

FESTAL ORTHROS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010
THIRD WEEK OF PASCHA &
GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER

MARTYR ALEXANDRA THE EMPRESS; MARTYR GLYKERIOS OF NICOMEDIA; NEW-MARTYRS GEORGE OF PTOLEMAIS AND LAZARUS OF BULGARIA

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (TWICE)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. (Choir continues.)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

EKTENIA

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (TWICE)

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live

and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory, For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 87

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

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water,

all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!*

THE GREAT EKTENIA

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

(In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE TWO

Choir: God is the Lord Who hath shown us light. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

1. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.
God is the Lord....
2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.
God is the Lord....
3. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
God is the Lord....
4. The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
God is the Lord....

APOLYTIKION OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA IN TONE TWO

The pious Joseph, having brought down Thy pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen, embalmed it with ointment, provided for it, and laid it in a new tomb. But Thou didst verily rise after three days, O Lord, granting the world Great Mercy.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

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

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN IN TONE TWO

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

Verily, the angel came to the tomb and said to the ointment-bearing women, the ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ is shown to be remote from corruption. But cry ye: The Lord is risen, granting the world the Great Mercy.

THE LITTLE EKTENIA

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KATHISMATA FOR ST. GEORGE & THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

Behold, the spring of grace hath flourished, and for all doth shine the Resurrection of Christ; and with them doth shine for the all-festive day, the light-mantled Great-martyr George. Wherefore, let us all together joyfully celebrate it in a divine manner, wrapped with splendor.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The women brought myrrh and came unto Thy sepulcher. Their souls were filled with joy on seeing the bright Angel's light. With great zeal and boldness, O Lord, they preached that Thou art the God of all, and to Thy disciples they cried: The Life of all hath arisen from the dead.

Second Kathisma

O victory-clad and all-blessed George, when thou didst fervently seek Christ, thou didst bravely demolish the chambers of error; and in the battlefield thou didst confess Christ. Wherefore, O glorious Martyr, implore Christ God to grant us the Great Mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Myrrh-bearing Women, having arisen early and beholding the sepulcher empty, said unto the Apostles: The Mighty One hath put down corruption, and He hath carried off them that were held bound in Hades; proclaim ye with boldness that Christ God is risen, granting us Great Mercy.

Third Kathisma

Thou didst diligently sow the seeds of divine commandments, O glorious Martyr George, distributing thy whole wealth piously to the poor, gaining in its place Christ's glory. Wherefore, thou didst hasten toward unceasing struggles and sufferings confidently. And when thou didst become a partaker with the Passionless in His Passion and Resurrection, thou didst enjoy His Kingdom, imploring Him now for our sakes.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Bringing myrrh for Thy burial, the women came early unto the sepulcher in secret, fearing the remorselessness of the Jews and forseeing the secure sentry of the soldiers. Yet their weak nature conquered that of men, for their compassionate purpose was pleasing unto God. Therefore, they cried out as is meet: Arise, O Lord, help us and redeem us, for Thy Name's sake.

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (REPEAT)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (REPEAT)
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

PROKEIMENON FOR ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

The righteous man shall flourish like the palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied. (TWICE)

Stichos: He that is planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of our God he shall blossom forth.

The righteous man shall flourish like the palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who restest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)

Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.
Priest: Peace be to all.
Choir: And to thy spirit.
Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (21:12-19).
Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.
Deacon: Let us attend!

****TO BE READ FROM THE ROYAL DOORS****

Priest: The Lord said to His Disciples: "Before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for My Name's sake. This will be a time for you to bear testimony. Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; you will be hated by all for My Name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives."

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (NO VENERATION OF GOSPEL BOOK)

Reader: In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross He hath destroyed Death by death.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not

despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Prizewinner, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

(TONE SIX) *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

Today the whole universe is illuminated by the rays of the fight-bearing one; and the Church of Christ, adorned with flowers, crieth unto thee, O George, saying: O minister of Christ and all-fervid helper, cease not to intercede with the Lord for our sake.

THE INTERCESSION

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints, Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers; Nicholai of Zicha, who labored in America, Innocent, Evangelizer of Alaska and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow, Enlighteners of North America; John, Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco, and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer—whose memory we now celebrate—Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios, and Juvenaly of Iliamna; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs, especially Peter the Aleut; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska; of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Pious Joseph of Arimathea, Righteous Nicodemus and the holy Myrrh-bearing Women; of the Martyr Alexandra the Empress; Martyr Glykerios of Nicomedia; New-martyrs George of Ptolemais and Lazarus of Bulgaria, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR ST. GEORGE (Plain Reading)

Thou hast been tilled by God, becoming an honored and pious husbandman. The sheaves of virtue thou hast gathered unto thyself, O George; for having sowed with tears thou didst reap with joy; and didst struggle unto blood, attaining Christ. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, O Saint, thou dost grant to all remission of sins.

In his longing for Christ the King, Who laid down His life for the life of the world, this soldier, the great George, strove diligently to die for His sake; for having divine zeal in his heart, he offered himself up. Let us therefore faithfully sing his praise as our fervent protector, as Christ's glorious servant, who verily imitated his own Master, and who asketh Him to grant to all remission of sins.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On this day, the third Friday of Pascha, we continue to celebrate the feast of the holy Myrrh-bearing women. And we also make commemoration of Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple, and Nicodemus, who was a disciple by night.

On April 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer.

Verses

George, the cutter-down of all his foes in battles, is gladly cut down of his foes by beheading.

On the twenty-third, George's neck was seized by the brazen blade.

