

5th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Holy Imperial Martyrs of Russia:
Emperor Nicholas, Empress Alexandra & Their Children,
Alexis, Olga, Tatiana, Maria & Anastasia, Slain by the Godless

VESPERS: Tone 4

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

1. **Ever** hailing Thy life-giving Cross, O **Christ** our Lord,/ we glorify Thy Resurrection on the **third** day,/ for **Thou** Who art all **powerful**/ hast thereby restored the corrupt **nature** of man/ and hast re-opened for us the upward path to **heaven**,// for Thou only art good and **lovest** mankind.
2. **Being** of Thine own Will nailed to the **wood** of the Cross,/ Thou hast abolished the penalty of disobedience **committed** through the tree/ and by **descending** into hell Thou hast broken, as Almighty, the **bonds** of death./ Therefore we worship Thy Resurrection from the dead,/ and, **rejoicing**, we cry:// Glory to Thee, O **almighty** Lord.
3. **Thou** hast broken in pieces the gates of **hell**, O Lord,/ and put an end by Thy death to the **dominion** of death,/ and **Thou** hast set **mankind** free/ by bestowing incorruption upon the world// together with life and Thy great **mercy**.
4. O **come** all ye **people**,/ and let us sing the praises of the Saviour's Resurrection on the **third** day,/ for **we** have been delivered by it from the unbreakable **bonds** of hell,/ and having received **incorruption** and life,/ we **all** of us cry:// Do Thou, crucified, buried and risen, save us by Thy Resurrection for only Thou **lovest** mankind.

Stichera for the Royal Martyrs (Tone 8)

5. When **thou** didst receive coronation to rule, O Nicholas **anointed** of God,/ saying in prayer before the **nation**:/ "O my Master and Lord, guide me in this great **ministry**,/ that Thy wisdom may **be** with me,/ that I may understand what is **pleasing** in Thy sight,"/ thou didst have no care for earthly **glory**,// but for the glory of **heaven**.
6. **When** the grievous time of trials began in **Russia**,/ thou didst beseech the Queen who reigneth and **helpeth**,/ O holy passion-bearer **Nicholas**,/ that she take the royal authority into her **own** hands./ For the blood of thee and of thy family and **servants**/ crieth out unto the Lord with the suffering ones of the land of **Russia**,/ for Christ to accept it in exchange for the **forgiveness** of sins,// through the supplications of the Theotokos **and** of thee.
7. When **thou** didst reluctantly give up the throne, but **not** thy flock,/ which had rejected and **betrayed** thee,/ nor Christ the Chief Shepherd, O Tsar Nicholas **crowned** by God,/ thou didst meekly accept

slaughter for Him,/ that from the throne of the glory of His **kingdom**// He might save thy prodigal **people**.

8. When persecution, imprisonment and **mockery** began,/ thou didst show forth the greatest **virtues** of faith,/ hope in God and most **pure** love,/ of patience and the **forgiveness** of all,/ meekly chanting prayers for your **enemies**,/ O holy royal virgins and **martyrs**./ Great was your **piety** on earth!// Great is your glory in the **heavens**!

(Tone 6)

9. Having set all your hope in the **heavens**,/ ye laid up treasure for yourselves that cannot be taken away, O holy **martyrs**,/ when Russia turned **away** from its God;/ for the Lord had sent many **righteous** ones,/ calling it to **repentance**,/ but when the people refused to heed them, the Lord permitted great **trials**,/ that sinners might come to their **senses**/ and He might glorify the **faithful**,/ revealing an assembly of new and holy **martyrs**,// among whom the royal passion-**bearers** were great.
10. Thy whole life was in Christ, O holy new martyr Alexandra,/ empress **crowned** by God;/ for thou didst come to Orthodoxy from **another** faith,/ and didst accept it with **all** thy heart,/ loving prayer and the **Church** of God,/ and the teachings of the holy **fathers**,/ and rearing thy children to serve their **people**,// preparing them to **die** for Christ,

Glory... (Tone 6)

Who doth not bless thy labors for the **glory** of God,/ O martyred Tsar **Nicholas**?/ Who doth not hymn the depth of thy **sufferings**?/ These the Lord permitted for the sins of the **people**,/ that He might make manifest thy piety as a **new** Job;/ and He vouchsafed thee to acquire the glorious crown of martyrdom in the **heavens**,/ where, joining chorus now with the **angels**,/ and interceding for us **before** God,// do thou entreat Him, O blessed one, that our **souls** be saved.

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 4)

David, the **prophet**, fore**father** of God/ through Thee gave voice **beforehand** in psalms/ **concerning** the great things **done** for Thee:/ Upon Thy right hand doth **stand** the Queen./ For God Who was pleased without father to be made **man** of thee,/ has shown thee forth as Mother of life and **mediator**,/ that He might restore His image corrupted by the **passions**;/ and that when He had found the stray sheep caught in the **mountains**,/ He might lay it upon His shoulder and bring it to His **Father**,/ and by His own wish that Christ in Whom is great and bountiful **mercy**/ might gather it to the **heavenly** hosts// and save the world, O Theotokos.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
 C. O Joyful Light...
 P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
 P. Wisdom!

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon:

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.

