

Octoechos

Wednesday Evening Tone 1

Theotokion

We are caught in the stormy sea of temptations and sins.
Striving in the tempest to reach your tranquil haven.
O Mother of God, we beg you, hear our cry.
Stretch out your steady hand to your servants, ///
And rescue us from the raging of the enemy.

Friday Evening Tone 1

For the martyrs

Through the prayers of all the saints and of the Theotokos,
Grant us Your peace and have mercy on us, O Lord, ///
For You alone are compassionate.

Your confession of faith in the arena, O saints,
Filled the demonic hosts with fear
And freed mankind from error.
As you were beheaded you cried out:
“May the sacrifice of our souls be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord,
For by desiring You, the lover of mankind, ///
We have cared nothing for this quickly passing life.”

You made a wise exchange, O saints.
You offered your blood and received heaven in return.
You suffered for a time and now rejoice eternally.
Your trade was wise indeed!
Forsaking the corruptible, you received the incorruptible.
Now rejoicing with the angelic host, ///
You ceaselessly praise the Consubstantial Trinity.

O martyrs, truly worthy of praise,
Although you were dishonoured on earth,
The heavens opened to you,
And now you enjoy the tree of life. ///
Entreat Christ to grant us peace and His great mercy!

For the departed

What pleasure in life is not mixed with grief?

What earthly glory endures forever?

All things are feeble shadows and deluding dreams.

Death sweeps them away in a single moment.

But in the light of Your face, O Christ,

And in the sweetness of Your beauty,

Give rest to those whom You have chosen, ///

For You alone love mankind.

Dogmaticon

Let us praise the Virgin Mary,

The gate of heaven, the glory of the faithful.

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful.

She was born of man, yet gave birth to God.

She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead.

She destroyed the wall of enmity.

She commenced the peace. She opened the kingdom.

Since she is our foundation of faith,

Our defender is the Lord Whom she bore.

Courage, courage, O people of God,

For Christ will destroy our enemies ///

Since He is all-powerful.

Wednesday Evening Tone 2

Theotokion

The Word of God,
Equal in honour to the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Has shone forth from the virgin in these latter days as a mighty sun,
Illuminating heaven and earth from end to end.
He has sent you, O glorious apostles,
As lights to illumine with the light of faith
All nations living in the darkness of ignorance, ///
And by divine teachings to lead them to the faith.

Friday Evening Tone 2

For the martyrs

Not desiring earthly pleasures,
The victorious martyrs were granted heavenly blessings.
They have become fellow-citizens with the angels. ///
Through their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

Because the holy martyrs intercede for us
And sing the praises of Christ,
All error has come to an end ///
And mankind is saved by faith.

The company of the martyrs
Resisted tyrants, saying:
“We are soldiers of the King of the heavenly hosts.
Even if you give us up to torment and fire, ///
We will not deny the power of the Trinity.”

Great is the glory
That you obtained through faith, O saints,
For by your sufferings you triumphed over the enemy,
And after death you drive our demons and heal the sick.
O physicians of soul and body, ///
Intercede before the Lord that He may have mercy on our souls!

For the departed

As a flower withers,

As a dream passes away,

So the flesh of every one of us will be destroyed at death,

But when the trumpet sounds, all the dead will be raised again

As in a mighty wind to meet You, O Christ our God.

Then appoint a place in the abode of Your saints, O Master, ///

For all Your servants whom You have taken from us.

Dogmaticon

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came!

As the bush burned, yet was not consumed.

So the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin!

The righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame! ///

Instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls!

Wednesday Evening Tone 3

Theotokion

By your great might, O pure one,
Deliver us from sorrows and save us from death!
Protect us from every attack of the Devil!
Free us from every affliction!
Without ceasing pray to your Son//
That He may deliver us from the oppression of men!

Friday Evening Tone 3

For the martyrs

Great is the power of Your martyrs, O Christ!
Though they lie in their tombs they drive out demons.
They fight in defence of true piety, ///
Subduing the enemy's dominion by faith in the Trinity.

The prophets, apostles, and martyrs of Christ
Have taught mankind to praise the consubstantial Trinity.
They have given light to the nations that had gone astray ///
And have made the sons of men companions of the angels.

Strengthened by faith and confirmed by hope,
Spiritually united by the love of Your cross,
Your martyrs destroyed the tyranny of the enemy, O Lord,
And, receiving crowns of glory, ///
With the angels they pray for our souls.

Great is the power of Your cross, O Lord!
It was set up on Golgotha but acts throughout the world.
It made fishermen into apostles and Gentiles into martyrs, ///
So that they might pray for our souls.

