

THE 24th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JULY
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY NEW-HIEROMARTYR MAXIMUS SANDOVICH,
PROTOMARTYR OF THE LEMKO PEOPLE
AT LITTLE VESPERS

On "Lord, I have cried ...", 4 Stichera, in Tone I:

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

O holy martyr Maximus, as thou didst receive the grace to confront death with bravery and to confess the Holy Faith in the face of the heretics, entreat Christ, we pray, that He make us steadfast in Orthodoxy. (Twice)

Having proclaimed the sanctity of the Orthodox Faith, when thou wast felled by the weaponry of the cruel heretics thou didst surrender thy soul into the hands of the Savior. And soaring aloft to the heavens, thou now abidest in never-waning light, O Maximus. (Twice)

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

O wondrous hieromartyr, persecuted and imprisoned for the sake of Orthodoxy, thou didst provide an example for all by meekness, love and humility; and the Holy Spirit taught thee what to say while the heretics slew thy body.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI:

Like the Archangel, * let us the faithful hymn the bridal-chamber of heaven, * the portal truly sealed: * Rejoice, for whose sake hath budded forth unto us Christ the Savior of all, * the Bestower of life and God! * With thine arm O Lady * cast down the tyrants, our godless foes, * O most pure one, ** O thou hope of Christians!

At the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone VI:

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

Ye mountains of Carpathia, leap for joy at the memorial of thy pious son, the hieromartyr Maximus, the protector of his people, who prayeth to Christ God for all who honor him.

Verse: The righteous shall flourish like a palm-tree, * and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

Magnify the Lord, ye Lemko people, and together with the ranks of angels, celebrate the memory of your kinsman Maximus, who watcheth over you from on high, where he standeth with the incorporeal hosts before the throne of the Godhead.

Verse: They that are planted in the house of the Lord, * in the courts of our God they shall blossom forth.

All ye who love the feasts of the Church, with gladness let us assemble today, to keep festival in memory of Maximus, the protector and defender of the Orthodox, who, undaunted, faced death with courage, and was put to death for the Faith.

Glory ..., in Tone VIII:

Xenophobia, the cruel and bitter hatred of thy race and Faith, enraged the Austrian authorities against the Slavic peoples, and the ancient foe of mankind inspired them to slaughter the meek and humble Lemko people. Then wast thou again cast into prison, and taken from thence to be slain for the Orthodox Faith. Wherefore, O holy Maximus, having stood steadfast for the Truth, thou hast received recompense in the heavens.

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

I flee to thy protection, O holy Virgin Theotokos, * for I know that through thee I shall obtain salvation; ** for thou art able to help me, O pure one.

Troparion, in Tone IV:

Moved by the providence of God to go to Mount Pochaev, * there to learn the rightness of the Orthodox Faith, * thou didst attain unto true teaching in the city of Zhitomir, * and didst return to thine own country as a brave warrior of Christ. * For Orthodoxy and thy people thou didst receive the crown of martyrdom, * and thereby hast made thy native land steadfast in the Holy Faith. ** O hieromartyr Maximus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

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

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of Angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and thus saved our souls from death.

AT GREAT VESPERS

After the Introductory Psalm, "Blessed is the man ...", the first antiphon.

On "Lord, I have cried ...", 8 Stichera: 4 in Tone IV:

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

Under thy heavenly protection do we sinners flee, begging thee to intercede with the Lord on our behalf, for, beset by storms of temptations and the hatred and malice of our enemies, our feeble powers are exhausted, and we barely have the strength to stand fast for the Truth. But do thou help us in our struggle, O holy Maximus. (Twice)

Spurning the heresy of the Latins, thou didst flee to Mount Pochaev, the bastion of pure Orthodoxy; and with the holy hierarch Anthony as thy teacher, thou didst study the doctrines of piety and the dogmas of truth. And after thine ordination to the priesthood, thou didst return to thy native land, where thou didst nurture thy pious flock in the pastures of righteousness. Pray thou, that we all be saved.

Exult thou, O divinely preserved Lavra of Pochaev, blessed home of the Mother of God, and resting place of the venerable Job! For thy long struggle in defense of the True Faith hath produced a glorious victory, the martyrdom of the priest Maximus, whom Christ, the Judge of the contest, hath crowned with a heavenly diadem for his unwavering confession.

