

WEDNESDAY EVENING: TONE III
AT VESPERS

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

Spec. Mel.: “Great is the power of Thy martyrs, O Christ ...”:

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

Through the supplications of Thine honored and divine apostles, O only Merciful and Compassionate Lover of mankind, grant Thy humility to Thy servants, and save from misfortunes those who hymn and worship Thee with faith.

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.

When with the Judge of all ye shall sit on twelve thrones to judge all creation, show me not to be condemned, but deliver me from darkness and all affliction, O divine apostles, my benefactors.

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

As ye were eyewitnesses to God, deliver me from the arrows of the ungodly one, foiling his machinations; and bedew me with the dew of the Spirit, I pray you, O divine apostles, my wise benefactors.

Then the Stichera from the Menaion; or if there is no Menaion, these Stichera of the holy hierarch Nicholas, the wonderworker, in the same melody:

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

Wretch that I am, I have been wounded by the sting of the serpent and lie downcast, dead, bereft of breath. But by thy vigilant supplications do thou quickly raise me up, O all-blessed hierarch, that I may glorify thy speedily attentive grace.

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

Seeing me lying before him, my mind darkened by evil thoughts, he of deceitful mind in nowise ceaseth his pursuit of me; but, in that Thou art God, have pity and save me, by the prayers of Nicholas.

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

O most blessed Nicholas, thou hast been revealed as great salvation for all of us, for thou deliverest thy servants from all manner of misfortunes and perils, from temptations, infirmities and evil circumstances, and from the invisible foe.

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

Great is the power of thy wonders, O pure one! For thou dost deliver from misfortune, save from death, rescue from unexpected perils, release from tribulations, and wipe away the offenses of all mankind.

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

Prokeimenon: O God, in Thy name save me, * and in Thy strength do Thou judge me.

Verse: O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth.

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

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

Your sound went forth into all the earth, O holy apostles, destroying the deception of the idols, and preaching the knowledge of God. Behold, your struggle is good, O blessed ones; wherefore, we hymn and glorify your memory.

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.

As branches of the life-bearing Vine, O glorious apostles, ye brought yourselves to God as the fruit of piety; wherefore, as ye have boldness before Him, ask that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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: **R**endered steadfast by faith, strengthened by hope, and spiritually united by the love of Thy Cross, O Lord, Thy martyrs abolished the tyranny of the enemy; and having received crowns, with the incorporeal ones they pray for our souls.

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

O Maiden, I have sinned exceedingly, do thou rescue me from the flame of want by thy great supplications, and set me aright O pure one by thine entreaties, and guide me to the paths of salvation by thy maternal supplications.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: TONE III
AT COMPLINE

Canon of supplication to the most holy Theotokos

ODE I

Irmos: **He** who of old gathered the waters * into one by His divine decree, * divided the sea for the people of Israel. * For He is our God and supremely glorious, * to Him alone let us sing, for He hath been glorified.

O Theotokos, grant me contrition and spiritual tears, that I may weep for my many transgressions and my failure to correct my conscience. O Maiden, I entreat thy loving-kindness.

Stumbling over my thoughts, I fall headlong into the abyss of destruction. O Virgin, I now entreat thy help: set thou unshakably the weakness of my mind upon the firm rock of the commandments of God.

Glory ..., **I** bear the barrenness of the fig tree, and fear felling and disputation, lest my Creator and God send me into the fire. O Lady, anticipating my needs, render me fruitful in works of repentance, that I may glorify thee.

Both now. ..., **I** beseech thee, O most pure one who art full of grace, in that thou art the immaculate temple of the King, with chastity and a pure life cleanse thou my heart, which hath been defiled by unseemly passions, and enrich it with grace.

ODE III

Irmos: **O** Most High, Ruler of all, * who out of nothing hath established all things, * fashioned by Thy Word, * perfected by the Spirit, * confirm me in Thy love.

Many are they who war against me and afflict me, and I can find no ease of deliverance from those who beset me; yet disdain not my prayer, O pure one.

Weighed down by a multitude of evils and my manifold transgressions, I am unable to lift up mine eyes to the heights of heaven; yet do thou grant me remission, O most pure one.

