

THE 11th DAY OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR BLAISE
AT VESPERS

On "Lord, I have cried ...", these Stichera, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven ...":

The summit of the virtues and foundation of the faithful, * the glory of hierarchs * and the boast of the martyrs * with splendor doth summon all the faithful to his holy memorial, * to chant unto him as a victor ** who glorified God on earth.

Moved by a vision of Christ, * the Angel of Great Counsel, * when thou didst behold the council of the iniquitous, O wise martyr, * thou didst proceed straightway to the tribunal, * taking the trophies of victory in thy hand; ** and thou dwellest now in the heavens, O all-sanctified one.

With the drops of thy blood, O martyr Blaise, * thou didst weave a beautiful robe for the Church, * embroidered by thy well anointed fingers * and dyed with thy manifold pangs; * and she is arrayed therein like a comely bride, ** hymning Christ the Bridegroom.

Glory ..., in Tone IV:

As a good instructor of children and a teacher of piety, by the divine power of thy godly words thou didst lead the god-loving women to the struggle of martyrdom, thereby strengthening for Christ the weakness of their nature; and having finished well the course of sufferings with them, thou dost rejoice with splendor in the bridal chamber of heaven, adorned with a twofold crown of divine glory, and making entreaty with them, that peace and great mercy be granted to us.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "As one valiant among the martyrs ...":

Stavrotheotokion: **T**he most pure one, * beholding Christ, the lover of mankind, crucified, * His side pierced by a lance, * cried out, lamenting: * "What is this, O my Son? * How have these thankless people rewarded Thee * for the good things Thou hast done for them? * Dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most Beloved? ** I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!"

After the Aposticha: Glory ..., in Tone VI:

Blossoming forth in the exercise of the divine virtues in accordance with thy name, O Blaise, thou didst flourish like a palm-tree in the courts of the Lord, as David said, and like a cedar didst thou increase through chastisements. Like a fruitful vine in the house of God, pruned during torment by the application of tortures, thou hast

poured forth upon us a noetic wine from the fruit of thy struggles. Drinking thereof, our hearts are filled with divine gladness; and assembling together for the honored memorial of thy repose, we praise thee, calling thee blessed, and asking that, through thee, we may receive peace and great mercy.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion in Tone VI:

Spec. Mel.: "On the third day ...":

Stavrotheotokion: Thy pure Virgin Mother, * beholding the most iniquitous people * who unjustly nailed Thee to the Tree, ** was wounded within, as Symeon foretold.

Troparion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

As thou didst share in the ways of the apostles * and didst occupy their throne, * thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, * O divinely inspired one. * Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, * thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood, ** O Hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS
Canon, in Tone IV
ODE I

Irmos: **T**hrough the deep of the Red Sea, * marched dry shod Israel of old, * and by Moses' outstretched hands, * raised in the form of a cross, * the power of Amalek was routed in the wilderness.

Together let us offer harmonious praise unto Christ, celebrating the glorious memory of the wise Blaise, and chanting a hymn unto our God, in that He hath been glorified.

The Christ-loving Blaise, seer of things afar off, as a hierarch, martyr and shepherd, which he hath revealed himself to be by his deeds, summoneth us to eat the divine banquet he hath set before us.

Thou didst purify thy life with the virtues and wast revealed to be a vessel fit to receive the divine myrrh of an honorable ministry, O wise one; embroidering thy vesture with the blood of martyrdom.

Theotokion: **B**y thy birth giving, O pure and most holy Theotokos, the whole race of mankind hath risen from our first father's fall and manifestly been delivered from the curse of our first mother.

ODE III

Irmos: **T**hy Church, O Christ, rejoiceth in Thee crying aloud: * Thou, O Lord, art my strength, * my refuge and foundation.

With the knowledge of God, thou wast anointed to serve Christ as a priest, and taught by the Spirit, thou didst sanctify thyself with thy blood.

Truly, in fulfillment of thine own works, thou didst become a martyr and teacher, O Blaise, by thy doctrine.

Thou wast a model of piety for the Church of Christ, making thy sacred vesture bright with the blood of thy sufferings.

Theotokion: **H**aving given birth on earth to the abundantly rich God, O pure one, thou hast led humanity from the fall, up to heaven.

Kontakion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: "Seeking the highest...":

O God-bearing Blaise, divine offshoot, unfading blossom, much-suffering branch of the vine of Christ: fill those who honor thy memory with thy gladness, praying unceasingly on behalf of us all.

Sedalion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "Of the Wisdom ...":

As a precious scion of piety, by the power of the Spirit thou wast shown to be an uprooter of ungodliness; for thou didst denounce the falsehood of idolatry before the tribunal, and boldly preached the worship of the Trinity. Wherefore, having given

thyself over to the iniquitous, O passion-bearer, thou didst slay the serpent, the author of evil, wherefore for this cause we cry out to thee: Entreat Christ God, that He grant forgiveness of sins unto those who with love honor thy holy memory.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone VIII:

O undefiled, blameless and all-immaculate Sovereign Lady, thou cloud of the noetic Sun and golden candle-stand of the light of God: with the radiance of dispassion illumine my soul, which hath grown dim through the blindness of the passions, I pray; with torrents of compunction enlighten my polluted heart, and with tears of repentance cleanse me of the mire of my evil deeds, that with love I may cry out to thee: O Ever-virgin Theotokos, entreat Christ God, that He grant me forgiveness of my transgressions; for thee do I, thy servant, have as my hope.

Stavrotheotokion: Upon beholding the Lamb, Shepherd and Redeemer * upon the Cross, * the ewe-lamb exclaimed weeping, bitterly lamenting, and crying aloud: * "The world rejoiceth, having received deliverance through Thee, * but my womb doth burn, beholding Thy crucifixion, * which Thou hast endured in Thy merciful loving-kindness. * O long-suffering Lord, * Thou abyss and inexhaustible well-spring of mercy, * take pity, and grant forgiveness of sins ** unto those who hymn Thy divine sufferings with faith!"

ODE IV

Irmos: Beholding Thee, the Sun of righteousness, * lifted up upon the Cross, * standing in its place, * the Church, worthily crieth out aloud: * **Glory to Thy power, O Lord!**

Made steadfast with the staff of truth, like Moses thou didst cast down the deceits of the serpent, O Blaise favored of Christ, denouncing the tyrant and instructing a new people.

The affinity of thy corrections with God showed thee to be a benefactor of both reason-endowed and dumb creatures, O blessed one; wherefore, thou hast received gifts of healing.

In the vale wherein sickness was rife, O father, thou didst rightly choke the thorns of iniquity for thy flock in Christ.

Theotokion: Having given birth to the Tree of life, O all-hymned one, thou wast shown to be like a garden of paradise planted within the Church; and eating thereof, we have come to know Christ our God.

ODE V

Irmos: Thou, O Lord, who camest into the world, * art my light, * a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance * those who sing Thy praises in faith.

Extending the bounds of thy flock on the pasture of God, O holy hierarch, in a divinely wise manner thou didst drive falsehood out of all the earth.

With thy teachings thou didst confirm thy flock in the Faith, O wise hierarch; for, lo! thou didst trample underfoot the deception of the woman.

Made steadfast by the love of Christ, the women came to emulate thy struggles, O father, and were slaughtered in their zeal for Christ.

Theotokion: **T**he visitation of death is truly slain by thy birthgiving, O Sovereign Lady; for darkness is seen to be destroyed by the Light.

ODE VI

Irmos: **T**he church crieth out unto Thee O Lord, * 'I will sacrifice unto Thee with a voice of praise' * having been cleansed of the blood of the demons' * by the blood that for mercy's sake flowed from Thy side.

With the beauty of the divers wounds of thy body thou didst adorn the comeliness of thy vesture, O hierarch; and wast crowned with twofold grace.

In that the women who suffered with thee hastened with faith in Christ, they died with zeal, O father Blaise. Preserve thou also those who keep thy memory with love.

