

WEDNESDAY EVENING: TONE VI
AT VESPERS

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

Spec. Mel.: “On the third day ...”:

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

Ye became ministers of the great mysteries of God, O theologians and God-beholding disciples, and having received the grace of healing, ye cure the diseases of all.

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.

Ye are the great refuge and protection of our souls and the expulsion of evil spirits, O God-beholding apostles of the Lord, wherefore, we ever honor you.

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

From every evil circumstance, from harm wrought by the demons, from transgressions and wretched captivity, deliver those who honor you with faith, O divine and blessed apostles.

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.

O blessed Nicholas, have pity on me who fall prostrate, I beseech thee, and enlighten the eyes of my soul, that I may gaze with purity upon the compassionate Bestower of light.

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

As thou hast boldness before God, O holy one, deliver me from the enemy who seeks to oppress me. O blessed hierarch Nicholas, save me from harm and deliver me from men of blood.

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

We, the faithful, have now acquired thee as a calm haven, an unassailable rampart, a pillar of strength, a door to repentance, and the guide and bulwark of our souls, O holy hierarch.

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

Envyng thy flock, O most pure one, the wicked adversary ever striveth to make it his food; but do thou, O Theotokos, deliver us from his harm.

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 VI:

Once, the apostles trolled the depths of the sea with nets, O Lord, and likewise the heights of the kingdom for the sake of their doctrines. In the first, they skillfully tested the unfathomable depths; and in the other they attained through faith Thine infinite bosom, and they proclaimed Thy timeless Son to the world. By their supplications and those of all the saints, have mercy on us.

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.

Once, when Thy disciples were tempest-tossed in a boat, O Christ, they cried out: “O Master, save us! For we are perishing!” And we now cry aloud: We pray Thee O our Savior and Lover of mankind, deliver us from our tribulations!

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: Thy Cross was the invincible weapon of the martyrs, O Lord; for they looked upon imminent death, foreseeing the life which is to come, and they were strengthened by hope in Thee. By their prayers have mercy upon us!

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

The eye of my heart longingly seeketh thee, * O Lady; disdain not my feeble sigh. * At the hour when thy Son shall judge the world, ** be thou my protection and helper.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: TONE VI
AT COMPLINE

Canon of supplication to the most holy Theotokos

ODE I

Irmos: **A** helper and a protector * hath become unto me salvation. * My God, whom I will glorify, * the God of my fathers, * and I will exalt Him * for gloriously hath He been glorified.

How can I, who am wholly sunk in the passions, wretch that I am, and am clothed in impurities, approach thee, O pure one? Yet, taking pity, save mine accursed soul, O most pure Birthgiver of God.

Arising out of the depths of shame, O my lowly soul, cry aloud with fervor to her who alone is pure: Have mercy upon me, O most immaculate and pure Maiden, and deliver me from the passions!

Glory ..., **I** have been engulfed by a storm of perils and sins; but extend now thy helping hand unto me, O pure one, and deliver me from the indignity of the passions, that I may ever glorify thee.

Both now ..., **D**eliver me from the cruel tempest of sin, whereby I have been wholly defiled, O Birthgiver of God. As I flee unto thee, lighten now the burden of my transgressions.

ODE III

Irmos: **O** Lord, upon the rock * of Thy commandments * make firm my heart, * for Thou alone art Holy and Lord.

O most immaculate one, make me young who have aged through the shameful passions of sin, easing the bonds of my transgressions.

Cleanse me of the mire and filth of sin, O Theotokos, and make a divine temple of me who flee to thee who art pure.

Glory ..., **A**wake thou from the sleep of despondency, O my wretched soul, and lift up thine eyes to the divine Bride and Maiden who alone saveth thee.

Both now ..., **I**n desperation and contrition, I hasten and fly to thy fervent supplication, O Lady: Save me, thy servant, O pure one!

ODE IV

Irmos: **T**he prophet heard * of Thy coming, O Lord, * and he was afraid. * How wast Thou to be born of a virgin * and appear unto mankind? * and he said * “I have heard report of Thee and I am afraid”; * glory to Thy power, O Lord.

I shall rightly be judged by thy Son for my words and deeds, O most immaculate Birthgiver of God. May I find thee at that hour to be a refuge and most mighty ally, saving me from all torments.

My life is vile, my character is rendered impure through sins, and I am wholly sunk in the passions. O pure one, cleanse me of the defilement of my transgressions, and make me as white as snow by thy mediation before our tender-hearted God.

Glory ..., **I** am bound all over by the bonds of mine offenses, and am unable to move toward the paths of repentance. Stretch forth thy hand, O most immaculate one, and direct me to the path which leadeth me to the way of salvation.

Both now ..., **By** thy prayers free me from cruel torments, from the outermost darkness and Gehenna, O Virgin; for thou hast the will and power so to do, O thou who hast given birth to the Lord Who alone is supremely good.

ODE V

Irmos: Out of the night I seek Thee early, * enlighten me I pray Thee, O Lover of mankind, * and guide me in Thy commandments, * and teach me, O Savior, * to do Thy will.

On the day of judgment reveal thyself, O Lady, and stand as an advocate for me, freeing me from torments and fire, that, saved, I may hymn thine invincible grace.

Seeing that I have wandered away from thy protection, O Lady, the enemy hath cast my soul into the depths of transgressions, and beholding me he laughs me to scorn; but do thou help me.

Glory ..., **Make** mine accursed and passion-plagued soul to arise, I beseech thee, O pure and most immaculate one, and remove from it the weight of its many sins.

Both now ..., **I** offer thee entreaty from my defiled and impure lips, O most immaculate one: Take pity on me by thy prayers, I beseech thee.

ODE VI

Irmos: With my whole heart, I cried * unto the tenderly compassionate God, * and he heard me * from the lowest depths of Hades; * and raised up my life from corruption.

Accept me who am prodigal and most accursed, O Master Christ, and free me from torments through the prayers of her who gave birth to Thee, and deliver me from standing on Thy left side.

The dark fear of hell embraces me, O pure one, and the lot of the goats doth terrify me. Deliver me from such things, O most pure Theotokos, I pray thee.

Glory ..., **M**ortifying the passions of my flesh, O pure Lady Theotokos, impart life to my most wretched soul, and guide me to the straight path.

Both now ..., **T**hough I am a fool, yet I offer thee the supplication of a servant, and I flee to thy compassionate loving-kindness. Turn me not away ashamed, O pure one.

Lord, have mercy, (Thrice).

Glory ..., **Both now ...**, **Sessional Hymn, in Tone VI:**

I offer thee groaning from my heart and the depths of my being, O most immaculate one, asking thy right conciliatory aid. Have mercy upon my passionate soul, and move the greatly merciful God to pity, that He may deliver me from damnation and the lake of fire, O thou who alone art blessed.

ODE VII

Irmos: We have sinned, we have transgressed, * and we have done evil before Thee. * We have not kept nor followed * Thy commandments, but reject us not utterly, * O God of our fathers.

Knowing thee, to be the merciful and right loving Virgin Mother, and wholly pure, I flee to thee, wretch that I am. Turn me not away from thee ashamed, O all-immaculate one.

Awaken, O passion-plagued soul! Arise, O wretched one! Beat thou thy breast, and from thine innermost depths send forth fountains of tears, that the Mother of Christ God may have mercy upon thee who art accursed.

Glory ..., **O**f old I became a temple of God through divine baptism, but I have wholly defiled myself, wretch that I am, and am grievously brought low through terrible falls. Yet do thou raise me up, O most immaculate one, thou hope of the despairing.

Both now ..., **A** dense cloud hath covered my heart, and darkness and gloom hath come upon my passion-plagued soul. O Bride of God, illumine me with rays of repentance, that I may glorify thee.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Him whom the hosts of heaven glorify, * and before whom tremble the Cherubim and Seraphim, * let every breath and all creation * praise, bless, and supremely exalt, * throughout all ages.

The river of fire terrifies me, and thick darkness causes me to quake; the worm and the gnashing of teeth fill me with horror. Virgin, at that hour may I find thee to be a mighty ally.

Let me not become fuel for the fire, O Lord, neither let me hear Thy voice pronounce sentence, for I have Thy pure Mother beseeching Thee. I cry to Thee: By her prayers have mercy upon me.

Glory ..., **M**ake me to hear the divine voice, and show me to share a place with the elect, O Christ; let me not occupy a place of lamentation, for I have the Theotokos beseeching Thee for this.

Both now ..., **S**end streams of tears now down upon me, and cause groaning to erupt within me from the depth of my soul, O pure one, that I may ever fall down before thy protection and receive the remission of my sins through thy prayer.

ODE IX

Irmos: **I**neffable is the birthgiving * of a seedless conception, * from a mother who knew not a man; * an undefiled childbearing. * For the birth of God hath renewed nature, * wherefore all generations rightly worship and magnify thee * as the **Bride and Mother of God**.

The day of judgment terrifies me, O Virgin; the gnashing of teeth fills my heart with dread, and the place where the goats stand horrifies me; but let me find thee, the Theotokos, to be my help amid evils when I shall be judged.

Trembling doth now seize me, and the horror of Gehenna terrifies me. What shall I do? I know not, accursed and condemned as I am. Therefore, I flee unto thee and cry out with fervent compunction: Disdain me not, O most pure one!

Glory ..., **B**eholding the judgment-seat, I think upon thy judgment, O my Christ, whereat I, who am condemned, shall be rightly judged for my deeds. Yet may I have as an advocate in that hour - Thy Mother, the divine Bride - entreating Thy great compassions.

Both now ..., **N**oetically touching thy feet, O all-immaculate one, I beseech thee: Accept my lamentation, hearken to my hymnody, and grant me remission of transgressions through thy supplications, I pray thee, that I may magnify thee with love.

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

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

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter,

The Sessional Hymns of the holy apostles, in Tone VI:

As Thou didst come into the midst of Thy disciples, O Savior, bestowing Thy peace upon them, come amongst us, and save us.

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

The choir of Thy disciples enlightened the whole world; for having once been fishermen, they became fishers of men. For their sake, O God, have mercy on us!

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

Great is the multitude of my many transgressions, O Theotokos. Unto thee have I fled, O pure one, in need of salvation. Visit mine ailing soul, and entreat thy Son and our God, that He grant me forgiveness for the evils I have done, O thou only blessed one.

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

Sent unto the ends of the earth, O Savior, Thy disciples piously fished for the nations as for fish, and brought them to Thy goodness. Wherefore, for their sake we cry out to Thee, O Christ: Grant great mercy to Thy people!

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

The twelve apostles, twelve times radiant, have appeared to the earth like the sun. For their sake Thou didst cause the planter of deception to wither up, and for their sake Thou dost illumine the souls of Thy servants. Save us for their sake, in that Thou art full of tender compassion!

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

To the Martyrs: The memory of Thy saints hath appeared today like the paradise in Eden, O Lord; for therein all creation rejoiceth, and by their prayers Thou hast granted us peace and great mercy.

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

O all-holy Theotokos, throughout my lifetime forsake me not, to human protection entrust me not; but do thou thyself defend and have mercy on me.

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

Spec. Mel.: "Having set aside ...":

Like lightning hath the saving proclamation of Thy most wise disciples gone forth into all the earth, O Christ, enlightening those in darkness and evil, and making us children of the day and the light; wherefore, all creation piously glorifies Thee.

Traditing their boats for the net of the divine Faith, the fishermen drew forth all mankind from the depths of vainglory, gaving unto God those who are pious and ever magnify Him.

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

O holy Lady, pure Mother of our God, * who didst ineffably give birth unto the Creator of all; * with the sacred apostles ever entreat His goodness, * that He deliver us from the passions ** and grant us the remission of sins.

ODE I

Canon of the holy, glorious and all-famed apostles, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone VI:

Irmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, * on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, * they cried: * Let us sing to God * a song of victory.

O divinely eloquent ones, who became a light unto the world, illumine us with splendid radiance; and deliver us from the night of the passions and the gloom of temptations, O divinely blessed ones. **(Twice)**

With honor the Spirit set you as honored princes throughout the whole world, O disciples of the Lord; wherefore, as ye vanquished the prince of the air, deliver the faithful.

Like coals burning with immaterial fire, O most wise ones, utterly consume my material passions, guiding me to the light of dispassion and life.

Theotokion: Through the supplications of the apostles, prophets and martyrs, and of the pure one who gave birth to Thee, O Lord Jesus, King of all, have pity on those who have sinned against Thee.

Another canon, of the holy hierarch Nicholas the wonderworker, the acrostic whereof is “Accept my sixth hymn, O Nicholas,” the composition of Joseph, in Tone VI:

Irmos: The lecherous Pharaoh was drowned with all his warriors, * and Israel, crossing through the midst of the sea, * cried aloud exclaiming: * Let us chant unto the Lord God, * for He hath been glorified!

O most wise father, who dwellest joyfully in the heavens: By thy mediation dispel every vexation of the evil one from the hearts of those who together hymn Thee with faith on earth.

O father Nicholas, those who with faith have recourse to thy holy protection do thou strengthen now against the harmful passions, the corrupting foe and all the malice of the deceiver.

With the therapy of thy prayers, O Nicholas, cure us who have been wounded by invisible darts, that we may walk the paths of the Lord in health.

Theotokion: **T**he Son Who is equally eternal with the Father hath in these latter times desired to make His abode within thy womb, O Theotokos, for the regeneration of us, the faithful; wherefore, we hymn thee.

ODE III

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **T**here is none as holy as Thou, * **O Lord my God,** * who hast exalted the horn of Thy faithful **O good One,** * and strengthened us upon the rock * of Thy confession.

The divine Spirit, giving fire to your tongues by His dread coming, hath through you restored to life those who are broken, O glorious apostles. **(Twice)**

What mercy shall I, who sin in mind, find on the day of judgment? Wherefore, I cry unto Thee: For the sake of Thy disciples, have pity on me, who am self-condemned!

O glorious apostles, who emulated the saving sufferings of Christ, as physicians heal ye the cruel temporal passions of my soul.

Theotokion: **F**or the sake of the Theotokos and Thine apostles, O Christ, grant conversion to me, the sinner; have mercy upon me, as Thou art God, and free me from everlasting fire, O Savior.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **H**aving established my thoughts upon the firm rock of Thy Faith, * make steadfast my soul, **O Lord;** * for I have Thee as my refuge * and confirmation, * **O Good One.**

Thou didst clearly receive victory over the soul-corrupting passions, O all-blessed Nicholas. By thy prayers deliver us who are ever badly vanquished by them.

Having mortified thy carnal members by asceticism, thou didst pass over to the life which waxeth not old, O wise one. Pray thou that we who praise thee joyfully may likewise receive it.

Cease not to visit us from the heights of heaven, O holy hierarch, By thy prayers unto God dispelling all the difficulties of life.

Theotokion: Ever driving all gloom from our souls By thy prayers, O pure one, beseech the Redeemer, that He grant us remission of sins.

ODE IV

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Christ is my power, * my God and my Lord, * the holy Church divinely singeth, * crying with a pure mind, * keeping festival in the Lord.

O right calm havens, harbors safe from storms, steer me to the tranquil haven for I am tempest-tossed by the threefold waves of grievous transgressions.
(Twice)

Sigh, O my soul! Shed tears, O my soul! My lowly heart hath in nowise cleaved unto the Good One, that God may deliver thee from the coming flame and torment.

Entreat the Savior and Lord, O all-blessed apostles who were high priests among men, that He save us from evil temptations, in that He is the Lover of mankind.

Theotokion: O most pure Virgin, immaculate Virgin, with the apostles supplicate for us, that we may be delivered from grievous temptations and misfortunes.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: O Lord, I have heard the report of Thee * and was afraid; * I have seen Thy works and was amazed. * Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Entreating our God, the Bestower of good things, O holy Nicholas, heal mine uncorrected heart, which hath been wounded by the deceiver.

Thou didst demolish the temples of perdition, O favorite of Christ; wherefore, I entreat thee with faith, O Nicholas: Destroy thou the evil idols of my mind!

Through righteous works thou didst become fragrant myrrh, O divinely wise one, adorning thy throne in Myra, O holy hierarch father Nicholas.

Theotokion: O unwedded Lady, blessed Birthgiver of God: From all harm save those who hymn thee, O only helper of mankind.

ODE V

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Illumine with Thy divine light, I pray, O Good One, * the souls of those who with love rise early to pray to Thee, * that they may know Thee, O Word of God, * as the true God, * Who recallesh us from the darkness of sin.

O disciples of the Word, who manifestly traveled the way which leadeth to life by the exceeding narrow path of temptations and tribulations: Smooth ye the path of my soul. (Twice)

O apostles of Christ, ye luminaries of the divine East, deliver me from the darkness of the passions and the gloom of pleasures, temptations, evil circumstances, tempest and misfortunes.

O apostles, ye scrolls who beheld God, pray that I may be enrolled in the Book of Life, by your prayers rending asunder the evil record of my sins.