Glory ..., **A**ll my days the evil serpent strives to destroy my lowly soul; yet do thou break his soul-destroying fangs, O Theotokos.

Both now ..., **O** Theotokos, deliver me from all the misfortunes which beset me, thy servant, and from tempests of sin, and by thy supplications direct me to the haven of salvation.

ODE IV

Irmos: **T**hou hast shown us steadfast love, O Lord, * for Thou gavest Thine only-begotten Son over to death for our sake. * Wherefore with thanksgiving we cry unto Thee, * ‘Glory to Thy power, O Lord!’

I tremble, considering the depths of my sins and the grievous and great billows of mine adverse thoughts; yet do thou direct and pilot me to the calm haven, O most pure one.

Grievous ignorance, incomprehension and the heedlessness of mine evils have now come upon my soul; yet do thou, O most pure one, lead me to repentance for those things which I have done.

Glory ..., **W**ith streams of tears extinguish the fire of the passions and with the fire of the Spirit bum up the thorns and billows of life which choke my mind, O Birthgiver of God, for thou art my protection and boast.

Both now ..., **I** am wholly engulfed by the tumult and threefold billows of perils and evil thoughts, and ever dragged down into the abyss of despair, I cry to thee: O Lady, save me, thy servant!

ODE V

Irmos: **I**n a vision Isaiah saw upon a throne, * God lifted up on high * borne aloft by angels of glory; * and he cried: ‘Woe is me! * For I have foreseen God made flesh, * the Lord of the never-setting light * and the King of peace.’

Thou knowest the pain of my soul, the weakness of my flesh and the corruption and inconstancy of my mind, O Lady. Wherefore, grant me thy mercy and grace, that, saved by thy protection, I may glorify thee.

Deny me not thy loving-kindness and compassion, O all-immaculate Lady; but grant thy mercies, and the release and forgiveness of mine evil deeds to me who approach thee in compunction, that I may hymn thy mighty acts with thanksgiving.

Glory ..., **T**hose who hate me in vain and oppress me have now increased in number more than the hairs of my head, O pure Virgin, seeking to destroy me and make of me food for them to devour; wherefore, turn them back, filling them with shame.

Both now ..., **O** pure Virgin who hast given peace to the world and salvation unto all, having given birth to divine Peace, with the peace and love of Christ the Savior quell thou the battle of the passions against my soul and body.

ODE VI

Irmos: **The uttermost depths of sin have surrounded me, * and my spirit perisheth. * but do Thou, O Master, stretch forth Thy lofty arm * and like Peter O Helmsman, * do Thou save me.**

There is no one on earth who lives as wickedly as I do in deed, word and action. Wherefore, O Lady, I beg thee to grant me the mercies of thy love for mankind.

Actions of evil transgression beget grief for all; wherefore, we are now beset by bitter perils. Help us, O thou who alone art the salvation of Christians!

Glory ..., **T**hou hast given birth, yet hast remained pure after birthgiving, O Virgin Theotokos; wherefore, do thou ever entreat thine Offspring, that we, thy servants, may be delivered from all the harm of the enemy.

Both now ..., **T**hrough the supplications of Thy most pure Mother, of all the prophets, martyrs and sacred disciples, O Word of God, grant us peace and the cleansing of transgressions.

Lord, have mercy, (Thrice).

Glory ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn, in Tone III:

I have passed my whole life in great slothfulness, O most pure one, and have now drawn nigh unto my departure from this time; and I am afraid of mine enemies, lest they destroy my soul, O all-immaculate one, and cast me into the abyss of destruction. Yet take pity on thy servant, O Virgin, and deliver me from their affliction.

ODE VII

Irmos: **As of old Thou didst bedew * the three pious children in the Chaldean flames, * so also with the radiant fire of Thy divinity * illumine us who cry to Thee, * 'Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers!'**

Defiled in body and soul, and sullied by mine unclean acts, I beseech thee, the pure and immaculate Mother of God, O Lady, trusting in thy mercy: Have pity on me, O most pure one!

The multitude of my transgressions and temptation of evils fill me greatly with perplexity and drag me down into the abyss of despondency; but do thou, O most pure Lady, save me who am perishing and cruelly drowning.

