

**THURSDAY EVENING: TONE II**  
**AT VESPERS**

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 3 Stichera of the precious Cross, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: “When from the Tree ...”:

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

**When** Thou wast nailed to the Cross, O Savior, \* the sun beheld and dimmed its rays in fear of Thee, \* and the veil of the temple \* was rent in twain; \* the earth quaked, and the stones likewise \* split asunder with trembling, \* unable to bear the sight of their Creator and God \* willingly suffering unjustly upon the Tree, \*\* and reviled by men.

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

**Wholly** cast down to the ground, \* wholly wounded, \* the most wicked serpent was brought low by a strange fall \* when Thou, O Lover of mankind, \* wast uplifted upon the Tree. \* And Adam who before was condemned \* was loosed from the curse and became saved. \* Wherefore, we also pray: \*\* Save us all, O Compassionate One, and grant us Thy kingdom!

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

**When** the Cross was set up \* and Thou wast pierced in the side with the spear, \* O Sinless Savior, \* the sun hid itself, unable to bear the sight; \* and when Thou wast reviled, \* the earth trembled, and the rocks split asunder in fear; \* and all creation cried out to Thee: \* Glory be to Thy crucifixion whereby Thou hast saved all, \*\* O Word and Lover of mankind!

**Then the Stichera from the Menaion; or if there is no Menaion, these Stichera of the most holy Theotokos, in the same melody:**

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

**Beholding** Thee O Jesus, \* lifted up upon the tree of the Cross, \* she who knew not wedlock wept and said: \* “O my sweet Child, wherefore hast Thou forsaken me \* who alone gave Thee birth? \* O unapproachable Light of the beginningless Father, \* hasten Thou and glorify Thyself, \* that those who glorify Thy divine sufferings \*\* may receive divine glory!”

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

**W**hen the Virgin beheld Life dying upon the Tree, \* His side painfully pierced by a spear, \* she exclaimed, weeping: \* “O my Son and God, \* how hath the ungrateful assembly rewarded Thee? \* Woe is me! \* My womb, which did not suffer the pangs of childbirth, \* is wracked with pain, \*\* beholding Thee suffering for them, O Master!”

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

**W**hen the Maiden who knew not a man \* beheld her Son taken down from the Tree, \* plainly laid upon the ground, \* as a man bereft of breath, \* she clasped Him to her bosom \* and, kissing His mouth and eyes, \* exclaimed to Him in wonder: \* “How can I be unmoved when I see Thee now, \*\* bereft of voice, Who givest life unto all?”

**Glory ..., Both now ...,**

**Stavrotheotokion:** **W**hen the unblemished ewe-lamb beheld her Lamb \* willingly led as a man to the slaughter, \* she said, weeping: \* “Dost Thou now hasten to leave me childless who gave Thee birth O Christ,? \* What is this that Thou hast done, O Redeemer of all? \* Even so I will hymn and glorify Thine extreme goodness, \* which is beyond understanding and all telling, \*\* O Lover of mankind!”

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

**Prokeimenon:** My help cometh from the Lord, \* Who hath made heaven and the earth.

**Verse:** I have lifted up mine eyes to the Mountains, from whence cometh my help.

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

**On the Aposticha, these Stichera of the precious Cross, in Tone II:**

**O** Christ God my Savior, Who saved Peter in the sea, save me by the power of the Cross, and have mercy on me.

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

**T**hey who ever enjoyed Thy gifts cried aloud, “Crucify Him!”; they who slew the righteous ones asked that a malefactor be released unto them in place of the Benefactor. But Thou didst keep silence, O Christ, enduring their savagery, desiring to suffer and thus save us, in that Thou lovest mankind.

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

**To the Martyrs:** Having hated the pleasures of life, the passion-bearers were deemed worthy of the good things of heaven and have made their abode together with the angels. By their prayers, O Lord, have mercy and save us.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

**Stavrotheotokion:** When iniquitous men raised Thee, the Life of all, up upon the Tree, O Savior, Thy pure and most immaculate Mother, standing forth and lamenting, exclaimed: “O my sweet Child, light of mine eyes, woe is me! How hast Thou suffered to be nailed to the Cross between two evildoers, O Thou Who hast suspended the earth upon the waters?”

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

## THURSDAY NIGHT: TONE II

### AT COMPLINE

Canon of supplication to the most holy Theotokos

#### ODE I

**Irmos:** In the deep of old the infinite Power overwhelmed Pharaoh's whole army. \* But the Incarnate Word annihilated pernicious sin. \* Exceedingly glorious is the Lord, \* for gloriously hath He been glorified.