And 4 Stichera, in Tone VI:

Now is the village of Zhdynya glad, for it witnessed the birth of the holy hieromartyr, a beacon leading his people, who were languishing in error, to the True Faith! And they cry out to God with compunction: O Lord Almighty, God Most High, through the prayers of our father Maximus, have mercy upon us and grant us Thy grace!

The city of Zhitomir is exalted, for therein the holy hieromartyr Maximus studied diligently the commandments of the Lord, the writings of the holy fathers and the precepts of the Faith, storing these up in the coffer of his heart, that with these priceless treasures he might ransom his flock from slavery to heresy and error.

Rejoice, O village of Grab, for thou didst call the holy hieromartyr Maximus to the pastoral ministry, and he blessed thee with the grace of the Holy Mysteries, that thy people might make spiritual ascents, from glory to glory, and attain unto the mansions of heaven, where the righteous dwell with the angels of God.

Every Orthodox Christian praiseth thee, O city of Gorlitsa, for within thee the holy Maximus triumphed over the wiles of the enemy and held fast to the confession of the Orthodox Faith. Wherefore, exult thou exceedingly, for thy stones have been sanctified by the blood of the martyr, who dyed his vesture therein, that, splendidly arrayed, he might join his Master at the heavenly wedding-feast.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

After God and His most holy Mother it is to thee that the Lemko people flee amid their tribulations and sorrows. For, though oppressed and afflicted by their enemies, yet have they not lost hope in the mercy of God; and placing their trust in the supplications of the holy Maximus, they pray with compunction, that the Most High may have mercy upon them and save their souls.

Now & ever ..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in Tone II:

The shadow of the law hath passed now that grace hath come, * for as the Bush wrapped in flame was not consumed, * so didst thou bear a Child O Virgin * and remained a Virgin; * in place of a pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath dawned, ** instead of Moses, Christ is come, the salvation of our souls.

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the day. 3 Readings:

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

The righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand: for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. He shall take to Him His jealousy for complete armor, and make the creature His weapon for the revenge of His enemies. He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate, and true judgment for an invincible shield. His severe wrath shall He sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with Him against the unwise. Then shall the right-aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, shall they be cast as out of a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away: thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. Hear, therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations. For power is given you by the Lord, and sovereignty from the Most High.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself. As gold in the furnace hath He tried them and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign

for ever. They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him: so that living among sinners he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the Lord; therefore hastened He to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood not, neither laid they up this in their minds: that His grace and mercy is with His saints, and that He hath respect unto His chosen.

At Litiya, the Sticheron of the temple, and these Stichera, in Tone III:

Thou didst hasten to the Lavra of Pochaev, fleeing the errors of the Latins as Lot fled Sodom; and in that tranquil monastic haven thou didst find the pearl of great price - the holy Orthodox Faith - which thou didst purchase with thy blood in martyrdom. Wherefore, O holy Maximus, the faithful honor thy holy memory with love.

Glory ..., in Tone IV:

Having left the dark West of the setting sun, thou didst move toward the Sun of righteousness in the East; and having been illumined there by the never-waning radiance of divine light, thou didst shine upon thy much-suffering people, who had languished long in the darkness of Latin domination. Entreat Christ God, that He enlighten and save our souls.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

Ever-virgin, immaculate Mother of God, who without seed hast given birth to thine own Creator, add thine entreaties to the supplications of the holy Maximus, that the Lord may have mercy upon His sinful servants.

At the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

Merciful and all-loving is the good Shepherd, Who left the flock and searched for thee, the lost sheep, in the mountains of Carpathia; and He brought thee back into the fold of the Orthodox Church, from whence thine ancestors were stolen away by false-shepherds and hirelings, betrayed to the ravening wolves of heresy. Beseech him, O holy hieromartyr, that He deliver us from our transgressions.

Verse: The righteous shall flourish like a palm-tree, * and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

Eyes uplifted to the heavens, thou didst cry out, "Bless, O Lord!", when the ungodly aimed their weapons at thee. But thou didst not fear those who killed thy body, for they were unable to kill thy soul, and it took flight to the refuge of heaven, where it resteth in the bosom of Abraham with all the saints of God, O valiant martyr Maximus.

Verse: They that are planted in the house of the Lord, * in the courts of our God they shall blossom forth.

