights of lowliness of mind. | While you teach us by your words, O father John Chrysostom, || pray to Christ our God, the Word, that he save our souls.

And Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once

*But if a vigil is not served, then after the troparion, we sing
Glory be... Both now... And the Theotokion in the same tone*

Theotokion 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, twice;
Glory be... Both now...
and the resurrectional Theotokion, as above.*

*After the first reading of the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 2,
to the Special Melody The choir of angels...*

You shine in splendour upon mortals as a golden star, O blessed John Chrysostom, illumining the ends of the earth with the beams of your discourses. Celebrating your most holy memory today, we implore remission of our sins.

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

Theotokion O pure and unwedded Virgin Mother of God, sure intercessor and protection of the faithful: from misfortunes, sorrows and evil circumstances deliver all who trust in you, O Maiden, and by your divine supplications save our souls.

*After the second reading of the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 5,
to the Special Melody The Word Who is equally unoriginate...*

O faithful, as is fitting let us honour Chrysostom, the meadow of discourses on the divinely inspired Scriptures, who guides us to repentance, and who endured many trials, for we have been taught by him, who prays to the Lord, that our souls be saved.

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

Theotokion An awesome miracle of conceiving and an ineffable image of birthgiving are seen in you, O pure ever-virgin. My mind is filled with awe and my thoughts marvel, for your glory, O Mother of God, has been extended to all, for the salvation of our souls.

Polyeleos, and magnification

We magnify you, O holy hierarch, father John Chrysostom, and we honour your holy memory; for you entreat Christ our God for us.

Verse Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world.

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

By your divine words, O blessed Chrysostom, you were truly a spiritual treasury for the world, and shining upon the ends of the earth, you have bestowed the riches of salvation upon all, guiding the people to repentance. Having completed the course of your life, you stand before the throne of the Most High, O ever-memorable John Chrysostom. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who with love celebrate your holy memory. *twice*

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

Theotokion Let us hymn the portal of heaven, the ark, the holy mountain, the radiant cloud, the bush unburnt, the noetic garden of paradise, the restoration of Eve, the great treasure of the whole world, for within her was wrought the salvation of the world and the remission of the ancient offence. Therefore, we cry out to her: Pray to your Son, that he grant remission of transgressions to us who piously worship your most holy birthgiving.

Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4.

Prokimenon, tone 4

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.

Let every breath... *and the rest, with the Gospel of John, number 35 from the middle.*

*After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse,
idiomelon, tone 6*

Grace was poured forth in your lips, O venerable father, and as a pastor of the Church of Christ, you taught the reason-endowed sheep to believe in the consubstantial Trinity in one divinity.

*We sing the Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklisis],
and the Canon of the hierarch, tone 8,
composed by Theophanes,
upon the acrostic I hymn you, the golden mouth of the Spirit*

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.

As a most fervent preacher of repentance, O father Chrysostom, pray to God that I may repent with all my heart; and beg that, through your suffering, the wounds of my ancient transgression may be healed.

Receiving the radiance of the Holy Spirit, O venerable father, you were a radiant pillar going before the Church to guide it, and a luminous cloud overshadowing the councils of the Orthodox.

A teacher ordained by Christ, with golden tongue and divinely wise mind you abundantly poured forth divine doctrines; for you were a river of God full of the waters of the Spirit, O divinely manifest Chrysostom.

Theotokion Adorned with various forms of grace, O divinely joyous and blessed one, you gave birth to the Word of the Father who, in his great compassion, in a manner past understanding and telling, became incarnate; and you remained a Virgin undefiled.

Katavasia I will open my mouth...

Ode 3

Irmos Christ, who in the beginning established the heavens with wisdom and founded the earth upon the waters, confirm me upon the rock of your commandments, for none is holy but you, O true lover of mankind.

Enriched by the mind of Christ, through your pure life you became an aid, a teacher and agent of salvation, O divinely inspired Chrysostom, flowing salvific teachings.

Enriched by the immaterial treasures of the Spirit, O venerable father, you gave an ever-flowing stream of doctrine from the fount of salvation to water the face of the Church.

With the wise tilling of your discourses you cleared the stony fields of men's souls, O wise and God-pleasing Chrysostom, making them fertile and watering them with heavenly showers.

Theotokion There was no blemish or defilement in you, O Virgin, and you became a habitation transcending the beauties of heaven; for the holiness of the virtues dwelt in you.

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

In a godly manner you draw a wealth of knowledge of ineffable wisdom and gathered in the waters of Orthodoxy for all, which divinely gladden the hearts of the faithful and fittingly drown the thoughts of infidels. Through the sweat of piety, you became an invincible champion of the Trinity, O John Chrysostom. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

Knowing the wisdom from on high and the grace of words from God, you shone upon all like gold in the crucible, preaching the Holy Trinity in unity, and shooting down the falsehood of avarice with the arrows of your words. Having zealously reproved the empress, you shamed the wrongful thinking of Arius, O John. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Pondering the flames and fires of Gehenna, its weeping and lamentation, the exceedingly accursed and most bitter separation, as well as the inheritance of the saints and their joyous assembly, O my soul, compose yourself and sigh; strive to erase the record of your myriad debts with tears of compunction, having the pure Mother of God as your unfailing companion; for it is for her sake that remission of transgressions is given to those who, in Orthodox manner, glorify her as the Mother of God.

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.

Christ, in his goodness exercising his providence for all, has given you to us, O blessed John Chrysostom, as another peer of the apostles, an expounder of the heavenly liturgy, and a divine recounter of celestial mysteries.

Let us honour John of golden eloquence, who has rendered all things golden through the lustre of his teachings, illumining the world with his tongue, which shines brighter than gold, full of light and flowing divine grace.

Wholly the habitation of God; you became wholly the instrument of the Spirit, sounding a divinely inspired hymn of every virtue and the cause of salvation, revealing the beauty of the kingdom of heaven, O blessed John Chrysostom.

You proclaimed the compassion of God, giving examples of repentance and most excellently instructing us how to avoid evil, O blessed, perfect and honourable father Chrysostom, flowing with excellent teachings on good works.

Theotokion After God, we have you as our intercessor; for you were the Mother of God the creator and maker who assumed our form, and saved it from corruption and death, glorifying it with divine glory, O immaculate Lady.

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.

We know you to be a radiant beacon of the Church, saving souls and rescuing them from the maw of death, and guiding them to everlasting life, O ever-hymned father.

With the sword of piety and with courage of soul, you scattered the heretic hoard, O thrice-blessed and sacred one; and, rejoicing, you radiantly unite the choirs of the Orthodox with the bond of the Spirit.

Your cheeks, as perfume phials filled with divine scents, gladden the world with the fragrance of the distilled ecstasy of your mind and beauty of your words, O wise one.

Theotokion You conceived and gave birth to God, the Lord, creator and maker, O pure one: all men bless you, and the intelligent bodiless ranks glorify you, the Mother of God.

Ode 6

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

As a rich bestower of discourse, you have enriched the whole world with spiritual wisdom; for rich grace from on high poured forth through your lips.

Your sound has gone forth into all the earth like lightning, O Chrysostom, and the power of your words has sounded in all the ends of the world like a blaring trumpet.

Clad in a robe of the virtues woven from on high, O blessed one, arrayed in the beauty of your discourses, you are seen to be the glorious confirmation of the truth.

Theotokion He who loves mankind, who upholds all by his omnipotent power arrayed himself in the weak flesh he received from you, O Virgin, for the benefit of men.

Kontakion, tone 6,
to the Special Melody He who fulfilled his providence concerning us...

From heaven you received divine grace,
and from your lips we all learn
to worship the one God in Trinity,
O blessed and holy John Chrysostom.
We rightly praise you, for you are indeed our teacher,
revealing the things of God.

Ikos I bend my knee before the creator of all; I stretch out my hands to the pre-eternal Word, seeking the gift of discourse, that I may hymn the saint whom he himself has magnified; for through his prophet he who lives for ever says: I glorify those who glorify me with faith. He who in ancient times raised up Samuel has now glorified a hierarchy; who, having invested well the talant with which he was entrusted, has brought it to the king; and so the transcendent one has exalted him. I beg that the Word impart to me his

grace, unworthy though I am, that I may hymn him with piety; for he is the teacher of the ends of the earth, revealing the things of God.

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.

Having reached the depths of goodness and compassion, you are a surety of salvation for those who fervently repent and cry to the Lord with all their soul: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

You correct every mind by your teaching, O Chrysostom, and heal spiritual ills with compassion; and you sing in gladness to those who run well the race: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

As a hierarch of the Most High, elect, venerable and guileless, splendidly arrayed in righteousness, you are exalted, singing with gladness: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O most pure Lady, you conceived God the Lord of all, whose good pleasure it was to save the human race from corruption and death: fittingly we sing to him: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

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

Knowing your discourses, O Chrysostom, we learn what is precious in theology; thereby we bear profitable fruit and escape the harm of evil. For you are one who cares for our salvation, crying: Exalt Christ above all for ever.

With compassionate boldness, and with merciful and sympathetic love, pray to the Master for us, O father; for we the faithful, set you before the Saviour as our advocate and intercessor, who prays fervently for us, O divinely wise and blessed hierarch John.

You reprov'd the youthful opposition, headstrong attitude and injustice of the rulers, O venerable one, interceding fervently for the oppressed; and in your love were a father for orphans, widows and the poor, crying: Exalt Christ above all for ever.

Theotokion O Virgin, the divinely eloquent prophets foretold your supernatural and wondrous birthgiving in physical forms, indistinct images, and symbolic signs, and so, in gladness we piously hymn you, exalting Christ above all for ever.

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.

Truly delighting in a life of struggle as far as you were able, O divinely eloquent father, having excelled on earth by your angelic life and acquired the tongue of Christ and a mouth of tranquility, pray that those who truly bless you with faith may be saved.

Your words are words of life, O thrice-blessed one, bringing life eternal; for Christ has made you to be a flowing fountain, a river pouring torrents of divine teachings, a true stream of sweetness and brook of remission, and a radiant preacher of repentance.

You became a splendid mediator between God and men, O radiant one, revealed as a divinely luminous lamp of grace and divine understanding and a teacher of almsgiving: O Chrysostom, with heartfelt love we fittingly magnify you.

Theotokion O pure and glorious Mother of God, save those who hymn you with love, and mercifully silence the tumult of temptations; for, having given birth to God, you do all you desire, and accomplish unhindered what you wish, O Virgin whom we all magnify.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the holy place...

With your discourses of golden lustre, the Church of Christ is made splendid, O father Chrysostom: the souls of the faithful are gladdened, in honouring your most holy memory; for all you are a teacher of repentance and guide to salvation.

Glory be to the Father... *to the Special Melody* Hearken, you women...

Made strong by him, let us all praise the most wise John, the clarion-voiced preacher of repentance, the treasure of the poor, the golden and eloquent mouth of the Church, the expounder of the Scriptures.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Immaculate virgin Lady and Queen, with the glorious Chrysostom entreat your Son, that those who hymn you be delivered from all dangers and receive everlasting good things. For you can do what you wish, O most holy one.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, with 4 verses, tone 4,*
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...

You were a most precious vessel of the divine Spirit, * and a most sacred pastor, * an angel on earth, * a pillar of the Church * and a foundation of the dogmas, * a surety

for sinners * and the divine consolation of the penitent, * who is mindful of the poor and the comfort of the orphaned, * O John Chrysostom, * intercessor for our souls.

You were a sun of great brilliance * illumining the world with your discourses, * a most radiant star * emitting rays of light, * which ever guide by the grace of salvation, * to the most tranquil haven * those storm-tossed * upon the sea of the world * O golden-worded Chrysostom, * intercessor for our souls.

You were truly * an earthly angel and a heavenly man, * a melodious nightingale, * a river full of noetic waters, * a cloud pouring down showers of understanding, * abundantly watering us all, * a teacher of salvation * and an aid in repentance, * O John Chrysostom.

Driven unjustly from your flock, * O venerable father, * you suffered tribulations * and bitter imprisonment, * through which you were granted a blessed end; * and, vanquishing the most crafty one, * as a valiant athlete, * you were crowned by Christ with a diadem of victory, * O John Chrysostom, * intercessor for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Anatolius, tone 8*

Having adorned the Church of God with golden words and divinely eloquent teachings, you laid up spiritual riches there, which are your divinely imparted discourses. Weaving a wreath for you with hymns, as with never-fading flowers, the Church offers it to your sacred memory, O divinely wise John, golden of soul and tongue. As you are foremost, O venerable one, pray 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.

Great Doxology, Litanies and Dismissal.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the saint.

Prokimenon, tone 1

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be full of understanding.

Verse Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world.

Epistle to the Hebrews, number 318 [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.

Gospel of John, number 36 [John 10: 9-16]

Communion

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

November 14

Holy and glorious apostle Philip

Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 6
to the Special Melody Having set aside...*

In your deeds you sought to ascend * to where there is true vision, * and in your yearning you sought love for God, * O blessed one, * as you implored Christ to show you * the ineffable glory of the Father; * for every rational being, O glorious one, * desires God the creator; * and you attained what you desired, * immediately receiving the seal of his Son. * Entreat him with boldness for our souls. *thrice*

Ever instructed * by divine aspiration, * as had Moses in the past, * you desired to see God; * and noetically you regarded his image, * having received his likeness. * For the Son is the immaculate knowledge and disclosure of the Father; * and the Son is understood to be of the same being as the Father, * whose unity, kingdom, power, glory and worship * are exalted with honour by all. *thrice*

You were an instrument * of the Holy Spirit, * sounding with divine phrases and melodies, * singing in the world * the music of the transcendent Gospel of the Saviour * with your tongue of fire. * For you utterly consumed all falsehood * as matter fit to be burned, * as the withered grass of the earth. * And you proclaimed to the whole world * the Lord Christ who is Master over all, * O Philip, beholder of God. *twice*

Glory be to the Father...

*Tone 6,
composed by Emperor Leo 6, the Wise, of Byzantium*

Burning with rays of the great light, O Philip, you shone as a universal beacon; and having sought, you found the Father of lights within the Son, for light is revealed in light, just as a seal is identical, disclosing the archetype: implore him, O Philip, that we that have been sealed by his divine blood may be saved.

Both now and for ever...

Dogmaticon, 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, Prokimenon of the day, 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 honor 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.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. ...

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.”

That word is the good news that was announced to you. Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it

stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” (*1 Peter 1:1 - 2:6*)

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, 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; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives’ conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God’s sight. It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you. Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called, that you might inherit a blessing. (*1 Peter 2:21-3:9*)

A reading from the First Epistle General of Peter

Beloved, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all

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things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (4:1-11)

*If an Entreaty is offered, we sing the verse of the church,
and these of the apostle, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

With the rod of grace, * O truly wondrous one, * you drew men from the abyss of vanity, * submitting to the precepts of your teacher, * who wholly enlightened your understanding * and made you to be an honoured apostle * and a divine proclaimer of his unapproachable divinity, * O blessed Philip.

The radiance of the Spirit * descended upon you in the form of fire, * and made of you a divine habitation, * who quickly drove off the gloom of ungodliness * and enlightened the world * with the splendour of your wise words, * O blessed one, * the proclaimer of the mysteries of God, * adornment of the apostles * and beholder of Christ.

Having illumined with the lightning flashes of your preaching * those who sit in the darkness of unbelief, * O glorious one, * you made them children of our God and Master * by their faith. * You emulated his sufferings and death * and became a heir to his glory, * as a wise proclaimer of God, * and a disciple of truth.

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

Forsaking earthly things, you followed Christ, signed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and sent by him to the gentiles who were perishing, to turn men to the light of the knowledge of God, O Apostle Philip. And, having completed the struggles of your divine suffering and divers torments, you committed your soul to Christ: implore him, O blessed one, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

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

*Aposticha, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

The proclamations of your divine pronouncements * have resounded upon the earth, O blessed one, * and have filled it with dogmas; * theologizing therewith, we mystically glorify the Son, * who is of one being with the Father and the Spirit.

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

Thrice-blessed Philip, with you as the lamp-bearer of the apostles of Christ * and the radiant beacon of the honoured Church, * we are all now enlightened in soul and delivered from bitter misfortune * by your prayers, O exalted one.

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

Having finished the struggle with a cross of suffering, * you were fittingly arrayed in crowns of victory, O Philip. * Entering the high places of the kingdom, O apostle, you stand before Christ, * and pray that we be saved.

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

Your cheeks seem to be vessels of perfume in the world, giving life-creating drink for the faithful, O apostle Philip. Possessed of works proceeding from divine vision, you became a follower and herald of Christ; with teachings you adorned the formerly barren and childless Church of the Gentiles for him who rejoices in the children therein. Pray that it be delivered from want and evil circumstances, for you are able to do much, having drawn close to him.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion 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, O immaculate one, have 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.

Troparion, tone 3

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

Or this troparion, same tone

Splendidly adorned, Ethiopia dances,
graced as with a crown,
for it has been enlightened by you, O divinely eloquent Philip,
and splendidly celebrates your memory;
for you taught all to believe in Christ,
and completed the course of your life fittingly in accordance with the Gospel.
And so the land of Ethiopia boldly raises its hands to God:
beseech him to grant us great mercy.

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

Theotokion We sing your praises, O Virgin Mother of God
who has mediated the salvation of our race;
for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you
and accepting suffering through the cross,
has delivered us from corruption,
as he is the lover of mankind.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the apostle, twice;
Glory be to the Father... Both now... *Theotokion* We sing your praises...

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

O Philip most wise, apostle, martyr and beholder of Christ, blessed friend of God:
by your prayers free from tenacious transgressions those who celebrate your honoured
memory, and grant them the heavenly inheritance.

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

Theotokion O Virgin, we hymn you as the unburnt bush which Moses beheld, the
mountain of God, the holy cloud, the undefiled tabernacle, the table pleasing to God, the
palace of the most exalted king, the most splendid and impassable gate.

*After the second reading of the Psalter, Sessional Hymn, tone 5,
to the Special Melody* The Word co-unoriginate...

You were sent like an arrow, a disciple of the Word and a proclaimer of the truth,
enlightening those in bitter darkness, O holy apostle, and driving the gloom of
godlessness from the earth. You brought forth all as right-believing children of the day, O
beholder of Christ, holy Philip.

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

Theotokion O most pure Virgin, our protection, from various temptations and evil
circumstances and bitter misfortune, free us who have steadfast hope in you, imploring
your Son together with his apostles, and save all who hymn you.

Polyeleos, and the magnification

We magnify you, O Philip, apostle of Christ, and we honour the pains and labours
with which 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, Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Aspiring to the sufferings of the Saviour, you debunked the falsehood of idolatry, glorious and blessed Philip; you came to the world flowing with heavenly wonders for all, having become an apostle to the Gentiles. We honour your memory as we sing: Apostle of Christ, entreat Christ our God to grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

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

Theotokion Having fallen into various dangers through enemies seen and unseen, beset by the tempest of my countless offences, I flee to the haven of your goodness as to my fervent help and protection, O pure one. To him who was seedlessly incarnate of you, earnestly pray for your servants, O most pure Lady, ever entreating him to grant remission of offences to those who fittingly hymn your glory.

Hymn of Degrees, the first Antiphon of tone 4

Prokimenon, tone 4

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

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

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

After the Psalm Have mercy... the verse, tone 6

Wise fisherman, holy disciple, discoverer of the Saviour and recounter of his sufferings, who traversed creation in faith, gathering the deceived nations: rising to God as a sweet fragrance of incense, you ascended to heaven: standing before the judge, ask that we be delivered from our transgressions and from torment on the day of judgment.

*We sing the Canon to the Mother of God (the Paraklisis);
and that of the apostle, tone 6,
composed by Theophanes
upon the acrostic I hymn glorious Philip in seemly manner.*

Ode 1

September 14

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.

Greatly delighting in the luminous rays of the divine splendour of Christ, O divine preacher Philip, enlighten us to partake of your rays.

Christ himself, showing you the glory of the Father, enrolled you in the choir of his disciples, perceiving your virtue, O divinely blessed Philip.

You no longer see Christ, the fount of blessings, the ultimate of desires, in indistinct images, or shadows, or reflections, O wise one, but you clearly see him face to face.

Theotokion Most pure one, your Son and God, having come from the tribe of Judah to its failing princes, now truly reigns as king, the ruler of the ends of the earth.

Katavasia I shall open my mouth...

Ode 3

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

Full of the light of active vision, you were granted to serve Christ, the great light, who has been with us, O divinely eloquent Philip.

Your elucidation of the mysterious was seen as a ladder of divine teaching whereby we have come to know the Son, consubstantial and united with the Father.

You were a golden lamp shining the ever-existing light upon men and thereby enlightening the world with knowledge, O most eminent Philip.

Theotokion Trusting in you, O most holy and pure one, may my hope in you not fail; but, as you are the merciful Mother of God the lover of mankind, deliver me from the snares of the enemy.

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

Truly you were revealed as a spiritual rain-laden cloud for those on earth,
mystically watering our hearts as though a field.

Passing over the earth with the Word, you watered its ends and pour forth a rain
of myrrh from your shrine.

Having breathed the fragrance of the Spirit upon the hearts of unbelievers, you
laid up treasures therein.

O apostle Philip, entreat Christ our God
to grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

Aspiring to the sufferings of the Saviour, you debunked the falsehood of idolatry,
O glorious and blessed Philip;

you came to the world flowing with heavenly wonders for all, having become an
apostle to the Gentiles.

We honour your memory as we sing: Apostle of Christ, entreat Christ our God
to grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

Having fallen into various dangers through enemies seen and unseen,
beset by the tempest of my countless offences,
I flee to the haven of your goodness as to my fervent help and protection, O pure
one.

To him who was seedlessly incarnate of you, earnestly pray for your servants, O
most pure Lady,

ever entreating him to grant remission of offences to those who fittingly hymn your
glory.

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.

You appear as a dwelling place of the sun, of Christ the light, and a temple which
contains his splendour, and a heaven proclaiming the glory of God to men.

Casting the salt of God which is from Christ into mankind corrupted by the
passions, O truly glorious herald of God, you dried up the putrefaction thereof.

Fortified with Christ's power, O Philip, you were stronger than the legions of
demons and the wicked, as you proclaimed to those on earth the glad news of divine life.

Theotokion Christ has revealed a calm harbour to those with faith and love who with a
pure conscience proclaim you, the true and immaculate Lady, to be the Mother of God.

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.

Divinely eloquent apostle, having dried up the deadly abyss of the soul-destroying
poison of the enemy with your healing hands, you deliver those held by bitter sickness.

Fiery of breath, O Philip, through the descent and grace of the Paraclete and with the warmth of faith you restored to life those in the coldness of the winter of godlessness.

As one close to Christ, receiving directly the rays bestowed upon you, you enlighten those who have recourse to you, leading them to their creator.

Theotokion The Lord, who alone fashions all things by his Word and nourishes them in his wise providence, as he willed in his loving kindness, was fashioned of you and ineffably became flesh, O most pure Lady.

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.

Seeing the deception of the enemy which surrounds and destroys the human race, you took aim and loosed your sharpened arrows, the apostles, and exposed the serpent's mouth of clay, O Saviour, healing those harmed by his wounding corruption.

Shining with exalted splendour, you appear as lightning illumining the world, as a mountain which sheds sweetness like a divine rose given by heaven, as a chosen apostle completing the twelve-fold host of the disciples of Christ, O blessed one.

The godly disciple, knowing the depth of your mystery, loudly proclaimed you, the glory of the nations, who in the world like a river and flooding wave gave rise to streams of delight, announcing the Gospel of your glorious condescension to us, O good one.

Theotokion Having given birth to Christ, the incorrupt immortality, you called all to eternal life who are mortal and perishing, and have enlightened and freed the benighted, loosing the bonds of our captivity.

*Kontakion, tone 8,
to the Special Melody* As the first fruits...

Divinely eloquent Philip, your disciple and friend and emulator of your suffering, proclaimed your divinity to all the world:
by his prayers and those of the Mother of God,
guard your Church and this city/monastery from bitter foes, O most merciful one.

Ikos Lord, who created the nature of water, grant me a stream of discourse; strengthen my heart, O compassionate one who are covered with light as with a garment, and who established the earth by your utterance: enlighten my mind, that I may sing that which is fitting and fittingly praise your favorite, O most merciful one.

Ode 7

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

Like an arrow of light you were loosed, O apostle, illumining with splendid radiance those who cry out with faith: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Radiantly shining with the rich outpourings of divine preaching, O blessed one, you enlightened those in darkness to sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having vanquished by the mighty word of faith all the craft of the rhetors' logic and fables, you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O pure Virgin, you gave birth supernaturally to Christ in two unified yet unconfused natures. To him we cry out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

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

The Word, the brightness of the Father, made you a light to the world, choosing you as an apostle from those among the world. Armed with his power, he sent you as an invincible warrior, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Strengthened with divine power, O apostle, you conquered hosts of adversaries: taking up peace as your inviolable lot, you instilled a state of peace in the world, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With all your love you cleaved to the incarnate Word of God, O apostle, as his disciple, a servant of God and teacher of the mysteries. Sent by him to the Gentiles, you preached his coming, singing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Within you, O most holy Virgin, the divine one wholly united himself to all mankind immutably and beyond all understanding; Christ, in two natures. We cry out to him in song: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

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.

Granted ineffable glory and the unwaning light, where gladness is unutterable, where joy is unending among the congregations of the firstborn, among the habitations of the righteous, O Philip most wise, pray for all Christians.

Invested with the comeliness of noetic splendour, adorned with a crown of the kingdom and with radiant brilliance, enlightened with outpourings of supernatural light, O divinely wise Philip, you stand rejoicing before the throne of the Master.

With the honoured apostles, prophets and passion-bearers, the venerable, the hierarchs and the righteous, and with the Mother of God, O Philip, ask that remission of sins and the cleansing of transgressions be given to those who faithfully celebrate your radiant and divine memory.

Theotokion O Virgin Mother, you gave birth to the incarnate Word, who before was incorporeal. We all piously glorify you as the Mother of God, ascribing to you that most true of titles, for you remain the source of the salvation of the faithful.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

Turning the course of your beautiful feet, O Philip, you mounted the heavenward path rejoicing; and standing before the Trinity you see the Son and divine Spirit in the Father. We celebrate your most sacred and divine memory with faith.

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

Theotokion I call to mind the dread time of trial, for the multitude of my evil deeds terrifies and frightens me. Take pity on me in your fervent prayer, O most pure one, and grant me salvation. For what ever you desire, you can do, as you gave birth to God, O blessed Mary.

At the Praises, four verses, beginning in tone 8,
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...

O most glorious wonder. * The apostle who once cast his nets for fish * has become a fisher of men, * appointed by God. * He fished for the nations with the net of his discourse * and brought up the world with the rod of the cross. * O what a draught the divine worker * has brought to God, * he whose memory we now celebrate.

O most glorious wonder. * Sent by God like a lamb among wolves, * the apostle Philip fearlessly strode forth * and, through faith, made the wild beasts as lambs, * divinely transforming the world. * How wonderful his works of faith. * How most excellent his power. * By his prayers, O Christ, save our souls, * as you alone are compassionate.

O most glorious wonder. * The apostle Philip through the outpouring of wisdom, * has become a spring which gushes with life * upon those in the world. * Therefrom

streams of dogmas proceed * and we drink of the torrents of the wonders thereof. * How many awesome miracles * the divine worker has wrought, * whose memory we glorify with faith.

Tone 2 As a heavenly chalice of wisdom, you became a beauteous habitation of the Spirit, and recounted the truth of the virtues, fishing for mortals with the noetic rod of the wisdom of God. We implore you, O apostle Philip to pray for our souls.

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

Having exchanged the catching of fish for the fishing of men,
with the net of your mysteries you drew in those in the depths of deception.
You persued the whole world and brought it to Christ your teacher.
We entreat you, O apostle Philip:
Beseech him unceasingly, to save the souls of us
who faithfully keep your most honourable memory.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

O Mother of God, intercessor for all who pray to you:
in you we boast, in you do we are emboldened, in you is all our hope.
Beseech him who was born of you for your unprofitable servants.

Great Doxology and the rest.

Liturgy

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

Prokimenon, tone 8

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

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

Epistle to the Corinthians number 131 (4:9-16).

Alleluia, tone 1

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

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

The Gospel of John, number 5 (1:43-51)

Communion

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

November 15

Our venerable father Herman of Alaska

*This day is the correct date of his repose,
sometimes confused with the December commemoration which is of his burial*

Little Vespers

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

Joy of the Church of Christ, * having proclaimed the glory of God, * you inherited glorious things in heaven. * Accept glory from us also on earth, * and entreat the king of glory, O venerable one, * that he grant us a share in his glory. *twice*

Joy of the Church of Christ, * by your evangelical life in the wilderness * you dispelled the darkness of idolatry, * uniting the heathen to the life of Christ: * O venerable Herman, * may we also share in such grace.

We who are held fast in the gloom of life * immediately receive illumination of our minds * through your heavenly visitation, * O venerable father Herman: * we hope in your intercession before God.

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

When the time of departure came for the venerable one, with the candles lit and the Acts of the Apostles read by his bier, holy Herman shone forth wondrously, saying: Glory to you, O Lord. Mystically receiving from the Saviour seven more days of life, he awaited the day which was foretold. Then, again with the candles burning and the Acts being read, he reposed in his ascetic sweetness, having lived a most fruitful and venerable life. He lives eternally, ever entreating the Lord of glory for us.

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

O Virgin Mother of God and Lady, as you healed venerable Herman, ever heeding his supplications, have mercy on us who hymn you.

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

The Lord has shown you * to be the abode of the grace * of the divine Spirit. * Teach us, O father, * those things which we ought to do.

Verse Grievous in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

The storms of the sea * were as nothing to you * when Christ shone upon you *
like the sun from on high. * Therefore, we glorify you, O venerable one.

Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

O lover of the faith, * defender of orphans, glory of monks: * make steadfast those
* who offer you their praises, O father.

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

Can the fleeting years or the bosom of the earth conceal your heavenly glory, O
venerable Herman? Glorifying you now, we your children fall down before you, having
you as a mediator before the Lord. Entreat him, that he grant salvation to your
homeland, prosperity to our land, and great mercy to our souls.

Both now and for ever...

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

Troparion, tone 4

Venerable Herman, ascetic of the northern wilderness
and gracious advocate for all the world,
teacher of the Orthodox faith
and beneficial instructor in piety,
adornment of Alaska and joy of all America;
entreat Christ our God
that he save our souls.

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

Theotokion The mystery hidden from before the ages
and unknown even to the angels,
through you, O Mother of God, has been revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate in unconfused union,
who willingly accepted the cross for our sake
and, thereby raising up the first-formed man,
has saved our souls from death.

Great Vespers

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

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses,
beginning with these, tone 3*

Leap up, waters of Valaam, join chorus, islands of Alaska. Sing, people of the new world. Let heaven and earth rejoice, for the conversor with the angels is glorified, and the Orthodox faith is proclaimed to the ends of the world. Let us cry out to Christ our God: Through the supplications of Herman our father, save our souls, O Lord.

Come let us proclaim in hymns the victory of honourable abstinence; for, having trampled upon the serpent, the author of evil, meek Herman tastes of triumph in the choir of the angels. O brethren, praise him who adorns the company of fasters, and, joining chorus, cry out with splendour: Rejoice, O venerable Herman, angelic boast of monks.

Venerable Herman, ascetic of savage Alaska and dweller in heaven's mansions, with what praises shall we honour you; with what names shall we magnify you, for how can our glorification compare with that of heaven? Rejoice, O compatriot, who shares in heavenly glory: fill with joy the hearts of us who fall down before you in humility.

*And 5 verses, tone 6
to the Special Melody Having set aside all hope...*

Having now gathered, * let us glorify the wondrous one, * who, even while among mortals, * attained the things of heaven, * who by his deeds and words * carried the light of Christ * to the ends of the world * for the unenlightened people * crushed beneath the darkness of idolatry. * By his supplications * may Christ save our souls.

Rejoice, O Valaam, * dwelling-place of God, * for you nurtured * the wondrous ascetic of Christ, * who, like a lamp upon a lampstand, * shone forth among the islands of Alaska, * in a new and unknown land, * and brought an unbelieving people * to the Orthodox faith. * With them let us glorify God, * who is wondrous in his saints.

Having but one desire, * to bring the unbelieving people * to the one God, * you became all things to all men: * teaching them the sacred Scriptures * and how to live in the Christian life; * training them in handicrafts; * acting as intercessor for them before the authorities, * teaching them in every way, as though they were children, * that you might lead the people to God. * Forsake not us who hymn you.

Following the words of the apostle, * to give place to the wrath of God, * you withdrew to Spruce Island, * turning away from the hard heartedness of the lovers of this world; * and, finding there a new Valaam, * preferring life there * with the birds and wild beasts, * and conversing with God and the angels, * illumined by visions from on high, * you now dwell in the highest. * Pray for our souls.

What is above all, * if not the Lord our creator, * the adorer of majesty, * the giver of life, * the sustainer and nurturer of all things? * Ought we not to love him * as the one most worthy of love, * and place our own happiness in him? * Thus you taught, O venerable one; * likewise, teach us also * to love God with all our heart.

Glory be to the Father... *Idiomelon, in the same tone*

Can the fleeting years or the bosom of the earth conceal your heavenly glory, O venerable Herman? Glorifying you now, we your children fall down before you, having you as a mediator before the Lord. Entreat him, that he grant salvation to your homeland, prosperity to our land, and great mercy to our souls.

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. Three readings

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them 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; he will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not 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; for their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

*Entreaty, the verse of the church or monastery,
and this verse of the venerable one, tone 8*

O ascetic of New Valaam, your brethren were dear to you, and with them you lived in the Valaam of your homeland. Yet you desired a hundred times more your incorporeal friends, who caught your soul up to the vision of God, and with whom you now make your abode. Rejoice, O father, who invisibly guides to good repentance us who glorify your memory. O Herman, favourite of God, offshoot of the Russian land, offspring of the waters of Ladoga, blessing for the Church of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, gracious witness to Orthodoxy: implore for us great mercy and the peace of God which passes all understanding.

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

When the time of departure came for the venerable one, with the candles lit and the Acts of the Apostles read by his bier, holy Herman shone forth wondrously, saying: Glory to you, O Lord. Mystically receiving from the Saviour seven more days of life, he awaited the day which was foretold. Then, again with the candles burning and the Acts

being read, he reposed in his ascetic sweetness, having lived a most fruitful and venerable life. He lives eternally, ever entreating the Lord of glory for us.

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

O Virgin Mother of God and Lady, as you healed venerable Herman, ever heeding his supplications have mercy on us who hymn you.

*Aposticha, tone 5,
to the Special Melody Rejoice...*

Rejoice, O life-bearing cross, * invincible victory of piety; * for through you the gate of paradise is opened, * enlightenment is given to new lands, * the darkness of idolatry is abolished, * the dominion of death is trampled down, * and mortals are upborne to the heavens. * Rejoice, O faithful, and be glad, * for the glory of the life-bearing cross, * the hope of the martyrs * and of venerable Herman, * is proclaimed in a new land, * imparting to all the faithful * great and rich mercy.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

Rejoice, O venerable guide * of the newly chosen flock of Christ, * who enlightened the hearts of the unbelieving * with the grace of the Word of God, * taught them with the spirit of meekness * and the piety of humility, * and established within them the truth of the faith * with brotherly love and charity. * O wondrous father Herman, * herald of the light of Christ * and dispeller of demonic darkness, * illumine also our hearts, * driving away the darkness of unbelief, * that we may find great mercy in the Lord.

Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Rejoice, O defender of the newly-enlightened people, * most simple and lowly before the mighty of this world: * by your life's blood you became a mediator for them, * an instructor and humble servant of their race. * A friend to those afflicted with incurable disease, * you listened to their cries and groaning day and night; * and, comforting them, you led them to the healing of heaven, * O fearless shepherd of your flock, even though you declined priestly ordination. * Rejoice, for you took pity on the wild beasts, * as did venerable Seraphim. * Rejoice, for with the flame of faith * you subdued the conflagration of material fire.

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

O venerable father, 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...

Theotokion Christ the Lord, my creator and redeemer
 proceeded from your womb, O most sanctified Virgin;
 clothed with my flesh, he released Adam from the original curse.
 Therefore 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 4

Venerable Herman, ascetic of the northern wilderness
 and gracious advocate for all the world,
 teacher of the Orthodox faith
 and beneficial instructor in piety,
 adornment of Alaska and joy of all America;
 entreat Christ our God
 that he save our souls.

If it is a Vigil, we sing this twice, and Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... once.

*If is it not a Vigil, the troparion is sung once,
 then Glory... both now... and the Theotokion as at Matins*

Matins

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

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
 the Sessional Hymn, tone 3
 to the Special Melody Awed by the beauty of your virginity...*

Heeding the call of the Lord, and considering all the beauties of this world as
 dung, you reached a most beautiful wilderness in a remote and savage land, where,
 manfully putting to flight hordes of demons, you conversed with the angels, who were
 your companions. Therefore, we praise you as a wondrous adornment of the wilderness.

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

Theotokion O Lady, as the only hope of Christians and their intercessor before God, with the venerable Herman entreat your Son for your servants.

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

Teaching the illiterate and converting the unbelieving, you planted the true faith among them, labouring in every way and edifying them with your piety: O venerable Herman, teach us also to cleave to the truth and to do works of piety.

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

Theotokion With you as our sure hope and protection, O most pure Mother, trusting in you we fear not the assault of the enemy, for you save our souls from every evil.

Polyeleos, and this magnification

We bless you, O our venerable father Herman, and we honour your holy memory, O instructor of monks and conversor with the angels.

Verses 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, and set my feet upon a rock, and made firm my foothold.

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

In a fragile ship you cut through the stormy depths of the sea, O venerable one, until you reached a far away land. There Spruce Island became for you a spiritual vessel, whereon you reached the heavenly harbour through the preaching of the Gospel and your works of piety, rejoicing in the Lord.

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

Theotokion O Mother of God our Lady, who has revealed to us the pre-eternal Word incarnate: we flee to you as to our protection and help: shield us with the omophorion of your prayers from every assault of the enemy, that unhindered we may worship your Son.

Hymn of Degrees, tone 4, the first Antiphon

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*

After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 6

Can the fleeting years or the bosom of the earth conceal your heavenly glory, O venerable Herman? Glorifying you now, we your children fall down before you, having you as a mediator before the Lord. Entreat him, that he grant salvation to your homeland, prosperity to our land, and great mercy to our souls.

We sing two Canons, the Paraklisis Canon to the Mother of God and that of venerable Herman.

*The Canon of venerable Herman, tone 3,
upon the acrostic Let us love God above all, and glorify Herman.*

Ode 1

Irmos He who of old gathered the waters into one at his divine behest, parted the sea for the people of Israel. He is our God, most glorious: let us sing to him, for he has been glorified.

The darkened eyes of my soul enlightened, let me now hymn God-pleasing Herman, O most merciful Saviour, that he who is glorious among your saints may be honoured to the ends of the world.

Even from your youth, you sought the heavenly homeland and to labour for God alone, O venerable Herman, entrusting yourself to the protection of heaven with Sergius and Herman of Valaam as your constant helpers.

With the commandments of the Lord in your heart, you never gave your body over to slothfulness ways, but ever laboured, enlightening your soul with divine radiance.

Loving God above all else, you committed your life to him, cherishing most of all your conversation with the choirs on high. Yet you did not neglect love for your brothers, O venerable one, praying with them: O Jesus most sweet, save us sinners.

Theotokion Seeing his ardent prayer, you cured young Herman of a deadly ailment, O Mother of God: do not forsake us who fall down before you and call upon him to supplicate you.

Ode 3

Irmos You brought all things into being from nothingness, created by your Word and perfected by the Spirit, confirm me in your love, O most high and ruler of all.

Leaving Sarov for Valaam, the divinely wise Nazarius planted there love for interior spiritual activity; and you likewise, O venerable one, shared this grace and with spiritual enlightenment prepared your soul for spreading the Gospel.

O Sergius and Herman of Valaam, nourished with the grapes of the virtues as fruitful branches of the vine of Christ, fill our hearts with the wine of divine gladness.

Rivalling your brother evangelists in prayer and work, you prepared your soul for a new task; and reaching a distant land, you brought the Alaskans to Jesus most sweet.

Theotokion Ever pouring benefactions upon your servants, O good Mother of the good king, guide us to every good deed and guard us from every evil action.

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

The day of your commemoration has come, O exalted father Herman,
gladdening your chosen flock.
Illumine us with the splendours of your miracles,
which issue from your precious relics;
quench the flame of our passions,
and bedew the minds of the faithful
who ever glorify you with love.

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

Rejoice, O Virgin full of grace,
for your new chosen one has been revealed to us:
he emerged in the northern wilderness,
making the newly enlightened region fragrant with heavenly gifts.
Therefore, with gifts of thanksgiving
we honour you, our sovereign Lady.

Ode 4

Irmos You have shown us your constant love O Lord, for you gave your only begotten Son over to death for us. Therefore in thanksgiving we sing to you: Glory to your power O Lord.

Good shepherd and a ardent father, O venerable one, the help and healing for the sick and infirm, and the refuge and teacher for the orphaned; deprive us not, as orphans, of the protection of your prayers.

O venerable Herman, the people marvelled at how you were able to live alone in the forest; and you said: I am not alone, for God, who is everywhere present, is with me,

as are his angels: how then can I be despondent, when I have such companions? And now, O dweller with the inhabitants of heaven, depart not from us on earth.

Defender of Alaska, with your words we now cry out to you: Be for us a father and protector; wipe away the tears of defenseless orphans; cool the hearts of men melting under the heat of grief: grant that they may come to know the consolation of God.

Theotokion Approaching the most pure Virgin, with hymns let us praise the humility of her who has corrected the deception of Eve and revealed to us the new Adam; that, receiving a new adoption, we may become heirs to life everlasting.

Ode 5

Irmos I rise at dawn to you, the creator of all who passes all worldly understanding; for your commandments are light: direct me in them.

By many sorrows, vigils and prayers you purified your soul and arrayed it in man's primal beauty, like Adam the first-created; for even the wild beasts submitted themselves to you, sensing in you the fragrance of paradise and the kingdom.

Overcoming the passions of the senses with the reins of abstinence and constant prayer, you reached the summit of dispassion: therefore, we fall down before you, as before a gracious physician, crying: Cure us of the passions and move us to good works.

Veiled in secrecy, dwelling in a cave, you strove to bury the passions of the flesh, desiring to labour for God alone, that you might raise up your soul, illumined with the radiance of heaven, receiving a foretaste of the eternal Passover.

Entering the noetic paradise of the virtues where you produced multifarious flowers of good works, you emit sweet fragrance in the world even to this day, O father Herman.

Theotokion The angels acclaim your majesty, O immaculate Lady, while I, a sinner, entreat you to drive far from me the ugly fantasies of demons and preserve my heart in tranquillity.

Ode 6

Irmos The uttermost abyss of sins has engulfed me and my spirit perishes. But stretching forth your upraised arm, O Master, save me as you saved Peter, O helmsman.

Loving the Valaam of your homeland, you named your new home New Valaam: you travelled far away to proclaim the good news in a new place, Spruce Island where you acquired new brethren, the newly-enlightened people, through your teaching and deeds.

We join to hymn the struggles of your brethren, O venerable one, for their struggles were truly like those of the apostles: Juvenal sings in the choir of the martyrs, Joasaph and Innocent sing in the ranks of hierarchs, and together we all sing to God: Glory to you, who has shown us the light.

Your deeds and those of your fellow evangelists received their crown through the confession and martyr's blood of Peter the Aleut, at whose mighty faith and endurance you marvelled. We who follow you cry out: Holy martyr Peter, pray to God for us.

Now your life has been revealed, manifest as proof of the true faith, O venerable one: through your teaching, your words became visible in deeds, and you drew thirsting hearts to correction who call to you: Glory to the holy judgments of our merciful God.

Theotokion Draw near, O people, and see how the stormy waters about to engulf the island submitted to meek Herman: before the icon of the Mother of God they humbled themselves and turned back to the ocean's depths. Bestormed by the waves of life, we cry out: Most holy Mother of God, save us.

Kontakion, tone 8

Belov'd of the Mother of God who received tonsure at Valaam,
new zealot among the strugglers of the desert dwellers of old;
wielding prayer as a spear and shield you were terrifying to demons and pagan darkness.

Therefore we cry to you, O venerable father Herman:
Entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Ikos Having fled to the Lord in your youth, like Herman of Valaam in name and struggle, this Herman grew to the stature of the fathers of old, who brought forth fruits in patience: and the meek one was sent to the Aleut people, who had not yet been enlightened. Hard was his life among those simple people, but even harder was the opposition of his compatriots to his goodly admonitions. Showing kindness to them all, the meekness of Herman instructed them. Glorifying your memory for all these things, we cry to you O venerable father Herman: Entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Ode 7

Irmos As of old you sprinkled with dew the three pious youths in the Chaldean flames, illumine us with the radiant fire of your divinity as we sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Having illumined the eyes of your soul with the radiance of the divine Spirit, O venerable father, you saw distant things as if near, and the future as if present, declaring the judgment of God for men's edification and correction.

Laying up treasure in heaven, you were zealous only for celestial things, leaving nothing for those who sought earthly treasures in your cell. Teach us now, O unmercenary father, to lay up heavenly treasures and to set our heart on him who is beyond price.

The Lord delivered you from the many trials of the righteous, O venerable father, filling your heart with heavenly joy which you now enjoy in the never fading day of the kingdom of Christ: pray for us, that the Lord may transform our trials into joy.

Theotokion Revelling in her who is the joy of the angels, the instructor of the monastic ranks and the protector of the Christian race, let us pay homage to her as the queen of heaven, the constant intercessor for mortals before God.

Ode 8

Irmos United in the unbearable fire yet unharmed by its flame, the pious youths sang together a divine hymn: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exult him above all for ever.

Infirmity, advanced age or blindness could not hinder your mediation for the people before the authorities for whom you besought mercy, that they themselves might find mercy with the Lord. As you are in heaven, do not deprive us also of your mediation.