God chose thee as beautiful, all-comely, immaculate among women, and made His abode within thine immaculate womb. Him do thou beseech, O all-immaculate one, that He deliver all who hymn thee from the disgrace of sins.

According to the psalm, thou dost stand as Queen at the right hand of the King Who shone forth from thy womb, O pure one. Him do thou beseech, O all-immaculate one, that on the day of retribution He sets me to stand on the right side.

Glory ..., O thou who hast given birth to the Rain of heaven, thou hast renewed the nature of man which hath become dry because of unseemly deeds; wherefore, I pray thee: Show forth the dry furrows of my soul to be fertile, O Bride of God.

Both now ..., We who were slain by the tree of knowledge have been called to life everlasting by Christ God, the Tree of life, Who blossomed forth from thee, O pure one, in a manner transcending understanding. Entreat Him with boldness, that our souls be saved.

#### ODE III

**Irmos:** The desert of the barren Church of the nations \* blossomed like a lily \* at Thy coming, O Lord, \* therein hath my heart been established.

Issuing forth from thy womb, O most pure one, the Creator clothed Himself in me, a man, granting the raiment of incorruption to me who have been stripped naked by my manifold evil deeds.

Thou hast given birth to the supremely honored Word of God, O Lady. Him do thou earnestly beseech, that He have pity on my lowly soul, which is beset by the indignity of pleasures.

Glory ..., Heal thou the wounds of my soul, O most pure one, and with thine effective therapy cure my lowly heart, which hath been afflicted by the venom of the serpent.

Both now ..., As thou hast boldness before thy Son, O Lady and Mother, beg help for thine oppressed people and cast down the arrogance of the iniquitous.

## ODE IV

**Irmos:** From a Virgin didst Thou come forth, not as an ambassador, \* nor as an Angel, \* but the very Lord himself incarnate, \* and didst save me, the whole man; \* wherefore I cry unto Thee: \* Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Let fall upon me a drop of compunction, O Lady, easing all the burning heat of my heart and dispelling my grief and the buffeting assaults.

Disdain me not, who has been pierced by the sword of pleasure and lie in my wounds, O most pure one, but heal me with the spear and blood of thy crucified Son and our God.

Glory ..., O thou who hast been enriched by all the edification of the Master, grant divine grace unto me who am grievously impoverished, that I may magnify thee as my good helper, O all-immaculate one.

Both now ..., Christ, the Effulgence of the Father, shone forth from thy womb, O Maiden who knewest not wedlock, and, crucified, hath enlightened the whole world, destroying the darkness of the demons.

## ODE V

**Irmos:** O Christ God Thou art a mediator between God and man; \* for by Thee, O Master, \* we have been led from the night of ignorance, \* to Thy Father, the Source of light.

O most pure one who hast given birth to the Way of life, direct me not to the narrow path, for unknowingly I have stumbled headlong into a trackless waste and the brink of grievous falls.

Having mindlessly estranged myself from the understanding of God, I have lived prodigally, lost in the far country of the passions; yet, having brought me back, O pure Virgin, save me by thy consolation.

Glory ..., With thy living waters give drink to thy servant who burns with the flame of sin and am consumed by the assaults of the demons, O most pure Virgin Mother.

Both now ..., Lo! thou didst have Christ God in thy womb in a manner past all telling, O most pure Theotokos, as Isaiah proclaimed, and thou hast given birth to Him supra-naturally, O Birthgiver of God.

## ODE VI

**Irmos:** Whirled about in the abyss of sin, \* I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Thy compassion: \* Raise me up from corruption, O God.

Let me not be shown to be a delight for the demons at the judgment which is to come, O Lady, but directing upon me a gaze of reconciliation, entreat the Judge, thy Son.

**H**aving driven Thee away with my wicked thoughts and mine impure acts, O Lord, I bring before Thee Thy Mother to make supplication. Have pity and save me!

**Glory ...**, **F**rom condemnation, O Lady, deliver me who have condemned myself through my transgressions, for thou hast given birth to the Judge and God of all, O all-hymned one.

**Both now ...**, **B**eseech Jesus the Savior to Whom thou hast given birth supernaturally in the flesh, O most pure Virgin Mother, that thy servants be delivered from misfortunes.