The Reading from the Third Book of Kings:

Solomon stood up in front of the altar before all the congregation of Israel; and he spread out his hands toward heaven: and he said: "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like Thee in heaven above and on the earth beneath. If the heaven and the heaven of heavens will not suffice Thee, how much less even this house which I have built to Thy name? Yet, O Lord God of Israel, Thou shalt look upon my petition, to hear the prayer which Thy servant doth pray to Thee in Thy presence this day, that Thine eyes may be open to this house day and night, even toward the place of which Thou didst say: 'My name shall be there, to hear the prayer which My servant prayeth at this place day and night.' And Thou shalt hearken unto the prayer of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, which they shall pray toward this place; and Thou shalt hear in Thy dwelling-place in heaven, and Thou shalt do and have mercy. Whatsoever offenses anyone shall commit against his neighbor, and if he shall take upon him an oath so that he should swear, and he shall come and make confession before Thine altar in this temple, then shalt Thou hear from heaven, and shalt do, and Thou shalt judge Thy people Israel, that the wicked man should be condemned, to recompense his way upon his head, and to justify the righteous man, to give unto him according to his righteousness. When Thy people Israel fall before enemies, because they sin against Thee, and they shall return to Thee, and confess Thy name, and pray, and they shall utter entreaty unto Thee in this temple, then shalt Thou hear from heaven, and shalt be merciful concerning the offenses of Thy people Israel, and Thou shalt restore them to the land which Thou gavest to their fathers. If it be that they shall sin against Thee (for there is not a man who will not sin), and Thou shalt be wroth against them, and shalt give them over to their enemies, and they who take them captive shall carry them to a land far or near, and they shall turn their hearts in the land whither they have been carried captive, and shall turn in the land of their sojourning, and supplicate Thee, saying: 'We have sinned, we have committed iniquity, we have done unjustly', and they shall turn to Thee with all their heart, and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, whither Thou hast brought them, and they shall pray unto Thee toward the land Thou gavest to their fathers, and toward the city which Thou hast chosen, and the temple which I have built to Thy name, then from heaven, Thine established dwelling-place, shalt Thou hear their supplication, and Thou shalt justify them. May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; let Him not forsake us, nor turn

from us, that He may incline our hearts toward Him to walk in all His ways, and to keep all the commandments and His ordinances and the just ways which He commanded our fathers." And the Lord said unto Solomon: "I have heard the voice of thy prayer, and the supplication which thou madest before Me; I have done to thee according to all thy prayer, and have hallowed this temple, which thou hast built, to put My name there forever; and Mine eyes and My heart shall be there always; and if thou wilt walk before Me as David thy father walked, in holiness of heart and uprightness, and shalt do all those things I commanded him [to do], then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom in Israel forever."

The Reading From The Prophecy Of Isaiah

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me, He hath sent me to proclaim glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of recompense; to comfort all who mourn, that there should be given unto those who mourn in Sion glory instead of ashes, the anointing of gladness to the mourners, the adornment of glory for the spirit of despondency; and they shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. Let my soul rejoice in the Lord; for He hath clothed me with the robe of salvation, and the garment of joy: He hath put a crown on me as on a bridegroom, and adorned me with ornaments as a bride. And as the earth putting forth her flowers, and as a garden its seed, so shall the Lord, even the Lord, cause righteousness to spring forth, and exultation before all nations. For Sion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as light, and My salvation burn as a torch. And the gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and kings thy glory: and one shall call thee by a new name, which the Lord shall name. And thou shalt be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. And thou shalt no more be called Forsaken; and thy land shall not more be called Desert: for thou shalt be called My Pleasure, and the land Inhabited: for the Lord hath taken pleasure in thee, and thy land shall be inhabited. And as a young man liveth with a virgin, so shall thy sons dwell in thee: and it shall come to pass that as a bridegroom will rejoice over a bride, so will the Lord rejoice over thee.

- P. Augmented Litany
- R. Vouchsafe...
- P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya Prayers

(NOTE: The first sticheron is for the temple...)

Stichera for Royal Martyrs (Tone 5)

Rejoice, O martyred Tsar Nicholas,/ who hath room for all in thy heart,/ food for the hungry, comfort for the sorrowful and pity for the suffering;/ who grieveest over the lost and hast mercy of the condemned malefactor,/ zealot of the Orthodox Faith,/ care for the peace of the

whole world,/ burning love for all./ O most earnest victim, most fervent advocate,// pray thou for our souls.

(Tone 8)

With the virtues didst thou illumine soul and mind;/ wherefore, with a horn of oil from on high,/ poured forth upon thy royal head,/ the all-sacred Word and Lord anointed thee with the Spirit, O God-bearer,/ for which cause thou didst receive the orb and scepter of thy kingdom// from Him Who granteth us great mercy.

(Tone 6)

The scepter entrusted to thee by God, O holy one,/ thou didst preserve with care and love;/ and gazing upon the betrayal of those close to thee,/ thou didst mount thy Golgotha,/ and now intercedest for Russia,// that the Lord not reject her.

Glory... (Tone 8)

"Now hath the Son of man been glorified," said the Lord./ And this glory of the Cross was granted also to the royal martyrs,/ who imitated the sufferings of the Saviour./ Wherefore, Christ loved them and hath glorified them in heaven,// that they might pray for our souls.

Both ... Theotokion (Tone 8)

O unwedded Virgin/ who ineffably conceived God in the flesh,/ Mother of God Most High:/ accept the entreaties of thy servants, O most immaculate one,/ granting unto all cleansing of transgressions;/ and, accepting now our supplications,// pray thou that we all be saved.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 4)

1. Ascending upon the **Cross**, O Lord,/ Thou hast abolished for us the **ancestral** curse,/ and descending into hell, having set free those in bonds from all **eternity**,/ Thou hast bestowed on mankind **incorruption** and life./ We therefore praise and **glorify**// Thy redeeming Resurrection upon the **third** day.

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

2. **Hung upon** the wood,/ Thou Who alone art mighty, hast shaken the whole creation:/ While **laid** in the tomb, Thou hast raised up those **dwelling** therein,/ and hast bestowed life and incorruption on **mankind**;/ therefore, we praise and **glorify**// Thy redeeming Resurrection on the **third** day.

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

3. The lawless **people** who gave Thee, O Christ, to **Pilate**,/ condemned Thee to be **crucified**,/ and **showed** themselves thankless towards their **Benefactor**./ But it was Thy good pleasure to suffer **burial**,/ and of

Thine own Will hast Thou risen again as God on the **third** day, // and hast bestowed on us life without end and Thy great **mercy**.

