

Music for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent Saint John of the Ladder

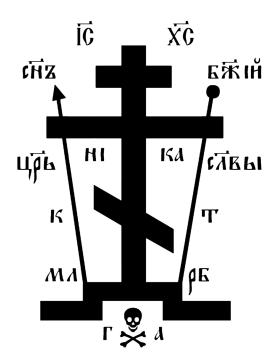
Δόμα ττήχα πέμα μυρομότητα

Holy Myrrh-bearers

Ο Οἶκος τῶν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

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домя стыхи жени муроносици

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Music for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent
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Editor, Subdeacon Paul Daniels Редактор, иподиакон Павел Даниэлс

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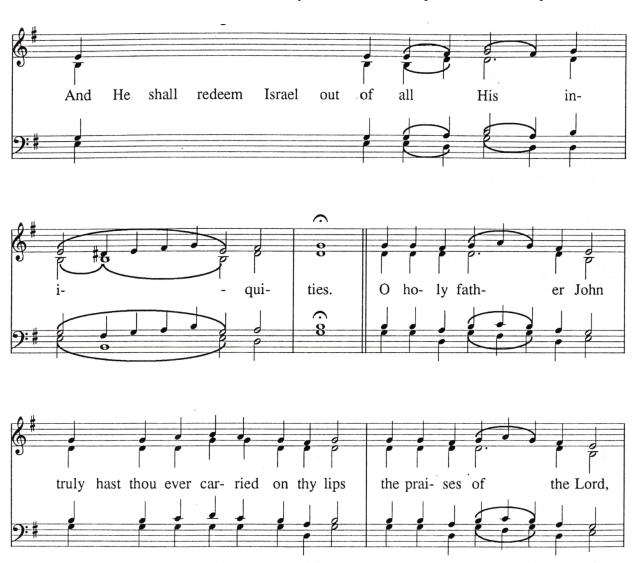
Great Vespers

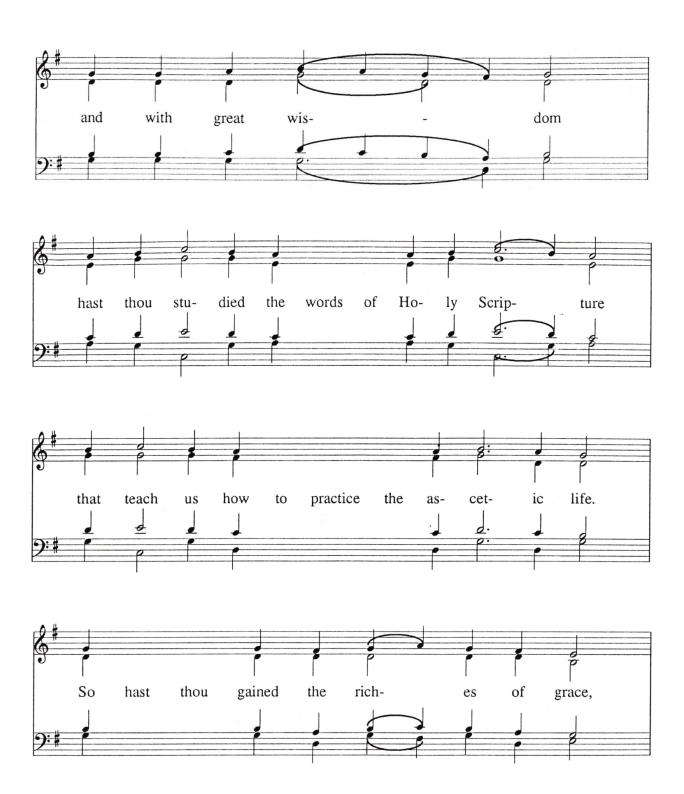
Lord, I Have Cried

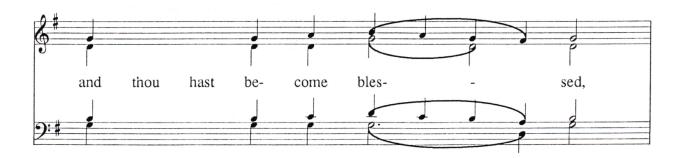
To Lord, I have cried, ten stichera are sung: six of the Resurrection in the Tone of the week from the Octoechos, and the following three in honour of the saint.

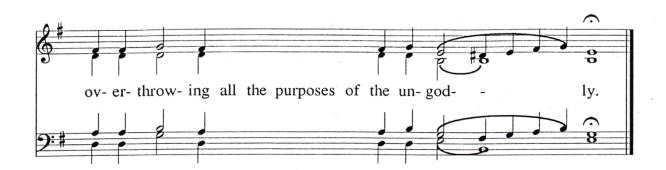
Tone VIIISpecial Melody: O most glorious wonder...

