

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Commemoration of the New-Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

VESPERS: Tone 2

P. Regular Beginning
C. Lord I have cried...

1. Come let us adore the **Word** of God,/ begotten of the Father before the **world** began,/ and **incarnate** of the Virgin **Mary**./ For of His own will He suffered the Cross and submitted to **burial**./ He also rose from the dead and saved me, an **erring** man.
2. Christ, our **Saviour**,/ blotted out the bond that pledged us to the **decrees** of the law/ by nailing it **to** the Cross,/ and He put down the **dominion** of death./ We worship His Resurrection on the **third** day.
3. In common with the Arch**angels**/ let us praise the Resurrection of Christ./ He is the Deliverer and **Saviour** of our souls./ And He will come again in dread glory and great **power**,// to judge the world He **fashioned**.

Stichera from the Triodion (Tone 1)

- 4/5. I was **entrusted** with a sinless and **living** land,/ but I sowed the **ground** with sin/ and reaped with a sickle the ears of **slothfulness**;/ in thick sheaves I garnered my **actions**/ but winnowed them not on the threshing floor of **repentance**./ But I beg Thee, my God, the pre-eternal **husbandman**,/ with the wind of Thy loving-kindness winnow the **chaff** of my works,/ and grant to my soul the corn of **forgiveness**;// shut me in Thy heavenly storehouse and **save** me.
6. **Brethren**, let us learn the meaning of this **mystery**./ For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his **Father's** house,/ his loving Father came out to meet him and **kissed** him./ He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper **glory**,/ and mystically He made glad on high, sacrificing the **fatted** calf./ Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving **Father**/ Who has offered **sacrifice**, // and of the glorious Victim Who is the **Saviour** of our souls.

Stichera for the Martyrs (Tone 1)

7. **With** fervent supplication, O **brethren**,/ let us now begin to chant hymns to the new **favorites** of God;/ **for**, cleansed through fearsome torments, they have been shown to be branches of the true **vine** of Christ,/ abundantly watered with the **sweetness** of grace,/ set **forth** before us in the fragrance of their **holiness**./ And edified by their struggle, with compunction let us also offer unto God the fruit of **repentance**.
8. O our **holy** Tsar and passion-bearer **Nicholas**,/ O new and saintly Tsaritsa **Alexandra**,/ O **child** Alexis, heir to **heavenly** things,/ and royal maidens Olga, Tatiana, Maria and **Anastasia**;/ **ye** who were abandoned by the ungrateful, O holy band of **seven**,/ who through many

humiliations found ascent to heaven, leading with you four fellow **sufferers**:/ **pray** with them to our **all**-good God,/ that He vouchsafe the exceeding sinful people of Russia **forgiveness**,// bring peace to the world, and **save** our souls.

(Tone 4)

9. **Meek**, yet steadfast, wast thou, O elect of the city of **Peter**,/ hieromartyr Benjamin, who wast condemned by New Copronymuses/ and **betrayed** by false pastors to an authority **opposed** to God./ For then God revealed thee as a fearless **teacher**./ Behold, here is thy testament proclaimed from **imprisonment**:// 'For the sake of the Church, let us not **spare** ourselves,/ and let us not betray the holy Church for our **own** sake!'/ And at the lawless tribunal thy discourse was **amazing** to all:/ 'Ye offer me now death or life; but signing myself with the sign of the holy **Cross**, I say:// Glory to Thee for all things, O **Lord** God!'

(Tone 8)

10. Your steadfast **courage** is the glory of the Church of **Russia**,/ O new passion-bearers and **confessors**,/ for ye are the disciples of Philip and **Hermogenes**,/ and the servants of the much-suffering Patriarch Tikhon, who **gave** you your name./ Persecuted and slain, ye remained in tribulations with **patience**./ And who can reckon the number of your torments and **bitter** deaths?/ Yet ye showed yourselves to be preachers to those with you in **bondage**,/ enlighteners of them that before were **unbelievers**,/ performers of the holy **Mysteries**./ Great is your love for Christ, **great** is your faith!// In all things ye have shown yourselves to be **servants** of God!

Glory... (Tone 2)

Of what great blessings in my wretchedness have I **deprived** myself!/
From what a kingdom in my misery have I **fallen**!/
I have wasted the riches that were **given** to me,/ I have transgressed the **commandment**./ Alas, unhappy soul! Thou art henceforth condemned to the **eternal** fire./ Therefore before the end cry out to **Christ** our God:// Receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God, and have mercy **upon** me.

Both now & ever... Dogmatikon (Tone 2)

At the coming of grace, the shadow that is the law **passed** away./ Just as the bush that burned was **not** consumed,/ so hast **thou**, Virgin, given birth and **Virgin** remained./ Gone was the **Pillar** of fire,/ and lo, in its stead the Sun of Righteousness **shone** forth.// Behold, instead of Moses, Christ, the **salvation** of our souls.

P. Wisdom. Aright!

C. O Joyful Light...

P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...

P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)

R. The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah: (Isa 43:9-14a)

All the nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them. Who will declare these things, or who will let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the

truth? Be ye My witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. I am God; and beside Me there is no Savior. I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you. Ye are My witnesses, and I am the Lord God, even from the beginning: and there is none that can deliver out of my hands. I will work, and who shall turn it back? Thus saith the Lord God Who redeemeth you the Holy One of Israel.

R. The reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (Wis 3:1-9)

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

R. The reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (Wis 4:7-15)

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

P. Augmented Litany

R. Vouchsafe...

P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya

The first sticheron is that of the temple followed by:

Stichera from the Triodion (Tone 2)

I come before Thee, Lord,/ with the cry of the **Prodigal**:/ I have sinned in Thy sight, gracious **Master**;/ I have wasted the riches of Thy **gifts** of grace.// But receive me in repentance, Saviour, and **save** me.

(Tone 8)

As the Prodigal I have wasted the riches which the Father **gave** me;/ I have spent them all and now am **destitute**,/ dwelling in the land of evil

citizens./ No longer can I bear to live **among** them,/ but turning back I cry to Thee, merciful **Father**:/ I have sinned against heaven and **before** Thee,/ and I am not worthy to be **called** Thy son:// make me as one of Thy hired servants, O God, and have mercy **upon** me.