Filled with angelic hymnody, your forest cell resonated with your lonely chant, so that people marvelled greatly. An angel served you, sanctifying the waters with the blessing of the Jordan when you sang: Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord and exult him above all for ever.

Your manifold labours and tribulations wove for you the robe of salvation and vesture of gladness, with which you entered the bridal-chamber of Christ the king, where, with the choirs of the angels and the apostles, you partake eternally of the banquet of joy.

Theotokion How greatly our sins burn away the good intentions of the soul as if with unbearable fire; and so, we fall down before you, as to the queen of heaven and earth, crying: Bedew our hearts, that every good work may spring forth.

Ode 9

Irmos It is a new and divine wonder: the Lord truly passed through the closed gate of the Virgin, for God was bare of flesh when he entered, and he appeared clothed in flesh

when he emerged; yet the gate remains shut. Ineffably let us magnify her as the Mother of God.

Eternal glory to you, O God, who has revealed to us your wondrous favourite: by his prayers protect us from the assaults of the foe and from soul destroying passions: guide us to all good, that escaping eternal torment we may attain your kingdom.

Reaching the evening of your life, O venerable one, the book of your apostolic work came to an end. Shining the light of your countenance and your glory in the mansions of heaven, bring us also there, by your intercession.

Marking the departure of the venerable one from earth to heaven, a pillar of fire was seen, to the great astonishment of all; and so we cry out to him: Be for us a pillar of fire, ever lighting and showing us the path to heaven.

Although our lips are unworthy, we have offered praises to your true disciple, O Lord, glorifying you, wondrous in your saints. By their prayerful intercession preserve our land and its cities from misfortunes and plague, granting us great mercy.

Theotokion Now the abode of sinful defilement and impurity, having fallen into the nets of unclean spirits, purify me, O Mary, dwelling place of God and instructor of purity, and make me again a habitation of God, that with reverence I may magnify you.

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

O Lord, the giver of life, by the prayers of our beacon of piety, the venerable Herman, shine your never-waning light upon this land and upon us who with faith serve you and piously celebrate his luminous memory.

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

Theotokion O Bride of God, mystic lamp, who by the activity of the divine Spirit has revealed the pre-eternal light to the world: shine the light of the truth upon us who are in the darkness of ignorance, and save all who piously magnify you, the Mother of God.

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

Herman, the meek and humble, * as a lover of the glory of God * was sent forth to announce the good news of Christ: * with his lips he preached the Gospel, * confirming it with piety. * Therefore, let us glorify on earth * him who has inherited glorious things in heaven. * By his supplications, O Christ our God, save our souls.

O herald of the words of the Lord * and pious performer of them, * as one mighty in the grace of the Holy Spirit * you carried the weakness of the infirm, * caring for the infants as a teacher * and for the children as a father, * instructing them in every way by your deeds and words. * Therefore, care for us also, * healing our infirmities.

You said, O venerable father: * From this day and from this hour * let us love God above all, * and let us do his holy will, * that we may inherit good things: * O venerable Herman, * wondrous teacher, * confirmation of Orthodoxy, * preacher of the glory of God, * the teacher of us sinners.

O most glorious wonder: * a new land has been sanctified, * for the wonder-worker Herman appears today, * lifted up to the heights. * Wondrous is God in his saints. * God is with us, understand this, you nations: * be instructed by Herman in Orthodoxy. * By his supplications, O Christ our God, * save our souls.

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

You wondrously ascended the ladder of the virtues, O venerable one; for, receiving prayer, fervour of heart and tears, you purified your mind of vainglorious thoughts and your heart of multifarious sensations, and reached the dispassion of paradise, illumined by visions of the mysteries on high, which raise men to heaven and bring them to the knowledge of God.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady, accept the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all want and grief.

Great Doxology. Litanies. Dismissal.

Liturgy

*On the Beatitudes, 8 verse;
4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon of the venerable one.*

Prokimenon, tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful 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.

The Gospel of Luke, number 24

Communion verse

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

November 16

Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

Great Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 4
to the Special Melody Called from above...*

When he who tries the hearts of men * perceived your godly mind, O apostle, * with his divine foreknowledge, * he delivered you from injustice and the world; * then, making you a universal light, * and commanding you to illumine * and shine upon the ends of the world, * he counted you worthy * to write his divine Gospel. * May you entreat him, * that he save and enlighten our souls. *twice*

When the unoriginate Word * called you from your tax-booth to be his disciple, * he cried out to you, commanding you to follow him * and promising you a share in his kingdom; * then forsaking all things, O blessed one, * and abandoning the tumult of the crowd, * you steadfastly followed him. * And now, O eyewitness of God, * replete with the ineffable vision of him, * entreat him, to save and enlighten our souls. *twice*

Of old the prophets' clear vision * perceived you to be a holy stone, * rolling upon the earth * and crushing the snares of the deceiver; * and he who is wisdom incarnate, * made you a light to the world * and a preacher of righteousness and truth, * radiant with the beams * of the tri-solar light. * O honourable apostle, entreat him, * to save and enlighten our souls. *twice*

O servant of the supremely divine Wisdom, * when the unapproachable light came, * incarnate as was his will, * dispelling the gloom of ignorance, * then, summoned, you followed * his life-bearing commands, * heeding them in manner past understanding; * as a beacon of the Church, * and a dwelling-place of Christ. * Apostle Matthew, entreat him, * to save and enlighten our souls. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Idiomelon, tone 4

When Christ called you to heavenly discipleship, you diligently followed him, O God-pleaser, casting aside without hesitation every exercise of earthly care; for, in submission an understanding worthy of the heavenly kingdom, you put aside a base life and vain glory. Made an evangelist out of a publican, you became a light to those in darkness and a guide to salvation for the lost; and now you are a fervent intercessor for the world and a saving protection for those who honour you.

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

Dogmatikon David the prophet,
who through you became the ancestor of God,
raised his voice to sing in prophecy
of the great things done for you, saying:
The queen stands at your right hand.
For God who was pleased to be made man of you fatherless
has shown you to be the mother and mediator of life,
to restore his image corrupted by the passions and save the world:
for finding the stray sheep lost in the mountains,
Christ takes it upon his shoulders and brings it to his Father
and by his will unites it to the heavenly hosts, O Mother of God,
he who has great and abundant mercy.

Entrance, Prokimenon of the day; 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 honor 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.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Therefore 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. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.” That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” (*1 Peter 1:1 - 2:6*)

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, 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; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives’ conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God’s sight. It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you. Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called, that you might inherit a blessing. (*1 Peter 2:21-3:9*)

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (*1 Peter 4:1-11*)

*Entreaty: verses of the church, then these of the apostle, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

With the rod of grace, * you drew men from the abyss of vanity, * O truly wondrous one, * submitting to the precepts of your teacher, * who enlightening your mind, * made you an honoured apostle * and a divine proclaimer of his unapproachable divinity, * O blessed Matthew.

The radiance of the Spirit * descended upon you in the form of fire, * and made you a divine habitation, O blessed one, * who quickly dispelled the gloom of ungodliness * and enlightened the world * with the splendour of your wise words, * O blessed proclaimer of the mysteries of God, * adornment of the apostles * and beholder of Christ.

Having illumined with the lightning flashes of your proclamation * those who sit in the darkness of unbelief, O glorious one, * you made them to be children of our God and Master * by their faith. * You emulated his suffering and death * and became a heir to his glory, * as a wise proclaimer of God, * a disciple of him who is truth.

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

Forsaking earthly things, you followed Christ, signed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and sent by him to the gentiles who were perishing, to turn men to the light of the knowledge of God, O Apostle Matthew. Having completed the struggle of your divine suffering and various torments, you committed your soul to Christ. Entreat him, O blessed one, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever...

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

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

With the trumpet of your words * you summoned men * to the knowledge of God, O ever exalted one; * and, having driven the hoards of the deceived from the earth, * you guided the faithful to unity of mind; * and now may you pray * that those who celebrate * your honoured memory with faith * be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

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

Christ our God, * who armed you with the fiery tongue * of the Holy Spirit * made you, O apostle, * a mighty opponent of falsehood, * wherewith you received the splendid honours of grace. * Entreat him, that those who ever celebrate * your honoured memory with faith * be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

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

Reaching the depths of the Spirit, O apostle, * you grasped inexhaustible riches, * and, drawing abundant grace therefrom, * by your Gospel you granted it to all of us. * And now you pray, * that those who ever celebrate * your honoured memory with faith * be delivered from corruption and misfortune.

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

Like a high-flying eagle you gloriously soared from the depths of evil to the uttermost heights, O exalted Matthew; for you followed in the steps of Christ who has covered the heavens with virtue and filled the whole earth with his knowledge. You proved to be an ardent emulator of him, proclaiming his glad tidings that peace, life and salvation are given to those who piously submit to the precepts of God: to which likewise guide us who call you blessed, O Apostle who pleased the creator.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Christ the Lord, my creator and redeemer
proceeded from you, 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 3

O holy apostle and evangelist Matthew, entreat the merciful God, that he grant our souls remission of transgressions.

Or this troparion, in the same tone

Zealously following Christ the master,
who in his goodness appeared to men on earth
and called you from your tax booth, as a chosen apostle
and a clarion-voiced proclaimer of the Gospel to the world.
We honour your precious memory, O divinely-eloquent Matthew:
entreat the merciful God
that he grant us remission of sins.

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

Theotokion We sing your praises, O Virgin Mother of God
who has mediated the salvation of our race;
for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you
and accepting suffering through the cross,
has delivered us from corruption,
as he is the lover of mankind.

Matins

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

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

Most wise Matthew, the first to record the Gospel of Christ and who illumined all creation under the sun, the excellent participant in the mysteries of Christ, who is now honoured with sacred hymns, implores forgiveness of sins for those who honour him with love. *twice*

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

Theotokion All of us who flee with love to your goodness know you truly to be the Mother of God, who even after giving birth remained a virgin; for we sinners have you as our intercessor; and you, the truly immaculate one, we have acquired as our salvation amid danger.

*After the second reading of the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn, tone 3,
to the Special Melody* Of the divine faith...

Radiant with works of the right faith, you extinguished false religion; and as an insuperable victor you proclaimed the Gospel to all, richly adorning the Churches, O apostle Matthew. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant us great mercy. *Twice*

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

Theotokion Without separating himself from the divine essence, the one Lord became incarnate within you, and, though he became man, he remained God, preserving you, his Mother, an immaculate Virgin even after giving birth, as you were before birthgiving: earnestly entreat him to grant us great mercy.

Polyeleos, and this Magnification

We magnify you, O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, 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, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom...*

Truly the sound of your wise words has gone forth to all the ends of the earth, O exalted apostle of the Lord, for you preached to all the vision of God, and brought the nations from ignorance to understanding. Having dispelled the darkness of idolatry, you shone the light of knowledge upon those who sat in darkness, O most praiseworthy Matthew. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

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

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

Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of Tone 4

Prokimenon, tone 4

Their sound has gone out through all the world and their words to the ends of the earth.
Verse The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Let every breath praise the Lord *and the rest,
with the Gospel of John, number 67 [21:15-25]*

After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 6

Let us clap our hands in hymnody, O faithful, in memory of the honoured Apostle and Evangelist Matthew; for, casting away the yoke and gold of his publican's booth, he followed Christ and became a preacher of the divine Gospel. Hence, as the prophet said, his sound has gone forth into all the world, and he prays that our souls be saved.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God [the Paraklisis],
and that of the Apostle, composed by Theophanes, 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.

Most glorious Matthew, servant of Christ, richly bestow upon me the grace abiding within you, that I may sing in splendid proclamation and, rejoicing, hymn your wonders.

You abandoned the tumult of earthly things; for, having hearkened to the voice of the incarnate Word, you became a steward and God-pleasing herald of his grace.

As an eyewitness and servant of the shining Word of the pre-eternal Father, O apostle, you went forth, proclaiming the glad tidings of his coming to all the nations.

Theotokion You announced the glad tidings of the destruction of death, the abolishment of corruption and the manifestation of life, O wise apostle; the restoration of the world by the unapproachable one whom the Virgin conceived.

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.

Word of God, you made your apostles like beacons of life which drive away the gloom of ungodliness and illumine the whole world with your divine glory, O Master.

Arming most valiant Matthew with your armour, O Saviour, you made him mightier than the torturers and the destroyer of the deception of idolatry.

The sound of your fiery tongue consumed the temples of the demons, O divinely inspired Matthew, instrument of the Comforter, through whom Christ, the life of all, is proclaimed.

Theotokion The clarion of theology which sounds forth mightily has illumined divinely wise Matthew to proclaim to people the brilliant light of the Trinity and the incarnation beyond understanding of the Word from you, O most pure Lady.

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

Truly the sound of your wise words has gone forth to the ends of the earth, O exalted apostle of the Lord, for you preached the vision of God, and brought the nations from ignorance to understanding. Having dispelled the darkness of idolatry, you shone forth the light of knowledge upon those who sit in darkness, O most praiseworthy Matthew. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

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

Apostle of the Lord, we all praise you as the lamp and disciple of the light, an eyewitness of the divine Word; for, spreading your nets of grace, by his command you ensnared reason-endowed fish. Through the power of the Spirit you caught the nations, who are now guided by faith, O honoured participant in the mysteries of heaven. Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion As you are the immaculate bride of the creator, the unwedded mother of the deliverer and the receptacle of the Advocate, 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.

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.

The God-seeing disciple, taught by your Word, O God, destroyed worldly wisdom, crying out to you: Glory to your power, O Lord.

What manner of praise can we offer to you, the divinely eloquent one blessed by Christ? For no man is able to describe in words the grace which blossomed in you.

Seeing your undefiled and pure mind as a lamp placed on a lofty stand shining upon those in darkness, O divinely manifest one, the Most High has set you before all.

Theotokion Blessed and most praised Maiden, you have elevated slain human nature, for in manner surpassing nature, you gave birth to the might of the Most High, as Matthew has taught.

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.

As a divine habitation of the most holy Spirit, with whose grace, in godly manner you taught the light of divine knowledge, entrusted with the task of committing to writing the dogmas of Christ, as a chosen eyewitness of God.

Your tongue was the pen of the Paraclete who delivers those who acknowledge his dominion and breathes heavenly understanding into the souls of the wise.

Christ sent you to the world shining with miracles and the grace of healing, trampling the might of demons and enlightening the souls of the faithful who hymn you, the preacher to the world.

Theotokion You gave birth, O Virgin, to the pre-eternal Son who clothed himself in human nature, saving it, as the divinely eloquent one said; and you remained a Virgin.

Ode 6

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.

By your omnipotent might, O Maker of all, the divinely eloquent and excellent Matthew was transformed from a publican into an evangelist, for he followed you.

By the spiritually nourishing words of your glad tidings, O blessed Matthew, a multitude of the gentiles are lifted up and directed to the lofty summit of the virtues.

With the divinely woven nets of the disciple Matthew, assemblies of the faithful are ever raised up, guided to the knowledge of you, our benefactor.

Theotokion Excellent Matthew announced the glad news, describing you as the Virgin who gave birth without seed and corruption to him who fashioned all things.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

Casting off the burden of your official position,
you shouldered the yoke of righteousness
and appeared as a most excellent merchant,

bringing the riches of the wisdom from on high.
You proclaimed the Word of truth,
uplifted the souls of the lowly,
and described the hour of judgment.

Ikos The tyranny of the enemy oppresses me to take the seed of my soul, O Matthew, friend of Christ; yet, providing me with the seed of your prayers, render me fruitful to serve you, and as the least of those who hymn you, a recounter of your many and great admonitions; for, forsaking all things for the love of Christ without hesitation you ardently followed him who called you, being the first evangelist in the world, describing the hour of judgment.

Ode 7

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

As a divine image of the primal shining, and as a disciple afire with his splendour, singing to him, you said: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

As servant of the Word, O blessed one, you made your abode in the divine mansions where Christ dwells, as the one divine Lord and God of the fathers promised.

Infirmities are banished and a multitude of demons are forced to flee by the gifts of the divine Spirit within you, through which you sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord God of our fathers.

Theotokion With your divine words, O apostle, you described the exalted Virgin who gave birth to the creator to whom we all sing: Blessed are you, the supremely exalted Lord 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.

Deified by the mighty forces within you, O Master, sacred Matthew, by ordination and character prevailed upon the whole world to sing to you: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

The Word sent the theologian forth like lightning to the world, dispelling darkness and enlightening the nations with the dogmas of theology, as he sang: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

With pure discourse and mind you conversed with God; for when you rid yourself of mire, you drew near and associate with him, O glorious one. Therefore you sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion The Word chose to be incarnate for the good of men; for the Lord passed through the portal of virginity and made her to be the Mother of God. Therefore, we sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

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

You received the divine diadem of noetic beauty, O blessed apostle, and were adorned with the magnificent crown of the kingdom by the right hand of the Almighty: you shine, standing with the angels before the throne of Christ the Master.

Fittingly you received the tree of life, O preacher of the living God, having spread the good news of life, the visitation of God to the world; for you did not permit your mind to become corrupt through the tree of knowledge, remaining an unshaken and immovable foundation of the Church.

In a godly manner you adorned the church, the Bride of Christ, with your Gospel as with a diadem, and now it splendidly celebrates your memory. Pray, Apostle Matthew, that it be delivered from every evil circumstance and cruel misfortune.

Theotokion Without leaving the bosom of the unoriginate Father, the unoriginate Word was incarnate of you, O pure and most praised Lady, wholly clothing himself in human form and accepting its traits, as Matthew wrote, proclaiming the Gospel.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody He has visited us...

God-pleasing Matthew, the glorious recorder of the Gospel of Christ, has related divine wonders to us. Honouring him with love, let us sing to him melodiously.

Glory be to the Father... *another Exapostilarion*

Having wisely cast off the yoke of your publican's office, you followed Christ, O divinely wise Matthew; and following wondrously in his steps, you obtained a share of his kingdom and glory through communion with him, as a participant of ineffable mysteries.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Virgin Mother of God, lift up your most holy hands, wherewith you held the creator, in supplication to him, that he deliver us from the temptations of the devil, that we may receive his good things in the world to come.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises,*
inserting 4 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...

You shone forth, O apostle, * as luminous as the sun, with the rays of the Spirit, * illumining the whole world * with the knowledge of God, O blessed one. * And you dispelled the gloom of polytheism, * O most wise Matthew. * Therefore we celebrate today * your radiant and wondrous feast-day * as a source of sanctification. *Twice*

Seated on the heights of divine knowledge, O apostle, * you received the radiance of the Spirit, * which appeared to you in the form of a tongue of fire; * and you burnt away * all the tinder of the impiety of ungodliness. * Therefore, we honour you * as an apostle and herald of God, * celebrating your holy festival today.

O most wise Matthew, * you have cleansed creation of the madness of idolatry, * and illumined the people * with the splendour of the Gospel. * Having destroyed pagan temples * by means of grace, * you raised up churches to the glory of God.

Glory be to the Father... *composed by Byzantius, tone 2*

Abandoning the yoke of injustice and casting away the gold of usury,
 you hastened to the yoke of righteousness
 and grasped inexhaustible wealth like an able merchant,
 trading transitory things for that which is eternal
 and corruptible things for that which abides.
 Having acquired the divinely lustrous pearl of great price,
 you wisely left to Caesar the things which keep men below;
 and having obediently followed Christ, the king of all,
 you enrich all creation with the divine words of the Gospel.
 O excellent Matthew,
 entreat that salvation and great mercy be given to those who honour you.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Save your servants from misfortune, O Virgin Mother of God, for after God it is to you that we flee, as to an indestructible rampart and intercession.

Great Doxology, Litanies and Dismissal.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses, 4 each from Odes 3 and 6 of the canon of the evangelist.

Prokimenon, tone 8

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

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

Epistle to the Corinthians, number 131 [1 Cor 4: 9-16]

Alleluia, tone 1

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

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

Gospel of Matthew, number 30 [Mt. 9: 9-13]

Communion Verse

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

November 17

Gregory the wonder worker, Bishop of Neocaesarea

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses of Gregory, tone 8,
to the Special Melody What shall we call you...*

What shall we call you, Gregory? * Master, for you subjected the passions to your mind. * Husbandman, for you reap the fruit of wisdom. * One who has been granted vision divine, * catechized with heavenly theology; * a most sacred performer of the mysteries * and wondrous worker of miracles. * Pray that our souls be saved. *twice*

What shall I call you, Gregory? * Mighty destroyer of godless impiety, * one who showed the laws of piety, * wise teacher, * and bestower of invincible peace, * unvanquished conqueror of armies, * who ever abode in the mountains * and looked upon those in the cities. * Pray that our souls be saved. *twice*

What now shall I proclaim you, O venerable one? * Emulator of the apostles, * as a worker of miracles, * who restrained the river by the invocation of Christ * and dried up the lake which was the cause of contention between brethren, * who dispersed the synagogue opposed to God, * and increased and enlightened Christian assemblies. * Pray that our souls be saved.

What now shall I proclaim you, O venerable one? * Guide of those astray * and physician of the ailing, * bestower abundant necessities upon those who ask, * most mighty persecutor of demons, * one who urged the struggle of martyrdom, * and was prophetically illumined with graces, O glorious one. * Pray that our souls be saved.

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

Having wisely entered the depths of knowledge, O hierarch of Christ, you acquired the vision of the Trinity. With unwavering foresight in the Spirit of Christ our God, you pour forth upon us an abyss of miracles. Having made the watery nature of the sea solid and changed the pagan priest's dark delusion into belief, you persuaded the persecutors to believe truly and were seen by them as a pillar of the virtues of piety; and through your miracles you were called a prophet. We implore you, never cease to entreat the Saviour for us, that our souls be saved.

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

to the Special Melody On the third day...

Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave birth to you cried out: What strange mystery is this that I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, hung upon a tree, O giver of life?

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

The wakefulness of God was given you, O wise one, as it had been given to Daniel; for, as a dream was revealed to him, so was the mystery of the faith disclosed to you: O venerable father, pray that our souls be saved.

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

The all-pure one, seeing you hung upon the cross, cried out, weeping maternally: O my Son and my God, my sweetest child, how can I endure your shameful suffering?

Troparion, tone 8

By vigilance in prayer and by your constant working of miracles, you became worthy of your name, father Gregory. Pray to Christ our God, that he enlighten our souls, lest we sleep unto death.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos,
and that of the saint, tone 8,
composed by Theophanes*

upon the acrostic I shall weave praise for Gregory the Wonderworker

Ode 1

Irmos The rod of Moses, working wonders in times past, marking the sea in the form of the cross, struck it and parted it, and sank Pharaoh driving his chariot, saving Israel who fled across on foot, while singing a hymn to God.

O father Gregory, show me the divine activity of your splendid wonders, delivering me from the abyss of transgressions and enlightening me with your radiance, that I may hymn you.

As one who is skillful, sensible and wise, you preferred nobility of soul to the passions of the flesh, O blessed one, industriously assembling the dogmas of wisdom whereby the soul that draws to God is nourished.

Residing in a strange land, O venerable one, in your virtue you were seen by all as honourable, pious and God-loving, having received the gift of working wonders from God, whereby you are known, shining in the world like the sun.

Theotokion As a shoot from a royal root, O pure one, and, in a manner surpassing comprehension and thought, of your pure blood you gave birth to Christ the king, the incarnate Word of God, of two natures, yet a single person.

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.

Your mind cleansed of the turbulence of the passions, and full of wise vision, you became a magnificent abode of wisdom, enriched with the gift of prophecy, O Gregory.

Knowing the divinely inspired Scriptures and choosing a different way of life, you formed within yourself the singular image of virtue, O divinely wise Gregory.

Instructed by God, as you sought him with love, you have the pure Mother of God Mary and the Son of Thunder as instructors in the mysteries, guiding you to the light of the Trinity, O divinely eloquent one.

Theotokion O pure Maiden, we know you to be the staff which budded forth Christ, the flower of incorruption, and the golden censer who held in your arms Christ, the burning coal of the divine essence.

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

You were a new Moses in your works, receiving the tablets of faith on the mountain of mystical divine revelation, setting down as law for the people the piety of the mystery of the Trinity, O Gregory. All we, the faithful, honour your memory, asking for great mercy through you. *twice*

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

Theotokion You were a divine tabernacle of the Word, O pure virgin Mother, who has surpassed the angels in purity. With the divine waters of your prayers cleanse me who, more than all others, has been defiled by carnal transgressions; and grant me great mercy.

Theotokion of the Cross The incorrupt virgin Mother, the unblemished lamb and Mother of the Word, seeing him who budded forth from her without pain hanging upon the cross, lamenting maternally, cried out: Woe is me, my child; for how is it that you suffer willingly, wishing to deliver men from the dishonour of the passions?

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.

Having ploughed the good earth, O divinely wise father, and sown the seed of the Word, you even now increase your yield a hundredfold, by your teachings bringing to God those who sing: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

You were granted the sight of most divine Light, O father, and, having received the divinely written law like Moses, you obtain the precision of theology; hence, you are seen to be a lawgiver of the Church of Christ.

Having turned away from the foolish talk of the rhetors and being enlightened by the word of grace, O father, you truly received the apostles' power over demons, for the prince of darkness fled before your brilliant splendour.

Theotokion From of old the ark prefigured you, the immaculate Lady, who received within you the divinely written Law, ineffably conceiving the life-creating Word, who richly nourishes the souls of those who cry: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

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.

Having softened hardened hearts with the husbandry of your words, you cast upon them the divine seed, O hierarch, and brought to the deliverer an abundant harvest, the salvation of the faithful.

Phaedimus, aflame with zeal, piously trusting the all-knowing God and knowing your worthy life, O father Gregory, anointed you, even though you had not come to him.

O divinely wise and holy hierarch, by your prayers deliver me from evil and grievous circumstances, and destroy the record of my transgressions, for you are a priest who received from God the power to loose transgressions.

Theotokion Adorned with the pure beauty of your virginity, you cover the misshapen shame of the first Eve, having given birth to Christ, who bestows the garment of immortality upon those who honour you.

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.

Miraculously, you dried up the lake, the cause of contention between brothers; and you caused the rushing of the river to cease, O wise one, for when you planted your staff, it took root and grew at your divine behest.

Godly zeal consumed you, O most rich in grace, for, unable to endure the sight of an insult to God, you destroyed the vain-minded by your prayers.

Wishing to destroy you, the wretched and impious Jew himself died, proving you to be a fulfiller of the dogmas of God who has glorified you, O divinely wise Gregory.

Theotokion The Spirit, who works all things, came upon you, O immaculate Lady, and the Word of God dwelt within you, ineffably becoming flesh, yet remaining unchanged.

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

Receiving the power to work many miracles, you terrified the demons with awesome signs, and dispelled the diseases of men, O wise Gregory; and thus your deeds entitled you to be called the wonderworker.

Ikos Where shall I, wretch that I am, begin to weave praises, seeing so many wondrous things? If I begin with the life of the venerable one, I will not in any way be able to proceed; for his divine life surpasses all comprehension. And if I begin with his miracles, I shall be ashamed to try to proceed further, for they are more numerous than the sands of the sea. For this reason he is called the wonderworker, receiving this title from his works.

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.

You appear as the boast of the fathers and pride of the holy teachers, O holy Gregory, the luminary of the Church and immovable pillar of piety, who sings: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Shining in miracles, you enlighten the world, O divinely wise Gregory; therefore, having come together, we bless you, nurtured by your words and singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Divinely wise father, you poured healing upon the infirm as rich and wondrous grace was poured into your mouth, whereby you sang: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Now all things are full of divine light through you, O most pure Lady; for you are the door through which God has communed with the world, enlightening those who sing with faith: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

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

Enriched with the radiance of the Trinity and celebrating your festival, O Gregory, we ask to be illumined with wonderworking grace, as we sing to the Master: You children bless; you priests praise, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Receiving the radiance of the sovereign divinity like a newly revealed mirror, you illumine the world with rays of light, imparting Orthodoxy to those who melodiously sing: You children bless; you priests praise, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Like another Moses the lawgiver you hid on the mountain and were guarded by God: as a source of piety for those who honour God, you taught them to hymn the creator and deliverer, singing: You children bless; you priests praise, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion You were the abode of the unwaning light, O most pure Lady, shining with the beauty of virginity and illumining all who from the depths of their souls confess you to be the Mother of God and who sing: You children bless; you priests praise, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

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.

Shining with the light of your exemplary life, you now stand before the great light, crowned as a victor with divinely wrought miracles, divinely wise wonderworker, venerable hierarch Gregory, beacon of the Church and adornment of the Orthodox.

In your supplications, beg that the royal elect and sanctified priesthood be guided rightly, O wonderworker, that those who faithfully celebrate your memory may receive the kingdom of heaven and divine gladness.

Having subdued the attacks of the demons and subjected the reasoning of your flesh, as a venerable and guileless hierarch, arrayed in the garment of righteousness, you stand before the throne of the king of all with boldness, O blessed one.

Theotokion You are revealed as the Mother of God who, transcending nature, gave birth to the incarnate Word, whom the Father poured forth from his heart before all ages: him whom we know as more exalted than all bodies, though clothed in a body.

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

You shone in miracles, O wonderworker Gregory, and delivered the pagan priest from corruption and demonic deception by moving a stone at your command; and, having dried up a lake, you restrained a river; and so we all praise you.

Theotokion, same melody

Rejoice, boast of the faithful and confirmation of the venerable; rejoice, glory of the righteous; rejoice, light of those in darkness; rejoice, most holy temple; rejoice, paradise of God; rejoice, loosing of the curse, O blessed Mary.

Aposticha from the Octoechos, with this verse to the saint, tone 4

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

Chosen for the priesthood from God and vested in a divine robe from on high, you made those who before were children of unbelief into children and heirs of the light; for the grace of the wisdom of God was poured into your mouth, O blessed Gregory, performer of glorious deeds. Now, on the day of your commemoration, entreat Christ our God for our souls.

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

Filled with awe by the hierarch renowned for his wonders, inanimate things were altered; for a lake which was the cause of dissension between two brothers dried up, and a staff grew, restraining a river; a stone moved at your command, leading the unbelieving to knowledge of God. For his sake, O God, grant our souls great mercy.

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.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses; 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon to the saint.

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?

The Epistle to the Corinthians number 151 (12:7-11).

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 Matthew number 34 midway ... Jesus summoned the twelve... (10:1, 5-8).

Communion Verse

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

November 18

Martyrs Platon and Romanus

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these 3 for the martyr Platon, tone 8,
to the Special Melody O all-glorious wonder...*

Filled with valiant wisdom, * you endured with courageous resolve * the dismemberment of your body, * unbearable fire, starvation and death, * in expectation of the glory * which does not grow old with time, * and foreseeing the eternal blessedness * which lies before you.

Having transcended every sense * and directed your thoughts to life on high, * with divinely wise mind * and great wisdom of soul * you spurned the baseness and lowliness * of all things that are visible. * Lacerated, O martyr, * and burned with fire for Christ, * you endured valiantly.

Every assault of the enemy * and the onslaughts of the persecutors * you surmounted by grace, * O martyr most rich; * and you were crowned with the wreath of victory, * being granted incorruptible joy and ineffable and divine radiance. * And as you are now in the midst thereof, * ask remission of sins * for those who praise you well.

*And 3 verses of the martyr Romanus, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

Consumed by fasting, * hardened by ascetic endeavour, * and tormented with manifold tortures, * you became a two-edged sword, * cutting down hordes of demons, O Romanus, * adornment of athletes, * precious ornament of the Church * divine boast, of those who died shedding their own blood, * O exalted martyr.

Lacerated and rent asunder, * imprisoned in a dungeon, * your tongue cut out, O glorious athlete, * your jaw broken, * receiving a blessed end through violent suffocation, * you proved to be unshakable and steadfast * through the activity of the divine Spirit, O Romanus; * therefore, we praise you with faith.

A child who spoke eloquently * and amazed the mindless: * is adorned with honourable opposition * and illumined by his death; * he is enriched by the goodly fame of the holy athletes, * whose zeal he acquired. * O wise Romanus, * pray with them, * that remission of sins be imparted to us all.

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

Awesome and glorious are the victories of your martyr, O Lord. For, emulating the boldness of the fishermen, by his words and deeds he broke up the mythology and historical blasphemy of Plato with the nets of theology; and when his skin was flayed and his head cut off, he choked the enemy with the outpouring of his blood. Blessed wonder-worker Platon, adornment of the martyrs, who preached the great name of Christ with boldness, ask that great mercy be given our souls.

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

Seeing you crucified, O Christ, she who gave you birth cried out: What is this strange mystery I see, O my Son? How is it that you die, suspended in the flesh upon the tree, O Bestower of life?

Troparion, tone 4

In their sufferings, O Lord, Platon and Romanus your martyrs
received imperishable crowns from you, our God.
Armed with your might, they cast down tyrants
and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.
By their intercessions save our souls.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of martyr Platon, tone 8,
upon the acrostic I hymn the expanse of your praises, O Platon,
composed by Theophanes,*

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.

Traversing the most pure expanse of the eternal kingdom, O glorious one, from all tribulation and the dangers of imprisonment save those who hymn you, leading, without turning back, those who walk the path to heaven.

Protected by the armour of piety, and as an unshakable pillar, O Platon, you endured savage wounding and the pangs of imprisonment, uplifted by divine grace.

With the courage of youth, in your suffering you cast off the impoverishment of that which is mortal and corruptible, O wise one, and, in the garment of incorruption, you now stand, rejoicing before the Master.

Theotokion Beyond understanding you gave birth to the incarnate and only-begotten Word, equally unoriginate and eternal with the Father, O blessed Mother of God. Therefore, reasoning correctly, we honourably glorify and proclaim you.

*Canon of martyr Romanus, tone 4,
upon the acrostic* With athletes wreaths I crown you, Romanus

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.

With the choirs of athletes enlightened by the never-fading radiance of the Trinity, O Romanus, send enlightenment upon me, to drive away the darkness of the passions through your supplications, acceptable to God.

Unmoved by the raging waves of the sea of idolatry, as one set firmly upon Christ the rock, you destroyed the storm waves of seditious ungodliness with the calm of the divine Spirit.

The Church of Christ, which abounds in every good thing, you preserved untouched by the wolves, O Romanus; like a glorious and fruitful meadow, strengthened by your teaching.

Theotokion Human nature has truly found mercy through you, O immaculate one; for the creator, incarnate of you in manner past recounting and understanding, was led to death for us, delivering us from Hades.

Ode 3

Canon of martyr Platon

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.

Afflame with the zeal of piety and enlightened by the divine fire of the faith, O blessed one, with endurance you entered the cruel flame like a spark of incorruption.

Having supernaturally vanquished the servants of the demons, and borne with patience the pain of mighty tortures, O blessed and divinely wise Platon, you became a dweller with the angels and a crown-bearer.

Having struggled for Christ on earth, O blessed one, receiving from him heavenly gifts and crowns which abide for ever, you dwell in the pure land of paradise.

Theotokion O Mother of God, portal of the light, adorned with the light of the Spirit; through you the Word came to us, who illumines with divine light those who hymn you.

Canon of martyr Romanus

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

Having slain the spiritual beast with the sling of your words, O Romanus, you preserved the flock of Christ uncorrupted by the evil of idolatry.

Rendered mighty by the armour of the cross, you averted the assaults of the enemy and denounced his impotence, O wise and blessed Romanus.

When your cheek was lacerated for Christ, O glorious, blessed and ever memorable Romanus, you cast down the enemy, breaking his jaw.

Theotokion Clothed in the flesh he received from you, the Mother of God, he who is God by nature, the Word of the Father, one in essence with the Spirit, has deified mortals.

*Sessional Hymn of the martyr Platon, tone 8,
to the Special Melody Of the Wisdom*

Exalted in the breadth of your struggles, O wise martyr, you destroyed the snares of the enemy, discomfiting them, O glorious one; and having run well the divine course, you reached the expanse of heaven, rejoicing. The Church, resplendent today in the expanse of piety, celebrates your memorial and sings to you: Entreat Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father...

*Sessional Hymn of the martyr Romanus, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Having been lifted up...*

Having trampled the wicked one underfoot by fasting, you were glorified through suffering, O martyr of Christ, having endured bravely with perfect mind. Therefore, you are numbered among the choirs of martyrs, having attained the eternal kingdom. Joining chorus there, be mindful of us who celebrate your holy memory with faith.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion After God, it is to your divine protection
that I, the lowly, flee, O Mother of God,
and falling down I pray: Have mercy, O most pure one,
for my sins have gone over my head,
and I tremble in fear of the coming torment:
O pure one, make supplication to your Son,
that he deliver me therefrom.

Theotokion of the Cross She who in latter times gave birth in the flesh
to you who was begotten of the unoriginate Father,
seeing you hanging upon the cross, cried out:
Woe is me, most beloved Jesus, my Son.
How is it that you, glorified as God by the angels
are now crucified by the iniquitous?
I hymn you, the long-suffering one.

Ode 4

Canon of martyr Platon

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.

Transformed by the love of your creator, you did not feel the pain of your body, having shed like skin the bodily garments of the passions and mortality, and cladding yourself in the robe of chastity and salvation.

As a priest of God, O martyr, you offered yourself to Christ the deliverer who was slain for all as an unblemished lamb and perfect sacrifice; for, having set your soul afire with love for the Master, you paid no heed to your burning flesh.

Emulating the three youths in Babylon, you did not fear the all-devouring fire, but mightily and youthfully endured its unbearable flames. Therefore, the giver of dew has taken you with them into the chamber of glory.

Theotokion As you are of royal stock, you gave birth for us to the Word of God who reigns over all, incarnate, yet unchanged: with truth and authority we glorify you, the Mother of God.

Canon of martyr Romanus

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 ineffable beauty you ascended the tree, mounting it like a stairway, attaining the everlasting choir, O glorious martyr Romanus.

Having shed your mortal garments amid your tortures, you arrayed yourself splendidly in a garment of light, O glorious martyr Romanus.

Made wise by the inspiration of the Comforter, the tongue of the boy proclaimed you to be the Lord of glory, the creator of all and saving God, the lover of mankind.

Theotokion Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O Virgin, whereby all are delivered from the curse of death; and blessed by you, we hymn you as the bringer of Life.

Ode 5

Canon of martyr Platon

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

You gave neither slumber to your eyelids, nor sleep to your eyes, until, beheaded by the sword, you slept the sleep of the blessed who love God, O blessed one.

You struggled as if in another's body, O blessed martyr, seeing your pangs as if another was feeling them; for, afire with divine zeal, you not fear torment to come.

You found riches and unfading glory which cannot be taken away, joining the angelic throng in the mansions of heaven and partaking of incorruptible immortality, O eminent one.

Theotokion By your supplications grant remission of sins to your servants, delivering them from temptations, misfortunes and sorrows, and from enslavement to blasphemous heretics, O most exalted virgin Mother of God.

Canon of martyr Romanus

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 stream of your blood of martyrdom you engulfed the sea of ungodliness, flowing with rivers of healing, O Romanus.

You offered the Master a choice gift, O Romanus, an unblemished sacrifice, the youth Varulus who uttered theology who was slain.

You wounded the foolishness of the enemy with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, as he inflicted wounds upon your body, O glorious Romanus.

Theotokion As you gave birth to joy, O unwedded virgin Mary, you have destroyed the condemnation and restored mankind through your birthgiving.

Ode 6

Canon of martyr Platon

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.

Transcending suffering and torture, you endured the cutting away of your flesh, O glorious one; for you had Christ as your helper, assistant and companion.

Ever gazing upon the majesty of the creator with spiritual understanding, and contemplating ineffable beauty, you spurned the baseness of visible things.

Theotokion As an animate ark you held the giver of life, O most blessed Lady; and as a holy temple you received the Holy One who had become man, for the good of men.

Canon of martyr Romanus

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.

Shrugging off mortality and corruption and arraying yourself in the beauty of life incorruptible, O Romanus, you were adorned with never-diminishing spiritual splendour.

Your severed tongue poured torrents of blood like teachings, O passion-bearer, and thereby you inherited the imperishable blessedness which abides for ever.

Thirsting for a stream of wisdom, by the counsel of his mother you poured drink into the mouth of the boy who uttered theology, who gained eternal life by the sword.

Theotokion Be a ready refuge for me, O most pure Mother of God, delivering me from violence, taking from me the shame of the passions and guiding me to the godly path.

*Kontakion of the martyr Platon, tone 3,
to the Special Melody Today the Virgin...*

Your holy memory gladdens the world, summoning the faithful to your honoured church, where we are gathered now with joy, singing hymns of splendour to you, O Platon: Deliver your people from heathen invasion, O holy one.

Ikos Abandoning pagan superstition, divinely wise Platon came to love the soul-saving teachings of the disciples of Christ. Being honourable to all, like an anchor of faith in his native land, he mightily bears the title 'of Ancyra.' Nurtured well, it ever finds him to be an excellent protection against the enemy and a fervent helper in battle, singing: Deliver your people from heathen invasion, O holy one.

Ode 7

Canon of martyr Platon

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.

He who gave the law has crowned you with a wreath of victory, who suffered lawfully and trampled your enemies underfoot, and who sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Rejoicing, you passed over to him whom you desired of old, emulating his pure sufferings, the cause of men's salvation; as you sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

The hosts of heaven, and the people then looking on, marvelled at your patient endurance of suffering; for your severed tongue supernaturally cried out: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Delivered from the bonds of death and the curse of first-created Adam by the divine offspring of your virginity, O most pure Lady, mindful that you are the Mother of God, we sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Canon of martyr Romanus

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

Having choked the serpent with your strangulation, you truly found life, O glorious Romanus, ever crying out: Blessed are you O Lord in the temple of your glory.

Illumined with rays of never-waning light, O Romanus, you quenched the lofty flame, adorned with the gift of prophecy and numbered among the choirs of the martyrs, singing: Blessed are you O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

A fragrant rose of tender growth, watered with his mother's teachings and the blood of martyrdom, is incorruptibly offered to Christ as from a garden of many flowers.

Theotokion O exalted Lady who alone gave birth to God without seed, lead us forth who have fallen into the abyss of sin, but who sing to you: Blessed are you among women.

Ode 8

Canon of martyr Platon

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.

You strove valiantly, and Christ granted you goodly fame of great splendour which endures eternally, causing you to dwell in the mansions of heaven, who fervently sings: You priests praise and you people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

As a faithful supplicant and fervent intercessor, we set you before the king of all, the author of creation: pray for us, interceding with your martyr's boldness for those who praise you and sing with faith: You people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

For your active faith you were granted a kingship which cannot be taken away; for God, who does not lie, promised it; and for him you committed your body to fire and torture, singing: You priests praise and you people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

Theotokion In a manner divine you gave birth to the Word of God, equally unoriginate and of equal honour with the Father, who brought all things forth out of nonexistence by the counsel of the Father, and became flesh for our sake. Acknowledging you, in Orthodox manner, to be the Mother of God, we exalt Christ above all for ever.

Canon of martyr Romanus

Imos 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.

Obedient to the words of Christ, O glorious one, and laying down your life for your flock, strangled in your zeal for it, tortured, lacerated and wounded; you cry out: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Truly your mouth and tongue were full of joy and gladness, continually blessing God; for, cut out and dripping with blood, O Romanus, it set forth for us the law of faith, crying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion Having given birth to the Word of the Father through the divine Spirit, you remain a virgin, O unwedded Mother of God, transcending the laws of nature in your birthgiving. Rejoicing, we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Ode 9

Canon of martyr Platon

Imos 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.

Those who love the martyrs, hymn the martyr, crowned by God, who lived according to the piety of his birth; for, as an offshoot of the branch of life, he brings forth fruit which pours forth the wine of compunction for us.

Precious in the sight of the Lord was the death of the martyr, for he became the mediator of that life which is eternal and imperishable, and was given rich recompense, a place of incorruption and immortal glory.

You consecrated your life to almighty God, O martyr, and, rejoicing, offered yourself as a pleasing and living sacrifice. Therefore, you have been granted sweetness beyond understanding: pray that those who hymn you be delivered from temptations.

Theotokion Save me, O Mother of God who gave birth to Christ my Saviour, who is both God and man, in two natures, but not in two persons, the only-begotten of the Father and of you, the first-born of all creation. Therefore, we magnify you for ever.

Canon of martyr Romanus

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.

All your trust you placed in the Master, O glorious martyr Romanus, enduring various wounds; and you have received ineffable glory and divine delight.

Instead of pain, a torrent of sweetness has been given to you, O martyr Romanus, who bears a crown and wears a robe dyed red in your own blood. Like a fragrant and never-fading rose you were slain for Christ's sake.

Theotokion You have delivered mortals from the primal curse of our ancestors, and have opened the life of Eden to us through your supernatural birthgiving: in gladness we magnify you, the Mother of God.

*Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody* By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

In your ways you trod the hard and divine path and ascended to the expanse of the kingdom of heaven, O Platon, glory of martyrs, shining with the light of the incorruptible Trinity. Therefore, partaking of endless glory, be mindful of those who honour you.

Theotokion Virgin Mother of God, with your protection as an invincible help and wall of defense, and with you as a mediator before God, may I be delivered from eternal torment, O Lady, and through you find a share in the kingdom, in life incorruptible.

November 19

Prophet Obadiah, Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these 3 for the Prophet, tone 1,
to the Special Melody O all-praised martyrs...*

As a splendid receptacle of the Spirit * and one illumined by him, * O Obadiah of vision most divine, * you were enriched by the image of prophecy, * the foreknowledge of things to come, * and the knowledge of the truth: * pray that he grant our souls * peace and great mercy.

Of the primary characteristics * and essential proofs * whereby God is depicted, * the glorious and honourable prophets * partake as a gift secondarily * through communion and grace * when the Lord illumines his favoured ones with his radiance.

Filled with never-waning light, * beholding glory which transcends understanding and reason, * and standing before the Master of all, * you were a glorious prophet * and a divine herald of God: * entreat him, * that he grant our souls * peace and great mercy.

*And 3 for the martyr, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

You were firmer than a pillar, * stronger than brass, * and mightier than iron; * for, heated by fire, each disintegrates * and is immediately misshapen, * overcome by the force thereof; * but your unwavering right hand, * outstretched over the burning coals, O wise one, * triumphed most gloriously.