Stichos: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption:

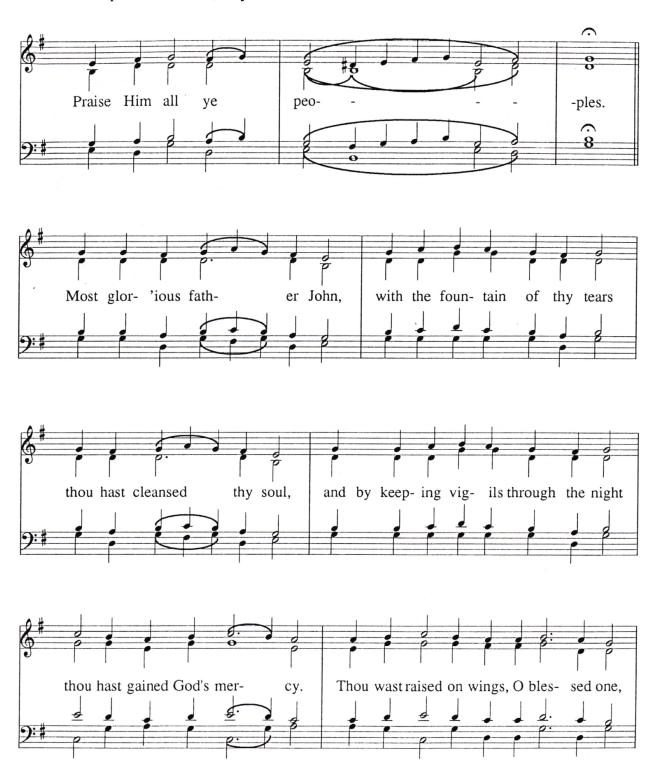


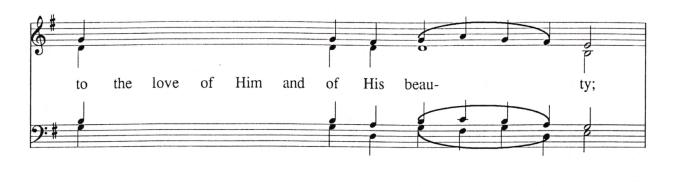


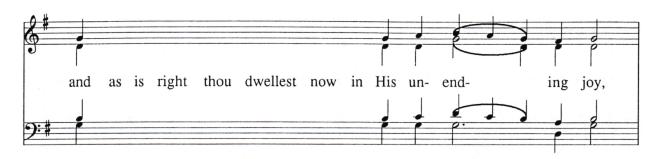


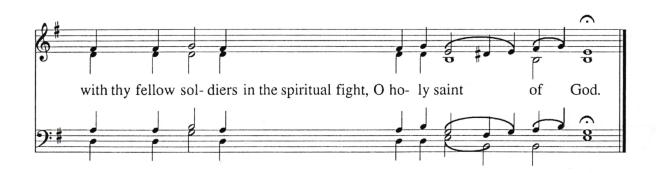


Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations:

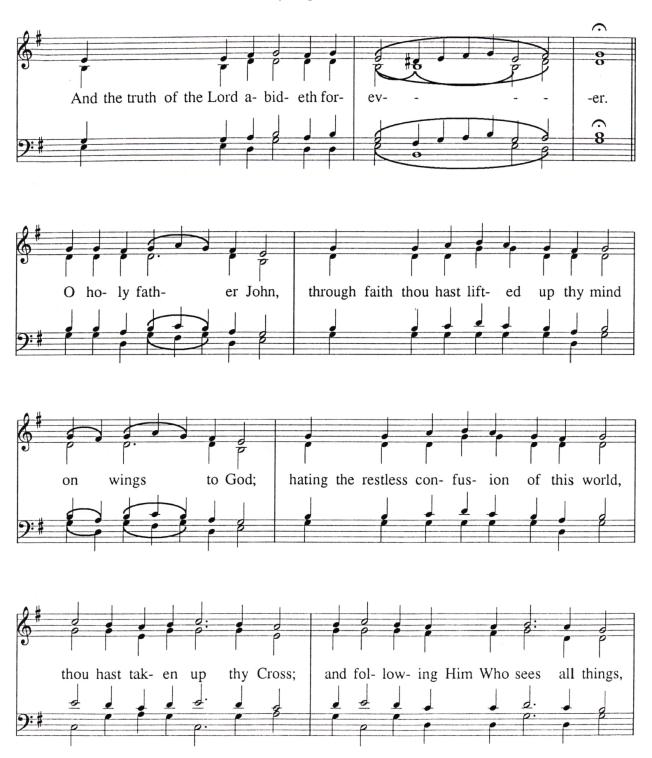


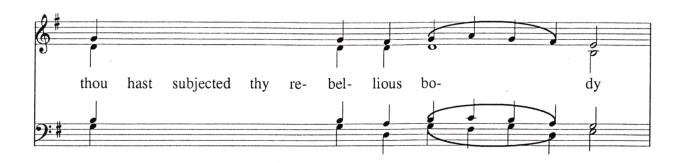


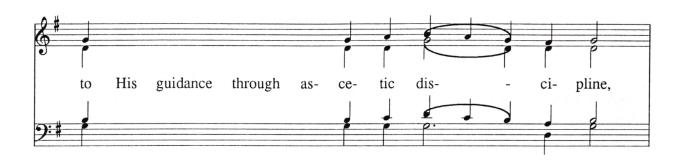


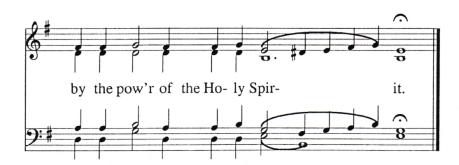


Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us:

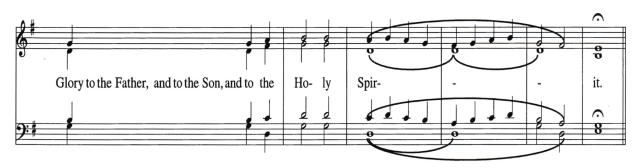








Glory, Tone V



O holy father, hearing the voice of the Gospel of the Lord,/ thou hast forsaken the world,/ counting as naught its riches and its glory;/ and so thou hast cried out to all: 'Love God, and ye shall find eternal grace./ Set nothing higher than His love, that, when He comes in glory,/ ye may find rest with all the saints.'// At their prayers, O Christ, guard and save our souls.