Glory... for the New Martyrs (Tone 8)

May the joyous angels of God summon us all,/ and may we rejoice;/ for, rejoicing over a single sinner who repenteth,/ they dance for joy over the multitude of new saints,/ the martyrs and confessors of the Church of Russia,/ who shone forth in their sufferings./ Behold, the Tsar and those of his household,/ the Patriarch, holy hierarchs, priests and monks,/ and a multitude of people of every calling,/ tried by bondage and privations,/ by cruel and multifarious torments,/ and by death, which brought them to everlasting life./ And for the sake of this their struggle,/ grace hath been given them to pray for us,/ for they are a royal priesthood,/ the hope of the renewal of our generation,/ the proclaimers of the mercy of Christ our Saviour,// Who hath called them to His own wondrous light.

Both... From the Triodion (Tone 4)

As the **Prodigal Son**/ I come to Thee, **merciful** Lord./ I have **wasted** my whole life in a **foreign** land;/ I have scattered the wealth which Thou gavest me, O **Father**./ Receive me in **repentance**, O God,// and have **mercy** on me.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 2)

1. Thy **Resurrection**, O Christ,/ has given light to **all** the earth/ and has **called** up Thy **creature**.// Therefore, glory to Thee, O **Almighty** God.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.

2. Through Thy rood, O **Saviour**,/ Thou hast done away with the **curse** of the tree,/ and through Thy **burial** Thou hast put down the **dominion** of death,/ and Thou hast enlightened mankind by Thy **Resurrection**./ Therefore we **cry** to Thee:// Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God, the **Giver** of life.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.

3. Thou, O Christ, didst appear, nailed **upon** the Cross/ having changed the beauty of created things./ And in **cruelty** the soldiers pierced Thy **side** with a lance;/ while the Jews begged that Thy **tomb** might be sealed,/ for they both had no faith in Thy **power**./ But Thou, O Lord, for Thy mercy's sake hast submitted **to** the tomb/ and hast risen on the **third** day.// Therefore, unto Thee be **glory**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.

4. Of Thine own will Thou, O Christ, the **Giver** of life,/ for the sake of mortal man hast endured Thy **passion**/ and hast **descended** into hell, in mighty **power**,/ snatching as it were from the jaws of a great monster those who **awaited** Thee there,/ granting them an abode in **paradise**./

Therefore to us who give glory to Thy Rising on the **third** day, // grant cleansing of our sins and Thy great **mercy**.

Glory... For the New Martyrs (Tone 6)

O holy and most humble priests and **confessors**, / we see how during the dreadful time of persecutions / ye were banished **far** from your homes. / We see you starving, afflicted with **scurvy**, / bereft of your comeliness, covered with **bleeding** sores, / beaten and deprived of sleep by **guardsmen**, / weeping over abandoned children and their defenseless **mothers**. / And who can record **all** your names? / Who can relate to the world all that ye have **suffered**? / Yet God knoweth his elect who have preserved the pledge they had given, even **unto** death, // therefore possessing the boldness to **pray** for us.

Both... From the Triodion (Tone 6)

I have wasted the wealth which the Father **gave** to me, / and in my wretchedness I have fed with the **dumb** beasts. / Yearning after their food, I remained hungry and could not **eat** my fill. / But now I return to the compassionate Father and cry **out** with tears: / I fall down before Thy loving-**kindness**, // receive me as a hired servant and **save** me.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion for the Martyrs (Tone 4) x1

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion-bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women and children, flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: / entreat Him as the One Who planted you, / that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord...
Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 2

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia

C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 2) x2

When Thou didst descend to death, O life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead / and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead / all the powers of heaven cried out: / O Giver of life, Christ our God, // Glory to Thee!

Glory... Troparion for the Martyrs (Tone 4)

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion-bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women and children, flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously

in time of grievous persecutions,/ bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance:/ entreat Him as the One Who planted you,/ that He deliver His people from godless and evil men,/ and that the Church of Russia be made steadfast through your blood and suffering,// unto the salvation of our souls.

Both... Theotokion (Tone 4)

The mystery hidden from all ages/ and unknown to the **angels**/ was made manifest to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos:/ God took flesh in a union without confusion/ and for our sakes willingly **accepted** the Cross;/ and thereby He raised the **first** formed man// and saved our **souls** from death.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

R. Now...
R. Kathisma II
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

The noble Joseph, taking Thine all-pure body down from the Tree and wrapping it in a clean winding-sheet, enclosed it in a new tomb with sweet spices; yet Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Standing before the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb, the angel cried: "Myrrh is meet for the dead, yet Christ hath shown Himself to be a stranger to corruption! But cry aloud: The Lord hath risen, granting the world great mercy!"

G/B... Thy mystery, O Mother of God, is most glorious and passeth all understanding, for stamped with the seal of purity and thy virginity inviolate, thou art acknowledged without doubt to be the Mother who indeed hast given birth to the true God. Do thou beseech Him to save our souls.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Without hindering the Jews from sealing the stone of the tomb, in arising Thou didst bestow the rock of faith upon all. O Lord, glory be to Thee!

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

With one accord the choir of Thy disciples rejoiceth with the myrrh-bearing women; and with them we celebrate a common feast to the glory and honour of Thy resurrection. And through them we cry out to Thee, O Lord Who lovest mankind: Grant Thy people great mercy!

G/B... All-blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for by Him Who became incarnate through thee hath hades been made captive, Adam restored, the curse annulled, Eve set free, death slain, and we have been given life. Wherefore, chanting, we cry aloud: Blessed is Christ God Who hath been thus well pleased! Glory be to Thee!

C. Polyeleos with the addition of the following: (Tone 6)

By the waters of Babylon/ we sat down and wept,/ when we remembered Zion.// Alleluia.

We hanged our harps/ upon the willows in the midst thereof.// Alleluia.

For there they that had taken us captive/ required of us a song;/ and they that had carried us away/ required of us a hymn, saying,/ Sing us one of the songs of Zion.// Alleluia.

How shall we sing/ the Lord's song in a strange land?// Alleluia.

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem,/ let my right hand be forgotten.// Alleluia.

If I do not remember thee,/ let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth;/ if I prefer not Jerusalem as my chief joy.// Alleluia.