Returning to thy homeland after thy priestly ordination, thou didst lead thy people out of bondage to Latin error, as Moses led the children of Israel forth from Egyptian slavery; and they entered into the promised land of Holy Orthodoxy. Look down from heaven, O right glorious martyr, and by thy supplications unto God ask that we may receive His grace and great mercy.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

Come, ye lovers of the martyrs, and let us extol the holy hieromartyr Maximus, the glory of Carpathia, the boast of the Lemko people, the adornment of the Orthodox Church, the good shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep; and with hymns and spiritual songs let us sing his praises, for, dwelling with the ranks of angels on high, he prayeth unceasingly for our souls.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, in Tone II:

In thee have we placed our trust, O Theotokos. * That we not fall way, save us from perils, * O helper of the tempest-tossed, * and confound the counsels of the adversary, ** for thou art our salvation, O blessed one.

After the Blessing of the Loaves, Troparion, in Tone IV:

Moved by the providence of God to go to Mount Pochaev, * there to learn the rightness of the Orthodox Faith, * thou didst attain unto true teaching in the city of Zhitomir, * and didst return to thine own country as a brave warrior of Christ. * For Orthodoxy and thy people thou didst receive the crown of martyrdom, * and thereby hast made thy native land steadfast in the Holy Faith. ** O hieromartyr Maximus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved. (Twice)

And "Virgin Theotokos, rejoice! ...", once.

AT MATINS

At "God is the Lord ...", the Troparion of the hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

Moved by the providence of God to go to Mount Pochaev, * there to learn the rightness of the Orthodox Faith, * thou didst attain unto true teaching in the city of Zhitomir, * and didst return to thine own country as a brave warrior of Christ. * For Orthodoxy and thy people thou didst receive the crown of martyrdom, * and thereby hast made thy native land steadfast in the Holy Faith. ** O hieromartyr Maximus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved. (Twice)

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

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of Angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and thus saved our souls from death.

After the first chanting of the Psalter, this Sedalion, in Tone VIII:

Full of the grace of God, thou didst blamelessly minister to thy flock, confirming the words of thine instruction with works of the virtues; and inspiring all to mercy and loving-kindness, thou didst teach them not to take the broad way which leadeth to destruction, but to tread the straight and narrow way whereby we may attain unto the heavenly homeland.

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

Unvanquished by the hordes of the enemy is the fortress of thine intercession, O all-immaculate one; for thou didst conceive the Lord and Master of all without knowing a man, and without experiencing the pangs of childbirth didst give birth to Him. Wherefore, as our heavenly intercessor, shelter and protect our souls, that we may obtain great mercy.

After the second chanting of the Psalter, this Sedalion, in Tone V:

Leaving thy parents and the home of thy childhood, thou didst risk arrest by traveling to Mount Pochaev, seeking safe harbor amid the raging storms of life. And arriving at the holy Lavra thou didst find tranquility of soul, and wast nurtured with pure Orthodox dogmas and the living water of true piety; so that when the time came for thee to suffer for the Faith, thou didst possess the spiritual strength to endure to the end.

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

Jesus most sweet, the only-begotten Son of the Father, Who was conceived within thy womb through the activity of the Holy Spirit, received thine immaculate soul in His most pure hands, and bore it up to the heavens, from whence thou dost look down upon us, thy lowly servants, and intercedest at His fiery throne, that He deal with us according to His infinite mercy.

Polyeleos, and this magnification: We magnify thee, O holy hieromartyr Maximus, and we reverence thine honored sufferings, which thou didst endure for Christ.

Selected Psalm verse:

A: Our God is refuge and strength. A helper in afflictions which mightily befall us.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...Alleluia ..., glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

After the Polyeleos, this Sedalion, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared today ...":

Even the most eloquent of orators cannot praise thy valor and endurance as is meet, O holy hieromartyr; for, unafraid, thou didst face thine executioners, and with courage didst pray that the Holy Faith be established. Great is the reward thou hast received for thy steadfastness, O Maximus, from the right hand of the Judge of the contest.

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

Storm-tossed upon the sea of life, the ship of my soul is foundering, heavy laden with a burden of un-repentant sins, and the billows of the passions unceasingly buffet it. But do thou save me from perishing in my transgressions, O Theotokos, thou good pilot of my soul, and steer me to the shelter of the safe harbor of thine intercessions.

Song of ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV:

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Verse: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

Let every breath praise the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, § 38 [MT. 10: 32-38]

The Lord said to His disciples: "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be those of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me."

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron, in Tone VI:

Unto thee, the intercessor for the Lemko people, do we cry aloud in prayer: Help us, O father Maximus, for our enemies are more than the sands of the sea, and they persecute and oppress the little flock of Christ; but extend to us thy strong right arm, and save us from perishing.

