

WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT VESPERS: TONE I

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

Spec. Mel.: “O all-praised martyrs ...”:

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

O glorious apostles, divinely chosen disciples of Christ, teachers of the whole world, who found the Lord God, Who is the Mediator between God and mankind: Unto Him did ye cleave in godliness, and throughout the world ye manifestly preached Him as God and as a supremely perfect man.

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

O most wise apostles, divinely chosen disciples of Christ, teachers of the whole world: By your prayers strengthen me, that I may obey the teachings of God; and ever help me to walk the narrow path, that I may achieve a most spacious rest in paradise.

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

I hymn as eyewitnesses and preachers of the Word Peter the first enthroned, Paul and James, Andrew and Philip, Simon, Bartholomew and Thomas, Matthew and John, and Mark and Luke who recorded the Gospels, who with the seventy others are the divinely chosen choir.

Then the Stichera from the Menaion; or if there is no Menaion, these Stichera of the holy hierarch Nicholas, the wonderworker , in the same melody:

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

Soaring aloft above the flowers of the Church, O thrice-blessed Nicholas, as a fledgling from the angelic nest of the Most High thou ever callest unto God on behalf of all the people who find themselves in the midst of violent tribulations and temptations, delivering them by thy prayers.

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

Ascending through the beauties of heaven, thou didst gaze upon the awesome glory of the Holy of holies. Wherefore, thou dost ever disclose unto us heavenly words of the vivifying sight thereof, O most sacred father.

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

The adornment of priestly vestments didst thou render more splendid by thine active virtues, O God-bearing father; wherefore, for us thou performest sacred acts of wondrous miracles for the sake of Christ, delivering us from evils.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

Tempest-tossed on the abyss of transgressions, * fleeing to the calm haven * of thy most pure supplication, * I cry out to thee, O Birthgiver of God: ** Save me, O all-immaculate one, extending thy mighty right hand unto thy servant!

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

Prokeimenon: O God, in Thy name save me, * and in Thy strength do Thou judge me.

Verse: O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth.

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

On the Aposticha, these Stichera of the holy apostles, in Tone I:

The harmonious harp of the apostles, played by the Holy Spirit, abolished the abominable sacrifices of the demons; and, proclaiming the one Lord, it hath delivered the nations from the delusion of idolatry, and taught them to worship the consubstantial Trinity.

Verse: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her Mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, * until He take pity on us.

Together let us praise Peter and Paul, Luke and Matthew, Mark and John, Andrew and Thomas, Bartholomew and Simon the Canaite, James and Philip; and let us laud the whole choir of the disciples, as is meet.

Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, * and abasement on the proud.

To the Martyrs: O all-famed martyrs, the earth did not hide you, but heaven received you, and unto you were opened the gates of paradise. And since ye have entered therein, ye delight in the tree of life. Pray ye unto Christ, that He grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

Rejoice, O Virgin, * thou joy of the forefathers, * gladness of the apostles and martyrs, ** and protection of us thy servants!

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: TONE I
AT COMPLINE

Canon of supplication to the most holy Theotokos

ODE I

Irmos: Let us all chant a triumphant hymn unto God * Who wrought wondrous miracles * with His upraised arm, * and saved Israel, * for He hath been glorified.

The bush prefigured thee, O Birthgiver of God; for, remaining unconsumed, thou didst truly hold the unbearable Fire. Wherefore, with faithful voices we ever hymn thee.

God the Word, clothing Himself in human nature, became incarnate from thee in a manner transcending understanding, O most pure one. Wherefore, every breath doth glorify thee and renders thee homage, and honor, as is meet.

Glory ..., O most pure one, thou didst conceive the ineffable Word Who upholdeth all the ends of the earth, and thou hast given birth to Him. Him do thou earnestly beseech, that He have mercy on us.

Both now ..., In that thou alone hast given birth within time to the timeless God incarnate, O most pure Lady, heal thou the immemorial sufferings of my passion-plagued soul.