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

4. The **women** who sought Thee came in tears to Thy tomb and when they **found** Thee not, / they lamented and **imploring** said: / "O **Saviour** of ours and Lord of all, how comes it that Thou hast been **stolen** away? / And what place can hold Thy life-bearing **Body**?" / An angel then stood **before** them and replied: // "Weep not, but proclaim the good tidings that the Lord is risen, and grants us joy because He alone is **compassionate**."

Glory... (Tone 6)

When the angel will open the fifth seal of the **Apocalypse**, / they who had been slain for the Word **will** appear; / and thou, O martyred **Emperor**, / leading the multitude of new **passion-bearers**, / with thine Empress, children and faithful **servants**, / in trembling anticipation shalt call out to the children of the Church Militant **upon** the earth: / Come, let us augment the number of the **angels** / by confessing the **Orthodox Faith**, / that we may embrace one another in **righteousness** and peace, // and celebrate in the kingdom of the **King** of kings!

Both... (Tone 6)

O all-hallowed **Virgin**, / Christ, the Maker and Deliverer and Lord **proceeded** from thy womb, / and clothing Himself in me, set man free from the original curse of **Adam**. / Wherefore, O all-pure **Virgin**, / we sing without ceasing to thee as Mother of God and **Virgin** / in truly the greeting of the **angel**: // Rejoice! O Lady, advocate and defender and **salvation** of our souls.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x3

P. Blessing of the five loaves

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3
Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 4

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia

C. God is the Lord... (Tone 4)

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 4) x2

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; / They cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Glory... Troparion for the Royal Martyrs (Tone 5)

Meekly didst thou endure the loss of thine earthly kingdom,/ the bonds and divers sufferings inflicted upon thee by those opposed to God,/ and didst bear witness for Christ even unto death,/ O great passion-bearer, divinely crowned Tsar Nicholas;/ wherefore, Christ God hath crowned thee in the heavens with a martyr's crown,/ together with thy queen, thy children and thy servants.// Him do thou beseech, that He have mercy upon the Russian land and save our souls.

Both... (Tone 5)

Rejoice! Thou impassable **gateway** of the Lord;/ Rejoice! Thou wall and protection of those who take **refuge** in Thee;/ Rejoice! Thou haven **untroubled** by storms;/ Rejoice! Thou who hast not known **wedlock**/ and who hast borne Thy Son and Maker and **God** in the flesh./ Fail **not** in thy intercession **on** behalf// of those who sing the praises of and **worship** thy Son.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

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

R. Sessional Hymns:

Gazing upon the entrance to the tomb, and unable to endure the angel of flame, the myrrhbearing women marveled, trembling, and said: "Hath He been stolen away Who hath opened paradise to the thief? Or hath He risen Who even before His suffering proclaimed His resurrection? Truly, Christ hath risen, granting life and resurrection unto those in hades!"

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

In Thy voluntary counsel Thou didst endure the Cross, O Saviour, and in a new tomb mortal men laid Thee Who by Thy word didst create the ends of the earth. Wherefore, the alien one was bound, death taken grievously captive; and all those in hades cried out to Thy life-bearing resurrection; Christ hath arisen, remaining the Bestower of life forever.

G/B... 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.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Thou didst arise from the tomb as One Immortal, O Saviour, and by Thy power didst raise Thy world up with Thyself, O Christ our God; in might Thou didst crush the dominion of death, O Merciful One, and hast shown forth the

resurrection unto all. Wherefore, we glorify Thee, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!

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

Having descended from the heights of heaven and approached the stone where the Stone of life had lain, Gabriel, arrayed in white, cried out to those who wept: "Cease your cries of lamentation, O ye who have mercy now with you! Be of good cheer, for He Whom ye seek, weeping, hath truly arisen! Wherefore, cry out to the apostles that the Lord hath risen! And receiving this joy, worship the Risen One! Be ye of good cheer, that Eve also may rejoice!"

G/B... All the choirs of the apostles marveled at the dread mystery of thy birthgiving, O pure one: how He Who holdeth all things in one hand is held in thine arms as a man, how the Pre-eternal One receiveth the beginning, how He Who in His ineffable goodness nurtureth every creature is fed with milk. And praising thee, they glorify thee as the true Mother of God.

C. Polyeleos

P. Magnification (once only by clergy)

We magnify you, / O holy royal martyrs and passion-bearers, / and we honour your honoured sufferings, // which ye endured for Christ.

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

P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

Running on before, the myrrhbearing women proclaimed Thine all-glorious arising to the apostles, O Christ: how, as God, Thou didst arise, granting great mercy to the world.

Sessional Hymns for the Royal Martyrs

O Tsar Nicholas crowned by God, thou didst take care for the purity of the Orthodox spirit, imparted by the apostles to Holy Russia through Byzantium of old, knowing that all of them are the bulwark of Orthodox Russia.

Orthodoxy, autocracy and patriotism didst thou profess to be the salvation of Russia, that all therein may sing unto Him Who rose from the dead: O God, preserve the Tsar!

Glory... When thine abominable tormenters imprisoned thee with thine empress, children and faithful servants, the Lord remembered David and all his meekness, O Tsar Nicholas, and for thy piety and faithfulness to Him He sent thee, who wast contrite and humble of heart, the crown of a royal martyr, as He had to thine ancestor, the passion-bearer Paul. Pray thou that our souls be saved.

Both... Let us sound the clarion of hymns! Let us chant together to the helper of our land, the Queen and Theotokos: Rejoice, thou who from ages past hast crowned our homeland with thy goodwill and pourest forth grace upon it! Wherefore, the Church of Russia is made steadfast through thee, in whom we boast, saying: We are thy servants! Let us not be put to shame!

