

**STICHERA AND SESSIONAL HYMNS
SUNG ON FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY
MORNING IN THE EIGHT TONES FROM THE
OKTOECHOS**

**TONE ONE
VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING**

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

By the prayers, O Lord, of all the saints * and of the Theotokos, * grant us. Thy peace and have mercy upon us, ** for Thou alone art compassionate.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

The confession of faith that ye made at the tribunal, O ye saints, * set at naught the strength of the demons, * and set men free from error. * As ye were beheaded ye cried aloud: * 'May the sacrifice of our souls be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord; * for, desiring Thee the Lover of mankind, ** we have despised this quickly passing life.'

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

Wise was the trade that ye made, O saints! * Giving your blood, and inheriting heaven as your reward; * Having suffered tribulation for a time, ye now rejoice eternally. * Truly wisely have ye traded: * forsaking things corruptible, * ye have received things incorruptible; * and rejoicing with the choirs of angels * ye now hymn eternally the praises ** of the consubstantial Trinity.

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O all-praised martyrs, * ye were not buried in the earth, * yet heaven hath received you; * the gates of Paradise were opened to you, * and entering within ye have partaken of the tree of life. ** Pray ye to Christ that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

For the Reposed, by St John of Damascus
Glory ...,

What pleasure in this life remaineth unmarked by sorrow? * What glory can endure upon this earth unchanged? * All is feebler than a shadow, * more deceptive than a dream; * for death in a single moment taketh away all things. * But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, * and in the joy of Thy beauty, * grant rest to those whom Thou hast chosen, ** for Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Let us hymn the whole world's glory, * who sprang forth from mankind and who gave birth to the Master, * the Portal of heaven, Mary the Virgin, * the hymn of the Bodiless Powers and adornment of the faithful; * for she hath been revealed as the Heaven and Temple of the Godhead. * By destroying the middle wall, she hath brought forth peace, * and opened wide the Kingdom. * Therefore, holding fast to her as a firm confirmation of the faith, * we have as our champion the Lord born from her. * Take courage therefore, take courage, O ye people of God; ** for as the Invincible one he shall conquer our adversaries.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

O all-praised martyrs, * ye were not buried in the earth, * yet heaven hath received you; * the gates of Paradise were opened to you, * and entering within ye have partaken of the tree of life. ** Pray ye to Christ that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

Verse: **Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself,
O Lord.**

What pleasure in this life remaineth unmarked by sorrow? * What glory can endure upon this earth unchanged? * All is feebler than a shadow, * more deceptive than a dream; * for death in a single moment taketh away all things. * But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, * and in the joy of Thy beauty, * grant rest to those whom Thou hast chosen, ** for Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Verse: **Their memorial * is from generation to generation.**

No man is free from sin, * none save Thee, who alone art immortal. * Therefore, O compassionate God, * grant unto Thy servants a dwelling-place in the Light, * with the choirs of Thine angels. * In Thy loving-kindness * overlook their transgressions, * and grant them forgiveness.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Truly wondrous beyond understanding * are the mighty works of thy birthgiving O Bride of God, * of which all the prophets proclaimed, * and thy conception and birth giving are most glorious, * O all-hymned one, * whereby thine Offspring hath incomprehensibly and ineffably saved the world, ** in that He is merciful.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

As faithful soldiers ye believed with one accord; * ye were not terrified by the threats of the tyrants, O saints, * but taking up the precious Cross, * ye eagerly followed Christ, * and finishing the course, ye received victory from heaven. * Glory be to Him who hath given you strength; * glory be to Him who hath crowned you; ** glory be to Him who through you worketh healings for all.

Verse: **G**od is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

Accept in supplication, O Lord * the Lover of mankind, * the sufferings that the saints endured for Thee; * and, we beseech Thee, ** heal all our suffering.

Verse: **T**o the saints that are in the earth, the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

Let us all pray to the martyrs of Christ, * for they intercede for our salvation. * Let us all draw near to them with faith, * for they dispense the grace of healing, * and as guardians of the faith ** they drive away the hosts of demons.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: **I**n the last days, without undergoing change, * for our sake Thou hast clothed Thyself in flesh * taken from Thy Virgin Mother, * and as Lord Thou knowest how easily we fall: * forgive and have compassion upon those who have departed from this life, * for with faith they have entrusted their souls to Thee, ** our Master and our only God.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: **W**hen Gabriel announced to thee, "Rejoice!", O Virgin, * the Master of all became incarnate within thee, the holy tabernacle, * at his cry, as the righteous David said. Thou wast shown to be more spacious than the heavens, * having borne thy Creator. * Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee! * Glory to Him Who came forth from thee! ** Glory to Him Who hath set us free by thy birthgiving.

AT LAUDS:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Come, all ye peoples, * and with hymns and spiritual songs * let us honour the passion-bearers of Christ, * the lights of the world and heralds of the faith. * They are an ever-flowing fountain * that poureth forth healing for the faithful. * By their prayers, O Christ our God, * grant peace to Thy world, ** and to our souls great mercy.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

These are the soldiers of the mighty King, * who resisted tyrants and bravely scorned all torment. * Trampling every delusion underfoot, * they have been rightly crowned: * and now they entreat the Savior ** that peace and great mercy be bestowed upon our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O ye all-praised martyrs, * neither tribulation nor distress, nor hunger, * neither scourging, nor the fury of wild beasts * nor the sword, nor threat of fire, * could separate you from God. * But suffering out of love for Him, * as though your bodies were not your own, * ye forgot nature and despised death. * Whereby ye were deemed worthy of the reward that ye deserved * for all the struggles ye endured, * inheriting the heavenly Kingdom. ** Pray ye on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye martyrs, * for ye have fought the good fight. * Ye resisted kings and conquered tyrants; * ye feared neither fire nor the sword, * nor the wild beasts that devoured your bodies. * But, singing with the angels a hymn of praise to Christ, * ye received crowns of victory from heaven. ** Pray ye that we be granted great mercy.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: Through Thine actions, O my Savior, * Thou hast revealed Thyself as the resurrection of all; * for by a word, O Word, * Thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, * shattering the gates of Hades; * showing the death of man, to be but sleep. * Thou hast come to save and not to judge Thy creature: * grant rest in Thy loving compassion ** to those whom Thou hast chosen.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Thy childbearing, O Maiden, * filleth with joy the choir of the prophets, * the divine assembly of the patriarchs, * the revered apostles, the company of bishops and martyrs, * the ranks of venerable monks and righteous men. * For acknowledging thee as the source of all the hierarchies of heaven, ** they honour thee as the Mother of God.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

We entreat Thee, O Savior, * grant to the departed a share in the life of blessedness with Thee. * Grant them rest in the tabernacles of the righteous, * in the mansions of Thy saints, * in Thy heavenly dwellings; * and in Thy tender compassion * consider not their offences, ** but grant them eternal rest.

