

**STICHERA AND SESSIONAL HYMNS
SUNG ON FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY
MORNING IN THE EIGHT TONES
FROM THE OKTOECHOS**

TONE ONE

VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

By the prayers, O Lord, of all the saints and of the Theotokos, grant us. Thy peace and have mercy upon us, for Thou alone art compassionate.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

The confession of faith that ye made at the tribunal, O ye saints, set at naught the strength of the demons, and set men free from error. As ye were beheaded ye cried aloud: “May the sacrifice of our lives be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord; for, desiring Thee the Lover of mankind, we have spurned this quickly passing life.”

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

Wise was the trade that ye made, O saints! Giving your blood, and inheriting heaven as your reward; Having suffered tribulation for a time, ye now rejoice eternally. Truly wisely have ye traded: forsaking things corruptible, ye have received things incorruptible; and rejoicing with the choirs of angels ye now hymn eternally the praises of the consubstantial Trinity.

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

O all-praised martyrs, the earth did not hide you, but heaven hath received you; the gates of Paradise were opened to you, and entering within ye have partaken of the tree of life. Pray ye to Christ that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

Then 4 Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

For the Reposed, a composition of St. John the Damascene:
Glory ...,

For the reposed: What sweet-pleasure in this life remaineth untouched by grief? What glory endureth unchanged upon the earth? All is feebler than a shadow, more deceptive than a dream; for death in a single moment taketh away all these things. But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, and in the enjoyment of Thy beauty, grant rest to those whom Thou hast chosen, since Thou lovest mankind.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: Let us hymn the whole world's glory, * who sprang forth from mankind and who gave birth to the Master, * the Portal of heaven, Mary the Virgin, * the hymn of the Bodiless Powers and adornment of the faithful; * for she hath been revealed as the Heaven and Temple of the Godhead. * By destroying the middle wall, she hath brought forth peace, * and opened wide the Kingdom. * Therefore, holding fast to her as a firm confirmation of the faith, * we have as our champion the Lord born from her. * Take courage therefore, take courage, O ye people of God; ** for as the Invincible one he shall conquer our adversaries.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is
chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

O all-famed martyrs, the earth did not hide you, but heaven hath received you; the gates of Paradise were opened to you, and entering within ye have partaken of the tree of life. Pray ye to Christ that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself,
O Lord.

For the reposed: What sweet-pleasure in this life remaineth untouched by grief? What glory endureth unchanged upon the earth? All is feebler than a shadow, more deceptive than a dream; for death in a single moment taketh away all these things. But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, and in the enjoyment of Thy beauty, grant rest to those whom Thou hast chosen, for Thou lovest mankind.

Verse: Their memorial * is from generation to generation.

For the reposed: There is none free from sin, save Thou, O immortal One. Wherefore, by Thy loving-kindness, in that Thou art a compassionate God, grant unto Thy servants a dwelling-place in the Light, with the choirs of Thine angels, and overlooking their transgressions, grant them forgiveness.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Truly wondrous beyond understanding * are the mighty works of thy birthgiving O Bride of God, * which all the prophets proclaimed, * and thy conception and birth giving are most glorious, * O all-hymned one, * whereby thine Offspring hath incomprehensibly and ineffably saved the world, ** in that He is full of loving-kindness.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

As valiant warriors, believing with oneness of mind, ye were undaunted by the threats of the tyrants, O holy ones. Eagerly coming to Christ, and taking up the precious Cross, ye finished the race and received victory from heaven. Glory be to Him Who strengthened you! Glory be to Him Who crowned you! Glory be to Him Who through you worketh healings for all!

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

Accept in supplication, O Lord and Lover of mankind, the sufferings that the saints endured for Thee; and, we beseech Thee, heal all our suffering.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

Let us all pray to the martyrs of Christ, for they intercede for our salvation. Let us all draw near to them with love, for they pour forth the grace of healing, and as guardians of the faith they drive away the hosts of demons.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: Abolishing the dominion of death, O Christ, Thou didst pour forth incorruption upon mortals; for those who believe on Thee do not die, but abide continually in Thee. Wherefore, grant rest to the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, and number them among Thy saints, granting them forgiveness and resurrection by the prayers of the Theotokos.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: When Gabriel announced to thee, “Rejoice!”, O Virgin, * the Master of all became incarnate within thee, the holy tabernacle, * at his cry, as the righteous David said. Thou wast shown to be more spacious than the heavens, * having borne thy Creator. * Glory be to Him Who made His abode within thee! * Glory be to Him Who came forth from thee! ** Glory be to Him Who hath set us free by thy birthgiving.

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Come, all ye peoples, and with hymns and spiritual odes let us honour the passion-bearers of Christ, the luminaries of the world and preachers of the faith, the ever-flowing fountain from whence poureth forth healing upon the faithful. By their prayers, O Christ our God, grant peace to Thy world, and to our souls great mercy.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

These are the warriors of the mighty King, who opposed the edicts of the tyrants and bravely scorned all tortures. Trampling every delusion underfoot, they have been crowned as is meet: and they entreat Thee O Savior that peace be granted to Thy world, and great mercy upon our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O ye most lauded martyrs, neither tribulation nor oppression, nor hunger, neither scourging, nor the fury of wild beasts nor the sword, nor the threat of fire, could separate you from God. But suffering out of love for Him, as though in others' bodies, ye forgot your own nature and spurned death. Wherefore as is meet, ye received the reward of your pangs, inheriting the heavenly Kingdom. Pray ye on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye martyrs, for ye have fought the good fight. Ye resisted emperors and vanquished tyrants; ye feared neither fire nor the sword, nor the wild beasts that devoured your bodies. But, sending up hymnody with the angels to Christ, ye received crowns from heaven. Pray ye that peace be granted to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: In very deed O my Savior, Thou hast revealed Thyself to be the resurrection of all; for by Thy word Thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, O Word. And when the dead arose from the graves, and the gates of Hades were shattered, Thou didst reveal the death of man, to be but sleep. O Thou Who came to save, and not judge, Thy creature: grant rest in Thy loving compassion to those whom Thou hast chosen.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: Rejoice, O holy Virgin Theotokos * who art one of us, * thou pure vessel of all the world, * inextinguishable lamp, * dwelling-place of the Boundless One, * indestructible temple! * Rejoice, thou from whom the Lamb of God was born, ** who taketh away the sins of all the world.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

We entreat Thee, O Savior: Grant Thy sweet fellowship unto those who have fallen asleep, and by Thy loving-kindness cause them to dwell with Thy saints in the habitations of the righteous and the abodes of heaven, overlooking their iniquities and granting them rest.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Transcending things visible, O Savior, are Thy promises, which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and which have never entered the heart of man. We beseech Thee, O Master: Grant that those who have passed over to Thee may receive Thy sweet fellowship; and life everlasting.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Rejoicing in Thy Cross and setting their hope thereon, Thy servants have passed over to Thee, O Thou Lover of mankind. Grant them now deliverance from their transgressions, by Thy Cross, and the Blood which Thou didst shed for the life of the world, forgiving them their offenses in Thy kindheartedness, and illumining them with the light of Thy countenance.

Verse: Their memorial * is from generation to generation.

There is none free from sin, save Thou, O immortal One. Wherefore, by Thy loving-kindness, in that Thou art a compassionate God, grant unto Thy servants a dwelling-place in the Light, with the choirs of Thine angels, and overlooking their transgressions, grant them forgiveness.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: Pray to Christ Thy Child, O Virgin Mother, * that He may grant to Thy servants forgiveness of sins, * who with a proper faith in the dogmas of the Church * proclaim thee to be the Theotokos; * and may He deem them worthy ** of the radiance and glory of the saints in His Kingdom.

TONE TWO

VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Having no desire for earthly pleasure, O ye passion-bearers, ye were granted heavenly blessings, and became fellow-citizens with the angels. By their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

When the holy martyrs pray for us and hymn Christ, all deception ceaseth, and the human race is saved by faith.

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

The choir of martyrs resisted the tyrants, saying: “We war on behalf of the King of the powers on high; though ye give us up to fire and torment, we shall not deny the power of the Trinity.”

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

O ye saints, great is the glory, ye have acquired through Faith. For by your sufferings ye not only vanquished the enemy; but even in death, O physicians of body and soul, ye drive out evil spirits and heal the infirm; Pray ye to the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

Then 4 Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

For the reposed: **E**very man fadeth like a flower and passeth by like a shadow, and is no more; but when the trumpet shall sound, in the midst of an earthquake all the dead shall arise to meet Thee, O Christ God. Then, O Master, do Thou settle in the abodes of the saints the souls of Thy servants whom Thou hast taken from among us.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: **T**he shadow of the law hath passed now that grace hath come, * for as the Bush wrapped in flame was not consumed, * so didst thou bear a Child O Virgin * and remained a Virgin; * in place of a pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath dawned, * instead of Moses, Christ is come, ** the salvation of our souls.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

O ye saints, great is the glory, ye have acquired through Faith. For by your sufferings ye not only vanquished the enemy; but even in death, O physicians of body and soul, ye drive out evil spirits and heal the infirm; Pray ye to the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For the reposed: Every man fadeth like a flower and passeth by like a shadow, and is no more; but when the trumpet shall sound, in the midst of an earthquake all the dead shall arise to meet Thee, O Christ God. Then, O Master, do Thou settle in the abodes of the saints the souls of Thy servants whom Thou hast taken from among us.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the reposed: Woe is me! How great a struggle the soul endureth at its parting from the body. Alas! How many tears will it then shed? Yet there will be none to have mercy on it. Raising its eyes to the angels, it supplicates in vain; stretching forth its hands to men, it finds none to help. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, reflecting on the shortness of our life, let us ask of Christ rest for the departed and great mercy for our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Save from misfortunes, * thy servants O Virgin Theotokos, * for after God * it is to thee that we flee, ** as to an impregnable rampart and protection.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

O ye apostles, martyrs and prophets, hierarchs, holy monks and righteous men, ye who have fought the good fight, and kept the faith to the end: since ye have boldness in the presence of the Savior, we entreat you, pray to Him on our behalf that in His compassionate love He may grant salvation to our souls.

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

Thou hast made Thy saints to shine brighter than gold, and in Thy love hast glorified Thy holy ones. By their intercessions, set their supplications before Thee as incense, O Christ God, and grant peace to our lives, O Thou who alone retest in the saints.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

O passion-bearers of the Lord, blessed is the ground which drank your blood, and holy are the temples that have received your bodies. For in the arena ye openly rebuked the enemy, and with boldness preached Christ. * We entreat you, pray to Him, in that He is good, to grant salvation to our souls.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: Remember the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, in that Thou art good, and insofar as they have sinned in this life, forgive them; for no-one is sinless save Thee, Who alone art able to give rest to those who have reposed.

Both now ...,

All of thy most glorious mysteries are beyond comprehension, * O Theotokos; * for, thy purity sealed and thy virginity intact, * thou art known to be a true Mother, having given birth unto God. ** Him do thou entreat, that our souls be saved.

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Ye suffered for Christ's sake unto death, O passion-bearers, and though your souls dwell in the hand of God in the heavens, your relics are venerated throughout the whole world; Priests and all the people venerate them, and rejoicing with them we cry aloud: precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Every city and land doth honor your relics, O passion-bearers. For, striving lawfully for the prize, ye have received crowns from heaven; wherefore ye are the boast of hierarchs, and the majesty of the Church.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O holy martyrs, taking up the Cross of Christ as an ensign of victory, ye set at naught all the power of the devil; and receiving heavenly crowns, ye have become bulwarks for us, praying to the Lord on our behalf.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

For the reposed: Woe is me! How great a struggle the soul endureth at its parting from the body. Alas! How many tears will it then shed? Yet there will be none to have mercy on it. Raising its eyes to the angels, it supplicates in vain; stretching forth its hands to men, it finds none to help. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, reflecting on the shortness of our life, let us ask of Christ rest for the departed and great mercy for our souls.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: From the earth hast Thou formed me, * and because of the transgression Thou hast condemned me to return to earth once more. * Thou hast appointed a day of examination, * when each man's hidden deeds shall stand revealed before Thee. * Spare me then, O sinless Lord, * and grant me the forgiveness of my sins, ** and shut me not out from Thy Kingdom.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: Come, and with unceasing hymns let us all glorify the Mother of the Light, for she hath given birth to our salvation; wherefore let us cry out "Rejoice!" to her who alone gave birth to the chief Cause of all: God Who is before time. Rejoice, thou who hast restored Even who gave birth! Rejoice, all-pure Virgin, who knewest not wedlock!

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

For the reposed: By Thy life-bearing death, O Master, Thou didst stem the violence and corruption of death, pouring forth everlasting life upon all, and granting resurrection unto mortals who have reposed. Wherefore we entreat Thee O Savior: grant rest to those who have departed unto Thee with faith, and deem them worthy of Thine incorruptible glory, O Thou Lover of mankind.

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For the reposed: That Thou mightest enable men to share in Thy divine kingdom, O Christ, Thou didst endure crucifixion, and willingly accepted death. Wherefore, in Thy tender compassion, show forth as sharers in Thy kingdom those who with faith have passed over to Thee; and grant them Thy sweet beauty.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell amid good things.

For the reposed: Desiring to save Thy creation, rejoicing Thou didst work the truly awesome mystery of Thy dispensation, in that Thou art supremely good; and with Thy precious blood as a ransom Thou didst redeem the whole world. Wherefore, we pray: With all the saints grant deliverance unto those who have passed on to Thee with faith.

Verse: Their memorial * is unto generation and generation.

For the reposed: Standing before Thy dread, terrible and awesome judgment seat, O Christ, those who have died from the beginning of time will await Thy just sentence and receive divine justice. Grant rest then, O Savior, unto Thy servants who have passed on to Thee in faith, in a place where the choirs of the saints are, and the joy is ineffable.

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

When my soul must needs sever its fleshly bond and depart this life, then stand before me, O Lady. Set at naught the counsels of the incorporeal foe, and crush the jaws of those who seek to slaughter me pitilessly, that, unhindered, I may elude the myriad princes of darkness who inhabit the air, O Bride of God.

STONE THREE

AT VESPERE ON FRIDAY EVENING

On "Lord, I have cried ...," after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Great is the power of Thy Cross, O Lord! For it was planted in one place, yet worketh throughout the world; and it made apostles of fishermen and martyrs of the heathen, that they might pray on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Great is the power of Thy martyrs, O Christ! For though they lie in their tombs, they drive evil spirits away, and having struggled for piety with their faith in the Trinity, they have abolished the authority of the enemy.

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

The prophets, the apostles of Christ and the martyrs enlightened and taught the erring nations to hymn the consubstantial Trinity,

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

Made steadfast by faith, strengthened by hope, and spiritually united by the love of Thy Cross, O Lord, Thy martyrs put an end to the tyranny of the enemy and have received crowns; and with the incorporeal ones they pray on behalf of our souls.

Then 4 Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

For the reposed: All things human, which endure not after death, are vain. Our wealth will not remain, our glory will not go with us upon the way: for when death cometh, all these things will fade away. Wherefore let us cry out to Christ the immortal King: Grant rest to our departed brethren, where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: **H**ow can we, O all-honored one, * not marvel at thine Offspring? * who is both God and man. * For without knowing a man, O all-immaculate One, * without a father thou hast given birth to a Son in the flesh, *

who without a mother was begotten from the Father before all ages, * yet in no way undergoing change, fusion or separation, * but preserving fully the characteristics of both natures. * Wherefore, O Sovereign Lady, and Virgin Mother, * beseech Him to save the souls of those ** who with Orthodox faith confess thee to be the true Theotokos.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

To the Martyrs: **M**ade steadfast by faith, strengthened by hope, and spiritually united by the love of Thy Cross, O Lord, Thy martyrs put an end to the tyranny of the enemy and have received crowns; and with the incorporeal ones they pray on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For the reposed: **A**ll things human, which endure not after death, are vain. Our wealth will not remain, our glory will not go with us upon the way: for when death cometh, all these things will fade away. Wherefore let us cry out to Christ the immortal King: Grant rest to our departed brethren, where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the reposed: **O** race of mankind, why are ye rebellious in vain? Short is the course on which we run. Life is but smoke, vapor, ashes and dust; No sooner doth it appear, than it quickly vanisheth. Wherefore let us cry unto Christ the immortal King: Grant rest to our departed brethren, where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

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

O Theotokos - holy among women, * thou Mother unwedded: * entreat the King and God Whom thou didst bear, * that He save us, ** insofar as He is the Lover of mankind.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

Through your faith ye shine like most radiant beacons, O physicians of the infirm, and all-praised passion-bearers. Ye were undaunted by the torments of the torturers, and cast down the ungodliness of idolatry, having the true Cross as an invincible trophy.

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

Arraying yourselves in the full armor of Christ, and wielding the sword of faith, as martyrs ye hewed down hordes of the enemy; for, in hope of life, ye earnestly endured all the threats and wounds of the tyrants of old. Wherefore, ye have received crowns, O stouthearted martyrs of Christ.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

O holy passion-bearers, entreat the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls, the remission of sins.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: **W**hen at Thy word we stand before Thine impartial tribunal, O Lord our Savior, put not to shame those who believe on Thee; for we have all sinned and fallen away from Thee. Wherefore, we beseech Thee: In the mansions of Thy righteous, grant rest to those whom Thou hast taken from among us, for Thou alone art sinless, O Christ.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: **W**e hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, * O Virgin Theotokos; * for thy Son and our God, * accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh * He had received of thee, * hath delivered us from corruption, ** in that He is the Lover of mankind.

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: **C**ome, all ye peoples, let us honor the memory of the holy passion-bearers. For, having become a spectacle to angels and to men, they have received crowns of victory from Christ God, and they ever intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

The warriors of Christ cast aside the fear of kings and tyrants; and with courage boldly confessed Him as the Lord and God of all, our God; and now they intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The hosts of the bodiless angels marveled at the sufferings of the martyrs; For though clad in mortal flesh, they paid no heed to their tortures, following the example of Christ the Savior's Passion; and they ever interceding on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

For the reposed: **O** race of mankind, why are ye rebellious in vain? Short is the course on which we run. Life is but smoke, vapor, ashes and dust; No sooner doth it appear, than it quickly vanisheth. Wherefore let us cry unto Christ the immortal King: Grant rest to our departed brethren, where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: **W**ithout seed thou didst conceive by the Holy Spirit; we glorify thee and hymn thy praises: Rejoice, O most holy Virgin!

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA FOR THE REPOSED:

A composition by Theophanes:

Spec. Mel.: "Great is the power of Thy Cross, O Christ ...":

I glorify Thy precious Cross O Lord, whereby life and blessedness have been granted to those who with faith and love hymn Thy praises, O greatly merciful One. Wherefore we cry aloud unto Thee, O Christ God: Grant rest to our departed brethren, where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

O Christ God Who alone art merciful and compassionate, Who hast an unapproachable abyss of goodness, Who knowest human nature, which Thou didst create, we beseech Thee: Unto those who have been taken from us grant rest where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

When Thou didst rest in the tomb as a man, as God Thou didst raise up with invincible power, those who were sleeping in the graves, and who offer Thee unceasing hymnody. Wherefore, we beseech Thee, O Christ God: Unto those who have been taken from among us grant rest where all who rejoice have their abode with Thee.

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

O Theotokos, all of us know thee to be the noetic lamp bearing the Light of the Godhead, Who had united Himself to the coarseness of human nature. Entreat thy Son and God, that unto those who have been taken from among us He grant rest where all who rejoice have jubilation.

STONE FOUR

AT VESPERE ON FRIDAY EVENING

On "Lord, I have cried ...," after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

O ye martyrs of the Lord, living sacrifices, noetic burnt-offerings, perfect offerings to God, lambs who knew God and are known by Him, whose fold no wolf can enter: Pray ye that with you we may also feed beside the waters of rest.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Precious is the death of Thy saints, O Lord. Slain by the sword, and by fire and freezing cold, they poured forth their blood, placing all their hope in Thee that from Thy hand they would receive the reward of their labors. They endured to the end and received from Thee O Savior, Thy great mercy.

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

O saints, since ye have boldness in the presence of the Savior, unceasingly entreat Him for us sinners, asking that remission of sins, and great mercy, be granted to our souls.

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

Thou art glorified in the memorials of Thy saints, O Christ our God; by their intercessions send down upon us great mercy.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

To the Martyrs: **O** Thou Who hast accepted the patient endurance of the holy martyrs; in Thy love for mankind do Thou accept our hymns of praise, and by their intercessions send down upon us great mercy.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: **P**rophet David, the ancestor of God, * spoke of thee in psalmody unto Him Who hath accomplished great things in thee. * For God was well pleased without father to become a man from thee, * the Queen who standeth at His right hand, * and He - the source of life - showed thee to be His mother, * that He might renew His own image, corrupted by the passions. *

Having found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain * He hath laid it upon his shoulders, * that He may bring it to his Father; * and in accordance with His own will * unite it to the heavenly Powers * and thus, O Theotokos, save the world, ** Christ, Who is richly and abundantly merciful.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

To the Martyrs: Thou art glorified in the memorials of Thy saints, O Christ our God; by their intercessions send down upon us great mercy.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

To the Martyrs: O Thou Who hast accepted the patient endurance of the holy martyrs: in Thy love for mankind do Thou accept our hymns of praise, and by their intercessions send down upon us great mercy.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the reposed: With the souls of the righteous who have reposed, O Savior, grant rest to the souls of Thy departed servants, preserving them in the life of blessedness which is in Thee, O Lover of mankind.

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

O thou inextinguishable lamp, * and throne of righteousness * most pure Sovereign Lady: ** pray thou that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

Armed with Thy Cross, O Christ our God, Thy passion-bearers defeated the machinations of the enemy, the author of all evil. They illumine mankind like radiant torches, guiding us, and granting healing to those who ask with faith. By their intercessions save Thou our souls.

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

In their sufferings, O Lord, Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God. For possessed of Thy might they cast down the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. By their supplications save Thou our souls.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

Adorned with the blood of Thy martyrs throughout all the world, as with purple and fine linen, Thy Church crieth out to Thee through them, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people, and grant peace to Thy commonwealth and great mercy to our souls!

Glory ...,

For the reposed: In Thy loving compassion and almighty power, O Christ God, grant rest to the souls of those taken unto Thyself from this temporal life; Have mercy and forgive them all their transgressions; Have mercy, O merciful Lord on the work of Thy hands, by the prayers of the Theotokos, since Thou alone lovest mankind.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of Angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncomingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and saved our souls from death.

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Who is not filled with wonder, O holy martyrs, at beholding the good fight that ye have fought? For armed with the Cross and in the body confessing Christ, ye defeated the bodiless adversary; wherefore, as is meet, ye have been shown to be expellers of demons, and opponents of the barbarians, ever interceding that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

O holy martyrs, ye have become companions of the angels, bravely preaching Christ at the tribunal; for having forsaken all the beautiful things of this world, as though they did not exist, ye held fast to the faith as your steadfast hope. Wherefore, putting deception to flight, ye pour forth gifts of healing upon the faithful, ever interceding that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

How shall we not marvel at your struggles, O holy martyrs? For, clothed in mortal bodies, ye vanquished the incorporeal enemies; the threats of tyrants roused no fear in you; neither did the infliction of tortures, fill you with fear. Therefore, as is meet, ye have been truly glorified by Christ, ask ye great mercy for our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Precious is the death of Thy saints, O Lord. Slain by the sword, and by fire and freezing cold, they poured forth their blood, placing all their hope in Thee that from Thy hand they would receive the reward of their labors. They endured to the end and received from Thee O Savior, Thy great mercy.

Glory ...,

Where is the passionate attraction of the world? Where is the illusion of transitory things? Where is the gold and silver? Where are the multitude of servants and their clamor? All is dust, all is ashes, all is but a shadow. Come ye, and let us cry aloud to Christ Who is immortal: O Lord, grant Thine eternal good things unto those who have departed from us, granting them rest in Thy blessedness which waxeth not old.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: Having thee O Theotokos as our hope and intercession, * we fear not the assaults of the adversary, ** for thou dost save our souls.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

Truly awesome is the mystery of death. How the soul is separated from the body, and this harmony and union is broken, and severed by the will of God. Wherefore we entreat Thee: In the dwellings of Thy righteous grant rest to those who have departed unto Thee, O Bestower of life, and Lover of mankind.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For those who believe in Thee, death is but a dream; for when Thou, the Master of all, wast laid in the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of death, abolishing its ancient dominion. Wherefore we entreat Thee: Those who have departed unto Thee do Thou grant to dwell in the joy of Thy saints and the splendor of the just..

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Thou hast become our righteousness and sanctification, and the redemption of our souls. For Thou didst lead us justified and redeemed unto the Father, taking upon Thyself the punishment and debt due from us. And now we entreat Thee: Grant rest to the departed in the joy and radiance of Thy saints, O our Benefactor and Lover of mankind.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: Following, the words of the divinely eloquent prophets, O all-immaculate One, we believe thee to be the Theotokos. For thou didst ineffably give birth to God in the flesh, Who hath delivered us from the bondage of sin. Ever beseech Him, that He illumine thy departed servants with the radiance of His Light.

TONE FIVE

AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Girding themselves with the shield of faith, and arming themselves with the sign of the Cross, Thy saints O Lord, bravely gave themselves over to torments, casting down the pride and delusion of the devil. By their supplications, O God almighty, send down peace upon the world, and great mercy upon our souls.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Despising all things earthly, and bravely withstanding torture, ye were not deprived of your goodly hope, but became heirs of the Kingdom of heaven. O ye all-praised martyrs, since ye have boldness before God the Lover of mankind, ask that peace be granted to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

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

Intercede on our behalf, O holy martyrs, that we may be delivered from our iniquities: for unto you hath been given the grace to pray for us.

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

With your souls filled with insatiable love, O holy martyrs, ye did not deny Christ; and enduring divers wounds in sufferings, ye cast down the audacity of the tyrants, and keeping the faith unaltered and unharmed, ye were translated to the heavens. Wherefore, since ye have boldness before Him, ask that He grant us great mercy.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

For the reposed: I called to mind the words of the Prophet, ‘I am but dust and ashes.’ I went also to the tombs, and beheld the bones laid bare, and I said: ‘Which is the king or which the warrior, which the rich man or which the beggar, which the righteous or which the sinner?’ But grant rest with the righteous, O Lord, to Thy servants, as the Lover of mankind.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: In the Red Sea of old * an image of the Bride who knew not wedlock was depicted. * There Moses was the one who parted the sea, * here Gabriel is the minister of the miracle. * At that time Israel marched dry-shod through the deep, * now the Virgin doth seedlessly give birth to Christ. * The sea after Israel's passage remained impassable; * the Immaculate one after bearing Emmanuel remained incorrupt. * O God, who doth exist and is pre-eternal, * and hath appeared as man, ** have mercy upon us.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

Intercede on our behalf, O holy martyrs, that we may be delivered from our iniquities: for unto you hath been given the grace to pray for us.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

With your souls filled with insatiable love, O holy martyrs, ye did not deny Christ; and enduring divers wounds in sufferings, ye cast down the audacity of the tyrants, and keeping the faith unaltered and unharmed, ye were translated to the heavens. Wherefore, since ye have boldness before Him, ask that He grant us great mercy.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the reposed: I called to mind the words of the Prophet, 'I am but dust and ashes.' I went also to the tombs, and beheld the bones laid bare, and I said: 'Which is the king or which the warrior, which the rich man or which the beggar, which the righteous or which the sinner?' But grant rest with the righteous, O Lord, to Thy servants, as the Lover of mankind.

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

O thou who art full of joy, intercede by thy supplications, and beg that a multitude of compassions, and the cleansing of our many sins, be granted to our souls, we entreat thee.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

Through the miracles of Thy holy martyrs, O Christ God, Thou hast given us an indestructible rampart. By their supplications make steadfast Thy faithful peoples, in that Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

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

Thy martyrs, O Lord, longing to drink from the cup of Thy sufferings; forsook the beauties of life, and shared in the life of the angels. By their intercessions, O Christ, grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

The hosts of heaven marveled exceedingly at the corrections of the holy martyrs; how, fighting the good fight in their mortal bodies, they invisibly vanquished the incorporeal foe by the power of the Cross; and they pray unto the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: With the righteous grant rest, O our Savior, unto Thy servants, and settle them in Thy courts, as it hath been written, overlooking, in that Thou art good, all their transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, committed either knowingly and unknowingly, O Lover of mankind.

Both now ...,

O Christ God, Who hath shone forth upon the world from the Virgin and shown us forth as children of the light: have mercy upon us!

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Blessed is the army of the heavenly King: for though the passion-bearers were born of this earth, spurning the pangs of their bodies they hastened to attain to the dignity of the angels; and through their sufferings were deemed worthy of the honour of the incorporeal hosts. By their prayers, O Lord, send down upon us great mercy.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Thy passion-bearers, O Lord, emulating the life of the angelic ranks; endured tortures as though incorporeal, in oneness of mind possessing the hope of the blessings promised them. By their intercessions, O Christ God, grant peace to Thy world, and great mercy to our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The holy martyrs struggled here on earth, enduring cold and given over to fire and water. And as the waters received them, they cried aloud: “We went through fire and water, and Thou didst bring us out into refreshment!” By their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy upon us!

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Rejoicing in the midst of their torments, the saints cried aloud: “These things are goods with which we may trade with the Lord: for, instead of the wounds we bear on our bodies, radiant vesture shall blossom forth for us upon our resurrection; instead of dishonor, we shall receive crowns; instead of fetters in prison, we shall receive paradise; and instead of condemnation with malefactors, we shall have life with the angels!” By their supplications, O Lord, save Thou our souls!

Glory ...,

For the reposed: Thou hast fashioned me, O Lord, and set Thine hand upon me; and Thou hast commanded me, saying; ‘To the earth shalt thou return once more.’ Guide me on Thy right path, forgive me my transgressions, and absolve and save me, I pray Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: Alas, O wretched soul! What answer wilt thou have to give to the Judge at that hour when the thrones are set for judgment and the Judge descendeth from the heavens, with myriads of angels? When He is seated upon the judgment seat to try His unprofitable servants like me, what shalt thou bring forth then? Truly naught, having defiled thy mind and body, wherefore, fall down before the Virgin, and cry without ceasing, that she grant thee abundant forgiveness of sins!

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

Spec. Mel.: “Rejoice ...”:

With the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, enlighten those who have departed, as Thou art compassionate, and lead them to a place of verdure, beside the waters of Thy pure divine repose. In the longed for bosom of our forefather Abraham, where Thy light shineth in purity, and the springs of love ever pour forth, where the assemblies of all the righteous rejoice and exult in Thy goodness. Number Thy servants with them, and grant them great mercy. ‘

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself,
O Lord.

O Compassionate One, be Thou well-pleased to grant those who have passed from transitory things unto Thee, the Master of all and our God, all-harmonious voices to hymn and glorify Thy might; and grant that they may be enlightened by Thy beauty, and in a most pure manner partake of sweet and beautiful communion with Thee, where the angels rejoice around Thy throne and the choirs of the saints joyously stand round about. Grant rest with them and great mercy unto Thy servants.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Unto those who have fallen asleep in faith, grant rest with the choir of the prophets, with the ranks of the apostles and the martyrs, and with all those who from time immemorial, have been justified by Thy redeeming Passion and Thy Blood, by which Thou hast ransomed captive mankind. In Thy love forgive them all their offences, for Thou alone hast lived a sinless life upon the earth, Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art free among the dead. Therefore grant unto Thy servants rest and great mercy.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: **H**aving conceived Christ the King and Bestower of life, we who were enslaved by the law of sin, O Lady, have been set free, O only Virgin Mother. Through Him we are freely justified by grace. Entreat Him now to write into the book of life, the names of those who acknowledge thee to be the Birthgiver of God; that saved by Thy mediation, we may receive from Thy Son redemption, worshipping Him Who granteth the world great mercy.

STONE SIX

AT VESPERE ON FRIDAY EVENING

On "Lord, I have cried ...," after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Thy martyrs, O Lord, denied Thee not, nor did they forsake Thy commandments; by their intercessions have mercy upon us.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

O martyred passion-bearers, citizens of heaven, who suffered on the earth, ye endured many torments. By their prayers and intercessions, O Lord, preserve us all.

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

Those who suffered martyrdom for Thee, O Christ, endured a multitude of torments, and have received perfect crowns in the heavens, may they ever intercede on behalf of our souls.

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

Thy Cross O Lord, was the invincible weapon of the martyrs. They beheld impending death before them; but, foreseeing the life that is to come, they became strengthened with hope in Thee. By their intercessions have mercy on us.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

For the reposed: Thy command was to me my beginning and foundation. For desiring to fashion me into a living creature from natures visible and invisible: Thou didst form my body from the earth, and given me a soul by Thy divine and quickening breath. Wherefore, O Christ, grant rest to Thy servants in the land of the living, in the habitations of the righteous.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? * Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? * For the only-begotten Son Who shone forth timelessly from the Father, * came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, the pure one; * and being God by nature, He becometh man for our sake, * not divided into two Hypostases, but known in two natures without commingling. ** Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one, that our souls find mercy!

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

To the Martyrs: Those who suffered martyrdom for Thee, O Christ, endured a multitude of torments, and have received perfect crowns in the heavens, may they ever intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

To the Martyrs: Thy Cross O Lord, was the invincible weapon of the martyrs. They beheld impending death before them; but, foreseeing the life that is to come, they became strengthened with hope in Thee. By their intercessions have mercy on us.

Verse. Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the reposed: Thy command was to me my beginning and foundation. For desiring to fashion me into a living creature from natures visible and invisible: Thou didst form my body from the earth, and given me a soul by Thy divine and quickening breath. Wherefore, O Christ, grant rest to Thy servants in the land of the living, in the habitations of the righteous.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: By the prayers of her that gaveth birth to Thee O Christ,* and of Thy martyrs and apostles, * the prophets and holy hierarchs, * the venerable, the righteous and of all the saints, ** grant rest to Thy departed servants.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs.

Having patiently endured the struggle of martyrdom, the saints received from Thee the honors of victory; having set at naught the intentions of the iniquitous, they received crowns of incorruption. For their sake be Thou entreated, O God, and grant us great mercy.

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

While the choirs of the incorporeal ones stood by, holding trophies of victory, and tyrants and kings were amazed, the most wise spiritual athletes showed forth a firm opposition amidst the wounds of torture, during their martyrdom at the tribunal, thereby casting down the apostate by their confession of Christ. O Lord Who strengthened them, glory be to Thee!

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

The memorial of Thy saints, O Lord, hath appeared like the the garden of paradise in Eden, for therein all creation rejoiceth. By their prayers grant us peace and great mercy.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: Truly all things are vanity; life is but a shadow and a dream: for in vain doth every mortal trouble himself, as the Scripture hath said, seeking to acquire the whole world, and then departing to the tomb, where kings and paupers are found together. Wherefore, O Christ God, grant rest to Thy departed servants in that Thou lovest mankind.

Both now ...,

Theotokion O Thou Who called Thy Mother blessed, Thou didst willingly go to Thy suffering, and shine forth upon the Cross, desiring to seek out Adam, and saying to the angels: Rejoice with Me, for I have found the lost coin! O our God Who hast wisely ordered all things, glory be to Thee!

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: At the commemoration of Thy saints, O Lord, all creation celebrateth; the heavens rejoice with the angels, and the earth with all mankind keepeth festival. By their intercessions have mercy upon us.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

O Lord, if we had not had Thy saints as intercessors, and Thy goodness being merciful to us, how should we have dared, O Savior, to hymn Thee, Whom angels do unceasingly glorify? O Thou that knowest the hearts of men, spare our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The memorial of the martyrs is a joy to those who fear the Lord. For having suffered for Christ's sake, they received from Him crowns of victory; and now they intercede with boldness on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

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

Glory ...,

For the reposed: Of old, the eating of the tree in Eden sickened Adam when the serpent spewed forth its venom; for from this universal death hath arisen, devouring man. But the Master came, and cast down the serpent, granting us resurrection. Unto Him, therefore, let us now cry aloud: Have pity on those whom Thou hast taken to Thyself, O Savior, and, as Thou lovest mankind, grant them rest with the saints.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: We have come to know God Who was incarnate of thee, O Virgin Theotokos. Him do thou entreat that our souls be saved.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

Spec. Mel.: “Having set aside ...”:

O greatly merciful Master, Who hast unapproachable loving-kindness for us and an inexhaustible well-spring of divine goodness. Grant rest in the land of the living to those who have departed unto Thee, that they forever abide in Thy dwelling-place, which they so longed for. For Thou, O Christ, hast shed Thy blood for all, and hast redeemed the world with Thy life.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself,
O Lord.

Thou didst willingly endure a life-creating death; pouring forth life upon the faithful, and granting them eternal joy. Do Thou establish in this joy those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrection, and in Thy mercy forgive them all their offences, for Thou alone art sinless, Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind, that Thy Name, O Christ, may be hymned by all, and that we may glorify Thy salvific love for mankind.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Knowing Thee to be, in Thy divine power, the Lord of the living and Master of the dead, O Christ, we pray Thee: With Thy chosen ones, O Lover of mankind, grant rest unto Thy faithful servants who have departed unto Thee, our Benefactor, in a place of comfort, amid the splendors of the saints; for Thou art He Who willest mercy, and as God savest those whom Thou didst create according to Thine image, O only greatly Merciful One.

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

Thou wast shown to be a receptacle of divine majesty, O most pure one, for thou didst contain God and gave birth unto Christ in two natures but a single Hypostasis, O Mother who knewest not wedlock. O pure one, entreat thine only-begotten and firstborn Child, Who preserved thee an unblemished virgin even though thou hast given birth, that He grant rest amid light and incorrupt blessedness unto those who have fallen asleep in the Faith.

STONE SEVEN

AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

O Savior, when Thou comest to judge the whole world put me not to shame, for I have committed shameful acts.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Glory be to Thee, O Christ God, Thou boast of the apostles, joy of the martyrs; whose preaching was of the consubstantial Trinity.

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

O holy martyrs, ye who have fought the good fight and received your crowns, pray to the Lord, that our souls be saved.

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

Despising every earthly thing, O holy martyrs, and having bravely preached Christ at the tribunal, ye received your reward from Him for your torments. Since ye have boldness before God, we beseech you to pray to Him as one almighty, that He save the souls of us who flee unto you.

Then 4 Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

For the reposed: **O** our Savior, grant rest to our brethren whom Thou hast removed from transitory things, and who cry: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: **T**hou hast been known to have become a Mother * in a manner surpassing nature O Theotokos, * and hast remained a Virgin in a manner beyond recounting and understanding; * no tongue can expound the wonder of thy birthgiving. * For while thy conceiving O Pure one was all-glorious, * the manner of thy birthgiving is beyond comprehension; * for where God so willeth, the order of nature is overthrown. * Wherefore, we all, knowing thee to be the Mother of God, * do earnestly entreat thee: ** Pray thou that our souls be saved!

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

Despising every earthly thing, O holy martyrs, and having bravely preached Christ at the tribunal, ye received your reward from Him for your torments. Since ye have boldness before God, we beseech you to pray to Him as one almighty, that He save the souls of us who flee unto you.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

O all-praised martyrs, spiritual lambs, reason endowed whole burnt offerings and sacrifices acceptable and well-pleasing to God. Ye were not hidden by the earth, but heaven hath received you; and Ye have become companions of the angels we entreat you to pray with them unto our God and Savior, that He grant peace to the world, and save our souls.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

For the departed O Thou Who in the beginning fashioned man in Thine image and in accordance with Thy likeness, in paradise Thou didst appoint him to rule over Thy creatures; but, led astray by the malice of the devil, he partook of the fruit, breaking Thy commandment. Wherefore, Thou didst condemn him to return to the earth from whence he had been taken, O Lord, and to beg for repose.

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

O thou who alone didst receive the uncontainable Word of God, and hast given birth to Him incarnate: Pray that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

Struggling on earth, Thy saints trampled the enemy underfoot and abolished the delusion of the idolatry, O Lord; wherefore, they have received crowns from Thee, the Master and Lover of mankind, the merciful God, Who granteth great mercy to the world.

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

Rejoice, O ye righteous, and let the heavens be glad! For, struggling on the earth, the martyrs trampled the enemy underfoot and abolished the delusion of idolatry. Let the Church leap up, celebrating with hymns of victory to Christ God, the Judge of the contest, the one Granter of victory, Who giveth great mercy to the world.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

Having armed themselves with the power of Thy Cross, O Lord, Thy martyrs vanquished the enemy and put to shame the delusion of idolatry; wherefore, chanting with the angels they cry out a hymn of victory, glorifying Thee, O Christ. By their prayers grant cleansing and great mercy to our souls.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: In the land of the living and the habitations of Thy righteous do Thou number the souls of those whose memory we keep, O Lover of mankind; and if any of them have sinned in this life, forgive them, granting great mercy to the world, in that Thou art the merciful God Who is speedily placated.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: As thou art the treasury of our resurrection, O all-hymned one, lead up from the pit and abyss of transgression those who place their trust in thee, for thou having given birth to our Salvation, thou hast saved those guilty of sin. Thou wast a Virgin before giving birth, a virgin during birth, and didst remain a Virgin after birthgiving.

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Celebrating the memorial of Thy passion-bearers, O Christ, we chant, crying aloud: ‘O Lord, glory be to Thee.’

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

In the midst of the tribunal of the lawless, the passion-bearers cried aloud rejoicing: ‘O Lord, glory be to Thee.’

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O all-praised passion-bearers, enlightening the whole world with the radiance of your piety, ye cry aloud to Christ: ‘O Lord, glory be to Thee.’

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Breathing with one purpose and looking upon a single hope, the passion-bearing martyrs, having found the one path to life, which is death for Christ, urged one another on to death. O the wonder! For, snatching up the treasures of torment, they said one to another: “If we die not now, we shall die in any

case; wherefore, let us do things worthy of life: let us do what needs be done with love of honor, that we may sell what we have and buy life with death!" Through their supplications, O God, have mercy on us.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: O Merciful Lover of mankind, in the land of Thy righteous do Thou number those who in faith have passed over to thee from ages past.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: With the apostles and martyrs pray thou, O Virgin, that those who have passed away may find great mercy at the judgment.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

Thou wast seen dead upon the Cross and wast laid in the tomb as one dead, O only Immortal One, delivering mortal mankind from mortality and corruption. As Thou art an inexhaustible Abyss of loving-kindness and a Source of goodness, grant rest to Thy servants who have departed from us.

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

O Good One, grant that those who have passed over unto Thee may be enlightened with Thine incorrupt beauty, and delight in Thy comeliness and the rays of Thy divine light, joining chorus amid the effulgence of heaven with the angels, surrounding Thee, the Master, King and Lord of glory.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

As God, the inexhaustible majesty of divine gifts, as the abundantly rich treasury of goodness, cause those who have passed over to Thee to dwell in the lands of Thine elect, in a place of rest, in the house of Thy glory, in the sustenance of paradise, in Thy virginal chamber, in that Thou art compassionate.

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

Thou hast given birth in the flesh to the Redeemer, the Fullness of the Law; for those who lived before His coming found no justification in the Law; but Christ, Who was crucified for our sake, hath thereby granted us justification. Wherefore, as thou hast a mother's boldness, entreat thy compassionate Son, that He grant peace to the souls of those who have passed away from us in piety, O all-hymned one.

‘TONE EIGHT

AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” after the Stichera of the day from the Triodion, we chant the following Stichera of the holy martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

O martyrs of the Lord, ye sanctify every place and heal every manner of infirmities: and now we entreat you to intercede on our behalf, that our souls may be delivered from the snares of the enemy.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Thy martyrs, O Lord, no longer mindful of the temporal things of this life, despised not torture for the sake of the life to come, which they manifestly inherited, wherefore they rejoice with the angels. By their supplications grant great mercy to Thy people.

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

What virtue, what praise, are due the saints? For they bowed their heads beneath the sword for the sake of Thee Who bowed down the heavens and descended to us; they shed their blood for Thee Who abased Thyself and assumed the form of a servant; they humbled themselves even unto death, imitating Thy poverty. By their intercessions, O God, have mercy on us, in the multitude of Thy compassions!

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

O ye martyrs of the Lord, we beseech you to intercede before our God: pray ye that abundant mercy be granted to our souls, and the cleansing of our many sins.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ..., a composition of St. John the Damascene:

For the reposed: I weep and lament when I contemplate death and behold our beauty, which hath been created according to the image of God, lying in the grave, bereft of form, devoid of glory, unsightly. O the wonder! What is this mystery concerning us? How have we been given over to corruption? How have we been yoked together with death? Truly, as it is written, this is by the command of God, Who giveth rest unto the departed.

Both now ...,

Theotokion: In His love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared on earth * and dwelt among men; * for He Who received flesh from the pure Virgin * and cameth forth from her having received human nature, * is the only Son of God, * twofold in nature but not Hypostasis. * Therefore, proclaiming Him to be truly perfect God and perfect man, * we confess Christ our God. * Him do thou beseech, O unwedded Mother, ** that our souls find mercy!

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

O ye martyrs of the Lord, we beseech you to intercede before our God: pray ye that abundant mercy be granted to our souls, and the cleansing of our many sins.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

I weep and lament when I contemplate death and behold our beauty, which hath been created according to the image of God, lying in the grave, bereft of form, devoid of glory, unsightly. O the wonder! What is this mystery concerning us? How have we been given over to corruption? How have we been yoked together with death? Truly, as it is written, this is by the command of God, Who giveth rest unto the departed.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

Thy death, O Lord, won immortality for us; for if Thou hadst not been laid in the tomb, paradise would not have been opened. Wherefore, grant rest to the departed, in that Thou lovest mankind.

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

O pure Virgin, portal of the Word, Mother of our God: pray thou that we be saved.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs:

O holy martyrs, ye were shown to be noetic beacons, for by faith ye have dispersed the gloom of deception, ignited the lamps of our souls, and entered with glory into the heavenly bridal chamber of the Bridegroom. * Wherefore we now entreat you, intercede that our souls be saved.

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

By their temperance, the martyrs of Christ mortified the fiery impulses of the passions, and received the grace of Christ, whereby they drive infirmities from the sick, and work miracles, in that they are alive, even after death. O what a truly all-glorious wonder it is, that their bare bones pour forth healings. Glory be to our one God.

Verse: In the Saints that are in the earth * hath the Lord been wondrous.

O prophets, martyrs of Christ, and holy hierarchs, who with the wisdom of piety lawfully finished the good race and received unfading wreaths from God, unceasingly ask His grace for us, that He grant us the forgiveness of our transgressions, in that He is a readily conciliatory God.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: **O** Thou Who by the depth of Thy wisdom dost provide all things out of love for mankind, and grantest unto all that which is profitable, O only Creator: Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants; for in Thee have they placed their hope, O Creator and Fashioner and God.

Both now ...,

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin * and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death, * and as God revealed the resurrection: * disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand. * Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; * Accept the supplications of the Theotokos who bore Thee, ** and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

ON THE PRAISES

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

O holy martyrs, ye were shown to be noetic beacons, for by faith ye have dispersed the gloom of deception, ignited the lamps of our souls, and entered with glory into the heavenly bridal chamber of the Bridegroom. * Wherefore we now entreat you, intercede that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Ye struggled greatly, O saints, valiantly enduring tortures at the hands of the iniquitous; and though ye have passed from this life, ye still work wonders in this world and heal those made sick by their passions. O holy ones, pray ye that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O invincible martyrs of Christ, having triumphed over delusion by the power of the Cross, and gained as your reward the grace of eternal life. Ye feared not the threats of tyrants, and suffering tortures ye rejoiced; and now your blood hath become for us the healing of our souls, pray ye that our souls be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Having clothed yourselves with the breastplate of the Faith, and armed yourselves with the Cross as a sword, ye showed yourselves to be mighty warriors, bravely opposing the tyrants and casting down the delusion of the devil; and, victorious, ye were deemed worthy of crowns. Pray ye ever on our behalf, that our souls be saved.

Glory ...,

For the reposed: **F**or those who have lived in fornication infinite is the torment, the gnashing of teeth, the inconsolable weeping, the fiery Gehenna, the outer darkness, the worm which sleepeth not, the ineffectual tears, and the implacable judgment; wherefore, before the end let us cry aloud, saying: O Master Christ, grant rest with the elect unto those whom Thou hast taken to Thyself!

Both now ...,

Theotokion: **I** flee to thy protection, O holy Virgin Theotokos, for I know that through thee I shall obtain salvation; for thou art able to help me, O pure one.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

A composition by Theophanes:

Spec. Mel.: “O most glorious wonder ...”:

Dipping Thy fingers in Thy blood and staining them therewith as with red ink, Thou hast signed for us a royal reprieve, O Master; wherefore, we entreat Thee with faith: Among Thy firstborn number those who have departed unto Thee, the tenderly compassionate One, and grant that they may receive the joy of Thy righteous.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Having fulfilled Thy priestly ministry as a man, and been sacrificed as a lamb, Thou didst redeem mankind from corruption, offering Thyself as an oblation to the Father. As Thou lovest mankind, do Thou enroll the departed in the land of the living, where torrents of delight pour forth, and well-springs of eternal life flow.

Verse: Their souls * shall dwell among good things.

O Thou Who, in the depths of Thine ineffable wisdom, dost set the bounds of life, and foresee things to come, cause the servants whom Thou hast taken to Thyself to dwell in the life to come. Settle them, by peaceful waters, in the splendor of the saints, O Lord, where the voice of joy and praise is heard.

Verse: Their memorial * is from generation to generation.

O Word Who art invisible, of the same nature and form as the Father and the Spirit, for my sake Thou didst appear as a man in the flesh. In that Thou art merciful and lovest mankind, with the beauties of Thy majesty and comeliness enlighten those who have passed from this life, O Author of life.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Theotokion: In that thou didst conceive the beginningless Word of God the Father, with thy maternal boldness earnestly entreat Him, O Theotokos, that He number thy servants where the jubilation of the righteous who rejoice and praise thee, is continuous, and where the radiance is eternal, and the voice of him who keepeth festival is sweet.