Glory ..., **I**n the magnitude of the compassions of thy goodness, O Good One, overlook the multitude of our sins, and be thou well disposed toward those who cry out unceasingly: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Both now... **O** pure and blessed one, from the mire of the passions and the depths of sorrows and the perils of life do thou draw toward dispassion and gladsome joy us who cry: Thou alone art full of the grace of God!

ODE VIII

Irmos: **The flame of material fire withered * through the immaterial flame brought about by the god-seeing children, * wherefore they chanted: * Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

The bitterness of pleasures, overcoming all the senses of my body, doth foully sully my soul, drawing me toward death. O Sovereign Lady of the world, be thou my salvation!

To thee have I entrusted soul, heart and body, for I have no other help than thee, O Lady, through whom I obtain mercy; wherefore, grant me thy rich mercy and grace.

Glory ..., **P**oisoning me with his venom, the serpent hath grievously slain my wretched soul with bodily death; yet bring it to life again, using thy supplications as remedies to counter the adversary.

Both now ..., **O** thou who hast given birth to God the Savior, the Prince of peace, beseech Him, that He quickly bestow peace upon the world, that we may glorify Him in peace.

ODE IX

Irmos: **We magnify thee, the unburnt bush, * the holy Virgin, * and the Mother of the Light, * the Theotokos, the hope of us all.**

Wash away the defilement of passionate thought from my mind, O pure one, clothing me in the splendid robe of dispassion.

Open unto me the divine portals of repentance, O Virgin, terminating and hindering my passions and pleasures.

Glory ..., **H**earken unto the voice of my groaning, the voice of my lamentation, and grant cleansing and salvation to my wretched soul, O all-immaculate Virgin.

Both now ..., **V**erily and in truth Daniel the Prophet beheld thine Offspring, O Virgin, and he called Him Who sitteth on the throne the Ancient of days.

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

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

**After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the
Sessional Hymns of the holy apostles, in Tone III:**

Come ye all, and let us praise the apostles as helmsmen; for they abolished the delusion of the idols, led us up to the light of life, and taught us to believe in the Trinity. Wherefore, celebrating their honored memory today, O ye faithful, we glorify Christ our God.

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

In that Thou art almighty, O Lord, Thou didst make brilliant the memorial of Thine apostles, for Thou didst strengthen them to emulate Thy sufferings, and they manfully vanquished the power of the enemy; wherefore, they have received the grace of healing. By their prayers grant peace to Thy people, O Lover of mankind.

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

O Theotokos, thou didst mystically contain within thy womb the Unapproachable and Uncircumscribable One, Who is of the same essence as the beginningless Father; and we who glorify thine Offspring in the world have come to understand the Godhead of the Trinity to be single and uncommingled. Wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry out to thee: Rejoice, O joyous one!

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

Ye irrigated all the earth with streams of the divine Word, O apostles, and grew the grain of faith, and filled the ends of the whole world therewith; for ye cut down all the tares. Wherefore, ye brought all to Christ God, baptizing them for the uncreated Trinity.

Verse: The heavens * shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord.

Ye irrigated all the earth with streams ...,

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

To the Martyrs: **O** holy passion-bearers, entreat the merciful God, that He grant our souls remission of transgressions.

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

The prophets preached, the apostles taught, * the martyrs confessed, and we believe, * that thou art truly the Theotokos; ** wherefore, we glorify thine ineffable birthgiving.

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

In that Thou art full of loving-kindness, O Christ, Thou didst launch Thine apostles toward the ends of the earth like arrows keenly sharpened, to slay all ungodliness and evil vanity, and to plant the doctrines of salvation. At their supplications, O Compassionate One, grant peace to our souls.

Praising thee, the preacher of the Truth and most radiant beacon of the world, O Nicholas, we chant and cry aloud, praying with faith: As thou didst rescue the innocent from death, O holy one, so deliver us also from misfortunes, tribulations and all grievous affliction.

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

As thou hast maternal boldness before thy Son, O all-immaculate Lady, enliven my soul, which hath been slain by many offenses; for thou alone hast given birth, in a manner transcending understanding and comprehension, to the Word, Who with the Father and the Spirit is without beginning, and Who ever granteth life, incorruption and great mercy to the world.