ODE III

Irmos: Let my heart be established in Thy will O Christ God, * Who hath established a second heaven over the waters, * and founded the earth upon the waters, * O all-powerful One.

That He might deify humanity, God became man through thee, O pure Virgin, in a manner past all telling and understanding. Wherefore together we, the faithful, call thee blessed.

He Who by nature is uncircumscribable became circumscribed, incarnate from thee, O pure one who art full of the grace of God. Him do thou unceasingly entreat, that He take pity and enlighten the souls of those who bless thee.

Glory ..., Dispel all the fruitlessness of mine unfruitful thoughts, and show forth my soul as fruitful in the virtues, O most holy Theotokos, thou helper of the faithful.

Both now ..., Deliver me from every evil circumstance, from the many temptations of the serpent, and from eternal fire and darkness, O most immaculate one who for us hast given birth to the never-waning Light.

ODE IV

Irmos: **Foreseeing in the Spirit O Prophet Habbakuk, * the incarnation of the Word, * thou didst proclaim, crying aloud: * When the years draw nigh, Thou shalt be known; * when the season cometh, Thou shalt be shown forth! * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!**

Christ made His abode within thy most pure womb, O all-holy Lady, and deified us, assuming animate flesh. Wherefore O pure Mother, we hymn thee in an Orthodox manner, O Lady, thou helper of the world.

Sanctify us, O holy Theotokos who hast given birth in the flesh to the Most holy One Who desired to become like unto men; and by thy supplications, O most pure one, show us all to be partakers of the heavenly kingdom.

Glory ..., O Virgin Theotokos, undefiled tabernacle, with the pure beams of thy compassions cleanse me who have defiled myself with transgressions, and grant me a helping hand, that I may cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Both now ..., Thou wast revealed to be a temple sanctified for God, O Virgin, and He made His abode in thee in a manner transcending understanding. Him do thou beseech, that He wash away the defilement of our sins, that we may be shown to be temples and habitations of the Spirit.

ODE V

Irmos: **Grant us Thy peace, O Son of God, * for we know no other God than Thee, * and we call upon Thy Name, * for Thou art the God of the living and the dead.**

The wicked eating which once was done in Eden made me mortal; but do thou, O pure one who hast given birth to Life, restore me to life who have been slain by the tree of old, that I may lift up my voice in hymns, glorifying thee.

O all-pure one, save me from cruel tribulations! Raise me up from the vile passions, and from the captivity and oppression of the evil demons deliver me who honor thee with love.

Glory ..., O pure Virgin Mother, we know thee to be the cloud and garden of paradise, the portal of the Light, the table and fleece, and the jar holding within thee the Manna which is the delight of the world.

Both now ..., O most immaculate one who hast given birth to God, Emmanuel, Who in His loving-kindness manifestly became a man: Him do thou beseech, that He have pity on sinful people, in that He is the Lover of mankind, O pure one.

ODE VI

Irmos: Lead my life up from corruption O Christ God, * as didst Thou the Prophet Jonah, * I cry to Thee O Lover of mankind, * for with Thee is life, incorruption and might.

I entreat thee who art the good and undefiled tabernacle: By thy mediation wash away all defilement from me who have been defiled by many sins.

O pure one, be thou guidance for me who am tempest-tossed upon the cruel abyss of the perils of life; direct me to the harbor of salvation, and save me.

Glory ..., The threefold billows of evil thoughts, the assaults of the passions and the abyss of sins bestorm my wretched soul. Heal me, O holy Lady!

Both now ..., O Mary who art called the tabernacle of sanctification, sanctify my wretched soul which hath been defiled by pleasures, and make me a partaker of divine glory.

Lord, have mercy, (Thrice).

Glory ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Thy tomb, O Savior ...":

O Virgin who gavest nourishment to One of the Trinity, O beauteous garden of paradise, salvation of mortals: by thy protection save those who piously hymn thee, for thou hast given birth to Him Who spake in the prophets, and didst bear Him Who upholdeth all things, in that thou art the Mother of Christ God.