Canon of Supplication to the Theotokos [the Paraclysis], with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos;

And that of the holy hieromartyr, with 8 Troparia, in Tone III:

ODE I

Irmos: To God, Who alone saved His people in the sea * and engulfed the adversaries, * let us sing, for He hath been glorified.

Sanctify my tongue with the burning coal of Thy grace, O Word of God, that I may worthily hymn the glory of the holy hieromartyr Maximus.

Thou hast led thy lowly people across the sea of temptations, and hast restored them as the New Israel, in the promised land of Orthodoxy.

Heavenly angels and earthborn men join chorus together in honor of thy martyrdom, O holy hieromartyr Maximus, for thou didst struggle well to the end.

Theotokion: After God it is in thee that the Orthodox set their hope, O Theotokos. Protect us from all evils and afflictions by thine intercession.

Katavasia: According to the Typicon

ODE III

Irmos: Thou hast broken the bow of the enemy * and hath crushed their shields by Thy might, * O Christ our Master. * O Lord, our confirmation, * holy art Thou!

The mountains of thy homeland leap for joy over thy wondrous martyrdom, O holy one, for the Lord hath made thee heir to the throne of His glory.

How great is the power of thy mediation before the Most High, O Maximus, for in heaven the Lord hath exalted the horn of His anointed priest.

Elijah the Prophet mounted to heaven on a chariot of fire, and thou didst ascend on the chariot of thine own blood, for thou didst show that the mighty were not strong in their own strength.

Theotokion: Holy is the Lord, O most pure Virgin. For in His boundless compassion He worketh judgment and righteousness in the midst of the earth.

Sessional hymn, in Tone VIII:

All the forests and glades of Carpathia clap their hands in gladness, and its mountains and hills leap for joy; for the child of their bosom now standeth in supplication before the Almighty, making earnest entreaty on behalf of all who honor his sufferings and undeserved death. Wherefore, let the whole world rejoice exceedingly, having gained a new and bold intercessor, a mediator for peace and great mercy.

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

Virgin and Mother wast thou shown to be by thine Offspring, O all-immaculate one; and even after giving birth thou didst remain a virgin, as thou wast before. Wherefore, as thou hast maternal boldness before Christ, thy Son and God, unceasingly entreat Him to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

ODE IV

Irmos: Habakkuk 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 tongue is at a loss how to praise thy martyric struggle as is meet, O hieromartyr Maximus, for, standing firm, thou didst await the executioners' blows, and with thy dying breath didst bless the holy Orthodox Faith.

Maximus the wise, who though young had mastered the wisdom of the aged, shed his blood for his people, and cried out to the tyrants: "Long live Holy Orthodoxy!" Wherefore, he now abideth in the heavens.

Every Orthodox Christian is astonished by the endurance and confession thou didst show the world at the time of thy murder, O holy martyr, for thou didst love no one more than the Lord Almighty.

Theotokion: Round about the throne of the most holy Trinity the ranks of angels chant in chorus the thrice-holy hymn; and we on earth joyously repeat the cry of the archangel: Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace!

ODE V

Irmos: We rise at dawn unto Thee, O Christ God, * the Dawn of truth * Who hast shone forth upon us from the Virgin, * and with divine knowledge hast illumined us * who are in the darkness of ignorance.

Chosen by God as an enlightener for His people, and ordained for them by His most holy Spirit, thou didst wake their slumbering spirit unto the dawning of His never-waning light.

Ye who are oppressed, remember the Lord in tribulation, and be mindful of the affliction which the holy one endured for the sake of His Savior; for through his mediation your nation shall not perish utterly.

O the majesty of thy holiness, O holy Maximus our father! For through thine instructions zeal laid hold upon an uninstructed people, as saith Isaiah the prophet.

Theotokion: Now let us hold excellent festival, O ye Christian people, proclaiming the Mother of God to be the Virgin who gave birth to the timeless God, our Light and Joy.

ODE VI

Irmos: I am held fast in the depths of sin O Savior, * and am overwhelmed by the sea of life, * but as Jonah was delivered from the sea-monster, * so also deliver me from the passions, * and save me.

How have those who observe vain and false things abandoned mercy for themselves, thou didst say with the prophet Jonah, O holy one; but thou didst sacrifice unto the Lord in purity and truth.

In the earth were thy precious remains interred, O holy father, but the earth surrendered its priceless treasure when, moved by the supplications of the faithful, the Holy Church glorified thee.