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

From my youth have the many passions warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Saviour.

O ye who hate Sion, ye shall be put to shame by the Lord; for ye shall be withered up like grass by the fire.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit is every soul given life, exalted by purity, and made radiant by the unity of the Trinity in a sacred and mystical manner.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

From the depths of my soul have I cried out to Thee, O Lord. Let Thy divine ears be attentive unto me.

Everyone who hath set his hope on the Lord is higher than all who sorrow.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit do streams of grace flow, watering all creation, unto its enlivening.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

Let my heart be lifted up unto Thee, O Word, and let none of the delights of the world beguile me, unto my weakening.

We who have love for our mothers must needs be yet more ardent in our love for the Lord.

G/B... From the Holy Spirit is the richness of divine vision, sight and wisdom; for in Him doth the Word reveal all the precepts of the Father.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 4)

Arise, O Lord, help us/ and redeem us for Thy Name's sake.

V. O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #5

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

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

Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Having traversed the depths of the Red Sea with dryshod feet,/ Israel of old/ vanquished the might of Amalek/ in the wilderness// by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of the Cross.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou wast lifted up upon the Tree of the Cross, setting aright our fall, O Master, and healing the destruction wrought by the tree, in that Thou art good and almighty.

Thou wast in the tomb bodily and in hades with Thy soul, as God; Thou wast in paradise with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, O Christ, Thou Infinite One Who fillest all things.

Theotokion

At the will of the Father, through the divine Spirit thou didst conceive the Son of God without seed and gavest birth unto Him in the flesh. He Who was begotten of the Father without mother came forth from thee without father for our sake.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst heal the affliction of mankind, O Lord, restoring it by Thy divine blood; and Thou didst break him who is mighty in power, who of old broke Thy creature.

Through death Thou becamest the resurrection of the dead; for the might of mortality was removed when it fought with eternal Life, the incarnate God Who hath mastery over all things.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The people were shaken, the nations were troubled, and mighty kingdoms bowed down out of fear of thine Offspring, O pure one. For my King came: He cast down the tyrant and hath delivered the world from corruption.

Christ, Who dwelleth in the highest and descended unto mortal man, sanctified thee as His dwelling-place, and showed thee forth as unshaken. For thou, having borne the Creator, hast remained a treasury of virginity after childbirth.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

O crown-bearer, martyred Emperor Nicholas, standing before the throne of Christ with thine empress, children and servants, grant us enlightenment, illumining the darkness and insensibility of our souls, that we may praise your blessed memory with joy.

Fulfilled is the promise of the poor elder of Sarov, who said: "God will glorify him who will glorify me." And thou, O all-glorious Nicholas, who prayest with him, hast bent thy knees with him to acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit for thy people.

Glory... Like rivers of water is the heart of the king in the hand of God, which He turneth whithersoever He will, saith the Lord; and as a true

servant of the Lord thou didst speak thus, saying: Not only the fate of Russia, but my fate is in the hands of the Lord.

Both... Seeing the mockery and destruction of thy land by the ungodly foe, the pious emperor wept from the depths of his heart like the Prophet Jeremiah; and, praying for the sinful people, he groaned bitterly: O merciful Lord, turn not away from those who have forsaken their king!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

I shall open my mouth/ and the Spirit will inspire it,/ and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother:/ I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast// and joyfully praising her wonders.

Canticle Three

Irmos: Thy Church rejoiceth in Thee, O Christ,/ crying aloud://
Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge and my consolation!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Tree of life, the true noetic Vine, hanging upon the Cross, poured forth incorruption upon all.

As One great and awesome, as the One Who cast down the arrogance of hades, and as God incorrupt, Thou hast arisen in the flesh.

Theotokion

Thou alone, who in manner transcending nature art the mediatress of good things for those on earth, becamest the Mother of God; wherefore, we offer thee "Rejoice!"

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

O Saviour, the serpent sank into me his fangs, full of venom, which Thou didst break with the nails which pierced Thy hands, O Almighty Master; for there is none among the saints as holy as Thou, Who lovest mankind.

Of Thine own will Thou wast seen, dead, in the tomb, O Bestower of life; and Thou hast overthrown the gates of hades for the souls held prisoner from ages past; for there is none among the saints as holy as Thou, Who lovest mankind.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The essence of men is purified, having been united through thee with the unbearable divine Fire, O all-pure Virgin, baked into Bread which was hid within thee, and Who preserved thee unharmed.

Who is this who is truly close to God? For, having surpassed all the ranks of the angels, she alone shineth forth as the Mother of the Almighty in the beauty of virginity.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

Thou didst keep thy heart humble and contrite, O holy Nicholas, and looking toward the good things of Jerusalem, thou didst cry out: There is none holier than Thou, O Lord!

In the meekness of thy soul thou didst inherit the land of the good at the immovable throne of the King of glory, crying: There is none holier than Thou, O Lord!

Thou didst hunger and thirst after righteousness, for which thou didst lay down thy life, O righteous and holy one; and thou dost possess it to repletion on high, where righteousness abideth forever, and dost say: There is none holier than Thou, O Lord!

Glory... Thou poorest forth healings and miracles everywhere among thy people, who have recourse unto thee with faith, O saint; wherefore, by thy supplications transform our grief into joy, that we may say: There is none holier than Thou, O Lord!

Both... By thine aid preserve us who have thee as a refuge, helper, and protection from on high, O blessed Mother of God, that we may cry out to thee: There is none holier than thou among men and the hosts of heaven, O Theotokos!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **M**other of God,/ thou living and **p**lentiful fount,/ give **s**trength to those united in spiritual **f**ellowship,/ who sing hymns of **p**raise to thee:/ And in thy divine **g**lory// vouchsafe unto them crowns of **g**lory.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion (Tone 3)

Thou wast shown to be an imitator of the intercessor of Myra in Lycia,/ O right faithful Tsar;/ for, fulfilling the Gospel of Christ,/ thou didst lay down thy life for thy people,/ and didst spare the guilty, even those guilty of murder./ For these things thou hast been sanctified by the blood of martyrdom,// as a great martyr of the Church of Christ.