ODE VII

Irmos: Thy children who were in the furnace O Savior, * were neither touched nor troubled by The fire. * Whereupon the three sang, as with a single mouth * Thy praises and blessed Thee, saying: * 'O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou.'

The Son of the beginningless Father made His abode within thy womb, receiving a beginning, that He might deliver us who worship Him from the evil princes of darkness, in that He is God, O pure Birthgiver of God.

Arrayed in divine virtues, O pure Virgin, thou hast given birth to the Word Who with the Father is beginningless, and hath truly covered the heavens with virtues. Him do thou ever entreat, that He have pity on us.

Glory ..., Sanctify our thoughts, make steadfast the souls of all, O Mother of God, that we may execute well the judgments of the Word of the beginningless Father Who, in His ineffable loving-kindness, became incarnate from thee, O Virgin.

Both now ..., **R**evive my mind which hath been slain by many passions, O most immaculate one, and strengthen me to do God-pleasing works, that I may magnify thee ever as the helper and hope of Christians.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Him of whom the angels and all the hosts of heaven are in awe * as their Lord and Creator, * ye priests hymn, ye children praise, * ye peoples bless and supremely exalt * throughout all ages.

By thy vigilant supplications to God, O most immaculate one, we who acknowledge thee to be the blessed and all-joyous Theotokos are delivered from all manner of temptations.

In a godly manner the Incorporeal One became incarnate from thee. Him do thou entreat, O most pure one, that He mortify the passions of my flesh and revive my soul, which hath been slain by sins.

Glory ..., **O** most pure one who hast given birth to God the Savior, Who hath healed the abasement of Adam: Him do thou beseech, that He heal the incurably painful wounds of my soul.

Both now ..., **R**aise me up who lie in the abyss of evils, and vanquish the enemies who now assail me, the unseemly pleasures which eat away my soul. Disdain me not, O pure one, but have pity and save me!

ODE IX

Irmos: The light-bearing cloud upon whom * the beginningless Master of all descended from heaven, * like the dew upon the fleece, * and of whom He was incarnate, * becoming a man for our sake, * let us all magnify as the pure Mother of God.

O most immaculate one who hast given birth to the divine Light Who shone forth from the Father, have pity on my soul, which hath become darkened by the deceptions of life and is become an object of mockery to mine enemies; and grant unto me the light of saving repentance, O pure one.

O most immaculate one, Isaiah beheld thee as a luminous cloud from whence the Sun of righteousness hath shone forth upon us, mystically to enlighten creation. Wherefore, with faith we hymn thee who art beautiful among women.

Glory ..., **L**oving sin, I live in slothfulness, O pure one. I tremble before the unfailing judgment, at which do thou preserve me uncondemned by thy holy prayers, O Virgin Bride of God, that I may ever bless thee as my helper.

Both now ..., **I** tremble before the judgment and the inescapable eye of thy Son, having committed many sins on earth. Wherefore, I cry to thee: O all-merciful Lady, help me! O pure one, rescue me uncondemned from my need at that time!

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

**ON THURSDAY MORNING: TONE I
AT MATINS**

**After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, these
Sessional Hymns of the holy apostles, in Tone I:**

O most wise fishers of the whole world, having received compassion from God, pray ye now also for us who cry out: Save Thy people, O Lord, and for the sake of the apostles free our souls from the evils which beset us.

Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the end of the world.

O ye faithful, in hymns let us honor the all-wise apostles: the melodious trumpets of Christ, the steeds which by grace roil the sea of ungodliness and draw all forth from the abyss unto the divine haven of salvation.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

Having acquired Mary the Theotokos as an unassailable bulwark, come, ye faithful, let us bow down and fall prostrate before her; for she hath boldness before Him Who was born of her, and entreateth Him, and saveth our souls from wrath and death.