George was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, where in his twentieth year, attained the rank of a Tribune and was in the service of the Emperor Diocletian. The most famous George's miracles are depicted in iconography. Near Mount Lebanon was a large lake, inhabited by an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and the breath from its nostrils poisoned the air. George rode up on his horse with spear in hand, and signed himself with the Sign of the Cross. He rushed at the serpent saying, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." George pierced the throat of the serpent with his spear and trampled it with his horse. Twenty-five thousand men, not counting women and children, were then baptized. Diocletian eventually had George and his wife, Alexandra, beheaded in 303 A.D. Though he was a talented officer who amazed the world by his military exploits, George is known as the Victory-bearer, or Trophy-bearer, not only for his military achievements, but for successfully enduring martyrdom.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Alexandra the Empress; Martyr Glykerios of Nicomedia; New-martyrs George of Ptolemais and Lazarus of Bulgaria. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

KATAVASIAS OF THE PASCHAL CANON IN TONE ONE

Ode 1. Today is the Day of Resurrection! O nations, let us shine forth; for the Pascha is the Pascha of the Lord, in that Christ did make us pass from death to life, and from earth to heaven, who now sing the song of victory and triumph.

Ode 3. Come, let us drink a new drink, not wondrously produced from a barren rock, but from the fount of incorruption, that hath come to us with the overflowing of Christ from the tomb, in Whom we are strengthened.

Ode 4. Upon the divine watchtower let the God-spoken Habakkuk stand and show us the angel attired in light, saying openly: Today is salvation to the world; for Christ is risen, Almighty as He is.

Ode 5. Let us rise early at morn, at the break of dawn, and let us instead of fragrant ointment bring pure praise to the Master. Let us behold Christ Who is the Son of righteousness bringing life unto all.

Ode 6. O Christ, into the deepest abyss of earth Thou didst descend, and didst break the unyielding everlasting bars which held men prisoner; and on the third day Thou didst rise from the tomb as Jonah from the whale.

Ode 7. He Who did save the children from the furnace, when He became Man, suffered like unto a mortal, and with His sufferings invested the mortal with the beauty of incorruption, Who is the God of our Fathers. To Him alone be blessing and glory.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

Ode 8. Verily, this day, which is called holy, is the first day among sabbaths, their King and Lord. It is the feast of feasts, the season of seasons, in which we bless Christ for evermore.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

MAGNIFICATIONS IN TONE ONE

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Refrain: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee. (*Repeat after each Verse.*)

- + For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. (*Refrain*)
- + For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations. (*Refrain*)
- + He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (*Refrain*)
- + He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the empty with good things, and the rich hath He sent empty away. (*Refrain*)
- + He remembering His mercy hath helped His servant Israel, as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. (*Refrain*)

THE NINTH KATAVASIA OF THE PASCHAL CANON IN TONE ONE

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying: O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also: rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. Rejoice and exult now, O Zion, and thou, O pure one, Theotokos, rejoice at the Resurrection of thy Son.

THE LITTLE EKTENIA

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.
Holy is the Lord our God. (THRICE)

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR ST. GEORGE IN TONE TWO

A joyful spring hath risen for us, the divine and radiant Resurrection of the Master, translating us from earth to a heavenly Passover. And therewith doth radiate the light-giving memorial of the all-honored Martyr George. Wherefore, let us celebrate it with rejoicing, that we may become worthy of the divine grace from Christ the Savior.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN IN TONE TWO

Hear the voice of gladness, O women; for I have trodden down rebellious Hades, and raised the world from corruption. Wherefore, hasten ye and proclaim the glad tidings to My beloved; for I desire that joy shall break forth thence upon My creation, whence first came forth sorrow.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE TWO

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

For St. George in Tone Two

Verse 1. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Come, let us all, celebrating the all-joyful and all-festal Feast of the glorious Resurrection, celebrate also the joyful anniversary of the Martyr George, and crown him with vernal flowers, for he is unconquerable. And by his beseechings, we may attain liberation from sins and sorrows.

Verse 2. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

To Him, Who granted thee the perfection of life, O all-blessed George, thou didst offer thyself wholly as a breathing and living burnt-offering, a pure and well-accepted sacrifice. Wherefore, thou hast become a fervid intercessor, O Martyr, delivering from oppressions those who extol thee and call on thee in good faith.

Verse 3. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

When thou didst diligently till the seed of the Word, sown in thy pure self, O blessed George, thou didst cultivate it with hardships and struggles; and wisely having treasured it in the heavenly garner, thou didst find the immortal bliss, wherein thou dost now delight. By thine intercessions with God, preserve those who extol thee in faith.

Verse 4. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

O struggle-bearing George, Martyr of Christ, save by thine intercessions those who are in various tribulations, delivering them from all oppressions, and putting away from them evil, soul-corrupting dismay, seeking for us grace and mercy; that, being delivered by thine intercessions, we may all honor in joy thy solemn struggles.

THE DOXASTICON OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FIVE

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

Spring hath shown forth; come, let us be glad; the Resurrection of Christ hath occurred. Come, let us rejoice, for the memorial of the struggle-bearing one hath appeared unto those who believe. Wherefore, O feast-lovers, let us celebrate it mystically; for this one, being a good soldier, did prevail over the usurpers and disappoint them, becoming an emulator of Christ in His Passion, not pitying his earthly vessel. Rather did he leave it naked as brass, rewarding it with torments. Wherefore, let us lift our voices to him, crying: O struggle-bearer George, plead for the salvation of our souls.

THE DOXASTICON FOR THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN IN TONE ONE

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

O myrrh-bearing women, why have ye come unto the grave? Why seek ye the Living among the dead? The Lord is risen, take courage, crieth the Angel.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE ONE

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord: be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)

- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

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