**Lord, have mercy, (Thrice).**

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

**Spec. Mel.: “As thou art full of loving-kindness ...”:**

**T**hy Virgin Mother, beholding Thee, O Christ, stretched out dead upon the Tree, said, weeping bitterly: “O my Son, what is this strange mystery? How is it that Thou Who grantest life everlasting unto all dost of Thine own will die a shameful death upon the Cross?”

### **ODE VII**

**Irmos: The godless order of the lawless tyrant \* fanned the roaring flame; \* but Christ bedewed the God-fearing children with the Spirit, \* therefore He is blessed and supremely exalted.**

**A**s thou art my strength and song, my salvation, firm help and invincible bulwark, O Lady, vanquish the demons which war against me, ever seeking to slay me.

**G**iving flesh to God from thy virginal blood, O Virgin, thou hast deified mankind; wherefore, I pray thee: by thy prayers deliver me, who have been defiled by the passions and corrupted by the wiles of the enemy.

**Glory ...**, **T**he furnace prefigured thy birthgiving, O all-immaculate one, for it did not consume the children, just as the unbearable Fire did not consume thy womb. Wherefore, we entreat thee: Deliver thy servants from eternal fire.

**Both now ...**, **R**emaining a virgin, thou alone didst show forth a most pure conception and an incorrupt birthgiving, for thou didst conceive Christ, Who is God over all and Who became a man, O pure one, for the salvation and deliverance of the faithful.

### **ODE VIII**

**Irmos: In Babylon, the activity of the fire was once divided, \* for, by the command of God it consumed the Chaldeans, \* but bedewed the faithful,**

**who chant: \* Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

**B**e zealous for good works, O my soul, withdrawing from evils with care for godly acts, having the Theotokos praying for thee, the unashamed helper of all, in that she is merciful and loving.

**T**hou hast broken the bonds of men's ancient condemnation; wherefore, I beseech thee, O Birthgiver of God: Loose thou all the evil bonds of my heart, binding me with the divine love of the Creator, O most pure one.

**Glory ...**, **H**aving given birth to the Effulgence of the Father's glory, O Theotokos, illumine my heart, which hath become downcast because of the infamy of my transgressions, and show me forth to share in everlasting glory, that I may glorify thee with faith.

**Both now ...**, **T**hrough thee, O Birthgiver of God, hath the true Sun of righteousness been revealed to us, illumining all things with rays of divinity. Him, the Most High incarnate, do we hymn.

### ODE IX

**Irmos: The Son of the Beginningless Father, God and Lord, \* hath appeared to us incarnate of a Virgin, \* to enlighten those in darkness, \* and to gather the dispersed; \* therefore the all-hymned Theotokos do we magnify**

**H**aving tasted of the food mingled with death, Adam was seized by bitterness through the tree; but thy Son Who was nailed to the Tree, O most pure one, hath poured forth the sweetness of immortality. Wherefore, we praise thee\*

**T**hou art the Queen, having in a manner past all telling given birth to Christ, the King and Lord, Who hath destroyed the realm of death. Him do thou earnestly entreat, O Maiden, that He grant the kingdom on high unto all who honor thee.

**Glory ...**, **A**s thou art the Mother of the Good One and art wholly good, bless thou my lowly heart, which is oppressed by attacks of pleasure, and lead me through the portals of good unto repentance.

**Both now ...**, **T**hou Who wast suspended aloft, dead, upon the Cross hast therewith slain the serpent. Wherefore, I cry out to Thee: Have mercy, O Word, upon my soul which hath been slain by my wicked deeds, and give life to it by the prayers of her who gave birth to Thee.

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

**ON FRIDAY MORNING: TONE II**  
**AT MATINS**

After the 1<sup>st</sup> chanting of the Psalter,  
the Sessional Hymns of the holy and precious Cross, in Tone II:

**T**hou didst work salvation in the midst of the earth, O Christ God, and on the Cross didst stretch out Thy most pure hands, gathering to Thee all the nations, who cry: Glory to Thee, O Lord!

**Verse:** Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship the footstool of His feet, \*  
for He is holy.

**J**ust as the enemy made Adam captive by the fruit of the tree, so didst Thou Thyself make the enemy captive by the tree of the Cross and Thy suffering, O Lord; for Thou camest as the Second Adam for this purpose: to seek out the lost and bring life to the dead. Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Glory ..., Both now ...,

**Stavrotheotokion:** Beholding Thee, O Christ, stretched dead upon the tree, \* Thy virgin Mother cried out with bitter tears: \* O my son, what is this fearful mystery? \* How dost Thou give eternal life to all, \*\* and yet suffer willingly a shameful death upon the Cross?