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns, in Tone I:

Destroying the webs of the rhetors with the net of the word and the reed of the Cross, the fishermen enlightened the nations, that in piety they might glorify Thee, the true God; wherefore, we cry out a hymn unto Thee Who strengthened them: Glory be to the Father and to the Son! Glory be to the Holy Spirit Who is of the same essence! Glory be to Thee Who through them hast enlightened the world!

Verse: The heavens * shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord.

Shining forth timelessly, the Light Who is from Light entered time and appeared on earth in the flesh; and through you, O all-blessed ones, He enlightened the earth. Wherefore, illumined by your divine teachings, we honor your sacred memory, O apostles.

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

To the Martyrs: We all pray to the martyrs of Christ, approaching them with love, for they pray for our salvation, pouring forth the grace of healings and repelling hordes of the demons, in that they kept the Faith.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

O most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high do thou unceasingly beseech God to Whom, in a manner surpassing understanding and all telling, thou hast given birth, that He grant forgiveness of all our sins and correction of life unto those who with faith and love ever glorify thee.

After the 3rd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns, in Tone I:

O radiant disciples of the Savior, ye noetic luminaries, having illumined the whole world as with fire, I pray that by your brilliant rays, O most blessed ones, my soul, which is in darkness, may be illumined.

O holy hierarch father Nicholas, who dwelt bodily in Myra, thou wast revealed to be anointed noetically with the myrrh of the Spirit, and with thy miracles emitting sweet fragrances, and pouring forth ever-flowing myrrh upon Myra, which is perfumed by thy myrrh-like hymns and thy memory.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

The prophets clearly proclaimed thee beforehand as the Mother of God, O Maiden. The divine apostles proclaimed thee in the midst of the world, and we have believed on thee. Wherefore, we all right reverently hymn thee and ever call thee the true Theotokos.

ODE I

Canon of the holy apostles, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone I:

Irmos: Thy victorious right arm, * in a manner befitting God, * hath been glorified in strength, O Immortal One; * for in its infinite strength it shattered the enemy, * fashioning anew a path for the Israelites through the deep.

Illumined by the divine rays of the effulgence of the threefold Sun, O glorious and radiant apostles, ye truly became gods by adoption; wherefore, as is meet, we honor you with faith. **(Twice)**

Ye became faithful ministers of the Word Who in His tender compassion appeared on earth in the coarseness of the flesh, and being fulfillers of all His precepts by faith, O apostles, ye are ever honored.

O ever-blessed ones, with the radiant beams of the most holy Spirit enlighten the whole of me, who am enshrouded in the darkness of sins; and manifestly guide me to the path of repentance.

Theotokion: **O** all-immaculate Birthgiver of God and Lady, who art the joy of the apostles: In that thou art Mother to Him Who hath divinely spoken in them, pray with them, that He deliver me from the fire of Gehenna.

Another canon, of our father among the saints Nicholas the wonderworker, the acrostic whereof is “Unto thee, O Nicholas, do I offer a first hymn,” the composition of Joseph, in Tone I:

Irmos: Let us all chant a triumphant hymn unto God * Who wrought wondrous miracles * with His upraised arm, * and saved Israel, * for He hath been glorified.

Adorned with crowns of righteousness, and standing before the throne of grace, O Nicholas, by thy supplications ever save those who in hymns now crown thee with faith.

O all-blessed Nicholas, who hast been granted the grace of healings, by thy supplications heal the wounds of my soul, and deliver me from the temptations which beset me, I pray thee.

By thy mighty supplication, O Nicholas, heal my soul, which is wholly paralyzed by my transgressions, and deliver me from the cruelties of life, I pray thee.

Theotokion: With thy light dispel the gloom from my mind, O all-immaculate one, and deliver me from everlasting darkness, that I may ever hymn thy mighty works.

ODE III

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Thou alone knowest the weakness of human nature * and in compassion hast assumed its form; * do Thou gird me with power from on high, * that I may cry unto Thee: * Holy is the animate temple of Thine ineffable glory, O Lover of mankind!

