

THE 2nd DAY OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR MAMAS, COMMEMORATION OF
OUR VENERABLE FATHER JOHN THE FASTER, PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPLE

AT VESPERS

On "Lord, I have cried ...", 6 Stichera: 3 of the martyr, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "O most glorious wonder ...":

Shedding thy blood, O blessed one, * thou didst present thyself to Christ, * the Bestower of life, * Who shed His blood for thy sake, * and Who hath made thee a sharer in His glory * and a participant in His kingdom, * in that thou didst prevail over the deceiver * and utterly reduce ** his cruel snares to ashes.

Thou wast a pillar of piety * set firmly upon the rock of faith, * unshaken by temptations or misfortunes, * O blessed one, * for the great tempest and tumult * and the waves which buffeted thee * could not cast down thine unbreakable strength; * for thou didst desire to be adorned ** with the crown of martyrdom.

Following the life-bearing steps * of our incarnate God * Who, by His suffering on the Cross, * cast down the tyrant, O spiritual athlete, * rejoicing, thou didst enter the arena of martyrdom, * and, lacerated with wounds, * with thy flesh, O martyr, * thou didst wound him who boasted that he would destroy the sea, ** casting him down to the ground.

And 3 Stichera of the holy hierarch, in the same melody:

O most honored father John, * withdrawing from the tumultuous confusion of the world, * thou didst hasten to the serenity of Christ, * O most venerable one; * and thou wast manifestly enriched in truth * with the most rich effulgence * of vision and divine activity, * and, made splendid by thy godly life, ** imparted them to the faithful.

O most honored father John, * honorably adorned with vestments * like another Aaron, * thou dost now behold the Holy of holies * beyond the second veil. * O the ineffable brilliance of thy mind, * which passeth understanding, * O divine adornment of hierarchs, ** with whom thou hast now joined in fellowship!

O all-wise father John, * becoming godly * in the simplicity of thy character, * standing now before God, * and united with Him * through a higher unity, * thou art deified at His continual behest, * and filled with His light, ** O divine and most sacred adornment of hierarchs.

Glory ..., the composition of Byzantius, in Tone II:

At the table of God thou wast set like a newly planted olive-tree, the child of those who walk the path of the Lord. For the sake of thy martyrdom the Lord hath blessed thee, and beholding now the good things of the heavenly Sion, thou dost ever delight with thy parents in divine joy. O right laudable Mamas, by thine entreaties make us also partakers thereof.

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

Spec. Mel.: "When from the Tree ...":

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

At the Aposticha, the Stichera from the Oktoechos; and Glory ..., in Tone IV:

Come together, O ye faithful, and let us celebrate the memory of the martyr Mamas, for he hath been shown to be a new Abel; for as Abel, being a shepherd of sheep, brought a lamb as a sacrifice and was the first to receive the crown of martyrdom, so did the glorious spiritual athlete, who presided over feeding flocks, bring himself to Christ as a right acceptable sacrifice through martyrdom. And as he hath boldness before the Lord, he asketh peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

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

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

Beholding Christ crucified, * Who is the Lover of mankind, * His side pierced by the spear, * the most pure one wept, crying aloud: * "What is this, O my Son? * How have the thankless people rewarded Thee * for the good things Thou didst do for them? * And dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most Beloved? ** I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!"

Troparion of the martyr, in Tone IV:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Mamas O Lord, * received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Glory ..., Troparion of the hierarch, in Tone IV:

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, * icon of meekness, and teacher of temperance; * wherefore, thou hast attained the heights through humility and riches through poverty; * O hierarch John our father, ** entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion or Stavrotheotokion.

AT MATINS

One canon from the Oktoechos, with 6 Troparia;
And two for the saints, with 8 Troparia.

ODE I

Canon of the martyr, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone VIII:

Irmos: The wonderworking staff of Moses, * striking and dividing the sea in the figure of a cross, * once drowned Pharaoh the pursuing charioteer, * while it saved the fleeing people of Israel * as they fled on foot, * chanting a hymn unto God.

Traversing the heavens as an excellent martyr, filled with thrice-radiant effulgence, O glorious one, grant divine illumination unto those who on earth honor the precious and radiant day of thy repose.

The Word, foreknowing the nobility and perfection of thy mind in all things, filled thee with understanding from thine earliest infancy and adorned thee in manifold ways with the sweetness of good works, O all-praised martyr and spiritual athlete Mamas.