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns, in Tone II:

**T**he life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, which Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord, do we offer unto Thee in supplication: Save Thy city, granting it peace for the sake of the Theotokos, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

**Verse:** God is our King before the ages; \* He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

**W**e bow down before Thy most pure image, O Good One, asking forgiveness for our transgressions, O Christ God; for of Thine own will Thou wast well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that Thou mightest deliver that which Thou didst create from slavery to the enemy. Wherefore, we cry out to Thee in thanksgiving: O our Savior, Thou hast filled all with joy when Thou camest to save the world!

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

**To the Martyrs:** Having Thee Who clothed the sky in clouds as their vesture in the world, the saints endured torments at the hands of the iniquitous, and abolished the deception of idolatry. By their supplications free us also from the invisible foe, O Savior, and save us.



Glory ..., Both now ...,

**Stavrotheotokion:** Standing beside Thy Cross, \* she who gave birth to thee without seed \* could not endure seeing Thee unjustly suffering, \* and cried aloud to Thee, \* weeping and lamenting: \* ‘O my sweetest son, how dost Thou suffer, \* though Thou art dispassionate by nature? \* I sing the praises of Thine extreme and compassionate goodness.

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymns, in Tone II:

Like the thief do I confess and cry out to Thee, O Good One: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom! Reckon me with him, O Thou Who didst willingly accept sufferings for our sake.

O good Shepherd, Who hast enlightened mortals and summoned sinners by the Cross, cut me not off from Thy flock, but seek me out who am lost, O Master, and number me among Thy sheep, O Thou Who alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

Glory ..., Both now ...,

**Stavrotheotokion:** Guarded by the precious Cross of thy son, \* O pure Lady Theotokos, \* we easily turn away all the assaults of the enemy! \* Therefore we rightly call thee blessed, \* for thou art the mother of light \*\* and the only hope of our souls!

Canon of the holy and precious Cross, the acrostic whereof is “When the Cross was planted, the deception of the demons fell,” the composition of Joseph, in Tone II:

### ODE I

**Irmos:** Traversing dryshod the impassible, peculiar path in the sea, \* Israel the chosen cried aloud: \* Let us chant unto the Lord, \* for He hath been glorified!

Thou didst accept crucifixion, being ignominiously pierced with nails, O Word, desiring to honor all those who glorify Thy voluntary sufferings.

Thou didst stretch out Thy hands upon the Cross, O Savior Who stretched out the sky like a skin, and didst thereby embrace the nations and those who glorify Thy voluntary sufferings.

To the Martyrs: Shouldering their cross, the passion-bearers earnestly followed the crucified Christ, conforming themselves to His divine sufferings.

To the Martyrs: Beholding your sufferings, the angelic hosts sang, but the multitude of the demons lamented, O victorious martyrs who gaze upon God.

**Theotokion:** **T**he word of the honorable prophet hath been fulfilled, for a sword pierced thy heart, O Lady, when thou didst see thy Son nailed to the Cross.

**Another canon, of the most holy Theotokos, in Tone II:**

**Irmos:** **C**ome, O ye people, \* let us sing a song to Christ our God, \* Who divided the sea, \* and made a way for the nation \* which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; \* for He hath been glorified.

**O** Maiden, who hast given birth to the Source of dispassion, heal me who am wounded by the passions, and rescue me from the everlasting fire, O thou who alone art full of divine joy.

**D**eliver me from bodily illness, and cure the unseemly passions of my soul, and rescue me from everlasting fire, O thou who alone art full of the grace of God.

**I** flee now beneath thy goodness, O most pure Virgin Mother: Deliver thy servant from pain of soul, from spiritually corrupting passions and everlasting fire.

**O** Lady, thou art my fervent sanctuary: unto thee do I flee and am saved, and acquire salvation of soul. For thou canst save all, in that thou art the Mother of God.

### **ODE III**

**Canon of the precious Cross**

**Irmos:** **T**hou hast established me on the rock of faith, \* and my mouth hath been emboldened against mine enemies. \* For my spirit rejoiceth when I sing: \* There is none as holy as our God \* and none more righteous than Thee, O Lord.

**H**anging upon the Tree, the incorrupt Grapes: Jesus, the Redeemer of our souls: exuded the divine sweetness which gladdeneth the hearts of all and which by grace taketh away the drunkenness of evil.