God, Who alone is invisible, became visible when He became incarnate; and He chose you as disciples for the whole world, to proclaim His name and surpassing glory, O most blessed, divine apostles. (Twice)

Against Thee only have I sinned, O Christ, against Thee only have I committed iniquity; and I have defiled my soul with evils. By Thy mercy cleanse and save me, for I have Thy most wise apostles entreating Thee, O Jesus Who alone art readily appeased.

O merciful apostles, deliver me from the bitterness of the defilements of passions and sins, sweetening my thoughts with repentance, in that ye have divine sweetness in your hearts, O all-praised ones.

Theotokion: With the immaterial ministers, with all the hosts on high, with the martyrs and the apostles, O Virgin who knew not wedlock, entreat Christ, to Whom thou gavest flesh from thy pure blood, that thy servants may be saved.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Let my heart be established in Thy will O Christ God, * Who hath established a second heaven over the waters, * and founded the earth upon the waters, * O all-powerful One.

O wise Nicholas, adornment of high priests, sweet savor of the divine Spirit: By thy prayers, redolent of myrrh, drive away the fetid passions from my heart, I pray thee with love.

I have reached the end of my life in slothfulness, wretch that I am, and fear thy dread tribunal, O Christ. Put me not to shame, but be Thou entreated by the sacred mediations of Nicholas.

O holy hierarch Nicholas our father, who art adorned with divine grace, from divers temptations and misfortunes save those who ever flee to thy protection, O all-blessed one.

Theotokion: Deliver me from all perils, from the many temptations of the serpent, and from everlasting fire and darkness, O all-immaculate one, who for us hast given birth to the never- waning Light.

ODE IV

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Perceiving thee with prophetic eyes * as the mountain overshadowed by the grace of God, * Habbakuk proclaimed that the Holy One of Israel * would come forth from thee, * for our salvation and restoration.

Roiling the sea of ungodliness and unbelief by your riding forth like horses, O divinely chosen apostles of Christ, ye drowned the noetic foe and drew those drowning unto salvation. (Twice)

O apostles, ye receptacles of the divine effulgence of the Spirit, with the light of repentance enlighten my darkened soul, which hath become a receptacle of all manner of passions, O divinely blessed and godly apostles.

O clouds who let fall the water of life, divinely give drink unto my soul, which is desiccated by the drought of the passions, and grant it to produce the grain of salvation and the virtues, O all-praised apostles.

Theotokion: **O** all-famed apostles, with the prophets and martyrs, and the Mother of the Redeemer, earnestly pray that we may be delivered from sins, from everlasting torment, from temptations, misfortunes and tribulations.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **F**oreseeing in the Spirit **O** Prophet Habbakuk, * the incarnation of the Word, * thou didst proclaim, crying aloud: * When the years draw nigh, Thou shalt be known; * when the season cometh, Thou shalt be shown forth! * Glory to Thy power, **O** Lord!

As the fulfiller of all the precepts of God, **O** holy hierarch Nicholas our father, by thy supplications enable us on earth to keep the laws which lead to salvation; and deliver us from all the temptations which assail us.

Having finished thy course for Christ in holiness, direct thou our ways unto Him, **O** God-bearing father Nicholas, that, having escaped from wandering in trackless wastes, we may attain unto thy saving protection.

O most wise father Nicholas, who set at naught all the wiles of the enemy, through thy divine watchfulness fill all of us with grace who keep vigil, hymn God, and set thee before Him as an advocate.

Theotokion: **E**nlightened in mind by the Spirit of God, the prophet described thee beforehand, **O** pure one, as the mountain overshadowed. By grace and thy right acceptable mediations, **O** Theotokos, cool now those who are burning up with the heat of many transgressions.

ODE V

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **T**hou hast shone upon us with the radiance * of Thy coming **O** Christ, * and illumined the ends of the world with Thy Cross, * enlighten with the light of thine understanding * the hearts of those who with right worship hymn Thee.