ODE I

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

Irmos: He who of old gathered the waters * into one by His divine decree, * divided the sea for the people of Israel. * For He is our God and supremely glorious, * to Him alone let us sing, for He hath been glorified.

Come, let us bless the sacred apostles; the pillars of the Church, the foundations of the Faith, the bulwarks of piety who make steadfast all the faithful that we may be saved by their entreaties. (Twice)

Terrified, I, the prodigal, condemn myself even before the judgment, for I have amassed” countless evil deeds; wherefore, I pray Thee, O righteous Judge: Through the divine entreaties of Thine apostles save me, who am desperate.

O steadfast pillars of piety, set me aright who am ensnared by the deception of the enemy, for I lie upon the ground in affliction, and know not what to do to find remission for those things in which I have sinned.

Theotokion: With the holy prophets, the apostles and martyrs, O pure one, earnestly entreat the Lord Who became incarnate of thee, that He mortify all our carnal passions and grant us life everlasting.

Another canon, of the holy hierarch Nicholas, the wonderworker, the composition of Joseph, in Tone III:

Irmos: Let us sing to the Lord, who hath wrought marvelous wonders * in the Red Sea: * for in the deep waters He hath drowned our enemies * and saved Israel. * To Him alone let us sing, for He is glorified.

Let all of us, who are ever engulfed by the waves of life, honor and lovingly bless Nicholas, the most radiant and inextinguishable beacon, the tower on earth, who beckons us to the divine harbor.

Strengthened by the power of God, O all-blessed one, in mind thou didst acquire zeal for piety; wherefore, thou didst deliver those who were to be unjustly put to death. We therefore beseech thee: Deliver us from all unjust affliction, O Nicholas!

Thou didst offer supplications to the Lord in abundance, O father, that He deliver us from sins and the flame of everlasting torment, from perils and tribulations, in that He is good.

Theotokion: Together let us hymn the most pure Mary, the divine ark containing the Giver of the law Who, in the ineffable depths of His divine tender compassion, taketh away all our iniquities.

ODE III

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: O Most High, Ruler of all, * who out of nothing hath established all things, * fashioned by Thy Word, * perfected by the Spirit, * confirm me in Thy love.

O eye-witnesses of Christ, ye who have filled the ends of the earth with divine doctrine, fill my soul with virtuous works and good thoughts. (Twice)

Deliver me, O disciples of Christ, from the many temptations of the wicked one, from all manner of tribulation, from all oppression and every evil circumstance.

Alas, O my wretched and lowly soul! Sinning often and angering God, how canst thou ask forgiveness for thy wickedness, since thou dost not cease doing it?

Theotokion: O divine ladder which Jacob beheld, whereby God descended, lifting us up: Earnestly pray with the apostles, that He have pity on us.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: O barren and infertile soul, * bring forth a crop of glorious fruit and joyously cry aloud: * I have been firmly established by Thee O God; * there is none holy and none more righteous than Thee, O Lord.

Thou wast shown to be a sharpened sword of the Spirit, O wise father Nicholas, cutting down the evil tares of the heretics, and smoothing the saving paths of the virtues for the faithful.

Unto thee do we beseech, the wellspring pouring forth torrents of healings, O holy one: By thy supplications wash us clean of the defilement of all the passions, delivering us from misfortunes and tribulations.

Laying the enemy low by thy mighty prayer, O father Nicholas, through the invocation of thy holy prayers strengthen now our thoughts therein, for they are weakened by the assaults of the passions.

Theotokion: **T**he mind cannot comprehend the birth of thy wondrous Offspring, which passeth understanding, O all-immaculate Birthgiver of God; wherefore, I pray to thee: Ever grant my mind grace, that I may glorify thee.

ODE IV

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **T**hou hast shown us steadfast love, O Lord, * for Thou gavest Thine only-begotten Son over to death for our sake. * Wherefore with thanksgiving we cry unto Thee, * ‘Glory to Thy power, O Lord!’

Extending the word to the ends of the world, as lightning-bolts and rays of the never-setting Sun, O apostles, ye enlightened all, dispelling the gloom of ungodliness. (Twice)

The sea of grievous sin overwhelms me, and the waves of unseemly thoughts batter my lowly soul. O Lord my Helmsman, save me by the supplications of Thy disciples!