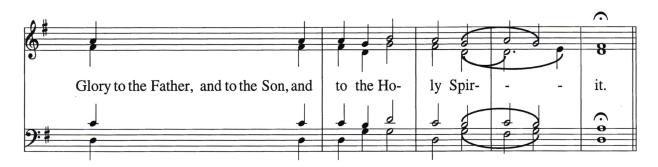
Both now...

Then the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the week.

Aposticha

We sing the Aposticha in the Tone of the week from the Octoechos, and then:

Glory, Tone II



Let us honour John, angel upon earth and man of God in heaven,/ adornment of the world, joy of the good and virtuous,/ glory of ascetics./ For planted in the house of God he has blossomed with the flower of holiness,/ and spread abroad like a cedar in the desert,// causing the sheep of Christ's spiritual flock to increase in sanctity and righteousness.

Both Now, Theotokion, Tone II



O new wonder greater than all the wonders of the past!/ For who hath ever known a mother to give birth without having known a man,/ and to bear on her arm Him Who sustaineth all creation?/ Yet it was the will of God to be born./ O all-pure one, who bore Him in thine arms as an infant/ and hast maternal boldness before Him:/ Cease not to pray in behalf of those who honor thee,// that He have compassion and save our souls.

Matins

Troparion, Tone I

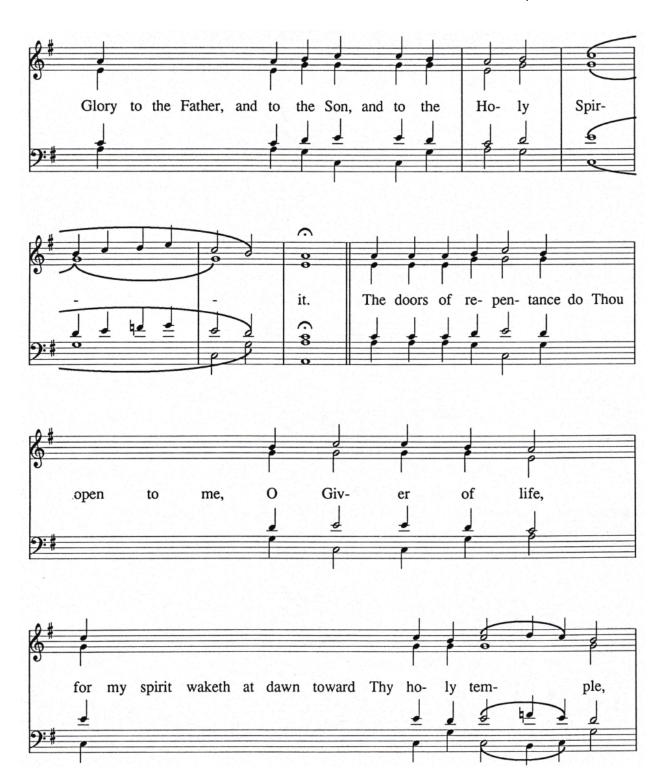
O John our father, saint of God,/ thou wast revealed as a citizen of the desert, an angel in a body and a worker of miracles./ Through fasting, prayer and vigils thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace,/ and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith./ Glory be to Him who gave thee strength;/ glory be to Him who crowned thee;// glory be to Him who through thee grants to all men healing.

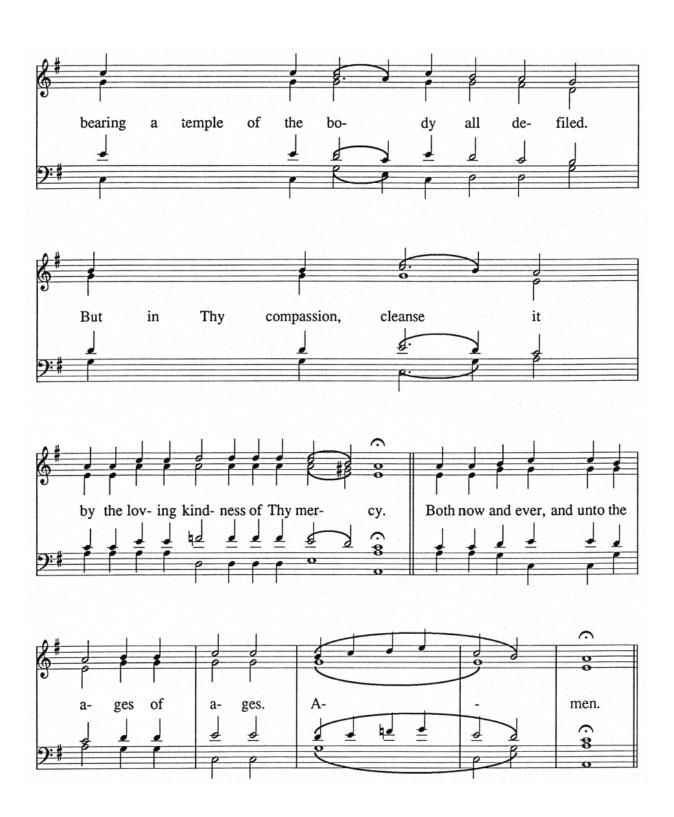
Both now...