**O**f Thine own will Thou wast raised up upon the Tree, O Jesus, and didst foil all the wicked schemes of the devil; and didst raise up mankind who had fallen into destruction through their depraved minds, O greatly Merciful One.

**To the Martyrs:** **E**nkindled by the fire of divine love, the valiant ones were undaunted by the fire and unafraid of death, trusting that they would receive gifts of immortality, endless joy and never-waning light.

**To the Martyrs:** **H**aving dyed a most splendid robe in their own blood and clothed themselves therein, and holding the divine Cross in their hands like a scepter, the passion-bearers ever reign with the Lord.

**Theotokion:** The ranks of incorporeal beings honor thee, for thou, O Maiden Bride of God, hast given birth to the incarnate Master Who by the Tree hath released all who were bound, and thereby bound the faithful to His love.

### Canon of the most holy Theotokos

**Irmos:** Thou hast established me on the rock of faith ...,

Unto the King, Who is without beginning and Who had received flesh from thee, O Virgin Mother, thou hast given birth. Entreat Him as the Lover of mankind, that He save thy servant from all the tribulations and damnation which is to come.

Resolve the perplexity of my heart, heal my wounds and rid me of festering corruption by thy divine power; and grant me a stream of compunction, O thou who hast given birth to the Source of everlasting life.

O Birthgiver of God, heal my soul, which hath become sick through despondency and the assaults of the demons; grant tears of repentance to my heart, and plant therein the fear of my Master, O most pure one.

Having wasted my life in slothfulness and defiled my heart with the passions, I come to thee in compunction of soul, O Lady, and pray: Have pity and save me, making me steadfast by models of repentance.

### ODE IV

### Canon of the precious Cross

**Irmos:** From a Virgin didst Thou come forth, not as an ambassador, \* nor as an Angel, \* but the very Lord himself incarnate, \* and didst save me, the whole man; \* wherefore I cry unto Thee: \* Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou wast suspended upon the Tree, O Almighty, Who suspended the earth upon the waters; and, pierced in the side by a spear, Thou didst pour forth blood and water for the salvation of all.

When Thy side was pierced, it healed my sickness; when thou wast smitten on the cheek by the hand of man, I received freedom; and by Thy tasting of gall, O Christ, we have been delivered from the sweet taste of the fruit in Eden.

To the Martyrs: Having been lashed by the whips of the deceiving serpent, ye heal the stripes of our hearts, ever pouring forth grace from the wellsprings of the Savior, O divine martyrs.

To the Martyrs: Bloodied by your wounds, stretched out upon crosses, and maimed, ye dealt a blow to the whole body of the enemy, O all-honored God-seeing passion-bearers.

**Theotokion:** **T**he Most High became incarnate from thy most pure blood; and beholding Him, unjustly suspended upon the Tree, O most pure one, thou didst groan, weeping, and magnifying His tender compassion.

### Canon of the most holy Theotokos

**Irmos:** **I** hymn Thee, O Lord, for I have heard report of Thee, \* and I was afraid; \* for Thou comest to me, seeking me who am lost. \* Wherefore, I glorify Thy great condescension towards me, \* O greatly Merciful One.

**I** truly hymn thee, O all-hymned one, who hast supra-naturally given birth to the all-hymned Word of God; and I pray: Heal the pangs of my lowly soul, and deliver me from grievous condemnation.

**R**ain down upon us the riches of thy mercy, O Virgin, ending our infirmities and loosing the divers passions of our souls; and free my heart from the bonds of sin and from many pangs.

**I** have defiled my soul with the passions; but do thou, who didst become the most pure dwelling-place of the Most pure One, O Birthgiver of God, cleanse me, guiding me to the light of repentance and rescuing me from the fire which is to come.

**E**nlighten my mind, O most pure Lady, I pray thee; and still the waves of my passion-plagued heart, putting down carnal desires and leading me to the divine haven.

### ODE V

#### Canon of the precious Cross

**Irmos:** **T**he burning Ember was revealed to Isaiah, \* and the Sun hath shone forth from the Virgin's womb, \* granting the enlightenment of the knowledge of God \* to those who in darkness have gone astray.

**H**aving accepted the Cross in Thy tender compassion, O Master, Thou didst draw me forth from the abyss of evils, and by sitting with the Father Thou didst honor me, who of mine own will have become dishonored.