I am filled with horror, contemplating Thy dread coming, O Master, for I have within me my conscience condemning me even before the trial, and my lack of sense, before the tormenting tortures,

Theotokion: **O** Word of God Who wast born from the divine Virgin Maiden, by her mediations and those of Thine apostles, deliver our souls from every evil circumstances and all want, O Savior.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **H**abakkuk foresaw the overshadowed mountain, * even thine immaculate womb, O pure one. * Wherefore he cried; God shall come forth from Thaeman, * and the Holy One from a mountain * densely overshadowed.

Every one of the faithful ever setteth thee forth as a mediator before God, O Nicholas; wherefore, we beseech thee: Deliver us from grievous perils and falls into sin, O father.

As thou dost possess the grace of the Lord, O wise one, ever pour living water upon the hearts of those oppressed by the burning heat of tribulations and the aridity of sins, and who should perish wretchedly, O all-blessed one.

O all-blessed one, who once delivered those led forth unjustly to execution, save us now from the oppression of corrupting men, and from all the deception of the demons.

Theotokion: **I**n an excess of compassion thou hast ineffably given birth to the incarnate Word. Him do thou beseech, O most pure one, that He deliver all from the carnal passions and defilement, and from all the needs of life.

ODE V

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **T**he Invisible One hath appeared on earth, * and the Unapproachable One hath willingly dwelt among mankind; * and, rising early at dawn, we hymn Thee, * O Lover of mankind.

Incarnate on earth, Thou didst make the disciples heavens declaring Thy glory, O Christ. Wherefore, for their sake, O Lord, have mercy on our souls. **(Twice)**

Deliver Thy servants from the passions and all need, and from grievous circumstances, O Word, through the right acceptable supplications of Thine apostles.

Woe is me, O my passion-wracked soul! How shalt thou, who art fruitless, stand before the dread tribunal? Make haste and repent, producing the fruits of the virtues!

Theotokion: **E**ver entreat as thy Son Him Who ineffably appeared on earth in the flesh through thy pure blood, O pure one, that He grant us cleansing.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **B**y Thine unwaning light, O Christ, * do Thou illumine my humble soul * and guide it in Thy fear * for Thy commandments are light.

Standing before the pure Light and ever illumined with the rays emitted thereby, O father, ask that we obtain cleansing and peace.

O Supremely good One, by the fervent prayers of Nicholas have pity on me who have angered Thee more than all others by mine insensitive mind.

I who have wasted my life in despondency pray to thee, O father Nicholas: Raise my defiled mind up to repentance.

Theotokion: **A**s thou alone art the joy of the angels, O divinely joyous one, fill with joy my downcast mind, which is wallowing in slothfulness.

ODE VI

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: **T**he uttermost depths of sin have surrounded me, * and my spirit perisheth. * but do Thou, O Master, stretch forth Thy lofty arm * and like Peter O Helmsman, * do Thou save me.

Pouring forth an abyss of spiritual wisdom, the company of the apostles dried up the stench of worldly mindedness, giving drink to the assemblies of the pious.
(Twice)

Sigh and shed tears, O my lowly soul, and cry out to the Lord, saying: I have sinned against Thee, O Master! Cleanse me, O Compassionate One, by the entreaties of Thine most wise apostles!

Torrents of the passions have gushed forth and engulfed the house of my soul. But as ye are rivers of the Spirit, O apostles, restore me to life, who have been demolished,

Theotokion: **W**ith her who gave Thee birth, O Christ, the council of the apostles entreats Thee to send down cleansing and peace upon Thy servants, in that Thou art the easily reconciled God and Lover of mankind.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: **T**he abyss of the passions and a storm of adverse winds * have risen up against me. * But do Thou make haste, O Savior, * to save me, and deliver me from corruption, * as Thou didst deliver the Prophet from the sea-monster.

Having mortified thy members by abstinence, thou didst acquire the life which waxeth not old, wherein do thou cause us to share by thy supplications, O wise one, through the avoidance of wicked sin.