Thy parents, braving danger for the inviolate Faith in the time of persecution by falsehood, were cast into prison; and there, at the command of God, they brought thee forth, who broke the bonds of polytheism.

Theotokion: In generations of generations most glorious things are spoken of thee who, having contained God the Word within thy womb, remained pure, O Mary Theotokos. Wherefore, we all honor thee, our intercessor before God.

Canon of the holy hierarch, the composition of Germanus, in the same tone:

Irmos: Unto Him Who overthrew the tyranny of Pharaoh in the sea * and led Israel over dry land, * let us chant unto Christ our God, * for He hath been glorified throughout the ages.

Let us chant unto Christ, Who shone forth in the world the wise hierarch who is resplendent with the precepts of the kingdom, for He hath been glorified throughout the ages.

O ye faithful, let us honor the great hierarch John, Who shone forth in the world with the light of piety, dispelling the gloom of impiety.

As thou standest with the angels before the unapproachable King, O all-blessed John, thou preacher of sacred things, pray that cleansing be granted to those who celebrate thy memory.

Theotokion: In that thou didst conceive the pre-eternal and beginningless Word of the Father and hast given birth to Him in the flesh in a manner past all telling, O all-hymned one, pray thou earnestly, that we be delivered from misfortunes.

ODE III

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: **O** Lord, Creator of the vault of Heaven * and Builder of the Church, * do Thou strengthen me in Thy love, O Summit of desire, * O Support of the faithful, * O only Lover of mankind.

Upon the pinnacle of His Church Christ hath placed the spiritual athlete Mamas like a radiant star, illumining the whole world with the splendors of his sufferings and most glorious miracles.

Ascending the mountain of true knowledge, and illumined with purity of mind through visions, O blessed one, by the commands of God thou didst elevate the nature of dumb beasts to rational hymnody.

Thou wast a youth comely in beauty, and revealed to be unapproachable to those who sought iniquitously to seize thee, and thou didst bring thyself to the Lord of all, Who Himself willingly underwent suffering.

Theotokion: **H**e Who stretched out the sky and sustaineth its whole vault by His divine nature was held in the flesh in thine embrace, O most pure one, and hath revealed thee to be the confirmation of all the faithful.

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: **O** Thou Who established the heavens by Thy word * and founded the earth upon the multitude of waters, * establish me unto the hymning of * Thy glorification O Lord.

By abstinence and steadfast prayer, O God-bearing father, thou didst ascend to the lofty city of the virtues, where thou dost now partake of a torrent of sweetness.

As thou hast boldness before God, O venerable and wise hierarch John, pray that those who celebrate thy memory with faith may be saved.

As a teacher of the dogmas of piety and a true speaker of wise words, thou hast been crowned for thy victory over heresies, O venerable one.

Theotokion: **O** pure Theotokos, we all hymn thee as the heaven and throne of God, in that Jesus Christ, the Truth, revealed Himself through thee.

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

As the precious offspring of piety, by the power of the Spirit thou wast shown to be the destroyer of impiety, O Mamas; for denouncing the delusion of idolatry in the arena thou didst right boldly proclaim that it is the Trinity which is to be hymned. Wherefore, cast to the wild beasts, O spiritual athlete, thou didst slay the beast, the serpent who is the author of evil. For this cause we cry out to thee: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of offenses unto those who honor thy holy memory with love.

Glory ..., Sedalion of the hierarch, in Tone III:

Spec. Mel.: "Of the divine Faith ...":

Thou wast revealed to be a divine vessel of abstinence and a fount of piety which cannot be taken away, O blessed and venerable father John, illumining thy life with dispassion and enriching those in need with alms. Entreat Christ God, that He grant us great mercy.

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

Thou wast the divine tabernacle of the Word, * O only most pure Virgin Mother, * who hast surpassed the angels in purity. * With the divine waters of thy supplications cleanse me, * who more than all others am dust and defiled * by carnal transgressions, O pure one, ** and grant me great mercy.

Stavrotheotokion: **T**he unblemished ewe-lamb of the Word, * the incorrupt Virgin Mother, * beholding Him Who sprang forth from her without pain * suspended upon the Cross, cried out, maternally lamenting: * "Woe is me, O my Child! * How is it that Thou dost suffer willingly, * desiring to redeem mankind ** from the indignity of the passions?"

ODE IV

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: **T**hou, O Lord, art my strength and Thou art my power, * Thou art my God and Thou art my joy, * Thou Who, while never leaving the bosom of Thy Father, * hast visited our poverty. * Therefore with the Prophet Habbakuk I cry unto Thee, * 'Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!'

With wisdom and lacking all fear, thou didst of thine own will commit thyself to struggles; for thou didst have Christ helping thee with divine power, making thy weakness strong and showing thee forth as a witness to His sufferings, and a partaker of the splendor on high.

The most rational wild beast became tame, given thee by God as a companion, for with divine love thou didst subdue the irrational passions and wast revealed to be adorned with a most wise intelligence, vanquishing the irrationality of the enemy.

Before the tyrants' tribunal thou didst stand O blessed one, most manifestly proclaiming the incarnation of the Word, casting down the savagery of ungodliness and teaching all to chant with confidence: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!

Theotokion: **B**y the supra-natural offspring of thy birthgiving, O all-immaculate Theotokos, the pangs of sin were loosed, the nature of mortals was released from the curse, the heavens were opened for thy sake to those below, and mankind joineth chorus with the angels.

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: Mystically foreseeing Thee * incarnate of the Virgin, O Word, * the prophet cried aloud: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

In hymns let us all praise the wise hierarch, saying: O God-bearing John, pray thou earnestly to the Lord, that we be saved.

Having thee as a planter of the dogmas of piety and a wise hierarch, O divinely blessed John, we praise thee with hymns and songs.

O glorious primate and sustainer, hierarch of the Lord, with songs and hymns we, the faithful, celebrate thy sacred memory.

Theotokion: O unwedded Bride, pure and undefiled Mother of Christ God, entreat Him without ceasing, that He save the souls of those who hymn thee.

ODE V

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: O Light never-waning, * why hast Thou turned Thy face from me * and why hath the alien darkness surrounded me, * wretched though I be? * But do Thou guide my steps I implore Thee * and turn me back towards the light of Thy commandments.

Lacerated, the glorious Mamas in nowise paid heed to his body, setting aside the grossness of corruption to be torn asunder and the garments of his skin to be rent apart; receiving instead the vesture of incorruption.

Grateful praises didst thou chant to thy Creator when thy side was pierced with a spear, O all-blessed one, and thou didst hear a voice from heaven, strengthening thy mind for that which is more exalted, easing the pain of thy sufferings.

As thou lay in prison a most beautiful dove appeared to thee in a most glorious vision, O all-blessed and much-suffering spiritual athlete, bearing thee the food of incorruption; for thou hast truly passed beyond the bounds of corruption.

Theotokion: Thou wast the mediatrix of the divine incarnation and of ineffable deliverance, having given birth to Him Who was begotten of the Father before the sun shone forth; for through thee the nature of those on earth hath been joined to God and set upon the throne of glory.

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: Thou hast enlightened * with the knowledge of God * the ends of the universe * that lay in the night of ignorance, * do Thou also, O Lord, illumine me * with the dawning of Thy love for mankind.

As a pastor thou wast anointed with the oil of piety, O divinely wise one; wherefore, we all praise thee as a hierarch, O venerable one.

As an emulator of the apostles in pangs and vigils, O divinely wise and glorious one, thou didst intercede for the people of the Church.

Thou didst emulate the zeal of Elijah and Moses the God-seer, O father manifest in sanctity, and didst put to shame the teachers of heresy.

Theotokion: Come ye, and with the angel let us all honor as Queen the blessed one who gave birth to the King of all.

ODE VI

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Cleanse me, O Savior, * for many are mine iniquities; * lead me up from the abyss of evils I pray Thee, * for unto Thee have I cried, * and Thou hast hearkened unto me, * O God of my salvation.

Burning with zeal for God, O most sacred and valiant spiritual athlete, bedewed with divine rain from heaven thou didst in nowise take heed of the burning flame.

He Who in manifest light transformed the furnace into dew for the three youths rescued thee, O all-blessed and divinely wise one, from the flame, and most gloriously showed thee to be mightier than fire.

Undergoing tremendous struggles, thou didst show thyself to be a most supreme, and wondrous spiritual athlete, a martyr tried and tested. Wherefore, the Judge of the contest deemed thee worthy of greater rewards.

Theotokion: Through thy divine birthgiving, O most pure one, we have come to share in the divine nature; and, praising thee with the ranks of the angels, we have inherited heavenly rest in Christ.

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: As Thou didst deliver the prophet from the depths * of the abyss, O Christ God, * so deliver me also from my sins, * O lover of mankind, * and guide my life, I pray Thee.

With thy divine dogmas and wise instructions thou didst adorn the glory of the Church, O blessed John, and didst cause heresies to vanish.

With the beauty of thy dogmas thou didst illumine all creation like a lamp of piety, O divinely wise teacher, and with the word of God thou hast cast heresies into darkness.

Arming thyself with thy tongue and discourse instead of a sword, O venerable one, thou didst cut down all false doctrines and clearly explain the Trinity to all.

Theotokion: O Christ God Who wast born of the Virgin and dost enlighten the world, deliver me from my transgressions, in that Thou art the Lover of mankind, and direct my life, I pray Thee.

Kontakion of the martyr, in Tone III:

Spec. Mel.: "Today the Virgin ...":

With the staff given thee by God, O holy one, * thou didst shepherd thy people in life-bearing pastures; * and having crushed the invisible and untamed wild beasts beneath the feet of those who hymn thee. * thou art manifest as a fervent intercessor for all ** who find themselves amid misfortunes, O Mamas.

Ikos: Throughout all the world we hymn thee as a most glorious martyr who hast joined chorus with the angels in the heavens, O Mamas, thou who before wast revealed to be suckled by a deer in the wilderness, and now, as a good shepherd, dost shepherd the rich people of the Lord with a staff of power, guiding them to a place of verdure, where the sweetness of paradise is truly to be found. For this cause thou didst forsake the world, that all may have thee as a fervent intercessor, O Mamas.

ODE VII

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Once in Babylon the fire stood in awe * of God's condescension; * for which sake the youths in the furnace, * dancing with joyous steps as in a meadow, chanted: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The aspect of the furnace was full of the coolness which thou didst need; for, shut up within it for many days, O Mamas, thou wast not consumed, but cried aloud to the Creator: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

In the midst of the flame, O martyr, thou didst have angels as companions, dancing with thee and sharing in ineffable hymnody; and with them thou didst cry aloud to the Master of all: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Issuing forth from the furnace, thou wast truly like a never-fading rose, like a most comely bridegroom departing from a bridal chamber, consuming the mindless, but illumining those who beheld thee, chanting: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: Lo! the prophecy of the divinely eloquent one hath now been fulfilled! For thou didst contain God the Word in thy womb, O Virgin, and hast given birth to the Bestower of life: To Him do we all cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: O Thou who in the beginning founded the earth * and by Thy word made the heavens firm, * blessed art Thou throughout the ages, * O Lord God of our Fathers.

O Thou who hast shown forth the pious and wise hierarch as a beacon on the earth: Blessed art Thou throughout the ages, O Lord God of our Fathers.

O Thou Who hast shown the great John to be a true shepherd for Thy flock: Blessed art Thou throughout the ages, O Lord God of our Fathers.

Having put down the uprisings of the flesh, O father, thou didst cry out to Christ: Blessed art Thou throughout the ages, O Lord God of our Fathers.!

Theotokion: O Thou who wast born of the Virgin for our sake and hast delivered the world from the enemy: Blessed art Thou throughout the ages, O Lord God of our Fathers.

ODE VIII

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: In his wrath the Chaldean Tyrant made the furnace blaze, * with heat fanned sevenfold for the servants of God; * but when he perceived that they had been saved by a greater power * he cried aloud to the Creator and Redeemer; * 'ye children bless, ye priests praise, * ye people, supremely exalt Him throughout all ages'.

Like Daniel thou didst shut the mouths of the wild beasts with a divine invocation of the Master, O glorious one; thou didst slay a serpent, didst put the ungodly to shame, and livest in gladness as a victor, chanting in the heavens: Ye priests bless; ye people supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Stony of heart, the all-iniquitous ones who worshiped stones cast stones at thee, O blessed martyr, as thou didst lift the sacred eyes of thy soul to the un-hewn and unshakable Stone; and thou didst fervently chant: Ye priests bless; ye people supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

The Judge of the contest, extending the crown of victory from on high to thee as victor when thou hadst passed through thy good contest, O thou who art most noetically rich, called thee to hasten to Him, running the honorable and sweet course, and chanting fervently: Ye priests bless; ye people supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Theotokion: Supra-naturally didst thou conceive Him Who was begotten of the Father without mother, yet remaining a virgin even after giving birth, O pure one; for in thee hath the divine Union renewed nature and restored the boundaries of existence. Wherefore, in an Orthodox manner, we hymn thee throughout the ages as the Theotokos who truly gave birth unto God.