As though you were a priest * standing before God * and coming before him, * not with another's blood, * but with your own, most of all, O blessed one, * you offered an incense of sweet fragrance * with your martyr's hand, * not to demonic illusions, * but to Christ, the Saviour and Master, * who reigns for ever.

We joyously call you * both a priest who offers * and a lamb which is offered: * O exalted martyr; * for as both you were immolated * in the fire of torment * as an unblemished sacrifice to God. * Entreat him, * that he save those who ever honour your glorious memory.

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

Theotokion With the showers of the most holy Spirit * bedew my mind, O most pure Lady, * who gave birth to Christ, the gentle rain from heaven, * who, by his compassion, washes away * the incalculably boundless iniquities of men: * dry up the source of my passions, * and ever grant me a torrent * of the sweetness of life * by your supplication.

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 to you: * O my Son most desired, * how can your hands and feet * be pierced with nails by the iniquitous, O Word? * How can you shed your blood, O Master?

Troparion of the martyr, tone 4

In his suffering, O Lord, Barlaam your martyr
received an imperishable crown from you, our God.
Armed with your might, he cast down tyrants
and crushed the feeble audacity of demons.
By his intercessions save our souls.

Matins

One canon from the Octoechos, and two for the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of the prophet, tone 5,
composed by Theophanes
upon the acrostic* I hymn the glory of the clairvoyant Obadiah

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.

Standing before God the Saviour, O divinely inspired prophet, entreat him with boldness, that he enlighten those who with faith call you blessed.

He who mightily fore-knows all things, seeing the untroubled and radiant purity of your heart, O blessed one, appointed you a God-pleasing prophet.

Truly beholding visions revealed to you by God, you proclaimed the impiety and cruel perniciousness of your brethren and their just destruction, O blessed one.

Theotokion Saved by your seedless birthgiving, O pure Mother of God, we implore you: From the temptations of the world deliver us, who together utter the hymn of victory.

*Canon of the martyr, tone 4,
composed by Theophanes,
upon the acrostic I hymn your pangs of endurance, O Barlaam*

Irmos I shall sing to you, O Lord my God, for you led your people from the bondage of Egypt and overwhelmed the chariots of Pharaoh and his might.

Rendered luminous by the splendour of your contest, O Barlaam, by your supplications preserve us who with faith honour your memory.

With hymnody let wondrous Barlaam be honoured, who, with fame, quenched the fire of impiety with his divinely inspired fire of reverence for God.

Having contended for piety, O crown-bearer Barlaam, you have now been honoured by the right hand of the Almighty with a crown of glory.

The Master gave you strength against your wounds, O blessed martyr; therefore, you vanquished the savagery of the godless.

Theotokion You are seen to be the ladder of heaven, which Jacob your ancestor foresaw of old, whereby the Word has come down to us, O Virgin.

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.

You were the water of a mystic river issuing from the abyss of the gifts of the Spirit, O herald of God.

You were put forth by the will and providence of God to proclaim things to come, O glorious prophet.

Illumined by divine and heavenly light, O blessed one, you proclaimed the future salvation of the Gentiles.

Theotokion The Word made his abode within you, O virgin Mother, and by your mediation he saves those who know you to be the Mother of God.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos The bow of the mighty has become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

November 19

The whole bond of your body and the cohesion of your limbs were broken; yet the strength of your soul was preserved intact.

Mightily showing the endurance of youth, O blessed one, you mightily endured the assault of those who lacerated your sides.

Who can suitably praise the mighty, powerful and tranquil understanding of your thought, O blessed one?

Theotokion In the incarnate life which appeared to men through you, O pure Bride of God, the corruption of death has been brought to an end.

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

Great prophet Obadiah,
with a mind luminous with divine splendour,
gave utterance through the Holy Spirit,
proclaiming things to come:
honouring him today with pious mind,
we celebrate his sacred memory
which enlightens men's hearts.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the martyr, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

Let glorious Barlaam, who quenched the flame of impiety
and set the hearts of the faithful afire with the dew of the knowledge of God,
now be faithfully honoured with divine hymns;
for he shamed the deception of idolatry
and, having received the crown of victory, asks remission of sins for all.

Both now and for ever... *Theotokion*

He who sits on the throne of the cherubim
and abides in the bosom of the Father,
sat within you as upon a holy throne, O Lady;
for, truly incarnate, God reigns over the nations:
let us sing to him with understanding.
Entreat him, O Mother of God,
that your servants be saved.

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

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos I have heard the report of the power of the cross, that Paradise has been opened thereby, and I cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Having cleansed your soul of the passions, and receiving the grace of prophecy through the Holy Spirit, you cried out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

The prophet Obadiah, illumined by the brilliance of the lightning of the giver of light, has enlightened us to cry to you: Glory to your power, O Lord.

You are seen as the escort of the Church, the Bride of Christ, O blessed prophet, proclaiming that the Saviour would come forth from Zion, to whom we cry: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Theotokion In divine manner you gave birth, O pure one, to the equally unoriginate and eternal Word of the Father, to whom we cry: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos Proclaiming the approach of your appearance on earth, O Christ our God, the prophet cried out with joy: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Spurning the foolish speech of the rhetors and accepting the true teaching of the apostles, O glorious one, you were a true witness.

You withstood the fire and torture even to death for Christ, O patient-hearted one, singing: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Constrained by powerful fervour, O blessed one, you trampled deception underfoot with godly wisdom, singing: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Theotokion The incorporeal one, incarnate of the Virgin, came to men on earth; therefore, with faith we cry out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Ode 5

Canon to the Prophet

November 19

Irmos Rising at dawn we cry to you: Save us O Lord. For you are our God and we know no other than you.

Rising at dawn to the Lord, O praiseworthy one, from heaven you received the gift of the most holy Spirit.

Having acquired the godly life of him who helped you, you were granted to behold him who is understood to be invisible.

Light shone upon you, in that you are a prophet, O blessed one, and gladness was given you as a bride.

Theotokion The supremely divine one, who created all things by his will, was formed of you after our kind, O most pure Lady.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos Glory to you, Jesus, Son of God, who has shone forth the light, illumined the morning and made manifest the day.

Christ has shown us a witness to his sufferings, who cries out: Glory to you, Jesus, Son of God.

A reward is given for your great endurance, and a wreath of victory is woven for you, as you sing: Glory to you, Jesus, Son of God.

With the darts of your words you penetrated the hearts of the foe, crying: Glory to you, Jesus, Son of God.

Theotokion Understanding you to be a holy mountain and the tabernacle of the Most High, O Virgin, we cry: Glory to you, Mother of God, our hope.

Ode 6

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos The abyss engulfed me and the sea monster became a tomb for me; yet I cried to you, the lover of mankind, and your right hand has saved me O Lord.

By the power of the divine Spirit you saw things to come, receiving images of divine revelations as in a mirror through the splendour of your soul.

By your supplications entreat the Lord, O blessed prophet, asking that he grant forgiveness of transgressions to those who with faith keep your memory.

Take pity on your servants and grant them forgiveness of transgressions, O lover of mankind, who is entreated by your prophet who proclaimed you beforehand to the world.

Theotokion He who supports all things by his word and divine power is borne in your embrace, O unwedded Lady: entreat him that our souls be saved.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos The prophet Jonah in the belly of the whale prefiguring your burial for three days cried out and prayed: Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus king of hosts.

Let the faces of the demons be smitten with the martyr's burned right hand; let the hearts of the faithful leap up, and let the choirs of the bodiless be radiantly glad.

The conquest and victory of your good struggles and the athletic contests of those who watched are adorned, O chosen and radiant triumph of the firstborn.

Arise, you good artists; adorn the image of the martyr with your goodly skills, mightily depicting there the judge of the contest.

Theotokion Delivered by your birthgiving from the ancient curse and the bitter condemnation of death, our first mother rejoices in you, O exalted Mother of God.

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

You appeared as one most amazing in fortitude
whereby you endured immolation:
offering yourself in sacrifice to Christ as fragrant incense,
you received a crown of honour:
ever pray for us, O athlete Barlaam.

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.

Truly supernatural is the glory of your prophets, O blessed God of our fathers.

Having been brought to dwell with God, you sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

You reveal your divine grace in your prophets, O blessed God of our fathers.

Theotokion Delivered by your birthgiving, O most pure Virgin, we sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos Do not disappoint us, O God of our fathers, but grant that we may cry out to you with boldness: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

As an invincible martyr you have been granted to sing to Christ with the choirs of the martyrs: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

With radiant lamps you entered the divine bridal chamber, O great martyr, singing to Christ: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Having acquired a right hand stronger than fire, as an intercessor at the right hand of your Master you sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Delivered by your most pure birthgiving, we the faithful hymn you, crying out unceasingly: Blessed is the fruit of your womb, O most pure Lady.

Ode 8

Canon of the Prophet

Irmos Begotten of the Father before the ages, God the Son was incarnate of the virgin Mother in latter times: sing to him, you priests, and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Enlightened by God, the prophets proclaimed prior knowledge of things to come, crying out with divine wisdom: you priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Illumined with divine beams, you enlightened those in darkness like a ray in the deep, O herald of God, crying: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion You revealed yourself as of one nature with us, O Lord, consubstantial with your Father in the divine essence, having become incarnate of the unwedded Mother. Therefore, we hymn you, O Christ, and bless you for ever.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos All you works of God, and all creation, bless the Lord. You that are holy and humble of heart, hymn and exalt him above all for ever.

You destroyed the armour of the enemy, O glorious Barlaam, and utterly consumed the deception of idolatry, singing: We exalt you above all for ever, O Christ.

Adorned in magnificence, you stand before Christ, arrayed in fine linen, purple with the blood of martyrdom, O ever-memorable athlete who hymns the Master for ever.

Enkindled with the fire of piety, you utterly consumed demonic delusions as they were thorns, singing: We exalt you above all for ever, O Christ.

Theotokion Those who with faith call you blessed, O immaculate one, are blessed by the Lord; for you gave birth to the Master who blesses creation, whom we exalt above all for ever.

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.

Adorned with divine discourse and activity, and having taken wing in the Spirit, O wondrous prophet, you were granted to behold things to come.

O glorious one, who dwells among the choirs of the prophets and the splendour of the saints, entreat the Lord to save those who praise you with faith.

Cleaving to God with fervour, you conversed in pure manner through divine revelations, wherein you now delight, O blessed prophet.

Theotokion We hymn you, the candle stand of the light and the tablet of grace, O pure Lady, and we magnify you, who received the incarnate Word.

Canon of the Martyr

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

All praise is overturned by the magnificence of your struggle, for Christ, the one Master, glorified you with divine radiance: entreat him for those who hymn you.

Having brought your whole self to the Lord as a living sacrifice, you became a fellow heir and sharer in his kingdom; and, rejoicing, you now reign with him, O ever-memorable one.

November 19

Having arrayed himself against sword, fire and torture, shedding his blood for love of you, even to death, O Saviour who loves mankind, the godly martyr now delights, having received immortality from you.

Theotokion Rejoicing, I place you as the helper of the world, the virgin Mother of God, the intercessor and salvation of all my life; for, having given birth to God, you are able to save those who hymn you.

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

Dance and join chorus, O prophet Obadiah, beholding the fulfillment of your words. Standing before the Trinity, remember those who honour and celebrate your radiant memory, O blessed one.

Theotokion Seeing God the Word crucified, who ineffably issued from you, O virgin Mother, you cried out: Glory to your ineffable dispensation, O my Saviour, whereby you save your world.

November 20

Forefeast of the Entry of the Mother of God, Venerable father Gregory the Decapolite, and Hierarch Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses, beginning with these 3 of the Forefeast, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

The lamp-bearing virgins,
who with splendour accompany the Ever-virgin,
truly prophesy the future in spirit;
for, since she is the temple of God,
the Mother of God is led as a child into the temple with virginal glory.

The Mother of God, the glorious fruit of the holy promise,
is truly revealed to the world;
she who surpasses all things is piously escorted into the temple of God
and fulfills the vow of her parents,
preserved by the divine Spirit.

Faithfully nurtured with heavenly bread
in the temple of the Lord, O Virgin,
you gave birth to the Word, the Bread of life for the world.
To him you were mystically betrothed beforehand by the Spirit,
as you are the chosen and immaculate temple,
betrothed to God the Father.

And 3 verses of venerable Gregory, same tone and melody

Dwelling with gladness in the mansions of heaven, O father,
and standing boldly with the angels before the throne of the Lord,
pray that he grant release from sins and the passions
to those who on earth celebrate your memory.

Having hewn the weeds of the passions
with the scythe of prayer, O father Gregory,
and worked the ground of your soul with the plough of abstinence,

you scattered there the seeds of piety,
thereby producing for us the fruits of healing.

We call you a receptacle of the virtues, O venerable father,
a friend of silence and a keeper of vigils,
a model of chastity, and an abode of prayer which cannot be taken away,
a treasury of miracles,
who prays for those who honour you, O Gregory.

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

Today the Mother of God, the temple which contained God,
is brought into the Temple of the Lord, where Zachariah receives her;
today the Holy of Holies rejoices,
and the choir of the angels mystically celebrates.
And we, celebrating with them, cry out with Gabriel:
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you,
he who has great mercy.

But if it be Friday evening, the Dogmaticon in the tone of the week.

*Aposticha, verses of Saint Proclus, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...*

With the splendour of your teachings and the beauty of your life * you adorned the
hierarchy with piety, * O ever-memorable Proclus, * and were truly a pillar of the
Church, * illumining all with your words. * Therefore, we call you blessed, * and in
psalms and hymns * celebrate your honoured memory.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

With splendour you taught and with divine wisdom you proclaimed * the Mother
of God, the most pure Maiden, * who gave birth to the creator and Master, * the Son and
Word of the Father, * who was begotten before time began, * who in this age became
man for us of his own will, * and who is immutable of nature; * and you disgraced
Nestorius, * the impious and most foolish.

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

Ever-memorable father, * you drew upon the golden streams * of the wise
preacher of God * whose successor you were, * upon his throne of piety, * making strong
the flock of Christ with your teaching of the truth; * and his precious and honoured relics
* you gave to the Church * like imperial ornaments.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the Forefeast, idiomelon, tone 4*

Come, you faithful, let us praise the immaculate one, proclaimed by the prophets and brought into the temple: before time began she was called to be a mother, and in this age was revealed as the Mother of God. Through her supplications, O Lord, grant us your peace and great mercy.

Troparion of Gregory and Proclus, 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.

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

Anna now prepares a great joy for us all,
as she fulfills her vow with gladness.
She who gave birth to the ever-virgin
is presenting her to the Temple of the Lord,
the fruit which dispels all sadness
who is the true temple of God's Word,
and his pure Mother.

Matins

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

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Joseph marvelled...

Dedicated to God before your conception;
having been born, you were brought to him, fulfilling your parents' vow:
presented with radiant lamps in the Temple of God,
as a divine temple pure from your infancy,
you appear as the receptacle
of the unapproachable and divine Light.
Truly great is your arrival, O ever virgin Bride of God.

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...

The temple of God, the greatly honoured chamber,

with gladness comes with radiant lamps to the Temple of God, there to dwell.
Zachariah rejoices in her,
clearly perceiving the revelation of the sacred prophets fulfilled;
he rejoices and hymns the Forefeast with song:
Joy precedes your entry,
O Maiden, Virgin and Mother.

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

Canon of the Forefeast; and two of the saints.

Ode 1

*Canon of the Forefeast, tone 4,
the acrostic of which is the Greek alphabet, to the end of Ode 7
Ode 8 has its own refrains.
Ode 9 is composed by Joseph*

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.

The most holy and immaculate one comes to dwell within the sanctuary, that she may become the sanctified temple of our most holy God; and virgin maidens precede her.

The pre-eternal counsel of our pre-eternal God reached fulfillment when you, the immaculate Lady, and abode of the Word came to dwell in the sanctuary.

Your godly parents brought you, destined to be the Mother of God, to dwell in the sanctuary, fulfilling the promise they made when they offered up entreaty.

O Lady, strengthen the weakness of my heart, shaken by the passions, that with faith and love I may call you blessed, the ever-blessed and immaculate Lady.

*Canon of venerable Gregory, tone 8,
composed by Joseph*

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.

By your supplications, blessed Gregory, enliven my lowly soul, slain by the passions; for you received unaging life, having mortified your body on earth with the struggles of asceticism.

Abstaining from bodily pleasures with purity of mind, O father, from childhood you were an instrument of the Spirit, splendidly receiving his powers and being recognized as godly of manner.

With divine desire you caused the desires of the flesh to wither away, O blessed one, espousing purity as a bride, from whom you begat the virtues as children for yourself, and who made you a child of God.

Theotokion O pure and blessed one, heavenly ladder reaching from earth to heaven whereby God the Word has ineffably come to mortals: save those who come to you.

*Canon of the Holy Hierarch Proclus, tone 1,
composed by Theophanes*

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

As the peer of the noetic archangels in activity and discourse, you stand with them before the throne of the Trinity, O Proclus, whom may you beseech that we be saved.

Following the steps of Chrysostom, O blessed and ever-memorable father, you received his divine priestly vestments as a paternal inheritance,.

As Isaiah of old cried out in the Spirit that God would come to earth, Nestorius, who blasphemously slandered the incarnation, was deposed in the council by you, the thrice blessed one.

Theotokion Your divinely inspired discourse explained the awesome incarnation of the Word of God from the Virgin, proclaiming her to be the Mother of God, following the wise teachings of the apostles.

Ode 3

Canon of the Forefeast

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.

The virgin maidens bearing candles with splendour prefigured the enlightenment of knowledge which would come from her, dispelling the darkness of deception.

Anna of old, filled with divine zeal, fulfilled her vow and escorted you to the sanctuary, her sacred offspring who would give birth to God, O immaculate Lady.

The sun spread forth its rays upon the radiant cloud extending at the behest of God within the sanctuary, from whom remission would rain upon the stony passions.

Having dwelt within you in his compassion, O immaculate lady, God deifies me, deceived of old by the serpent; and he gives me again the food of incorruption.

Canon of venerable Gregory

Irmos O Lord the fashioner of heaven's vault and creator of the Church, establish me upon your love, O summit of desire and confirmation of the faithful, O true lover of mankind.

Having ascended the mountain of the virtues, you entered the darkness of vision, and, comprehending it, you contained, as far as you were able, him who is unapproachable in essence, O father, being filled with enlightenment.

He who was born in a cave for the deliverance of us mortals, like Paul of old illumined you, O blessed one who dwelt in a cave, making you luminous.

The heavenly portal, the most pure Mother of Christ, furnished you with wings, O father, when you were assaulted by demons; and through the grace of the Spirit she made you able to soar above them with strength.

Theotokion Rejoice, immaculate Lady who alone gave birth to the Lord of all; rejoice, who has mediated life for men; rejoice, mountain overshadowed and unquarried, confirmation of the faithful.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

Receiving light from light in a godly manner, O blessed one, you became a light for the Church; for the divine light shone upon you noetically, and illumined thereby you enlighten those who hymn your memory.

Sounding the thunder of your dogmas, you cast down the audacities and armies of heresy like the walls of Jericho, and you won the trophy of victory, in proclaiming the incarnation of God from the Virgin.

Setting your mouth to the source of wisdom, O Proclus pleasing to God, with the divine waters of spiritual wisdom, you drowned the turbid and ungodly views of Nestorius.

Theotokion The only-begotten Son, ineffably understood to be with the Father on high, was the only-begotten born of you in a manner beyond reason and understanding, O most pure Lady; and he deifies man below: therefore, we call you blessed.

Kontakion of Gregory, tone 3

The Church knows you to be a sun radiant with the virtues, illumining all with rays of healing, O favourite of Christ. And so we celebrate your honourable memory and praise your struggles, O blessed and wise father Gregory.

*Sessional Hymn of Saint Gregory, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Go you quickly before...*

Illumined with divine splendour, you drove away the darkness of the soul-destroying passions, O wise Gregory; and caught up to the most pure heights of dispassion, you have all-gloriously shone with rays of healings, having made your dwelling in the never-waning light of the kingdom of Christ.

*Glory be to the Father... Sessional Hymn of Proclus, tone 3,
to the Special Melody Of the divine faith...*

Being a divine and sacred preacher, O most praised teacher of the mysteries, enriching the Church with divine doctrine, you proclaimed the most pure Virgin to be the Mother of God and denounced Nestorius. Therefore, we all faithfully honour your memory, asking that we may receive great mercy.

*Both now and for ever... Sessional Hymn of the Forefeast, tone 1,
to the Special Melody When the stone had been sealed...*

Give praise, you virgins; keep the Forefeast, you mothers;
you people, give glory.
You priests, bless the most pure Mother of God;
for having been born, a child in the flesh,
she is brought to the temple as the most holy temple of God.
~ Celebrating this spiritual feast,
we hymn her, the intercessor for the human race.

Ode 4

Canon of the Forefeast

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.

Sacred tongues proclaimed you as the dwelling place of him whose being is infinite, O pure one. Therefore, choirs of virgins accompany you to the sanctuary, bearing lamps.

Joachim and Anna won glory, walking with gladness and presenting you at the holy temple, the most holy temple of God, the pure and immaculate Lady.

The condemnation of our ancestors is annulled as a branch buds forth which shall bear for us the incorrupt cluster, bringing the wine of gladness for the ends of the earth.

The Word, the creator, finding you to be truly immaculate, made his abode within you, the most pure Lady, fulfilling our salvation through grace, in his ineffable wisdom.

Canon of venerable Gregory

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.

He who in his goodness for us became a stranger by a strange descent, O Gregory, seeing you a stranger for his sake, received you who was far from your homeland and made you a divine heir of his kingdom, adorned with the virtues.

For Christ who for us became a baby and a child, O venerable one, you gave yourself over to a school of children, being as innocent as a baby, O divinely wise and venerable father; and with divine humility you humbled the malice of the enemy.

With the showers of your tears as with divine dew, O father Gregory, you caused every virtue to grow and in fruitfulness to blossom like a tree of perfect fasting planted by springs of water.

Theotokion O blessed and immaculate Mother of God, heal the wounds of my soul, calm the pleasures of the flesh, illumine my darkened heart, bring peace to my mind and deliver me from the harm and assaults of the enemy.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

The echoing thunder of your proclamation and teaching gladdens the Church of God with wisdom and dispels the audacity of heresy, O glorious and sacred Proclus.

Having purified your honoured body by abstinence like gold by fire, O sacred and wise one, you showed it to the creator as beautiful; and he has bestowed the vesture of the eternal priesthood upon you.

Accustomed to divine knowledge as a sacred hierarch, you generously gave further enlightenment and divine radiance to all, for the salvation of souls, O glorious father.

Theotokion Past understanding you received the divine ember, O immaculate Lady, and were truly unburnt, just as the bush of old prefigured your birthgiving, for our salvation and regeneration.

Ode 5

Canon of the Forefeast

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.

Let the clouds drop down righteousness, for in the Temple of God, as in the sky, the divine cloud is today spread out, letting fall the sweetness which removes the bitterness of our souls.

Strange is your conception and strange is your nativity, O pure Virgin: strange your presentation and entry at the holy place, and strange your glorious works, past recounting and understanding.

The all-adorned bride of the Father, dwelling within the Temple and fed with heavenly food, was sanctified by the most Holy Spirit, to become the Mother of the Word.

Hoping in you, O Maiden, I flee to your compassion: let my fallen soul be untouched by the malice of demons and unweakened by floods of pleasures.

Canon of venerable Gregory

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 actions showed you to be a fertile vine of the Word, O venerable father, bearing the magnificent ripe grapes of the virtues which exude the spiritual wine of salvation which make glad the hearts of the faithful.

Glorious Rome, receiving you with faith from the East as a never-waning lamp, was enlightened by your precious gifts, O father, for you had Christ within your soul like a light illumining those who looked upon you.

Walking the paths of life with godly vigilance as a favourite of God, as one nurturing the commandments of Christ with the power of the Spirit, you slayed the serpent who lay in wait to bruise your heel.

Theotokion Ever-virgin Mother, intercessor for the world, guide me to the right path, and direct my mind on the straight paths of righteousness, correcting the steps of my soul.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

Radiant as a beacon, O blessed one, you were a champion of the Church of God, elucidating the nativity of the immutable one from the divine and most holy Virgin.

With the dogma of the glorious incarnation of God from the Virgin in your sling, like godly David of old you felled the impudence of Nestorius like Goliath the Philistine.

Full of the teachings of Paul, and having beheld a vision of him, O chosen one, you were like another Elisha, mystically anointed with the priesthood as with divine unction.

Theotokion God took upon himself neither confusion nor admixture in the womb of the Virgin: born in the flesh, what he had been, he remained; though revealed immutably as God and man in his activities.

Ode 6

Canon of the Forefeast

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.

Strengthened by the grace of God, the parents of the divine Virgin lovingly surrender her, like a pure dove, to be raised in the Holy of Holies.

Lighting lamps, O pure one, the maidens, dancing, radiantly escort to the temple of God you who are to receive the light who proceeds from him who is light.

A palace full of glory, the great proclamation of the prophets, the holy throne, is led into the Holy of Holies, making herself ready for the king of all.

I hymn your conception, O Maiden, and also your ineffable nativity; and likewise your protection, whereby we who flee to your serenity are delivered from all harm.

Canon of venerable Gregory

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.

Deified by mystic visions and divine splendour, and by yearning for God, O sacred one, as a divine prophet, as a favourite of God you have been granted his grace.

You perfected your life in silence, O divinely inspired one, and appeared to be above the tumults of life, higher than the passions, a strange wanderer of the earth.

Like a clear mirror you were enriched with divine radiance; like a sacred vessel you adorned the Church, O Gregory, illumining the heavenly Church of the firstborn.

Theotokion Mary, pure palace of the king, having cleansed me, the impure den of thieves, by your supplications, let me be a holy temple for him who was born of you.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

With the staff of your teachings you drove from the flock of Christ the proponents of heresy, those marauding wild beasts, and you led your flock into the fold of Orthodoxy.

Like another ark, O Proclus, you presented the body of blessed Chrysostom to the Church of Christ, and gladdened the choirs of the Orthodox by its arrival.

Ascending the great cathedra, with magnificent instructions you adorned it divinely: we gather to praise you, O wise and glorious hierarch Proclus.

Theotokion You surpass the cherubim, O Virgin full of the grace of God; for he who is borne upon their shoulders was borne also in your arms: therefore, we ever glorify you.

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

Because of the truly notable feast of the Mother of God, the whole world is filled with gladness and cries out: She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ikos The creator, fashioner and Master of all, who bowed himself down in his ineffable loving kindness, seeing that which he had fashioned with his hands fallen, in his unique love for mankind, he took pity and chose to raise it up, a more divine building, as he is good by nature and merciful. He chose Mary, the pure Virgin, as the deliverer of the mystery, and through her desired to bear our nature: she is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ode 7

Canon of the Forefeast

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

The holy Temple received you as a radiant sun, shining the radiance of salvation upon the ends of the earth, O pure Virgin, who shall contain the Son of God.

Let us all clap our hands, seeing her bearing the images of deliverance; for by the hand of an angel she is fed who shall ineffably give birth for us to the bread of life.

The souls of the righteous proclaimed you, O golden dove, as the one to bear the calm which ends the noetic deluge and who now piously dances in the sanctuary.

As one beautiful, you gave birth to the beautiful one who restores our ugliness to its pristine beauty. To him we sing: Blessed are you, Lord God of our fathers.

Canon of venerable Gregory

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 outpourings of your tears you quenched the fire, O Gregory, flowing with the water of dispassion and the pure beverage of healings for those who sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Upborne by the perfection of honourable love as in a chariot of fire, you climbed to the summit, where you acquired your life, O divinely wise one, singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

By standing in vigils you calmed the storm waves of the passions, and having fallen into the sleep of the righteous you passed over to never-waning light, singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O pure birth giver of light, enliven me, perishing and dying through sin; save me and rescue me from Gehenna, who sings: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

Having purified body, mind and soul by removing the passions, O wise hierarch Proclus, you declared the doctrine of God who was born and received body, mind and soul from the Virgin, without any change, that he might save us.

Having boldness before Christ, O holy one, pray that those who praise your glorious memory on earth, hymning the praised and all-glorious God, may be delivered from all manner of dangers.

With the noetic fire of your mind, you consumed the vile heresy of Nestorius: burn up the fuel of our pleasures by your supplications to God, O glorious one, and cleanse us.

Theotokion O pure one, like the throne of the cherubim you held in your embrace God who is wrapped in the flesh, who upholds all things by the word of his power. To him we sing in gladness: Blessed are you, the exalted and most glorious God of our fathers.

Ode 8

Canon of the Forefeast

Irmos Hearken, O pure Virgin Maiden. Let Gabriel utter the counsel of the Most High, ancient and true: Prepare ready to receive God; for through you the infinite one shall dwell with men. Therefore, rejoicing, I sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain Anna said to Zachariah through divine counsel:

Hearken and understand, O wise elder: with valiant soul receive the pure Maiden whom we have conceived; because through her shall deliverance come to be. Let us lead her into the holy Temple, crying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain And the priest replied:

The Lord alone is blessed: those who just now spoke to us are showing us the gates of life, the divinely inhabited palace, wherein the Messiah, the king of all, shall make his abode. To him let all the earth sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain Anna said with reverence:

Behold, O wise elder, receive with splendour the comely Maiden whom God has given me, and tell how she shall bring about in this world that which was foretold; for with the other prophets you sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain The elder said with understanding:

Now I clearly realize that a tree will grow in the midst of the Temple, which will truly put forth a divine fruit who shall lead to paradise those driven out because they ate the food of corruption, who shall sing with joy: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain The elder uttered words of ineffable teaching:

O pure virgin Maiden, your soul shall inhabit this divine Temple; for, fed by an angel, you shall give birth to the Angel of Great Counsel, to whom we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Refrain And they said:

With joy we sing to you the cry of Gabriel, O pure Maiden: Rejoice, the true cause of joy for all; rejoice, cleansing of our souls, as you shall give birth to the deliverance of us who render praise in hymns to him: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Canon of venerable Gregory

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.

Patently supplicating God, you received that which you asked with faith, O blessed one; for asleep at night, an angel appeared, who gave you a fiery sword to cut down the passions of your heart, cleansing you with immaterial fire and illumining you with ineffable glory.

You shone as the bright sun with the brilliant light of the virtues, O Gregory, illumining the earth with the radiance of your miracles and shining on those who piously sing: You children, bless; you priests, praise; you people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

Hearing the hymns of the angels while in your mortal body, through which the senses of your soul were delighted, O Gregory, you appeared godly and radiant of manner, singing to the Master: You children, bless; you priests, praise and you people, exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion O pure one who gave birth to the judge and Lord, entreat him, your Son, at the hour of judgment, condemnation and fire, of darkness devoid of light and the gnashing of teeth, that he deliver those who piously sing with faith: You children, bless; you priests, praise and you people, exalt him above all for ever.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

Cleansed of carnal passions like gold purified in the glowing crucible, O glorious one, you shine upon all, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Adorned by the sound of the instrument of your honourable tongue, the Church of God hymns the descent of the Saviour to earth, mightily singing for all to hear: We exalt you above all for ever, O Christ.

You were surely a divine harp whose music sounds for all who with faith accept the saving incarnation of God for us, O blessed father Proclus, who sings with faith: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion God the Master, preserving the signs of your virginity, O Virgin, passed through you in manner past understanding, that he might save those who sing: Bless the Lord, and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

Canon of the Forefeast

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.

Behold, the holy mountain of God enters the sanctuary escorted with radiant lamps. From her shall be quarried the stone which shall destroy the temples and idols of demons and shall make men themselves into temples and honourable habitations of God.

God has sworn and shall now fulfill his vow, giving us the ever-virgin from the tribe of Judah, who shall put forth the Tree of Life which shall deliver those who fell through eating the deadly fruit and were ruined by the deception of the serpent.

With radiant voice Anna cried out in the temple of God: To you, Master, I offer the Maiden you gave me, from whom, in your ineffable loving kindness, you shall become a mortal man and shall save the world you have created, magnifying her as your Mother.

Behold, the day of salvation dawns for those in the night of evil: the portal of heaven, the holy habitation of God, opening the gates of the Temple, enters the holy place accompanied by lighted lamps, to be nurtured by the holy hosts.

Illumine the eyes of my soul, O pure one who gave birth to him who is the light, lest the profound darkness of sin overtake me and the deep of despair cover me; but may you save me and guide me to the haven of the will of God.

Canon of venerable Gregory

Irmos Every ear trembles with fear to hear of the ineffable condescension of God, how the Most High willingly came down and assumed flesh, and became man through the Virgin's womb. Therefore, O faithful, let us magnify the most pure Mother of God.

With the sweat of your fasting you quenched the burning embers of sin, O wise father, and received grace from heaven in the form of fire which burnt not, but rather bedewed and caused you to be mighty in strength over the passions.

You blossomed like a rose or a fragrant lily amid the vales of fasting, O father Gregory; and so you pour forth fragrant myrrh, and your bones abundantly perfume our life; for your cheeks have been shown to be like a cup, filled with sweet fragrance.

Today, the council of fasters and venerable, the patriarchs and prophets, rejoice with us at your commemoration, O blessed one, and the apostles and martyrs celebrate with us: with them be mindful of those who honour you with faith.

The shrine of your precious and much-suffering body pours the grace of miracles upon us, O father Gregory, sanctifying the souls and bodies of us who have been enriched by you and who have you as an intercessor and fervent helper.

Theotokion We the faithful joyfully utter the cry of Gabriel to you: Rejoice, garden of paradise who put forth the tree of life; rejoice, lifting of the curse, crown of martyrs, boast of the venerable and confirmation of the pious.

Canon of the Hierarch Proclus

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

Surpassing images and shadows through understanding Christ truly, having been reborn in the baptismal font, you were anointed a sacred priest, who proclaimed as Mother of God her who gave him birth.

You embraced the sacred character and teaching of Chrysostom, O blessed one, with his zeal for the faith; and through the depth of your teaching, you dried up the flow of heresies with grace.

By your entreaties, end the turmoil rising against us, and dispel the darkness of the passions and the affliction of man, as you have boldness before our Master and God.

Theotokion How great your wonders which pass understanding; for you alone gave birth supernaturally to the incarnate Word of God, who wisely sustains, nurtures and protects all things by his divine will.

*Exapostilarion of venerable Gregory,
to the Special Melody While the disciples watched...*

You were a holy temple, O hierarch, who through divine communion is now a holy citizen of paradise, where you partake directly of the Tree of Knowledge and

incorruptible glory, mindful of those who with love and faith praise you, O wise Gregory, sacred father.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the Forefeast,
to the Special Melody Harken, you women...*

A day of prefestal joy is now observed by the Church, for the all-pure entrance of Mary, the Mother of God, whom the angels hymn and men call blessed, and whom virgins accompany, bearing lamps and dancing, into the temple of the Lord.

*Aposticha, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

Come, you faithful, let us gather to honour with hymns her who was gloriously born of a barren mother: the divine Bride and Mother of the creator; and let us go forth with virgins and lamps to meet her as she enters the sanctuary of the Temple.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

Having gathered words of the Spirit from noetic meadows, like various flowers, let us joyously weave wreaths of praise for the Virgin and offer her a worthy gift on her Forefeast.

Verse Virgins are led with gladness and rejoicing; they enter the palace of the king.

Let the gates of the Temple of the Lord be prepared, and let them be opened; and rejoicing, let them receive the dwelling-place of glory, her who alone transcends the heavens in a manner past understanding; and let them hymn Christ the Saviour.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *same tone,
composed by George of Nicomedia*

Let the heavens rejoice greatly and let the clouds drop down gladness at the exceedingly marvellous mighty acts of our God.

Behold, the gate which faces east,
who was born of a barren woman in accordance with God's promise,
is dedicated to God as his dwelling,
and is brought today into the Temple as an unblemished offering.

Let David rejoice, striking his harp, for he said:

The virgins that are with her are led to you, O king:
those near her shall be brought to the tabernacle of God,
into his sanctuary, to be reared in the abode of him
who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages,
for the salvation of our souls.

Liturgy

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

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 of the day,
and that of the holy hierarch, Hebrews, number 318 [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.

Gospel of the day, and that of the holy hierarch: John number 36 [John 10: 9-16]

Communion Verse

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

Be it known that if the Forefeast of the Entrance of the holy Mother of God falls on a Sunday:

Little Vespers

The verses of the resurrection and the Mother of God as usual. At Great Vespers, after the usual kathisma, on Lord, I call to you... 4 verses of the resurrection, 3 of the Forefeast, 3 of venerable Gregory; Glory be to the Father... of the Forefeast; Both now and for ever... the Dogmaticon of the current tone. The usual verses at the Entreaty. Aposticha of the resurrection; Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... of the Forefeast. At the blessing of the loaves, the troparion: Virgin Mother of God, rejoice... thrice.

But if vigil not be served, at Great Vespers

At the end, we sing the troparion of the resurrection, Glory be to the Father... that of Gregory, tone 3

You were a model of abstinence, illumining all with the divine Spirit. You completed the race of the Orthodox faith, enlightened the world with your teaching and denounced the thoughts of the heretics. O venerable father Gregory, entreat Christ our God, that he grant us great mercy.

Both now and for ever... of the Forefeast.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the resurrection, twice; Glory be to the Father... that of Saint Gregory; Both now and for ever... of the Forefeast. After the kathismata, the Sessional Hymns of the resurrection with their Theotokia. Then the rest as usual up to the canon. Canon of the resurrection, that of the Mother of God, that of the Forefeast, and that of the venerable one, Katavasia I shall open my mouth... After Ode 3, the Kontakion of the Forefeast, with its Ikos; and the Kontakion of Gregory and his Sessional Hymn; Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... that of the Forefeast. After Ode 6, the Kontakion of the resurrection with its Ikos. Before Ode 9 we sing the usual canticle. Exapostilarion of the resurrection; Glory be to the Father... of Saint Gregory; Both now and for ever... of the Forefeast. On the Praises, 4 verses of the resurrection, and 4 of the Forefeast (the three of the Aposticha with their doxasticon) using the verses in between of the Aposticha; Glory be to the Father... the Gospel verse; Both now and for ever... Most blessed are you... and the rest as usual

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 10 Troparia: 6 for the resurrection from the current tone, and 4 for the Forefeast, from Ode 3. At the entrance, the Troparia of: the resurrection and the Forefeast; then that of the church, if it be dedicated to a saint; then that of Gregory. Kontakia: of the resurrection and the church; Glory be to the Father... of Gregory; Both now and for ever... of the Forefeast. Prokimena, epistles, alleluias, Gospels and

November 20

communion hymns, first of the resurrection, then of Gregory, using the service for a venerable one.

The service of the holy hierarch Proclus is then sung whenever the ecclesiarch chooses.

Troparion of the hierarch Proclus, (if needed), tone 4

By a divine beginning you were made steadfast in the Lord, from which you arose to become a disciple of Chrysostom, becoming worthy of his hierarchical throne in the beauty of your purity, having formed yourself according to the canons of the apostles, living not for yourself but for Christ and your flock; and so you lived a life of incorruption like an apostle, O hierarch Proclus. Entreat Christ our God that our souls be saved.

November 21

The Entry of the most holy Mother of God into the Temple

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... we sing 4 verses, in tone 1,
to the special melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

Having received from the Lord the fruit of the promise,
Joachim and Anna offer today
the Mother of God as an acceptable sacrifice;
and Zechariah, the great high priest, receives her with his blessing. *twice*

The Holy of Holies is fittingly brought to dwell in the sanctuary,
as a sacrifice pleasing to God;
and the virgins, adorned with virtues bear candles before her,
escorting her to the Lord as a most sacred vessel.

Let the gate of the temple which receives God be opened,
for today Joachim brings there in glory
the temple and throne of the king of all,
and he consecrates as an offering to God
the one whom the Lord has chosen to be his mother.

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

David spoke in prophecy
of your entry and consecration in the temple, O immaculate one.
The ends of the earth keep this feast today,
and glorify you, O highly exulted one.
Zechariah rejoices as he receives you
on this day of your entry, O mother of the Word of life,
who was virgin before childbirth and remained incorrupt after.
The Holy of Holies is filled with exultation
as it welcomes you, the fountain of life,
and we also lift our voices to you in song:
Entreat your son and our God for us,
that he grant us great mercy.

*Aposticha, tone 2,
to the special melody O house of Ephrata...*

O heavenly gates, * accept the Virgin, * the undefiled tabernacle * of God the Almighty, * as she enters the Holy of Holies.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

O choirs of virgins, * receive the pure Virgin, * the bride of the king of all, * joyfully bearing candles, * as she enters the Holy of Holies.

Verse Virgins are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.

The living bridal chamber * of God the Word * receives bread * from the hands of a divine angel, * as she dwells in the Holy of Holies.

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

In the temple of his glory, * the thrice radiant light engulfs you, * O Mother of God, * sending you food, * and magnifies you.

Troparion of the feast, tone 4

Today is the prelude of God's good will
and the proclamation of the salvation of man.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all.
Let us cry out to her: Rejoice,
fulfillment of the creator's divine plan.

Great Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon.

*At Lord I call to you... we sing 8 verses in tone 1
to the special melody O marvellous wonder...*

Let us, the faithful, exalt today,
singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns,
honouring his sacred tabernacle, the living ark
who contained the Word who cannot be contained.
She who had been wondrously born
is brought to the Lord as a young child,
and Zechariah the great high priest
rejoices to receive her as the dwelling place of God. *twice*

Today the living temple of the holy glory of Christ our God,
the pure one who alone among women is blessed,
is led into the Temple of the Law
to dwell in the holy place.
Joachim and Anna
with her rejoice in spirit,
and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord,
chanting psalms and honouring his mother.

You are the proclamation of the prophets,
the glory of the apostles, the boast of the martyrs,
and the restoration of mortals, O virgin Mother of God,
through whom we have been reconciled to God.
We honour your entrance into the Temple of the Lord,
as we who find salvation through your prayers
lift our voices to you in song with the angel:
Rejoice, O Lady most pure.

*Tone 4,
to the special melody As one valiant among the martyrs...*

The holy and immaculate one
is led by the Holy Spirit into the Temple;
and the most holy temple of our holy God
is fed by an angel,
for she who has sanctified all things by her entry,
has deified the fallen nature of mortal man. *twice*

The young girls rejoice today,
as bearing candles, they proceed in reverence before the spiritual lamp,
as she enters the sacred Temple,
foreshadowing the indescribable brightness
which would shine forth from her,
to illumine with the Spirit
those who sit in the darkness of ignorance.

Most praiseworthy Anna cried out:
Zechariah, receive her in gladness
whom the prophets of God proclaimed in the Spirit,
and lead her into the holy Temple,
there to be raised in piety,
that she might become the divine throne of the Master of all,
his palace and bower,
and his radiant dwelling place.

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

After your nativity, O Lady and Bride of God,
you went to the Temple of the Lord
to be raised in the holy place as a consecrated maiden,
and there Gabriel was sent to you,
to bring you food, O immaculate one.
All the powers of heaven marvelled,
seeing the Holy Spirit abiding in you.
O Mother of God without stain or blemish,
who is glorified in heaven and on earth,
save your people.

Entrance, Prokimenon of the day and three readings.

A reading from Exodus

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. You shall put in it the ark of the covenant, and you shall screen the ark with the curtain. You shall bring in the table, and arrange its setting; and you shall bring in the lamp stand, and set up its lamps. You shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the covenant, and set up the screen for the entrance of the tabernacle.

Then you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it shall become holy. You shall also anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, so that the altar shall be most holy. Moses did everything just as the Lord had commanded him.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. [40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35]

A reading from the first Book of the Kings

All the work that King Solomon did on the house of the Lord was finished. Solomon brought in the things that his father David had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. So they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark.

Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [1 Kings 7:51, 8:1, 3-4, 5, 6-7, 9-11]

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 behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord; and I fell upon my face. [43:27-44:4]

*Entreaty, tone 1
composed by of George of Nikomedia*

Let the heavens rejoice greatly and let the clouds drop down gladness
at the exceedingly marvellous mighty acts of our God.

Behold, the gate which faces east,
who was born of a barren woman in accordance with God's promise,
is dedicated to God as his dwelling,
and is brought today into the Temple as an unblemished offering.

Let David rejoice, striking his harp, for he said:
The virgins that are with her are led to you, O king:
those near her shall be brought to the tabernacle of God,
into his sanctuary, to be reared in the abode of him
who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages,
for the salvation of our souls.

Tone 4

Today the Mother of God, the temple which contained God,
is brought into the Temple of the Lord, where Zachariah receives her;
today the Holy of Holies rejoices,
and the choir of the angels mystically celebrates.
And we, celebrating with them, cry out with Gabriel:
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you,
he who has great mercy.

Come, all you faithful,
let us praise her who is truly immaculate,
who was proclaimed in prophecy,
and is now brought into the Temple:
the Mother chosen before time began,
who is now revealed as the Mother of God;
through whose supplications O Lord,
grant us your peace and great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 5,*
composed by Leo the Master

A day of joy and a feast of all reverence has dawned;
for today she who remained a virgin as she was before giving birth,
is led into the Temple of the Lord,
where Zechariah the elder and father of the Forerunner,
rejoiced and cried out:
The holy intercessor for the sorrowful comes to the holy Temple,
to be hallowed in the abode of the king of all.
Let Joachim the forefather be glad and let Anna rejoice greatly,
for they offer to God the three-year old unblemished one in sacrifice.
Rejoice with them, you mothers and dance for joy, you virgins;
sing together, you that are barren,
for the preordained queen of all
has opened the kingdom of heaven to us:
rejoice and be glad, you people.

Aposticha, tone 5
to the special melody Rejoice, life-bearing wood...

Rejoice, O heaven and earth,
 seeing the spiritual heaven, the truly immaculate Virgin,
 coming to be raised in honour in the house of God.
 Zechariah exclaimed to her in wonder:
 I open the gates of the Temple to you, the portal of the Lord:
 rejoice and enter in gladness,
 for I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel has clearly come
 and that God the Word will be born of you,
 granting the world great mercy.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

Anna, truly blessed by God's grace,
 gladly led to the Lord's Temple the pure ever-virgin, full of grace,
 and she calls the maidens to go before her,
 bearing lamps, and saying:
 Go forth, my child as an offering of fragrant incense
 to him who gave you to us.
 Enter the impassable precincts and learn the mysteries,
 and prepare yourself to be the gladsome and beauteous abode of Jesus
 who grants the world great mercy.