R. Ikos

Thou wast adorned with glory and riches, and a most costly robe, thy brow bound with diadem and crown, yet resplendent with mercy and righteousness more than these, truly guileless, verily adorned with virtue, and shining with grace; wherefore, we bless thee thus: Rejoice, rule of faith; rejoice, model of meekness and humility! Rejoice, invincible long-suffering; rejoice, unshakable dispassion! Rejoice, thou who didst shine forth with love for God; rejoice, thou who didst abound with love for thy people! Rejoice, mighty defender of the land of Serbia; rejoice, eager sacrifice for the land of Russia! Rejoice, thou who hast provided an image of martyrdom for the faithful; rejoice, thou who didst imitate Christ, the Judge of the contest! Rejoice, paragon of Orthodox rulers; rejoice, thou who

hast been glorified by the King of heaven! Rejoice, O holy Nicholas, divinely crowned tsar and great martyr of the Church of Christ!

R. Sessional Hymns

A great multitude of our kin turned away from the anointed of God during the new Time of Troubles; and we now do so also, for we have forgotten the word of God that calleth upon us to honour the king. Wherefore, the wrath of God hath fallen upon us. Forgive and have mercy upon us, O Lord, in Thy great mercy; cleanse us of our iniquities; and grant unto the suffering land of Russia forgiveness, peace and great mercy, through the intercession of the great passion-bearer Tsar Nicholas.

G/B... O kindly Mother of the Light, beseech thy Son and our God, that He establish in our nation the throne of an Orthodox king, that He preserve it in peace and prosperity, that He deliver us from civil strife, and strengthen the Holy Church, delivering it from unbelief, schism and heresies.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Beholding Thee lifted up upon the Cross,/ O Sun of Righteousness,/ the Church stood rooted in place,/ crying out as is meet:// Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In the suffering of Thine all-pure flesh in which Thou hadst willingly clothed Thyself, Thou didst ascend the Cross, healing my passions; wherefore, we cry out to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Death, having tasted Thy sinless and life-creating body, O Master, died as was meet; and we cry out to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Theotokion

Thou gavest birth without knowing wedlock, O Virgin, and even after giving birth thou remainest a virgin still; wherefore, with steadfast faith we cry aloud to thee, "Rejoice, O Mistress!"

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Israel of the law refused to acknowledge Thee as God Who made the law, O Christ; instead, violating the law, they nailed Thee to the Tree as a transgressor, and are now unworthy of the law.

Thy divine soul, O Saviour, having captured the treasures of hades, raised up with itself the souls of ages past; and Thy life-bearing body hath poured forth incorruption upon all.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The Invisible One, becoming visible, dwelt with men; He Who is in the form of the unapproachable Divinity took on a form alien to Himself through

thee, O Maiden, and He saveth those who acknowledge thee to be the pure Mother of God.

The Virgin received the Immaterial One into material participation in matter, when He became a babe through her; wherefore, He alone is known in two essences: as incarnate God and transcendent man.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

The poverty of thy spirit enriched thee, O holy Tsar Nicholas, and the Lord made thee worthy not only of an earthly kingdom, but, even more, of the kingdom of heaven.

Bitterly, with all thy soul and unseen tears, didst thou lament the blindness of thy people, who had spurned their earthly king as well as the King of heaven.

Like Job of old thou didst find no consolation on earth, O holy passion-bearer, but thou didst receive it an hundredfold in the heavens, where thou dost now delight therein.

Glory... His merciful heart embraced all men and all things, and the works of his compassion could not be not hidden; wherefore, the King of heaven opened the gates of His loving-kindness, now manifestly gazing upon him.

Both... Open unto us the gates of thy lovingkindness, O blessed Theotokos, that we may be delivered from misfortunes and our affliction. Wherefore, we cry out to thee unceasingly, for thou art the salvation of the Christian race.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

He Who sits in glory upon the throne of the **Godhead**,/ Jesus the **true** God,/ is **come** in a **swift** cloud,/ and with His pure hand He has saved **those** who cry:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: Thou hast come, O my Lord, as a light into the world:/ a holy light// turning from the darkness of ignorance those who hymn Thee with faith.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In Thy mercy Thou didst descend to earth, O Lord; and, lifted up upon the Tree, Thou didst raise up fallen human nature.

Thou, O Christ, hast taken away the condemnation of my transgressions; and Thou, O Compassionate One, hast destroyed the pangs of death by Thy divine resurrection.

Theotokion

Thee do we wield as an invincible sword against the enemy, O Bride of God, for we have acquired thee as our confirmation and hope of salvation.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Mindless hades seized Thee in its maw; for, having seen Thee nailed to the Cross, pierced by the spear, bereft of breath, it thought that Thou, the living God, wast a simple man. But testing the might of Thy divinity it understood.

The grave and hades divided the ruined temple of Thy body, O Thou Who lovest mankind, and both were against their will compelled to pay a fine: the one by giving up the souls of Thy saints, and the other their bodies, O Immortal One.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The Son of God, making His abode within thee, made thee for us a house of glory, the holy mountain of God, His bride, bridal-chamber and temple of sanctity, a paradise of everlasting delight, O pure one.

Through the Virgin's blood, O Christ, Thou didst receive blood which is seedless, all-pure, hypostatic, reasonable and noetic, animate, active, with a will, possessed of its own power, self-governing.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

In thy soul thou wast shown to be a peacemaker, O holy Nicholas, saving thousands on either side, and other countries as well; wherefore, thou hast been reckoned among the children of God.