With the mast and sails of thy sacred prayers, deliver us from the deep of many and varied perils and the abyss of sin, O wise and holy hierarch, steering us to the harbor of life.

Adorning the cathedra of Myra in Lycia thou wast shown to be the beauty of high priests. O holy hierarch, by thy supplication save us unharmed by the perils of the world!

Theotokion: In the loving-kindness of His mercy, the only God, the Word Who dwelt within thy womb, O pure Mother, dispelled the corruption which from of old dwelt within us.

ODE VII

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: Of old the three children did not worship the golden image, * of the Persian idol, * but chanted in the midst of the furnace: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Christ, the Light of the world, showed you, O light-bearing apostles, to be the light which dispelleth the darkness of delusion, enlightening the thoughts of the faithful. (Twice)

O divinely eloquent apostles, break ye the snares which the enemy hath laid for us, and make smooth the paths of repentance for us who have recourse unto you.

As divine salt cleanse my soul, which hath been made foolish by the carnal passions, O divinely eloquent disciples of the Lord, imparting to it life through faith.

Theotokion: Enlighten me with goodly ideas, I beseech thee, O beauty of Jacob, praying now with the apostles unto Him Who was born of thy pure blood.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: The three children in the furnace, prefiguring the Trinity: * trampled underfoot the threat of the fire * and cried aloud, chanting: * Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

As a true chief shepherd, O father Nicholas, with the cords of thy words thou didst strangle the mindless Arius, who of old was leading the people of the Lord to destruction.

Having passed thine most holy life in holiness, O father Nicholas, thou dwellest with the saints, sending sanctification and enlightenment upon those who piously call thee blessed.

O father Nicholas, we ever invoke thee as a ready deliverer and a fervent helper: Deliver us from the passions and the unexpected perils which beset us!

Theotokion: O pure one who hast given birth to the Light: Enlighten me who have darkened by soul through negligence, lighting the lamp of my heart, that I may glorify thee with goodly diligence.

ODE VIII

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: United together in the unbearable fire, * yet not harmed by the flame, * the children, champions of godliness, sang a divine hymn: * O all ye works of the Lord, * bless ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

I have been wounded by the sword of the passions, and have injured my heart in mindlessness, the accomplisher of evil. Heal me, who am wholly at a loss, O glorious apostles, for ye are the physicians of men's souls and bodies. (Twice)

The divine sound of the preachers went forth into all the earth, teaching all to worship throughout the ages, the single Essence, the one Being of the Holy Trinity, the one true Dominion, the one Kingship.

O Master, O Word Who knowest mine infirmity, slothfulness and evil-mindedness, convert me, who have sinned greatly and have wasted Thy divine long-suffering by remaining in my transgressions.

Theotokion: O most pure Theotokos, thou divine tongs which ineffably received the divine Coal: Quench the burning embers of my passions with the dew of thy prayers and those of the most glorious and divine apostles.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: God is unceasingly glorified on high by the Angels, * O ye heaven of heavens, * ye earth and mountains, ye plains and abysses, * and all the race of mankind, * with hymns as to the Creator and Redeemer, * bless ye, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

As thou wast meek, O venerable one, thou didst inherit the land of the meek; wherefore, I pray to thee with faith: By thy supplications still thou the threefold waves of the evil one, which ever batter me.

As thou didst deliver the military commanders who were unjustly condemned to die, so deliver us from the oppression of wicked men and from every assault of the demons, praying to the Savior, O Nicholas.

Thou didst show us the straight path of salvation, O Nicholas. Guide us thereto who in this life traverse it by thy prayers, that together we may enter the gates of life.

Theotokion: He Who was born from thee is my strength and my song, O most pure Virgin. Him do thou earnestly beseech, that He strengthen me who am weakened by the passions, that I may keep His saving commandments.

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

ODE IX

Canon of the holy apostles

Irmos: In the shadow and the letter of the Law, * let us, the faithful, discern a figure: * every male child that openeth the womb * shall be sanctified to God. * Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word * and Son of the beginningless Father, * the firstborn Child of a Mother who hath not known a man.