Verse They are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.

The most holy Virgin, the temple where God is to dwell,
 is brought into the Temple of God,
 and the maidens bearing lamps precede her.
 Joachim and Anna, the noble parents, dance for joy,
 for they gave birth to the mother of the creator,
 who dances in the divine tabernacle.
 She is fed by the hand of an angel;
 for she would become the most pure Mother of Christ
 who grants the world great mercy.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 6,*
composed by Sergius of Jerusalem

We the assembled array of the faithful,
 triumph in spirit and reverently praise the child of God,
 the Virgin and Mother of God,
 as she is offered in the Temple of the Lord,
 chosen from all generations to be the dwelling place
 of Christ, the Master and God of all.
 Bearing candles, O virgins, lead in homage
 and honour the entry of the ever-virgin one.
 Set aside all sorrow, O mothers,

and follow them in gladness, and sing the praises of her
who became the Mother of God
and mediator of joy for all the world.
With the angel, let us all joyfully sing: Rejoice! to her,
who ever intercedes for our souls.

After the Blessing of the Bread, the Troparion in tone 4

Today is the prelude of God's good will
and the proclamation of the salvation of man.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all.
Let us cry out to her: Rejoice,
fulfillment of the creator's divine plan. (*thrice*)

Matins

*After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 1,
to the special melody* The choir of angels...

The fruit of righteous Joachim and Anna
is brought as an offering to God in the holy sanctuary,
she who sustains our life, a young child in the flesh
receives the blessing of Zechariah the priest.
Let all of us in faith call her blessed,
who is the Mother of the Lord.

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 your conception, O pure one,
you were consecrated to God:
and now, after your birth you are offered
as a gift to him in fulfillment of your parents' promise.
You are presented in the sacred Temple
accompanied by burning lamps of purity;
you appear in the sanctuary as a brightly burning lamp,
the receiver of the divine light that no man may approach.
Your entry is truly magnificent, O Bride of God and ever Virgin.

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

Polyelios, and Magnification:

We magnify you, O most holy Virgin, divinely chosen maiden, and we honour
your entry into the Temple of the Lord.

Verse Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. [*Psalm 48*]

*After the Polyelios, the Sessional Hymn, tone 8,
to the special melody* That which was mystically commanded...

Let David the psalmist rejoice, let Joachim and Anna be glad,
for a holy child has come forth from them as a holy fruit,
Mary the lamp that bears the divine light, who rejoices to enter the Temple.
The son of Barachias, seeing her, gave his blessing and proclaimed:
Rejoice, O wonder of the universe.

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

The first antiphon of the Hymn of Degrees in tone 4 From the days of my youth...

Prokimenon, tone 4

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.

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

Let every breath... *and the Gospel of Luke, No 4 [Luke 1: 29-49]*

After the Psalm Have mercy... *verses, tone 2*

Glory be to the Father...

Today the living temple of the great king
enters the Temple
to be prepared as a divine dwelling place for him:
rejoice greatly, O people.

Both now and for ever...

and again Today the living temple...

Have mercy on us...

Then, in tone 4 (from the Entreaty verses)

Today the Mother of God, the temple which contained God,
is brought into the Temple of the Lord, where Zachariah receives her;
today the Holy of Holies rejoices,
and the choir of the angels mystically celebrates.
And we, celebrating with them, cry out with Gabriel:
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you,
he who has great mercy.

We sing two canons of the feast.

Ode 1

*The first Canon, of the Mother of God, tone 4,
composed by George, upon the acrostic O Lady, grant me the grace of discourse.*

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 entry.

Known as a treasury of wisdom and an ever flowing fount of grace, O most pure one, we pray you to rain upon us drops of knowledge, that we may ever praise you.

O most pure one, as a temple and palace more exulted than the heavens, you were set apart in the Temple of God to be prepared as a divine dwelling place for his coming.

Shining with the light of grace, the Mother of God illumines those who assemble to adorn with songs her most splendid festival: come, let us join them and hasten to her.

Having opened the gates of the Temple of God, she who is the glorious gate surpassing human thought urges us to enter with her and to delight in her divine marvels.

*The second Canon, of the Mother of God, tone 1
composed by Basil*

Irmos Let us all sing a hymn of victory to God
 who has wrought wondrous miracles with his mighty arm
 and has saved Israel,
 for he has been glorified.

Let us hasten today, honouring the Mother of God with hymns, and let us celebrate a spiritual feast as she is offered as a gift to God in the Temple.

The blameless Anna rejoices, bringing her child as a gift of great price to the Temple, and with her Joachim celebrates splendidly.

David the forefather praised you of old in hymns, O virgin Bride of God, calling you the daughter of Christ the king; and having giving birth to him as a mother, you fed him with milk as an infant.

At three years of age, the Mother of God is led to the Lord, and Zechariah the priest of God receives her in the Temple with rejoicing and places her there.

Sing joyfully, O virgins bearing lamps, and likewise all mothers join with them in praising the mother and queen as she enters the Temple of Christ the king.

To the Trinity O Trinity, one in essence, Father, Word and Holy Spirit: we glorify you in faith as the creator of all and to you we piously sing: Save us O God.

Theotokion God the king goes forth wearing purple vestments coloured by your blood, O most pure one, and has restored the whole human race in his compassion.

Katavasia Christ is born, glorify him.
Christ comes from heaven, go to meet him.
Christ is on earth, be exulted.
Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
sing praises in gladness, O people,
for he has been glorified.

Ode 3

The first Canon

Irmos O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain,
give strength to those who hymn you
and form a spiritual choir on this day of your honoured entry,
and grant them crowns of glory.

Today the Temple is adorned as it receives the living bridal chamber of God, pure and without spot, she who shines more brightly than all creation.

Leading the chorus, David leaps for joy and rejoices with us as he describes you as a queen adorned, O most pure one who stands in the Temple before our king and God.

From Eve of old the transgression came upon mankind, and now from her descendant, the Mother of God, has blossomed our restoration and incorruption, she who is led today into the house of God.

The hosts of angles and the multitudes of mankind dance today before you, O most pure lady, and with lamps they proclaim your greatness in the house of God.

The second Canon

Irmos Let my heart be made steadfast in your will,
O omnipotent Christ our God
who established the second Heaven above the waters
and founded the earth upon the waters.

Those who love the feasts of the Church, celebrate and be glad in spirit, exulting today in the holy feast of the daughter of the king and the Mother of our God.

Be glad today, O Joachim and rejoice in spirit, O Anna as you now present your daughter to the Lord as a three year old sacrificial victim, utterly without blemish.

The dwelling place of God, Mary the Mother of God, at three years of age is offered in the holy Temple, and the virgins who are with her go before her with lamps.

The spotless lamb, the dove without blemish, the tabernacle that is to hold God, the sanctuary of the glory, has chosen to dwell in the holy Temple.

Three years old in the body, but many years old in spirit, more spacious than the heavens and higher than the powers above; let her, the Bride of God, be praised in song.

Celebrating the coming of the Mother of God into the sanctuary, let us who also carry lamps in spirit, proceed joyfully with the virgins to the Temple.

Priests of God, clothed in righteousness by grace, go forth with joy to meet the daughter of the king and God as she enters the holy place.

To the Trinity The Father is light, his Son is light, and the Spirit the Comforter is light: for the Trinity, shining forth as from a single sun, divinely illumines and preserves our souls.

Theotokion The prophet proclaimed you in ages past, speaking of you as the ark of holiness, golden censer, candlestick, and table; and we sing the praises of the tabernacle which held God.

Katavasia To the Son who was begotten of the Father
without change before time began,
who in latter times was incarnate without seed of the Virgin,
to Christ our God let us sing:
You are holy, O Lord, who has exalted our strength.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the special melody* Joseph marvelled...

Cry out, O David, what is this present feast?
It is for her, of whom you have sung in the book of Psalms,
calling her daughter, child of God and Virgin, saying:
Her companions, the virgins that follow her
shall be mystically brought to the king.
May this feast be honoured through all the world by those who proclaim:
the Mother of God has come among us as the mediator of salvation.

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

Same tone and melody

With gladness, Mary the Mother of God
is gloriously brought into the house of God,
as an unblemished lamb and undefiled bridal chamber,
whom the angels of God escort with faith.
All the faithful unceasingly bless and sing to her
with loud voices in thanksgiving:
You are our glory and salvation, O immaculate one.

Ode 4

The first Canon

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.

The Temple of God receives today the portal through which none may pass, and thereby the worship required by the shadow of the Law is ended, for it proclaims: Truth truly appears to those upon the earth.

The overshadowed mountain which Habbakuk saw of old prefigured the one who comes to dwell in the inaccessible chambers of the Temple, flourishing in virtues, with which she covers the ends of the earth.

Let us with all the earth observe these marvellous, strange and wonderful events, how the Virgin receives food from the angel, in an image of the divine dispensation.

As a temple, palace and living heaven, O divine bride of the king, you are brought today to the Temple of the Law to be preserved there for him.

The second Canon

Irmos The prophet Habakkuk, foreseeing in the Spirit
the incarnation of the Word,
has proclaimed Christ saying:
You shall be acknowledged when the years draw nigh;
you shall be made manifest when the time comes.
Glory to your power, O Lord.

O prophet Isaiah, tell us: Who is the virgin that shall conceive? And who, coming from the root of Judah will give birth to the glorious fruit of the holy seed of king David?

O virgins, begin your songs, and with lamps in hand, praise the arrival of the pure Mother of God who now comes to the Temple of God; and celebrate with us.

Rejoice now, O Joachim and Anna, leading the pure one born of you into the Temple as a three year old sacrificial victim, for she will become the Mother of God.

O pure one, the Holy of Holies, you loved to dwell in the Temple in glory, conversing with the angels, receiving bread from heaven, O Virgin, the nourisher of life.

When all hope was gone, Joachim and Anna gave birth to the undefiled Virgin, and in piety they promised to offer her to God. Today that promise is fulfilled, giving their child as a sacrifice in the house of God.

The rod of Aaron once budded, prefiguring the divine birthgiving, O pure one, for you conceived without seed and remained incorrupt, and even after giving birth, you are shown to be a virgin, nurturing the child who is God of all.

O virgins, honour the Virgin; and mothers, hasten with us to the Mother who has been born as a blameless offering to be fruitful to God: so let us all celebrate splendidly.

To the Trinity Let us piously glorify the true God, three in persons and one in nature, whom the ranks of angels and archangels hymn as the Master of creation, and whom we worship with faith for ever.

Theotokion O pure and undefiled Virgin, unceasingly entreat your Son and our God to whom you gave birth in the flesh, that he deliver your servants from the manifold snares of the devil and from every temptation that besets us.

Katavasia As the rod from the root of Jesse,
and the flower that blossomed from his stem,
you have sprung forth from the Virgin, O Christ.
You have come from the mountain overshadowed by the forest,
made flesh from her that knew not wedlock,
O God who is immaterial.
Glory to your power, O Lord.

Ode 5

The first Canon

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

The glorious sanctity and holy offering, the most pure Virgin, is dedicated in the Temple of God today, and in ways which he alone understands, she is kept as a dwelling place for our God, the king of all.

Seeing the beauty of your soul, Zechariah cried out with faith: You are our deliverance and the joy of all; you are our restoration, through whom the uncontainable one shall appear to me containable.

Your wonders are past understanding, O Virgin: strange is the manner of your birth; strange is the manner of your growing; strange and most wonderful and beyond the telling of mortal man are all things concerning you.

O Bride of God, as a lamp stand with many lights you have shone forth today in the house of the Lord, giving us light through the precious gift of your wonders.

The second Canon

Irmos Shine upon us the brightness of your eternal light,
as we rise from darkness to your commandments,
O Master, Christ our God, the lover of mankind.

Let us the Orthodox, all hasten together with our lamps and glorify the Mother of God, for today she is offered to the Lord as an acceptable sacrifice.

Let the forefathers rejoice greatly today, O Lady, and let your mother rejoice with your father, for their fruit is led to the Lord.

Let us who keep the feast of faith sing in praise of the pure Maid, most glorious and of great renown, who conceived bodily the divine victim and sacrificial offering.

The divine tokens of your betrothal, your motherhood past understanding, O pure Virgin, are recorded today by the Holy Spirit in the house of God.

Let the forecourt of the glory of our God be opened to receive the young and unblemished sacrificial victim, the Mother of God who was never to know wedlock.

Let us hymn the ever Virgin who became the Mother of God, the most honourable overshadowed mountain, for she has shone forth light upon the world.

To the Trinity Let us glorify the one divinity in three persons, undivided by nature and equal in glory, that was before the beginning and ever shall be.

Theotokion O Mother of God, your intercession is our a fair haven and an unassailable rampart in times of trouble, and we are ever delivered from danger and affliction.

Katavasia As the God of peace and Father of mercies,
you have sent us your Angel of great counsel, granting us peace.
Thus we are guided towards the light of the knowledge of God,
and waking at dawn out of the night,
we glorify you, the lover of mankind.

Ode 6

The first 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.

He who supports all things at his behest, has mercifully heard the prayer of righteous Joachim and Anna. He has loosed their infirmity of barrenness, giving them her that is the cause of our joy.

Wishing to make his salvation known to the nations, the Lord has chosen from the children of men the unwedded one, as a sign of reconciliation and renewal.

As a house of grace in which are laid the treasures of the ineffable dispensation of God, O undefiled one, you now share the unfading delight of the Temple.

Having now received you, O Bride of God, as a royal diadem, the Temple shines with beauty and is exalted, seeing in you the fulfillment of the prophecies.

The second Canon

Irmos Emulating the prophet Jonah, I cry out:
O good one, free my life from corruption
and save me, O Saviour of the world,
as I sing: Glory to you.

O faithful, let us celebrate the spiritual feast of the Mother of God, singing reverently, for she is more holy than the heavenly powers.

O faithful, let us praise with spiritual hymns the Mother of the light who has appeared to us today, entering the Temple of God.

The unblemished lamb, the pure turtledove, is brought as an offering to dwell in the house of God, who was foreordained to be the undefiled Mother of God.

The temple of God, the heavenly tabernacle, makes her entry into the Temple of the Law, and from her has the light shone upon us who are in darkness.

A child in the flesh, though perfect in soul, the holy ark enters the house of God, to be nurtured with divine grace.

By your entreaties, free us who have recourse to you, from all temptations and spiritual misfortunes, O Mother of Christ our God.

To the Trinity Father, Son and Spirit of Righteousness, unity in three persons and undivided Trinity, have mercy on those who worship your divine power.

Theotokion He whom nothing can contain was contained in you, O undefiled Mother of God, and from you he has come forth twofold in nature, God and man.

Katavasia The sea monster as if giving birth
released Jonah, like a newborn child
just as it had received him:
while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin
and taken flesh from her,
came forth keeping her uncorrupt.
For since he is not subject to corruption,
he preserved free from harm her that gave birth to him.

Kontakion, tone 4,
to the special melody Having been lifted up...

The most pure temple of the Saviour,
the precious bridal chamber and Virgin,
the sacred treasury of the glory of God,
on this day is brought to the house of the Lord,
bringing with her the grace of the divine Spirit.
To her the angels of God sing the hymn:
She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ikos I rejoice, seeing the grace of the secret mysteries of God revealed and clearly fulfilled in the Virgin; yet I do not know how to understand the strange and secret manner of the revelation of how the pure one was chosen to be above all creation, visible and spiritual. Wishing to praise her, I am struck dumb in mind and speech; yet with daring I proclaim and magnify her, singing: She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ode 7

The first Canon

Irmos The youths raised together in piety,
scorning the impious decree, feared not the threat of fire;
but standing in the midst of the flames they sang:
Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Behold, a glad springtime shines to the ends of the earth, which makes our souls, minds and thoughts bright with grace; let us mystically celebrate this glorious day of the Mother of God.

Let all of heaven and earth, the angelic ranks with the multitudes of men, attend the queen and mother, and proclaim: Our joy and deliverance is led into the Temple.

The scriptures are fulfilled and the Law has passed away and become a shadow, and rays of grace shine forth at your entry into the Temple of God, O pure Virgin Mother, by which you are blessed.

Heaven and earth and the things below the earth are subject to your child as their creator and God, O most pure one, and every nation of mortals confesses that the Lord has appeared, the Saviour of our souls.

The second Canon

Irmos The furnace was sprinkled with dew O Saviour
and the children danced for joy as they sang:
Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Let us who love the feasts of the church join chorus and hymn the pure Lady, and give fitting honour to Joachim and Anna.

Speak, O David, and prophesy in the Spirit: The virgins that follow after you shall be brought with you into the Temple of the queen and mother.

The ranks of angels rejoiced and the souls of the righteous were made glad, when the Mother of God was led into the sanctuary.

Receiving heavenly food, she who was to become the Mother of God is led into the Holy of Holies.

Remaining in the Temple of God as a most sacred vessel, immaculate Mary rejoiced in body and soul.

Your chaste parents brought you to the innermost part of the Temple, O undefiled Virgin, there to be raised in a strange manner as the dwelling place of Christ our God.

To the Trinity Let us glorify the indivisible Trinity, and let us hymn the one divinity, the Father, Word and most holy Spirit.

Theotokion Entreat the Lord to whom you gave birth, O Mother of God, that he save the souls of those who sing your praises, for he is compassionate by nature.

Katavasia The youths raised together in piety,
scorning the impious decree,
feared not the threat of fire;
but standing in the midst of the flames they sang:
Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

The first Canon

Irmos Hearken, O pure Virgin Mother of God,
 let Gabriel utter the ancient and true message from the Most High:
 Prepare to receive God,
 for through you the boundless one comes to dwell with mortal men.
 Therefore I sing with rejoicing:
 Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

As Anna led the all pure temple into the house of God, she said with faith to the priest: Take this child given to me by God, and lead her into the Temple of your creator, and sing to him with joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Then, when Zechariah saw them in the Spirit, he said to Anna: You are leading here the true Mother of Life, whom the prophets of old foretold to be the Mother of God. How then can the Temple contain her? Marvelling, I cry out: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Anna answered: I am the handmaid of God, and I call on him with faith and prayer to accept the fruit of my travail, for I promised that after childbirth I would present my child to him who gave her to me. Therefore, dancing with joy, I sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

This is truly in accordance with the Law, said the priest to her, and it is a strange thing to see her led into the house of God, for she most gloriously surpasses the holy ones in grace. Therefore I sing, rejoicing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Anna said to him: Hearing your words, I am filled with new strength, for you understand these things by the Spirit of God, and have clearly announced what shall come to pass in the Virgin. Take then the undefiled one into the Temple of your creator, and sing to him in joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

A lamp that gives light has been kindled for us, said the priest, and has made mighty joy shine in the Temple. Let the souls of the prophets be glad with me as they see strange wonders in the house of God, and let them now sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

The second Canon

Irmos Him of whom the angels and hosts of Heaven
 are in awe as creator and Lord,
 let you children bless, and you priests praise
 and you people exult above all for ever.

Joachim rejoices today in splendour, and the blameless Anna offers to the Lord God a sacrifice, the holy daughter given to her according to God's promise.

Holy David and Jesse render praise, and Judah offers homage, for from their stock a branch has sprung, the pure Virgin from whom the pre-eternal God was born.

Mary, the immaculate one, the living tabernacle, is brought today into the house of God, and Zechariah takes her in his arms as the sanctified treasure of the Lord.

O you faithful, let us truly honour the Virgin Mother of God who is blessed by the hands of the priests, as the gate of salvation, the spiritual mountain and the living ladder.

Prophets, apostles and martyrs of Christ, ranks of angels and all mortals, let us honour with hymns the pure Virgin as the blessed Mother of the Most High.

O pure and immaculate one, those who divinely gave birth to you have brought you to the Temple as a pure sacrifice; and there you strangely abide in the sanctuary of God, to be prepared as the dwelling place of the Word.

To the Trinity Let the thrice-holy hymn be sung to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the indivisible unity and one divinity, who eternally holds all creation in his hand.

Theotokion He who is without beginning receives a beginning in the flesh, being born of the Virgin Maid in his good pleasure: he who is both God and man restores us who before were fallen, in his extreme loving kindness.

Katavasia The furnace moist with dew was an image and figure past nature.
For it did not burn the youths whom it had received,
just as the fire of the Godhead did not consume
the Virgin's womb into which it had descended.
Therefore let us sing:
Let the whole creation bless the lord
and exult him above all for ever.

Ode 9

We do not sing the Canticle of the Mother of God, but we sing instead the festal refrain:

Refrain Beholding the entry of the all pure one,
the angels were amazed,
seeing the Virgin enter the Holy of Holies.

*Then the Irmos of the first Canon. This same refrain and Irmos is repeated by the other choir.
A refrain is sung at each troparion of the first Canon, and the choirs alternate in the usual manner.*

The first Canon

Irmos Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God,
but let the lips of the faithful,
singing without ceasing the words of the Angel to the Mother of God,

cry out in great joy:
Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Refrain Beholding the entry of the all pure one,
the angels were amazed,
seeing her gloriously enter the Holy of Holies.

O pure Mother of God, with a clean soul shining with beauty, full of grace from heaven, shine with eternal light upon those who sing with joy: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Refrain Beholding the entry of the Virgin,
the angels were amazed,
seeing her most gloriously enter the Holy of Holies.

Your wonder surpasses the power of words, O pure Mother of God, for in you I perceive a body impervious to the taint of sin. Therefore I thankfully sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Refrain Angels and men, let us honour
the entry of the Virgin,
seeing her gloriously enter the Holy of Holies.

The Law prefigured you most gloriously, O pure one, as the tabernacle, the divine jar, the awesome ark, the veil, the staff, the inviolable temple and portal of God. All these things teach us to sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Refrain Beholding the entry of the all pure one,
the angels were amazed,
seeing her in a God pleasing manner enter the Holy of Holies.

David sang of you in psalmody, prophetically calling you the daughter of the king. Seeing you standing at the right hand of God elaborately adorned in the beauty of the virtues, in prophecy he sang: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Refrain Angels, dance with the saints
and virgins celebrate together,
seeing the divine maiden enter the Holy of Holies.

Foreseeing how you were to receive God, Solomon spoke of you in hidden sayings, proclaiming you to be the bower of the king, the living and sealed fountain from where calm waters flow for us who sing with faith: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Refrain Angels and men,
let us magnify the Virgin with hymns,
seeing her beauteously enter the Holy of Holies.

O Mother of God, give my soul the tranquillity of the gift of your grace, for you are a fountain of life for those who honour you as is due: may you defend, protect and preserve us, that we may sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

The second Canon

The first choir sings this refrain and Irmos of the second Canon

Refrain Magnify, O my soul,
her who has been led into the Temple of the Lord,
and blessed by the hands of the priest.

Irmos We all magnify the pure Mother of our God
as the luminous cloud upon which the unoriginate Master of all
descended from Heaven as rain upon the fleece,
and assuming flesh, became man.

The second choir repeats this refrain and Irmos.

The same refrain is sung before each troparion of the second Canon except where indicated.

From righteous Joachim and Anna is born the fruit of the promise, Mary the child of God, who is offered in the sanctuary as pleasing incense, to dwell in the Holy of Holies.

With hymns let us praise her who was a child by nature, yet revealed beyond nature as the Mother of God; for she is led to the Lord in the Temple of the Law as a sweet fragrance for the righteous, as the spiritual fruit of her righteous parents.

Let us the faithful sing with the angel the hymn: Rejoice, which befits the Mother of God. Rejoice, most comely bride; rejoice, radiant cloud from whom the Lord has shone on us who sit in the darkness of ignorance. Rejoice, the hope of all.

Pure Mary, Mother of God, the Holy of Holies, by your supplications free us from the snares of the enemy and from all heresy and tribulation, as we bow down with faith before the image of your holy form.

With the angel Gabriel, all creation utters a fitting hymn to the Mother of God, singing: Rejoice, immaculate Mother of God, by whom we have been delivered from the primal curse, and come to share in incorruption.

O Virgin, you are seen to be greater than the Cherubim, more exalted than the Seraphim, and more spacious than the heavens, for you held our God whom nothing can contain, and indescribably gave birth to him: entreat him earnestly for us.

Refrain Magnify, O my soul,
the power of the indivisible Godhead
in three persons.

To the Trinity Let us glorify the indivisible Trinity, the one nature in three persons, the undivided glory, who in a single divinity is unceasingly hymned in heaven and on earth, as we piously worship the Father, Son and Spirit.

Refrain Magnify, O my soul,
the all-pure Mother of God,
who is more honourable and more glorious than the hosts on high.

Theotokion Virgin Mother of God, pray that we who flee with faith to your compassion and piously worship your Son as God and Lord of the world, may be delivered from corruption, danger and manifold temptations.

*Then both choirs together sing the refrain of the first Canon, as follows,
and the Katavasia.*

Refrain Beholding the entry of the all pure one,
the angels were amazed,
seeing the Virgin enter the Holy of Holies.

Katavasia I see a strange and glorious mystery:
the cave is heaven,
the Virgin is the throne of the Cherubim,
the manger is the place in which Christ is laid,
the God whom nothing can contain.
Him we praise and magnify.

*Exapostilarion,
to the special melody* Hearken, O women...

Let us praise with faith Mary the child of God, * whom the prophets long ago proclaimed * as the jar of manna, the rod of Aaron, * the tablet of the Law and the unquarried mountain; * she who is led today into the Holy of Holies * to be raised for the Lord. *thrice*

*The Praises, 4 verses tone 1,
to the special melody* Joy of the ranks of heaven...

The virgins with lamps with splendour,
escort the ever Virgin,
and in the Spirit truly prophesy that which is to come,
for the Mother of God, who will become the temple of God,
is led as a child into the Temple with virginal glory.

The Mother of God appears higher than all creation
as the truly glorious fruit of a holy promise.
Reverently led into the Temple of God,

she fulfills the vow of her parents,
and is preserved by the Spirit divine.

Faithfully raised on heavenly bread
in the Temple of the Lord, O Virgin,
you brought forth the Word, the bread of life for the world:
you were promised beforehand by the Spirit
as the chosen and immaculate temple for him,
mystically betrothed to God the Father.

Be opened, O gate of the Temple where God dwells,
for Joachim brings in glory the temple and throne of the king of all:
he consecrates as an offering to God
her whom the Lord has chosen to be his mother.

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

*Tone 2,
composed by Leo the Master*

Today the unblemished Virgin is brought to the Temple,
to the habitation of God, the king of all,
the nourisher of our whole life.
Today the most pure and holy one
is led to the Holy of Holies as a three year old victim of sacrifice.
Let us cry out to her with the angel:
Rejoice, truly most blessed among women.

Great Doxology, Troparion, Litanies and Dismissal.

At the Liturgy

*At the Beatitudes, we insert 8 Troparia, 4 from Ode 3 of the first Canon,
and 4 from Ode 6 of the second Canon.*

At the Entrance we sing the Troparion and Kontakion of the feast

Troparion, tone 4 Today is the prelude of God's good will and the proclamation of the salvation of man. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all. Let us cry out to her: Rejoice, fulfillment of the creator's divine plan.

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

Kontakion, Tone 4 The most pure temple of the Saviour, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasury of the glory of God, on this day is brought to the house of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the divine Spirit. To her the angels of God sing the hymn: She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Prokimenon, tone 3

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.

The epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews, number 320

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, No 54 [Luke 10: 48-52, 11: 27-28]

Instead of Truly it is right... we sing the first refrain and Irmos from the first Canon

Beholding the entry of the all pure one,
the angels were amazed,
seeing the Virgin enter the Holy of Holies.

Tone 4 Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God,
but let the lips of the faithful,
singing without ceasing the words of the Angel to the Mother of God,
cry out in great joy:
Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Communion verse

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

*On the day of the feast, fish, wine and oil are consumed, but not meat and animal products,
since it is the Christmas Fast.*

The feast is observed for five days, the Apodosia falling on 25 November.

November 22

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Mother of God Apostle Philemon and those with him

Vespers

*At Lord, I call to you... six verses,
beginning with these of the feast, tone 8
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O most glorious wonder, * the ineffable future * is now described beforehand, * understood today in visible images; * for she who shone the divine light upon the world * is led like a bride to the holy temple. * Let us praise her * as the resplendent temple, * holy and radiant, * of Christ our God, the giver of life.

Truly wise Joachim and Anna * have offered well * their truly acceptable firstfruits, * the Virgin Mary, the divine maiden, * to him who chose to give her to them as a divine fruit, * whereby the debt of grief was cancelled. * In gladness let us piously hymn her, * for she has become the bringer of joy * for all the world.

Come, let us now mystically hasten * and, adorned with lamps of faith, * let us begin now the procession of the Virgin; * for she gloriously enters the temple of God, * betrothed to Christ, the king of all. * We all hold beauteous festivity, * celebrating in a godly manner * this time of her entry.

*And 3 verses of the apostle, tone 2
to the Special Melody When from the tree*

As a branch of the vine of life, O glorious Philemon, you flowed with the wine of divine knowledge upon those in pain of soul, making glad hearts downcast by the darkness of deception and confined in the gloomy madness of idolatry; therefore, in gladness we celebrate your divinely radiant memory.

The city of Gaza honours you, having come to see the light of understanding through you, O blessed one; and the Colossians, possessing your divine body as a treasure, have healings and grace which ever flow therefrom. Celebrating your memory, O glorious Philemon, we are preserved from misfortunes by your supplications.

With faith let us bring praises to the wise hierarch Archippus and honourable Apphia, glorifying Philemon and Onesimus, the sacred proclaimers of God and honourable teachers, who by their discourse uprooted the falsehood of polytheism and planted the knowledge of the truth for all who honour them with piety.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the feast, tone 1*

Let the heavens rejoice greatly and let the clouds drop down gladness
at the exceedingly marvellous mighty acts of our God.
Behold, the gate which faces east,
who was born of a barren woman in accordance with God's promise,
is dedicated to God as his dwelling,
and is brought today into the Temple as an unblemished offering.
Let David rejoice, striking his harp, for he said:
The virgins that are with her are led to you, O king:
those near her shall be brought to the tabernacle of God,
into his sanctuary, to be reared in the abode of him
who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages,
for the salvation of our souls.

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

Having lit their candles today, * the company of virgins, * singing hymns, *
splendidly precede her * who alone is most immaculate.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

O prophet, receive * her who is truly immaculate: * the noetic mountain, * the
divine table, * the bridge and the jar.

Verse They are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.

Opening the portals of the sanctuary, * O Prophet Zachariah, * truly receive
therein * the Mother of God, * the only ever-virgin one.

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

Today the unblemished Virgin is brought to the Temple, to the habitation of God,
the king of all, the nourisher of our whole life. Today the most pure and holy one is led to
the Holy of Holies as a three year old victim of sacrifice. Let us cry out to her with the
angel: Rejoice, truly most blessed among women.

Troparion of the apostles, tone 3

O holy apostles, entreat the merciful God, that he grant our souls remission of
transgressions.

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

Troparion of the feast, tone 4

Today is the prelude of God's good will and the proclamation of the salvation of man. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all. Let us cry out to her: Rejoice, O fulfillment of the creator's divine plan.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the feast, twice;
Glory be to the Father... *that of the apostles;* Both now and for ever... *that of the feast, once.*

After the first reading of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody When the stone had been sealed...

Praise, O virgins; celebrate, you mothers; and glorify, you people:
you priests, bless the most pure Mother of God.
For she, though appearing as a young child,
is brought to the Temple as the most holy temple of God.
Celebrating a spiritual feast,
we hymn her, the intercessor for mankind.

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

After the first reading of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Quickly anticipate...

O David, go before us into the Temple of God, and, rejoicing, receive our queen,
and cry out to her: Enter, O Lady, enter into the Temple of the King. Her glory is
understood allegorically, for from her Christ the light desires to pour himself out upon all.

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

We sing the first Canon of the feast, and that of the saints.

Ode 1

The first Canon of the feast, tone 4,
composed by George, upon the acrostic O Lady, grant me the grace of discourse.

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 entry.

Known as a treasury of wisdom and an ever flowing fount of grace, O most pure
one, we pray you to rain upon us drops of knowledge, that we may ever praise you.

O most pure one, as a temple and palace more exulted than the heavens, you were set apart in the Temple of God to be prepared as a divine dwelling place for his coming.

Shining with the light of grace, the Mother of God illumines those who assemble to adorn with songs her most splendid festival: come, let us join them and hasten to her.

Having opened the gates of the Temple of God, she who is the glorious gate surpassing human thought urges us to enter with her and to delight in her divine marvels.

*Canon of the Apostles, tone 2,
composed by Joseph
upon the acrostic I glorify you, O Philemon the lover of Christ*

Irmos Come, O 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.

Joining chorus joyously in the mansions of heaven, O doer of sacred things, grant grace to me who hymns your holy memory in godly manner, for you have been glorified.

Giving drink to men's hearts with the streams of your words, O blessed and truly wondrous Apostle Philemon, you prepared them to attain divine understanding with faith.

Having delivered men's souls from the gloom of crazy idolatry, O wise apostle, you illumined them with the splendour of the Spirit, fulfilling the sacred work of the Gospel.

Theotokion O pure one, of old the divine assembly of the prophets truly descried you from afar in multifarious images, as the only one who gave birth to the Master.

Ode 3

The Canon of the feast

Irmos O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir on this day of your precious entry, and grant them crowns of glory.

Today the Temple is adorned as it receives the living bridal chamber of God, pure and without spot, she who shines more brightly than all creation.

Leading the chorus, David leaps for joy and rejoices with us as he describes you as a queen adorned, O most pure one who stands in the Temple before our king and God.

From Eve of old the transgression came upon mankind, and now from her descendant, the Mother of God, has blossomed our restoration and incorruption, she who is led today into the house of God.

The hosts of angles and the multitudes of mankind dance today before you, O most pure lady, and with lamps they proclaim your greatness in the house of God.

Canon of the Apostles

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.

Preaching the sufferings and resurrection of Christ, O truly glorious Philemon, you raised men up from the tomb of unbelief and mortality.

With sacred hymnody let us praise the godly Onesimus and Philemon, Apphia and Archippus, as stars who illumine the ends of the earth.

Having purified the eyes of your mind, you received divine vision and raised erring hearts up to knowledge, O sacred ones.

Theotokion As one pure and incorrupt, O Virgin, you received in your womb God the Word who has cleansed our nature, defiled by our fall into sin.

*Kontakion of the Apostles, tone 2,
to the special Melody Seeking the highest...*

Let us praise the Apostles of Christ, the glorious Philemon, the sacred Archcippus, Onesimus, Mark and Apollos, and with them the most wise Apphia, for they are most radiant stars illumining the ends of the earth; and let us cry out: Pray unceasingly for us all.

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

As a sacred ploughman you tilled stony hearts with the plough of the Word, preparing them for divine knowledge;

and, casting down the temples of the idols, O blessed one, you built churches to the glory of your creator.

Illumined in a sacred manner we glorify your holy memory, O Philemon,
and harmoniously sing to you: Entreat Christ our God,
that he grant remission of sins to those who honour your holy memory with love.

Glory be to the Father... Both now...

*Sessional Hymn of the feast, in the same tone
to the special melody That which was mystically commanded...*

Let David the psalmist rejoice, let Joachim and Anna be glad,
for a holy child has come forth from them as a holy fruit,
Mary the lamp that bears the divine light, who rejoices to enter the Temple.
The son of Barachias, seeing her, gave his blessing and proclaimed:
Rejoice, O wonder of the universe.

Ode 4

The Canon of the feast

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.

The Temple of God receives today the portal through which none may pass, and thereby the worship required by the shadow of the Law is ended, for it proclaims: Truth truly appears to those who are upon the earth.

The overshadowed mountain which Habbakuk saw of old prefigured the one who comes to dwell in the inaccessible chambers of the Temple, flourishing in virtues, with which she covers the ends of the earth.

Let us with all the earth observe these marvellous, strange and wonderful events, how the Virgin receives food from the angel, in an image of the divine dispensation.

As a temple, palace and living heaven, O divine bride of the king, you are brought today to the Temple of the Law to be preserved there for him, O immaculate one.

Canon of the Apostles

Irmos I hymn you, O Lord, for I have heard your report and was afraid. You came to me, seeking me who was lost. Therefore I glorify your great providence toward me, O most merciful one.

With the Cross as mast and sail you traversed the cruel abyss of the temptations of life without foundering, O blessed one, directing many of those at sea to the harbour of salvation through grace divine.

The godly city of Colossus has produced radiant luminaries: the sacred Archippus, Philemon and Apphia, and the glorious Onesimus, who enlighten the ends of the world.

A divine river arose in your heart, O divinely eloquent apostle, stopping the streams and torrents of ungodliness; and through grace you have given drink to souls parched by the burning heat of ignorance, O glorious one.

Theotokion I hymn you, O truly most hymned one, who supernaturally gave birth to the all-hymned Word, and I pray: In your goodness, heal the infirmities of my lowly soul.

Ode 5

The Canon of the feast

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 glorious sanctity and holy offering, the most pure Virgin, is dedicated in the Temple of God today, and in ways which he alone understands, she is kept as a dwelling place for our God, the king of all.

Seeing the beauty of your soul, Zechariah cried out with faith: You are our deliverance and the joy of all; you are our restoration, through whom the uncontainable one shall appear to me containable.

Your wonders are past understanding, O undefiled Virgin. Strange is the manner of your birth; strange is the manner of your growing: strange and most wonderful and beyond the telling of mortal man are all things concerning you, O Bride of God.

O Bride of God, as a lamp stand with many lights you have shone forth today in the house of the Lord, giving us light through the precious gift of your wonders, O pure and far-famed Mother of God.

Canon of the Apostles

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.

Seeing those ailing with the wounds of evil deeds, O glorious Philemon, by your actions you healed beforehand those cruelly sick with the madness of idolatry.

As a sure guide, O Philemon, you indicated the paths of salvation to those grievously lost, and wondrously brought them to love Christ, the only way.

Today the honourable Church of Christ in Colossus sings the splendid festival of the godly Archippus, honouring also the divinely eloquent Philemon.

Theotokion O Lady, save us who are storm tossed by the cruel billows of temptations, the audacious assaults of barbarians and the attacks of cruel demons.

Ode 6

The Canon of the feast

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.

He who supports all things at his behest, in his mercy has heard the prayer of righteous Joachim and Anna. He has loosed their infirmity of barrenness and has given them her that is the cause of our joy.

Wishing to make his salvation known to the nations, the Lord has chosen from the children of men the unwedded one, as a sign of reconciliation and renewal.

As a house of grace in which are laid the treasures of the ineffable dispensation of God, O undefiled one, you now share the unfading delight of the Temple.

Having now received you, O Bride of God, as a royal diadem, the Temple shines with beauty and is exalted, seeing in you the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Canon of the Apostles

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

You are seen to be a heaven proclaiming to all the saving glory of him who glorified you and numbered you among his seventy apostles, O martyr most rich.

Having become a stranger to your native land, with your strange discourse you pursued those who had become estranged from God, O hierarch Philemon, and made of them inhabitants of Sion.

Shining with sacred virtues, and pleasing God splendidly, you hastened to heaven, where you dance with the angels, O Apphia.

Theotokion The Word was incarnate in your womb and in his compassion was known as a man, that he might deify mankind, O immaculate Maiden.

*Kontakion, tone 4,
to the special melody* Having been lifted up...

The most pure temple of the Saviour,
the precious bridal chamber and Virgin,
the sacred treasury of the glory of God,
on this day is brought to the house of the Lord,
bringing with her the grace of the divine Spirit.
To her the angels of God sing the hymn:
She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ikos I rejoice, seeing the grace of the secret mysteries of God revealed and clearly fulfilled in the Virgin; yet I do not know how to understand the strange and secret

manner of the revelation of how the pure one was chosen to be above all creation, visible and spiritual. Wishing to praise her, I am struck dumb in mind and speech; yet with daring I proclaim and magnify her, singing: She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ode 7

The Canon of the feast

Irmos The youths raised together in piety, scorning the impious decree, feared not the threat of fire; but standing in the midst of the flames they sang: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Behold, a glad springtime shines to the ends of the earth, which makes our souls, minds and thoughts bright with grace; let us mystically celebrate this glorious day of the Mother of God.

Let all of heaven and earth, the angelic ranks with the multitudes of men, attend the queen and mother, and proclaim: Our joy and deliverance is led into the Temple.

The scriptures have been fulfilled and the Law has passed away and become a shadow, and the rays of grace have shone forth at your entry into the Temple of God, O pure Virgin Mother, by which you are blessed.

Heaven and earth and the things below the earth are subject to your child as their creator and God, O most pure one, and every nation of mortals confesses that the Lord has appeared, the Saviour of our souls.

Canon of the Apostles

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.

Beautiful were your feet which meekly trod the path of the Gospel, O Philemon; announcing sacred peace to all who struggle, and impeding the assaults of demons.

The profound darkness in Gaza was dispelled by the light of your words, as you were a most sacred performer of holy deeds, O apostle. You excelled among them, shepherding them all and teaching them to sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

The city of Gaza shared in your first goodly labours, as you were their first bishop, a saving hierarch, O Philemon, and as a sacred herald you command them to sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Loving Christ who loved mortal man in his compassion, O Philemon, through love you transformed hate-filled enemies into loving friends who sang to God: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion O Virgin, you are the strength of the lowly, the radiant lamp, the divine table, the impassable gate, the throne and palace of God, the staff of Aaron and the golden jar bearing Christ, the Manna of life.

Ode 8

The first Canon

Irmos Hearken, O pure Virgin Mother of God, let Gabriel utter the ancient and true message from the Most High: Prepare to receive God, for through you the boundless one comes to dwell with mortal men. Therefore I sing with rejoicing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

As Anna led the all pure temple into the house of God, she said with faith to the priest: Take this child given to me by God, and lead her into the Temple of your creator, and sing to him with joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Then, when Zechariah saw them in the Spirit, he said to Anna: You are leading here the true Mother of Life, whom the prophets of old foretold to be the Mother of God. How then can the Temple contain her? Marvelling, I cry out: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Anna answered: I am the handmaid of God, and I call on him with faith and prayer to accept the fruit of my travail, for I promised that after childbirth I would present my child to him who gave her to me. Therefore, dancing with joy, I sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

This is truly in accordance with the Law, said the priest to her, and it is a strange thing to see her led into the house of God, for she most gloriously surpasses the holy ones in grace. Therefore I sing, rejoicing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Anna said to him: Hearing your words, I am filled with new strength, for you understand these things by the Spirit of God, and have clearly announced what shall come to pass in the Virgin. Take then the undefiled one into the Temple of your creator, and sing to him in joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

A lamp that gives light has been kindled for us, said the priest, and has made mighty joy shine in the Temple. Let the souls of the prophets be glad with me as they see strange wonders in the house of God, and let them now sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Canon of the Apostles

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.

Bearing the Word in your heart like a splendidly bright lamp, O glorious one, you raised up to the day of the knowledge of God those who before were like lamps extinguished and laid in the utter darkness of ignorance.

Your sacred departure to God was made magnificent by the sacred presence of the apostles and the bodiless intelligences whose life you lived on earth, as a celebrant of the sacred mysteries, O divinely eloquent Philemon.

Exuding the sweetly fragrant myrrh of sacred miracles, O blessed and wise Philemon, you perfumed the minds and thoughts of the pious, dispelling the fetid passions of those who exalt Christ above all.

Like radiant stars ever shining in the firmament of the Church, the wondrous Archippus, Apphia, Philemon and Onesimus illumine our souls.

Theotokion Your womb is truly seen as a new garden of paradise, O pure Mother of God, producing the Tree of Life, and it has restored to paradise those who had died through the fruit of the tree, giving them life.

Ode 9

The Canon of the feast

Irmos Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God, but let the lips of the faithful, singing without ceasing the words of the Angel to the Mother of God, cry out in great joy: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

O pure Mother of God, with a clean soul shining with beauty, full of grace from heaven, shine with eternal light upon those who sing with joy: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Your wonder surpasses the power of words, O pure Mother of God, for in you I perceive a body impervious to the taint of sin. Therefore I thankfully sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

The Law prefigured you most gloriously, O pure one, as the tabernacle, the divine jar, the awesome ark, the veil, the staff, the inviolable temple and portal of God. All these things teach us to sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

David sang of you in psalmody, prophetically calling you the daughter of the king. Seeing you standing at the right hand of God elaborately adorned in the beauty of the virtues, in prophecy he sang: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Foreseeing how you were to receive God, Solomon spoke of you in hidden sayings, proclaiming you to be the bower of the king, the living and sealed fountain from where calm waters flow for us who sing with faith: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

O Mother of God, give my soul the tranquillity of the gift of your grace, for you are a fountain of life for those who honour you as is due: may you defend, protect and preserve us, that we may sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Canon of the Apostles

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.

Deified by divine communion, shining with ineffable light and ever filled with spiritual joy, O Philemon, fittingly you dwell in heaven with the sacred choir of apostles.

Wondrous is your character, comely and beautiful your life, and glorious was your repose, O blessed apostle; for on this radiant day, forsaking that of the earth, you ascended in gladness to the heavenly spheres.

Spiritually holding festive joy in your memory today, the whole Church of Christ is glad, for you preserve it unshaken by your pleasing supplications to God the Saviour, O sacred Philemon.

The shrine of your relics pours drops of healing upon those who approach it in sanctity, O blessed Apostle Philemon: it banishes illnesses and hallows the souls of all who celebrate your divine memory.

Theotokion Past understanding is your wonder, in bearing him who holds all things, in feeding the nurturer, and in no way experiencing the usual manner of giving birth: this strikes with awe both angels and men, who know you to be the virgin Mother of God.

Exapostilarion, to the special Melody Hearken, you women...

Let us praise with faith Mary the child of God, * whom the prophets long ago proclaimed * as the jar of manna, the rod of Aaron, * the tablet of the Law and the unquarried mountain; * she who is led today into the Holy of Holies * to be raised for the Lord.

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

Aposticha, tone 6
to the Special Melody On the third day...