Theotokion, Tone I

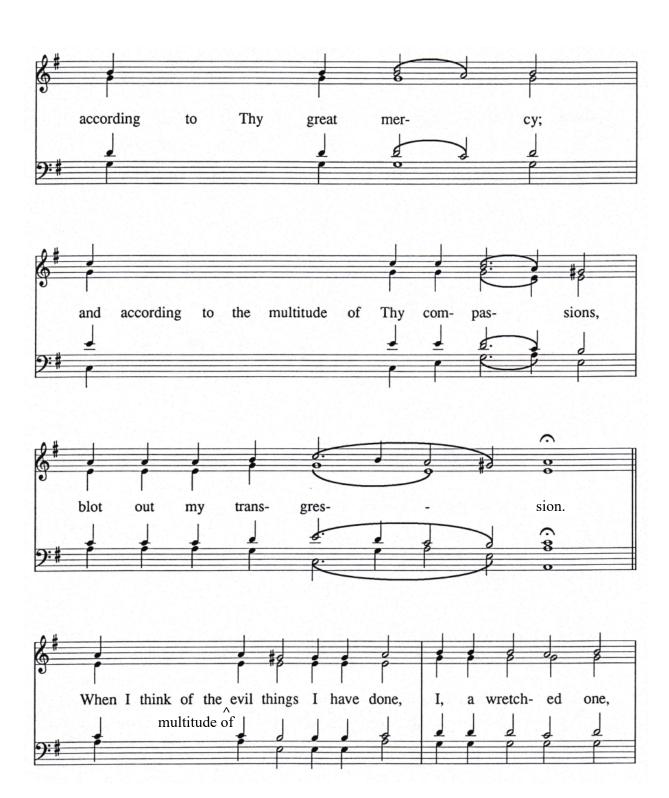
When Gabriel announced to thee, "Rejoice!" O Virgin,/ the Master of all became incarnate within thee,/ the holy ark, at his cry,/ as the righteous David said./ Thou wast shown to be more spacious than the heavens,/ having borne thy Creator./ Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee!/ Glory to Him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

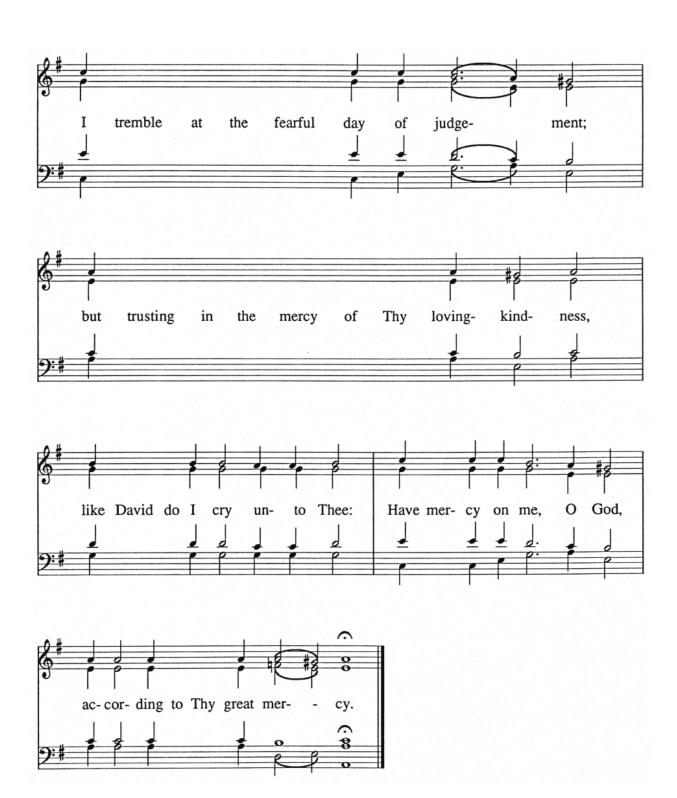
Obikhod, Tone VIII and VI











The Canon

We use four troparia (including the Irmos) from the Canon of the Resurrection and two troparia from the Canon to the Theotokos, both in the Tone of the week from the Octoechos; four troparia from the first Canon in the Triodion, and four troparia from the second Canon, in honour of the saint.

Ode I

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

O Christ my Saviour, I have become like the man who fell among thieves, who was wounded and left half dead. For through my sins I have wounds more grievous than his.

Stripped of all Thy wealth, he cried out lamenting: 'O Saviour, I am gravely wounded; leave me not to the thieves.' So do I also pray to Thee: Merciful Lord, O save me.

My mind has been scourged with. the whips of sin by wicked thieves and evil thoughts. Heal me, Christ my Saviour, and save me, for Thou art rich in mercy.