Ye were shown to be mountains giving rise to sweetness and beautiful gladness, **O** all-glorious apostles, washing away all the bitterness of the enemy and delighting the faithful. **(Twice)**

Ye understood that Christ had come to His own people as a sojourner, and ye cleaved unto Him sincerely. Wherefore, deliver me from the harm of the alien one, **O** divine apostles of the Word.

Heal Thou the hidden wounds of my soul through the supplications of those who in a sacred manner preached in the world Thy divine coming, Thy sufferings and rising from the tomb, **O** Compassionate One.

Theotokion: With all the incorporeal ones entreat God the Word, to Whom thou gavest flesh in a manner past all telling, O Virgin Theotokos, that thy servants may be freed from irrational acts and the carnal passions.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Shine forth thy radiant and everlasting light * upon us who rise early at dawn, * unto the judgments of Thy commandments, * O Master, Lover of mankind, * Christ our God.

Planted in the courts of the Lord, O holy hierarch Nicholas our father, like a fruitful olive-tree, by grace thou now anointest the faces of all with the oil of thy labors.

Make entreaty now on behalf of thy servants, O father Nicholas, that we may receive remission offenses and may be delivered from the tribulations which surround us and from all oppression.

Thee do we beseech, O Nicholas, our good mediator before the Lord: Leave us not without help, O holy one, but save us by the prayers, that thou art wont to make.

Theotokion: O Maiden full of the grace of God, splendid temple of Christ: By thy prayers to the Father, the Son and the Spirit, make temples of us who accomplish holy things.

ODE VI

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: The deepest abyss hath surrounded us, * and there is none to deliver us, * yea we have been counted as sheep for the slaughter; * save Thy people O our God, * for thou art the strength and restoration of the weak.

With noetic nets ye fished for the nations, drawing them forth to the understanding of Him Who doth edify us, O divinely blessed apostles. Him do ye earnestly entreat on behalf of the world. (Twice)

O lowly soul, O wretched soul, O unrepentant soul: Repent, and cry out unto Christ: I have sinned! By the supplications of Thine apostles cleanse me, O Master Who lovest mankind, in that Thou art supremely good.

O Almighty Christ, Who of old didst pour forth water from a rock for Israel, by the supplications of Thine apostles dispel my gloom and cause me to produce torrents of tears, in that Thou art greatly merciful, that I may hymn and magnify Thy tender compassion.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin, entreat as our Creator and God, Him Who in His goodness was well-pleased to be born from thee, that He may save from temptations and perils those who ever hope in thee, O most holy one.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **E**mulating the Prophet Jonah, I cry aloud: * **Free Thou my life from corruption, O Good One;** * **and save me who crieth out:** * **O Savior of the world, Glory be to Thee!**

O Christ, possessing a multitude of compassions, through the supplications of Nicholas dispel the multitude of mine evils, and ever guide my life, which is battered by waves of sin.

Thou hast trampled mightily the enemy underfoot, O wise Nicholas. By thy prayers strengthen us also to crush him, for we have been enriched by thy divine intercession.

O Nicholas, who wast the true primate of the people of Myra, perfume the senses of our souls, and ever drive away the fetid passions which war against us.

Theotokion: **C**hrist hath accomplished mighty works in thee, O pure one. Him do thou ever beseech, that He magnify in us His rich mercy, O thou who art full of the grace of God.

ODE VII

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **W**e the faithful perceive thee, O Theotokos, * **to be a noetic furnace;** * **for as He, the supremely exalted One,** * **saved the three children,** * **so hath He wholly refashioned fallen humanity, in thy womb,** * **O Thou praised and supremely glorified God of our fathers.**

The Lord Jesus, the Wellspring of life, left you, His disciples, as rivers imparting the waters of the knowledge of God as drink to the whole world, for ye chant: Praised and supremely glorious is the God of our fathers! **(Twice)**

Bearing in your hearts the noetic Fire, the divine grace of Christ, O disciples, ye burned up the tinder of ungodliness; wherefore, utterly consume the flammable passions of me who cry out: Praised and supremely glorious is the God of our fathers!