Remember, O Lord,/ the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem;/ who said, Down with it, down with it,/ even to the foundation thereof.// Alleluia.

O wretched daughter of Babylon,/ happy shall he be that shall reward thee/ as thou hast served us.// Alleluia.

Happy shall he be,/ that shall take and dash thy little ones against the rock.// Alleluia.

P. Magnification for the Martyrs

We magnify ye,/ O holy new martyrs and confessors of Russia,/ and we honour thy honored sufferings// which ye have endured for Christ.

R. Our God is refuge and strength

C. We magnify ye,/ O holy new martyrs and confessors of Russia,/ and we honor thy honoured sufferings// which ye have endured for Christ.

R. A helper in afflictions which mightily befall us.

C. We magnify ye,/ O holy new martyrs and confessors of Russia,/ and we honor thy honoured sufferings// which ye have endured for Christ.

(Do NOT sing G/B... Alleluia but go directly to the following)

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)

P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

After the Passion, when the women went to the tomb to anoint Thy Body, O Christ our God, they saw angels in the sepulcher and were affrighted, for they heard them say that the Lord was risen granting the world great mercy.

R. Sessional Hymns of the Martyrs

Ye passed through the fire of torment and the water of tears, and the Lord hath led you forth into the rest of the saints, O new martyrs and confessors of Russia, intercessors who call upon God in behalf of them that understand and venerate your struggle. Glory to Him Who kneweth your

volition beforehand! Glory to Him Who predestined you for the glory of heaven! Glory to Him Who through you granteth us great mercy!

In that ye loved God, O passion-bearers, all things soever ye endured on earth were for your good, and as ones elect ye passed on to the promised inheritance of everlasting blessings. Glory to Him Who gave you strength amid grievous torments! Glory to Him Who hath crowned you! Glory to Him Who through you worketh salvation!

Glory... Ye shone forth brightly in the firmament of the Church, O holy hierarchs of the foremost sees of Russia: most holy Patriarch Tikhon, who with fire pronounced the anathema against the enemies of the Cross; Vladimir, holy hierarch of Kiev, first fruit most ripe of the new harvest of the garden of Russia; and Benjamin, luminary of Petrograd, who from childhood desired to suffer for Christ, which he did. And with you all the passion-bearers are also glorified. Wherefore, with compunction we say to you thus: Rejoice, mighty and steadfast council! Be ye bold intercessors for all that pray to you!

Both now... Gabriel marveled at the beauty of thy virginity and thy most radiant purity, O Theotokos, and cried out to thee: "What worthy praise shall I bring thee? What shall I call thee? I am at a loss and filled with awe. Wherefore, as I have been commanded, I cry to thee: Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace!"

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

I cast the eyes of my heart toward Thee in heaven, O Saviour. Save me by Thine overshadowing.

Have mercy on us who offend Thee greatly every hour, O my Christ, and grant that we may offer Thee repentance before the end.

G/B... It is fitting that the Holy Spirit reign, sanctify and move creation, for He is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

If the Lord Himself were not with us, who would be preserved whole from the enemy, the slayer of men?

Give not Thy servant over to the teeth of mine enemies, O Saviour, for they move against me like lions.

G/B... The Holy Spirit is the Source of life and worship, for by His power as God He preserveth all created things in the Father by the Son.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

They who hope in the Lord are like a holy mountain: they are in nowise moved by the assaults of the enemy.

Let those who live godly lives stretch not their hands forth to iniquities, for Christ will not withhold His staff from such in His portion.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit doth all wisdom flow: through Him have the prophets received vision, hath grace come upon the apostles, and have the martyrs been crowned with the endurance of suffering.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 2)

Arouse Thyself, O Lord my God, in the commandment which Thou hast enjoined, / and a congregation of peoples shall surround Thee.

V. O Lord my God, in Thee have I put my hope: Save me.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.
 P. GOSPEL #2

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...
 R. Psalm 50
 C. (Tone 8)

Glory... **Open** unto me, O **Giver** of Life,/ the gates of **repentance**:/ for early in the morning my spirit seeks Thy holy **temple**,/ bearing a temple of the body **all** defiled.// But in Thy compassion cleanse it by Thy loving-kindness and Thy **mercy**.

Both now... **Guide** me in the paths of salvation, O Theotokos:/ for I have befouled my soul with **shameful** sins/ and have wasted all my life in **slothfulness**.// By thine intercessions deliver me from all **uncleanness**.

(Tone 6)

Have mercy **upon** me, O God,/ in Thy great **mercy**:/ and according to the multitude of Thy **compassion**// blot out my **transgressions**.

As I ponder in my **wretchedness**/ the many evil things that **I** have done,/ I tremble for the fearful day of **judgment**./ But trusting in Thy merciful **compassion**,/ like David do I **cry** to Thee:// Have mercy upon me, O God, in Thy great **mercy**.

P. Save, O God, Thy People...
 Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Overwhelming power once laid low the whole army of Pharaoh in the deep,/ and the incarnate Word hath destroyed pernicious sin./ All-glorious is the Lord,// for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The prince of this world, under whom we have enlisted, not having obeyed Thy commandment, was condemned by Thy Cross, O Good One; for the weak one attacked Thee as one mortal, recoiled from the might of Thine authority, and was exposed as weak.

Thou camest into the world, the Deliverer of the human race and Author of life incorruptible; for by Thy resurrection Thou didst break asunder the bonds of death. This do we all glorify, for gloriously hast Thou been glorified.

Theotokion

Thou wast revealed as higher than all creation, visible and invisible, O pure Ever-virgin; for thou gavest birth to the Creator, in that He was well pleased to become incarnate in thy womb. Entreat Him with boldness, to save our souls.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Of old, the immaterial ladder and the strangely solidified path amid the sea revealed thy birthgiving, O pure one, which we all hymn, for it hath been glorified.

The Power of the Most High, the perfect Hypostasis, the Wisdom of God, Who became incarnate of thee, O most pure one, drew nigh unto men, for He hath been glorified.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Jesus my God, as the Prodigal Son now accept me also in repentance. All my life I have lived in carelessness and provoked Thee to anger.