Theotokion

O undefiled Mother of Christ, God took flesh from thee while yet remaining always in the bosom of the Father: pray to Him without ceasing, that He may save from every peril the creatures He has formed.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

Ascending from the dark sorrow of material things, O holy John, thou hast gone to dwell in spiritual light: give 'me light through thine intercessions to the Lord.

Suckled on the sweetness of abstinence, thou hast cast away the bitterness of sensual indulgence; and so, father, thou givest us a pleasure sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.

Ascending to the height of the virtues and rejecting the pleasures that creep upon the ground, 0 holy father, thou hast become the sweetness of salvation to thy flock.

Theotokion

O thou who ineffably hast borne the Word and Wisdom of the Father, heal the harsh wounds of my soul and still the anguish of my heart.

Katavasia - Ode I



Ode III

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

Journeying on the path of life, O Christ, I have been sorely wounded by thieves because of my passions: I pray Thee, raise me up.

Thieves have robbed my mind and left me half dead, wounded by my sins: but heal me, 0 Lord.

My passions have stripped me bare of Thy commandments, O Saviour Christ, and I have been scourged by sensual pleasures. But pour oil upon my wounds.

Theotokion

Pray without ceasing, O pure Bride of God, to Him who came forth from thy womb, that those who sing thy praises may be delivered from the deceit of the devil.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

With the fiery coal of thine ascetic warfare, O saint, thou hast burnt up the thorns of the passions, giving warmth through thy fervour to all who follow the monastic life.

Through thine ascetic labours, O saint, thou hast become myrrh of sanctification, offered up as sweet-smelling fragrance to God.

Attentive to the laws of asceticism, with the waters of thy tears thou hast drowned the passions, as the soldiers of Pharaoh once were drowned in the Red Sea.

Theotokion

Check the restless tumult of my thoughts, O pure Mother of God, and guide me to thy Son.

Katavasia - Ode III



Sessional Hymn

Tone V

With Thy Holy Cross as our weapon of salvation, we cry aloud to Thee, our Saviour: O Thou who willingly hast suffered for our sake, save us, God of all, in Thy great mercy.

Glory to the Father...

Another Sessional Hymn, of the Saint:

Tone IV

Shining with the glory of the virtues, thou hast gone up to dwell in heaven, and in holiness thou hast entered the boundless depth of contemplation. Thou hast exposed to mockery all the snares of the demons, protecting mankind from their cruel violence. And now, O John, ladder of the virtues, thou dost intercede for the salvation of thy servants.

Both now...

Theotokion

He who is enthroned upon the cherubim and who dwells in the bosom of the Father, sits incarnate in thy bosom, O Lady, as though upon His holy throne. As God He is the ruler of all nations, and with understanding now we sing to Him; entreat Him for the salvation of thy servants.

Ode IV

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

Thieves have despoiled 'me of my godly actions, leaving me chastised and in agony.

My unstable thoughts have stripped me bare of Thy commandments, O Saviour, and I have been scourged by my transgressions.

The Levite, when he saw me wounded, passed by on the other side, O Saviour; but do Thou preserve me.

Theotokion

As is right, we glorify thee, Virgin Theotokos, and with all the faithful we take refuge in thy haven.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou art a fragrant meadow and a living paradise of the virtues, in which there grows the fruit of abstinence; and with it thou dost nourish all who honour thee.

For all who follow the ascetic and monastic way, thou art in truth a lawgiver like Moses, a meek and gentle ruler like David; and we bless thee, father.

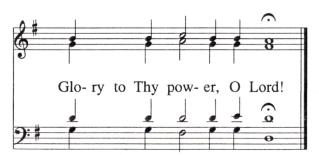
Planted beside the waters of abstinence, O blessed father, thou art become a fruitful vine, bearing the grapes of true sanctity.

Theotokion

Within time, O Mother of God, thou hast borne for us Him who shone forth timelessly from the Father. Entreat Him to save those who sing thy praises.

Katavasia - Ode IV





Ode V

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

Bind up, O Jesus, the wounds of my soul, as the Samaritan' bound up the wounds of him that fell among thieves, and heal me from my pain, I pray, O Christ.

Scourged by my transgressions, O Christ, my soul is sick and in agony, and I lie naked and bereft of the divine virtues; but I beseech Thee, save me.

When the priest and the Levite saw me, they could not help me, but passed by on the other side. But Thou in Thy compassion hast given me salvation and preserved me.

Theotokion

I entreat Thee, Master, despise me not in my wretchedness, for my mind has been scourged painfully by thieves. But take pity on me, Saviour, at the intercessions of Thy Mother.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

O blessed, father, thou hast quenched all the passions with the dew of thine ascetic struggles, and with the fire of love and faith thou hast kindled the lamp of abstinence; thou art a light of dispassion and a child of the day.

