

Vespers sung on Saturday 10th February 2024 for Sunday 11th February 36th Sunday after Pentecost ♦ The Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 3

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 3 (For the Resurrection)

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of man, being saved by faith,//
always offers Thee a song.

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.
All creation, praising Thee,//
always offers Thee a song.

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//
for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 5 (For the New Martyrs)

Rejoice, new martyrs and confessors of Russia,
the adornment of the Orthodox.
lambs of the new slaughter, fellow warriors, and guardians of the faith,
Blameless intercessors for us with God in the latter years,
who in your sufferings appear as emulators of the first martyrs;
O unshakeable pillars of patient endurance,//
entreat God that our souls be granted great mercy.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Rejoice, O glorious passion-bearers!
Following in the steps of the martyrs of old,
you contended firmly for the sake of the faith,
in the cruel and grievous times of your land.
And now you rouse all to the glory and praise of God,
Who strengthened your weaknesses and has enriched you with gifts of the Spirit.//
Ever pray for the salvation of our souls.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 5 *(For the New Martyrs)*

O heavenly protectors,
come to us who await the visitation of your prayer,
and deliver us from danger caused by the madness of unbelievers;
for which we are often pursued like prisoners and outcasts,
moving from place to place and wandering in caves and mountains.
Have compassion, O all-praised martyrs and confessors, and grant us relief!
Pacify the storm and extinguish the hostility towards us,//
praying to God Who through you grants to our land great mercy.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 6 *(For the New Martyrs)*

O longsuffering archpastor, Father Tikhon,
in a time of terrible godless persecutions,
comforting the true children of the Church of Russia,
with courage thou didst stand up for Christ and the Orthodox faith;
and, dying day by day for the sake of thy pastoral service,
thou wast revealed as a steadfast confessor.//
For this, we lovingly glorify thee.

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

O true shepherd, Hieromartyr Vladimir,
when lawless men compelled thee to depart
from overseeing the Church of Russia,
thou didst remain faithful in deed and word to Hierarch Tikhon.
Like a holy sacrifice from Kiev, the mother of Russian cities,
thou didst offer thyself to God, praying for those who were slaying thee.//
For this, we willingly glorify thee.

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

O Hieromartyr Benjamin,
as a true son of Christ's Church,
and having heartfelt zeal for her welfare,
thou didst bravely take thy stand against the false shepherds
who were striving to steal thy flock,
but not fearing the threats and false testimony of those who questioned thee,
thou didst turn the judgment back upon the head of those who tested thee;
and then, by thy death, thou didst strengthen Orthodoxy.//
For this, we willingly glorify thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 5 *(For the New Martyrs)*

O most high Master, glorified and worshipped in Trinity,
take pity on us by the acceptable prayers of Thy new martyrs,
who in the presence of tyrants boldly confessed Thee, the One God,
and Thine ineffable saving incarnation, //
from a Virgin Mother, O Son of God.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder
at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honoured Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee//
to be the Theotokos.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy and All-laudable Apostles.

In those days: The rulers and elders and scribes of the Jews were gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Ca'iaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set Peter and John in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man that had been healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is manifest to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people; for all men praised God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old. When they were released they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who by the mouth of our father David, thy servant, didst say by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine vain things? The kings of the earth set themselves in array, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed' for truly in this

city there were gathered together against thy holy servant Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever thy hand and thy plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, while thou stretchest out thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of thy holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. [Acts 4:6-32]

The Reading from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Saint Timothy.

Timothy, my son: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. [2 Timothy 4:1-8]

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

Ye Brethren: All the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. [Hebrews 11:33-40]

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 *(For the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Thou art the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.
Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//
Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,
raising with Thyself those who knew Thee as God//
and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 2 *(For the New Martyrs)*

O new house of Ephratha,
splendid and elect region,
O holy Russia,
guard the Orthodox faith,//
in which is thy confirmation and support.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 *(Theotokion; for the New Martyrs)*

O marvellous wonder;
the Queen of heaven and earth,
who has been entreated by the saints of our land,
has until now sheltered the Russian land,
tenderly enriching the choir of its people.
O mighty and sovereign Lady,
cease not to pray for confirmation of the Orthodox faith in Rus'//
and to pour out wonders forever. Amen.

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection

Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Troparion of the New Martyrs & Confessors

[Music on website / Sheet]

Tone 4

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus,
praising her new martyrs and confessors;
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses,
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution,
they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion

Tone 4

The mystery hidden from before the ages
and unknown even to the angels,
through thee, O Theotokos,
hath been revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate in unconfused union,
Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake,
and thereby raising up the first-formed man,
hath saved our souls from death.