The divine wealth that once Thou gavest me I have sinfully wasted. I have departed far from Thee and lived as the Prodigal, O compassionate Father. Accept me also now as I return.

Open Thy fatherly embrace now and accept me also as the Prodigal Son, O most merciful Lord, that I may glorify Thee with thanksgiving.

Theotokion

O God, bestow the fullness of Thy grace upon me. Be Thou my Benefactor, and at the holy prayers of Thy Mother pass over the multitude of my offenses.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

O Lord my God, help me humbly to hymn the glory of the new martyrs and confessors of Russia, to whom Thou hast lovingly thrown open the portals of heaven for the sake of their grievous suffering.

O holy martyred Tsar Nicholas, thou who, though deprived of thine earthly kingdom, remained utterly faithful to the King of heaven amid thy tribulations; entreat Him that we also not be deprived of the comfort of His grace amid our misfortunes.

Glory... O holy Patriarch Tikhon our father, rebuker of the children of disobedience, who from the hands of the hieromartyr Vladimir didst receive the wooden staff of the holy hierarch Peter the primate: Seek me out who am a sheep lost in the mountains.

Both... In thy dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Mistress, nor hast thou abandoned the Russian land, but hast been well-pleased to accept the praise rendered thee by the holy new passion-bearers.

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

The sun once passed over dry land born of the deep, / for the water became firm as a wall on either side / when the people traversed the sea, / chanting in God-pleasing manner: // Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Canticle Three

Irmos: The desert, the barren Church of the nations, / blossomed like a lily at Thine advent, O Lord; // and therein hath my heart been established.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

During Thy suffering creation was altered, beholding Thee, Who founded all by Thy divine gesture, in pauper's form, mocked by the iniquitous.

With Thy hand Thou didst fashion me out of dust, in Thine image; and having descended into hades, O Christ, with Thyself Thou didst raise me up who had again been broken down into the dust of death for my sins.

Theotokion

The ranks of the angels marveled, O most pure one, and the hearts of men have been filled with awe at thy birthgiving; wherefore, we honour thee, the Theotokos, with faith.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

He Who, as the Creator of time, far transcendeth all time, was of His own will formed of thee as a babe, O Virgin.

Let us hymn the womb which is more spacious than the heavens, through which Adam, rejoicing, dwelleth in the heavens.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Utterly beside myself, I have clung in madness to the sins suggested to me by the passions. But accept me, O Christ, as the Prodigal.

With the words of the Prodigal I cry aloud: I have sinned, O Father; like him, receive me now in Thine embrace and reject me not.

Open Thine arms, O Christ, and in loving-kindness receive me as I return from a far country of sin and passions.

Theotokion

O fair among women, my many sins have brought me to poverty: enrich me, O pure Virgin, with the vision of beauty, that I may glorify thee.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

What gift of discourse shall we offer unto you, O faithful witnesses of the Word, valiant passion-bearers and pastors, who were reckoned like lambs for the slaughter?

It was fitting for thee, O Vladimir, first hierarch of the Church of Russia, namesake of the holy enlightener of Rus', to initiate the glorious contest of struggle and sufferings. Since thou dost lead the host of passion-bearers crowned by God, let the first crown of praise be bestowed upon thee.

Glory... Thou art shown to be first in the rank of the new martyred priests, O presbyter John, who first stood before the throne of God in

America. For the Lord crowned thee with a martyr's crown as the denouncer of the cruel godless ones in Tsarskoe Selo, as He did another John, the namesake of rapture, who was wondrous in manliness and word before the tormentors. With them, O all ye new martyred priests, grant us aid.

Both... O most merciful Mother, all-pure Virgin, who suffered with thy Son and Saviour: We know thee to be a solicitous comforter both of those of thy servants who have remained in the Russian land and those who are in the dispersion.

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

O Lord, the firm foundation of those that put their trust in Thee, / do Thou confirm the Church, // which Thou hast purchased with Thy precious blood.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the New Martyrs (Tone 2)

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with your confession finished the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: Beseech Christ Who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us, may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model for us that venerate your struggle, // for neither tribulation, prison, nor death could separate you from the love of God.

R. Ikos of the New Martyrs

When the days of trial by fire began of the Church of Russia, and the Lord was not pleased to accept whole-burnt offerings and oblations from us, many hierarchs and priests did not confer with flesh and blood, but, understanding the will of the Lord, offered themselves up as an unblemished sacrifice. And following the eternal High Priest and Mediator of the new covenant, they entered into the holy of holies with their own blood, that the sins of the people might be washed clean. Glorious are your names, O valiant passion-bearers, for ye are a model for us who venerate your struggle; for neither tribulation, prison, nor death could separate you from the love of God.

R. Sessional Hymns

Prone to the weaknesses of the flesh like us, in spirit ye attained the measure of the ancient fathers, O undaunted sacred confessors of Russia, who were banished to the ruined Monastery of Solovki and to other places of imprisonment. And while your sufferings abounded, likewise did consolation from the Lord mystically abound; and ye are now comforted manifestly by Him, having attained unto the setting day of the kingdom of Christ, wherein, we beseech you, cease not to pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory... The priest Alexis, of peasant stock like the elderly prophetess Anna, accepted death of his own will in the stead of a young pastor who was his fellow prisoner. And the priest Peter, whose name signifieth scepter, was shot in the mouth by one whom he exhorted. Glory to Him Who gave to so many priests strength against the godless! Glory to Him Who hath also led deacons to be martyrs. Glory to Him Who giveth to them a twofold grace to pray for us!

Both... From the Triodion

Make haste to open unto me Thy fatherly embrace, for as the Prodigal I have wasted my life. In the unfailing wealth of Thy mercy, O Saviour, reject not my heart in its poverty. For with compunction I cry to Thee, O Lord: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Thou didst come forth from the Virgin,/ neither a mediator nor an angel,/ but Thyself incarnate, O Lord,/ and hast saved me, the whole man; // wherefore, I cry to thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O God my Master, Thou standest before the judgment-seat as one condemned, without crying out, bringing forth judgment in behalf of the gentiles. Thereby Thou hast wrought salvation for the whole world through Thy suffering, O Christ.

Through Thy suffering, O Christ, the weaponry of the enemy failed, and by Thy descent into hades the cities of the adversary were destroyed and the audacity of the tyrant set at naught.