Sacred and all-hallowed is thy holy memory, O Maximus, and the sound of thy holy confession was borne forth to thy suffering people, filling their hearts with love for the Lord, and for thee, His faithful servant.

Theotokion: **S**oon each man must needs depart this vale of tears, and go whither his faith and deeds lead him; but do thou, O Theotokos, ask mercy of the Lord, that we not be condemned to darkness and flame forever.

Kontakion, in Tone IV:

Our people were enlightened and moved by thy martyrdom, * toward the Orthodox Faith,. * For giving up thy life for Christ God, * thou didst endure tortures and sufferings in prison. ** Pray for us, and for thy native land, before Christ our God.

Ikos: **R**esting with the saints in the bosom of Abraham, thou dost ascend unto the Lord from glory to glory, O holy hieromartyr Maximus; for in accordance with thy name, thou didst prove to be a champion most great, steadfast in thy confession of the triune God, faithfully opposing the errors of the Latin-minded. Wherefore, assembling this day to celebrate thy holy memory, we entreat thee: Pray for us, and for thy native land, before Christ our God.

ODE VII

Irmos: **P**roud was the tyrant; * yet he was as a plaything for the children; * for, trampling underfoot the flame heated sevenfold, * they chanted: **Blessed art Thou, * O Lord God of our fathers!**

Virtue and goodness made their abode in thy heart, O blessed Maximus, and meekness and charity dwelt likewise within thee. These things do thou instill in the hearts of those who honor thee.

Every tongue is at a loss how to praise thy martyric struggle as is meet, O hieromartyr Maximus, for, standing firm, thou didst await the executioners' blows, and with thy dying breath didst bless the holy Orthodox Faith.

Maximus the wise, who though young had mastered the wisdom of the aged, shed his blood for his people, and cried out to the tyrants: "Long live Holy Orthodoxy!" Wherefore, he now abideth in the heavens.

Theotokion: **T**hou alone, O most pure Virgin, hath become known as a Mother who knew not wedlock, and the Mother of Him Who created everything in His wisdom; wherefore we fervently call unto thee, saying: 'Blessed art thou who hast given birth to God in the flesh'.

ODE VIII

Irmos: **U**nited 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.

With fervor didst thou execute the ministry of the mysteries of Christ, and like a spiritual sheep offered thyself unto Him as an acceptable and well-pleasing sacrifice, perfected with the spilling of thy blood, O most blessed one.

Adorning thy Hierarchical vestments with virtues, O most wise one, thou didst manifest thyself as a guardian of chastity, a partaker of the true food of abstinence, a teacher of prayer, and an instructor of repentance and law, unto eternal life.

At the time of our oblation, let us always bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, since the barren fig-tree lives ever threatened of being cut off; Fear such a curse O my soul, and worthily receive Christ, the abundant fruit of virtue.

Theotokion: **O** most venerated defender of Christian peoples, despise not the voice of us thy servants and deliver us, O holy Virgin, from every danger and from every cruel advance of the enemy, for thy motherly intercessions ever incline God to mercy.

ODE IX

Irmos: **N**ew is the wonder and befitting of God: * for the Lord clearly passes through the closed gate of the Virgin: * naked at His going in and God bearing flesh at His coming out, * while the gate remaineth closed. * **A**s ineffably the Theotokos and Mother of our God we magnify her.

Thou, O Father, hast destroyed the many and varied arrows of the heretics by the fire of abstinence, burning up the corruption of the flesh with the coals of chastity, wherefore thou wast gloriously deemed worthy of the true purity that exists on high.

Thy radiant memory, O Father, hath shone forth throughout the land of the Lemko people, illuminating their souls, rendering them, O worthy of all admiration, illumined with divine light; wherefore we render unto thee veneration in spiritual song, O Divinely-wise one.

Thou, O Father, having received from the right hand of God the reward of thy victory art now adorned with the crown of Martyrdom, for finishing thine exploits and radiating with the fullness of the divine light we the faithful now offer thee unto Christ as our fervent intercessor.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin and Mother of the Word, the true Theotokos, our mediatrix, thou hast brought forth unto us the eternal Life of God and the Sun of righteousness, Whom we the faithful with one mind magnify in spiritual songs.

Exapostilarion:

As a Hieromartyr with power to bind and to loose, do thou, O blessed one, loose the bonds of my evil deeds and with those beloved of God do thou number me and through thine intercessions make me a partaker of the Kingdom of God.