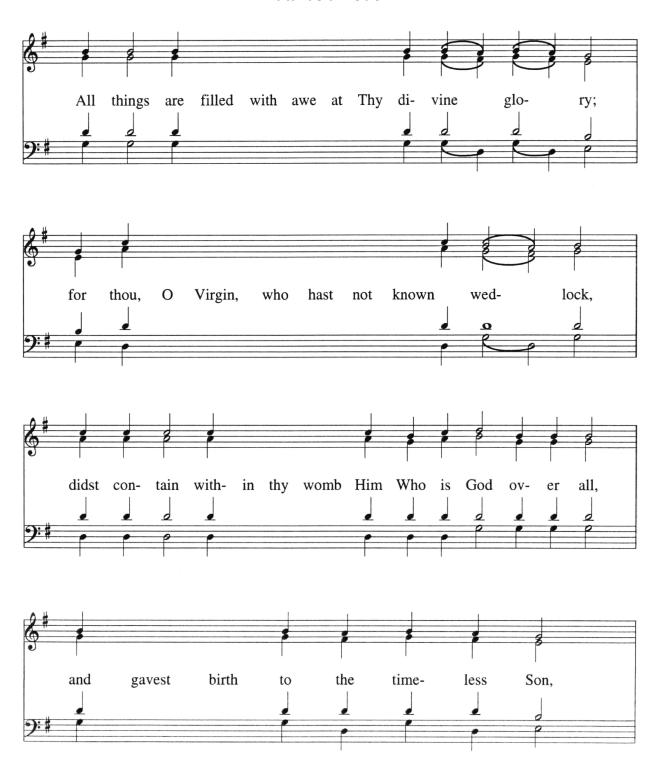
With thy divine husbandry, O father, thou hast tended the grapes of faith; thou hast gathered them to the winepress and pressed them out by the labours of ascetic warfare; and, filling the spiritual cup of abstinence, thou makest glad the hearts of thy flock.

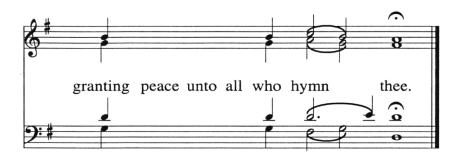
With courage thou hast endured the assaults and wounds of the enemy; thou art a pillar of steadfastness, supporting thy Hock, O blessed father; guiding thy sheep with the staff of God, thou feedest them in green pastures and beside the waters of abstinence.

Theotokion

As thou thyself hast said, we call thee blessed, O Virgin. For the Lord has indeed done unto thee great things and magnified thee; born from thy womb; He has made thee true Mother of God.

Katavasia - Ode V





Ode VI

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

I have wasted my God-given life on the passions, O Master, and I am fiercely scourged in every part by my transgressions; but I turn to Thee for refuge and I pray: Have pity on me.

Scourging my mind with the passions, thieves have seized my wealth and left me as one dead. But take pity on me and save me, O Lord.

When the Levite saw how painfully I had been scourged, unable to endure the sight of my wounds he passed by on the other side. But Thou in Thy love hast, poured upon me Thy rich mercy.

Theotokion

Rightly do we glorify thee as the Bush unconsumed by fire, the Mountain and the living Ladder and the Gate of Heaven, O glorious Mary, pride of the Orthodox.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou hast received in thy soul the divine wealth of the Spirit: prayer without reproach, chastity, modesty, unremitting watchfulness, the labours of abstinence; and through these things thou hast become a house of God.

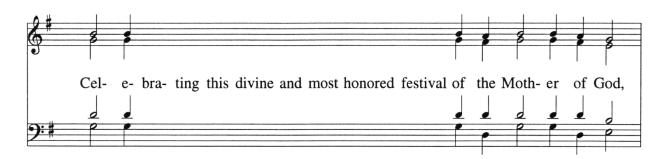
O wise father, thou hast passed by the worthless joys of this material world, and raised thy mind upon the wings of immaterial prayer; and through the perfection of thy life thou hast received an inheritance on high.

With the sweat of thine ascetic toil thou hast quenched the fiery arrows of the enemy; kindling the fire of faith, thou hast burnt up the proud insolence of unbelief and heresy.

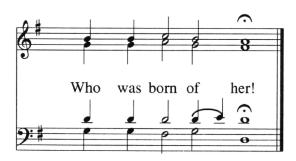
Theotokion

The majesty of the Most High has shone out from Zion; through an ineffable union He has put on flesh from thee, O Virgin, and brought light to the world.

Katavasia - Ode VI







Kontakion, Tone IV

Truly the Lord has set thee as a fixed star in the firmament of abstinence,/ giving light to the ends of the earth,// O father John our teacher.

Ikos

Truly, O father, thou hast made thyself into a house of God, adorned through thy divine virtues with faith, hope and true love, as if with gold shining from afar; thou hast explained the laws of God, and practiced abstinence as one who has no flesh; acquiring wisdom, courage, chastity and humility, thou wast raised on high; thou wast illumined with unceasing prayer, and hast attained the tabernacles of heaven, O father John our teacher.

Ode VII

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

Thieves fell upon me, poor wretch, and scourging me they left me a lifeless corpse; therefore I pray to Thee: come to my aid.

My ever-moving thoughts have robbed my mind and, striking me through the passions, they have left me dead, because of the multitude of my transgressions. But, O Saviour, heal me.

When the Levite saw me, injured and in pain, thinking my wounds incurable and unable to endure the sight of them, he passed by on the other side. But, O my Saviour, do Thou make me whole.

Theotokion

Taking flesh from the Virgin, O Christ, Thou hast saved me, pouring the oil of Thy rich mercy on my wounds. Therefore I glorify Thee.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

Thou hast led thy flock to pasture, O father, in the green meadows of the heavenly Kingdom, and with the rod of true dogma thou hast driven away the wild beasts of heresy; and thou, dost sing aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

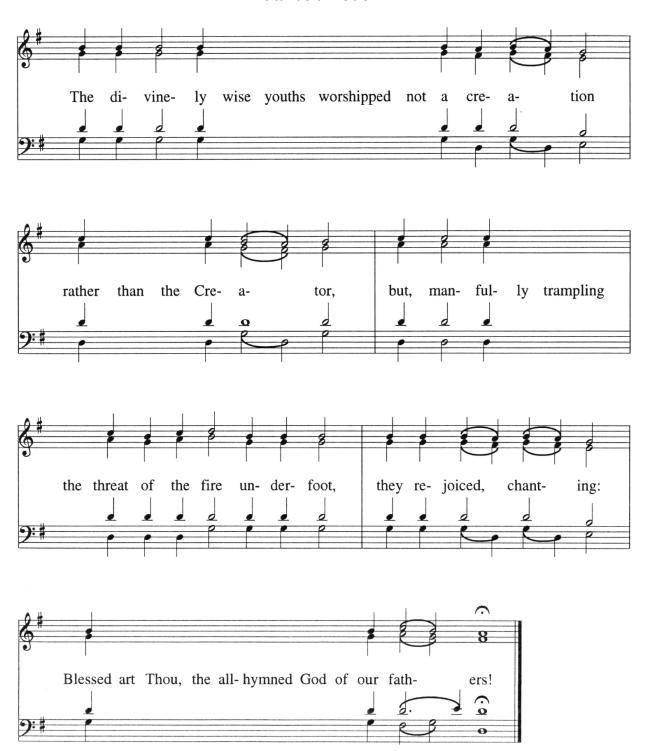
Thou hast entered into the joy of the heavenly bridal chamber of Christ the King, clothed in a garment worthy of Him that called thee to the feast; and, seated beside Him, thou dost, cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

O father, thou art a river of abstinence, not polluted with sin, but washing clean the thoughts and purging away the filth of those who cry aloud in faith: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Theotokion

The Lord of all came forth from thy womb, taking flesh from thee, O Virgin. Therefore with true Orthodox faith we honour thee as Theotokos, and we cry to thy Son: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Katavasia - Ode VII



Ode VIII

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

Robbed by my thoughts and scourged by my transgressions, O Saviour, I have ruined my life, and I have been stripped of Thy divine image, O God who lovest mankind; but take pity an me.

Thou hast came down upon earth from an high, O Saviour, taking pity an me when I was wounded in every part by the scourgings of sin; and in Thy compassion, O Christ, Thou hast poured upon me the ail of Thy mercy.

O Master and Saviour, Thou hast given Thy body and soul as a ransom far me; when I was wounded in every part by the great number of my offences and there was none to' heal me, Thou hast saved me in Thy mercy.

Theotokion

At the ward of the God-Man, O Virgin, in ways past understanding thou hast borne the Lard and still remained inviolate. With all His works we bless thee and exalt thee above all far ever.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

O father John, truly in thee we have a living pillar and image of abstinence, and we all honour thy memory.

The brotherhood of monks rejoices, and the assembly of the saints and the righteous dances with gladness: for as thy just reward, thou hast received a crown with them.

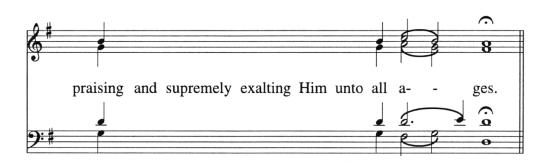
Adorned with the virtues, thou hast entered the bridal chamber of ineffable glory, singing in praise of Christ for ever.

Theotokion

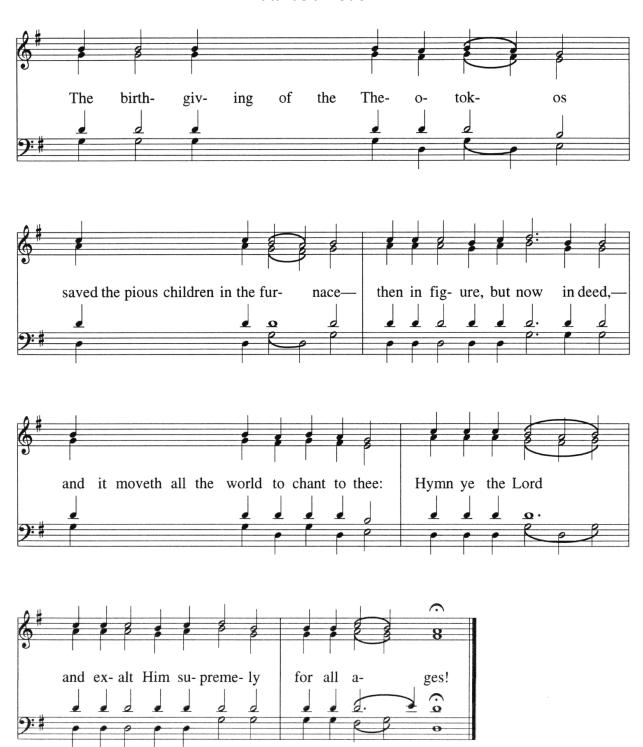
Reject us not, O Virgin Maiden, for we need thy help; and we sing in praise of thee and exalt thee above all for ever.