Verse: **Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.**

No man is free from sin, none save Thee, * who alone art immortal. * Therefore in Thy divine compassion * grant unto Thy servants a dwelling-place * in light with the choirs of Thine angels. * In Thy tender compassion overlook their sins ** and grant them forgiveness.

Verse: **Their commemoration * is from generation to generation.**

Higher than all things visible, O Savior, * are Thy promised blessings, * which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, * nor ever entered into the heart of man. * Grant to those who have departed unto Thee * a share in these Thy blessings, ** and bestow upon them eternal life.

Glory ...,

Thy servants departed unto Thee, O Lord, * trusting and rejoicing in Thy Cross. * Through the Cross and the Blood that Thou hast shed for the life of the world, * grant them deliverance from their offences, * in Thy tender compassion pardoning their trespasses, ** and shining upon them with the light of Thy countenance.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Pray to Christ Thy Child, O Virgin Mother, * that He may grant to Thy servants forgiveness of sins, * who with a proper faith in the dogmas of the Church * proclaim thee to be the Theotokos; * and may He deem them worthy ** of the radiance and glory of the saints in His Kingdom.

TONE TWO
VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: **O**ut of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Having no desire for earthly pleasure, * O ye passion-bearers, * ye were granted heavenly blessings, * and became fellow-citizens with the angels. ** By their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us.

Verse: **L**et Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

By the intercessions of the holy martyrs, * who sing in praise of Christ, * all manner of delusion hath ceased, * and by faith the race of mankind hath been saved.

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

The company of martyrs resisted the tyrants, saying: * 'We war on behalf of the Ruler of the powers on high; * though ye give us up to fire and torment, ** we shall not deny the power of the Trinity.'

Verse: **F**or Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O ye saints great is the glory, * that ye have gained through your Faith. * For not only by your sufferings were ye victorious over the enemy; * but even after death, as physicians of body and soul, * ye drive out evil spirits and bring healing to the infirm. * Intercede before the Lord, ** that mercy be granted to our souls.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: **W**oe is me! How great a struggle the soul endures at its parting from the body. Woe is me! How many tears it sheds, but there is none to pity it. Turning to the angels, it supplicates in vain; stretching out its hands to men, it finds no-one to help. Therefore, my beloved brethren, reflecting on the shortness of our life, let us ask Christ to grant rest to the departed and to grant our souls great mercy.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: 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.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

O ye saints great is the glory, * that ye have gained through your Faith. * For not only by your sufferings were ye victorious over the enemy; * but even after death, as physicians of body and soul, * ye drive out evil spirits and bring healing to the infirm. * Intercede before the Lord, * that mercy be granted to our souls.

Verse: **Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.**

As a flower withereth and a dream passeth away, * so doth the flesh of each man dissipate upon death. * But at the sound of the trump all the dead as if in an earthquake * shall rise up again to meet Thee, O Christ our God. * Grant then, O Master, unto all Thy servants * whom Thou hast taken from us, * to eternally dwell in the tabernacles of Thy saints.

Verse. **Their souls * dwell among the righteous.**

Woe is me! how great a struggle doth the soul * endure at its parting from the body. * Woe is me! how many tears doth it shed, * but there is no one to take pity. * Turning its eyes to the angels, it supplicates in vain; * stretching out its hands to men, it finds none to help. * Therefore, my beloved brethren, * reflecting upon the shortness of our life, * let us ask Christ to grant rest to the departed ** and to our souls great mercy.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Save from misfortunes, * thy servants O Virgin Theotokos, * for after God * it is to thee that we flee, ** as to an impregnable rampart and protection.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

Thou hast made Thy saints to shine brighter than gold, * and in Thy love Thou hast glorified Thy holy ones. * By their intercessions, O Christ God, * grant peace to our life and make our prayer ascend as incense, ** O Thou who alone dost rest among the saints.

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

O martyrs of the Lord, * blessed is the earth upon which your blood Was shed, * and holy are the shrines * that have received your bodies. * For in the arena ye openly triumphed over the enemy, * and with boldness ye preached Christ. * We entreat you, pray to Him that in His loving compassion ** He may grant salvation to our souls.

Verse: To the saints that are in the earth, * the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

Apóstoles, martyrs and prophets, * hierarchs, holy monks and righteous men, * ye who have fought the good fight, * and kept the faith to the end: * since ye have boldness in the presence of the Savior, * we entreat you, pray to Him on our behalf * that in His compassionate love ** He may grant salvation to our souls.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: Remembering O Lord, those that have fallen asleep, * I call to mind the coming judgment; * and foreseeing my condemnation I cry to Thee from fear of torment: ** O merciful Savior, have mercy on me.

Now & ever ...,

O holy Mother of the ineffable Light: * we reverently magnify thee, ** honoring thee with angelic hymns.

AT LAUDS:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Because ye suffered for Christ's sake unto death, * O passion-bearers, * your souls dwell in the hand of God in the heavens, * and your relics are honored and exalted throughout all the world; * priests and kings venerate them, * and rejoicing with all peoples we cry aloud: ** precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Taking up the Cross of Christ as their unconquerable weapon, * the holy martyrs destroyed all the power of the devil; * and, receiving heavenly crowns, they became a rampart of defense for us ** by their ceaseless intercessions on our behalf.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The multitude of Thy saints intercedeth with Thee, O Christ: ** have mercy upon us as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Every city and land doth honor your relics, * O passion-bearers. * For, striving lawfully for the prize, * ye have received crowns from heaven; * wherefore ye are the boast of priests, * the victory of kings, ** and the glory of the Church.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: From the earth hast Thou formed me, * and because of the transgression Thou hast condemned me to return to earth once more. * Thou hast appointed a day of examination, * when each man's hidden deeds shall stand revealed before Thee. * Spare me then, O sinless Lord, * and grant me the forgiveness of my sins, ** and shut me not out from Thy Kingdom.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Rejoice, O Theotokos Mary, * thou indestructible and surpassingly holy temple; * as the prophet crieth out: ** Holy is thy temple, wondrous in righteousness!

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

By Thy lifegiving death, O Master, * Thou hast overthrown the violence and corruption of death; * Thou hast become a fountain of eternal life for all, * granting resurrection to the dead. * Wherefore we entreat Thee: * grant rest, O Savior, to those who have departed unto Thee in faith, * and deem them worthy of the fullness of Thy glory, ** as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Having accepted a voluntary death, * Thou didst endure the Cross, * so as to make men partakers of Thy divine Kingdom. * Therefore we entreat Thee: * in Thy tender compassion grant to those who have departed unto Thee in faith * a share in Thy Kingdom, ** and grant them Thine eternal and glorious blessedness.

Verse: Their commemoration is from generation to generation.

In Thy surpassing love * Thou didst desire to save the work of Thine hands,
* and with joy fulfilled the deep mystery of the work of Redemption, *
purchasing with Thy precious blood the whole world; * wherefore we entreat
Thee: * be merciful to those who have departed unto Thee in faith, * and as
Thou art the Lover of mankind, deem them worthy ** of the sweetness of Thy
countenance.

Glory ...,

The dead from all the ages shall stand with trembling * before Thy dread
and fearful judgment seat, * awaiting Thy righteous judgment and just verdict,
O Savior, * spare then Thy servants, O Master, * who have departed unto Thee
in faith, ** and grant them Thine eternal blessedness and joy.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Thou, O pure One, hast conceived God * who hath repayed
the debt of our first mother Eve, * bestowing upon the faithful incorruption
and resurrection, * and crowning those who glorify thee * with immortal glory.
* Cease not to intercede before Him, * that the light of His splendor shine upon
us all, ** O Bride of God.

TONE THREE
AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Great is the power of Thy martyrs, O Christ! * Though they lie in their tombs, * they drive out evil spirits and subdue the power of the enemy, * through faith in the Trinity.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

The prophets, the apostles of Christ, * and the martyrs having taught mankind to sing the praises * of the consubstantial Trinity; * have given light unto the nations that had gone astray, ** making of the sons of men companions of the angels.

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

Strengthened through faith and made strong by hope, * the souls of the Thy Martyrs O Lord, * united by the love of Thy Cross, * destroyed the tyranny of the enemy; * and, receiving crowns of glory, * they, together with the angels, ** intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Great is the power of Thy Cross, O Lord! * Having been set in its place, it acts throughout all the world; * making apostles of fishermen, * and turning the Gentiles into martyrs, * that they may intercede on behalf of our souls.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: All things human, which endure not after death, are vain. * Our wealth will not remain, * our glory will not go with us upon the way: * for when death cometh, all these things will fade away. * Therefore let us cry to Christ the immortal King: * Grant rest to our departed brethren * and grant them to dwell with the joyous.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: How can we, O all-honored one, * not marvel at thine Offspring? * who is both God and man. * For without knowing a man, O all-immaculate One, * without a father thou hast given birth to a Son in the flesh, * who without a mother was begotten from the Father before all ages, * yet in no way undergoing change, fusion or separation, * but preserving fully the characteristics of both natures. * Wherefore, O Sovereign Lady, and Virgin Mother, * beseech Him to save the souls of those ** who with Orthodox faith confess thee to be the true Theotokos.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

Strengthened through faith and made strong by hope, * the souls of the Thy Martyrs O Lord, * united by the love of Thy Cross, * destroyed the tyranny of the enemy; * and, receiving crowns of glory, * they, together with the angels, * intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

All things human, which endure not after death, are vain. * Our wealth will not remain, * our glory will not go with us upon the way: * for when death cometh, all these things will fade away. * Therefore let us cry to Christ the immortal King: * Grant rest to our departed brethren * and grant them to dwell with the joyous.

Verse. Their memorial * is from generation to generation.

O race of mankind, why do ye trouble yourself in vain? * The path on which ye run is short. * Our life is but smoke, vapor, ashes and dust; * it appeareth but briefly, and then vanisheth. * Therefore let us cry unto Christ the immortal King: * Grant rest to our departed brethren * and grant them to dwell with the joyous.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

O Theotokos - holy among women, * thou Mother unwedded: * entreat the King and God Whom thou didst bear, * that He save us, ** insofar as He is the Lover of mankind.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

Rejoice now, all ye who love the passion-bearers, * and with one accord chant praises to Christ. * He hath made them shine like stars upon the world, * and year by year their festivals confer on us the grace of miracles, ** enlightening our minds and souls.

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

Your brave endurance, O glorious martyrs, * defeated the machinations of the enemy * from whom all evil doth come; * wherefore ye were deemed worthy of eternal blessedness. * Intercede, then, with the Lord for the salvation of Christ's faithful flock, ** O ye witnesses of the truth.

Verse: To the saints that are in the earth, the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

Through your faith ye shine like radiant lights, * O physicians of the true worship of God, * holy and glorious martyrs. * Ye were not terrified by the torments of the tyrants, * but ye cast down the blasphemous teachings of idolatry, ** taking up the true Cross as your emblem of victory.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: **W**hen at Thy command, O Lord and Savior, * we shall stand before Thine impartial judgment seat, * condemn us not who have believed in Thee. * We all have sinned, and yet we have not turned away from Thee. * Therefore we entreat Thee, O Christ God, * grant rest in the dwellings of the righteous to those whom Thou hast taken to Thyself, ** for Thou alone art plenteous in mercy.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: **W**e hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, * O Virgin Theotokos; * for thy Son and our God, * accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh * He had received of thee, * hath delivered us from corruption, ** in that He is the Lover of mankind.

AT LAUDS:

Verse: **P**raise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: **C**ome, all ye peoples, * let us honour the memory of the holy passion-bearers. * For, having become a spectacle to angels and to men, * they have received crowns of victory from Christ God, ** and they ever intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

The soldiers of Christ having cast aside the fear of kings and tyrants; * boldly and with courage confessed Him as the Lord of all, * their King and God; ** and now they intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The powers of the bodiless ones marveled at the victorious sufferings of the martyrs. * For though clothed in the body, they turned not away from torments, * following the example of Christ the Savior's Passion; ** ever interceding on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

O holy martyrs, * ye who have fought the good fight, * shining even after death as luminaries in the world: * with boldness pray unto Christ God ** that he have mercy upon our souls.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: Why do we men trouble ourselves in vain? * The path on which we run is short. * Our life is but smoke and vapor, ashes and dust; * it continueth but for a little while, and then vanishes. * Wherefore let us cry to Christ the immortal King: * Grant rest to our departed brethren, ** and call them to be with Thee in the dwellings of the joyous.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, * O Virgin Theotokos; * for thy Son and our God, * accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh * He had received of thee, * hath delivered us from corruption, ** in that He is the Lover of mankind.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA FOR THE REPOSED:

By Theophanes

I glorify Thy precious Cross O Lord, * for through it life and blessedness have been granted to those who with faith and love hymn Thy praises, * O Thou who alone art rich in mercy. * Wherefore we cry unto Thee, O Christ God: * Grant rest to our departed brethren, ** and call them to be with Thee in the dwellings of the joyous.

Verse: **B**lessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself,
O Lord.

We pray to Thee, O Christ God, * for Thou art merciful and lovingly compassionate; * the depth of Thy love is beyond comprehension, * and knowing the nature of man whom Thou hast created; * grant rest to our departed brethren, ** and call them to be with Thee in the dwellings of the joyous.

Verse: **T**heir commemoration * is from generation to generation.

As a man Thou didst sleep in a tomb: * and as God by Thine unconquerable power Thou hast raised up all those in the tombs; * wherefore with never-silent voices they offer hymns of praise unto Thee. * Wherefore we also cry to Thee, O Christ God: * Grant rest to our departed brethren, ** and call them to be with Thee in the dwellings of the joyous.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: We all acknowledge thee, O Theotokos, * to be the noetic lamp that gave birth to the fire of the Godhead * united to the material flesh of man.
* Pray, then, to Thy Son and God: * That He grant rest to our departed brethren, ** and call them to be with Him in the dwellings of the joyous.