Aflame with zeal for Christ, and having cast off all flattering deception, with their blood the martyrs burned up the infliction of torments.

Theotokion: **T**hou art my strength and my song, O Theotokos; for on thee have I set my hope, and through thee I have been exalted against mine enemies.

Kontakion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "As first-fruits ...":

With the anointing of the priesthood and the blood of martyrdom * wast thou adorned, O glorious Blaise; * and joining chorus, thou shinest in the highest, watching over those who come to thy temple ** and therein unceasingly cry out to thee: Preserve us all!

Ikos: **O** brethren, assembling with haste let us come to the temple of the Hieromartyr, that we may raise a song unto him today and delight in grace; for he saveth souls and bodies from manifold sufferings, as a martyr, as a venerable saint, as a faithful hierarch and a champion for those who cry out to him with a pure soul: Preserve us all!

ODE VII

Irmos: **I**n the Persian furnace the youths and descendants of Abraham, * burning with a love of piety * rather than by the flame of a fire, * cried out aloud saying: * Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

Like David we cry out to thee with love, O father Blaise: as an emulator of the Lord, for while thy footsteps, like the Lord's, were not known, thy path was revealed to be upon the waters.

Delighting in the grace of the Savior, the martyrs truly replaced torment with joy; and their blood, in a manner transcending the nature of man, was wondrously transformed into milk.

Beholding their mothers' boldness for martyrdom, the children, delighting in the grace of Christ and His majesty, hastened, rejoicing, to the Master.

Theotokion: Rejoice, O sanctified and divine habitation of the Most High; for through thee, O Theotokos, hath joy been given to those who cry: Blessed art thou among women, O all-immaculate Sovereign Lady! be thou also, in thy good gifts, a help unto us.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Having spread his hands, Daniel closed the lions jaws * in their den; * while the zealously pious youths, * girded with virtue, * quenched the power of the fire and cried aloud: * Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.

Having stretched forth thy hands before the face of the Lord in the activity of thy priesthood, O father, thou didst offer Christ thy blood and prayers. Wherefore, having drained the cup of salvation, O wise one, thou didst cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! (Twice)

Piously emulating the widow, with faith and divine joy we keep thy memory, O Blaise; and as thou didst keep the promise given her, be thou also, in thy good gifts, a help unto us as thou wast to her.

Theotokion: The nature of mankind, which before was condemned by the fall into transgression, hath through thy birthgiving truly found blessing, and joyfully chants: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

ODE IX

Irmos: A cornerstone not cut by hand O Virgin, * was cut from thee the unhewn mountain: * even Christ, Who hath joined together the separated natures; * therefore rejoicing we magnify thee, * O Theotokos.

Preparing an inheritance in the sweetness of paradise and the kingdom therein, O wise and holy hierarch Blaise, thou didst hasten to the slaughter, rejoicing in the Lord.

With the sword of the Spirit, O blessed one, thou didst cut down the pride of the ungodly who rose up in vain against thy flock; but adorned thy sheep with thy blood.

O wise and holy hierarch Blaise, with the women who suffered with thee, and their godly children, pray that those who praise thee may receive a crown; for from the beginning we have hymned thee.

Theotokion: In giving birth, as before and after birthgiving, thou wast shown to be a Virgin, transcending the laws of nature, O Sovereign Lady, wherefore, we all magnify thee.

Exapostilarion in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: "The heaven with stars ...":

Thou wast a holy hierarch and martyr, a man bereft of guile, O Blaise, and thou didst bear the wounds of the sufferings of Christ, Who hath given thee the grace to heal all diseases.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone III:

Thee did Daniel describe beforehand * as the unquarried mountain * from which the precious Stone was cut * Which grindeth to dust the temples of the idols, ** O Theotokos Mary.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

As thou didst share in the ways of the apostles * and didst occupy their throne, * thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, * O divinely inspired one. * Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, * thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood, ** O Hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Kontakion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone VIII:

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