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: Glorified in the holy mountain, * the Lord revealed the mystery of the Ever-Virgin unto Moses * in the flames of the burning bush: * praise ye and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Emulating Moses, O thrice blessed hierarch, thou didst ascend the mountain to the darkness, receiving the noetic law of grace; wherefore, we hymn Christ throughout all ages.

Shepherding thy people, O hierarch, thou didst drive away the falsehood of Egypt, and, avoiding the passions of Babylon, thou didst attain the heavenly Sion as thy dwelling-place throughout all ages.

Anointed with myrrh, discourse and works of piety, O most sacred one manifest in sanctity, thou didst perform the sacred and divine services; wherefore, thou dost hymn the Trinity in one Essence throughout all ages.

Theotokion: The Lord Who dwelt in the Virgin's womb and, for her sake, restored the old Adam in an awesome and indescribable manner, hymn ye and supremely exalt throughout all ages!

ODE IX

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Heaven was stricken with awe, * and the ends of the earth were filled with amazement, * for God hath appeared in the flesh, * and thy womb was rendered more spacious than the heavens. * Wherefore, the ranks of men and of angels * magnify thee as the Theotokos.

Thou didst lay down thy life for thy Redeemer and ardently hastened to Him, splendidly adorned with the beauties of thy sacred struggles and wondrous contests, O all-praised warrior, thou beacon of the whole world and ornament of the Church.

Thou hast joined the angels, having acquired an angelic life on earth, and with them dost joyously chant sacred hymnody to the supremely praised Trinity, O Mamas, deified by divine communion and enriched with unsurpassed glory.

As thou hast boldness before God, O all-blessed martyr, be thou mindful of those who joyously celebrate this thy divine festival and praise with a pure faith, thine honorable and sacred suffering; do thou save us from tempest, misfortune and trials.

Theotokion: Who hath ever heard that among those on earth there was a mother who knew not a man yet gave birth to a child, and that the Child to which she gave birth supra-naturally was the beginningless God Who is consubstantial with the beginningless Father? O awesome mystery! O the divine fellowship whereby we have been united to God!

Canon of the Holy Hierarch

Irmos: The prophetic vision of the lawgiver on the mountain, * in the fire of the burning bush, * prefigured thy birthgiving O Ever-Virgin, * the salvation of us the faithful, * wherefore with never silent hymns we magnify thee.

Having shown us the words of everlasting life by dispassion and faith, hope and love, O wise John, pray thou, that our souls be saved.

We all praise thee as a hierarch who shepherded the people of the honored Church with the staff of the Holy Spirit and drove away heresies hateful to God.

O father John of great renown, in psalms and hymns we honor thee continually as a hierarch and beacon of the Church, and we venerate the shrine of thy relics.

Theotokion: Rejoice, O ever-living wellspring of incorruption! Rejoice, O most radiant cloud of the noetic Sun! Rejoice, O chariot of the full Godhead! Rejoice, thou ark of sanctification!

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "To the disciples ...":

Living in the mountains, thou wast nourished with the milk of a doe, O martyr Mamas; and thou didst appear in the stadium, contending most diligently; and, having received the crown of victory, thou didst depart unto the Lord.

Theotokion: The most false and wicked enemy, who of old envied the divine and blessed life in paradise, caused me to be driven from Eden; but he hath been slain by thy birthgiving, O Virgin.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the martyr, in Tone IV:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Mamas O Lord, * received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Troparion of the hierarch, in the same tone:

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, * icon of meekness, and teacher of temperance; * wherefore, thou hast attained the heights through humility and riches through poverty; * O hierarch John our father, ** entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Kontakion of the martyr, in Tone III:

With the staff given thee by God, O holy one, * thou didst shepherd thy people in life-bearing pastures; * and having crushed the invisible and untamed wild beasts beneath the feet of those who hymn thee. * thou art manifest as a fervent intercessor for all ** who find themselves amid misfortunes, O Mamas.

Prokeimenon, in Tone VII: The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, * and shall hope in Him.

Verse: Harken unto my prayer, when I make supplications unto Thee.

EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS, § 99 [ROM. 8:28-39]

Brethren: We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation or, distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia, in Tone IV: The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be planted.

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

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN, § 50 [JN. 15: 1-7]

The Lord said to His disciples: I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Communion Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.