Ye endured exile, mockery and persecution, and the utterance of all manner of lying words directed against you, O holy royal martyrs; wherefore, rejoice and be glad, for your reward is come!

Plaiting a crown of thorns, the minions of hidden iniquity pressed it upon thy brow, O sacred one; yet their malicious acts, like them, shall perish utterly.

Glory... In this transitory life ye hastened to the cross and to torment for the sake of Christ, O holy royal martyrs; wherefore, the Lord hath crowned and glorified you amid everlasting life.

Both... We are fallen in the mire of sins, and there is for us no firm footing. The tempest of transgressions hath cruelly engulfed us. Yet, as she who gave birth to the Saviour, look down upon us, thy servants, and deliver us from the soul-corrupting passions.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The whole **world** was amazed at thy divine **glory**,/ for **thou**, O Virgin who hast not known **wedlock**,/ hast **held** in thy womb the **God** of all,/ and hast

given birth to an **eternal** Son, // Who rewards with salvation all who sing thy **praises**.

Canticle Six

Irmos: I will sacrifice to Thee/ with a voice of praise, O Lord,/ the Church crieth unto Thee,/ cleansed of the blood of demons// by the blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Girded about with power, Thou didst ascend the Cross, and as God didst wrestle with the tyrant. And Thou didst cast him down from the heights and with invincible power didst raise up Adam.

Radiant and comely, Thou didst arise from the tomb, O Christ, and didst drive away all the enemies by Thy divine power; and as God Thou hast filled all with gladness.

Theotokion

O wonder newest of all wonders! For when the Virgin, without knowing man conceived in her womb, Him Who sustaineth all things, He was not confined.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Hell opened its maw and swallowed me, and, mindless, it puffed up its soul; but Christ, descending, led up my life, in that He loveth mankind.

Death hath perished through death; for He Who slew death hath arisen, granting me incorruption; and appearing to the women He proclaimed immortal joy.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Of old the serpent beguiled and slew me through my first mother Eve; but now, O pure one, He Who fashioned me hath through thee called me back from corruption.

The Abyss of compassion ineffably showed thee to be His chosen abyss of miracles, O Maiden; for from thee hath Christ the pearl shone forth through the lightning-flashes of His divinity.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

Thou art the helper of all the Orthodox, O Nicholas chosen of God, and thou dost provide a zealous defense for the Slavic peoples, saying: Like a strong city will we help them, brother to brother!

Thou wast shown to be a zealot of the glorification of the saints, the building of churches, the goodly adornment of monasteries, support for the

Holy Land and the Holy Mountain, for Orthodox education and monasticism, O faithful son of the Holy Church.

In your lives, in truth and in works of love, ye were Christians, O divinely crowned Emperor Nicholas and Empress Alexandra, and thus placed Christ the Rock at the head of the corner.

Glory... O royal spouses, with your children and servants ye maintained your love and faithfulness to the Almighty in time of persecution for Christ; and bearing one another's burdens, ye thus fulfilled His law. Wherefore, ye reign with Him forever.

Both... Unto thee, the reigning Queen, the protection of the faithful, do we have recourse, and we set our hope of salvation upon thee, O all-holy Mistress Theotokos. Disdain us not!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

As we **celebrate**/ this sacred and solemn feast of the **Mother** of God,/ **let** us come, **clapping** our hands,/ O people **of** the Lord,/ and give **glory** to God// Who was **born** of her.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion Tone 4

My Saviour and Redeemer as God/ rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains./ He has shattered the gates of hell,/ and as Master,// He has risen on the third day.

R. Ikos

O all ye mortals, let us all hymn Christ, the Bestower of life, Who hath arisen from the dead and the grave on the third day, demolished the gates of death by His own power today, slain hades, broken the sting of death, and freed Adam and Eve; and let us earnestly cry out praise, for He alone, as the only mighty God and Master, hath arisen on the third day.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace,/ afire with love of piety more than with the flame, cried out:// Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Mankind, washed in the divine blood of Christ, hath been recalled to incorruption, and in thanksgiving it chanteth: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Thy tomb, the wellspring of our resurrection, hath been shown to be more splendid than any royal chamber, O Christ, for it bore the Life and is truly more beautiful than paradise.

Theotokion

Rejoice, divine and sanctified dwelling of the Most High! For through thee, O Theotokos, hath joy been given unto those who cry: Blessed art thou among women, O most immaculate Mistress!

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Lifted up upon the Tree, He Who hath saved man laid low the lofty eye and cast overweening pride down to the ground. O all-hymned Lord and God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

By Thy power lift up the estate of those who serve Thee, O Thou Who arose from the dead and emptied hades of its former riches, the souls of many men, O Master. O all-hymned Lord and God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The fire of love for the Virgin which is within my heart moveth me to hymnody, so that I cry out to the Mother and Virgin: O blessed one, the Lord of hosts is with thee.

Thou wast shown to transcend creation, in that thou gavest birth to the Creator and Lord; wherefore, O Theotokos, I cry out to thee: O blessed one, the Lord of hosts is with thee.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

Like a solicitous father and mother ye visited your infirm soldiers, comforted them with love, and with your tears watered the place of their repose.

O spiritual garden, ye perfect seven, icon of the Orthodox family: ye are for us an image of the virtues and the glory of the Russian land.

Standing at the apex of the ladder of human glory, thou didst see heaven above thee, O Tsar Nicholas, whither thy holy soul hast hastened.

Hastening to heavenly glory, and weighed down by earthly glory, thou didst desire to commit thyself in the angelic rank to the service of God alone.

Glory... O Most high and almighty King of all, establish peace in the land of Russia, through the supplications of the Tsar Thou didst crown, to do battle with barbarians and Thine enemies.