Theotokion

O Theotokos and Mistress, all of us, the faithful, know thee to be the haven of salvation and an immovable rampart; for through thy supplications, thou dost deliver our souls from perils.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Lo! as the dwelling-place of the Lord, the Mother of God, the divine mountain, hath most clearly been exalted far higher than the hosts of heaven.

Having given birth beyond the laws of nature unto Him Who hath dominion over creation, O only Virgin, thou wast vouchsafed a divine calling.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The wealth of blessings which Thou gavest me, heavenly Father, have I wrongly wasted and become the slave of strangers. Therefore I cry aloud to Thee: I have sinned against Thee; receive me like the Prodigal of old, opening Thine arms to me.

I have become enslaved to every evil and in my wretchedness I have bowed down before the demons that provoke the passions; through heedlessness I have lost possession of myself. O Saviour, heavenly Father, take pity on me as I flee for refuge to Thy many mercies.

I am filled with every shameful thing and dare not look up at the height of heaven, for I have foolishly bowed down to sin. But now I return and cry aloud in compunction: I have sinned against Thee; receive me, King of all.

Theotokion

Thou art the help of men, the sure hope of all Christians, O Virgin undefiled, and the refuge of the saved. Save me by thy motherly intercessions and count me worthy of the life to come.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

O new hieromartyr, lamp of Tobolsk, namesake of Hermogenes of Moscow, thy whole life was like a flame which the river Tura could in no wise extinguish. For, drowned, thou didst ascend to thy Lord, and beaten on the mouth, thou didst pray silently until the end. And now thou dost also pray for us.

Dreadful is the report concerning the torments of Andronicus, the holy archpastor of Perm, who, fearing not tortures, commanded his flock to take an oath against the godless authorities. And Basil, holy hierarch of Chernigov, with others sent by the Council of All Russia to investigate the slaying of Andronicus, then suffered with him; and they all stand together before the Lord.

Glory... The archpastor Metrophanes, who glorified the holy hierarch Joseph who of old had been slain by the minions of Razin, was cruelly slain at night; and his fellow bishop Leontius also suffered at that time. Thus, these three hieromartyrs of Astrakhan are illumined by the one light of the kingdom of heaven.

Both... O, how many of the holy icons are now taken from the faithful by the hands of the godless; but the image of the good comfortress is not uprooted from the hearts of them that pray, the confessors of the holy Faith who are bereft of freedom.

C. Katavasia Tone 3

Thy virtue hath covered the heavens, O Christ; / for having issued forth from Thine immaculate Mother, / the ark of Thy holiness, / Thou hast appeared in the Temple of Thy glory as a babe borne in arms, // and all things have been filled with Thy praise.

Canticle Five

Irmos: Thou art a Mediator between God and man, O Christ God: / For by Thee, O Master, / are we led up out of the night of ignorance to Thy Father, // the Source of light.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst break the audacity of the nations by Thy will, as if they were cedars, O Christ Master, for it was Thy will to be lifted up in the flesh upon the cypress, the pine and the cedar.

When they laid Thee, dead and bereft of breath, in a deep pit, O Christ; yet, wounded, through thy wounds Thou didst raise up with Thyself the forgotten dead who slept in the graves.

Theotokion

Entreat thy Son and Lord, O pure Virgin, that He grant peace unto those who hope in thee and deliverance from the assaults of adversaries unto captives.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O ye clouds, rain down the delight of gladness upon those on earth, for a Child hath been given, He Who hath existed from before time: Our God Who is incarnate of the Virgin.

Light hath shone upon my life and flesh and destroyed the gloom of sin! In latter times the Most High became incarnate of the Virgin without seed.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I was enslaved to strangers, an exile in the land of corruption, and I was filled with shame. But now I return, merciful Lord, and cry to Thee: I have sinned.

Accept me now, O heavenly Father, in Thy fatherly compassion as I return from evil, and reject me not in Thine exceeding mercy.

I have angered Thee beyond measure, O Christ, and I dare not look up at the height of heaven. But knowing Thy compassion, merciful Lord, I cry: I have sinned, be merciful to me and save me.

Theotokion

All-holy Virgin, full of grace, who hast borne the propitiation of all, by thy prayers lighten the heavy burden of my sins.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

O Peter and Cyril, great and steadfast confessors, different of character, yet one in faith and firmness of spirit: though ye were exiled, yet ye retained the full right of the Church; and now, as heirs to the kingdom of heaven, entreat God that we also be maintained in the right.

O Agathangelus, angel of the Church of Yaroslavl', rejoice with your friends; for your withdrawal from your brethren, who did not defend the rights of the Church, was a joy to the angels. Ye refused to subject yourselves to impiety; wherefore, ye went forth to tribulations and privations, bearing your cross.

Glory... The life of Damascene moveth all that read it to compunction: How he was on the islands of Solovki, in Kazakhstan and the parts of Siberia, ascending his own Golgotha; how on the bank of a river, tormented by the cold of Siberia, he gave his own outer riassa to a priest who had none. And he himself surrendered his spirit to God on a raft in the cold of winter, one of those of whom the whole world is not worthy.

Both... O all-pure Virgin, guide of steadfast and holy hierarchs: Instruct us to think, to say and to do only that which is right, emulating the confessors who took no pity on themselves.

C. Katavasia Tone 3

In a vision Isaiah beheld God exalted/ upon a throne borne aloft by angels of glory,/ and he cried: Woe is me!/ for I have beheld beforehand the incarnate God,// the unwaning Light, Who reigneth with peace!

Canticle Six

Irmos: Whirled about in the abyss of sin,/ I call upon the unfathomable abyss of Thy loving-kindness:// Lead me out up from corruption, O God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Righteous One was condemned as a malefactor and nailed to the Tree with iniquitous men, through His blood granting remission to the guilty.

Through one man, the first Adam, did death enter the world of old, and through the one Son of God hath the resurrection been revealed.

Theotokion

Thou gavest birth without having known a man, O Virgin, and thou remainest a virgin eternally, revealing the images of the true divinity of thy Son and God.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Human nature, enslaved to sin, hath through thee obtained its freedom, O pure Mistress; for thy Son is slaughtered like a lamb for all.

We all cry out to thee, the true Mother of God; Deliver thy servants, who move God to wrath, for thou alone hast boldness before thy Son.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The depth of sin ever holds me fast, and the tempest of transgressions overwhelms me. Pilot me, O Christ my God, to the haven of life and save me, King of glory.

I have wasted in evil living the riches which the Father gave me, and now am brought to poverty. I am filled with shame and enslaved to fruitless thoughts. Therefore I cry to Thee Who lovest mankind: Take pity on me and save me.

I am wasted with hunger, deprived of every blessing, and an exile from Thy presence, O Christ supreme in loving-kindness. Take pity on me as I now return, and save me as I sing the praises of Thy love for mankind.

Theotokion

O Maiden who hast conceived Christ the Saviour and Master, though in my poverty I lack all good, count me worthy of salvation, O pure Virgin, that I may sing the praises of thy majesty.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

In cruel imprisonment, the daughters of the Tsar and their holy mother drew forth consolation for themselves from the writings of the holy Fathers, and thus betrothed themselves unto Christ. And Alexis their brother was borne in the arms of the martyred Tsar to the place where those royal persona and their four fellow sufferers were slain. And they intercede before God for our race as animate sacrifices.

The mine-shaft became a tomb wherein the venerable martyr Elizabeth ended her royal path with Barbara, her sister in the Lord, and six others. There the Princes bound the wounds of the passion-bearer Prince John. O ye holy martyrs of Alapaevsk, tend now the wounds of our souls!

Glory... O favored ones of God who have suffered in these dreadful days in the Russian land, ye renowned and unknown alike, monks, nuns, men, women and children: Strengthen us by your prayers, that the way may be made straight before the Lord for us who commemorate your struggle.

Both... Many times hath our race been delivered from misfortunes and evils by people praying before thy holy icons, O Mother of God. O Mistress, in thine intercession unite all of our supplications for deliverance from tribulation most cruel.

C. Katavasia Tone 3

The Elder, having seen with his eyes the salvation/ that was come to the peoples, cried aloud unto Thee:// 'O Christ that comest from God, Thou art my God.'

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion from the Triodion (Tone 3)

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father,/ wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me./ Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee:// I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father.// Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

R. Ikos from the Triodion

Our Saviour teaches us every day with His own voice: let us therefore hearken to the Scriptures concerning the Prodigal who became wise once more, and with faith let us follow the good example of his repentance. With humbleness of heart let us cry out to Him Who knows all secrets: We have sinned against Thee, merciful Father, and are not worthy ever again to be called Thy children as before. But since Thou art by nature full of love for man, accept me and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

R. Reading from the Synaxarion and Prologue

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God,/ raised up a lofty flame;/ but Christ, Who is blessed and all-glorious,// spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In Thy loving-kindness, O Master, Thou couldst not bear to see man tormented by death; and, becoming man, Thou didst come and save him by Thy blood. Blessed and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Seeing Thee arrayed in the vesture of vengeance, O Christ, the gatekeepers of hades were affrighted; for Thou didst come to slay Thy servant, the mindless tyrant. Blessed and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion

We understand thee to be holier than the Holy of holies, for thou alone gavest birth to the immutable God, O blameless Virgin, unwedded Mother; for thou hast poured forth incorruption upon all the faithful through thy divine birthgiving.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

At night, Jacob beheld as in a vision the incarnate God, Who through thee hath appeared in splendor to those who chant: Most divine and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Manifesting within thee beforehand the signs of the ineffable descent whereby He united Himself unto men of His own will, O pure one, the most divine and all-glorious God of our fathers wrestled with Jacob.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have bowed down miserably to the pleasures of the body and have become wholly enslaved to the demons that provoke the passions; and I have become a stranger to Thee Who lovest mankind. But now I cry with the voice of the Prodigal: I have sinned, O Christ, despise me not, for Thou alone art merciful.

I call out, 'I have sinned,' and I dare not look up at the height of heaven, O King of all; for in my foolishness I alone have angered Thee, rejecting Thy commandments. Therefore, since Thou alone art good, cast me not away from Thy presence.

At the prayers of the apostles, the prophets, the saints, the holy martyrs and the righteous, O Christ my Lord, forgive me all the offences which have provoked Thee to anger in Thy goodness, and I shall sing Thy praises for evermore.

Theotokion

O Theotokos, thou art more glorious than the cherubim and seraphim and all the heavenly hosts. With them, O Virgin undefiled, entreat Him Who took flesh from thee, God the Word from the Father without beginning, that we may all be counted worthy of eternal blessings.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

The Church of Russia is glorified by your sufferings, O new martyrs, our kinsmen of every rank and estate, who have been slain for Christ by the godless, for the salvation of us who chant: O God our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Set afire by the minions of Satan whose conscience burned with fire, the holy hierarch John of Riga denounced their malice; likewise did those who were hanged: Tikhon, holy hierarch of Voronezh, the priest Alexis of Simferopol', and others wickedly slain. And they cry out to Thee, O Lord, in Thy radiant kingdom: O God our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Glory... Like pure birds into the nest of heaven doth the Lord receive the passion-bearing children who were slain, and who sing unceasingly in paradise: O God our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Both... O faithful deliverer of thy people, implore thy Son and God to deliver thy home again from tribulations more cruel than all that have been before, that, saved by thee, with compunction we may say to Him: O God our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

C. Katavasia Tone 3

We hymn Thee, God the Word/ Who bedewed the theologizing children in the fire/ and dwelt within the incorrupt Virgin,/ and piously we chant:// Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Once, in Babylon,/ the fiery furnace divided its activity at the command of God,/ consuming the Chaldeans, but bedewing the faithful, who chant:// Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Beholding the vesture of Thy flesh stained with Thy blood, O Christ, the ranks of the angels were filled with awe and trembling at Thy great longsuffering, cried aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

By Thine arising, O Compassionate One, Thou hast clothed my mortality in immortality; wherefore, in gladness Thy chosen people thankfully hymn Thee, O Christ, crying out to Thee: Death is swallowed up in victory!