For the departed

All human things are vain.
They do not endure after death.
Our wealth will not remain.
Our glory will not go with us on our way.
When death comes, all these things will vanish. (over)

Therefore let us cry to Christ, the immortal One:
“Give rest to those who have departed from us, ///
In the abode of those who rejoice in You.”

Dogmaticon

How can we not wonder
At your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For, without receiving the touch of man,
You gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O Immaculate Virgin!
The Son born of the Father before eternity
Was born of you at the fullness of time, O honoured Lady!
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division;
But preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him to save the souls, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,
Of those who confess you in the Orthodox manner ///
To be the Theotokos.

Wednesday Evening Tone 4

Theotokion

O mother of Christ our God,
Birthgiver of the Maker of all,
Deliver us from every danger, so that we all may cry to you: ///
Rejoice, O only intercessor for our souls!

Friday Evening Tone 4

For the martyrs

You are glorified
In the remembrance of Your saints, O Christ our God:
Through their intercessions, ///
Send down on us Your great mercy!

You accepted the patient sufferings of Your holy martyrs:
Accept also this song of praise from us, O lover of mankind,
And through their intercessions, ///
Grant us Your great mercy!

Since you have boldness to approach the Saviour,
Pray without ceasing for us sinners, O saints,
Asking remission of our transgressions ///
And great mercy for our souls!

O martyrs of the Lord,
Living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,
Perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,
Whose fold no wolf can enter: ///
Pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

For the departed

Where are all the attractions of this world?
Where is the vain show of passing things?
Where are the gold and silver?
Where are the crowds of servants and their noise?
All are dust and ashes, all a shadow!
Come, then, let us cry to the immortal King:
“Count worthy of eternal joy, O Lord, (over)

Those whom You have taken from us, ///
And give them rest in the blessedness that never grows old.”

Dogmaticon

The prophet David was a father of the Lord,
Through you, O Virgin.
He foretold in songs the One who worked wonder in you.
At Your right hand stood the Queen, Your mother, the mediatrix of life
Since God was freely born of her without a father!
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion;
So He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder;
And brought it to His Father,
Joining it to the heavenly powers.
Christ Who has great and rich mercy, ///
Has saved the world, O Theotokos!

Wednesday Evening Tone 5

Theotokion

Rejoice in the Holy Scriptures!
Rejoice in the preaching of the apostles!
Rejoice in the Virgin who gave birth to God!
She is the queen of heaven,
In her we exult with songs and hymns, ///
For she is our fervent intercessor before God.

Friday Evening Tone 5

For the martyrs

O martyrs of all praise,
You cared nothing for the things of this earth
But bravely stood up to torture.
You attained the blessed life for which you hoped.
You were made heirs of the heavenly kingdom,
Since you have boldness before the God Who loves mankind,
Beseech Him to grant peace to the world ///
And great mercy to our souls!

Taking up the shield of faith,
Strengthening themselves with the sign of the cross,
Your saints, O Lord, went bravely and willingly to torture.
They cast down the craft and arrogance of the enemy.
Through their supplications, O almighty God, ///
Send peace to the world and great mercy to our souls!

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs,
So that we may be delivered from our sins, ///
For to you is given grace to pray for us.

With souls filled with boundless love, O holy martyrs,
You endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,
Laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.
By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,
You have been lifted up to heaven,
And now you have boldness before Him.
Entreat Him to grant peace to the world /// (over)

And great mercy to our souls.

For the departed

I remembered the prophet's words: "I am dust and ashes."

I also went to the tombs and saw the bones laid bare.

"Which now is the king or soldier?" I cried.

"Which is the rich man or the beggar?"

"Which is the just man or the sinner?"

But give rest with the saints unto Your servants, O Lord ///

Since You are the lover of mankind.

Dogmaticon

In the Red Sea of old,

A type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.

There Moses divided the waters;

Here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.

There Israel crossed the Sea without getting wet;

Here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel's passage the Sea remained impassible;

After Emmanuel's birth the Virgin remained a virgin.

O ever-existing God, Who appeared as man, ///

O Lord, have mercy on us!

Wednesday Evening Tone 6

Theotokion

You are the true vine, O Theotokos,
Who brought forth the fruit of life.
We entreat you, O Lady:
Intercede together with the apostles and all the saints ///
That mercy may be granted to our souls.

Friday Evening Tone 6

For the martyrs

Your martyrs, O Lord,
Did not deny You.
They did not forsake Your commandments. ///
Through their intercessions have mercy on us!

Those who were martyred for Your sake
Endured great torments, O Christ.
As their reward they received an incorruptible crown in heaven ///
Where they intercede for our souls.

Your victorious martyrs, O Lord,
Endured great torments when they struggled on earth.
Now they dwell in heaven. ///
Through their prayers and intercessions preserve us all!

Your cross was an invincible weapon for the martyrs, O Lord,
They saw death before them,
But, looking to the life to come,
They were strengthened by their hope in You. ///
Through their intercessions have mercy on us!

For the departed

You have honoured the work of Your hands
With Your own images, O Word,
Depicting in material form the likeness of Your supersensual essence.
Of this also You have made me a participant,
Placing me on earth to rule as lord over created things.
Give rest, therefore, to Your servants, O Saviour, /// (over)

In the land of the living, in the habitation of the just.

Dogmaticon

Who will not bless you, O Most Holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

But from you, He was ineffably incarnate!

God by nature, yet man for our sake!

Not two persons, but one known in two natures!

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady, ///

To have mercy on our souls!

Wednesday Evening Tone 7

Theotokion

We acknowledge you to be a virgin after childbearing,
For without knowing a man you brought forth the Saviour: ///
Intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls!

Friday Evening Tone 7

For the martyrs

Glory to You, O Christ God,
The apostles boast, the martyrs' joy, ///
Whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity.

O holy martyrs,
Who fought the good fight and have received your crowns, ///
Entreat the Lord that He may have mercy on our souls!

Despising all earthly things, O holy martyrs,
And bravely proclaiming Christ in the arena,
You received from Him the just reward for all your sufferings;
And now, since you have boldness to approach Him,
We beseech you to entreat Him as almighty God ///
To preserve the souls of us who take refuge in you.

O martyrs, worthy of every praise,
Living offerings and spiritual sheep,
Acceptable sacrifices well-pleasing to God:
The earth did not cover you, but heaven received you.
You became companions of the angels.
We entreat you to pray with them to God our Saviour ///
To grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

For the departed

In the beginning You created man in Your own image and likeness.
You set him in paradise to rule over Your creation.
But he, deceived through the envy of the Devil,
Tasted of the fruit, transgressing Your commandments.
For this, O Lord, You have condemned him /// (over)

To return again unto the earth from which he was taken and to entreat repose.

Dogmaticon

No tongue can speak of your wonderful childbearing,

For the order of nature was overruled by God!

You were revealed to be a mother above nature,

For you remained a virgin beyond reason and understanding!

Your conception was most glorious, O Theotokos!

The manner of your giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin!

Knowing you to be the Mother of God

Devoutly we pray to you! ///

Beseech Him to save our souls!

Wednesday Evening Tone 8

Theotokion

Attend to the groaning of my broken heart, O bride of God.
Accept the lifting up of my hands.
Do not reject me, O Mary, spotless Virgin, full of love,
So that I may praise and magnify Him ///
Who in you magnified the human race.

Friday Evening Tone 8

For the martyrs

O martyrs of the Lord,
You sanctify every place and heal every ill,
And now we entreat you:
Pray for our souls' deliverance ///
From the snares of the enemy.

O martyrs of the Lord,
We beseech you to intercede with our God,
That He may forgive our many sins, ///
And grant our souls abundant mercy.

Your martyrs, O Lord,
Forgot the things of this present life
And despised torture for the sake of the life to come.
They were granted eternal life as their inheritance,
And now they rejoice with the angels. ///
Through their supplications grant great mercy to Your people!

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise
Rightly is ascribed to the saints,
For they bowed their necks beneath the sword,
For Your sake Who bowed the heavens and came down.
They shed their blood for You Who emptied Yourself,
Taking the form of a servant.
They humbled themselves even unto death,
Following the example of Your lowliness.
By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, ///
According to Your abundant mercy!

For the departed

In tears and sorrow I contemplate death.
I see our beauty fashioned in God's inage
Laid in the grave without form or honour or glory.
O great mystery!
O fearful end awaiting us!
Why have we been handed over to corruption?
Why have we been wedded to death?
Truly, as it is written,
The command of God has ordained all this, ///
For He grants rest to the departed.

Dogmaticon

The King of Heaven, because of His love for man,
Appeared on earth and dwelt with man.
He took flesh from the pure Virgin;
And after assuming it, He came forth from her.
The Son is one; in two natures, yet one person.
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,
We confess Christ our God! ///
Entreat Him, O unwedded mother, to have mercy on our souls!