Deliver me from fiery torment, O God, through the supplications of Thy glorious disciples; and turn not Thy face away from me, O Lord, for I cry out in repentance: Praised and supremely glorious is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion: **O** Lord, Who wast born of the Virgin Mother of God without corruption, rescue me from corrupting sins and the passions, granting incorruption unto all who chant in hymns: Praised and supremely glorious is the God of our fathers!

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Thy children who were in the furnace O Savior, * were neither touched nor troubled by The fire. * Whereupon the three sang, as with a single mouth * Thy praises and blessed Thee, saying: * 'O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou.'

By thy loving supplication, O wise Nicholas, keep the feet of my soul from stumbling, setting them firmly upon the rock of God's all-radiant commandments, and keeping me un-affected by the pernicious wiles of the enemy, the author of evil.

Ask for us release from our many sins, from the snares of life and necessity, and from all the temptations which assail us, O sacred Nicholas, helper of all the faithful and foundation of holy hierarchs.

I am the wicked servant who hid the talent which I right readily received to invest, and I fear the coming trial. But through the supplications of the holy Nicholas, may God, the Judge of all, not condemn me there.

Theotokion: Thee, O all-holy, most holy one, do we, thy servants, ever beseech, day and night, with contrite mind, asking that deliverance from our sins be granted us through thy supplications, O pure one.

ODE VIII

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: In the furnace as in a fiery smelter * the Israelite children shone more brightly than gold * with the beauty of godliness, * as they exclaimed: Bless the Lord all ye works of the Lord, * hymn and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

The great Sun shone you forth like rays upon the whole world, O apostles, illumining those who sing with faith: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages! **(Twice)**

As reason-endowed shepherds, as sheep of the Shepherd, as lambs of Christ the Lamb, our Redeemer, O apostles who beheld God, unceasingly pray that He deliver me from the noetic wolf and grant me the portion of the saved.

O all-accursed soul, groan and cry out to the Lord: I have sinned more than any other, and have wickedly committed iniquity! Cleanse and save me as Thou didst the harlot, the publican and the thief, O Compassionate One, through the right acceptable prayers of the apostles.

Theotokion: With the angels, the apostles, the martyrs and prophets, O Mother of God, entreat Christ, that He save those who cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Him of whom the angels and all the hosts of heaven are in awe * as their Lord and Creator, * ye priests hymn, ye children praise, * ye peoples bless and supremely exalt * throughout all ages.

Standing on the mountain of the godly virtues, by the showing forth of exalted miracles thou didst become known unto the ends of the earth, O Nicholas; wherefore, every tongue honoreth thee throughout all ages.

Having tasted of divine sweetness, O venerable one, thou didst hate the bitterness of passions and pleasures. Deliver us from them, entreating Christ to put down the misfortunes that assail us.

As the unshakable pillar and confirmation of the faithful, O all-blessed Nicholas, by thy supplications strengthen me who am ever shaken by the evils of life and the inspirations of the demons.

Theotokion: O most pure one who hast given birth to the Physician of all, cure thou the passions of my heart, and, entreating Christ, O Virgin, show me to share in the lot of the righteous.

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

ODE IX

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: The Bush, which burnt without being consumed, * prefigured thy pure birthgiving, O Theotokos. * Wherefore we now entreat Thee: * quench the raging furnace of temptations that beset us, * that we may unceasingly magnify Thee.

Ye were shown to be divine and radiant lamps of the Holy Spirit, O blessed ones, and by the splendor of your honorable and most wise preaching ye illumined the whole world, driving away the darkness of the idols. (Twice)

As branches of the divine, noetic vine, ye produced the divine grapes which pour forth the wine of salvation, O glorious apostles. Wherefore, deliver me from the drunkenness of pleasures.

I tremble, wretch that I am, when I consider Thy dread judgment, O Christ; for I am now clad in shameful and foul deeds, and am condemned even before trial. Wherefore, through the supplications of Thine apostles have pity on me.

Theotokion: **T**hou alone didst deify mankind when thou didst give birth to the incarnate Word. Him do thou entreat with the apostles and martyrs, O most pure and all-immaculate Virgin, on behalf of us who bless and honor thee with faith.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **The light-bearing cloud upon whom * the beginningless Master of all descended from heaven, * like the dew upon the fleece, * and of whom He was incarnate, * becoming a man for our sake, * let us all magnify as the pure Mother of God.**

With sacred hymns, O father, we praise thee as a holy hierarch of Christ, the radiant star, the performer of miracles, the well-spring of healings, the helper of those amid sorrows, the most fervent deliverer of those who call upon thee in troubles.

We earnestly beseech thee, O Nicholas, the great shepherd and emulator of Christ, the Chief Shepherd, in all things: From the sacred heights shepherd thy servants, and deliver them ever from all the perils of life.

The end is already nigh! Wherefore art thou slothful, O my soul? Why dost thou not strive to live a life pleasing unto God? Hasten thou, and arise henceforth, and cry aloud: Have mercy upon me, O Lover of mankind, directing my life through the supplications of Nicholas, in that Thou art good!

Theotokion: **O** all-immaculate one, who hast given birth to the divine Light, enlighten me who am darkened by all the assaults of the evil one, for I dwell in despondency, and anger God; and guide me to good works, in that thou art the cause of all good things.

Small litany, Exapostilarion, and the usual psalms.

Small Doxology (Read), Litany: Let us complete ...,

On the Aposticha, these Stichera of the apostles, in Tone I:

O glorious apostles, who enlightened the whole world, ever entreat God, that our souls may be saved.

Verse: **We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants, and upon Thy works, * and do Thou guide their sons.**

Together let us praise Peter and Paul, Luke and Matthew, Mark and John, Andrew and Thomas, Bartholomew and Simon the Canaanite, James and Philip; and let us laud the whole choir of the disciples, as is meet.

Verse: And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hands do Thou guide aright upon us, * yea, the work of our hands do Thou guide aright.

To the Martyrs: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye martyrs, for ye fought the good fight: ye opposed emperors and vanquished tyrants; ye were not daunted by fire and the sword, nor by the wild beasts who devoured your bodies, but, sending up hymnody to Christ with the angels, ye received crowns from heaven. Ask that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos! Rejoice, boast of the whole world! Rejoice, O most pure and blessed Mother of God!

**Then, "It is good to give thanks ...," Trisagion ..., Our Father ..., Troparia.
Litany: Have mercy on us ..., First Hour, and Dismissal.**

**ON THURSDAY MORNING: TONE I
AT LITURGY**

On the Beatitudes, these Troparia, in Tone I:

By food the enemy led Adam out of paradise, but by the Cross Christ led back into it the thief who cried out: Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom!

Enlightening the ends of the earth with the divine rays of your teachings, ye destroyed the darkness of cruel ungodliness; and having come to the never-waning Light, ye are ever called blessed.

Possessed of the hypostatic Wisdom of the Father, Who maketh all of you wise, O disciples of Christ, with the foolishness of your preaching ye made the world wise and brought it to the knowledge of God.

To the Martyrs: **E**nduring tortures as though ye were bodiless, O spiritual athletes of Christ, ye mightily vanquished all the incorporeal foe; wherefore, ye are rightly called blessed forever, O all-praised ones.

Glory ..., O ye faithful, let us worship the Trinity; the Father, the Son and the upright Spirit, the indivisible, undivided and co-enthroned Unity; and let us cry out: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O most adored Trinity!

Both now ..., We bless thee, O most pure one, as thou didst foretell, for thou hast given birth to God in the flesh, whom the choir of the apostles preached. With them ask for us release from our transgressions, O all-hymned one.

On Thursday, the Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII:

Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth,
* and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Alleluia, in Tone I: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints.

Verse: God Who is glorified in the council of the saints.

Communion Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.