○ Word of the beginningless Father, Who by the words of Thy disciples didst confirm the ends of the earth: By their supplications have pity on me who have fallen headlong into irrational passions and am overwhelmed by the delusion of the demons. (Twice)

○ my soul who panders to the onslaughts of the passions, offer supplication unto Him Who suffered for thy sake, that He may deliver thee from grievous circumstances, for the sacred disciples plainly pray for thee, having emulated the sufferings of His flesh.

○ disciples of Christ, when ye sit with Him to judge the fate of the innocent, keep my soul from condemnation, though it hath been defiled by unseemly deeds, for ye are my good intercessors and the helpers of the world.

Theotokion: ○ pure Virgin, most pure Virgin, palace of Christ, most holy Virgin, who beyond cause and all telling hast given birth to God, the Holiest of the holy: With the holy apostles pray for us all.

Canon of the holy hierarch

Irmos: Upon Mount Sinai Moses saw thee in the bush, * as one who didst conceive the fire of the Godhead within thy womb, * and yet remained unconsumed. * Daniel saw thee as a mountain not cut by the hand of man, * and Isaiah proclaimed thee as the Rod that blossomed forth * from the root of David.

The world hath acquired thee as a divine bulwark and foundation, and a goodly refuge, for by thy mediations we are ever delivered from every temptation and oppression, O father Nicholas. Wherefore, in praise we bless thee with faith.

Beset by many evil circumstances, I flee to the broad expanse of thy fervent prayers, O all-blessed one. Cause the pain of my soul to cease, I cry to thee; still thou the waves of despair, and calm the turmoil of my mind.

The Creator cometh to judge all the earth, and as one unprepared, wretch that I am, I am utterly terrified, considering the multitude of mine evils. O long-suffering Lord, have pity and save me through the divine prayers of Thy venerable Nicholas!

Theotokion: **O** thou who hast given birth to the Light, thou hast been revealed to be mine enlightenment, dispelling the dark and cruel clouds of my soul, that by thy prayers I may become a child of the day, doing holy deeds, that in holiness I may bless thee in hymnody.

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

Small litany, Exapostilarion, and the usual psalms.

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

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

Your sound went forth into all the earth, O holy apostles, destroying the delusion of the idols, preaching the knowledge of God. Behold, your struggle is good, O blessed ones; wherefore, we hymn and glorify your memory.

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.

Having blamelessly kept the commandments of Christ, O holy apostles, ye freely received and freely give, healing the sufferings of our souls and bodies; wherefore, as ye possess boldness, entreat Him, that our souls may find mercy.

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 fought the good fight, even after death ye shine forth like beacons in the world, O holy martyrs. As ye have boldness, entreat Christ, that our souls may find mercy.

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

Without seed thou didst conceive by the Holy Spirit; we glorify thee and sing thy praises: Rejoice, O most holy Virgin!

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

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

On the Beatitudes, these Troparia, in Tone III:

Thou didst banish from paradise our forefather Adam, who had broken Thy commandment, O Christ; but Thou didst cause to dwell therein the thief who confessed Thee on the cross, crying: Remember me, O Savior, in Thy kingdom!

O apostles, who with the Cross as a fishing-pole didst drag men forth from the depths of ignorance, ye drove heathen deception from the earth and were verily true saviors of the faithful; wherefore, ye are blessed.

As mystic rays and lights of the Sun of righteousness, O glorious apostles, ye dispelled the darkness of ungodliness and guided all to the light of the knowledge of God; wherefore, we honor you.

To the Martyrs: Ye endured torture by burning, O spiritual athletes, and received from on high the dew of grace; and as favorites of Christ, O wise ones, ye ever piously heal the sufferings of all; wherefore, we honor you with faith, O saints.

Glory ..., O sacred preachers of the Trinity: Peter and Paul, Mark and Luke, Matthew, Simon, James, Andrew and John, Thomas, Bartholomew and the wise Philip: entreat God, that we may be delivered from every evil circumstance.

Both now ..., O Lady, full of the grace of God, beauty of the apostles and joy of the holy passion-bearers: Entreat God the Savior on behalf of us all, that we may find remission of transgressions, and may all come to share in life divine.

On Thursday, the Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII:

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

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

Alleluia, in Tone I: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and
Thy truth in the congregation of saints.

Verse: God Who is glorified in the council of the saints.

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