TONE FOUR
AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: **O**ut of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Thou art glorified in the commemorations of Thy saints, O Christ our God: * by their intercessions ** send down upon us Thy great mercy.

Verse: **L**et Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Thou hast accepted the patient endurance of the holy martyrs: * in Thy love for mankind do Thou accept our hymns of praise, * and by their intercessions ** send down upon us Thy great mercy.

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

O saints, since ye have boldness in the presence of the Savior, * pray ye without ceasing on behalf of us sinners, * asking that remission of sins, ** and great mercy, be granted to our souls.

Verse: **F**or Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O ye martyrs of the Lord, * living oblations, spiritual burnt-offerings, * perfect sacrifices offered to God, * sheep that know God and are known by Him, * whose fold no wolf can enter: ** pray ye that we be led with you to feed beside the waters of rest.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: **W**here shall all the attractions of this world be? * Where shall the vain show of passing things be? * Where the silver and the gold? * Where the throngs of servants and their clamor? * All are but dust and ashes - a shadow. * Come, then, and let us cry unto the immortal King: * O Lord, deem worthy of eternal joy * those whom Thou hast taken from us, ** and grant them rest in the blessedness that groweth not old.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Prophet David, the ancestor of God, * spoke of thee in psalmody unto Him who hath accomplished great things in thee. * For God was well pleased without father to become a man from thee, * the Queen who standeth at His right hand, * and He - the source of life - showed thee to be His mother, * that he might renew his own image, corrupted by the passions. * Having found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain * He hath laid it upon his shoulders, * that he may bring it to his Father; * and in accordance with his own will * unite it to the heavenly Powers * and thus, O Theotokos, save the world, ** Christ, who is richly and abundantly merciful.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

Thou art glorified in the memorials of Thy saints, O Christ God: * By their intercessions, ** send down upon us Thy great mercy.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Precious is the death of Thy saints, O Lord. * Slain by the sword, and by fire, * they poured out their blood, putting all their trust in Thee * and awaiting from Thy hand the reward of their labors. * They endured to the end and received from Thee, ** Thy great mercy O Savior,

Verse. Their souls * dwell among the righteous.

With the spirits of the faithful departed * grant rest O Savior, * to the souls of Thy servants, * and preserve them for a life of blessedness ** with Thee O Lover of mankind.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

O thou inextinguishable lamp, * and throne of righteousness * most pure Sovereign Lady: ** pray thou that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

By their sufferings, O Lord, * Thy martyrs received from Thee O God crowns of immortality. * For mighty in strength they overthrew tyrants * and crushed the impotent arrogance of the demons. ** By their supplications save our souls, O Christ God.

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

As with scarlet and fine linen * Thy Church is adorned with the blood of Thy martyrs throughout all the world, * and through them she crieth aloud to Thee, O Christ God: * Have compassion upon Thy people, ** grant peace to Thy flock, and to our souls great mercy.

Verse: To the saints that are in the earth, * the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

Armed with Thy Cross, O Christ our God, * Thy passion-bearers defeated the machinations of the enemy * from whom all evil hath come. * They illumine mankind like radiant torches, guiding them, * granting healing unto those who ask with faith. ** By their intercessions save Thy world.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: In Thy loving compassion and almighty power, O Christ God, * grant rest to the souls of those taken unto Thyself from this temporal life; * Have mercy and forgive them all their transgressions; * Have compassion, O merciful Lord, on the work of Thy hands, * by the prayers of the Theotokos, ** since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: 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 uncomingled 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 LAUDS:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Who is not filled with wonder, * O holy martyrs, * at beholding the good fight that ye have fought? * For armed with the Cross and in the body confessing Christ, * ye defeated the bodiless adversary; * ye putting to flight the demons * and driving back the enemy. ** Ceaselessly intercede that our souls may be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

O holy martyrs, * ye have become companions of the angels. * Bravely preaching Christ in the arena, * forsaking all the pleasures of the world, * as though they had never existed, * ye held fast to the faith as a sure anchor. * Wherefore, putting deception to flight, * ye poured out gifts of healing grace upon the faithful, * and intercede without ceasing ** that our souls may be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

How shall we not marvel at your contests, * O holy martyrs? * For, clothed in mortal bodies, * ye defeated the bodiless enemies; * the threats of tyrants roused no fear in you; * looking on the instruments of torture, * ye were not filled with fear. * Therefore, as is right, ye have been glorified by Christ, ** who granteth great mercy to our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Precious is the death of Thy saints, * for slain by the sword, by fire or frost, * they poured forth their blood, placing all their trust in Thee, * awaiting to receive the reward of their labors from Thine own hand O Lord, * they endured unto the end, ** receiving from Thee O Savior, Thy great mercy.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: In a place of peace with Thee, O Lord, * where all Thy saints repose, * grant rest unto Thy servants, ** for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Having thee O Theotokos as our hope and intercession, * we fear not the assaults of the adversary, ** for thou dost save our souls.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

Most Truly terrible is the mystery of death. * How can the soul be separated from the body? * How is this harmony and union broken, * the bond of nature is severed by the will of God. * We therefore entreat Thee: * Grant rest to the departed where Thy saints dwell, ** O Giver of life and Lover of mankind.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

For those who believe in Thee, * death hath become but a sleep, * for when Thou the Master of all wast laid in the tomb, * Thou didst destroy the power of death, * overthrowing its ancient dominion. * We therefore entreat Thee: * Grant rest to the departed where Thy saints dwell, ** O Giver of life and Lover of mankind.

Verse: Their commemoration * is from generation to generation.

Thou hast become our righteousness and sanctification, * and the redemption of our souls. * For Thou didst lead us justified and redeemed unto the Father, * taking upon Thyself the punishment and debt due from us. * And now we entreat Thee: * Grant rest to the departed in joy and radiance, ** for Thou art our Benefactor and our Savior.

Glory ...,

Mankind hath been called back from corruption * to immortality and incorruption; * cleansed by the Blood that hath flowed from Thy side, O Savior, * in which Thou hast washed us clean from the transgression of our first father. * Wherefore we pray to Thee: * Grant rest to the departed ** in Thine eternal habitations with the choirs of Thy martyrs.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Accepting, O most pure One, * the words of those inspired by God, * we believe thee to be the Theotokos. * For in a manner beyond understanding * thou hast given birth to God in the flesh, * Who hath delivered us from the bondage of sin. * Ever beseech Him, that He illumine thy departed servants ** with the radiance of His Light.

TONE FIVE
AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Despising every earthly thing, * bravely withstanding torture, * ye were not deprived of the blessedness for which ye hoped, * being made heirs of the Kingdom of heaven, * O ye all-praised martyrs. * Since ye have boldness before God the Lover of mankind, * pray that peace be granted to the world, ** and to our souls great mercy.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Girding themselves with the shield of faith, * and strengthening themselves with the sign of the Cross, * Thy saints O Lord, went willingly and bravely unto torture, * overthrowing the pride and error of the devil. * By their supplications, O almighty God, * send down peace upon the world, ** and to our souls great mercy.

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

Intercede on our behalf, O holy martyrs, * that we may be delivered from our sins: ** for unto you is granted the grace to pray on our behalf.

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Your souls, O holy martyrs, * were filled with an insatiable love; * not denying Christ ye endured great sufferings and torment, * and casting down the tyrants' pride, * ye kept the faith unaltered and unharmed, * and dwelling now in the heavens, * ye have boldness before Christ, ** pray ye that He grant us great mercy.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: I called to mind the words of the Prophet, * 'I am but dust and ashes.' * I went also to the tombs, * and saw the naked bones, and said: * 'Which now is the king or the soldier, * the rich man or the beggar, * the upright or the sinner?' * But grant rest with the righteous, O Lord, * unto the souls of Thy servants, ** since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: In the Red Sea of old an image of the Bride who knew not wedlock was depicted. * There Moses was the one who parted the sea, * here Gabriel is the minister of the miracle. * At that time Israel marched dry-shod through the deep, * now the Virgin doth seedlessly give birth to Christ. * The sea after Israel's passage remained impassable; * the Immaculate one after bearing Emmanuel remained incorrupt. * O God, who doth exist and is pre-eternal, * and hath appeared as man, ** have mercy upon us.

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

Intercede on our behalf, O holy martyrs, * that we may be delivered from our sins: ** for unto you is granted the grace to pray on our behalf.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Your souls, O holy martyrs, * were filled with an insatiable love; * not denying Christ ye endured great sufferings and torment, * and casting down the tyrants' pride, * ye kept the faith unaltered and unharmed, * and dwelling now in the heavens, * ye have boldness before Christ, ** pray ye that He grant us great mercy.

Verse. Their commemoration * is from generation to generation.

I called to mind the words of the Prophet, * 'I am but dust and ashes.' * I went also to the tombs, * and saw the naked bones, and said: * 'Which now is the king or the soldier, * the rich man or the beggar, * the upright or the sinner?' * But grant rest with the righteous, O Lord, * unto the souls of Thy servants, ** since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

To thee do we pray, as the Mother of God: * O blessed one, ** pray thou for the salvation of our souls!

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

Thy martyrs, O Lord, * longing to drink from the cup of Thy sufferings; * forsook the pleasures of this world * and shared in the life of the angels. ** By their intercessions grant peace to our souls.

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

Through the miracles of Thy holy martyrs, O Christ God, * Thou hast given us an indestructible rampart. * By their prayers scatter the schemes of the heathen * and strengthen the rulers of our land, ** for Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind.

Verse: To the saints that are in the earth, the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

Dismayed not by the proud violence of the tyrants, * the suffering martyrs scorned dangers and persecutions, * and with boldness preached Christ. * Steadfastly enduring cruel tortures, * seen by all to be victorious * they destroyed the deception of idolatry ** and the power of the devil.

Glory ...,

For the Dead: With the righteous grant rest, O our Savior, * unto Thy servants, * and settle them in Thy courts, according as it hath been written, * overlooking, as Thou art good, their transgressions, * voluntary and involuntary, * and all that they have committed either knowingly and unknowingly, ** O Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: O Christ God, * Who hath shone forth upon the world from the Virgin * and shown us forth as children of the light: ** have mercy upon us!

AT LAUDS:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: Blessed is the army of the heavenly King: * for though the passion-bearers were born of this earth, * despising their bodies they made haste to attain to the angelic estate; * and through their sufferings were deemed worthy of the honour of the bodiless hosts. ** By their prayers, O Lord, save our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Thy passion-bearers, O Lord, * imitating the life of the angelic hosts: * patiently endured tortures * as though bodiless ones, * placing all their hope in the blessings which Thou hast promised. * By their prayers, O Christ our God, ** grant peace to Thy world, and to our souls great mercy.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The holy martyrs struggled here on earth, * enduring suffering, they were committed to fire and water, * which received them. * Wherefore by their own words they did say; * ‘having gone through fire and Water, * Thou hast brought us into a place of refreshment.’ * By their prayers, O God, ** have mercy upon us.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Amidst their torments the saints cried out rejoicing: * ‘This is the exchange that we have made with the Master: * in return for the wounds inflicted upon our bodies, * He shall clothe us with a garment of light at the Resurrection; * in return for dishonor, * we shall receive crowns; * in return for imprisonment, Paradise; * in return for condemnation with evildoers, * life with the angels.’ ** By their prayers, O Lord, save our souls.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: Thou hast fashioned me, O Lord, and set Thine hand upon me; * and Thou hast commanded me, saying; ‘ * To the earth shalt thou return once more.’ * Guide me on Thy straight path, * forgive me my transgressions, and save me, ** I pray Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: We bless thee, O Virgin Theotokos, * for from thee hath shone forth Christ, the Sun of righteousness, ** Who hath great mercy.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

With the splendor of Thy countenance, O Christ, * in Thy compassion shine forth upon the departed, * and lead them to a place of verdure, * beside the pure Waters of Thy divine repose. * Grant them rest, according to the desire of their heart, * with Abraham the forefather, * where Thy light is manifest in all its purity, * and the streams of Thy love ever flow forth, * where the choirs of the saints doth rejoice and exult in Thy goodness. * Do Thou grant Thy suppliants repose with them, ** and grant them Thy great mercy. ‘

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

In Thy compassion O Master, * look down upon those who have departed this temporary life unto Thee, * and grant that with one accord they may glorify Thy might, * O Lover of mankind. * Shine upon them with Thy beauteous countenance, * and call them to share in the joy of Thy presence, * that with pure hearts they may rejoice at Thy throne, * where the angels and the companies of saints attend Thee with hymns of praise. * Grant Thy servants rest with them, ** and Thy great mercy.

Verse: Their commemoration is from generation to generation.

To those who have fallen asleep in faith, * grant rest with the choir of the prophets, * with the ranks of the apostles and the martyrs, * and with all those who from time immemorial, * have been justified by Thy redeeming Passion and Thy Blood, * by which Thou hast ransomed captive mankind. * In Thy love forgive them all their offences, * for Thou alone hast lived a sinless life upon the earth, * Thou alone art holy, * Thou alone art free among the dead. ** Therefore grant unto Thy servants rest and great mercy.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: We who were enslaved by the law of sin, * O most pure One, * have been set free by the conception within Thy womb, * of God the King and Lawgiver, * O only Mother and Virgin. * Through Him we are freely justified by grace. * Entreat Him now to write into the book of life, * the names of those who sing Thy praises as the Mother of God; * that being saved by Thy mediation, * we may receive from Thy Son the redemption for which we pray, ** worshipping Him as He who doth grant the world great mercy.

TONE SIX
AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Thy martyrs, O Lord, denied Thee not * and forsook not Thy commandments: ** by their intercessions have mercy upon us

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

Those who suffered martyrdom for Thee, O Christ, * endured a multitude of torments, ** and they ever intercede on behalf of our souls.

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

Thy passion-bearers, * when they contended on this earth, * endured great torments; * but now they dwell in the heavens * and having received a perfect crown, ** they offer intercession on behalf of our souls.

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Thy Cross O Lord, * was an invincible weapon of the martyrs. * They saw death before them: * but, gazing upon the life that is to come, * they became strengthened with hope in Thee. * By their intercessions ** have mercy upon us.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: Thy command was to me my beginning and foundation. * For Thou didst will to fashion me as a living creature * from natures visible and invisible: * Thou hast made my body from the earth, * and given me a soul by Thy divine and quickening breath. * Therefore, O Savior, * grant rest to Thy servants * in the land of the living, * in the tabernacles of the righteous.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? * Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? * For the only-begotten Son Who shone forth timelessly from the Father, * came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, the pure one; * and being God by nature, He becameth man for our sake, * not divided into two Hypostases, but known in two natures without comingling. ** Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one, that our souls find mercy!

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

Those who suffered martyrdom for Thee, O Christ, * endured a multitude of torments, * and having received crowns of perfection in the heavens, * they intercede on behalf of our souls.

Verse: **Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.**

Thy Cross O Lord, * was an invincible weapon for the martyrs. * They saw death before them: * but, gazing upon the life that is to come, * they became strengthened with hope in Thee. * By their intercessions ** have mercy upon us.

For the Dead

Verse. **Their souls * dwell among the righteous.**

Thy command was to me my beginning and foundation. * For Thou didst will to fashion me as a living creature * from natures visible and invisible: * Thou hast made my body from the earth, * and given me a soul by Thy divine and quickening breath. * Therefore, O Savior, * grant rest to Thy servants * in the land of the living, * in the tabernacles of the righteous.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

By the prayers of her that gaveth birth to Thee O Christ, * and of Thy martyrs and apostles, * the prophets and holy hierarchs, * the venerable, the righteous and of all the saints, ** grant rest to Thy departed servants.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs.

With patient endurance the saints suffered and contended, * receiving the prize of victory from Thee, * they brought to naught the schemes of the transgressors, * and were granted crowns of incorruption. * By their prayers, O God, ** bestow upon us Thy great mercy.

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

Persecuted by tyrants, * the martyrs endured and suffered bravely in the arena; * standing nearby them the choirs of angels, * held noetic prizes of victory. * In their wisdom they astonished rulers and sovereigns, * and by confessing Christ they overthrew the devil. * Glory be to Thee, O Lord ** who hath made them mighty.

Verse: To the saints that are in the earth, * the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

The commemoration of Thy saints, O Lord, * is like the Paradise of Eden, for it bringeth joy to all creation. ** By their prayers grant us peace and Thy great mercy.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: Truly all is vanity, * and life is but a shadow and a dream. * Every man born of the earth * doth as Scripture sayeth trouble himself in vain, * seeking to gain the whole world, * and then departeth to the tomb, * where kings and beggars dwell together. * Wherefore, Christ God, * grant rest to Thy departed servants * O Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: O thou good Virgin Theotokos, * the hope of the world, * we beg thine intercession which alone is mighty: * have compassionate mercy upon us, * a people bereft of an intercessor; * beseech the merciful God, that our souls be delivered from every threat, ** O thou who alone art blessed!

AT LAUDS:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: At the commemoration of Thy saints, O Lord, * the whole of creation keepeth festival; * heaven with the angels greatly rejoiceth, * and the earth with all mankind doth make glad. * By their intercessions ** have mercy upon us.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Had we not Thy saints as intercessors, O Lord, * and Thy compassionately tender love towards us, * how would we dare to sing in praise of Thee, O Savior, * whom the angels bless without ceasing? ** O Thou Knower of men's hearts, spare our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

The commemoration of the martyrs * is a joy to those who fear the Lord. * For having suffered for Christ's sake, * they received from Him crowns of victory; ** and now they intercede with boldness on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Great are the wonders, * God hath done for His saints and His elect. * Rejoice and be glad, all ye His servants: * He hath prepared for you crowns of glory in His Kingdom. ** We entreat you to forget us not.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: In days of old in Eden, * partaking of the fruit brought grief to Adam, * through the poison of the serpent; * for in this way death hath entered, * devouring the whole race of mankind. * But the Master by His coming hath destroyed the dragon * and bestowed upon us the resurrection. * To Him, therefore, let us cry aloud: * Spare, O Savior, those whom Thou hast taken, ** and grant them rest, O Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: By the prayers of her that gaveth birth to Thee O Christ, * and of Thy martyrs and apostles, * the prophets and holy hierarchs, * the venerable, the righteous and of all the saints, ** grant rest to Thy departed servants.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

Beyond understanding is Thy tender mercy towards us; * never-failing is the fount of Thy divine compassion, * O Lord of many mercies. * Grant rest in the land of the living * to those who have departed unto Thee, * that they forever abide in Thy dwelling-place, * which they so longed so for. * For Thou, O Christ, hast shed Thy blood for all, ** and hast redeemed the world with Thy life.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Thou hast willingly endured a life-creating death; * becoming a source of life for the faithful, * granting them unending joy. * Do Thou establish in this joy * those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrection, * in Thy mercy forgiving them all their offences, * for Thou alone art without sin, * Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind, * that Thy Name, O Christ, be praised by all, ** and that being saved we shall glorify Thy compassionate love.

Verse: Their commemoration * is from generation to generation.

O Christ Who art plenteous in mercy, * we acknowledge Thee as the Lord of the living * and the Master of the dead * Who in Thy divine power, and Thy love for mankind, * grantest rest to those who have departed unto Thee, * as their only Benefactor; * do Thou grant them to dwell with Thine elect in a place of refreshment, * amidst the splendor of Thy saints. * For it is Thy will to show mercy, * and as God to save those whom Thou hast fashioned in Thine own image, ** for Thou alone art plenteous in mercy.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: **O** most holy Virgin, * thou wast revealed as God's chosen dwelling-place, * having held God in Thy womb and given birth to God, * twofold in nature and in will, * but single in His Hypostasis. * Pray to Him, the Only-Begotten and the First-Born of the dead, * who hath kept thee a pure virgin even after childbirth, * that He grant rest to the souls of those who have fallen asleep in faith, ** granting them the glory of eternal blessedness.

TONE SEVEN
AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: **O**ut of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

Glory be to Thee, O Christ God, * Thou boast of the apostles, * joy of the martyrs; ** whose preaching was of the consubstantial Trinity.

Verse: **L**et Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

O holy martyrs, ye who have fought the good fight * and received your crowns, ** pray to the Lord, that our souls be saved.

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

Despising every earthly thing, O holy martyrs, * and bravely preaching Christ before the tribunal, * ye received your reward from Him for your sufferings. * Since ye have boldness before God, * we beseech you to pray to Him as one almighty, * that He save the souls of those ** who flee unto you for help.

Verse: **F**or Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O all-praised martyrs, ye spiritual sheep, * living offerings and sacrifices acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. * Ye were not buried in the earth, * yet heaven hath received you; * O Ye who have become companions of the angels * we entreat you to pray with them unto God our Savior, ** that peace be granted to the world, and that our souls be saved.

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: **O** Life-Giver and Savior, * grant rest to our brethren whom Thou hast taken from this temporal life, * for unto Thee do they cry: ** O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: **T**hou hast been known to have become a Mother * in a manner surpassing nature O Theotokos, * and hast remained a Virgin in a manner beyond recounting and understanding; * no tongue can expound the

wonder of thy birthgiving. * For while thy conceiving O Pure one was all-glorious, * the manner of thy birthgiving is beyond comprehension; * for where God so willeth, the order of nature is overthrown. * Wherefore, we all, knowing thee to be the Mother of God, * do earnestly entreat thee: ** Pray thou that our souls be saved!

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

When Thou comest to judge all the world, * O Savior, let me not be put to shame, * though I have committed shameful deeds.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

O all-praised martyrs, ye spiritual sheep, * living offerings and sacrifices acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. * Ye were not buried in the earth, * yet heaven hath received you; * O Ye who have become companions of the angels * we entreat you to pray with them unto God our Savior, * that peace be granted to the world, and that our souls be saved.

Verse: Their commemoration * is from generation to generation.

In the beginning Thou didst form man * according to Thine image and likeness, * and Thou didst make him dwell in Paradise * as ruler over Thy creation. * But through the envy of the devil he was deceived * and partook of the fruit, transgressing Thy command. * Wherefore, O Lord, Thou hast condemned him * to return again unto the earth * from whence he was taken, ** and to ask of Thee a peaceful repose.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

As thou alone didst receive the Uncircumscribable One within thyself, * and hast given birth to the incarnate Word of God, ** pray thou that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

Rejoice, ye righteous, and let the heavens be glad: * for, fighting bravely upon the earth, the martyrs have extinguished deception. * Let the Church celebrate a joyous feast of triumph, * giving glory to the Judge who alone hath conferred the victory, ** Christ God who granteth the world great mercy.

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

Ye despised the godless tyrants O saints, * and scorning the pain of tortures ye denied not your faith in Christ. ** Pray to God the Lover of mankind, that our souls may be saved.

Verse: **To the saints that are in the earth, * the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.**

We entreat you, O ye saints, * intercede that our sins may be forgiven, and that we may be delivered from the torment that awaits us ** and from a bitter death.

Glory ...,

In the land of the living and in the habitations of the righteous * grant rest, O compassionate Lord, to Thy servants * whose commemoration we diligently keep; * and whatsoever sins they may committed in this life * do Thou pardon, * for Thou art a God of compassion and art quick to forgive, ** who grantest the world great mercy.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: **A**s thou art the treasury of our resurrection, * O all-hymned one, * lead up from the pit and abyss of transgression * those who place their trust in thee, * for thou who hast given birth to our Salvation * hast saved them that are subject to sin. * Thou wast a Virgin before giving birth, * and a virgin during child-bearing, ** and thou hast remained a Virgin even after giving birth.

AT LAUDS:

Verse: **P**raise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Celebrating the commemoration of Thy holy martyrs, * we chant Thy praises, O Christ, and cry aloud: ** ‘O Lord, glory be to Thee.’

Verse: **P**raise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

In the midst of the arena, before the lawless gentiles, * the passion-bearers cried aloud rejoicing: ** ‘O Lord, glory be to Thee.’

Verse: **P**raise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O all-praised passion-bearers, * shining as lights in the firmament of the heavens upon the whole inhabited earth, * ye cry aloud to Christ: ** ‘O Lord, glory be to Thee.’

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Breathing with one purpose and looking upon a single hope, * vying with each other in their end, * the passion-bearers looked upon death for Christ as the only entry into life. * O strange wonder! Though the tortures might have been put aside, * they seized hold of them as men do treasure, * saying one unto another: ‘Even if we die not today, * a day will come in which we shall surely die, in obeisance to the natural law of birth. * Let us turn what is required of all into an act of generous love; * willingly let us make our own what is the common fate of all, * and let us thereby purchase life with death.’ ** By their intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us.

Glory ...,

For the Reposed: Unto the souls taken by Thee O Lord and Savior of the world, * grant rest in the dwellings of the righteous ** and of Thine elect.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: With the angel we cry out to thee, Rejoice! O Bride of God, * calling thee the bridal-chamber and portal, * the fiery throne and unquarried mountain, ** and bush unconsumed.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

Men saw Thee hanging dead upon the Cross, * Who alone art immortal; * Thou wast laid as a corpse in the tomb, * yet Thou hast delivered us from corruption and death. * Since Thou art an abyss of tender compassion * and a never-failing wellspring of love, * grant rest to the souls of Thy servants ** who have departed from us.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

With the pure joy of Thy comeliness * and with rays of Thy divine light, * shine upon those who have departed unto Thee, * and in Thy love deem them worthy to dwell in the spiritual radiance of Thy splendor; * that they may rejoice with the angels before Thee, ** the Master and King of glory and Lord.

Verse: Their commemoration is from generation to generation.

O Unfailing treasury of compassion, * without end are the splendor of Thy gifts. * Do Thou as God accept those who have departed unto Thee, * and grant them to dwell in the land of Thine elect, * in a place of rest, in the house of Thy glory, * in the joy of Paradise, in the bridal chamber of the virgins, ** for Thou art supremely compassionate.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Thou hast borne the Fulfillment of the Law, * the Redeemer in the flesh. * For to those who lived before His coming * there was no justification in the Law; * but Christ, Who was crucified for our sake, * hath thereby justified us. * Since thou hast boldness as a mother O most pure praiseworthy Virgin, * pray to thy compassionate Son, * that He grant rest to the souls of those who have departed from us ** in the true faith.

TONE EIGHT
AT VESPERS ON FRIDAY EVENING

At Lord, I have cried ..., after the Stichera for the day in the Triodion, we sing the following Stichera to the Martyrs:

Verse: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice.

O martyrs of the Lord, * ye sanctify every place and heal every manner of infirmities: * and now we entreat you to intercede on our behalf ** that our souls may be delivered from the snares of the enemy.

Verse: Let Thine ears be attentive * to the voice of my supplication.

O ye martyrs of the Lord, * we beseech you to offer intercession before our God: * pray that abundant mercy be granted to our souls ** and the forgiveness of our many sins.

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

Thy martyrs, O Lord, having put aside the temporal things of this life, * despised not torture for the sake of the life to come, * wherefore they rejoice with the angels. ** By their supplications bestow upon Thy people great mercy.