Join chorus together, O you virgins. * Leap up, you maidens. * And, bearing your candles, * hymn with splendour * the only pure and most holy Mother of God. * Break into song, you heavens.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

By the hand of the angel, O Virgin, * your Son, the creator of all, * nourished you with food, O pure Lady, * revealing to the world your magnificence * as something far greater * than the Holy of Holies.

Verse Virgins are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.

O Virgin Bride of God, * more holy than the saints, * who gave birth to the Master of all, * who is one of the Trinity, * beseech him to deliver from misfortunes * all who hymn you.

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

Today the Mother of God, the temple which contained God,
is brought into the Temple of the Lord, where Zachariah receives her;
today the Holy of Holies rejoices,
and the choir of the angels mystically celebrates.
And we, celebrating with them, cry out with Gabriel:
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you,
he who has great mercy.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 6 verses from Ode 1 of the canon of the feast.

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 Philemon, from after 302
[Philemon 1-24]*

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 50 [Luke 10: 1-15]

Communion

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

November 23

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Mother of God, The right-believing great prince Alexander Nevsky²

For the services to other saints falling on this day, see SJKP texts

Little Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 4 verses, tone 1,
to the Special Melody O most praised martyrs...*

Issuing from a pious root * as an offshoot of holy anointing, * you offered yourself * as the fruit of holiness and righteousness, * most peacefully perfuming * those who lovingly honour you with all their souls. * With the angels, O blessed one, * entreat Christ on their behalf, * that he grant them peace and great mercy. *twice*

Emulating the zeal of Moses and Paul, * you elected to suffer * for the people of God; * therefore, going out to the ungodly barbarians, * you returned unharmed, * bearing peace for your homeland. * Abiding now with the saints, * ask of the Lord * a peaceful life for your posterity.

Splendidly adorned * with piety and faith, * as a devout ruler, * most excellent and eminent, * you were a champion of the most pure Trinity; * and, illumined thereby, * you have shone upon the world * the light of miracles, * as an advocate for our souls.

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

Having loved Christ from childhood, you became a divinely named sovereign, splendidly adorned with holiness and righteousness. By almsgiving and purity you became the spacious abode of the Holy Spirit: pray to him unceasingly, that your homeland be kept safe from the heathen, and that the children of Russia be saved.

Both now and for ever... *of the feast, tone 8*

David spoke in prophecy
of your entry and consecration in the temple, O immaculate one.
The ends of the earth keep this feast today,
and glorify you, O highly exulted one.
Zechariah rejoices as he receives you

² This service is substantially the same as that for August 30, the day of the transfer of the saint's relics. This November feast differs in that it contains post-festal hymnody.

on this day of your entry, O mother of the Word of life,
who was virgin before childbirth and remained incorrupt after.
The Holy of Holies is filled with exultation
as it welcomes you, the fountain of life,
and we also lift our voices to you in song:
Entreat your son and our God for us,
that he grant us great mercy.

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

By the progress of grace * Alexander became * the abode of the Holy Spirit: * and
so, as we come together now, * let us sing hymns to him.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Rejoice, pride of the kings of Russia, * the preserver of warriors, * the vanquishing
of barbarians, * helper of orphans and widows, * the confirmation of the Russian land.

Verse Blessed is he who fears the Lord, delights in his commandments.

Accept now this hymnody * of your people, O blessed one, * and ask of Christ the
remission of sins * of those who pray to you, * that we may ever call you blessed.

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

Blessed are you, O divinely wise Great Prince Alexander, who sought diligently
and inherited blessedness, and for the sake of which you rejected this life: who provided
for the poor, as a feeder of orphans and liberator of those held captive. Therefore, you
have entered into the joy of your Lord which grows not old. Standing before him with the
angels, pray that an abundance of compassion and the remission of sins be granted to
those who hymn you with faith.

Both now and for ever... *tone 4, of the feast*

Come, all you faithful,
let us praise her who is truly immaculate,
who was proclaimed in prophecy,
and is now brought into the Temple:
the Mother chosen before time began,
who is now revealed as the Mother of God;
through whose supplications O Lord,
grant us your peace and great mercy.

Troparion of St Alexander Nevsky, tone 4

As a Russian Joseph not reigning in Egypt but in heaven,

O Alexander the right-believing prince,
recognize your brothers and accept their entreaties.
Increase the harvest of your people through the fertility of your land
and protect the cities of your dominion by your supplications;
and with our Orthodox hierarchs
battle against all heresies.

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

Today is the prelude of God's good will
and the proclamation of the salvation of man.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all.
Let us cry out to her: Rejoice,
fulfillment of the creator's divine plan.

Great Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, we sing Blessed is the man... the first antiphon.

At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 6

You lived according to your name, O right-believing Prince Alexander; for having helped your nation with your courage and good government on earth, you now help your people by your supplications in heaven: we honour you, and through you our God who is glorified in his saints. *twice*

As a bold steward and a valiant warrior, governing rightly on your throne with your scepter, and defending your people in battle with your sword, you have been doubly honoured by the ruler on high, the Lord of Sabaoth. *twice*

Greater love has no man than he who lays down his life for his friends. Thus you loved your people, bravely setting out to defend them against the forces of the adversary, as God protected your head on the day of battle. *twice*

Emulating Moses, David and the other leaders of the people of God, you bravely waged war for your people; therefore, with them you celebrate your triumph in heaven as a victor, praying to the Lord for those who do battle. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... tone 6

Let the lands of Estonia and Russia be glad, and you, Baltic Sea, clap your hands: River Neva, spread forth your streams, for your prince and master, who liberated you from the Swedish yoke celebrates his triumph in the City of God, where its river makes it glad.

Both now and for ever... tone 8, of the feast

After your nativity, O Lady and Bride of God,
you went to the Temple of the Lord
to be raised in the holy place as a consecrated maiden,
and there Gabriel was sent to you,
to bring you food, O immaculate one.
All the powers of heaven marvelled,
seeing the Holy Spirit abiding in you.
O Mother of God without stain or blemish,
who is glorified in heaven and on earth,
save your people.

Entrance. Prokimenon of the day. Three readings

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. For the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to pay back his anger in fury, and his rebuke in flames of fire. For by fire will the Lord execute judgment, and by his sword, on all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many. (66:10-16)

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (61:10-62:5)

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house. Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to

bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you. Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in my wrath I struck you down, but in my favor I have had mercy on you. Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut, so that nations shall bring you their wealth, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will glorify where my feet rest. The descendants of those who oppressed you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 60:1-14)

Entreaty, tone 4

Let the new Israel rejoice her creator, and let the children of Russia rejoice in their prince, the right-believing Alexander Nevsky; for the king of kings has crowned him with a royal diadem.

Even though you were a ruler, O right-believing Prince Alexander, yet we call you the servant of God, for exercising dominion over us, you confessed him as your own Lord. You served him, and from him you heard the words: O blessed servant, good and faithful, enter into the joy of your Lord.

Deluded were the Pharisees, who said: Have any of the rulers believed in him? But the right-believing Prince Alexander Nevsky believed in Jesus crucified, and has pleased him with piety, and received eternal salvation.

Truly you were a faithful and wise steward, O Alexander, whom the Lord set over his servants, the Russian people. Blessed are you, for when the Lord came to you at the hour of your death, he found you doing good works, and he has set you over his realm in heaven.

Glory be to the Father... tone 1

Be glad today, O peoples of Russia; sing together, you princes and authorities; for the right-believing Prince Alexander Nevsky, who shared both your flesh and your authority, joins to sing with the angels in heaven: he summons his kinfolk, his fellow rulers and those governed by them to a spiritual festival, upon which he prays to the Lord for all.

*Both now and for ever... tone 5, of the feast,
composed by Leo the Master*

A day of joy and a feast of all reverence has dawned;
for today she who remained a virgin as she was before giving birth,
is led into the Temple of the Lord,
where Zechariah the elder and father of the Forerunner,

rejoiced and cried out:
 The holy intercessor for the sorrowful comes to the holy Temple,
 to be hallowed in the abode of the king of all.
 Let Joachim the forefather be glad and let Anna rejoice greatly,
 for they offer to God the three-year old unblemished one in sacrifice.
 Rejoice with them, you mothers and dance for joy, you virgins;
 sing together, you that are barren,
 for the preordained queen of all
 has opened the kingdom of heaven to us:
 rejoice and be glad, you people.

Aposticha, tone 6

Those who confess the name of Jesus before men, Jesus confesses before his Father in heaven; and we on earth hymn you, O right-believing Alexander, as one who prays for our souls.

Verse Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

With your heart you believed in righteousness, and with your mouth you made saving confession before tyrants; therefore, as a true confessor and heir, pray for the salvation of our souls.

Verse Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.

As an emulator of the martyrs, you did not fear to suffer, for as a valiant warrior of Jesus Christ you were a martyr by choice: therefore, with the martyrs you have been crowned by Jesus, the judge of the contest.

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

Come, all you ranks of Russia, praise the good leader of all your ranks. Rulers, praise the wise steward; soldiers, praise the most brave warrior; lovers of Orthodoxy, praise the steadfast confessor, the martyr by choice. Subject yourselves to your guide, and beholding his end, emulate his faith.

Both now and for ever... *tone 6, of the feast*
composed by Sergius of Jerusalem

We the assembled array of the faithful,
 triumph in spirit and reverently praise the child of God,
 the Virgin and Mother of God,
 as she is offered in the Temple of the Lord,
 chosen from all generations to be the dwelling place
 of Christ, the Master and God of all.
 Bearing candles, O virgins, lead in homage
 and honour the entry of the ever-virgin one.

Set aside all sorrow, O mothers,
and follow them in gladness, and sing the praises of her
who became the Mother of God
and mediator of joy for all the world.
With the angel, let us all joyfully sing: Rejoice! to her,
who ever intercedes for our souls.

Troparion of St Alexander Nevsky, tone 4

As a Russian Joseph not reigning in Egypt but in heaven,
O Alexander the right-believing prince,
recognize your brothers and accept their entreaties.
Increase the harvest of your people through the fertility of your land
and protect the cities of your dominion by your supplications;
and with our Orthodox hierarchs
battle against all heresies. *twice*

And at the Vigil, the Troparion of the feast, tone 4

Today is the prelude of God's good will
and the proclamation of the salvation of man.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all.
Let us cry out to her: Rejoice,
fulfillment of the creator's divine plan.. *once*.

If it is not a Vigil, the troparion of the saint once,
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *and that of the feast.*

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the saint, twice;
Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever...
Theotokion The mystery hidden from before the ages...

After the first reading of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody You have appeared today...

Let the new Israel rejoice her creator, and let the children of Russia rejoice in their
prince, the right-believing Alexander Nevsky; for the king of kings has crowned him with
a royal diadem. *twice*

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 1, of the feast*

Being yourself the Holy of Holies, O Mother of God, you were rightly brought to
live in the holy place, as the living ark of the Lord and a truly divine habitation of the
Holy Spirit. For your Son, the only-begotten of the Father, and consubstantial with the
Holy Spirit, made his dwelling within you without the aid of man, deifying all mankind.

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

Let us all cry out to the favourite of Christ, praying earnestly: End the warfare of our passions, and dispel the illusions of the demons, O blessed one; and entreat Christ our God, that he grant us great mercy. *twice*

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

A day of joyous gladness is fulfilled for all, a day named in honour of the Mother of God, to whom we cry: You are the heavenly tabernacle.

Polyeleos, and this magnification

We magnify you, O right-believing Prince Alexander, and we honour your holy memory; for you entreat Christ our God for us.

Verse Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to the honour of his name, and give him glory as his praise.

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

O blessed one, the Holy Spirit appointed you to tend your homeland on the pastures of salvation, and Christ has made you to be a luminary. Therefore, dance and rejoice with boldness, receiving a double wreath from the bestower of crowns. *twice*

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

Before your conception, O pure one,
you were consecrated to God:
and now, after your birth you are offered
as a gift to him in fulfillment of your parents' promise.
You are presented in the sacred Temple
accompanied by burning lamps of purity;
you appear in the sanctuary as a brightly burning lamp,
the receiver of the divine light that no man may approach.
Your entry is truly magnificent, O Bride of God and ever Virgin.

Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4

Prokimenon, tone 4

Gird your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior; in glory and majesty tread down your foes, and triumph.

Verse God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Let every breath praise the Lord... *and the rest, with the Gospel of John, number 36*

After the Psalm Have mercy... this verse, tone 6

Come, all you people, let us offer praise to the blessed one, singing: Rejoice, radiant pillar illumining us with the splendour of miracles; rejoice, dew-laden cloud dousing the flames of the passions and bedewing the minds of the faithful, O godly Alexander.

*We sing the first Canon of the feast, tone 4
and the Canon of the saint³*

Ode 1

*The first Canon, of the Mother of God, tone 4,
composed by George, upon the acrostic O Lady, grant me the grace of discourse.*

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 entry.

Known as a treasury of wisdom and an ever flowing fount of grace, O most pure one, we pray you to rain upon us drops of knowledge, that we may ever praise you.

O most pure one, as a temple and palace more exulted than the heavens, you were set apart in the Temple of God to be prepared as a divine dwelling place for his coming.

Shining with the light of grace, the Mother of God illumines those who assemble to adorn with songs her most splendid festival: come, let us join them and hasten to her.

Having opened the gates of the Temple of God, she who is the glorious gate surpassing human thought urges us to enter with her and to delight in her divine marvels.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky, tone 8⁴

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.

Christ our God, grant me intelligence and understanding that I may hymn the glorious wonderworker with fitting praises, and with rejoicing hymn his memory.

Radiant luminary of the Russian land, shining with miracles like another sun: be mindful of all who keep your memory, O blessed Alexander.

³ We provide only one of the Canons, and it is not actually either of those specified for November 23.

⁴ Ascribed to Michael of the Vladimir Monastery, 1547.

Divinely wise Alexander, even though the divinely illumined land of Russia produced you in latter days, yet you were given the honour of the ancients, fittingly receiving the gift of miracles.

Theotokion Beyond the laws of nature, you gave birth to God, the giver of the Law, incarnate of you, O Virgin. Beseech him, as he is good, that he overlook our iniquities.

Ode 3

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain,
give strength to those who hymn you
and form a spiritual choir on this day of your honoured entry,
and grant them crowns of glory.

Today the Temple is adorned as it receives the living bridal chamber of God, pure and without spot, she who shines more brightly than all creation.

Leading the chorus, David leaps for joy and rejoices with us as he describes you as a queen adorned, O most pure one who stands in the Temple before our king and God.

From Eve of old the transgression came upon mankind, and now from her descendant, the Mother of God, has blossomed our restoration and incorruption, she who is led today into the house of God.

The hosts of angles and the multitudes of mankind dance today before you, O most pure lady, and with lamps they proclaim your greatness in the house of God.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

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 were a bright beacon, blessed Alexander, ever dispelling the deep darkness of infirmities with the brilliant rays of your miracles, O wise one.

Rejoicing, you stand before the throne of grace today with all the angels, spreading a wealth of healing upon the world: save us all by your supplications, O blessed one.

Coming together, let us fittingly praise the pious and crowned Alexander, who is the generous bestower of miracles, who entreats the Lord for us.

Theotokion Truly the Lord reigns in the kingdom which will never fall. Through you, the Mother of God, he clothed himself in holy flesh as in beauteous splendour, as said the psalmist; with which he suffered death and destroyed its kingdom.

Sessional Hymn, tone 8

You appear as a star of great brilliance because of your splendid life, becoming a vessel of the Holy Spirit. After many years in the grave, your holy relics were found to be incorrupt, and from them you stream rivers of miraculous healings for those who cry out with faith: Rejoice, right-believing Great Prince Alexander. *twice*

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

With gladness, Mary the Mother of God
is gloriously brought into the house of God,
as an unblemished lamb and undefiled bridal chamber,
whom the angels of God escort with faith.
All the faithful unceasingly bless and sing to her
with loud voices in thanksgiving:
You are our glory and salvation, O immaculate one.

Ode 4

The first Canon of the feast

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.

The Temple of God receives today the portal through which none may pass, and thereby the worship required by the shadow of the Law is ended, for it proclaims: Truth truly appears to those upon the earth.

The overshadowed mountain which Habbakuk saw of old prefigured the one who comes to dwell in the inaccessible chambers of the Temple, flourishing in virtues, with which she covers the ends of the earth.

Let us with all the earth observe these marvellous, strange and wonderful events, how the Virgin receives food from the angel, in an image of the divine dispensation.

As a temple, palace and living heaven, O divine bride of the king, you are brought today to the Temple of the Law to be preserved there for him.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

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

With the beams of the grace of the threefold sun, illumine with splendour those who celebrate your feast, O glorious Alexander, and deliver us from the demonic darkness of the passions.

Kings and princes, priests and nobles, elders and youths, and people of every age: leap up with splendour, and magnify the memory of the blessed one in hymns.

As the beloved son of the light, you have now passed over to divine light, and with joy now join chorus with the choirs of angels.

Theotokion I have you as my helper, and am not put to shame, O most pure Mother of God: I have you as my intercessor, and I fear not my enemies.

Ode 5

The first Canon of the feast

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 glorious sanctity and holy offering, the most pure Virgin, is dedicated in the Temple of God today, and in ways which he alone understands, she is kept as a dwelling place for our God, the king of all.

Seeing the beauty of your soul, Zechariah cried out with faith: You are our deliverance and the joy of all; you are our restoration, through whom the uncontainable one shall appear to me containable.

Your wonders are past understanding, O Virgin: strange is the manner of your birth; strange is the manner of your growing: strange and most wonderful and beyond the telling of mortal man are all things concerning you.

O Bride of God, as a lamp stand with many lights you have shone forth today in the house of the Lord, giving us light through the precious gift of your wonders.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

Irmos Waking at dawn we call to you to save us, O Lord; for you are our God and we know no other than you.

You became a radiant and constant star, the liberator of captives, the enricher of the poor, the physician of the sick, the ally of kings and the confirmation of Russia.

Glorious Alexander became a wonderworker in Russia, shining as a radiant beacon on the world, illumining all who languish in the darkness of the passions.

Your truly wondrous and glorious memory has shone in the land of Russia, O blessed one, and brings gladness to the assemblies of the faithful.

The gates of Eden were opened for you, O blessed one, where ineffable and thrice-radiant light shines in the unshakable kingdom of heaven, where, rejoicing, you have received the reward of the righteous.

Theotokion You delivered mankind from mortality and corruption, for you gave birth without seed to God who is by nature the bestower of life, for the benefit of those who praise you with faith.

Ode 6

The first Canon of the feast

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.

He who supports all things at his behest, has mercifully heard the prayer of righteous Joachim and Anna. He has loosed their infirmity of barrenness, giving them her that is the cause of our joy.

Wishing to make his salvation known to the nations, the Lord has chosen from the children of men the unwedded one, as a sign of reconciliation and renewal.

As a house of grace in which are laid the treasures of the ineffable dispensation of God, O undefiled one, you now share the unfading delight of the Temple.

Having now received you, O Bride of God, as a royal diadem, the Temple shines with beauty and is exalted, seeing in you the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

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

You budded forth as a branch from an honoured root and lived piously on earth, O glorious one; and you were a pure habitation of the Spirit, sanctifying those who have recourse to you with faith.

Now the holy land of Russia is filled with gladness on the appointed day of the feast of the glorious and blessed wonderworker Alexander, who ever keeps his homeland safe.

With hymns let us bless Alexander, glorifying him as the helper of orphans and widows, our invincible ally amid misfortune; for he delivers from tribulation and sorrow those who celebrate his memory with gladness.

Theotokion As the most holy temple, O Mother of God, you gave birth to the inexhaustible fountain, O immaculate Lady.

Kontakion of St Alexander Nevsky, tone 4

As your kinsmen Boris and Gleb appeared to you,
bringing you help from heaven, O bless'd Alexander,
when you fought against Velgar the Swede and his warriors,
so now come to the aid of your people
and contend against those who wage war upon us.

Ikos As an eagle gathers its young under its wings, so did Alexander gather his people, scattered of old by the assaults of the enemy; and he now assembles us for a spiritual festival. Come then, let us rejoice in the Lord, and glorify our glorious kinsman and master; and let us sing: Rejoice, glory of Russia, might of its sceptre, bravery of its warriors, strength of its weaponry: be mindful of your flock which the Lord appointed you to oversee, and contend against those who wage war upon us.

Ode 7

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos The youths raised together in piety,
scorning the impious decree, feared not the threat of fire;
but standing in the midst of the flames they sang:
Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Behold, a glad springtime shines to the ends of the earth, which makes our souls, minds and thoughts bright with grace; let us mystically celebrate this glorious day of the Mother of God.

Let all of heaven and earth, the angelic ranks with the multitudes of men, attend the queen and mother, and proclaim: Our joy and deliverance is led into the Temple.

The scriptures are fulfilled and the Law has passed away and become a shadow, and rays of grace shine forth at your entry into the Temple of God, O pure Virgin Mother, by which you are blessed.

Heaven and earth and the things below the earth are subject to your child as their creator and God, O most pure one, and every nation of mortals confesses that the Lord has appeared, the Saviour of our souls.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

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.

Today the Church of Christ, celebrating the festival of Alexander, truly pours forth grace upon those who have gathered, who pray earnestly and sing to him with love.

In all the lands of Russia the word has gone forth that a glorious wonderworker has appeared, pouring an abundance of healings upon all who hymn him fervently.

You blossom like a flower in your miracles and bestow healing upon those who have recourse to your protection, O wise and wondrous one.

Theotokion God, incarnate of your virginal womb, has appeared for our salvation: knowing you to be his Mother, O Mother of God, we cry out to him in the Orthodox manner: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos Hearken, O pure Virgin Mother of God,
let Gabriel utter the ancient and true message from the Most High:
Prepare to receive God,
for through you the boundless one comes to dwell with mortal men.
Therefore I sing with rejoicing:
Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

As Anna led the all pure temple into the house of God, she said with faith to the priest: Take this child given to me by God, and lead her into the Temple of your creator, and sing to him with joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Then, when Zechariah saw them in the Spirit, he said to Anna: You are leading here the true Mother of Life, whom the prophets of old foretold to be the Mother of God. How then can the Temple contain her? Marvelling, I cry out: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Anna answered: I am the handmaid of God, and I call on him with faith and prayer to accept the fruit of my travail, for I promised that after childbirth I would present my child to him who gave her to me. Therefore, dancing with joy, I sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

This is truly in accordance with the Law, said the priest to her, and it is a strange thing to see her led into the house of God, for she most gloriously surpasses the holy ones in grace. Therefore I sing, rejoicing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

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.

For the lands of Russia God made you glorious in miracles, O Alexander, and adorned you with heavenly gifts: beseech him to have mercy on us all.

Like the dawn, the radiant day of your festival has appeared, glorious Alexander, enlightening the hearts of all who praise you with faith.

The day of festivity, the feast of gladness has dawned: let us hasten, O faithful, purifying our souls and bodies; for godly Alexander summons us.

Theotokion Your birthgiving was prefigured in images of old, O Virgin Mother, for as the furnace did not consume the youths, so did the divine fire leave your womb unburnt.

Ode 9

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God,
but let the lips of the faithful,
singing without ceasing the words of the Angel to the Mother of God,
cry out in great joy:
Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

O pure Mother of God, with a clean soul shining with beauty, full of grace from heaven, shine with eternal light upon those who sing with joy: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Your wonder surpasses the power of words, O pure Mother of God, for in you I perceive a body impervious to the taint of sin. Therefore I thankfully sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

The Law prefigured you most gloriously, O pure one, as the tabernacle, the divine jar, the awesome ark, the veil, the staff, the inviolable temple and portal of God. All these things teach us to sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

David sang of you in psalmody, prophetically calling you the daughter of the king. Seeing you standing at the right hand of God elaborately adorned in the beauty of the virtues, in prophecy he sang: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Canon of St Alexander Nevsky

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.

With splendour we celebrate today your holy repose: fill with joy and gladness those who praise, O Alexander of great renown.

You are the great shield and might of Russia, O Alexander, and the boast of Orthodox Christians; and we entreat you: preserve your homeland from Godless nations.

Shining with rays of never-fading light upon those in darkness, O glorious one, guide us who hymn you to the enlightenment of gladness.

How can we hymn you fittingly, blessed Alexander? For no tongue can describe your various healings and the many gifts and miracles you bestow upon your posterity.

Theotokion Like the dawn you shone forth Christ the Sun of Righteousness upon the benighted and lost, O Virgin who carried him in your arms.

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

Your fame spread even to the lands of the Swedes, O Alexander, and the adversary was frightened even by the mention of your manly name. And now, O blessed one, may you invisibly terrify our enemies, who array themselves against your Christ-loving army.

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

Let us praise with faith Mary the child of God, * whom the prophets long ago proclaimed * as the jar of manna, the rod of Aaron, * the tablet of the Law and the unquarried mountain; * she who is led today into the Holy of Holies * to be raised for the Lord.

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

O all-glorious wonder; he who had dominion on earth departed the world; the ruler of Russia laid aside his sceptre, and shed his robe of royal purple for a burial shroud; the crowned princely head removed its princely diadem; he left on earth his transitory kingdom for an eternal one in heaven, where he is crowned with a royal diadem. *twice*

How numerous the enemies you vanquished, O valiant warrior of Christ: those visible with the sword and piety, and those invisible with prayer; the flesh by abstinence, the world by renunciation of it; and thus you ascended to heaven as a glorious victor.

You taught us by your wise deeds: no one can take anything from this world into which we have brought nothing. Having forsaken transitory things, you desired the things of heaven which you have inherited, and which we pray may not be denied us.

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

You fought the good fight, won the race and kept the faith, O truly faithful Prince Alexander; therefore, a crown of righteousness was kept for you, wherewith the true bestower of rewards crowned you: entreat him, that the children of Russia, the flock entrusted to your care, be saved.

Both now and for ever... *tone 2, of the feast*
composed by Leo the Master

Today the unblemished Virgin is brought to the Temple,
to the habitation of God, the king of all,
the nourisher of our whole life.
Today the most pure and holy one
is led to the Holy of Holies as a three year old victim of sacrifice.
Let us cry out to her with the angel:
Rejoice, truly most blessed among women.

Great Doxology and the rest

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the Canon of the saint.

Prokimenon, tone 7

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy ones.

Verse How shall I repay the Lord for all his benefits to me?

Epistle to the Galatians, number 213

Alleluia, tone 6

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord; and greatly delights in his commandments.
His children shall be mighty in the land.

Gospel of Matthew, number 43

Instead of Truly it is right... we sing the first refrain and Irmos from the first Canon

Beholding the entry of the all pure one... Let no profane hand...

Communion verses

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

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

November 24

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Mother of God, Great martyr Catherine of Alexandria, great martyr Mercurius of Caesaria

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 6 verses beginning with these of the great martyr Catherine, tone 1,
to the Special Melody Joy of the ranks of heaven...*

Today the city of Alexandria most wisely adorns itself,
having your vesture, O martyr, within your divine church.
We also piously celebrate your honoured memory, O Catherine:
pray for those who honour you.

Today let us celebrate the memory of Catherine,
for by word and by deed she truly deposed with might
the power of the enemy and the opposition of the rhetors.
By her prayers deliver us, O God, from the godless foe.

Rejoice, glorious and honoured martyr Catherine,
for the mountain of Sinai, where Moses beheld the bush
which burned, yet was not consumed,
now keeps your God-pleasing body which Christ transferred there,
until the time of his second coming.

*And three verses to the great martyr Mercurius, tone 4,
to the Special Melody As valiant among the martyrs...*

Passion-bearer Mercurius, having defeated the adversary with the help of the Spirit, as an invincible warrior you cut down hoards of noetic Moors with the sword of faith, and ending your struggle under the law, you received a crown with all the sufferers.

An angel, sent from heaven at the behest of the divine Spirit, healed your wounds. Yet, after your healing you endured treacherous piercing with heated goads, and were suspended and stretched out, tied to a heavy stone, and your blood was shed around you, O martyr.

Serving as a soldier for an earthly king, O Mercurius, you were commanded by him to sacrifice to demons. Having endured torture, fiery immolation and a violent death, you ascended, crowned, to Christ, to be joined to the flock of the martyrs, where you pray for the world.

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

Those who love the martyrs, joyfully hasten to the festival of the divinely wise martyr Catherine, and with praises let us crown her as with flowers, crying out to her: Rejoice, denouncer of the insolence of the foolish philosophers as full of unlearned thoughts, and led them to the divine faith. Rejoice, martyr who gave your body over to subtle torture for the love of your creator, and were not destroyed, as you were an invincible maiden. Rejoice, inheritor of the mansions on high as a reward for your pains, who now delights in eternal glory: may we who hymn you not fall away from this same glory, for which we hope.

Both now and for ever... *tone 8*

After your nativity, O Lady and Bride of God,
you went to the Temple of the Lord
to be raised in the holy place as a consecrated maiden,
and there Gabriel was sent to you,
to bring you food, O immaculate one.
All the powers of heaven marvelled,
seeing the Holy Spirit abiding in you.
O Mother of God without stain or blemish,
who is glorified in heaven and on earth,
save your people.

*Aposticha, tone 1, of the feast,
to the Special Melody* Joy of the ranks of heaven...

Come, those who love the feasts of the Church,
and with hymns let us honour the pure Mother of God,
the Virgin, who is led into the Temple of God,
there to dwell now splendidly,
the truly most holy temple of Christ, and bringer of all joy.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

Throw open the doors, O prophet,
and receive with faith her that is brought into the Temple of the Lord,
the boast of all angels and men, their radiant joy,
that she may dwell and dance within,
who is the temple and abode of God.

Verse Virgins are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.

Mary, the Mother of God, is brought to the Temple,
receiving bread from the angel who came, crying to her, Rejoice.
Without knowing man you shall conceive a Son,

O blessed virgin bride and Mother of God,
the good inheritance and restoration of mortals.

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

Having acquired an immaterial life, you were brought before the godless tribunal where you stood, wearing the radiance of God like flowers, and arrayed in divine might, O victorious and honoured Catherine: there you mocked the tyrant's command and put an end to the audacious discourse of the philosophers.

Both now and for ever... *of the feast, tone 8*

David spoke in prophecy
of your entry and consecration in the temple, O immaculate one.
The ends of the earth keep this feast today,
and glorify you, O highly exulted one.
Zechariah rejoices as he receives you
on this day of your entry, O mother of the Word of life,
who was virgin before childbirth and remained incorrupt after.
The Holy of Holies is filled with exultation
as it welcomes you, the fountain of life,
and we also lift our voices to you in song:
Entreat your son and our God for us,
that he grant us great mercy.

Troparion of the Great Martyr Catherine, tone 4

Your martyr Catherine 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.

Another troparion of Catherine, tone 5

Let us praise Catherine, protectress of Sinai, | Bride of Christ and our helper, | who with the sword of the Spirit silenced the wisdom of the wicked. | Crowned as a martyr, she asks mercy for us all.

Another troparion of Catherine, also tone 5

With your virtues, as with the rays of the sun, you enlightened the unbelieving philosophers; and, like the radiant moon shining on those who walk at night, you drove away the darkness of unbelief. You brought the empress to faith and denounced the tyrant, O divinely elect bride. With longing you hastened to the heavenly bridal chamber, to Christ the most comely Bridegroom, and by him you were crowned with a royal

crown. Standing with the angels before him, pray for us who keep your most honoured memory.

Glory be to the Father...

Troparion of the martyr Mercurius, tone 4

In his suffering, O Lord, Mercurius 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.

Both now and for ever... *of the feast, tone 4*

Today is the prelude of God's good will
and the proclamation of the salvation of man.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God and proclaims Christ to all.
Let us cry out to her: Rejoice,
fulfillment of the creator's divine plan.

Matins

*At God is the Lord... the troparion of the feast, once;
then that of the great martyr Catherine, once;
Glory be to the Father... that of the great martyr Mercurius;
Both now and for ever... that of the feast.*

*After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 1
to the Special Melody When the stone had been sealed...*

Praise, O virgins; celebrate, you mothers; and glorify, you people:
you priests, bless the most pure Mother of God.
For she, though appearing as a young child,
is brought to the Temple as the most holy temple of God.
Celebrating a spiritual feast,
we hymn her, the intercessor for mankind.

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

*After the second reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 1
to the Special Melody When the stone had been sealed...*

Being yourself the Holy of Holies,
you were rightly brought to live in the holy place,
O Mother of God, the living ark of the Lord
and truly divine habitation of the Holy Spirit.
For your Son, the only-begotten of the Father, consubstantial with the Spirit,
~ made his dwelling within you without the aid of man,

deifying all mankind.

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

*We sing the first Canon of the Feast of the Entry of Our Lady, tone 4,
and one canon each to the great martyrs.*

Ode 1

*The first Canon, of the Entry of the Mother of God, tone 4,
composed by George, upon the acrostic O Lady, grant me the grace of discourse.*

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 entry.

Known as a treasury of wisdom and an ever flowing fount of grace, O most pure one, we pray you to rain upon us drops of knowledge, that we may ever praise you.

O most pure one, as a temple and palace more exulted than the heavens, you were set apart in the Temple of God to be prepared as a divine dwelling place for his coming.

Shining with the light of grace, the Mother of God illumines those who assemble to adorn with songs her most splendid festival: come, let us join them and hasten to her.

Having opened the gates of the Temple of God, she who is the glorious gate surpassing human thought urges us to enter with her and to delight in her divine marvels.

*Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine, tone 8,
upon the acrostic With hymns I hymn the ever-memorable Catherine
composed by Theophanes*

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.

By the prayers of the wise martyr Catherine, O Christ, enlighten the darkened eye of my soul, granting me a ray of your splendour to destroy the gloom of my soul-destroying falls.

O wise martyr, guided by the divine commandments of the Master and consumed with love for him, you hastened to your struggle and awed the torturers with your knowledge, discourse, wisdom and grace.

By the mighty hand of Christ you escaped the storms of idolatry, O martyr, with the sail of the cross and the divine wind of the Spirit, singing a hymn to God.

Rejoicing in the beauty of virginity, and with divine knowledge from heaven, O wise Catherine, you shamed the advocates of false knowledge, defeating them mightily.

Theotokion Those who proclaim you to be the Mother of God reject every heresy; for you gave birth to the ever-existing Word of God, immutably incarnate, O Mother of God, who is more exalted than all creation.

*Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius, tone 8,
upon the acrostic May the might of Mercurius preserve me
composed by Joseph the Hymnographer*

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.

Standing joyfully before the fount of blessings with the choirs of heaven, O Mercurius, and filled with divine delight, preserve those who with love celebrate your festival, singing to the Lord: Gloriously has he been glorified.

Willingly you entered the arena of torment, O wise one, strengthened with the power of Christ, who for us willingly endured his saving sufferings; and, rejoicing, you cried out: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

Adorned with the confession of Christ, O blessed one, you openly reviled the words of the tyrant and, with gladness, endured all manner of pain, O Mercurius, crying out to him who strengthened you: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

Theotokion For us you were incarnate of the virgin Maiden, becoming man like us; and you revealed Mercurius your valiant athlete to be a faithful witness to your sufferings, who mightily sings to you: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified.

Ode 3

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos O Mother of God, the living and abundant fountain, give strength to those who hymn you and form a spiritual choir on this day of your honoured entry, and grant them crowns of glory.

Today the Temple is adorned as it receives the living bridal chamber of God, pure and without spot, she who shines more brightly than all creation.

Leading the chorus, David leaps for joy and rejoices with us as he describes you as a queen adorned, O most pure one who stands in the Temple before our king and God.

From Eve of old the transgression came upon mankind, and now from her descendant, the Mother of God, has blossomed our restoration and incorruption, she who is led today into the house of God.

The hosts of angles and the multitudes of mankind dance today before you, O most pure lady, and with lamps they proclaim your greatness in the house of God.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

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 went to your voluntary suffering, emulating Christ; and, radiantly overcoming the force of the prince of this world, you were crowned, O God-pleasing Catherine.

With strength of mind you denounced the tormentors who were overcome in the abyss of godlessness, O martyr, plainly propounding the dogmas of the knowledge of God, and illumined with the wisdom of God.

He who whispered thoughts of equality with God into the ears of Eve is now trod underfoot by a young maiden; for, defended with the sword of the cross, the martyr Catherine has shamed him, glorying over him immeasurably.

Theotokion Most pure Mother of God, raise my morbid mind through the activity of the life who revealed himself to the world from you, cleansing the wounds and scars of my sins.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

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.

Afflame with divine love, O glorious Mercurius, you regarded fire and bonds, the sword and torments as but a dream.

Aquainted with bitter wounds, you hymned the creator, O wise martyr, and they were healed.

Strengthened by the divine staff, O valorous martyr, as an athlete you mightily cast down the audacity of the enemy.

Theotokion To prefigure your birthgiving, which passes understanding, O pure one, a bush appeared, burning with fire, yet unconsumed.

*Kontakion of the feast, tone 4,
to the special melody* Having been lifted up...

The most pure temple of the Saviour,
the precious bridal chamber and Virgin,
the sacred treasury of the glory of God,
on this day is brought to the house of the Lord,
bringing with her the grace of the divine Spirit.
To her the angels of God sing the hymn:
She is the heavenly tabernacle.

Ikos I rejoice, seeing the grace of the secret mysteries of God revealed and clearly fulfilled in the Virgin; yet I do not know how to understand the strange and secret manner of the revelation of how the pure one was chosen to be above all creation, visible and spiritual. Wishing to praise her, I am struck dumb in mind and speech; yet with daring I proclaim and magnify her, singing: She is the heavenly tabernacle.

*Kontakion of the Great Martyr Mercurius, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* You have appeared today...

With hymns of glorification, | let us bless Mercurius, the warrior undefeated in battle, | our reliable helper in misfortune, | who delivers from tribulations and sorrows | | those who celebrate his memory with gladness.

*Sessional Hymn of the Great Martyr Catherine, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been raised on the cross...

You loved Christ your bridegroom, radiantly trimming your lamp and shining with virtue. With him you have entered the bridal chamber, to receive a crown of suffering from him: O Catherine deliver from misfortune us who celebrate your memory.

Glory be to the Father... *Sessional Hymn of the Great Martyr Mercurius, same tone,
to the Special Melody* Quickly anticipate...

Struggling, the martyr Mercurius put the deceiver to shame and became a mighty champion of Christ. Therefore, he is now numbered with the choirs of heaven, worthily sharing in eternal glory: we faithfully celebrate his sacred memory.

Both now and for ever... *the Sessional Hymn of the feast, same tone and melody*

O David, go before us into the Temple of God, and, rejoicing, receive our queen, and cry out to her: Enter, O Lady, enter into the Temple of the King. Her glory is understood allegorically, for from her Christ the light desires to pour himself out upon all.

Ode 4

The first Canon of the feast

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.

The Temple of God receives today the portal through which none may pass, and thereby the worship required by the shadow of the Law is ended, for it proclaims: Truth truly appears to those upon the earth.

The overshadowed mountain which Habbakuk saw of old prefigured the one who comes to dwell in the inaccessible chambers of the Temple, flourishing in virtues, with which she covers the ends of the earth.

Let us with all the earth observe these marvellous, strange and wonderful events, how the Virgin receives food from the angel, in an image of the divine dispensation.

As a temple, palace and living heaven, O divine bride of the king, you are brought today to the Temple of the Law to be preserved there for him.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

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.

With the determination of an athlete, you strove against the hostile one with great endurance, trampling him beneath your lovely feet by the power of the cross, O passion-bearer Catherine, the boast of the martyrs.

You are luminous with the radiant beams of divine beauty, splendid in comeliness. O blessed Catherine, bride of Christ; and in gladness you sing to the Master: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

You demolished the audacity of the tyrant with the godly discourse of your wisdom, for you rescued the deceived from the abyss of the false worship of demons, teaching them sing to Christ in hymns: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

You mightily trampled down the audacity of the enemy, O glorious martyr, whose splendid festival of your commemoration dawns like the sun, upon which we sing to the Master: Glory to your power, O lover of mankind.

Theotokion The mighty have been cast down, who reject the veneration of the icons of you, O pure Maiden, and of him who in a manner surpassing understanding, was incarnate of you and enlightened the world, and of all the saints: enlighten those who honour you with faith.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

November 24

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

You conformed yourself to your creator, O divinely wise one, through your divine martyrdom, and you received splendid crowns from him, as one unconquered.

Now you are arrayed in a garment woven of the grace of the Most High, O martyr, having shed the robe of mortality.

Having contended against sin, even to the shedding of your blood, you are seen as a victor, and have been granted the glory of the Most High, O Mercurius.

Theotokion O ever-virgin, the saving Word descended upon you like a shower and has dried up the flood of polytheism.

Ode 5

The first Canon of the feast

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 glorious sanctity and holy offering, the most pure Virgin, is dedicated in the Temple of God today, and in ways which he alone understands, she is kept as a dwelling place for our God, the king of all.

Seeing the beauty of your soul, Zechariah cried out with faith: You are our deliverance and the joy of all; you are our restoration, through whom the uncontainable one shall appear to me containable.

Your wonders are past understanding, O Virgin: strange is the manner of your birth; strange is the manner of your growing: strange and most wonderful and beyond the telling of mortal man are all things concerning you.

O Bride of God, as a lamp stand with many lights you have shone forth today in the house of the Lord, giving us light through the precious gift of your wonders.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

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.

Afire with love for your Master, and seeking his incomprehensible beauty, O glorious martyr, you freely submitted to wounding, radiant in the grace of virginity.

Splendidly adorned through suffering, O virgin martyr, you ascended to the heavenly bridal chamber of Christ, where you are radiantly joined to your bridegroom in gladness.

As a radiant maiden who loved him, the desired one; having finished a difficult course, you followed him who is poured forth as the fragrance of your noetic myrrh, and you cried out: I come, O my Bridegroom.

Theotokion Knowing you to be truly the Mother of God, and knowing the Word of God who was born of you, we all teach him who is known in two independent natures and wills.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

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.

Lacerated, cut with a blade without respite, O Mercurius, you endured, strengthened by divine hope.

Having fortified your heart with noetic stone, O glorious Mercurius, you did not waver when crushed by a stone.

Having shared in the sufferings of your Master, you partook of his glory and divine splendour.

Theotokion O Virgin, who gave birth to him who is life who has slain death: slay the sin which lives within me.

Ode 6

The first 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.

He who supports all things at his behest, has mercifully heard the prayer of righteous Joachim and Anna. He has loosed their infirmity of barrenness, giving them her that is the cause of our joy.

Wishing to make his salvation known to the nations, the Lord has chosen from the children of men the unwedded one, as a sign of reconciliation and renewal.

As a house of grace in which are laid the treasures of the ineffable dispensation of God, O undefiled one, you now share the unfading delight of the Temple.

Having now received you, O Bride of God, as a royal diadem, the Temple shines with beauty and is exalted, seeing in you the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

Irmos The abyss of sins and the storm of transgressions assail me and cast me violently to the depths of despair, but extend your mighty hand as you did to Peter, O my guide, and save me.

The good and most pure Word, seeing you resplendent in the radiance and beauty of virginity and empurpled in the blood of your martyrdom, O maiden, has brought you to dwell in the mansions of heaven.

By the cross you were able to do away with the dominion of the tyrants, denounce the vanity of earthly wisdom and pour forth dogmas of divinely inspired teaching, O wise and ever-memorable Catherine.

Mightily enduring the pain of your wounds, O glorious martyr, you cast down to the ground him who of old drove Adam from the sweetness of paradise through deceit, and you have been crowned with the crowns of the kingdom.

Theotokion By your entreaties, O Mother, may your Son and our judge deliver us from evil circumstances, and be merciful to me on the day of judgment, for in you alone I trust.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

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.

The ever-existent Word sustained you, O Mercurius, seeing you enduring torture for his sake; and through his angel told you to take heart and not to fear the torturers.

The multifarious serpent was slain and trampled under your beautiful feet, O warrior athlete; for through willingly enduring torture to death, you attained glory.

You offered the Master the desire of your heart, O martyr; and, having endured the rack, you were crowned by him as a victor, and you now stand before him in the heavens with all the martyrs.

Theotokion At the angel's cry you conceived the Angel of Great Counsel, and you gave birth to him, incarnate of your most pure blood: in his unutterable mercy, he has shown to all the ways which lead to life, O immaculate Lady.

*Kontakion of the Great Martyr Catherine, tone 2,
to the Special Melody Seeking the highest...*

O lovers of the martyrs, lift up your voices | and become a dignified and godly choir | honouring the most wise Catherine, | who in the arena preached Christ and trampled upon the serpent, | putting down the knowledge of the rhetors.

Ikos Having received the wisdom of God from childhood, O martyr, you also mastered well all external wisdom; from it learning of the movement of the elements and creation, and him who by his word fashioned them in the beginning. Day and night you rendered thanksgiving to him, bringing down idols and those who worship them, and putting down the knowledge of the rhetors.

Ode 7

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos The youths raised together in piety,
scorning the impious decree, feared not the threat of fire;
but standing in the midst of the flames they sang:
Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Behold, a glad springtime shines to the ends of the earth, which makes our souls, minds and thoughts bright with grace; let us mystically celebrate this glorious day of the Mother of God.

Let all of heaven and earth, the angelic ranks with the multitudes of men, attend the queen and mother, and proclaim: Our joy and deliverance is led into the Temple.

The scriptures are fulfilled and the Law has passed away and become a shadow, and rays of grace shine forth at your entry into the Temple of God, O pure Virgin Mother, by which you are blessed.

Heaven and earth and the things below the earth are subject to your child as their creator and God, O most pure one, and every nation of mortals confesses that the Lord has appeared, the Saviour of our souls.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

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

As the boast of martyrs and a teacher of piety, leading a multitude of martyrs to Christ, your radiant bridegroom, with them you sing: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Your wise discourse brought many from the madness of idolatry to salvation, and as radiant martyrs, who sing with you: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Following you, the maiden was brought to you beheaded by the sword, emulating your pure passion, singing to you, our creator: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion The Holy of Holies sacredly dwelt within you, O pure virgin, and was born of you to save those who sing in faith: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

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.

Illumined with heavenly enlightenment, O valiant warrior, you enlighten those who now hymn you and sing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

O blessed one, you hymned the benefactor of all, consumed with love for him and burning with material fire; and you sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Those who gave honour to stone and were stony of heart, O martyr, with a stone weighted down your neck, as you sang: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Having mingled your blood with the precious blood of the Master, you became a participant in his sufferings, O Mercurius, singing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Theotokion The ranks of angels are awed by the depth of your mystery, O Mother of God, from whom God was born, to whom we sing: Blessed are you for ever, O Lord God.

Ode 8

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos Hearken, O pure Virgin Mother of God,
let Gabriel utter the ancient and true message from the Most High:
Prepare to receive God,
for through you the boundless one comes to dwell with mortal men.
Therefore I sing with rejoicing:
Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

As Anna led the all pure temple into the house of God, she said with faith to the priest: Take this child given to me by God, and lead her into the Temple of your creator, and sing to him with joy: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Then, when Zechariah saw them in the Spirit, he said to Anna: You are leading here the true Mother of Life, whom the prophets of old foretold to be the Mother of God.

How then can the Temple contain her? Marvelling, I cry out: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Anna answered: I am the handmaid of God, and I call on him with faith and prayer to accept the fruit of my travail, for I promised that after childbirth I would present my child to him who gave her to me. Therefore, dancing with joy, I sing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

This is truly in accordance with the Law, said the priest to her, and it is a strange thing to see her led into the house of God, for she most gloriously surpasses the holy ones in grace. Therefore I sing, rejoicing: Praise the Lord all you works of the Lord.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

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

The empress, converted by your teachings, advanced in piety; and, mightily enduring the infliction of pain, was granted the eternal kingdom of heaven, crying out to the Master: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Let the entreaties of the faithful be entrusted to the martyrs; for the passion-bearer stands before Christ, asking that which is best for all, and salvation for those who celebrate her honoured memory and sing: You people, exalt Christ above all for ever.

Throwing wide the portals of paradise, the Bridegroom received you, O wise one; and brought you to dwell in a radiance, as a sharer in his kingdom and suffering. Standing now before him, splendidly adorned as a daughter of the king, forget us not.

The tyrant tempted you with alluring words, and the cruel one tried to deceive you with persuasion, hoping to weaken your resolve; but, wishing to betroth yourself to Christ, you cried out: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion O immaculate Mother of God, you are more sacred than the supernatural ranks of angels, for from your unwedded womb, you gave birth to their creator and Lord in two natures, unconfused and immutable, God incarnate in a single person.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

Irmos In his wrath the Chaldean tyrant... *as before*

The choir of passion-bearers received you, adorned and radiant with the precious beauties of your sufferings and your pious and honourable martyrdom. Now you unceasingly sing: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Piously you finished your course, O glorious one, and valiantly you shamed the foe. With a heavenly trophy, as victor you now rejoice with the angelic choirs, with whom you sing unceasingly: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

In meeting your death by the sword, and receiving your expected and desired end, you watered the ground with the flow of your blood; and your victorious body appeared whiter than snow, singing: You priests praise and you people exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion All we, the faithful, hymn you, the cause of our restoration; for in a manner beyond reproach you gave birth to God, the cause of all, who in his loving kindness has restored his image marred by wickedness, O most blessed and joyous Lady.

Ode 9

The first Canon of the feast

Irmos Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God,
but let the lips of the faithful,
singing without ceasing the words of the Angel to the Mother of God,
cry out in great joy:
Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

O pure Mother of God, with a clean soul shining with beauty, full of grace from heaven, shine with eternal light upon those who sing with joy: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Your wonder surpasses the power of words, O pure Mother of God, for in you I perceive a body impervious to the taint of sin. Therefore I thankfully sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

The Law prefigured you most gloriously, O pure one, as the tabernacle, the divine jar, the awesome ark, the veil, the staff, the inviolable temple and portal of God. All these things teach us to sing to you: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

David sang of you in psalmody, prophetically calling you the daughter of the king. Seeing you standing at the right hand of God elaborately adorned in the beauty of the virtues, in prophecy he sang: Truly you are most high above all, O pure Virgin.

Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine

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.

Adorned with bridal ornaments, you passed on to splendid bridal chambers, with the lamp of virginity in your right hand and your severed head in the other. Standing now before Christ your bridegroom, protect those who hymn you.

Your prayer was accepted, for the Master saves from temptation those who call upon your name with faith, and he grants them health, delivering them from various ailments, spiritual and bodily: in gladness we bless you, O Catherine.

Having lightly sailed over this world's sea of storm waves, O martyr, and bringing to Christ the varied riches of a multitude of martyrs, you attained the calm harbour vindicated and untempted.

Now joining the choirs of virgins within the bridal chambers of heaven, and illumined with rays of your sufferings, O wise Catherine, you have loosed the bonds of my falls, earnestly entreating the benefactor of all, for whom you shed your blood.

Theotokion You are revealed, O virgin Mother of God, giving physical birth in a manner transcending nature to the good Word to whom the Father in his goodness gave utterance from his heart before all ages, and whom we now know to be more exalted than all flesh, even though he was clothed in it.

Canon to the Great Martyr Mercurius

Irmos Every ear trembles with fear to hear of the ineffable condescension of God, how the Most High willingly came down and assumed flesh, and became man through the Virgin's womb. Therefore, O faithful, let us magnify the most pure Mother of God.

With grace, the martyrs dispelled the stench of dung and with ineffable discourse have expelled our foul passions: they flow healing water upon our bones and water the souls of those who hymn their wondrous miracles.

We honour you as a great pillar of the Church of Christ, an indestructible rampart, a city which cannot be taken captive, a mighty warrior of God the king of all, a destroyer of our enemies and a noetic and universal beacon, O martyr.

You received an angel of light as a companion before your suffering, O divinely wise one, when lacerated, burned with candles and bitterly cut open and beheaded with a sword, you were not afraid, O valiant athlete of Christ.

Your divine memorial has dawned as a day full of enlightenment, gladness and joy for us who honour you, O martyr Mercurius: be mindful of us who keep your memory, and deliver us from temptation, misfortune and passions.

Theotokion O portal of light, enlighten my soul blinded by the passions and darkened by wicked thoughts, and endangered; and deliver me from temptation, misfortune and sorrow, that I may glorify you, the hope and confirmation of the faithful.

*Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...*

Aflame with wisdom, O virgin Catherine, honourable of women, glory of passion-bearers, through God you denounced the skill of the philosophers as foolishness and fables, having acquired the truly immaculate Mother of God as your companion.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *of the feast,
to the Special Melody To the watching disciples...*

The ranks of angels and choir of martyrs celebrate with us today on the divine entry of the godly Maiden and Mother of the Lord, together with Joachim and Anna, and steadfast Mercurius and glorious Catherine. By their prayers may we find remission of our offences, we pray.

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

Celebrating the sacred memory * of your honoured suffering, * O praiseworthy Catherine, * with unceasing cries we glorify * Jesus, the lover of mankind, * our Saviour and Lord, * who gave you steadfast patience * proving you to be victorious, * and granting you discourse, * which awed the rhetors. *twice*

O willing martyr, * glorious Catherine, * you earnestly denounced the tyrant * and the wicked madness of polytheism, * bringing them down with the radiance of knowledge of God * and divine grace. * Thus, Christ, the Saviour of our souls, * has crowned you * as a martyr * and an immaculate virgin.

With the opening of your mouth, * O glorious martyr Catherine, * you received the grace of the Spirit; * and having cleansed yourself * by your life and patient thought, * you trampled upon the audacity of the tyrant, * and with divine wisdom preferred spiritual beauty * to the beauty of the body, * O adornment of passion-bearers.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 2,
composed by Babylas the Monk*

Having achieved an immaterial life, and having come before the godless tribunal, you stood, wearing the radiance of God like flowers, arrayed in divine might, O victorious and honoured Catherine. There you mocked the tyrant's command and rendered speechless the audacious rhetors, O much-suffering martyr.

Both now and for ever... *tone 6, of the feast
composed by Sergius of Jerusalem*

We the assembled array of the faithful,
triumph in spirit and reverently praise the child of God,
the Virgin and Mother of God,

as she is offered in the Temple of the Lord,
 chosen from all generations to be the dwelling place
 of Christ, the Master and God of all.
 Bearing candles, O virgins, lead in homage
 and honour the entry of the ever-virgin one.
 Set aside all sorrow, O mothers,
 and follow them in gladness, and sing the praises of her
 who became the Mother of God
 and mediator of joy for all the world.
 With the angel, let us all joyfully sing: Rejoice! to her,
 who ever intercedes for our souls.

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

In the temple of his glory, * the thrice radiant light engulfed you, * O Mother of
 God, * sending you food, * and magnifying you.

Verse She is led to you, O king and after her the virgins that are with her.

From the stock of David * you were born, O Virgin; * and Gabriel, bringing you
 joy, * cried out to you: * You shall give birth to God, O most pure Lady.

Verse Virgins are led with gladness and rejoicing: they enter the palace of the king.

Good was the sacred * and divine union * of Joachim and Anna, * of whom the
 pure one was born * who has now been brought to her creator.

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

O gate of heaven, * accept the Virgin Mary * the unwedded lady, * the pure
 Mother of God, * from whom came forth the deliverance of men.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses:

*4 from Odes 7 and 8 of the Canon of the Feast,
and 4 from Ode 6 of the Canon to the Great Martyr Catherine.*

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.

The Epistle to the Ephesians, number 233 (Eph 6:10-16)

Alleluia, tone 1

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.

The 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.

November 25

Apodosis of the entry of the Mother of God into the Temple

*On this day the office of the feast is sung,
omitting only the Entrance, Readings and Entreaty at Vespers,
and the Polyelios and Gospel at Matins.
The usual readings from the Psalter are used.*

*Materials from the service commemorating the hieromartyr Clement of Rome
may be inserted at the discretion of the superior.*

*Verses of the hieromartyr Clement of Rome, at Lord I call to you...
tone 2, to the Special Melody When from the tree...*

As a branch of the vine of life, O wise father and hierarch, through the Spirit you put forth the beautiful grapes of dogmas, which ever exude the saving wine of divine knowledge and gladden the hearts of all the pious who truly honour you, O blessed God-bearer Clement.

As a disciple of the pre-eminent Peter, O praiseworthy father, you established yourself like a precious stone upon his stone, demolishing the fabric of polytheism with the strength of your words and raising up divine churches for the worship of the Trinity, for whom you struggled, O blessed one, and received the crown of martyrdom.

Like the light-giving sun you shone from the lands of the West, O father, splendidly illumining the earth with the radiance of your dogmas and wounds; and you reached the lands of the East, where you were slain. Setting like the sun, O Clement, you richly shone forth to Christ with beams from heaven, where you are enlightened unceasingly through divine communion.

Troparion of Hieromartyr Clement, tone 4

Gloriously amazing the ends of the world with miracles of God,
transcending nature you caused the waters of the sea to withdraw
on the day of your honored memorial, O sacred athlete,
for those of the church erected for you by God to shelter your precious relics;
and after the people had returned,
you miraculously caused the sea to return to the shore.
Wondrous Clement, entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Or if the hiromartyrs Clement and Peter are celebrated together, the following may be used

Troparion of the Hieromartyrs, 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.

Kontakion of the hieromartyrs, tone 4

Most praised Clement and Peter,
divine and immovable towers of the Church, godly pillars of piety truly strong,
by your supplications protect us all.

Also the same day, Clement of Ochrid, enlightener of the Slavs

Troparion, tone 4 With your discourses you guided the nations to the faith of Christ, and by your works you lifted yourself to the divine life, O holy hierarch Clement, equal of the apostles, shining with miracles upon those who approach you with faith, and most gloriously illumining the Church with signs; we therefore glorify your honoured memory.

Kontakion, tone 3 Your temple, O holy one, is most gloriously shown to bring spiritual healing to those who approach it with faith, for it delivers all from various sicknesses and calms the passion-plagued souls of men. Therefore we call to you, O most blessed one, as you are a fervent intercessor.

November 26

Venerable Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis

**and on the same day, the Hierarch Innocent of Irkutsk, whose service
follows this**

Vespers

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

Blessed father Alypius, * from your childhood you offered your life * to Christ our God, * and, strengthened by him, * you submitted the passions of your flesh to your mind, * subjecting what is lower * to that which is higher. * Pray that the Lord grant our souls * peace and great mercy.

Divinely wise Alypius, * you appear as a magnificent beacon, * illumining the earth * with the splendour of your wonders * and your godly deeds. * After your repose * the unwaning light received you. * Pray that Christ grant our souls * peace and great mercy.

You were an immovable pillar for monks, O wise one, * standing higher than your pillar, * troubled by the heat of the day and cold * and discomforted by many fasts. * Therefore you received the divine gifts of the Spirit * to heal infirmities * and to drive out the most cruel passions. * Pray that Christ grant our souls * peace and great mercy.

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

Theotokion Rejoice, O bush unburnt. * Rejoice, who alone gave birth to the Angel of Great Counsel. * Rejoice, choice of the honored Trinity. * Rejoice, confirmation of mortals. * Rejoice, who gave rise to the uncultivated grain of paradise: * the king and Lord, * who withers the shoots of malice.

Theotokion of the Cross The unblemished lamb and Mother, * seeing her lamb on the cross, * bereft of form and beauty, * lamenting, said: Woe is me. * Where has your beauty set, O most sweet? * Where is your splendour? * Where the shining grace of your form, * O my Son most beloved?

Troparion, tone 1

You were a pillar of endurance, O venerable one,

emulating the two great patriarchs,
Job in sufferings and Joseph in temptations,
and even while in the flesh you resembled the life of the bodiless ones.
O Alypius, our father,
intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the venerable one, tone 5,
composed by Joseph,
upon the acrostic Rejoicing, I praise the pangs of Alypius*

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.

O grace-filled Alypius, fill my soul with joy to praise your life and manner of living, where struggling, you filled all the angels with gladness.

God consecrated you like a second Samuel from your mother's womb, O blessed Alypius, causing you, as a divine prophet, to see things to come.

That God might reveal your splendour, O venerable one who struggled well, in a manner past understanding he filled the house with divine light when you were born.

Theotokion The words of the honoured prophet are fulfilled: the Virgin has given birth to God incarnate who has refashioned man, formerly crushed by sin and transgression.

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.

Like a candle upon the candlestick of loftier activity, O father, with your splendid virtue you illumine with pious wisdom the souls of those who come to you with faith, delivering them from the darkness of sin.

Directing the sacred movements of your mind toward the keeping of the divine commandments of the Spirit, you were an angel on earth, leading a bodiless way of life in the body, O God-bearing father Alypius.

Wisely you were a recluse from the tumults of life, O venerable Alypius, eagerly undertaking the contest of a life of fasting, making your heart an abode of the Spirit.

Theotokion O pure Virgin, palace of the Word, make my soul a habitation of the Spirit, and let me drink of the water of the life-creating fount for I am parched by the burning heat of sin, that I may worthily glorify you.

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

Through the radiance of faith and the light of spiritual activity you were truly an equal of the angels on earth, O venerable Alypius; manfully showing the strength of your mind, and vanquishing the assaults of the passions by fasting. As you live even after your repose, pray that we be saved.

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

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

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.

Having true love and compassion, steadfast faith and hope, and an innocent manner of life, O father, you were a favorite of Christ.

Upon your pillar, unmoved by the assaults of the adversary, you vanquished a horde of demons and were an immovable foundation for the wavering, O blessed one.

Full of divine waters, you bedewed souls wasting away in the burning heat of grievous sin, O divinely wise and rich Alypius.

You were truly dreadful and unapproachable to the demons, O Alypius, inflicting upon them a wound by your sacred prayers and driving them far away.

Theotokion Heal the sufferings of my soul and illumine my mind and heart, O Lady, who gave birth to the supremely good God, Christ the giver of light.

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.

Placing yourself entirely in the hands of the Almighty, O father, and suffering greatly in your standing without shelter for many years, through rain and the heat of day, you mightily endured.

Training yourself in hymnody and entreaty, O venerable one, with purity of mind you received the grace of the radiance of the threefold Sun, and have emitted the brilliant light of healings.

Confining your body to your pillar, O father, full of light, you permitted yourself to pass unhindered to him whom you desired.

Theotokion You gave birth, O holy Maiden, to our holy God, who, in his loving kindness, became man, and who sanctifies those who bless him with faith and fear.

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.

The spirits of wickedness, openly stoning you while standing on the pillar like a steadfast stone, were in no way able to shake you.

With patience you endured for the Lord, who gave you true patience and delivered you from all difficulties.

A light gloriously appeared above your pillar every day, illumining your spiritual senses, O venerable wonderworker.

Theotokion All we who are in sorrow have you as a mighty consolation, a refuge and a renowned aid, O Mother of God. Save your servants from misfortune.

Kontakion, tone 8, to the Special Melody As the first-fruits...

Today the Church glorifies and hymns you, Alypius,
as a perfect example of the virtues and the pride of ascetics.
In accordance with your name, O Alypius,
your supplications give deliverance from dire bodily transgressions
to those who with love honour your brave deeds and struggles.

Ikos Come, priests and princes, monastics and all divinely wise people who love the feasts of the Church, let us marvel at the godly life of Alypius, which equalled that of the angels; and let us emulate his deeds, that by his entreaties we may be granted his portion; for he happily sings a heavenly hymn to God in accordance with his name.

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.

Patient and mighty Alypius, vexed by winter for many years, was gloriously warmed by the fervour of the Spirit.

With a way of life which led you to the heights of heaven, you rejected the body as a thing destined to corruption; and when it began to decay, you paid no heed to the pain.

Spurning love of pleasure, O father, you suffered, contending against winter and the heat of day, singing while exposed to the elements: Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Theotokion He who is unapproachable received living flesh of you, O ever-virgin Lady, that he might save those who sing: Blessed are you, O 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.

As a new Samuel, O father Alypius, you saw the future with purity of mind; and spoke to all, as a prophet of God, of the things revealed to you by the Lord.

Let Alypius, the favourite of Christ, be honoured: the luminous pillar of the Church, the immovable wall, the indestructible rampart for all who believe in God.

You slept well the sleep of the righteous, O father, having first lulled to sleep the passions by entreaties and vigils: we are rich, having you as an ever-vigilant intercessor.

Theotokion Your child, O Virgin, has rendered fruitless the sin engendered by the malice of the serpent, abolishing the condemnation: therefore, we ever honour you.

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.

From infancy your sacred life was revealed to Christ, shining with the light of the virtues; and your death was precious in the sight of God, O father Alypius, instructor of monastics.

Like a radiant beacon, you illumine the world, driving away wicked passions, dispelling the darkness of sin, and enlightening those who hymn you with the divine splendour of healings.

Contending diligently like an athlete, O wise father, you unflaggingly stood upon your pillar for fifty-three years, vexed by winter, frost and the heat of day.

Your holy commemoration sanctifies by the Holy Spirit us who keep it in a sacred manner and hymn you with faith, O wise father, the helper and intercessor of our souls.

Theotokion Grant enlightenment to me, languishing in the darkness of the passions, wretched and sinful; and deliver me from my wicked deeds and the flame which await me, O most pure Lady, the intercessor for those who hymn you.

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

By the power of Christ you pass through struggles exceeding the power of man, O venerable one; for you stood for fifty-three years on your pillar, vexed from every quarter, O wise Alypius. And now you have found the goal of all good things.

Theotokion You are my intercessor and steadfast refuge, O pure one; you are my helper and protection; and, falling down before you, I cry: deliver me from my ailments and from the everlasting fire, for I place my hope in you, O Virgin, the greatest of all.

Commemoration⁵ of Our Father among the Saints, Innocent, Bishop of Irkutsk

Great Vespers

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

At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 6,
to the Special Melody You have given a sign...

Let us praise a man glorious in his being, the holy hierarch Innocent; for the Lord has wrought much glory in the incorruption of his holy body, placing it as a candle upon a candlestand, and enlightening the flock of Irkutsk with the rays of his miracles, that the memory of the righteous one not depart, but that his name live for generations of

⁵ In 1804 the holy Synod of Moscow established a feast day in memory of the Hierarch Innocent throughout all Russia on 26 November, since the actual day of his repose is the feast of the Icon of the Mother of God *Of the Sign*. A second day in memory of Saint Innocent is 9 February.

generations; that the nations declare his wisdom as they see the holy Church proclaiming his praise continually in hymns and spiritual songs. *Twice*

Let us praise the new apostle of Christ, who came to barbarous heathen lands with the Gospel, who imparted fragrance to the uttermost ends of Russia with faith, who flourished like a lily in the east of the Siberian realm, who rained words of heavenly wisdom upon pagans who had not been watered with streams of grace. *Twice*

When the dark kingdom of the Chinese, beclouded with the pride of the ancient serpent, could not contain the light of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, and did not wish to receive the glorious Russian hierarch, then, among the pagans ruled by the Russian scepter, the holy Christian faith began to grow and increase through the mouth of the holy and great hierarch Innocent, who prays for our souls. *Twice*

Your name was as fragrant myrrh, O father, poured upon your flock, which was illumined with the rays of your comeliness, and upon people who reverently honour your holy memory, and upon all Christian cities and lands which glorify the God of Israel, who is wondrous in his saints. Entreat him that our souls be saved.

The truth of the Lord came to you, O father; that which was foretold by the prophet David, who of old proclaimed: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon; and he shall be like the tree planted by the streams of the water. We implore you, O wondrous hierarch: Overshadow this city/monastery and all Orthodox Christians with your intercessions.

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

O holy hierarch, father Innocent, your life was in accordance with your name, for you were whitened with innocence all the days of your life. Dwelling on the earth as a pilgrim and wanderer, you received within yourself the Holy Trinity and prepared in your heart a habitation for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Even in the grave your holy body flourished, and not one of your divinely preserved bones was broken. Venerating with faith your precious relics, glorified by an multitude of healings, we implore you, O favourite of God, zealous pastor, adornment of hierarchs: Render us pleasing to the Holy Trinity, whom on earth you glorified in holiness and righteousness, and before whom you now stand, ever interceding for the peace of your flock and the salvation of our souls.

Both now and for ever...

Dogmatikon The king of heaven in his love for man,
 appeared on earth and dwelt with mankind.
 He came forth from the pure Virgin,
 with the flesh he had received from her:
 he is the only Son,
 twofold in nature but not in persons.
 In proclaiming him truly to be perfect man and perfect God,

we confess Christ our God.
Beseech him, O unwedded Mother,
to have mercy on our souls.

Entrance, Prokimenon and three Readings

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear. Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect. (Wisdom 3: 1-9)

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for anyone, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There were some who pleased God and were

loved by him, and while living among sinners were taken up. They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding or guile deceive their souls. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years; or their souls were pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, or take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and that he watches over his holy ones.

Entreaty, tone 5

You peoples of Siberia, kiss the footprints of the beautiful feet of the holy hierarch Innocent, who proclaimed peace and confirmation within your borders, who initiated a new episcopate in one of your cities, and flourished in incorruption in one of your monasteries, as an irrigated garden flourishes lacking not the water of grace, that those who thirst may drink of spiritual and bodily healings without cost.

You are the glory of Irkutsk, O Innocent; you are the adornment of the Siberian lands, the boast of the Orthodox Church, the magnification of the Ukraine, where you budded forth as a fragrant lily; wherein you were kindled as a radiant beacon; where you were born, a son of the kingdom of Christ; from where you were called, an apostle who made your way with the Gospel from the royal cities to the boundaries of Mongolia, instructing benighted pagans during your lifetime and even after your repose.

In an earthly school you were a teacher of heavenly wisdom, instructing all to set their affection on things above, and not on the things of earth. Impressing upon young minds the ancient truths of the Gospel, you were revealed to be a God-bearer, sealed with the Holy Spirit. Walking in God's sight, zealous for God, and standing before God as an intercessor for those who honour your holy memory, O Innocent.

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

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding rested upon you, O holy hierarch, whereby you were made wise for the salvation of the heathen; the Spirit of counsel and strength, whereby you were able to comply with the wondrous counsel of the farsighted Emperor Peter; the Spirit of knowledge and piety, whereby you piously taught those who sought a new heart and spirit to know the Holy Trinity.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Regard the supplications of your servants, O immaculate one:
 crush the savage assaults that beset us and calm all our distress,
 for your protection is our safe and secure anchor:
 let us not be put to shame, O Lady,
 for in you we have found an intercessor, and we call upon you.
 Speedily heed the entreaties of those who call to you in faith:
 Rejoice, O Lady, the helper of all,
 our joy and protection,

and the salvation of our souls.

Aposticha, tone 7

O brethren, let us commemorate the wondrous instructor, who with eloquent tongue and glorious life spoke to us the message of salvation. Regarding the blessed end of his life, let us emulate the faith of the hierarch, which imparted incorruption to this corruptible flesh and robed his mortal body in immortality, prefiguring an image of the general resurrection.

Verse The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

The vine transplanted from the ancient city of Kiev blossomed in the land of Siberia, extending its branches beyond the sea and bringing fruit in the healing of the heathen. O faithful, finding great spiritual gladness in this, let us not depart from the shelter of his grace until we obtain healing of our infirmities, both spiritual and bodily.

Verse The Lord guards all his bones so that not one is broken.

Come, you former pagans, and see that in your days a deed performed by the Lord, in whom you would not have been able to believe had you not been commanded so to do. Yet see and marvel how the Lord preserves the bones of his chosen, and not one of them is broken. Therefore, be not faithless, but believing.

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

O holy hierarch, father Innocent, you revealed the glory of Christ's kingdom in your sanctity; by good struggles you proclaimed the might of his grace; by many miracles you exalted the holy faith, the victory which vanquishes the world, and you were robed as a priest in salvation. The holiness of the Lord flourished in you, for you were anointed with the Holy Spirit, of whose goodness may us sinners not be deprived, but through your supplications may he renew us, O favoured one of God.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Virgin unwedded,
who inconceivably conceived God in the flesh;
receive the prayers of your servants.
Immaculate Mother of God the Most High
who grants cleansing of transgressions to all:
receive our entreaty that we all may be saved.

Troparion, tone 3

O most radiant beacon of the church,
who has illumined the Russian land with the rays of your good works,

and has glorified God by many healings
 for those who have recourse to your reliquary with faith,
 O holy hierarch Innocent, we entreat you, our father:
 Protect this monastery [or city] from all misfortune and grief.

Theotokion We sing your praises, O Virgin Mother of God
 who has mediated the salvation of our race;
 for your Son and our God, by taking flesh from you
 and accepting suffering through the cross,
 has delivered us from corruption,
 as he is the lover of mankind.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the holy hierarch, twice;
 Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *Theotokion as above.*

*After the first reading of the Psalter,
 the Sessional Hymn, tone 5*

You gave no sleep to your eyes nor slumber to your eyelids, O man of God, until you found a place for the Lord amid the ruined dominion of the ancient deceiver of the pagans; and you established a dwelling-place for the God of Jacob, not in Judea, nor in Jerusalem, but in the confines of Mongolia. You proved to be another David, in laying a firm foundation for the faith in a land of unbelief, and a Solomon, being wise in building up the salvation of your flock.

Theotokion We have come to know God who was incarnate of you, O virgin Mother of God. Entreat him for the salvation of our city/monastery and of all signed with the name of your Son.

*After the first reading of the Psalter,
 the Sessional Hymn, tone 4*

Like the oil of myrrh upon the head, which runs down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron, down to the fringe of his garment; like the dew of Hermon, which comes upon the mountains of Zion, so the grace of the Holy Spirit, which ever wafts its fragrance upon your body now glorified with incorruption, pours forth upon those who hasten to your reliquary with faith, in the joy of the Lord who has glorified you.

Theotokion O most pure one, with the holy hierarch and all the saints, entreat him who alone abides in the saints, to sanctify all who glorify you, to the ages of ages.

Polyeleos, and Sessional Hymn, tone 3

The Lord, in not withholding good things from those who walk in innocence, bestowed upon you grace and glory, O holy hierarch Innocent, which you planted in the Russian land. By your supplications grant us eternal crowns of glory in heaven, with you and all the saints who have been pleasing to God.

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

Theotokion Be my defence and mediation, aid and boast, O Virgin; for you are invincible might for the helpless and the hope of the hopeless.

Hymn of Degrees, the first Antiphon, tone 4

Prokimenon, tone 4

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

Let every breath... *and the rest, with the Gospel of Matthew, number 11*

The Psalm Have mercy... *and this verse, tone 6*

Let my mouth be filled with your praise, O Lord, that I may hymn the glory of your saint, whom you have glorified with incorruption miracles, whom you have proven to be a helper for those amid misfortune, a quick healer for the afflicted, a comforter amid sorrows, and a fervent intercessor for those who honour his holy memory.

*Canon of Supplication to the Mother of God (the Paraklisis),
and that of the holy hierarch, tone 8
upon the acrostic* Innocent, intercessor for our souls.

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 blameless hierarch, look down from heaven and with your overshadowing visit this vine which your right hand has planted in the land of pagans, that we may piously glorify your wonders beyond count.

Once the ass warned Balaam not to proceed to curse Israel, and he, coming from Mesopotamia, blessed them: in like manner the enraged traveller was admonished by his troubled steeds to render glory to the holy hierarch Innocent, which he vowed to do.

You revealed yourself a speedy healer for the man afflicted with a disease of the legs and paralysis of his limbs, O Innocent, our father: reject not those who in faith have recourse to your life-bearing and ever-healing relics.

Theotokion You gave birth to the Son who is co-unoriginate with the Father, O immaculate Virgin: implore him, with the holy hierarch, that he make us sons of his kingdom and heirs to the eternal promise.

Katavasia in accordance with the Typicon.

Ode 3

Irmos Confirm our hearts and minds, that we may sing and glorify you, who has confirmed the heavens by your Word, for the salvation of our souls.

As a second unburnt bush, O shepherd, your prayers kept unharmed in the midst of the flames the church where your incorrupt body rested: while not yet glorified on earth, its sanctity was clearly attested by an abundance of wonders from heaven.

Contrary to the laws of nature, ice and snow hid your purity from the eyes of the impious who dared in their unbelief to look upon you; they were not granted to behold your glory, thus teaching us to glorify you with a pure heart.

Speedily you hastened to help the old man who saw with difficulty; and, touching his afflicted head, you made manifest upon him an act of God: illumine also our spiritual eyes through your supplications, O high priest.

Theotokion We know you to be a firm and steadfast hope, O Mother of God, which we grasp; and we pray: Preserve this city/monastery and all Christian cities and lands from the misfortunes which befall sinners who still receive remission through your intercession.

Sessional Hymn, tone 3

It is fitting that we have such a hierarch, who was venerable, guileless, meek, removed from sinful things, and who ever makes entreaty before Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest, for the salvation of his flock. For the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man profits much.

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

Water rose up in the wilderness, a fount of healings flowed from the incorrupt relics of the holy hierarch Innocent. Everlasting joy is above his head: may we be granted this, through his supplications, on the never-waning day of the resurrection.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion The prophet proclaimed you, O Maiden, saying: Behold the gate of the East: it shall be shut, and no one shall pass through it; but the Lord God alone shall enter by it, and the gate shall be shut.

Ode 4

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

Jesus touched the hand of Peter's mother-in-law who was sick of a fever, and immediately the fever left her. Such signs followed you also, his faithful wonderworker; for you subdued by a single touch the fever of one upon his deathbed, but who cried out to you in the hope of life.

Of old believers were cured by the touch of Paul's cloths and vesture: God has not only wrought his power through your hands, O new apostle, for the dust from your sacred reliquary and the oil from your lamp open the eyes of the blind and bestow healing.

The prayer of faith saved one who was seriously ill, and who confessed that the physician cannot raise the dead; and hope in you never disappoints those who with faith call upon you for help in time of need, O compassionate father.

Theotokion The unwedded Maiden gave birth to him who was foreseen by Habbakuk in the Spirit, and she prays to him who was born of her for the souls of us who know the pastor who, in the incorruption of his holy body ever abides with us, even after his repose.

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.

He who was covered from head to toe with sores, was plunged by love into torrents of hope in the favourite of God; and immediately he was cleansed of his painful impurity, as was Naaman of leprosy through immersion in the Jordan at the command of Elisha.

You are a ready helper for those who seek you, O holy hierarch Innocent; for of old you appeared in a dream to a woman afflicted in her right arm, and restored it to health through her once invocation of your name.

We know you as a merciful instructor, a treasury of compassion, a teacher of the true faith, the boast of hierarchs, a helper of the helpless, who ever prays for the salvation of your children who have recourse to you in faith.

Theotokion The bars and bolts of the gates of hell were shattered by him who was born of you, O pure Mother: deliver us from eternal death by your intercession, and bring us to dwell in the light of your Son, who has shone upon the world the light of redemption.

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.

Those who had recourse to you, were not disappointed: the infirm were healed; those in pangs of childbirth received relief through your healing beneficence, and the blind recovered their sight: visit us also with your aid, O compassionate father.

You appeared twice to him who painfully suffered a broken leg; and you healed the spiritual wound of the one benighted by unbelief; for straightway he confessed you to be the grace-bearing physician who had raised him up from his bed of pain.

What a wonder, for though partaking more fully of the unwaning light in heaven, more than seventy years after your death you appeared on earth as the celebrant of the divine Mysteries, assuring your flock of your continuing presence among them.

Theotokion O teacher of the truth, instruct us in the true faith, together with the pure virgin Mother of God, imploring our salvation from him who was born of her for the sake of the whole world.

Kontakion of the holy Hierarch Innocent, tone 4

O faithful, let us all praise with love | the pastor whose name signifies innocence, | the preacher of the faith among the pagans of Mongolia, | the glory and adornment of the flock of Irkutsk, || the protector of his land and intercessor for our souls.

Ikos Exalted in your angelic life, O father, even beholding face to face uncreated beauty, wherein delighting now in heaven, you pray for our salvation and instruct us on earth to cry out to you such things as these:

Rejoice, lily, who budded forth in the mild south;
 Rejoice, firstborn son of spiritual adoption, dedicated to God by the Ukraine.
 Rejoice, glory and pride of the city of Kiev;
 Rejoice, teacher of heavenly wisdom in an earthly school.
 Rejoice, wise fulfiller of the commandments of an earthly sovereign;
 Rejoice, athlete of the King of Heaven.
 Rejoice, preacher of the faith among the heathen of Mongolia;
 Rejoice, initiator of good and sacred labour in the lands of Siberia.
 Rejoice, adornment of the flock of Irkutsk;
 Rejoice, sweet fragrance of the wilderness.
 Rejoice, assurance of the general resurrection in your incorruption;
 Rejoice, fount of inexhaustible wonders.
 Rejoice, O Innocent, intercessor for our souls.

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 afflicted receive strength and healing from you, O father; and those who sorrow in soul, overcome by the griefs of life, find spiritual comfort in calling upon the holy and glorious name of you, wondrous in his saints.

O father, whose name indicates innocence: your light has so shone before men that, seeing your good works and your many miracles, they glorify the God of Israel, wondrous in his saints, who works wonders through you.

O God, heal our spiritual ailments through the supplications of the saint whom you have glorified, and who with tender concern hastens to the aid of those in need of his active assistance before you, O Holy Trinity.

Theotokion Lead our mind to be captive in obedience to the faith, O Mother of God: keep our souls perfect, and preserve our bodies undefiled until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ode 8

Irmos The unoriginate king of glory, before whom the hosts of heaven tremble, hymn you priests and exalt above all for ever.

You shunned the wide path leading to destruction, O venerable one, and by the narrow gate entered the Kingdom of Heaven: strengthen us also to bear the light and easy yoke of the Cross, that we may enter into the rest of our blessed God.

Through your life, like that of the angels, you found the grace of healing, and truly were a guardian angel for your flock, carefully confirming it in the faith by your various miracles and maintaining in it the pure confession of the blessed God of our fathers.

You made manifest the fragrance of Christ among those saved by you from infirmities, both spiritual and bodily, O father; and so the inhabitants of the city chosen by you, glorifying your holy memory, bless the God of our fathers, who has glorified you.

Theotokion Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spirits of wickedness in high places: make us victorious over them, O Lady, that, following the example of this blameless pastor, we may quench the fiery darts of the evil one.

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.

Like Paul, you were an apostle to the heathen; and likewise you have been caught up to the heights of the vision of God, where you pray that God increase that which you planted and watered, O wise tiller.

With the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, you went to your task, O wondrous pastor, and built a rampart of piety amid the darkness of paganism: entreat God most good, that he strengthen that which he has wrought through your hand.

O Father innocent in name and life, accept these hymns of praise offered to you with love, overshadowing with your supplications your flock, illumined with the rays of your virtues, and hasten in your gracious assistance in time of need.

Theotokion More honourable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim, reject not the entreaties of your servants, but protect us with your precious veil: save our faithful hierarchs and people who piously honour the memory of this innocent pastor, wondrous Innocent.

Exapostilarion

Glory to you, God who has shown us the light of salvation in the life and words of your favourite. Glory to you, the benefactor who has shone the radiance of truth in this champion of piety and truth. Glory to you, who has made wondrous him who walked in the light of your countenance, the holy hierarch and wonderworker Innocent.

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

Theotokion In your birthgiving you shone light upon the world, O pure Mother of God: illumining our minds with knowledge of your Son, wound our hearts with love for the divine commandments, strengthening us in faith and good deeds by your supplications.

Let everything that has breath... *and the Praises, tone 8,*
inserting 4 verses

The great multitude of your wonders, O Innocent, proclaims the greatness of the glory of our God, who is unceasingly hymned by the noetic hosts of heaven, and on earth is glorified in the souls and bodies of his saints. Entreat him, O glorious and holy hierarch, for the salvation of our souls.

With one mouth and one mind, O people, let us glorify God who works wonders, and who is wondrous in compassion in our time; who has now expressed the ancient mercies spoken of to our fathers, in the incorruption of the innocent pastor, the new wonderworker, who set his beauteous feet firmly in the lands of Siberia and has adorned the wilderness like a comely lily.

It is not our fathers who have proclaimed your glory to us, O father, nor is it our elders who have told all of your miracles; but we ourselves see the power of God which overshadows your unblemished body and which through you works many and

marvellous signs. Our kinsmen and friends know your grace-bearing aid which we also dare to request, and which we receive in abundance.

God, who of old spoke through the prophets to our fathers, spoke to us in times past in his Son, through whose grace he speaks to us even now in our instructor, who in his life taught us faith and hope, and after his repose confirms us in love which never fails.

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

Rejoice, O father Innocent, namesake of innocence, confirmation of the Church, treasury of countless miracles, boast of hierarchs, model for pastors, helper of the flock, intercessor for strangers and those who are far away, adornment of your monastery, glory of the Russian land: pray that the arrogance of schisms be extinguished, and that peace flourish in the days of its Orthodox children.

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, with the Troparion and Theotokion from before.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, eight verses: 4 from Ode 3 and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon to 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 of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews, number 318 (7:26-8:2).

Alleluia, tone 1

Let his faithful ones exalt in his glory, let them sing for joy upon their beds.
Such honour belongs to all his faithful servants.

Gospel of John, number 36

Communion

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

November 27

The Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God, *Of the Sign* (1295)

*The feast of this Icon is September 8, the Nativity of the Mother of God,
being the day of its discovery in the tree-roots at Kursk.
This feast is observed on this day, November 27,
at the Cathedral of the Mother of God Of the Sign in New York.*

Great Vespers

We sing Blessed is the man... the first Antiphon

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, beginning with these, tone 1,
to the Special Melody O most glorious wonder...*

O exalted Virgin, * immaculate Mother of God the Word, * angels' astonishment and help of Christians, * be our unfailing defence against the assaults of foes, seen and unseen, * reaching out to your Son the hands which held God, * destroying by your mighty supplication * the counsels of the impious, * revealing the sign of your mercy to us.

O Lady Mother of God, our hope unashamed, * bowing the knees of our hearts today, * we cry to you in compunction: * The Russian land, which of old was called your home, * may you snatch from the hands of the devil, * reaching out to your Son the hands which held God, * destroying by your mighty supplication * the counsels of the impious, * revealing the sign of your mercy to us.

Joy of all joys and sweet consolation of those who sorrow, * security of sinners and salvation of the faithful: * lead us to the heavenly kingdom, * and compensate for our weakness by your entreaties. * Intercede for us, O Lady * before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, * delivering us from eternal torment, * and revealing the sign of your mercy to us.

O wondrous tidings, and most glorious sight: * an icon of the Mother of God hid within a grove, * and pouring forth a spring of living water, * ever flowing to eternal life. * Having found it, let us gather to sing, * clapping our hands with gladness: * Rejoice, O most bless'd one, * for you have come to us who are poor.

Sanctified by the wood of the cross, * the trees of the forest pay homage to the immaculate Mother * of him who stretched forth his hands upon the tree; * for they

preserved the image of your face most pure, * which being wondrously discovered, * clothes the Church in its comeliness, * making the faithful partakers of divine grace.

Further verses, tone 3

Let all the generations of the earth, bless Mary the Mother of God: let the righteous and the sinners unite to sing to her. Virgins, hymn the ever-virgin who is the boast of virginity; mothers, praise the Mother of our creator and God; elderly, bow down before her who gave flesh to the Ancient of Days; and babies, glorify her who holds the pre-eternal baby in her arms. Poor, magnify her who possesses a wealth of mercy and grace; * kings, exalt the queen of heaven and earth; * and as we kiss her precious image, let us cry out: * Rejoice, O inexhaustible joy and salvation of our souls.

O Lady, your precious icon has appeared, a sign of your good pleasure to us, to which we bow as if to a life-bearing spring. We draw the waters of immortality, and freely receive manifold healings; and worshipping you, the prototype, we cry in faith: Save us, O most holy Mother of God.

Most pure Virgin: the light, joy and protection of our souls, the estrangement from sorrows and remission of sins, the fulfillment of humble requests and ever-flowing fount of grace: falling down before you, we pray: Cease not to cry to your Son and God for us, that delivered by you from misfortune, we may obtain great mercy from Christ the Lord.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 1*

Forming a festive choir today, let us hymn the virgin Mother of God; and, kissing her most pure image, let us cry: Most holy Lady, deliver your heritage from cruel foes, and strengthen the faithful in the doing of good; and entreat your Son and God for all.

Entrance. Prokimenon,. 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 1

Come, you peoples of Russia, hasten to the Church of the Lord; praise the exalted Mother of our God, and bow down before her pure image in faith, for it has been given as a pledge of salvation. Radiantly keeping the feast thereof, let us unceasingly sing to the Mother of God: Rejoice, ready help of the world, joy and salvation of our souls.

Laying aside all earthly care, and forsaking the vanity of the world, let us lift up our eyes to the holy hill, from where we find our help; for the Queen of Heaven, standing at the right hand of her Son and God, prays without ceasing. Let us who have been delivered from misfortune through her intercession, be glad, saying: Rejoice, fervent helper, salvation of our souls.

Tone 2

Let us be filled today with great joy and give thanks, as with contrition we cry in fear and trembling: Why is this granted to us, that the Mother of our God has come to us? For her healing icon abides among us, and we dare to touch it, to bow down before it,

to kiss it, and to offer entreaty to its prototype, as to one who is truly with us. Marvelling at her coming to us, we cry: Virgin Mother of God, rejoice, Mary full of grace.

Tone 7

Come, all who labour and are heavy laden; come, all who weep and mourn; come, all who have lacked patience; come, poor and afflicted ones, and fall down before the icon of the Virgin, and receive, each according to his need; for the exalted Mother of God gives to each abundantly. She is the healing of the infirm, the sweet consolation of those who grieve, the forgiveness of sinners and the salvation of all who come to her in faith.

Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *tone 6*

When the fullness of time shall come; when the trumpet of the archangel shall sound; when the thrones of judgment shall be set, and the rivers of fire make a fearsome noise; when the dead arise and the living are caught up, and the sign of the Son of Man is seen in heaven, the inhabitants of the earth shall weep, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken. Then the virgin Mother of God, the salvation of sinners and hope of the hopeless, shall appear, standing at the right hand of the judge, extending her pure hands to her Son, mercifully bedewing her cheeks with tears, and delivering from eternal torment those who call upon her exalted name. Let us hasten, and delay not to approach the Mother of God, that she, upon whom we place our hope, may help us at that dreadful hour.

Aposticha, tone 1

Truly you stream rivers of grace from your icon, O Mother of God, for even at the site of its discovery, a spring of healing water appeared. You quench the spiritual thirst of those who come to you in love, you wash away sins, that we may find joy and gladness.

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

At the root of a tree was found the image of her who budded forth the Tree of Life. And so, at the site of its appearance, a monastery was planted, like a spiritual orchard, where the exalted name of its prototype was glorified, supplications for the whole world were ceaselessly offered up, and men worked out their salvation with fear.

Verse The Lord has sworn to David an oath which he will not break.

Having the warriors of heaven as aides, and the virgin Mother of God as an invincible commander, let us array ourselves against the enemies of our salvation, armed with the precious cross, crying out to the most blessed Lady: Deprive us not of your mighty assistance, for we place our hope in you: may we not be put to shame.

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

O Virgin Mother of God, | how much more powerful than the hands of Moses | are your most pure hands, ever raised to God for us? | You vanquish an enemy more powerful than Amalek, | defeating the very prince of darkness and his minions, | granting victory to those who piously war against the passions, | and making them to be heirs of the new promised land, || where righteousness eternally dwells.

Troparion, tone 4

Having acquired you as an unassailable rampart and a fount of miracles,
we, your servants, bring down armies of adversaries,
O most pure Mother of God, we therefore entreat you:
Grant peace to our native land
and great mercy to our souls.

Matins

*After the first reading from the Psalter,
the Sessional Hymn, tone 5*

We are your servants, O Mother of God, having abandoned our slavery to sin for ever and bowed our necks beneath the easy yoke of Christ; and so we hope to gain the freedom of the children of God by your fervent intercession for us, that unceasingly rejoicing in you we may cry to your Son and our God: Glory to you, O our Saviour.

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

Rejoice, O Lady robed with the sun and shining with ineffably glory; rejoice, Mother of the Almighty, who revealed to the world the pre-eternal Word and who gloriously crushed the head of the serpent; rejoice, who by your birthgiving released the race of Adam from corruption; rejoice, truly ever-Virgin even after giving birth.