Theotokion

Without seed thou didst conceive Him Who is inseparable from the Father, and He dwelt in thy womb as God and man; and thou didst ineffably give birth unto Him O all-pure Theotokos. Wherefore, we acknowledge thee as the salvation of us all.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Through thee the One Who is incomparable in goodness and power was seen on earth and dwelt with men. And, chanting unto Him, all of us, the faithful, cry: Let all existing creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Truly proclaiming thee to be the pure Theotokos, we glorify thee; for thou gavest birth to the One of the Trinity Who became incarnate, to Whom, with the Father and the Spirit, we all chant: Let all creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all the ages!

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Thou Who in great mercy hast come down upon earth to save the world through Thy voluntary poverty, in Thy compassion save me, for I am poor in all good works.

I have departed far from Thy commandments and in utter wretchedness I am enslaved to the deceiver. But now I turn back as the Prodigal of old: accept me as I fall before Thee, heavenly Father.

Ruled by corrupting thoughts, I am full of darkness and separated far from Thee, and I have lost all possession of myself, O merciful Lord. Therefore save me as I fall before Thee in repentance.

Theotokion

O pure Mother of God, the only restoration of the fallen, raise me up, for I am wholly crushed and humbled by every kind of sin.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

Let us bless the holy hierarch Joseph of Petrograd, the zealot of the purity of the mystical Church, who in his banishment had his bed with unclean swine. And let us hearken to him say to the ear of our heart: by your sufferings and faithfulness exalt Christ supremely for all ages!

Glorious in their life and end were the holy hierarchs Seraphim of Uglich, and Maximus of Serpukhov, who was a physician blessed for a secret episcopate. Of great difficulty is the ministry of the persecuted Church, and they that undertook it have come to stand before Christ God, interceding with Him in behalf of His flock, ever glorifying Him unto the ages.

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

O tireless chorus chanting heavenly praise, right victorious new martyrs of the Russian land: Ye now ever commune with the ever-living Lamb for Whom ye were slain by the godless. Him do ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt supremely for all ages!

Both... O all-holy Mistress, save and free thy servants who suffer even to this day; and grant them endurance and strength. On thee do we set all our hope, and we ever bless thee and exalt thy Son and God supremely unto the ages!

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

Standing together in the unbearable fire/ yet not harmed by the flame,/ the Children, champions of godliness, sang a divine hymn:/ O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord// and exalt Him above all for ever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: God the Lord, the Son of the unoriginate Father,/ hath revealed Himself to us incarnate of the Virgin,/ to enlighten those in darkness and to gather the dispersed.// Wherefore, we magnify the all-hymned Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The thrice-rich tree of Thine all-pure Cross was planted on Golgotha as in paradise, O Saviour; and watered with the blood and divine water of Thy side, as by a divine spring, O Christ, it hath budded forth life for us.

Crucified, O Omnipotent One, Thou didst cast down the mighty; and raising up human nature, which lay below in the stronghold of hades, Thou didst set it upon the throne of the Father. And worshipping Thee Who wilt come therewith, we magnify Thee.

Triadicon

Chanting, O ye faithful, in Orthodox manner let us glorify the threefold Unity, the consubstantial Trinity, the indivisible, all-divine essence, the thrice-radiant, the only incorrupt and never-waning Effulgence, which hath shone forth light upon us.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

In thy womb, O pure one, the Word of God was given to corrupt nature as a staff of strength; and He raised it up which had fallen headlong into hades. Wherefore, O most pure one, we magnify thee as the Theotokos.

O Master, mercifully accept as advocate for us Thy Mother, Whom Thou didst choose. All things will be filled with Thy goodness, that we may all magnify Thee as our Benefactor.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Behold, O Christ, the affliction of my heart; behold my turning back; behold my tears, O Saviour, and despise me not. But embrace me once again in Thy compassion and count me with the multitude of the saved, that with thanksgiving I may sing the praises of Thy mercy.

As the Thief I cry to Thee, 'Remember me.' As the Publican, with eyes cast down to earth, I beat my breast and say, 'Be merciful.' As the Prodigal deliver me from every evil, O King Who pities all, that I may sing the praises of Thy boundless compassion.

Groan now, my soul, all-wretched, and cry aloud to Christ: O Lord Who for my sake hast become poor of Thine own will, in my poverty I lack every good work: make me rich with the abundance of Thy blessings, for Thou alone art full of love and mercy.

O loving Lord, once Thou hast rejoiced at the voluntary return of the Prodigal: rejoice now because of me, wretched though I am: open Thy holy embrace to me, that saved I may sing the praises of Thy boundless compassion.

Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, pray for us!

O new passion-bearers, ye took up the struggle against the malice of the godless ones, holding up the Faith of Christ as a shield before the teaching of this world, and showing us an example of patience and endurance of evils as is meet.

Let us all hear how the wondrous Lydia, though she wept, was steadfast in her sufferings, and moved Cyril to suffer with her. And he became a shield for her, but a sword for the bestial tormentors. And having recounted these things to the Church, Alexis also suffered. By the prayers of these three, O God, have mercy upon us!

Glory... O ye saints whom we have remembered here, and ye countless multitude of those unknown, forgive the poverty of these words, that praises may be written more fitting for you. To reckon your number is not possible. By the prayers of all of you may we that honour you receive from the Lord and Master of our life grace and great mercy.

Both... O all-hymned Mother: even though thy great Church of the Caves hath been demolished by the wicked, wherein the hieromartyr Vladimir, when the day of his murder drew nigh, read the Akathist hymn with great compunction, praying to thee, yet thy mercy for repentant people doth not fail forever. Rejoice, O joyous one, who in thy dormition hath not forsaken us!

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

In the shadow and letter of the Law,/ let us, the faithful, discern a figure:/ Every male child that opens the womb shall be sanctified to God./ Therefore do we magnify the firstborn Word and Son of the Father without beginning,// the firstborn Child of a Mother who had not known man.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Two (Mark 16:1-8)

The women bearing myrrh rejoiced at beholding the stone rolled away, for they saw a young man seated upon the tomb and he said to them: 'Lo, tell the disciples with Peter that Christ has risen. Press forward into the mountain of Galilee; there He will appear to you as He said to His friends.'

Glory... Exapostilarion for the New Martyrs

O holy new martyrs and confessors, exceeding luminous is your struggle for us in these days which are benighted by faint-heartedness: for faith hath failed because of the multitude of our iniquities; love hath grown cold, and hope hath been shaken; but your valor hath enlightened the Church of Russia with new glory.