Verse: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, * my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

If there be any virtue and if there be any praise, * rightly are these things ascribed to the saints. * Who for the sake of Thee Who didst bow the heavens and descend to us, * bowed their necks beneath the sword. * They shed their blood for Thee, * Who didst empty Thyself and take the form of a servant; * they humbled themselves even unto death, * following the example of Thy poverty. * By their prayers have mercy upon us, O God, * according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies!

Then four Stichera from the Menaion (repeating the first)

Glory ...,

By St John of Damascus

For the Reposed: I lament and weep whenever I see death * and look upon our beauty, fashioned according to God's image, * lying in the grave disfigured and inglorious, * its outward form destroyed. * O strange wonder! What mystery is this that concerns us? * How have we been delivered over to corruption? * How have we been conjoined to death? * All this, so it is written, is by the ordinance of God, ** who doth grant rest to the departed.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: In His love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared on earth * and dwelt among men; * for He Who received flesh from the pure Virgin * and cameth forth from her having received human nature, * is the only Son of God, twofold in nature * but not Hypostasis. * Therefore, proclaiming Him to be truly perfect God and perfect man, * we confess Christ our God. * Him do thou beseech, O unwedded Mother, ** that our souls find mercy!

If the Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts is not served, the following is chanted at the Aposticha:

AT FRIDAY VESPERS APOSTICHA

O ye martyrs of the Lord, * we beseech you to offer intercession before our God: * pray that abundant mercy be granted to our souls ** and the forgiveness of our many sins.

Verse: **B**lessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself,
O Lord.

I lament and weep whenever I see death * and look upon our beauty, fashioned according to God's image, * lying in the grave disfigured and inglorious, * its outward form destroyed. * O strange wonder! What mystery is this that concerns us? * How have we been delivered over to corruption? * How have we been conjoined to death? * All this, so it is written, is by the ordinance of God, ** who doth grant rest to the departed.

Verse: **T**heir souls * dwell among the righteous.

Thy death, O Lord, hath enabled us to be immortal. * For hadst Thou not been laid in the tomb, * Paradise hadst not been opened. * Therefore grant rest to the departed * as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

O pure Virgin, portal of the Word, * Mother of our God: ** pray thou that we be saved.

AT MATINS ON SATURDAY MORNING

After the first reading from the Psalter, the Sessional hymns to the Martyrs:

O holy martyrs, God hath made you noetic torches. * By the power of faith ye have dispersed the dark mist of deception; * rendering the lamp of your soul brightly burning, * and entering into the company of the Bridegroom * with glory ye now dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. * Wherefore we now entreat you, ** intercede for the salvation of our souls.

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

Suffering O saints, in faith, a martyr's death, * ye have became ever-radiant stars shining forth upon all the earth. * Having placed your whole trust in the Lord, * the lamps of your souls burn brightly with the noetic myrrh of the Spirit. * Pouring out your blood, ye have become a chalice bringing forth refreshment to the Church. * O all-praiseworthy Passion-bearers, * ever offer intercession before Christ God, * that we who celebrate with love your holy memory, ** be deemed worthy of the forgiveness of our sins.

Verse: To the saints that are in the earth, * the Lord hath shown the wonders of His will.

By their self-restraint, the martyrs of Christ * put to death the fiery impulses of the passions; * receiving the grace to drive out diseases from the sick, * and to work miracles when alive, and after death. * O marvelous wonder! * For their bare bones are a source of healing. ** Glory be to God, the only wise Creator.

Glory ...,

O Thou who with profound wisdom hast ordered all things in Thy love for mankind, * who hast bestowed upon all man, O only Creator, * that which is best for them: * grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants, * for they have set their hope in Thee, ** our Maker and Creator and our God.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: In thee do we have a rampart and haven, * and an intercessor acceptable to God whom thou didst bear, * O Virgin Theotokos, ** the salvation of the faithful.

AT LAUDS:

Verse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

To the Martyrs: What shall we call you, O saints? * Cherubim, for Christ hath rested upon you? * Seraphim, for ye glorify Him without ceasing? * Angels, for ye renounced the flesh? * Powers, for ye perform miracles? * Manifold are your names, but greater are your gifts of grace: ** pray ye that our souls may be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Bravely have ye fought, O holy martyrs; * steadfastly enduring the tortures of lawless men, * confessing Christ before kings and rulers. * And departing from this life, ye now work miracles throughout all the world, * healing from their passions those in sickness, ** pray ye that our souls may be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O invincible martyrs of Christ, * having triumphed over falsehood by the power of the Cross, * and gained as your reward the grace of eternal life. * Ye feared not the threats of tyrants, * and suffering tortures ye rejoiced; * and now your blood hath become for us the healing of our souls. ** pray ye that our souls may be saved.

Verse: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Having clothed yourselves in the breastplate of the Faith * and armed yourselves with the sign of the Cross, * ye have shown yourselves to be courageous fighters. * Bravely resisting the tyrants * and casting down the delusions of the devil; * ye have been rewarded with the crown of a victor. ** pray ye that our souls may be saved.

Glory ...,

Thy death, O Lord, hath enabled us to be immortal. * For hadst Thou not been laid in the tomb, * Paradise hadst not been opened. * Therefore grant rest to the departed * as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: Thy shelter, O Virgin Theotokos, * is spiritual healing; * for, having recourse unto it, ** we are delivered from spiritual infirmities.

AT SATURDAY MATINS APOSTICHA:

By Theophanes

O Master, by Thy royal authority, * Thou hast signed my liberation in the purple of Thy blood; * and now I pray to Thee with faith: * in Thy compassion grant rest to those who have departed to dwell with Thee; * number them with Thy first-born, ** and deem them worthy to share in the joy of the righteous.

Verse: Blessed are they whom Thou hast chosen * and taken to Thyself, O Lord.

Having fulfilled Thy priestly mediation as a man, * and been sacrificed as a lamb, * Thou didst redeem mankind from corruption * offering Thyself as an oblation to the Father, * and now in Thine abundant compassion, * Thou dost make the departed to dwell in the land of the living, ** where there floweth the streams of joy and the fount of eternal life.

Verse: Their commemoration * is from generation to generation.

In the depths of Thine ineffable wisdom * Thou hast fixed the boundaries of life * foreseeing things to come Thou hast translated Thy servants to a better life; * taking to Thyself Those whom Thou, O Lord, dost lead beside the still waters of rest, * deeming them worthy to dwell in the brightness of Thy saints, ** where the sounds of great rejoicing and praise are heard.

Glory ...,

Though Thou art the invisible Word, * one in nature with the Father and co-enthroned with the Spirit, * yet for my sake who am a man, * Thou hast appeared in the flesh. * In Thy compassion and love, O Life-giver, ** shine upon the departed with the splendor of Thy majesty and comeliness.

Now & ever ...,

Theotokion: **O** Mother of God, * thou hast conceived the eternal Word of God the Father, * pray fervently with a mother's boldness * that He establish Thy servants in the everlasting choirs * of all who exalt and praise thee, * in the place of never-waning light, ** amid the joyful sound of those who keep festival.