**C**rowned with thorns, O Word who dost crown the whole world with fauna, Thou dost hew down the thorns of my passions at the root, planting the understanding of Thee within me.

**To the Martyrs:** **A**rroyed of your own will in the strength of your weakness, O holy martyrs, fortified, ye thereby destroyed the might of the demons.

**To the Martyrs:** **H**aving struggled greatly upon the earth, O saints, ye have found great glory in the heavens, and deliver from great misfortunes us who honor you.

**Theotokion:** **H**e Who in the heavens is divinely borne upon the shoulders of the cherubim, and Who sat upon thine arm, O most pure one, truly delivered all from corruption when He was crucified.

**Canon of the most holy Theotokos**

**Irmos:** **O** Christ my Savior, the enlightenment of those lying in the darkness of sin. \* I rise early to hymn Thee **O King of Peace,** \* enlighten me with Thy radiance, \* for I know no other God than Thee.

**O** all-immaculate Lady Theotokos, who hast given birth to the hypostatic Life of all, enliven me who have been slain by the assaults and pursuit of the deceiver, that I may piously hymn thee, the all-hymned one.

**A**s the Virgin Mother of the Lamb and Shepherd, shepherd me whose conduct is unlawful, and grant that on the day of judgment I may be reckoned with the lambs on the right hand of God, that I may hymn thy saving grace.

**B**y thy supplications, O Maiden, deliver me, I pray, from the darkness of the passions, from temptations caused by the assaults of the alien one, and from the everlasting torments which await sinners.

**O** Bride of God, in whom dwelt the one divine Word Who enlighteneth the whole world: Shine upon me the radiance of true repentance, and illumine me with beams of salvation, dispelling the darkness of my passions by thine intercessions, I pray.

**ODE VI**

**Canon of the precious Cross**

**Irmos:** **O** Master, hearkening unto the sound of entreaties \* from a soul in pain, \* do Thou deliver me from my grievous sins, \* for Thou alone art the Cause of our salvation.

**H**aving given Thy shoulders over to stripes, Thy cheek to buffeting, and Thy face to spitting, O Savior, Thou didst save me who have sinned greatly against Thee in knowledge and in ignorance.

**T**hou wast led like a lamb to the slaughter, O Christ my God, leading back to life those who had been slain by the poisonous bite of the noetic wolf. Glory to Thy crucifixion!

**To the Martyrs:** **O**bserving the laws of the Master, the martyrs utterly rejected the iniquitous counsel of the violators of the law; and, dying, they received the life which is to come.

**To the Martyrs:** Having arrayed yourselves, rejoicing, against the adverse princes, O saints, ye vanquished them with the weaponry of God, and have received from Him crowns of victory.

**Theotokion:** That He might deify mankind, O Virgin, God was born from thee, and crucified, and tasted death, by His Cross slaying him who of old brought death upon me.

### Canon of the most holy Theotokos

**Irmos:** Whirled about in the abyss of sin, \* I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Thy compassion: \* Raise me up from corruption, O God.

I flee now unto thee, O all-hymned one. Save and preserve me by thy supplications; for whatsoever thou desirest, thou canst do, in that thou art the Mother of Him Who strengtheneth all.

O Virgin Theotokos, save thy servant, who am tempest-tossed by the storm of griefs, and am overwhelmed by the battering of threefold waves.

Grant thy loving-kindness unto me who am an object of pitilessness and malice; and rescue me from the retribution which lieth before me and from everlasting fire.

O all-immaculate one who having conceived, hast given birth to the most pure Lamb Who taketh away the sins of the world, cease not to pray to Him, that He grant me the forgiveness of my sins.

### ODE VII

### Canon of the precious Cross

**Irmos:** The godless order of the lawless tyrant \* fanned the roaring flame; \* but Christ bedewed the God-fearing children with the Spirit, \* therefore He is blessed and supremely exalted.

When Thou wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Word Who art the resurrection and uplifting of all, Thou didst raise me up who had fallen through disobedience; casting down the adversary who caused me to fall, and showing him to be wholly impotent and dead. Glory to Thy dominion!

By Thy nails Thou didst transfix the sins of our forefather; and, beaten with the reed, thou didst sign a writ of emancipation for all mankind. Glory be to Thy suffering, whereby we have been delivered from the darkness of the passions!

**To the Martyrs:** The right victorious great martyrs of Christ were dismembered by the hands of vile murderers, yet in spirit they remained inseparable from God, felling and slaying the deceiving enemy with the sword of valor.