Both... Enliven our mind which hath been deadened by many passions, O most holy Mistress, and strengthen us to do things pleasing to God, that we may magnify thee as the helper of the Christian race.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Holy** Children bravely trampled upon the **threatening** fire,/ preferring not to worship created things rather than the Creator,/ and they **sang** in joy:/ 'Blessed art Thou and **praised** above all,// O Lord God of our fathers.'

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Stretching forth his hands,/ Daniel shut the lions' mouths in the pit;/ and the young lovers of piety, girded about with virtue,/ quenched the power of the fire, crying out:// Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Stretching forth Thy hands, Thou didst gather in all the nations, O Master, and didst reveal the one Church which hymneth Thee, unto those in heaven and on earth, who sing together: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

The angel clad in white, resplendent in the unapproachable light of the resurrection, appeared to the women, crying: "Why seek ye the Living in the tomb as one dead? Truly Christ hath arisen!" And unto Him do we cry: All ye works, hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Theotokion

Alone among all generations, O all-pure Virgin, thou hast been shown to be the Mother of God; and thou wast the habitation of the Divinity, O most immaculate one, who wast not consumed by the fire of the unapproachable Light. Wherefore, we all bless thee, O Mary, Bride of God.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Creation, beholding Thine unjust slaughter, veiled itself in darkness and lamented; for when the earth was troubled, the sun clothed itself in gloom as in a black robe. And we unceasingly hymn and exalt Christ supremely forever.

Having descended to me, even unto hades, and made resurrection a way for all, thou didst ascend again, taking me with Thee on Thy shoulder, and didst bring me to the Father. Wherefore, I cry out to Thee: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The Lord of all, Who fashioned thee of the rib of Adam, became incarnate of thy virginity. Unto Him do we cry out, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works, and exalt Him supremely forever!

In a shadow Abraham beheld the mystery which is in thee, the Theotokos; for he received thine incorporeal Son, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works! Hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

When the saints of God pointed out to you the path of martyrdom, as the Prophet Agabus did to Paul, O royal martyrs, ye strayed neither to the right nor to the left, but trod fearlessly to the end, looking to Christ, the Perfecter of your faith.

Tormented by grievous sufferings, O holy passion-bearers, ye did not reject the ways of Christ our God, Who is Truth and Life, nor did ye fear those who fight against God, but in patience ye trod to the end the royal path to life everlasting.

Woe unto us, who fell away from loyalty to the oath to the imperial family, which we confirmed by the Holy Spirit, and thus trampled a father's love underfoot and strayed from the ways of God! Help us for the sake of our repentance, that the Lord may deliver us from the misfortunes that beset us.

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

Thy princes on chariots and horses fell; but we have risen up from our sins and by the name of the Lord have set ourselves aright. Wherefore, in repentance we cry out to thee: Save us O Lord, and hearken unto us, if only today we call upon our holy martyred tsar.

Both... Thou art truly more holy than the cherubim and more exalted than the seraphim, O Theotokos; and we know thee to be our helper, for thou prayest unceasingly for us, that we repent and correct ourselves, O might and refuge of our souls.

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

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Offspring** of the Theotokos/ saved the holy Children in the **furnace**./ **He** Who was then prefigured has since been **born** on earth,/ and He gathers together all the creation to sing:/ O all ye **works** of the Lord,// bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: Christ, the Chief Cornerstone uncut by human hands,/ Who united the two disparate natures,/ was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin./ Wherefore, in gladness// we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst wholly receive all of me into union with Thee without confusion, O my God, through Thy suffering which Thou didst endure bodily on

the Cross imparting salvation wholly unto me, for the sake of Thy great compassion.

Beholding Thy tomb open and the God-bearing grave-clothes emptied by Thy resurrection, with the angels Thy women disciples said: Truly the Lord hath risen!

Triadicon

Worshipping the Oneness of the divine Essence, the Trinity of Hypostases, and honouring rightly that which is in unconfused Hypostases, equal in power and one as to adoration, let us magnify It, all ye faithful.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Having deceitfully caused me to fall, the serpent took me captive away from Eden; but on the hard stone of Golgotha the Lord Almighty dashed him as if he were a babe, and through the tree of the Cross opened the entrance to delight again to me.

The mighty fortresses of the enemy hast Thou now brought to desolation; and with Thine almighty hand Thou hast plundered his riches, O Christ Who raised me up with Thyself from the wastelands of hades; and an object of scorn hast Thou shown him to be who of old boasted beyond measure.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

We behold thee as a lily, arrayed in a robe dyed by the divine Spirit, O all-pure one, resplendent amid thorns and filling with sweet fragrance those who sincerely magnify thee.

The Incorrupt One, receiving corrupt human nature from thy womb, O most immaculate one, showed it to be incorrupt within Himself, in His loving-kindness; wherefore, we magnify thee as the Theotokos.

Holy Royal Martyrs pray to God for us!

We believe and confess, O Lord, that Thou art truly the King of glory, Who camest into the world to save sinners; wherefore, Thou didst make steadfast the Holy Church and the Orthodox realm for the salvation of Thy people.

Let Holy Russia arise through the supplications of Thy saints, O Lord, and let its enemies be quickly scattered, and let all who hate it even now flee from before her face by the time of Thy glorious second coming.

O holy passion-bearers, accept this worthy hymnody and feeble supplication, as Christ accepted the widow's two mites. Spurn not the wretches who honour thee and the poor servants who are tempest-tossed by the passions.

Glory... Our reigning tsar set all his hopes on the Lord and entreated Him; wherefore, let the Lord Almighty raise one up on the throne

of the Orthodox tsars, through the supplications of the Theotokos, that we may sing and hymn his powers from now unto eternity.