Theotokion: By the supplications to thy Son of thee and the divine apostles, O only all-hymned Maiden, save me who trust in thee, O my salvation and hope, the unashamed hope of all.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: O Christ Who shineth Thy light upon the world, * illumine my heart * for I cry out to Thee in the night, * and save me.

By thy mediations, O Nicholas, earnestly wake me who am stuck fast by the slumber of slothfulness.

Entreat Jesus the Savior, O holy hierarch Nicholas, that He deliver me from everlasting torment.

By thy prayers, O holy hierarch Nicholas, preserve me from the hindrances of the world and from the vexation of the demons.

Theotokion: He Who hath granted us existence made His abode within thee, O Theotokos. Him do thou entreat, that He save us.

ODE VI

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Behold the sea of life surging with the tempest of temptations, * I run to Thy calm haven, and cry to Thee: * Raise up my life from corruption, * O greatly Merciful One.

O glorious ones, ye truly and clearly had within your souls the honorable laws, like tablets graven by the Spirit, and thereby abolished the law in the Scriptures, saving the world. (Twice)

O sinful soul who hath insanely enslaved thyself to evil habits, turn and be converted, and cry out to the compassionate Lord: For the sake of the apostles, O Word, save me!

At Thine awesome and dread coming, number me among Thy chosen sheep on Thy right hand, through the prayers of Thy divine preachers, O innocent Lamb Who wast slain for all.

Theotokion: **T**he choirs of incorporeal servants beseeches Thee, O beginningless Son of God, and with her who gave birth to Thee the assemblies of the disciples entreats Thee: Grant Thy mercies unto Thy people!

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **S**lain by the sea-monster of sin, * I cry unto Thee, O Christ: * Free me from corruption, * as Thou didst the prophet.

Possessing thee as a noetic lamp, O Nicholas, creation is enlightened with the rays of innumerable miracles.

O Nicholas, tireless advocate for those who have recourse unto thee, deliver me from the evil sleep of slothfulness.

Of old, O wise one, thou didst deliver those who were to be unjustly put to death. In like manner deliver me also from misfortunes and transgressions, O Nicholas.

Theotokion: **O** only pure and joyous Virgin, help me who am ever tempest-tossed by the perils of life.

ODE VII

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **A**n Angel made the furnace bedew the holy Children. * But the command of God consumed the Chaldeans * and prevailed upon the tyrant to cry: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Drawing all mankind forth from the depths of delusion with the hook of the word, O apostles, ye brought them to the Word Who was slain for our sake, chanting unto Him: Blessed is the God of our fathers! (*Twice*)

Having conversed directly with Him Who revealed Himself in a material body, O apostles, ye were enlightened by His luminous brilliance; wherefore, enlighten me who cry aloud: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Entreat the good Shepherd, O divine disciples, that He seek me who am lost among the mountains of disobedience and save me who earnestly cries aloud: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion: **W**ith the prophets, apostles and martyrs entreat Him to Whom thou hast given birth, O Virgin, that He deliver me from the evils of earth; and grant that I may share in the good things of heaven, O Lady.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Harkening to the hymnody of Thy venerable children * Thou didst bedew the burning furnace: * O Lord God of our fathers blessed art Thou!

With the power of God thou didst trample hordes of heretics underfoot, O all-blessed Nicholas, saving thy flock from their deceit.

O father Nicholas, who appeared to those at sea, thou didst also feed thy suffering city. By thy prayers deliver me from soul corrupting famine.

By thy prayers, O father Nicholas, make steadfast those who call upon thee for aid, stilling the evil storm of the demons.

Theotokion: O Sovereign Lady of all mankind, holy Theotokos, By thy prayers utterly free me from slavery to the passions.

ODE VIII

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Thou didst make flame bedew the holy children, * and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. * For Thou alone, O Christ, dost do all as Thou willest, * Thee do we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

With the scythe of your prayers mow down all the tares of my mind, O divine husbandmen, apostles of the Savior, that I may produce as grain the fruit of salvation. (Twice)

With the plough of the word ye cultivated hardened hearts, O ye who beheld God; and, having sown precious doctrine therein, ye reaped the saved an hundredfold.

Having lulled the malice of the enemy to sleep, ye fell into sleep like that of the righteous, becoming unsleeping advocates for us, O disciples of the Word, throughout all ages.

Theotokion: **B**y the supplications of the prophets and martyrs, of Thine apostles and her who ineffably contained Thee within her womb, the Virgin who knew not a man, O Lord, deliver me from the unquenchable fire.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Thy venerable Children in the furnace * likened to the cherubim * chanted the thrice-holy hymn * Bless ye, praise ye and supremely exalt ye the Lord throughout all ages.

Known to the whole world, thou didst appear hastening to the heights of an exceedingly radiant life, O God-bearing Nicholas, enlightening those in darkness with divers miracles.

Fill with grace those who keep divine vigil and honor thee, O Nicholas; and lull to sleep the malice of the adversaries who assail us, O blessed one.

O holy hierarch Nicholas, as one who crushed all the snares of the enemy with the might of the Spirit, by thy prayers deliver me from them, piloting my life, O divinely wise one.

Theotokion: **O** Birthgiver of God, we hymn thee for whose sake the curse was annulled and blessing hath come upon all who acknowledge thee to be the only unwedded Mother of our God.

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: **I**t is impossible for mankind to see God * upon Whom the orders of Angels dare not gaze; * but through thee, O all-pure one, * did the Word Incarnate become a man * and with the Heavenly Hosts * Him we magnify and thee we call blessed.

Preaching throughout the world God, Who entered into fellowship with us and deified our mortal substance beyond compare, ye freed all from ungodly delusion; wherefore, ye are ever blessed, O divine apostles. (Twice)

O apostles who depicted the suffering of Christ in your own divers bodily sufferings, mortify the passions of my flesh and bring to life my soul, which is ailing, afflicted and dying.

Be Thou the path guiding me who have fallen into the abyss of sin, to the unerring path of Thy commandments, for I have become lost, having taken evil paths, and am afflicted, O Lover of mankind.

Theotokion: **T**he choir of the angels and archangels, authorities and powers, principalities, dominions, cherubim, seraphim and thrones, with the assembly of the apostles and her who gave birth to Thee, beseech Thee, O only King: Save Thy servants!

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **O** Virgin who received the angel’s salutation * and hast given birth to thine own Creator, * save those who magnify thee.

O Nicholas, adornment of holy hierarchs and wellspring of miracles, pray to God the Lover of mankind, that we be granted remission of sins.

As of old thou didst deliver the prisoners from death, so do thou deliver us from the temptations of life, O Nicholas.

Thou wast buried in Myra of Lycia, O Nicholas, and always pouring forth myrrh, O Nicholas, ever dispel thou the fetid stench of the passions.

The coming of the Creator is nigh at hand. Be not idle, O my soul, but cry aloud: Through the prayers of Nicholas, O Christ, save me!

Theotokion: O all-hymned one, who hast given birth to the Savior, enlighten the blinded eye of my heart, that, saved through thee, I may hymn thee.

Then, “It is truly meet to bless thee ...,” and a prostration.

Small litany, Exapostilarion, and the usual psalms.

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

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

Wisely transforming the tempest of demonic delusion into tranquility, O apostles of Christ, ye guided the whole world to the Orthodox Faith, and pray now on behalf of our souls.

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.

O ye faithful, with hymns let us fittingly honor the memory of the most wise disciples of Christ our King; for in the world they proclaimed faith in the Trinity.

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: Our God hath made wondrous His chosen saints. Rejoice and be glad, all ye, His servants, in that crowns and His kingdom have been made ready for you! We beseech you, to not forget us!

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

The recovery of the sorrowful * and the release of the ailing art thou, * O all-hymned Theotokos. * Save this city and people, * O pacification of those who are embattled, * the quietude of the tempest-tossed, ** who alone art the intercession of the faithful.

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

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

On the Beatitudes, these Troparia, in Tone VI:

Remember me, O God my Savior, when Thou shalt come in Thy kingdom, and save me, in that Thou alone lovest mankind.

Traversing the world like mystical rays, O glorious apostles, with faith ye enlightened the race of mankind.

O enlightened apostles of the Lord, like clouds ye rained down upon the world the water of divine knowledge.

To the Martyrs: **A**pproaching the fire of torment, O martyrs, ye received from God a divine dew which cooled you.

Glory ..., **W**orshipping the holy and adored Trinity, O ye faithful, let us cry out together: By the supplications of the apostles, save us all!

Both now ..., **O** Theotokos, who in manner past all telling hast given birth to the Word Who with the Father is equally without beginning, entreat Him, that our souls may be saved.

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.