**To the Martyrs:** Possessed of the invincible might of the crucified Christ, the invincible army utterly destroyed the army of perdition; and, having suffered, they received crowns of victory and a blessed life which cannot be destroyed.

**Theotokion:** O Virgin, thou wast shown to be the animate palace of the King and the fiery throne, on which, having sat, He raised all up from the primal fall and honored them by sitting with the Father.

### Canon of the most holy Theotokos

**Irmos:** The godless order of the lawless tyrant ...,

O pure one, who for us hast given birth to the hypostatic Life Who clearly destroyed death by His death, slay thou the passions of my soul, and grant me a fountain of tears, that I may ever glorify thee.

Hope unashamed, a certain trust, an unassailable rampart, protection and helper, O all-immaculate one, be thou unto me who set my hope on thee; and guide me to the light of repentance and compunction, O pure one.

That thy servant may be delivered from all the evil of the demons, from grief and damnation, and from everlasting fire, entreat thy Son, that I may ever glorify thee with faith.

Thou alone hast been shown to be the one whose conception was most pure and whose birthgiving was incorrupt, such that thou didst remain a virgin; for thou didst conceive Christ, the God of all, Who became a man, O pure one, for the salvation and deliverance of the faithful.

### ODE VIII

#### Canon of the precious Cross

**Irmos:** Disdaining the golden image, the thrice-blessed children, \* beholding the immutable and living image of God, \* chanted in the midst of the flame: \* Let all existing creation hymn the Lord \* and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Disobedient men, who lacking compunction wrought all manner of iniquities, raised up upon the Tree between two malefactors Thee, Who dost justify sinners, crucifying Thee, O Compassionate One; but all creation glorifieth Thee as Lord and Master, hymning Thy long-suffering.

Nailed to the Tree, Thou didst bloody Thy fingers, O Christ, and Thou didst bring an end to the blood sacrificed of old to the demons unto the damnation of those who offered it up. Wherefore, all creation glorifieth Thee, hymning Thy love for mankind, O God of all.

**To the Martyrs:** The immeasurable quantity of your blood quenched the fire of ungodliness and did away with the delusion of pagan polytheism, O saints; illumining all the faithful, who chant: Let all creation hymn the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

**Theotokion:** The unblemished Ewe-lamb, the adornment of the prophets and martyrs, beholding Thee lifted up upon the Tree like a lamb, O Word Who art without beginning, wept bitterly and said: “Let all existing creation hymn the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!”

### Canon of the most holy Theotokos

**Irmos:** God Who descended into the fiery furnace \* with the Hebrew children, \* and transformed the flame into dew, \* do ye works hymn, \* and supremely exalt as Lord throughout all ages.

O most pure Virgin, refuge and helper of Christians, disdain me not who am surrounded by evils and am ever beset by misfortunes and the many onslaughts of the wicked demons.

Forget not the cry of those who pray to thee, O awesome intercessor, but by thine intercessions rescue them from all pain and every threat; for thy maternal supplications incline God to mercy.

Still now the tempest of my passions, O pure and blessed Maiden, and vanquish all the incorporeal foes who pitilessly assail my poverty, that I may hymn thee with faith.

At the hour of mine end, O only Birthgiver of God, intercessor for the faithful, rescue me from the furnace of temptations, the flame of sins and the fire of the passions, from Gehenna and the assaults of the demons.

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

### ODE IX

#### Canon of the precious Cross

**Irmos:** Every tongue is at a loss to praise thee as is due: \* even a spirit from the world above is filled with dizziness, \* when it seeketh to sing thy praises, O Theotokos. \* But since thou art good, accept our faith: \* Thou knowest well our love inspired by God, \* for thou art the Protector of Christians and we magnify thee.

Of old, Isaac was bound, that he might provide an image of Thy suffering; and as a symbol of remission Abraham freed the lamb who was caught in the thicket, releasing a truly involuntary sacrifice. But Thou wast willingly sacrificed, Thou didst thereby free us from evils.



**G**lory to Thy loving-kindness, O only loving Lord Christ, Who art comely in beauty more than the sons of men, yet wast bereft of form and beauty when Thou wast hung upon the tree of the Cross, transforming the ugliness of the whole race of mankind into beauty!

**To the Martyrs:** Ye were shown to be divine inhabitants of the heavenly Sion and fellow citizens equal in honor with the angels, O martyrs; and ye illumine with splendor the Church of the firstborn, O saints, shining with divine light, and wearing your torments as crowns.

**To the Martyrs:** O holy martyrs and beloved friends of the Lord Who most gloriously loved you: Deliver me from the friendship of the deceiver, which is of the flesh; and ask that sanctification, enlightenment and the remission of transgressions be given to all who keep your memory.

**Theotokion:** The beauty of the heavenly spheres left their usual course when they beheld Thee, the Sun of righteousness, willingly lifted up upon the Cross; and with the virginal disciple the Virgin exclaimed, weeping and crying aloud: “Woe is me! What is this strange sight?”

### Canon of the most holy Theotokos

**Irmos:** The Son of the Beginningless Father, God and Lord, \* hath appeared to us incarnate of a Virgin, \* to enlighten those in darkness, \* and to gather the dispersed; \* therefore the all-hymned Theotokos do we magnify

**I**n a manner transcending understanding and all telling thou hast given birth to the only greatly merciful Lord and Lover of mankind. Him do thou beseech, O Virgin, that at the dread hour of judgment He deliver thy servant from everlasting fire.

**O** Bride of God, from heaven grant remission of evil unto us who hymn thee, who glorify thee with faith, and ever hasten to thy divine protection; and deliver us from the despotic passions, from torments and judgment.

**T**he fruit of sin which brought death upon me was beautiful to behold, yet most bitter to taste; yet because I ate of it to satiety, I await the dread judgment. But rescue me therefore, O most holy Virgin Mother.

**I**n that thou didst bear the Good One and art wholly good, O most pure one, bless my lowly heart, which hath been restrained by the bars of pleasures; and lead me through the beautiful doors of repentance.

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

Small litany, Exapostilarion, and the usual psalms.

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

On the Aposticha, these Stichera of the precious Cross, in Tone II:

**O** Christ God, Thou hast shown the tree of Thy Cross to be a tree of life for us who believe on Thee; and thereby hast Thou abolished the dominion of death and brought life unto us who have been slain by sin. Wherefore, we cry out to Thee: O Lord, Benefactor of all, glory be to Thee!

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

**H**aving willingly impoverished Thyself for the sake of Adam's poverty, O Christ God, Thou didst come to earth and become incarnate from the Virgin; and accepted crucifixion, that Thou mightest free us from slavery to the enemy. Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

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

**To the Martyrs:** **H**aving suffered like Christ even unto death, O passion-bearing martyrs, your souls are in heaven, in the hand of God, and your relics are venerated throughout the world. The priests bow down, and all of us, the people, cry aloud, rejoicing: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

Glory ..., Both now ...,

**Stavrotheotokion:** **W**hen the unblemished ewe-lamb beheld her Lamb \* willingly led as a man to the slaughter, \* she said, weeping: \* "Dost Thou now hasten to leave me childless who gave Thee birth O Christ,? \* What is this that Thou hast done, O Redeemer of all? \* Even so I will hymn and glorify Thine extreme goodness, \* which is beyond understanding and all telling, \*\* O Lover of mankind!"

Then, "It is good to give thanks ...," Trisagion ..., Our Father ..., Troparia.

Litany: Have mercy on us ..., First Hour, and Dismissal.

**ON FRIDAY MORNING: TONE II**  
**AT LITURGY**

**On the Beatitudes, these Troparia, in Tone II:**

**W**e offer Thee the cry of the thief, and we pray: In Thy kingdom have mercy upon us, O Savior!

**T**hou didst uproot the thorns of evil when of Thine own will Thou didst wear the crown of thorns, O long-suffering Master.

**W**hen Thou wast crucified on Golgotha, O Sinless One, Thou didst crush the head of the serpent and save all mankind.

**To the Martyrs: B**roken, O martyrs, ye broke all the power of the enemy and have received crowns of victory.

**Glory ...**, **E**nlightened by the sprinkling of the divine Blood, we, the faithful, honor the one Godhead in three Hypostases.

**Both now ...**, **B**eholding Christ hanging like a lamb upon the Tree, the all-immaculate one, lamenting and weeping, magnified Him.

**On Friday, the Prokeimenon, in Tone VII:**

**Prokeimenon, in Tone VII: Exalt ye the Lord our God, \* and worship the footstool of His feet, for He is holy.**

**Verse: The Lord is King, let the peoples rage.**

**Alleluia, in Tone IV: Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased from the beginning.**

**Verse: God is our King before the ages, He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.**

**Communion Verse: Thou hast wrought salvation in the midst of the earth, O God.**