Glory ..., Now & Ever ..., Theotokion:

Do thou, O pure one, illumine my soul darkened by the multitude of my many transgressions and through thine intercession deliver me from the eternal flame and darkness, that I may with joy praise thy majesty.

At the Aposticha, 4 Stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

Spiritual grace shining forth upon thee, O Father Maximus, greatly illumined thee; wherefore the night of passion was quickened within thee and the daylight of dispassion dawned within, Illumined thereby, thou dost now delight in the rewards of thy Godly confession, we beseech thee, O Godly-spoken Hieromartyr, forget not those who in faith hymn thy memory. **(Twice)**

As one possessing heavenly grace, O Hieromartyr Maximus thou didst abandon all earthly possessions; and like an Angel, didst desire the enjoyment of eternal spiritual food, wherefore thou didst boldly confess Thine orthodoxy before the heretical Latin tyrants, and now, O God-pleasing one, thou dost enjoy the spiritual fruits of paradise.

Giving thy body, covered with wounds from beating and exposure to fire, over to the insults of the mindless heretics, thou didst preserve thy mind in purity, wherefore thou wast deemed worthy to behold the beauty of the divine Bestower, and didst become an embellishment of the Martyrs, and an adornment of Hierarchs, O Martyr Maximus, friend of the Angels.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

Most holy is the Spirit Who proceedeth from the Father alone, and Who spake within thee when thou wast brought before the judges for the sake of Christ, having been delivered up by the enemies of the Holy Church, and hated unjustly for His name's sake. Yet thou didst endure to the end and wast saved, and at that same hour wast taught by the Spirit what to say, to confound the wicked plans of the ungodly.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion, in Tone II:

Come ye all, and let us glorify the Mother of Light, crying out with unceasing hymns, for she gave birth unto our Salvation! And let us offer her the salutation, "Rejoice!", as to her who alone gave birth unto the ultimate Author of all things, Who was God before the ages. Rejoice, thou who hast set fallen Eve aright again! Rejoice, O most pure Virgin who knewest not wedlock!

Great doxology. Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal. First Hour.

AT LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from Ode III & 4 from Ode VI of the canon of the hieromartyr.

The mountains of thy homeland leap for joy over thy wondrous martyrdom, O holy one, for the Lord hath made thee heir to the throne of His glory. (Twice)

How great is the power of thy mediation before the Most High, O Maximus, for in heaven the Lord hath exalted the horn of His anointed priest.

Elijah the Prophet mounted to heaven on a chariot of fire, and thou didst ascend on the chariot of thine own blood, for thou didst show that the mighty were not strong in their own strength.

How have those who observe vain and false things abandoned mercy for themselves, thou didst say with the prophet Jonah, O holy one; but thou didst sacrifice unto the Lord in purity and truth.

In the earth were thy precious remains interred, O holy father, but the earth surrendered its priceless treasure when, moved by the supplications of the faithful, the Holy Church glorified thee.

Sacred and all-hallowed is thy holy memory, O Maximus, and the sound of thy holy confession was borne forth to thy suffering people, filling their hearts with love for the Lord, and for thee, His faithful servant.

Theotokion: **S**oon each man must needs depart this vale of tears, and go whither his faith and deeds lead him; but do thou, O Theotokos, ask mercy of the Lord, that we not be condemned to darkness and flame forever.

Troparion, in Tone IV:

Moved by the providence of God to go to Mount Pochaev, * there to learn the rightness of the Orthodox Faith, * thou didst attain unto true teaching in the city of Zhitomir, * and didst return to thine own country as a brave warrior of Christ. * For Orthodoxy and thy people thou didst receive the crown of martyrdom, * and thereby hast made thy native land steadfast in the Holy Faith. ** O hieromartyr Maximus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Kontakion, in Tone IV:

Our people were enlightened and moved by thy martyrdom, * toward the Orthodox Faith,. * For giving up thy life for Christ God, * thou didst endure tortures and sufferings in prison. ** Pray for us, and for thy native land, before Christ our God.

Prokeimenon, in Tone VII: The saints shall boast in glory, * and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

Verse: Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the Church of the saints.

EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY, § 292 [II TIM. 2: 1-9]

Timothy my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him Who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman who laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my Gospel: wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elects' sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Alleluia, in Tone II: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

Verse: For the Lord hath elected Sion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, § 36 [MT. 10: 16-32]

The Lord said to His disciples: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he who endureth to the end shall be saved."

Communion Verse: In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.