Both... Exapostilarion from the Triodion

The wealth of grace that Thou hast given me, in my wretchedness I have wasted sinfully; all to no purpose I have left my true home, and as the Prodigal I have scattered my riches deceitfully among the demons. But now on my return accept me as the Prodigal, merciful Father, and save me.

C. Lauds: Tone 2 Stichera

Let every **breath** praise the Lord/
 Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the highest/
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
 Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://
 Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.
 Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
 Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
 The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
 The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
 Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
 Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.
 Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.
 The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,
 To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. All that hath breath, all the creation praises **Thee**, O Lord./ For Thou alone **lovest** men,/ **and** hast put down de-ath **through** Thy Cross,// so as to show mankind Thy **Resurrection**.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. Let the Jews say how the soldiers lost the King over **Whom** they watched./ Why did the stone fail to guard the **rock** of life?/ Let them give up Him who was buried or worship Him risen and **declare** with us:// Glory to Thy manifold mercies, Glory unto Thee, our **Saviour**.

- V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.
3. O ye people, **rejoice** and make glad./ An angel sat upon the stone of the tomb and **announced** to us:/ **Christ**, Saviour of the world is risen **from** the dead/ and has filled the universe with **fragrance**./ Rejoice and make glad, O ye **people**.
- V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.
4. Before Thy **conception**, O Lord,/ an angel brought the joyful salutation to the Virgin, **full** of grace,/ **while** at Thy Resurrection an angel rolled back the stone of Thy **glorious** tomb./ The one, in place of sorrow disclosed **tokens** of joy,/ the other instead of death, proclaimed the Master, Giver of **life** to us./ Therefore we cry: Glory to **Thee**, O Lord,./ Benefactor of **all** mankind.
- V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

Stichera for the Martyrs (Tone 6)

5. Our sacred and great Council of All **Russia**/ heard the dreadful report of the persecutions raised against the **Church** of God,/ and its members all joined in one **conciliar** thought/ and appointed prayers for the persecuted **and** the slain,/ confessors and martyrs, on the day of the **suffering**/ and death of the holy hierarch Vladimir./ He that today doth reason with the **Church** doth know:/ the days of the repose of them that have departed unto God amidst **torment**/ are called the **days** of their birth./ Wherefore, let us **celebrate** this feast// as the nativity of the new passion-bearers of **Russia**.
- V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.
6. The first who were slain for the **Faith** and the Church/ were the first commemorated by name by the most holy **Patriarch**./ O holy hierarch Vladimir, lamb of the Caves, and ye **senior** priests:/ John, Peter, **Joseph** and Paul,/ ye venerable martyrs Gervasius and **Gerasimus**,/ and ye hieromartyrs Paul, Peter and **Theodore**,/ Michael, Vladimir and **Constantine**,/ Deacon John, Novice Anthony and **custodian** John,/ with the vast multitude of clergy, monks and **laity**,/ whose names are all known **unto** the Lord:// entreat Him, that **we** be saved.
- V. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall He greatly delight.
7. O ye that with the holy Tsar were **oppressed** every day,/ O holy and passion-bearing Tsaritsa and royal **virgins**,/ holy royal son, and faithful fellow sufferers who **served** you:/ unjustly were ye all **slain** at night;/ and utterly consumed as victims for **justice**,/ ye are become mediators for us, like incense well-**pleasing** unto God./ Ye also who on

the **next** day/ were buried alive amid dreadful **torments**/ with the holy Princess **and** her friend./ And now, O Tsar **Nicholas**,/ leading all that suffered with thee, O holy lamenter of our generation,// like a new Job, entreat the Lord to **forgive** all.

V. Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

(Tone 8)

8. **Condemned** by the **godless**,/ the priests of God whom the holy **Patriarch**/ had blessed to undergo torments and death for Christ refused to ask for **mercy**./ And when on the morrow they were led to **execution**,/ the guardsmen were at a loss how to drive back the **faithful**/ who came forth to **meet** them./ For the people kissed the doomed ones **condemned** to death/ and their sacred hands and the hem of their **garments**,/ and some chanted triumphantly:/ Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down **death** by death!// O Lord, through the prayer of these hieromartyrs, have mercy **upon** us!

Glory... From the Triodion (Tone 6)

O loving Father, I have departed **far** from Thee,/ but forsake me not, neither reject me from Thy **Kingdom**./ The evil enemy has stripped me and taken **all** my wealth;/ I have wasted like the Prodigal the grace **given** to my soul./ But now I have arisen and returned, and to Thee I **cry** aloud:/ Make me as one of Thy hired **servants**./ For my sake on the Cross Thou hast stretched out Thy **sinless** hands,/ to snatch me from the **evil** beast/ and to clothe me once again in my first **raiment**// for Thou alone art full of **mercy**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of hades, Thou hast destroyed the sentence of death, O Lord, delivering all from the snares of the enemy. Manifesting Thyself to Thine apostles, Thou didst send them forth to preach; and through them hast granted Thy peace to the world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

C. G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 2)

To the women with Mary who came carrying sweet **spices**/ and were at a loss how to **obtain** their desire,/ the **stone** appeared lifted and a divine young man calmed the tumult **of** their souls,/ for he said: 'The Lord Jesus is **risen**./ Therefore proclaim this to His heralds and disciples, for them to hasten to **Galilee**// and ye shall see Him risen from the dead as Giver of **life** and Lord.'

R. Hours:
 Tropar: Resurrection & NMM Russia
 Kontak: NMM Russia/Triodion alternating

At Liturgy

Order of Troparia & Kontakia as follows:

Tropar Sunday
 Tropar Martyrs
 Glory... Kontak Martyrs
 Both... Kontak Triodion

Prokimenon for Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.

V. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me, but He hath not given me over unto death.

Prokimenon for the Martyrs (Tone 7)

For Thy sake, O Lord, we are slain all the day long.

Epistle(s): I Cor 6:12-20 & Rom 8:28-39

Alleluia for Tone 2

V. The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

V. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

Alleluia for the Martyrs (Tone 4)

Gospels: Luke 15:11-32 & Luke 21:12-19

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord...