

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

TONE THREE

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.

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, and made the children of mankind companions of the angels.

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: How 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: 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.

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

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.

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.