Both... Keep all of us, thy servants, unharmed by the assaults of enemies through thy mighty omophorion, O pure one; for thee alone do we have as a refuge amid our needs, comfort amid sorrows, and victory in our battles.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Let every mortal **born** on earth,/ radiant with light, in spirit **leap** for joy;/ and **let** the hosts of the angelic powers **celebrate**/ and honor the holy feast of the **Mother** of God,/ and **let** them cry:// Hail! Pure and blessed ever-Virgin, who gavest **birth** to God.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Five (Luke 24:12-25)

Christ, the Life and the Way, risen from the dead, accompanied Cleopas and Luke on their way and He was made known to them at Emmaus at the breaking of the bread. And their souls and hearts were on fire when He spoke to them on the way and He interpreted to them the Scriptures and the things He had endured. Let us cry with them: "He is risen and has appeared to Peter."

Glory... Exapostilarion for the Royal Martyrs

Standing with the choirs of the martyrs before the never-waning Light, O holy royal passion-bearers, in your supplications forsake us not amid our trials.

Both... Theotokion

I sing the praises of Thy mercy without measure, O my Maker. For Thou hast emptied Thyself to suffer and save the nature of mortal man grown evil. And being God, Thou hast been pleased to be born from the Pure Maid of God according to my likeness, and Thou hast gone down even into hell, wishing by the intercession of her that bore Thee to save me, O Word, Thou all-merciful Master.

C. Lauds: Tone 4 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. We **glorify** Thy Resurrection,/ O all-powerful Lord,/ Who hast **suffered** the **Cross** and death// and art **risen** from the dead.

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

2. By Thy **Cross** hast Thou set us free from the **ancient** curse/ and by Thy death hast Thou laid low the **devil**/ who tormented our **nature**,/ while all things have been filled with joy by Thy Resurrection;/ therefore, we **cry** unto Thee:// Glory be unto Thee, O Lord **risen** from the dead.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. By Thy **Cross** instruct us in Thy truth, O Christ our **Saviour**,/ and deliver us from the wiles of the **adversary**;/ O **Thou**, Who art **risen** from the dead,/ raise us up, **fallen** through sin./ By the prayers of Thy saints stretch out to us Thine **arm**, O Lord, // Who **lovest** mankind.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

4. Thou hast **taken** upon Thyself **death** in the flesh/ and hast mediated that we might be **immortal**/ and **Thou** hast dwelt in the tomb that we might be **free** from hell,/ and suffering as man, Thou hast risen as God, having raised us **with** Thyself./ Therefore, we cry unto Thee: Glory be unto Thee, O Lord, **Giver** of life,// Who alone **lovest** mankind.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

Stichera for the Royal Martyrs (Tone 8)

5. O holy Nicholas **crowned** by God,/ glorious servant of the **Holy** Church,/ her upbuilder and **defender**,/ second **Justinian** the Great:/ hearken to the cry of our **entreaty**,/ and forgive, defend and strengthen thy lost **children**,// that with faith and love we may glorify Him Who hath **glorified** thee.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. O all-glorious **wonder**!/ O holy martyr **Alexandra**,/ while bitterly imprisoned by the godless, and hoping to **die** for Christ,/ with thy four wise daughters **thou** didst say:/ "Behold, the Bridegroom **cometh**!/ Let us trim our lamps, that we may enter into His bridal-**chamber**!"/ Teach us to light the **lamps** of our souls,/ that we all may clothe ourselves in splendid **vesture**,// to meet Christ the **Bridegroom**.

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

7. O Alexis, princely passion-**bearer**,/ from earliest childhood, in the spirit of a humble and **simple** heart,/ thou didst say: "When I will be tsar, let them not turn away the poor and **indigent**!"/ Thus didst thou have compassion for others, O young **athlete**,/ and didst embrace all with thy **pure** soul,/ desiring that all enter in to the **joy** of the Lord,/ whither thou hast ascended by the way of the cross that was thy **whole** life,// and by thy **martyric** end.

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

8. O **Nicholas** **anointed** of God,/ thou art the boast of Christians and the **glory** of Christ,/ having within thee the Father Who **anointeth** thee,/ the anointed Son, and the Holy **Spirit**,/ by Whom thou wast **anointed**;// wherefore, we say: He who honoureth **not** the king,/ honoureth not Him Who **anointed** him./ And with contrite heart we **likewise** say:/ O martyred tsar, accept our **repentance**,// and pray that the Russian **land** be saved!

Glory... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 5)

How **wise**, O Christ, are Thy **judgments**!// How by the grave clothes lying alone, Thou hast given Peter to understand Thy Resurrection!// And **Thou** hast conversed on the way with Luke and Cleopas,/ and while **conversing**, Thou hast not straightway made Thyself **manifest**.// Therefore hast Thou been reproached as being only a stranger in Jerusalem/ not **sharing** to the end in her **counsels**.// But **dispensing** all things for the expedience of the **creature**,// Thou hast unfolded the prophesies **concerning** Thee/ and **made** Thyself known to them by the **blessing** of the bread.// And their **hearts** were set on fire by **knowledge** of Thee.// And they already plainly proclaimed Thy Resurrection to the assembled **disciples**.// Through which have **mercy** upon us.

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.

P. The Great Doxology

R. 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

R. Hours:

Tropar: Resurrection & Holy Royal Martyrs

Kontak: Holy Royal Martyrs/Resurrection alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia as per Doxology service

Prokimenon for Tone 4

How magnified are thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly.

Prokimenon for the Royal Martyrs (Tone 4)

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

Epistle(s): Rom 10:1-10 & Rom 8:28-39

Alleluia for Tone 4

V. Bend thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king, because of truth and meekness and righteousness

V. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity.

Alleluia for the Royal Martyrs (Tone 1)

V. Our God is refuge and strength, a helper in afflictions which mightily befall us.

Gospel(s): Matt 8:28-9:1 & John 15:17-16:2

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous...