

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

TONE FOUR

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** 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.

**P**recious 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 shouldest 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.

**T**hou 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:** Prophet 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**H**ow 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.

**P**recious 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 ...,**

**W**here 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:**

**T**ruly 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.

**F**or 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.

**T**hou 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.