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

O faithful, with one voice let us hymn her who bestows the gifts of her mercy abundantly upon all in need, who takes under her mighty protection those who flee to her, who with maternal love embraces the wicked as well as the good. Come, monks and layfolk, rich and poor, and forming a choir; let the Church of heaven and earth celebrate together, singing with one voice to the Mother of God: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you.

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

After the Polyeleos, this Magnification

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

Verse Give the king your judgement, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Sessional Hymn, tone 8

The most radiant feast of the Mother of God is at hand today, on which the spiritual light of her nativity has shone upon the world, and on which a great treasure has been given to us in the appearance of the glorious icon of the Mother of God, bowing down to whom with fear we now cry out: Rejoice, O Virgin, the salvation of the faithful.

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

The 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 everything that has breath... *and the rest*
with the Gospel of Luke, number 4 (1:39-49, 56).

After the Psalm Have mercy... *the verse, tone 2*

Rejoice now, O monastery of Kursk; adorn yourself and dance, O Russian land, for the Queen of Heaven herself with countenance most pure dwells in your midst in her grace, and pours her mercies abundantly upon the faithful. She hears from all the unceasing hymn: Rejoice, O Mother of God Mary, the wonder of wonders.

The Canon to the Kursk Icon of the Mother of God, tone 4,
upon the acrostic I dare to offer you praise, O Mother of God

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.

Refrain Most holy Mother of God, save us.

Reject not my lowliness, O Mother of God, and compensate for my weakness; sanctify my heart and mind, and open my lips that I may dare to offer a hymn to you.

With heartfelt faith we honour your most pure image, and bowing before it with repentance, as though you, the Mother of God, are actually present; shedding drops of tears, we cry out: Rejoice, Mary, full of grace, blessed Mother of God.

Emulating the angelic hosts, let us surround your image with fear and love as we magnify you, the prototype, as we call to you: Rejoice, most immaculate Bride of God.

Come, you faithful, let us kiss the holy icon of the Mother of God with love, for from it she abundantly flows with healings, and works innumerable miracles for those who have recourse to it with faith and love, who cry out to the ever-virgin: Rejoice.

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.

Rushing headlong into the eternal depths, the eyes of our mind see your icon, O most pure one, shining more brightly than the sun with rays of mercy, illumining your people, O Mother of God. Therefore, we cry to you: Rejoice, our protection and defence.

In its bosom the dark oak of Kursk kept the radiant wonder, the most pure icon of the Mother of God, which had been cut in two by the impious yet grew back together through the power of God. Recovering it like a great treasure, the Russian people cried out: Why is it, that the most blessed Mother of God has come to us?

A spring of living water emerged at the place where the image of the Mother of God rested, refreshing the faithful with streams of healing and curing every wound and infirmity; and so we cry out to her that is full of grace: Rejoice, true life-bearing fount.

At the root of a tree was found the icon of her who ineffably gave rise to the Tree of Life and budded blessed fruit for the world. Celebrating this, we sing: Most blessed Lady, sever our evil passions at the root, set out a garden of virtues in us, and bring us to the life of paradise.

Sessional Hymn, tone 7

What feast is more radiant or more beautiful
than a feast of the most pure Mother of God?
And what name, apart from the name of sweetest Jesus,
is more sweet than the name of Mary?
Surpassing the angelic choirs in purity and glory,
resplendent as the Mother of the Almighty, she embraces the whole world,
Therefore, we cry to her:
All creation rejoices in you,
Glory to you, O full of grace.

Ode 4

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

The Church of Russia celebrates, adorned in godly manner with the glory of the newly-revealed icon of the Mother of God; and with hymns of godly beauty, it calls to all the faithful, saying: Come, let us rejoice in the Mother of our God, and bow down before her precious image, through which the most pure Virgin richly bestows gifts of grace upon the Christian people who cry out: Glory to your power, O Christ.

Venerable Father Seraphim, chosen of the Mother of God, ever-vigilant intercessor for the Russian land, see our fervent eagerness, hear the entreaties we offer before the most pure icon, through which, as to a child suffering bitterly, may you grant healing.

By your divine power you confounded the mad scheme of the impious atheists to destroy your icon, O Lady, and preserved it unharmed; and while the earth quaked and pillars were cast down, your icon turned, averting its face from the vile deeds of men. Marvelling at this glorious wonder, we entreat you: Turn not your all-pure face away from us, but have mercy and save us.

You preserved your precious icon unharmed by the hands of madmen and cruel atheists who trampled down the holy things of God, but gave it to your people to keep as the apple of our eye. O Lady, ever reveal its sign of your mercy to us.

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.

Let us radiantly celebrate this icon which, like the morning star announcing the day of deliverance, once appeared to the land of Russia which languished in the darkness of misfortune and sorrow. We cry to the most blessed one: Rejoice, for you have kindled for us a beacon of hope which cannot be extinguished.

Where sin abounds, let the grace of God exceedingly increase: and so, O Lady, as you see our weakness and boundless abasement, see also our faith, and hearken to our cry; and hasten to assist us who are helpless.

Let us not fear the dark powers of hell, for we have put on the armour of light; but let us bravely stand against them, having the most exulted Mother of God as our leader, for she mightily wages war against the enemy and helps the faithful who invoke her most pure name.

We confess you, truly the Mother of God, and in the Orthodox manner honour the image of your most pure countenance. We turn from every sin and vile act; we pray that we may do good; and, humbling our souls, we cry: Most holy Mother of God, save us.

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.

Let despondency depart from us, O friends, for the Mother of God herself openly dwells among us, shining brighter than the sun in the miracles proceeding from her much-venerated icon. We cry out from the depths of our hearts: O most holy Lady, may your grace ever abide with us.

When temptation assails us, when we fall into sorrow and pain, when patience fails and our souls are troubled, let us hasten to the image of the most holy Virgin and with tears cry out to her from our hearts: Stretching forth to us your hands which held God, lead us up from the abyss of evil.

Having given birth to the everlasting joy of the world, you are the joy of joys who has driven away the grief of sin, granting our troubled souls divine relief. Cease not your supplications for the Christian world, for, after God, it is through you that each is saved and led forth from the depths of offences.

The demonic hordes that besiege Christians stand by, watching but not daring to approach, for they fear the glory of the icon of the Mother of God which burns vile demons, but mightily aids the faithful, protecting them from all enemies.

Kontakion, tone 6

Come, you faithful, and let us radiantly celebrate
the wondrous appearance of the most precious image of the Mother of God,
and drawing grace from it
let us cry out in contrition:
Rejoice, O Bearer of God,
bless'd Mary, the Mother of our God.

Ikos Through you, O Mother of God, the pre-eternal Word was made flesh; through you mankind beholds the Sun of Righteousness, upon whom the angels dare not gaze: for

in your arms you held him whom the cherubim bear aloft, as your most pure hands held the almighty creator of all; and therefore, O daughter of mortal Adam, you are called the Mother of God. As you alone approach him with maternal boldness, pause not in your prayers for the whole world, lift your God-pleasing hands to your Son, and incline his love for mankind towards your servants who cry out to you with thankful mouths:

Rejoice, O Bearer of God,
bless'd Mary, the Mother of our God.

Ode 7

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

The ministering angels revere you; the seraphim glorify you in awe, O Mother of God; and how can we on earth dare to hymn you with our impure lips? Yet we hope in your mercy, and sing with you to the Master: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

O Christ, heed your most pure Mother, given as our help, and who now fervently prays for us, that attaining eternal life through her intercessions, we may sing with all the saved: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

O God who called your Mother blessed, be entreated through her entreaty: may the light of your countenance be signed upon us, that, rising from the sleep of sin, we may walk towards the day, ever singing in our hearts: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Like the children in Babylon, let us not bow before the golden images pleasing to man and Mammon; but let us venerate the image of the immaculate Mother of our God and be filled with heavenly joy as we sing: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

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

The never-silent seraphim hymn you, O ever-Virgin; the choirs of the saints know not their fill of your praises; and all creation glorifies you without ceasing; so how can we remain silent? Though unworthy, we glorify you for ever.

In no way can all creation cease to rejoice in you, O Mother of God; for as the Apostle said, tongues may cease and knowledge vanish away, but love never fails. Therefore with love they shall sing your praises for ever.

What fitting praise can our infirmity offer, O most pure Lady? With what eyes can we dare to gaze upon your precious image? Reject not our present hymnody, and in the land of our earthly sojourn reveal to us your most radiant countenance, that we may glorify you for ever.

Surrounding your ever-worshipful image in fear and love, O Lady, we lay aside all earthly cares and raise our spiritual eyes to heaven. Here we have a foretaste of the sweetness of paradise, in the promise of which, may we joyfully hymn you for ever.

Ode 9

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

O exulted Virgin, accept our hymns as the widow's mite, and grant that we may ever offer them to you: guide our life in this world and grant remission of sins, that entering the heavenly mansions through you, we may magnify your loving kindness.

Let those who do not confess you to be the Mother of God and who do not honour your icon be put to shame; but let the faithful rejoice in you. Let the Russian land be your abode as of old; let holy monasteries abound and churches be beautifully adorned; and let the people be sanctified, that they may celebrate with gladness, magnifying you.

O Mother of God, our Queen, standing at the right hand of Christ our God in the kingdom of heaven, bring down the counsels of the impious and establish the Christian kingdom on earth, and strengthen it in faith and piety, that all who dwell on earth may magnify you with one mind.

We know that even hymns a thousand fold do not suffice for your glorification, O Virgin; for our hymnody from the fervour of our hearts is only a beginning. What more can we do but venerate the sign of your mercy with silent lips, as with heartfelt love we ever hymn and magnify you.

Exapostilarion, tone 3

Virgin Mother of God, the most radiant sun, kindle the inextinguishable beacon of the faith of Christ in our land by your grace, that thereby light may be cast upon darkness

and the hearts of the faithful rejoice there, giving thanks to Christ, the lover of mankind, and granting to all great mercy.

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

By my sins have I put off the robe of baptism: how then can I enter the banquet of the Lord, having no wedding garment, unless you, O Mother of God, cover me with your mantle and utter a word to the King of Glory on my behalf, wretch that I am? Placing my hope in you alone, I stretch forth my hands to you: Hearken, protect and help me.

Praises, four verses, tone 8

Bowing the knee of our hearts, and lifting up our eyes to the holy hill, let us fall down before the face of the most pure Mother of God, confessing our weakness, asking her powerful aid, and commending our life to her fervent intercession. For we believe that she who has wiped every tear from the face of the earth will not reject our entreaty.
twice

What hymns shall we sing to you, O Mother of God? What gifts shall we offer you? You see our spiritual poverty: accept our teardrops as a pearl of great price, and our prayer and heartfelt sighing as incense; and turn our grief into joy, for you are the sweet consolation of the faithful.

All things are possible for you when you pray to your Son, O Lady; and none can stand in the way of your maternal boldness, for there is no sin that can vanquish your loving kindness. We flee to your mighty protection, in the hope of your powerful intercession; as, after God, we commend ourselves, each other and all our life to you.

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

Pray fervently for the world, O Mother of God, for it needs your aid, for the snares of the evil one spread over the face of the earth, the nations rage and storms of affliction arise against the Church of God. As in Cana of Galilee, speak to your Son, that he transform the water of affliction and sorrow into the wine of remorse and divine gladness.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses, 4 each from Odes 3 and 6 of the Canon.

Prokimenon, tone 3

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.

The epistle to the Hebrews, number 320 [Heb (9: 1-7)]

Alleluia, tone 8

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear.
The richest among the people shall entreat your favour with gifts.

Gospel of Luke, No 54 [Luke 10: 48-52, 11: 27-28]

Communion verse

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

November 28

Venerable martyr Stephen the New, and the martyr Irenarchus

Vespers

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

From your youth you offered yourself * wholly to the Master, * as an excellent monk * and a receptacle of the divine Spirit, * transcending the flesh and worldly love, * O venerable Stephen. * Though enclosed in a confining cell, * you gave your mind wings to fly to heaven, * to look upon the ineffable beauty * of Christ our king and God, * whose image you worshipped, * thus bringing most mighty suffering. *twice*

Imprisoned in a dungeon, * like the Master, you fasted for forty days * and prepared yourself for suffering, O sacred Stephen, * the confirmation of monks * and adornment of martyrs. * The merciless ones, falling upon you like wild beasts, * dragged you along like an innocent lamb * and unjustly tore you open; * and cast you in a pit with malefactors. * Having suffered mightily * you pray with boldness * for our souls. *twice*

Greatly iniquitous men * who subjected themselves to the evil * of the lawless emperor, * pitilessly stoned you, O venerable one, * like the honoured protomartyr Stephen, * and crushed your holy head; * and dragging you savagely through the streets, * they caused your bowels to spill forth, * showing no mercy even after you were dead. * How great was your courage, and how wondrous your demeanor and endurance, * whereby you have received an imperishable crown. *twice*

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

Like the great prophet Samuel you were dedicated to God from infancy, O sacred Stephen; and, ascending the mountain, you pleased him in monasticism, manfully stripped naked for the contest, patiently enduring banishment and tribulation; and bearing fetters and imprisonment for his image. Dragged, beaten and stoned, your head broken, you were granted a crown by Christ our God: entreat him, that those who celebrate your ever-honoured memory be delivered from sufferings, temptations and the coming tribulation, and that our souls be saved.

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

Having preserved intact that which is in to the image of God, O venerable father,
you manfully championed the image of Christ, fearing not the threats of Copronymus,
and slaying him with the sword of the Spirit. Having boldness before God, O
much-suffering Stephen, save your flock from all heresies.

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

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

Troparion, tone 4

Struggling in fasting upon the mountain,
you slayed the noetic hoards of the enemy with the weapon of the cross;
and bravely arming yourself again for martyrdom,
you slayed Copronymus with the sword of the faith.
For both of these deeds you were crowned by God,
O blessed and venerable one,
ever memorable martyr Stephen.

Compline

Canon of the Martyr Irenarchus, tone 6,
upon the acrostic Grant me the grace of peace, O martyr...

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.

Calm the tribulations and passions of life which beset my mind, O athlete
Irenarchus, that I may praise your memory in peace.

Quenching the flame of the torturers with stream of your blood, you water the minds of the faithful, giving rise to the desire for eternal life, O martyr Irenarchus.

Receiving wreaths of sacred victory as an athlete, O blessed Irenarchus, you were translated from earth to the world where there is no conflict, to true light and life.

Theotokion O pure one who gave birth to the infinite Word who was confined within you, the tabernacle holding God, deliver me, confined by the storm waves of cruelty and evil.

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.

You strengthened yourself with divine might and zealously went to the contest, enduring the blows and wounds inflicted by the persecutors, O valiant athlete and martyr.

Christ, the great judge of the contest, gave you the strength to destroy deception and to humiliate the enemy who boasted shamelessly and raged in vain, O martyr.

The choir of the saints has cast down the author of evil, having suffering mightily, enduring scourging and wounds through the power of the divine Spirit.

Theotokion Let us hymn Mary, the pure palace of the Master, the divine ladder reaching from earth to the heights of heaven, which Jacob saw of old.

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.

Lawfully you raced, lawfully you suffered, and lawfully you were crowned, O blessed one, strengthened by the law of God which preserved yourself unharmed.

Unable to bear deception, O glorious one, as one rational, you hastened, rejoicing, to the Son of God, to receive the noetic light, yourself becoming a lamp-stand.

The deep, receiving you, in no way covered you, recognizing you as a godly witness of the divine sufferings of Christ most true, O Irenarchus.

O wondrous athletes, when you were made sacrificial victims and slaughtered, lacerated together and consumed with fire, you did not deny Christ.

Theotokion You remained a virgin after giving birth, as you were before, O immaculate Lady, for you gave birth to God the Word who has delivered us through your mediation.

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.

The enemy was wounded with the spear of the mighty endurance of the wise martyr, and crushed beneath his heels; he was confounded and shamed.

Your foot stood upon the truth, prophetically, O martyr, trampling down the greatly crafty one with steadfast wisdom, and adorned with the steps of martyrdom.

As innocent and simple, O martyr Irenarchus, rejecting the evil of the persecutors, by your death through shedding blood you were crowned with wreaths of incorruption.

Theotokion The divinely splendid choir of the prophets, mystically perceiving from afar the ineffable depth of your divine birthgiving, O virgin Bride of God, described you in sacred images.

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.

Guided by the hand of the author of life, O sacred Irenarchus, you were upborne upon the waters and saved, drowning the malice of the persecutors by your prayer.

Purchasing that which is great with that which is small, the sacred women gave themselves over to the greatest of torments, slaying with the Spirit the deceiver of Eve, the serpent, the author of evil.

The holy youths were led forth as pure lambs and perfect victims, a sacrifice to the true Lamb who was slain for us; and they rejoiced in its sweet fragrance.

Theotokion Behold, the Lord is to be incarnate of you, O virgin Mother; in his ineffable mercy uniting himself to man without confusion, accomplishing our salvation.

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

Great peace came upon you, O martyr, when you suffered, going forth against the enemy and vanquishing the army of deception by divine grace. Therefore, we entreat you with faith: Deliver from all harm those who honour your holy memory, O Irenarchus.

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.

Separating yourself from the love of the flesh, O blessed and wise one, kindled and afire you sang the hymn of the youths: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Blessed was the divine assembly of the youths and the holy choir of the seven women, who, having mightily endured laceration, fire and scourging, were granted the good things of heaven.

At the very mention of you the evil spirits are driven away, O Irenarchus, for they know you as an invincible athlete of Christ who sings with fervour: Blessed are you, the God of our fathers.

Theotokion Raise me to godly works, who is beset by despondency, O pure Lady, strengthening me against the foe who ever wars cruelly and deceives me with adverse thoughts.

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.

Still shedding blood and adorned with the beauty of wounds, O Irenarchus, you appeared before him who judges the contest, receiving the honours of victory from him.

Upborne by the love of the Almighty, you cast down the lofty pride of the persecutors and brought low the boastfulness of idolatry, O blessed Irenarchus, martyr and athlete.

Grant me divine loving-kindness, delivering from temptations and tribulations me who honours you with fervent faith and abides beneath your protection, O Irenarchus.

Theotokion Rejoice, holy and ineffable mountain, trodden by God; rejoice, awesome revelation and report, sight hard to envision; rejoice, O Virgin, restoration of the fallen.

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.

You reached your ultimate desire, O divinely wise Irenarchus, and became divine through communion, singing with the bodiless ones: Holy, holy, holy are you, O all-accomplishing and omnipotent Trinity.

Having eluded the nets of those who pursued you, you found rest in the nest of heaven, O glorious one, united to the armies of the martyrs who suffered with you. Therefore, we honour your memory, celebrating it with great joy.

Laying claim to the might and power of Christ, and sailing across the cruel abyss of torture, you attained the haven of the Most High, adorned and abundantly drenched with the outpourings of the light of the Spirit.

Theotokion Unable to comprehend the unapproachable wonder of your birthgiving, O virgin Mother, we glorify it more with silence; and you, alone most blessed, we glorify as the immaculate Lady, blessed among women.

*Verses of the martyr, tone 6,
to the Special Melody On the third day...*

Verse Holy martyr Irenarchus, pray to God for us.

Praising the struggles of the honoured athlete and the pangs of the warrior of Christ, O faithful, let us sing to the Lord: Through his entreaties deliver us from all need.

When you suffered and passed through the storm of cruelties, you gained great peace with the Lord, O blessed Irenarchus, valiant warrior and intercessor for those who praise you.

Glory be to the Father...

A choir of women and a divine gathering of children suffered with you, O blessed Irenarchus, who with holy Acacius mightily finished the contest and laid deception low.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion You are my aid and protection, O immaculate Mother of God; for you are my helper amid sorrow, affliction and imprisonment: I glorify you, our exalted Lady.

Theotokion of the Cross The Virgin, your pure Mother, seeing those iniquitous ones unjustly nailing you to the tree, O Saviour, was wounded inwardly, as Simeon foretold.

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the venerable one, tone 6,
upon the acrostic* Christ crowns you with the wreath of martyrdom, 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.

Joyfully treading the narrow path of fasting, O blessed one, you scorched the assaults of the enemy on the griddle of martyrdom and inherited spacious life.

She who before was barren, the namesake of Hannah, brought you forth as a root, like Samuel of old, and gave you to God who gave you to her, O wise one, signifying the grace of your life.

Arriving at the sacred and divine rank of monks, O venerable Stephen, you shone like a brilliant star in your virtues, mystically illuminating the faithful.

Confining your body in a narrow dwelling, you were free to soar, your mind furnished with wings to fly to the heavens, O wise one.

Theotokion With sacred voices let us glorify the holy Lady, O sacred people: the impassable portal, the pure temple of purity, her who is beauteous among women.

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.

Your mind, beautified through gazing upon God, O father, became most comely, truly filled with every grace, and partaking of divine splendour.

Venerating the precious icon of Christ and his mother, O blessed one, with the power of the divine Spirit you spurned the vile command of the impious emperor.

The foolish one, binding with iron fetters you who has a heart of iron, sent you to prison, O blessed Stephen, as a preserver of the dogmas of Christ.

With beautiful feet you trod radiantly the path of martyrdom, O venerable one, and crushed the heads of the enemy.

Theotokion From you, the truly pure one, came the divine Word incarnate, who has saved from corruption us who worship his provision for us, full of loving kindness.

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

With all our heart, we who love the feasts of the Church faithfully praise with hymns the godly Stephen, the lover of the Trinity, as one who venerated the beauteous

image of the Master and his Mother; and together we sing to him, rejoicing with love: Rejoice, O ever-glorious father.

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

Your blood, O divinely wise father, mystically cries out to God from the earth like that of Abel; for you clearly preached that Christ was both God and man, thereby shaming the deception of the iconoclasts, and have passed over to the mansions of heaven. Pray that Christ save us.

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

Luminous in fasting, you shone in lawful suffering like gold in the crucible, O wise one; and you received a crown which matched your calling. Rejoicing, we celebrate your most holy memory, honouring your feats, O ever-memorable Stephen.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O pure and unwedded virgin Mother of God, the intercessor and protection of the faithful: from tribulations and sorrows and evil circumstances deliver all who have you as their hope, O Maiden, and by your divine supplications save our souls.

Theotokion of the Cross The immaculate Mother, seeing 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 deed, whereby you save the work of your most pure hands?

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.

Illumined with the light of the Spirit, O father, you imparted light to the blind through your entreaties, emulating your Master and God.

You were seen by those sailing far off at sea, by divine grace piloting to a calm harbour those who with faith invoked your name, O blessed father Stephen.

As a sacred servant, you offered yourself as a sacred immolation to him who was slain for you, O Stephen, and, rejoicing, you found rest in the mansions of the first-born.

Theotokion On you, O immaculate Lady, I place all hope of salvation, and I flee to your protection: be my helper, O Maiden, and deliver me from evil things.

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.

Our God, the judge of the contest, strengthened you against the murderers, O venerable Stephen, truly crowning your labour of fasting with the honours of martyrdom.

Struggling gloriously, you were imprisoned, in fellowship with a multitude of martyrs, surrounding you like stars around an unwaning sun, they shone all the more.

O sacred confessors with divine words, who were emulators of the divine sufferings, we bless you, the three hundred and forty-two who contended against the ungodly.

For the icon of Christ the glorious multitude of the venerable endured the mockery of being shorn, their ears and hands severed, and their divine members burned away.

Theotokion O all-pure one, who alone gave birth to the most holy one on earth: sanctify those who ever profess you to be the Mother of God, and save us by your mediation.

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.

The author of evil was unable to endure the power of your words; therefore, O Stephen, the deceiver savagely gave you over to bonds, wounds and a violent death.

Like bread baked by fire you were burned, suspended pitilessly by your feet, O Paul who offered yourself in sacrifice to God, and was brought to dwell with the martyrs.

With faith and love we bless you, the thirty-eight venerable monks who suffered lawfully in Ephesus, imprisoned and deprived of life by suffocation.

You mightily opposed the judge, O glorious Peter of great renown, and, your body lacerated with cuts, you desired to die for Christ, the only immortal one.

Theotokion O Mother of God, with steadfast heart we bless you, alone among women exalted and comely, the invincible defence of Christians, the all-pure lady.

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

Like an offshoot budding from a root, | you grew forth from your mother who was barren, | O venerable father, namesake of the protomartyr; | you became a great

instructor of monks, | unafraid of the wrath of the emperor who would not venerate the image of Christ. | And so, in death, you were granted || the crown of martyrdom, O Stephen.

Ikos He who is the father of hatred and stranger to God raised many trials and storm waves against you; yet he could not bear to look upon your godly life and the straight and undeviating tread of your path. The vile one devised evils against you, pretending to be your disciple, like Judas of old; and he hastened to place you in the hands of the iniquitous, O father who splendidly confessed Christ and venerated his image with love. Therefore, you were granted the crown of martyrdom, O Stephen.

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.

Your end was announced to you by the all-accomplishing will of God, O blessed one; and you gave yourself over to even greater fasting, and then slain for Christ who is God over all, you went from glory to glory.

Glorified with the protomartyr whose name you carried; you were stoned, dragged and beaten mercilessly, filling the earth with blood; then rejoicing, you surrendered your soul to the Lord.

Dragged through the city streets, you smooth the path of martyrdom for the faithful, O martyr Stephen: stepping upon it confidently, they reach the city of heaven.

Theotokion The sacred prophets announced the mystery of your honoured birthgiving, O pure one; and we, splendidly contemplating its fulfillment, piously call you blessed.

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.

Most savagely, like wild beasts, the murderous ones seized the lamb of Christ, beating him, and those who lived in iniquity buried him with malefactors.

Pitilessly the enemy crushed your head which God has crowned with the wreath of victory in the highest, O crowned sufferer, glory of martyrs and of the venerable.

The divinely wise and righteous Andrew, steadfastly opposing the tyrant, was broken by blows and mercilessly slain, singing to Christ our God for ever.

Theotokion With the sprinkling of the divine blood which flowed from the side of your Son and God, O Virgin blessed of God, wash away the defilement inflicted by wicked sin.

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.

Seeing the ranks of angels, patriarchs, the venerable, prophets, martyrs, apostles and all the righteous, O divinely inspired one, you rejoice; and as you join with them, be mindful and help us on earth who in a pure manner call you blessed.

You were like a light, the dawning, the great sun, the sky star-spangled with the splendour of your miracles and holy wounds, O Stephen, truly adorning the minds of those who praise you.

Having first destroyed the princes of darkness with the steadfast feats of asceticism, you later suffered mightily, giving them over to utter destruction, O Stephen, beauty of the martyrs and boast of the venerable.

Theotokion O divinely greeted Lady, abode of the light, true confirmation of hieromartyrs and boast of the venerable: from misfortunes, evil circumstances and the invasion of enemies save us who hymn you.

Exapostilarion,
to the Special Melody By the Spirit in the holy place...

Through the pangs of asceticism and rendering worship to the images which passes on to the prototype, you slayed the serpent, the author of evil, then you finally accepted the wreath of martyrdom, O praiseworthy Stephen.

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

Theotokion You were the pure bride of the ineffable Son, and his most pure habitation, O Mother of God; for you gave birth to God the Word, the pre-eternal light who dwelt within you. Hymning your birthgiving, we magnify you, the immaculate Maiden.

Liturgy

*Beatitudes, 8 verses,
4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from Ode 3 of the canon of the venerable one.*

Prokimenon, tone 8

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

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

Epistle to Timothy, number 291 [2 Tim 1:8-18]

Alleluia, tone 8

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 37 [Mat 10:23-31]

Communion Verse

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

November 29

Martyr Paramon, and venerable Acacius who is mentioned in *The Ladder*

Vespers

*At Lord I call to you... 3 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

Mightily illumined * with the radiance of the divine Spirit, * O blessed Paramon, * you utterly reviled * the utter darkness of polytheism, * and, at the appropriate time, O blessed one, * with valiant mind you approached the sufferings which lay before you; * and, as one victorious, * you cast down the prideful foe of all mortals, * magnifying Christ. * Entreat him, * that he save and enlighten our souls.

Having witnessed * a great multitude slaughtered * for the king and God of all, O Paramon, * you burned with divine zeal and cried out: * I also am a true servant of Christ: * understand, you all-iniquitous governor, * I also am now summoned * to be slain like an innocent lamb. * Therefore, be not mistaken; * for I shall become * an acceptable sacrifice * to him who was slain in the flesh * for my sake, of his own will.

The honoured choir of athletes, * three hundred and seventy in number, * with faith cast down the falsehood * of the polytheism of the iniquitous; * and with them you also were crowned, * having struggled with valiant mind, O Paramon, * and, rejoicing, have joined * the choirs of the incorporeal ones. * With them may you pray, * that we who honour and bless you * may be delivered * from all sorrow and danger.

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 above of the saints, in the same tone and melody.

In his providence and for the salvation of men, * God the Son, who was begotten timelessly * from the unoriginate Father, * became man, * that he might grant paradise to the first-created; * then all nature was delivered * from the deception of the serpent, * and, as one readily placated, * he saved his fallen image. * Therefore, he has made his Mother * a pure virgin bride, undefiled: * we all bless her * as our anchor and haven.

Within you, O blessed of God, you held the creator of all, * who, incarnate, has restored man * who before had fallen through the temptation of the serpent. * For us you ineffably and bodily * gave birth to God, * and by your birthgiving * released from corruption * our whole nature, which had grown old. * We hymn and glorify your grace, * O unwedded Virgin: * never cease to make entreaty, * that our souls be saved.

That you may reveal to us all * the magnitude of your mercy * and the boundless depths of your goodness, * wash away all the sins of your servants; * for, as the immaculate Mother of God, * you have the authority to shape, * and direct all things as you desire, * by your power; * for the grace of the Holy Spirit * which dwelt within you * ever aids you in all things, * O most blessed Lady.

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

Theotokion The Son who with the Father and the Spirit * is glorified in the highest * by the seraphim, * wholly abased himself ineffably, * to restore the first-created man. * Entering you, the Mother of God, * and, shining forth from you, * he has illumined the world with his divinity * and delivered men from the madness of idolatry, * and, deifying them, * Christ our God, * the Saviour of our souls, * has led mankind to heaven.

Theotokion of the Cross Weep not for me, O Mother, * as you see your Son and God * suspended on the tree, * who suspended the earth upon the waters, * and who has fashioned all creation. * For I will arise and be glorified, * I will crush the kingdom of Hades with might, * I will destroy its power * and deliver those in bondage from its evil, * as I am compassionate; * and I will lead them to my Father, * as I love mankind.

Troparion of the martyr Paramon, tone 4

In his suffering, O Lord, Paramon 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.

Compline

*Canon of venerable Acacius, tone 4,
upon the acrostic* With songs I hymn Acacius, the chosen and obedient one
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.

Clad in an innocent character, you acquired the noble beauty of the virtues, emulating the willing obedience of Christ even to death, O blessed one.

By your innocence you shamed the author of evil, O father, and by your endurance of temptations you humbled to the ground his arrogant and vaunted malice.

Having first learned patient asceticism, O venerable one, felling the beginnings of the passions, you were then clothed with dispassion, covered with divine grace.

Having strengthened your soul with firm patience and a valiant mind, O blessed one, you endured the struggle of martyrdom all your days, and then were crowned.

Theotokion As Isaiah announced prophetically, O pure Lady, the God and Lord who for us became incarnate and was born of you, is our creative hope and song.

Ode 3

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

Offering yourself to your creator and God, O venerable one, you endured tyrannical maltreatment.

You lawfully showed an athlete's endurance on earth, O ascetic; therefore heavenly gladness was given to you.

O blessed one, you strictly maintained true humility, long-suffering, patience, abstinence and obedience.

Theotokion The creator of all for us adopted our form, O pure and holy Bride of God, receiving living flesh from you.

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.

Having mortified your carnal-mind, O father Acacius, you enlivened your soul, and received a crown of righteousness, crying out: Glory to your power, O Lord.

Undertaking lengthy struggles, O father, you showed patient opposition all your days; therefore, after death you cried out like one alive: Glory to your power, O Lord.

With firm resolve you endured tyrannical treatment for Christ, O blessed Acacius, mindful of how he was nailed to the cross for the salvation of our race.

Theotokion You are more pure than the heavens and the noetic hosts, having given birth to their creator, O Lady: we sing to you: Rejoice, O exalted Mother of God.

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.

Bearing the infliction of wounding manfully and mightily enduring beatings all your days, O venerable one, you reposed in holiness.

Having finished the good race, O innocent Acacius, you received rest, free of toil and pain.

Nourishing your mind with pure thought, O God-bearing Acacius, you hastened well to the cause of all.

Theotokion Neither the mind of an angel nor that of man can describe your birthgiving; for it transcended every mental attainment.

Ode 6

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

You slept the sleep of the blessed, O blessed father, and even after death you hearkened to those who questioned you, for you possessed undying obedience.

Having finished your good struggles, O divinely wise namesake of incorruption, you were truly granted immortality, where, rejoicing, you have received crowns of victory.

The divine, goodly and God-pleasing asceticism of your life, O blessed Acacius, made many strong in the fear of God and the expectation of the good things to come.

Theotokion With faith we glorify you as the true Mother of God, who conceived God and gave birth to him who made you to be a pleasing holy temple.

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

By the radiance of faith and an active life you were truly angelic on earth, O wise Acacius. You manfully displayed strength of mind as by fasting you submitted in obedience; and so, even after your repose, you were as if one alive.

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.

Going to the Master with all longing, O venerable one, enduring vexation, dishonour and wounds, you sang: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Setting your mind on the suffering and crucifixion of your Master, and mindful of death, wounded you sang: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Lying in the grave, dead, bereft of breath, as is natural for those who die, in a manner past nature you answer him who spoke to you, as though you had not died, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Theotokion O virgin who gave birth to our true life, you have restored mortals who were held in the grip of the law: 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.

With mighty abstinence you overcame the bonds of your body and wasted your flesh, joining yourself to God, O father, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Among the martyrs of Christ, O venerable one, you ever hymn the lover of mankind, praying for us who praise you, crying: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Having suffered on earth, O venerable one, you have found heavenly rest with the saints, a share in their joy, and sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion He who before was incorporeal became incarnate, as the creator was formed of you, the immaculate Lady: he who is unapproachable entered you, desiring to be encompassed by the flesh around him: therefore, we bless you, 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.

You passed over to the benefactor of all, O father, adorned with the beauty of innocence and shining with the comeliness of the virtues: therefore, we call you blessed.

Submitting to the law of the Master, you inclined your neck for the struggle of monasticism, O blessed father, and as victor attained perfect innocence.

You sent hymnody to God with the bodiless, having preserved their manner of life and purity; and through patience you have received the glory of the martyrs' feats.

Accept from us this hymnody offered to you from a pure heart, O God-bearer, and through your entreaties grant us remission of offences and salvation.

Theotokion We the faithful, honour you with praises as the true source of incorruption and strength, O Virgin; for you gave birth for us to the immortality incarnate.

*Verses of the venerable one, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* As one valiant among the martyrs...

By abstinence you mortified carnal-mindedness, * and by fasting and the perfection of the virtues * you enlivened your soul. * Therefore, you truly appeared * as one alive even after your repose; * for death was considered as a sleep * by you who has passed over to God * and placed your soul in his hands, * O glorious Acacius.

You lulled to sleep * the desires of the passions, O Acacius, * having acquired all-night vigilance in prayer, * obedience and humility, * study of the divine Scriptures, * a pure heart * and an untroubled mind. * Therefore, you became a receptacle of the Holy Spirit, * shining rays of miracles upon the ends of the earth.

Having utterly spurned * the passionate attachments of the world, * you became a vessel of dispassion; * and through active growing in the love of knowledge, * O glorious one, * you mounted on high to your uttermost desire, * and beheld with mystic vision * the inconceivable and divine beauties of invisible things, * O wise and blessed Acacius.

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

Theotokion From your pure blood you gave flesh * to him who is consubstantial with the Father * and equally enthroned with the Spirit, * and you gave birth in a manner past recounting * to him who is truly known in two active natures * and in two volitions. * Entreat him, O most holy Virgin, * as your Son and God, * that he save those who with pure faith call you blessed.

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

Matins

*Both canons from the Octoechos, and that of the martyr, tone 4,
upon the acrostic Grant now that I may hymn your grace, O martyr
composed by Joseph*

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.

With the illumining rays of the Spirit enlighten the my heart, who hymns your luminous memory, O martyr Paramon, and strengthen me to abide in the laws of God.

You were radiantly enriched with the glory of martyrdom, shining in its beauty and adorned with glorious wounds, O Paramon: with faith we call you blessed.

Full of the life-creating waters of the Spirit, you shed dew upon those withering under the burning heat of ungodliness, O glorious one, bringing them to calm waters.

Theotokion You gave birth in time to the timeless one who became man, O Lady: entreat him, your Son and Lord, that he heal the temporal sufferings of my soul.

Ode 3

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

Having brought low the uprising of the enemy for Christ's sake, you destroyed him and cut down his legions with the sword of patience.

You destroyed the workings of the evil one against our faith, and suffered mightily, O martyred athlete Paramon.

As a powerful warrior you were strengthened by divine grace, O martyr, and considered cruel tortures to be like a dream.

Theotokion Strengthen my mind which is beset by many passions, O most pure Mother of God, that I may fittingly glorify you.

*Sessional Hymn, tone 4,
to the Special Melody* Having been lifted up...

With patience and urged by the divine precepts you cleansed your soul of defilement and attained the perfection of the spiritual athletes; for you renounced sacrifice to false graven images and, emulating Christ, were slain with a spear: earnestly entreat him for the world, O blessed Paramon.

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

Theotokion After God, it is to your divine protection that I, the lowly, flee, O Mother of God, and falling down I pray: Have mercy, for my sins have gone over my head, and I fear torment, and tremble: O pure one, entreat your Son, that he deliver me from them.

Theotokion of the Cross She who in latter times gave birth to you, O Christ, begotten of the unoriginate Father, beholding you hanging upon the cross, cried out: Woe is me, my beloved Jesus, for how is it that you, glorified as God by the angels, are now crucified by the iniquitous? I hymn you, O long-suffering one.

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.

Your heart, protected by courage and afire with boldness, O glorious martyr, considered the many and cunning tortures to be like the darts of children.

Seeing the sufferers slain at the command of the tyrant, the martyr Paramon received divine zeal like theirs, and went forth to suffer.

O blessed Paramon, Christ, the judge of the contest, crowned you, mightily lacerated, mercilessly pierced with spears, and who vanquished the wiles of the enemy.

Marvelling at the endurance of the martyrs and amazed by their perfection, O glorious one, you shared their zeal for the faith and their honourable suffering.

Theotokion O Virgin Mary, by your life-bearing birthgiving you have brought life to all slain by the disobedience: therefore, we glorify you and in godliness call you blessed.

Ode 5

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

You offered yourself to your creator as a precious gift, having suffered and vanquished falsehood, O adornment of the martyrs.

You demolished graven images and temples of the demons, O wise Paramon, having acquired a steadfast resolve on the rock of divine faith.

You manfully wounded a multitude of demons with the wounding of your flesh, O valiant-minded athlete, therefore, we call you blessed.

Theotokion The Lord who is equal in honour with the Father and the Spirit was incarnate of your pure blood, O pure one, becoming man.

Ode 6

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

You were not slothful in your struggles, but were greatly diligent and valiant amid your divine suffering; therefore, you have received a crown of glory.

You joined the assembly of the martyrs who before your contest had reached the end of their lives with zeal, O ever-memorable one, with whom you were brought to the heavenly bridal-chamber.

Spears made you an emulator of Christ, for, pierced thereby, you hastened, crowned, to him, O martyr, having slain the foolish with the sword of patience.

Theotokion Immaculate Lady, from the temptations of life deliver me, held fast in the night of ignorance with unseemly thoughts and ever benighted by the malice of the foe.

After Ode 6, the Sessional Hymn of the martyrs from the Octoechos.

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.

Splendidly enriched by God with the grace of healings and miracles, O wise martyr, you heal those who sing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Placing all your care in heaven, O glorious martyr, you scorned the tortures inflicted upon you, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

With the fire of your blood you consumed the wicked tinder of ungodliness, O glorious athlete; and with the dew of your miracles you bedew those in the burning heat of evil, singing: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the temple of your glory.

Theotokion Rejoice, Lady who alone gave birth to the joy of men; rejoice, heaven and throne of the cherubim, glorious palace of him who reigns for all ages.

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.

We are rich, having you as a vigilant guardian of our souls, O much suffering one, ever lulling to sleep demonic fantasies and stilling the raging waves of the flesh and the storm of evil thoughts of those who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

With the stream of your sacred blood you dyed for yourself a purple robe which will never grow old; and, splendidly adorned, you dwell in heaven, O blessed one, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

As a pure lamb, an unblemished sacrifice, a whole-burnt offering consumed by the embers of suffering, O wise martyr, you brought yourself to Christ, the judge of the contest, singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Theotokion The shadow of the law and the proclamations of the prophets designated you beforehand, O pure one full of the grace of God, as one who would ineffably become the Mother of our God. To him we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Ode 9

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

Behold, the splendid memory of the radiant passion-bearer shines, illumining with the divine Spirit the hearts of the faithful who joyfully gather bless him with faith.

Having joined yourself to the three hundred and seventy invincible martyrs, your body rests with them, O martyr of Christ: with them pray that we be saved.

Having passed through the arena of pain replete with various tortures, and overcoming them splendidly with Christ who conquered the world, you now dwell in heaven, O crowned martyrs.

You were taken up from the earth to received honours for your struggles; and now you pour streams of miracles upon us who honour you and piously celebrate your memory, O Paramon.

Theotokion Enlighten the eyes of my soul, darkened by the blindness of corrupting sin, O most pure Mother of God; for you are the help and enlightenment of the faithful.

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

With the wisdom of piety let us hymn the invincible multitude of warriors, the divine and unvanquished company of martyrs with the wondrous Paramon as its leader, who denounced the tyrant and received a crown of glory with all the martyrs.

Theotokion Rejoice, palace of God; rejoice, mountain overshadowed; rejoice, bush unburnt; rejoice, throne of glory; rejoice, divine table; rejoice, golden jar; rejoice, candle stand all of gold; rejoice, Mary, Virgin and Mother, the light cloud.

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Apostle Andrew, the First-called

Vespers

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

*At Lord I call to you... 8 verses, tone 4,
to the Special Melody Called from on high...*

When he who is the radiance of the Father's glory had appeared, revealed by the light of the Forerunner, desiring, in his loving kindness, to save the human race, you were the first to have recourse to him, O glorious one, being enlightened in mind by the most perfect radiance of his divinity, then becoming a proclaimer and apostle of Christ our God: entreat him to save and enlighten our souls. *thrice*

When the most holy Word was incarnate, giving us life, heralded by the voice of the Forerunner, announcing the glad news of salvation to those on earth, then you dedicated yourself to him as first fruits, the best of offerings, and proclaimed him as our God to your kin: entreat him to save and enlighten our souls. *thrice*

As a disciple of him who was born of a barren woman, the teacher of piety and chastity who showed the way to purity, when the son of the Virgin shone forth, then you were a fervent lover of virtue, O blessed Andrew, and, ascending within your heart, you were caught up from glory to the ineffable glory of Christ our God: entreat him to save and enlighten our souls. *twice*

*Glory be to the Father... tone 4,
composed by Anatolius*

Abandoning the netting of fish, you caught men with the rod of your teaching, lowering the lure of piety as a hook and drawing the nations from the depths of falsehood, O apostle Andrew, brother of the pre-eminent one. O clarion-voiced herald of the world, fail not in your prayers for us who with love and faith praise your honoured memory.

Both now and for ever... of the Forefeast, same tone

Dance, O Isaiah, to receive the message of God.
Prophecy to the maiden Mary, the bush which burnt with fire
yet was not consumed by the brilliance of the divinity.
Adorn yourself well, O Bethlehem;
open your gates, O Eden.
Magi, come to see salvation wrapped in swaddling-bands in the manger,

whose star shines above the cave:
the Lord, the giver of life, who saves our race.

Entrance. Prokimenon of the Day. 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 honor 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.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Therefore 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.” ...

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures for ever.”

That word is the good news that was announced to you. Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, 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; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight. It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you. Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

A reading from the General Epistle of Peter

Beloved, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever.

*Entreaty, the verse of the church, and these of the Apostle, tone 1
composed by Andrew of Jerusalem, Archbishop of Gortyna in Crete*

The apostle Andrew, the first-called disciple and emulator of your suffering, O Lord, led to you those who once were deceived in the depths of ignorance, drawing them forth with the hook of your cross. Therefore we the faithful, saved cry out to you: Through his prayers, O Lord most good, calm our lives and save our souls.

O faithful, let us hymn Andrew, the brother of Peter, the disciple of Christ; for, once, dragging the sea with nets, he caught fish; but now with the rod of the cross he has snared the world and converted Gentiles from deception to baptism. Standing before Christ, he entreats peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Receiving within his heart the noetic fire which illumines minds and consumes sins, the apostle and disciple of Christ shines the mystic rays of his teachings into the hearts of unenlightened pagans. He has burnt away the fabulous contrivances of the gentiles as though they were kindling, for the fire of the Spirit has such power. What a strange and fearsome wonder, that a tongue of clay, with the properties of clay, and a body of dust can receive and utter noetic and immaterial knowledge. O servant of ineffable mysteries and beholder of heavenly things, pray that our souls be enlightened.

Tone 8 Seeing the long-awaited God walking upon the earth, O first-called beholder of God, rejoicing, you cried out to your brothers: We have found the desired one, Simon; and to the Saviour you cried out in the words of David: As the hart desires springs of water, so longs my soul for you, O Christ our God. Thus, adding desire to desire, as a true disciple by your cross you passed over to him whom you desired as a wise emulator of his sufferings on the cross. Sharing in his glory, pray earnestly for our souls.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 8*,
composed by Andrew of Jerusalem or by Anatolius

Let us praise Andrew, the preacher of the faith and servant of the Word, who has drawn men from the abyss, wielding the cross instead of a rod; and lowering a line of power, he has raised souls from the deception of the enemy and offered them to God as an acceptable gift. Let us praise him among the choir of the disciples of Christ, that he may pray with them, that Christ be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion O Lady, accept the supplication of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

Aposticha, tone 5,
to the Special Melody Rejoice...

Rejoice, noetic heaven which ever declares the glory of God, who fervently obeyed Christ who called you first, remaining with him without falling away. Enlightened by him you beheld the secondary light, and, emulating his goodness, with your brilliance you illumine those in darkness. We celebrate your holy festival and joyously venerate the shrine of your relics, from which flow salvation and great mercy on those who ask.

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

As the first discoverer of the virtues of him who, in his loving kindness, was wrapped in our nature, O divinely wise Andrew, you joined yourself to him with ardent love, crying out to your brothers: We have found him whom the prophets proclaimed in the Spirit. Come to his beauty, that we may be rescued in soul and in mind, and that, led by the light of his radiance, we may drive away the night of deception and the darkness of unbelief, blessing Christ, who grants the world great mercy.

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

With the net of your words you drew from the depths of ignorance the Gentiles who knew not God; and you troubled the briny waves of the sea, proving to be a courageous steed of the Master of the seas, O ever-hymned one; and you dried up the foulness of ungodliness, adding the precious salt of your wisdom, O glorious apostle; and those who shamelessly took in bland wisdom were amazed, not knowing Christ who grants great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father... *tone 3,*
composed by Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople

In hymns let us honor the apostle Andrew, the brother of Peter and disciple of Christ, the fisherman and fisher of men; for, having learned the dogmas from the teaching of Jesus, he presented them as a lure to the iniquitous fish of the flesh, and ensnared them. By his supplications, O Christ, grant your people peace and great mercy.

Both now and for ever... *of the Forefeast, same tone*

Tell us, O Joseph,
about the Maid you received from the Sanctuary and now bring to Bethlehem.
And he said: I have searched the prophets
and have been warned by an angel,
and I know that Mary shall give birth to God in ways surpassing explanation,
and Magi from the east shall come to worship him with precious gifts.
Glory to you, O Lord, incarnate for us.

Troparion of the apostle, tone 4

As you are the first called of the apostles and the brother of the pre-eminent one, entreat the Master of all O Andrew, that he grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Matins

At God is the Lord... the troparion of the saint, twice;
 Glory be to the Father... Both now and for ever... *the resurrectional Theotokion tone 4*

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

We lovingly praise you, apostle Andrew, as a divine disciple and first-called of the disciples of Christ, and we sing to you with faith: Deliver your flock, to which you have been assigned by God, from every sorrow and need, from temptation and every affliction.

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

Theotokion Exalted Lady, with pity stretch forth your hands and bestow upon us aid from the holy one, and grant that those who glorify your most holy birthgiving and ascribe to you hope and praise, may complete this life without misfortune.

After the second reading from the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, tone 3,
to the Special Melody Of the divine faith...

Christ discovered you, his first-called disciple, O blessed Andrew, the particular participant in his mysteries, who diligently proclaimed his precepts for the world; and, as though furnished with wings, you enlightened the nations of the gentiles: entreat him as God, that he grant us great mercy.

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

Theotokion You were the divine tabernacle of the Word, O most pure Mother and Virgin, who surpasses the angels in purity. Cleanse me with the divine waters of your supplication, for more than all others, I am dust defiled with iniquities of the flesh, O pure one, who grants great mercy.

Polyeleos, and this Magnification

We magnify you, Andrew, the first-called apostle of Christ, and we honour the pangs and labours with which you struggled in the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

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

After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, tone 5,
to the Special Melody The Word, equally unoriginate...

Let us praise the apostle as one who beheld the Word, a divine preacher and a truly spiritual fisher of nations, for we have been brought to the knowledge of Christ by

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the divinely eloquent Andrew, our truly great intercessor, who prays unceasingly that our souls be saved.

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

Theotokion O most pure Virgin, praying to your Son with his apostles, free us who unwaveringly place our trust in you, our protection, from various temptations and evil circumstances, and from cruel misfortune; and save those who hymn you.

The Hymn of Degrees, the first antiphon of tone 4

Prokimenon, tone 4

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

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

Let every breath... *and the rest,*
with the Gospel of Matthew, number 9 (Mat 4:18-23)

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

Let us praise Andrew, the preacher of the faith and servant of the Word, who has drawn men from the abyss, wielding the cross instead of a rod; and lowering a line of power, he has raised souls from the deception of the enemy and offered them to God as an acceptable gift. Let us praise him among the choir of the disciples of Christ, that he may pray with them, that Christ be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

Three canons, all tone 1
that of the Mother of God; and two of the Apostle.

Ode 1

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos Let us all sing a hymn of victory to God who has wrought wondrous miracles with his upraised arm, and saved Israel, for he has been glorified.

As you alone gave birth in time to the timeless incarnate Son, O most holy and pure one, heal the temporal passions of my most passionate soul.

By your prayers, O most pure Lady, correct my wounded soul, my hardened heart, the blindness of my thought and the distraction of my mind, as you are full of pity.

O all-pure one, who gave birth to him who is my light and my deliverer, deliver me from darkness and eternal torment, that, saved, I may hymn your mighty works.

By your light dispel the darkness of my mind, O Lady who beyond comprehension gave birth to him who is light: grant that I may behold the light which has shone upon us from you.

*First Canon of the Apostle,
composed by John the Monk*

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

With the divine grace dwelling within you, O Andrew, preacher of Christ, purify my soul troubled by wicked thoughts and words, that I pour forth a worthy hymn to you.

The Forerunner of Christ, born of a barren woman, led Andrew, the eminent and honoured of his disciples, to Christ the supremely glorified, who was born of the Virgin.

With desire and unwavering love you mounted the steps of the virtues, ever learning to ascend; and from weakness you attained lofty strength, O Andrew.

Theotokion Rejoice, fountain of grace; rejoice, stairway and portal to heaven; rejoice, golden candlestick and jar, and mountain unquarried, who for the world gave birth to Christ, the giver of life.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos Leading Israel by the pillar of fire and the cloud, as you are God, the sea fled and the chariots of Pharaoh were covered in the deep: let us sing a hymn of victory, for he alone has been glorified.

You fished with the rod of the Gospel, O most praised Andrew, drawing men from the deep of falsehood, as Christ promised, who taught you to pursue men as if fish.

Divinely inspired Andrew, pillar of the faith and seat of the true dogmas of Christ, calls the ends of the earth to celebrate his yearly festival, to which we hasten, O faithful.

Having hunted the fish of the sea with nets, with a fisherman's skill of you fished for nations, tribes and peoples with the net of the Spirit through whom you disclose a lofty depth, O wondrous one.

Now celebrating the mysteries of heaven, O eyewitness and propounder of the ineffable knowledge of Christ, who received the Holy Spirit from on high, you sit in discourse among the nations and dispense gifts with fire: pray that we be saved.

Theotokion God is born, a child of the Virgin, to renew that which through Adam became corrupt; and he breaks down the wall of partition and enmity with his flesh. Coming forth from his all-pure Mother, he annuls the curse of our first mother.

Katavasia Christ is born...

Ode 3

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos Let my heart be made firm in your will, O omnipotent Christ our God who established the second Heaven above the waters and founded the earth upon the waters.

Dispel all fruitlessness from my unfruitful mind and make my soul fruitful in the virtues, O most holy Mother of God, the helper of the faithful.

Deliver me from every evil circumstance, from the many temptations of the serpent and from eternal fire and darkness, O immaculate one who for us gave birth to the unfading light.

Condemned, I stand at the dread tribunal, before that unquenchable fire and the stern sentence, O pure one. Hasten to save me, your servant, before the end.

Blessed is the fruit of your womb, for with divine grace, and through his cross, you brought those corrupted by the fruit of the tree to be partakers of incorruption.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

Of your own will, uncalled, you ran like a thirsting deer to him who proclaimed to all the source of life; then finding him and drinking thereof, you drenched the parched ends of the earth with the waters of incorruption.

Mindful of the laws of nature, O wondrous Andrew, you took your brother into partnership, crying: We have found the desired one. And you were shown spiritual knowledge by him who by his incarnation prepared the way.

From the depths of deception you caught reason-endowed fish in the net of the Word, O apostle, and brought pure food to the table of Christ: those who have been enlightened by the grace of him who appeared in human form.

Theotokion Though you conceived God by the Holy Spirit O Virgin, you were preserved unconsumed as you received the unbearable fire; as the unburnt bush which was aflame foretold you to Moses the lawgiver.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos Let my heart be made firm in your will, O omnipotent Christ our God who established the second Heaven above the waters and founded the earth upon the waters.

Cephas and Andrew immediately followed Christ, who summoned them, saying, Come, follow me; leaving their father, their boat and nets, they were visionaries of faith.

Transforming pagan temples into churches, O honoured one, you sanctified by baptism therein children whom grace renewed through water and the Spirit.

You mystically set before the world the pearl of great price which was hidden within the field of your heart, O apostle, which the gentiles, finding, treasured faithfully.

Taking the Gospel in your hands as a treasure, O praised apostle, you enriched the world with your divine teaching, and it honours your memory and your sufferings.

Theotokion No mother can be a virgin; but you, O virgin Mother, having given birth to Christ, remained such, nourishing him who is our life with milk and remaining pure.

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

We honour you, O apostle Andrew, as the first-called of the disciples and an eyewitness and servant of the Word; for, fervently and with unwavering faith, you followed the lamb who takes away the sins of the world; and then you shared in the sufferings of him who willingly endured death for us. We cry to you: Pray to Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

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

Deflating the audacity of the idols and yearning for the sufferings of Christ, as an apostle, O blessed Andrew, you rained down wonders from heaven, and were a teacher of the nations. Honouring your memory, in hymns we glorify and faithfully magnify you, O apostle of the Lord. Pray to Christ our God, that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Rejoice, fiery throne of God; rejoice, Maiden, royal seat and lavishly appointed couch, chamber hung with gold-embroidered purple, cloak of scarlet, temple adorned, chariot of lightning, most radiant candlestick; rejoice, twelve-sided city wall with a gate cast in gold, radiant bridal chamber, magnificently appointed banquet hall and divinely embellished tabernacle; rejoice, glorious bride, radiant as the sun; rejoice, who alone is the splendour of my soul.

Ode 4

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos In the Spirit foreseeing the incarnate Word, O prophet Habakkuk, you cried out, saying: You shall be acknowledged when the years draw nigh; you shall be made manifest when the time comes. Glory to your power, O Lord.

Virgin Mother of God, the undefiled tabernacle, with the clear light of your compassion cleanse me, defiled by transgressions, and give me your helping hand that I may sing: Glory to your power, O Lord.

As a temple sanctified for God, O Virgin, beyond understanding he made his abode in you: pray that he wash away the defilement of our sins, that we may be temples and abodes of the Spirit.

Have mercy, O Mother of God, who gave birth to him who is the source of mercy, and by your supplications end the cruel pain of my soul and the perplexity of my heart, granting me a stream of tears and divine compunction before my end.

Through the divine Spirit the prophet wrote, knowing you to be the mountain overshadowed. By your mediation cleanse those consumed by the flame of transgressions, O Virgin, who has set men aright.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

The divine and consuming power of the higher, all-accomplishing and radiant Spirit, as a tongue of fire, made you a teacher of ineffable things.

Honourable Andrew did not take up arms of the flesh for retribution, even to lay low the strong citadels of the enemy, but, protected by Christ, having captured the nations, he brought them to obedience.

Our super-essential God, who assumed our nature, made you, O Andrew, a mountain flowing with noetic gladness, destroying the cruel mountains of demonic pride.

By your supplications, O Andrew, never cease to fill with the bountiful gifts of Christ, your teacher, those who lovingly celebrate your memory in song.

Theotokion We hymn your great and awesome mystery, for he who ever exists, hidden from the supra-mundane legions, descended upon you like the dew upon the fleece, for our salvation and restoration, O exalted Lady.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos In the Spirit foreseeing the incarnate Word, O prophet Habakkuk, you cried out, saying: You shall be acknowledged when the years draw nigh; you shall be made manifest when the time comes. Glory to your power, O Lord.

Having cast aside your nets and taken up the cross, you followed Christ who called you, and, stretching out the net of the Spirit, you caught men instead of fish. Glory to him who gave you the Spirit.

Having received the fiery tongue of the Spirit, you became one pleasing to God, O apostle, traversing heaven, recognizing its noetic comeliness, and revealing it to us.

You watered the parched desert with your divine words, O wise one, and made it fertile, bearing fruit, the children of the Church, through the broadcasting of the seed. Glory to him who gave you the Spirit.

Perceiving your ineffable goodness, O Jesus, Andrew summoned his brother, saying: Peter, my brother, we have found the Messiah, who was proclaimed in the Law and the Prophets, come, let us truly join ourselves to life.

Theotokion Having ineffably conceived one of the Trinity, you incorruptly gave birth to him as a son; yet the Trinity was not at any time added to, O Mother of God.

Ode 5

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos Grant us your peace, O Son of God, for we know no other God but you. We call upon your name, for you are God of the living and the dead.

Open the eyes of my heart that I may ever behold the divine radiance and your glory, O immaculate one, as I hymn your mercy and eternal glory.

Immaculate Lady who gave birth to one of the honoured Trinity who is one in person and two in will; entreat him that we all be saved.

O most pure Lady, as you gave birth to our Saviour and God, keep your unprofitable servant safe from all sorrow, sickness and affliction.

Entreat him to whom you gave birth in a manner surpassing comprehension, O Virgin, that he save those who cry to you with faith: Rejoice, immaculate Virgin; rejoice, O blessed one, intercessor for the world.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

You received him for whom you longed, O Andrew, and dwell with him in the incorruptible mansions, having worthily harvested the sheaves of your labours. Therefore we glorify you with hymns.

You loved the Master, and quickly run after him, guided towards life by his footsteps and unfeignedly emulating his sufferings even to death, O honorable Andrew.

Having drawn you like a mighty arrow, O blessed one, the Lord loosed you at the world, wounding the demons and healing men wounded by godlessness.

Theotokion The hosts of heaven are gladdened to see you, and with them the gatherings of men rejoice; for by your birthgiving, O virgin Mother of God, they are united, fittingly glorifying you.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos Illumine our minds with the light of your commandments and with the splendour of your grace, O God, granting us your mercy, for your precepts are light and peace.

Having yearned for the cross, O disciple of Christ, through your cross you gained the incorruptible kingdom, to which you draw the servants of God with the cross, granting us an inheritance, the theologians thereof.

You truly searched for Christ our life, and having searched, you were first to find him; and having found him, you mystically embraced him; and having received life from the giver thereof, you became a treasury of life incorruptible.

The utterances of your divine thunderings poured in the world from end to end, encircling it like a wheel; and your lightnings, as David said, appear to the whole world.

Remember us who celebrate your memory and venerate your relics, O disciple of Christ: pray earnestly for the flock whose preserver you have been from the beginning.

Theotokion You gave birth to the light, knowing not how, O bearer of the lamp of the light of the sun; and you were a new tabernacle of divine light, emitting rays of divine knowledge for the whole world.

Ode 6

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos Like the prophet Jonah, I cry out: Free my life from corruption, O good one, and save me, O Saviour of the world, as I sing: Glory to you.

I implore you, the good and undefiled tabernacle, by your mediation wash away all defilement from me, defiled by many sins.

Guide me, O pure one, tempest-tossed on the cruel depths of the perils of life: direct me to the harbour of salvation and save me.

The surging storm-waves of evil thoughts, the assaults of the passions and the depths of sin afflict my wretched soul: heal me, O holy Lady.

Christ ever wrought great things for you: ever entreat him, that he magnify in me his great mercy, O full of divine grace.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

Sailing the sea of life in the vessel of your body, you found Christ, the helmsman who guides all things, O blessed one who now stands before him rejoicing.

Evil spirits are cast out at your word, infirmities take flight, a host of spiritual passions are driven far from the afflicted by the grace given you by God, O Andrew.

Like a gentle wave, moved by a meek spirit, O blessed one, with divine streams you drained the sea of wicked polytheism and poured rivers of divine knowledge upon all.

Theotokion O most pure Virgin, the ancestors of our race are gladdened on your account, having received through you Eden, lost through the transgression.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos Like the prophet Jonah, I cry out: Free my life from corruption, O good one, and save me, O Saviour of the world, as I sing: Glory to you.

He who was led away from Bethsaida summons us to celebrate, having set before us the festivity of the commemoration of his struggles.

By trade a fisherman, by faith a disciple, plumbing the depths of the heart of the faithful, he lowers the hook of the word and catches us.

Spreading the fire of the love of Christ within your heart, O disciple, you cried out to the gentiles: Your flame burns for Christ, who has truly appeared.

Having seasoned your minds with the salt of Christ, your wages have sweetened the heavenly dogmas of unwaning delight for us.

Theotokion At the good pleasure of the Father and through the Holy Spirit, the Son was incarnate of you, the pure one, to save that which before was in his image.

*Kontakion, tone 2,
to the Special Melody* In supplications...

Let us praise the divinely eloquent namesake of manliness, the eminent follower of the Church and kinsman of Peter; for as he was called of old, so now he calls to us: Come, we have found the desired one.

Ikos Of old David urged us sinners to declare the precepts of God honourably; and again he teaches and with many tears proclaims: Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as the Israelites once embittered themselves; and he leads his posterity in psalmody: Sing to the Lord, all you lands, come, we have found the desired one.

Ode 7

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos The fire did not touch or threaten your youths in the furnace, O Saviour, for the three with one voice then praised and blessed you, saying: Blessed be the God of our fathers.

Adorned with divine virtues, O pure Virgin, you gave birth to the Word, co-unoriginate with the Father, who has truly covered the heavens with virtues: ever pray to him to have compassion for us.

Sanctify my soul besmirched by the passions, O most pure Bride of God; and destroy the bitter captivity of my mind, the hardness of my heart and the assaults of evil.

Cleansing me of the bitter defilement of my lowly soul, O Virgin, from the pursuit of the invisible foe deliver and save me, slain by carnal passions.

Before you, O most holy Lady, we your servants ever fall, day and night, praying with contrition of heart, that by your supplications you gain for us deliverance from sins.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

Truly your promise has been fulfilled, for your divine disciple, rebuking a storm with a word, transformed it to a peaceful calm, O Christ, the God of our fathers, who is praised and glorified above all.

Commanded to ascend the mountain of the noetic Sion, O apostle, and having passed over death to divine life, rejoicing, you bestow the cup of salvation of the praised and most glorious God of our fathers, having received it yourself.

Made a noetic river by the divine living water you stopped the flow of falsehood with streams of teaching for us who sing: Praised and most glorious is God.

Though a mortal, O apostle, you work supernatural wonders, for in suffering with love, you followed Christ who loved you, singing: Praised and most glorious is God.

Theotokion Jacob prophetically understood you to be a ladder, O Mother of God, for through you the exalted one appeared and dwelt among men on earth, as he was pleased so to do. Praised and most glorious is the God of our fathers.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos We the faithful perceive you... *as before*

O apostle of Christ, the fire of the Holy Spirit, descending from on high, commanded you to proclaim his mighty works to the ends of the earth in new languages you had never spoken before.

The proclamation which you trumpeted to the earth astounded every mind, O servant of the mysteries of Christ and beholder of lofty things, for with the twelve, you have enlightened the darkness of the earth.

O Master Christ, wondrous was your grace in your wise disciples who, as simple and humble men, traversed the whole earth from one end to all its ends.

Who taught you to speak thus, O apostle? Who enlightened your mind to see clearly the radiant unapproachable glory which shines the light of truth in our hearts?

Theotokion O Christ, we glorify you as one of the Trinity, for, incarnate of the Virgin without change, you underwent all things as a man without departing from the Father's essence, even though you were united to us.

Ode 8

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos As their creator and Lord, before whom the angels and all the hosts of Heaven stand in awe, you priests praise, you children glorify and you people exult above all for ever.

In a divine manner, he who is bodiless was embodied through you: pray to him, O most pure one, that he mortify the passions of my body and revive my soul slain by sin.

In giving birth to our Saviour and God, you remedied the affliction of Adam, who was fashioned of dust. Implore him to heal the wounds of my incurably afflicted soul.

Raise me up, lying in the depths of evil, and vanquish the enemies who assail me, the unbecoming pleasures which consume my soul: reject me not, O pure one, but have compassion and save me.

O pure one, who gave birth to the physician of all, heal the suffering of my heart, and entreat Christ to let me be one who shares the inheritance of the righteous.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

O apostle of Christ, your memory shines the joyous radiance of healing upon us who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

You transcended the laws of human nature and passed on to the abode of the angels, O apostle Andrew; and you sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

The inspiration of the Spirit of God, which before illumined you with fire from on high, O divinely eloquent apostle, made you a zealous orator who cries out to Christ: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

You flashed like lightning, a radiant light to the gentiles, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and illumining the faithful who sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Theotokion Rejoice, throne of the glory of God; rejoice, defence of the faithful through whom Christ the light of those in darkness has shone, who bless you and sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, sing and exalt him above all for ever.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos God, who preserved the bush unconsumed which burnt on Sinai and who delivered the children in the midst of the burning flame, hymn, bless and exalt above all for ever.

With a fisherman's skill you once drew fish from the sea, O wise one, and now, with faith, you draw men from the deception of the enemy for Christ; for deception was once an abyss which drowned the nations in the storm of impiety.

Driven by the sail of the Spirit, with faith in Christ you navigated the noetic abyss of life uncapsized, O apostle. Rejoicing, you have attained the eternal harbour of life.

When the noetic sun of his will set upon the tree, great Andrew, the lamp of the Church, the beacon of the sun, seeking to end his life with Christ and to set in him, was suspended upon the wood of a cross.

O disciple and beloved friend of Christ, and one of his apostles: When the judge sits on his throne with you, his twelve, to render judgment as he promised, then be for us a defending wall, O lover of mankind.

Theotokion You conceived and gave birth to one of the Trinity, who, incarnate of you, O pure one, has renewed the laws of nature: never cease to entreat him as God for us.

Ode 9

Canon of the Mother of God

Irmos We all magnify the pure Mother of our God as the luminous cloud upon which the unoriginate Master of all descended from Heaven as rain upon the fleece, who assuming flesh, became man.

I live in sloth, loving sin, O Virgin Bride of God, and I tremble before the implacable judgement, at which preserve me by your holy entreaties, so that uncondemned, I may ever praise you as my helper.

Having committed many sins on earth, I tremble before the judgement and the inescapable eye of your Son. Therefore I cry to you: Help me, O merciful Lady; and at that time of need, rescue me uncondemned.

How awesome is the day of judgement; how feeble my defence and how bitter my distress. Who will stand by me, O most pure Lady? Have mercy on my suffering soul, and before the end grant me forgiveness.

As you gave birth to the divine light, the Father's radiance, O immaculate one, have compassion for my soul, darkened by the deceptions of life and taunted by my foes: grant me the light of saving repentance.

First Canon of the Apostle

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

As an excellent disciple, following even to death your Master who was voluntarily crucified, you ascended the heights of your cross rejoicing, and passed on to heaven, O blessed Andrew.

The gates of Eden were opened to you, and the ladder of heaven was set up for you; the mansions of heaven received you where you stand, rejoicing, before Christ, the giver of life, O apostle, eminent intercessor for the world.

You were glorified by sufferings like those of your teacher, O blessed and wise Andrew; for you received your end through a cross and were deified through communion with God. We entreat you ever to pray for us.

Rejoice, excellent pair, having now inherited citizenship in heaven; for you have transcended the desire for crowns, having conquered the power thereof, and you illumine us with the radiance of divine gifts.

Theotokion You were born of the root of David, the prophet and forefather of God, O Virgin; but you have glorified David, for you gave birth to him whom he prophesied: hymning him, we magnify you.

Second Canon of the Apostle

Irmos We all magnify the pure Mother of our God as the luminous cloud upon which the unoriginate Master of all descended from Heaven as rain upon the fleece, who assuming flesh, became man.

O holy one who cast the net of the mystic knowledge of God, and who caught fish with the beauty of heavenly thoughts: entreat the Holy Trinity to pour cleansing upon us.

The nations enlightened by you and led up from earth to the heavens by you give thanks: wrested from servitude to the enemy, they have become companions of the holy angels, partakers of the glory of the Lord.

O apostles, witnesses of ineffable things and servants of the Word, performers of the mysteries and beholders of inscrutable things: Pray that we be heirs to the kingdom of Christ and partakers of his divinity.

Having received from Christ the power to bind and to loose, loose us from the bonds of our transgressions when Christ shall come and all twelve will be seated upon thrones to judge the tribes of Israel.

Theotokion We flee with faith to your loving kindness, piously worshipping your Son, O virgin Mother of God: entreat him, the God and Lord of the world, that he deliver us from corruption, misfortune and every temptation.

Exapostilarion,
top the Special Melody By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

The Word who is wholly without beginning found you and showed you to be the first-called of all the apostles, O blessed and ever-memorable Andrew: having followed

his steps, you became a guide for those astray, leading them to the divine and heavenly path.

Glory be to the Father... *another Exapostilarion,*
to the *Special Melody* Hearken, you women...

Most gloriously let us praise the apostle Andrew, the brother of Peter, the first of all the disciples, the beholder and servant of him who is the Word, for he enlightened the nations and, crucified, met his end as a disciple of the Master.

Both now and for ever...

Theotokion Immaculate Virgin, with Andrew the first-called, entreat God to whom you gave birth, for us who piously honour you, that we may receive the splendour of your Son and a place to stand with the elect and the saints; for what you wish, you can do.

Praises, 4 verses, tone 1,
to the *Special Melody* Joy of the ranks of heaven...

Be glad now, O Bethsaida,
for the most fragrant lilies, Peter and Andrew,
have blossomed forth in you from the vale of their mother,
perfuming the whole world with the proclamation of the faith
through the grace of Christ;
and they share also in his sufferings.

Rejoice and be glad, O Andrew,
for, clearly, in the radiance of the Word,
you received Christ, the sun of glory, the bestower of life,
to whom cleaving with faith, you proclaimed:
ever entreat him for us who hymn you with faith.

Andrew, the beholder of God,
the teacher of the mysteries of the divine dispensation of Christ,
elect among the first to be disciples of the Word,
beholding Peter, his brother, cried out:
We have found the Messiah, whom the Scriptures and the prophets foretold.

Thankfully honouring you, O apostle Andrew,
the city of Patras has you as its pastor,
a divine protector and a deliverer from various misfortunes:
unceasingly pray for it, that it be preserved unharmed.

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

Let us praise Andrew,
the preacher of the faith and servant of the Word,

who has drawn men from the abyss, wielding the cross instead of a rod;
and lowering a line of power,
he has raised souls from the deception of the enemy,
and offered them to God as an acceptable gift.
Let us praise him among the choirs of the disciples of Christ,
that he may pray with them,
that Christ be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

Both now and for ever... *of the Forefeast, same tone*

Receive the Mother of God, O Bethlehem,
for the unapproachable light is coming to be born in you.
Angels, marvel in heaven;
men, give glory on earth;
Magi from Persia, bring your most glorious threefold gifts;
shepherds watching in the fields, sing the thrice-holy hymn:
let every breath praise the Maker of all.

Great Doxology and the rest.

Liturgy

Beatitudes, 8 verses:

4 from Ode 3 of the first Canon of the apostle, and 4 from Ode 6 of 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 131 (1 Cor 4:9-16)

Alleluia, tone 1

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

God is glorified in the council of the holy ones.

Gospel of John, number 4 (John 1:35-51)

Communion Verse

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 For our sake you were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion, O good one,
and destroyed death by death and as God revealed the resurrection.
Forsake not those who were fashioned by your hand but show your love for mankind, O merciful one.
Receive the intercession for us of the Mother of God who gave you birth, and save us, your despairing people, O our Saviour.

Theotokia sung at the Verses⁶,

**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 evening Joy of the heavenly hierarchies and mighty advocate for those on earth, save us as we run to you, O purest Virgin, for after God we place our hope in you.

Monday Matins More holy than all the powers on high, more honourable than all created things, O Mother of God and sovereign of the world who has given birth to the Saviour: in your goodness, save us from countless transgressions and perils through your intercessions.

Monday evening With prophetic eyes, Moses saw the mystery that was to take place in you, O highly exulted Virgin, as he beheld the bush which burned and yet was not consumed; for neither did the fire of the divinity consume you, the pure one. Therefore we implore you as the Mother of God, beg for peace and great mercy for the world.

Tuesday Matins I have exceeded in sin the harlot, the prodigal and the thief, the publican and the Ninevites. Woe is me, and what shall become of me, poor wretch, and how shall I escape torture? I shall fall down before you, the pure one, and ask that as your Son saved them, in your mercy save me.

Wednesday evening Rejoice, O Virgin, the joy of the patriarchs, gladness of the apostles and martyrs, the protection of us, your servants.

Thursday Matins Rejoice, O virgin Mother of God: rejoice, praise of all the world: rejoice, O most pure and blessed Mother of God.

Friday evening The extraordinary manner of your maternity, as proclaimed by all the prophets, truly passes understanding, O most glorious Bride of God: he who was conceived and born of you has incomprehensibly and ineffably saved the word, as he is merciful.

Saturday Matins Rejoice, holy Virgin, one of us and the Mother of God, for of all the world you are the pure vessel, the inextinguishable lamp and indestructible temple and abode of the infinite one. Rejoice, for from you was born the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world.

⁶ These being, with a few exceptions, the Theotokia provided in the Octoechos for the Aposticha of Vespers and Matins.

Tone 2

Sunday evening Rejoice, O Mary Mother of God, the indestructible and supremely holy temple; for as the prophet cried out regarding you: Holy is your temple, wondrous in righteousness.

Monday Matins We place our trust in you, the Mother of God: may our hope not fail, O helper of those who are in difficulties. Save us and confound the counsels of the adversary, for you are our salvation, O blessed one.

Monday evening Blessed Mother of God, the gate mystically sealed, through which no one may pass, accept our entreaties and bear them to your Son and God, that through you he may save our souls.

Tuesday Matins Rejoice, O Mary Mother of God, the indestructible and supremely holy temple; for as the prophet cried out regarding you: Holy is your temple, wondrous in righteousness.

Wednesday evening The Virgin, like a fruitful olive tree, has produced you, the living fruit; bringing to fruition for the world him who is great and rich mercy.

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

Friday evening Save your servants from harm, O Virgin Mother of God, for after God, we all flee to you, the unassailable defence and intercessor.

Saturday Matins Come, let us all cry out in never ending songs of praise to the Mother of God, and let us offer the salutation Rejoice, to her who gave birth to our salvation. For she alone bore him who is the initiator of all, God who is from before the ages. Rejoice, birth-giver of him who has restored fallen Adam; rejoice, O pure unwedded Virgin.

Tone 3

Sunday evening We are encouraged by you, the Mother of God, the intercessor for all who pray to you; for you are our boast, and in you we place all our hope. Pray to him who was born of you for your ungainly servants.

Monday Matins O pure one, foremost in holiness and the fount of praise of the heavenly ranks, the fulfillment of the prophets, the exultation of the apostles: accept also our prayers, O Lady.

Monday evening O Mother of God, holy among women, the unwedded mother: entreat the king and God to whom you gave birth, that he save us as he is the lover of mankind.

Theotokia at the Verses

Tuesday Matins Without seed you conceived of the Holy Spirit, and so we glorify you with hymns, singing: Rejoice, most holy Virgin.

Wednesday evening I have transgressed in every way, O Maiden: deliver me by your mighty prayer from the inevitable flame and amend me by your entreaties, O pure Virgin, leading me by your maternal prayers on the path of salvation.

Thursday Matins Without seed you conceived of the Holy Spirit, and so we glorify you with hymns, singing: Rejoice, most holy Virgin.

Friday evening Unwedded Mother of God, holy among women: entreat the king and God to whom you gave birth, that he save us as he is the lover of mankind.

Saturday Matins Without seed you conceived of the Holy Spirit, and so we glorify you with hymns, singing: Rejoice, most holy Virgin.

Tone 4

Sunday evening Rejoice, cloud of light: rejoice, shining lamp stand: rejoice, jar of manna: rejoice, rod of Aaron: rejoice, bush unburnt: rejoice, bridal chamber: rejoice, throne: rejoice, holy mountain: rejoice, divine table: rejoice, mystic portal: rejoice, for you are the joy of all.

Monday Matins Mother of God, queen of all and pride of the Orthodox, confound the noisy insolence of heretics and put to shame the faces of those who neither venerate nor honour your precious image, O most holy Virgin.

Monday evening Deliver us from our needs, O Mother of Christ our God, who gave birth to the creator of all, that we may all cry to you: Rejoice, only mediator for our souls.

Tuesday Matins Protect your servants from all misfortune, O blessed Mother of God, that we may glorify you, the hope of our souls.

Wednesday evening Having you as our hope and advocate, O Mother of God, we do not fear the attacks of the enemy, for you can save our souls.

Thursday Matins In you, most pure Mother of God, we have obtained a protecting wall and a haven free from storms, for you are a confirmation. Therefore I pray to you: Guide me, overwhelmed by the storms of this life, and save me.

Friday evening O most pure Lady, the lamp whose light is inextinguishable, the throne of righteousness, pray that our souls be saved.

Saturday Matins O Virgin, alone pure and immaculate, who without seed gave birth to God, intercede for the salvation of our souls.

Tone 5

Sunday evening What a fearful, most glorious and great mystery, that he who cannot be encompassed was encompassed within your womb, and moreover, the Mother remains a virgin, even after giving birth; for it was God who was incarnate of her. Let us sing to him and raise our voices with the angels to cry out to him: Holy are you, Christ our God; glory to you, who became incarnate for us.

Monday Matins O joyous one, through your intercession for us, we pray that you beg the greatness of mercy for our souls and the cleansing of our many transgressions.

Monday evening Calm the anguish of my much sighing soul, for you wipe away all tears from the face of the earth, dispelling the pain of mankind and dispersing the sorrow of sinners. In you, most holy Mother and Virgin, we have all gained hope and confirmation.

Tuesday Matins O joyous one, through your intercession for us, we pray that you beg the greatness of mercy for our souls and the cleansing of our many transgressions.

Wednesday evening We call you blessed, the Virgin Mother of God, and we the faithful give you the glory that is due. You are an unshakeable city, an impregnable defence, a firm intercessor and refuge for our souls.

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

Friday evening We pray to you as you are the Mother of God: O blessed one, pray for the salvation of our souls.

Saturday Matins Alas, O miserable soul; for what answer shall you be able to give the judge at that hour when the thrones are set for judgement and he shall come from heaven with thousands of angels, when he shall sit upon the judgement seat to pronounce judgement upon worthless servants such as you? What answer shall you give, and what shall you offer? Truly, you have nothing, having defiled both soul and body. Therefore, fall before the Virgin, and ceaselessly call to her to grant forgiveness of your sins.

Tone 6

Sunday evening Like the archangel, we the faithful cry out to her, truly the heavenly bridal chamber and the sealed portal: Rejoice, for through you Christ our God has blossomed forth as the Saviour and giver of life. O Lady, by your right hand confound the torment of the godless foe, O most pure one, the hope of Christians.

Monday Matins You received the word of the Archangel, O Mother of God, and are shown to be the cherubic throne, for you carried him in your arms who is the hope of our souls.

Theotokia at the Verses

Monday evening No one who flees to you goes away disappointed, O most pure Virgin and Mother of God: he who asks a favour receives according to the virtue of his request.

Tuesday Matins Pure Virgin Mother of God, you have been granted great gifts, for you gave birth to one of the Trinity, Christ incarnate, the giver of life, for the salvation of our souls.

Wednesday evening I turn the eyes of my heart to you, O Lady. Do not reject my feeble sighs; but at the time when your Son will judge the world, be my protector and helper.

Thursday Matins You are the transformation of the sorrowing, and the recovery of the sick, O most praised Mother of God. Save our community and its people⁷, O pacification of aggressors and calm haven of the storm-tossed, the true helper of the faithful.

Friday evening Through the intercession of her who gave birth to you, O Christ, and of your martyrs, apostles, prophets and hierarchs, and of the venerable and the righteous, and of all the saints; grant rest to your servants who have fallen asleep.

Saturday Matins We have come to the knowledge of God, incarnate of you, the Virgin Mother of God: intercede with him for the salvation of our souls.

Tone 7

Sunday evening With the angel we cry out to you: Rejoice, Bride of God; calling you the bridal chamber and portal, the fiery throne and unhewn mountain, the bush burning but unconsumed.

Monday Matins Through the intercession of the Mother of God, gladden the lives of us who sing out to you: Glory to you, the merciful Lord.

Monday evening Rejoice, O lady, cloud of the noetic and ineffable sun; rejoice, most radiant light; rejoice all-golden lamp stand: for through you, the most holy one, Eve is released from the curse. Since you have boldness before your Son and God who is inclined to be compassionate, cease not to entreat him with your maternal prayers, O most pure one.

Tuesday Matins O Christ the light, you have shone forth from the Virgin and have illumined the human race: glory to you, O Lord.

Wednesday evening We praise the most pure Virgin, for she alone remained as such, even after giving birth. We glorify her as the Mother of God the Word, as we say: Glory to you.

⁷ Slavonic: *Save the city and people*

Thursday Matins In a manner beyond description, you were born of the virgin, O Christ: you have illumined those in darkness who cry: Glory to you, O Lord.

Friday evening May you, who received him who cannot be contained and gave birth to the incarnate Word of God, intercede that our souls may be saved.

Saturday Matins With the apostles and the martyrs, O Virgin, pray that the departed may find great mercy at the judgement.

Tone 8

Sunday evening Taking up the cry of the Archangel Gabriel, let us say: Rejoice, O Mother of God, for you gave birth to Christ, the giver of life for the world.

Monday Matins The heavenly powers hymn you, the unwedded Mother, full of grace, and we glorify your inexplicable maternity. O Mother of God, pray that our souls be saved.

Monday evening Rejoice, O boast of the world; rejoice temple of the Lord; rejoice overshadowed mountain; rejoice, the refuge of all; rejoice, O golden lamp stand; rejoice, honoured glory of the Orthodox; rejoice Mary, Mother of Christ our God; rejoice paradise and divine table; rejoice, tabernacle and golden urn; rejoice O hope of all.

Tuesday Matins Your shelter is a spiritual healing, O virgin Mother of God; for we who have recourse to it are delivered from spiritual infirmities.

Wednesday evening I take refuge under your protection, O holy virgin Mother of God, knowing that there I may find salvation. Help me, O pure one, as you are able so to do.

Thursday Matins O Lady, extricate me from the hand of the man-slaying serpent, who in his wickedness desires utterly to devour me. I entreat you, crush his jaws and destroy his ploys, so that delivered from his clutches I may ever magnify your help.

Friday evening O pure Virgin, gateway of the Word and Mother of our God, pray that our souls may be saved.

Saturday Matins O Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and deliver us from all necessity and grief.

Dismissal Theotokia

**used after the Troparia of the saints at Vespers
and again at Matins after *God is the Lord...* and at the end of Matins**

Tone 1

Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins Creation rejoices to see within you the wonder of wonders, O full of grace; for you conceived without seed and ineffably give birth to him whom the ranks of angels cannot see: entreat him on behalf of our souls.

Monday Lauds O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins O Mother of God, full of grace, who without being burnt conceived the divine fire; who without seed gave birth to the Lord, the source of life: save those who magnify you.

Tuesday Lauds You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins In you we have an advocate, O most pure one, and by your supplications we are delivered from danger. Guarded in all things by the cross of your Son, we all magnify you with due reverence.

Wednesday Lauds O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins O Mother of God, full of grace, who without being burnt conceived the divine fire; who without seed gave birth to the Lord, the source of life: save those who magnify you.

Thursday Lauds You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins Having gained your intercession, O most pure one, delivered from evils by your supplications, and protected wholly by the cross of your Son, we all piously give you fitting praise.

Friday Lauds O most pure Mother of God, who is blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth; rejoice O bride the unwedded.

Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins At the sound of Gabriel's voice | calling to you: Rejoice, O Virgin, | the Master of all things was conceived in you, the holy tabernacle, |

as righteous David said. | In bearing your creator, you surpass the spaciousness of the heavens. | ~ Glory to him who dwelt in you; | ~ glory to him who came forth from you; | | glory to him who set us free by your giving of birth.

Saturday Lauds You gave birth on earth without a father, to him who, in a manner beyond comprehension and recounting, was begotten in heaven without a mother: O Mother of God entreat him on behalf of our souls.

Tone 2

Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins As the source of him who is compassion, grant mercy to us, O Mother of God. Look upon us sinners and reveal your power as of old; for, trusting in you, we cry out to you, Rejoice! as once did Gabriel, the supreme commander of the bodiless ones.

Monday Lauds O holy Mother of the ineffable light: we piously magnify you, honouring you with angelic hymns.

Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become sharers of the divine nature, since for us you gave birth to God incarnate; and so we all piously give you fitting glory.

Tuesday Lauds We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, cloud of the unwaning light, who carried the Lord of glory.

Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins We sing to you, the most glorious Virgin Mother of God, for through the cross of your Son, Hades has been destroyed and death put to death; we mortals have risen, and have been granted life and have received paradise, our ancient delight. Therefore, giving thanks, we glorify Christ our God who alone is mighty and most merciful.

Wednesday Lauds We magnify you, the Mother of God, crying out: Rejoice, staff from which God issued without seed, who destroyed death on the tree.

Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins Through you, the ever-virgin Mother of God, we have become sharers of the divine nature, since for us you gave birth to God incarnate; and so we all piously give you fitting glory.

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.

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.

Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins The strange and saving mystery of the Virgin has been revealed to all the world: you were born from her without seed, and showed yourself bodily without corruption. Glory to you O Lord, the joy of all.

Thursday Lauds Most holy Mother of God, the protection of Christians: as is your way, deliver your people who earnestly cry out to you; battle against our shameful and prideful thoughts, that we may cry out to you: Rejoice, O Ever-virgin.

Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins Through the cross of your Son, O blessed by God, the deception of idolatry has been destroyed, and the power of the demons trampled down; therefore, we, the faithful, rightly hymn and bless you, acknowledging you to be truly the Mother of God.

Friday Lauds O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins Rejoice, gateway of the Lord | through which none may pass: | rejoice, wall and protection of those who flee to you: | rejoice, haven untroubled by storms: | rejoice, for you have not known wedlock | and have borne in the flesh your maker and God. | Do not fail in your intercession | | for those who praise and worship your giving of birth.

Saturday Lauds O Christ our God who shone forth upon the world from the Virgin, who through her made us the children of light, have mercy on us.

Tone 6

Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins The announcement of Gabriel to the Virgin was the beginning of our salvation; for she heard Rejoice. She did not reject or doubt the salutation, as did Sarah in the tent, but said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: let it be done to me as you have said.

Monday Lauds You received the word of the Archangel, and were shown to be the throne of the Cherubim; for you carried the hope of our souls in your arms, O Mother of God.

Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins O blessed virgin Mother of God the hope of the world, we implore your intercession which alone is mighty: take pity on us, who have no other intercessor; beseech the merciful God, that our souls be delivered from every threat, as you alone are blessed.

Tuesday Lauds No one who has recourse to you, the most pure virgin Mother of God, departs from you ashamed; for he who asks a favour receives a gracious gift for his favourable petition.

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.

Friday Lauds The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins Gideon foretold your conceiving, | and David proclaimed your birthgiving; | for as the dew descended upon the fleece, | so the Word descended into your womb, | and you, O holy ground, without seed produced Christ our God, the salvation of the world, | | O Mother of God, full of grace.

Saturday Lauds The Son and Word of God, begotten motherless of the Father before the ages, incarnate in time of your pure blood, O unwedded Mother of God; entreat him, that we be granted remission of sins before the end.

Tone 7

Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins O undefiled Virgin Mother of God, with the hosts of heaven pray to your Son that before the end comes, forgiveness of transgressions be granted to us who faithfully glorify you.

Monday Lauds You have surpassed the heavenly hosts, O blessed Mother of God, for you became a divine temple, in giving birth to Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins O Mother of God we offer you the cry Rejoice; for, having given birth to God, you have become more exalted than the angels.

Tuesday Lauds Through the prayers of the Mother of God impart peace to the lives of us who cry to you: Glory to you, O merciful Lord.

Tuesday Vespers, Wednesday Matins Unceasing entreat Christ our God, crucified for us and destroying the dominion of death, O virgin Mother of God, that he save our souls.

Wednesday Lauds Deliver us from the sins which cling, O Mother of God, for we, the faithful, have no other hope but you and God who was born of you.

Wednesday Vespers, Thursday Matins O most pure one, the fruit of your womb is the fulfillment of the prophets and the law, in the knowledge of which we piously glorify you, magnifying you as the Mother of God.

Thursday Lauds O Bride of God, the fruit of your womb is shown to men as the mediator of salvation; and so, glorifying you with mind and tongue, we the faithful magnify you as the Mother of God.

Thursday Vespers, Friday Matins Unceasing entreat Christ our God, crucified for us and destroying the dominion of death, O virgin Mother of God, that he save our souls.

Friday Lauds Deliver us from the sins which cling, O Mother of God, for we, the faithful, have no other hope but you and God who was born of you.

Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins As the treasury of our resurrection, hymned by all, | raise from the pit and depths of transgression those who hope in you; | for by giving birth to our salvation | you have saved those subject to sin: | for you were a virgin before and during giving birth, | and so you have remained, | | even after giving birth.

Saturday Lauds Rejoice, O Lady who held within your womb him whom the heavens cannot hold. Rejoice, Virgin preached by the prophets, through whom Emmanuel has shone forth. Rejoice, Mother of Christ our God.

Tone 8

Sunday Vespers, Monday Matins Rejoice, O Lady through whom the Angel received the joy of the world. Rejoice, O Virgin who gave birth to your creator and Lord. Rejoice, for you were to be the Mother of God.

Monday Lauds Rejoice, portal of the king of glory, through which the Most High alone passed, and which he sealed, for the salvation of our souls.

Monday Vespers, Tuesday Matins O faithful, let us magnify with hymns the Mother of God, the steadfast confirmation of the faith and the precious gift to our souls: Rejoice, for you held in your womb the stone of life. Rejoice, the hope of the ends of the earth and aid of the sorrowful. Rejoice, O bride unwedded.

Dismissal Theotokia

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.