We Praise, We Bless





Katavasia - Ode VIII



Ode IX

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

Yielding by my own free choice to the passions of sensual pleasure, I have not kept Thy commandments, O Master; I have been stripped of grace and I lie wounded and naked. Therefore I pray to Thee, O Saviour: save me.

The Levite could not cleanse my wounds, but Thou hast come to me in Thy compassion, O loving Saviour, and poured upon me the oil of Thy mercies;, and as the best of all physicians Thou hast healed me.

Since Thou art compassionate, Thou hast taken pity on me and saved me, O Christ my Saviour, when I had been painfully scourged by the thieves; and instead of the two silver pieces Thou hast given Thy soul and body as a ransom for me.

Theotokion

Beyond our understanding is thy childbearing, O Mother of God. For without man thou hast conceived, and in virginity thou hast given birth; and the Child that thou hast borne is God. Him we magnify, O Virgin, and we call thee blessed.

Canon of the Saint

Refrain: O Venerable Father John, pray to God for us.

O blessed in God, thou art a physician to those sick through sin, an expeller of evil spirits; therefore we call thee blessed.

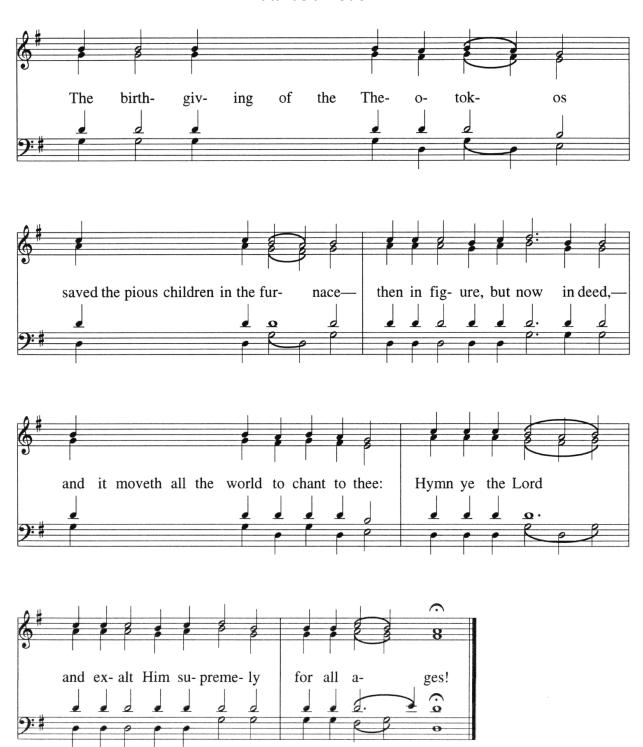
Leaving the earth wherein corruption dwells, thou hast gone to live, O father, in the land of the meek and gentle, and with them thou rejoicest in the blessings of God.

Today is a festival, for it calls together every part of the monastic flock, inviting all to share in a feast of spiritual rejoicing and in the food of sinless life.

Theotokion

He who took up His abode in thee, all-blameless Lady, has overthrown the murderer that in malice caused the fall of our first father and mother; He has been born and He has saved us all.

Katavasia - Ode VIII



Exapostilarion

The appointed Exapostilarion of the Resurrection, and then:

Glory be to the Father..., and then the exapostilarion of the saint:

Thou hast rejected as burdensome the ease of the world; causing thy flesh to waste away through fasting, thou hast renewed the strength of thy soul, and thou wast enriched, O honoured saint, with heavenly glory. Cease not to intercede on our behalf, O John.

Both now...

Theotokion

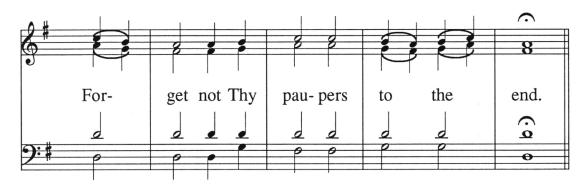
Saved through thee, O Lady, we acknowledge thee to be in truth the Theotokos; for in ways past speech thou hast borne God, who has destroyed death by the Cross and called to Himself the assemblies of the saints. With them we praise thee, O Virgin.

Psalms of Praise

We sing the eight stichera of the Resurrection in the Tone of the week from the Octoechos, and then:

Tone I

Stichos: Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hands be lifted high:



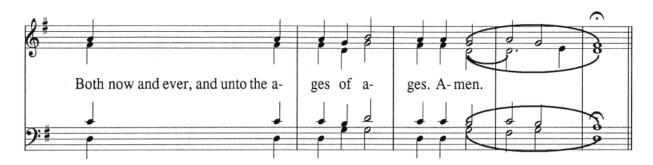
Come, let us work in the mystical vineyard,/ making fruits of repentance grow within it;/ let us not labour for the sake of food and drink,/ but through prayer and fasting let us gain the virtues./ And the Lord of the vineyard, pleased by our labour,/ will provide the payment,/ whereby He redeems our souls from the debt of sin,// for He alone is rich in mercy.

Glory, Tone I



Come, let us work in the mystical vineyard,/ making fruits of repentance grow within it;/ let us not labour for the sake of food and drink,/ but through prayer and fasting let us gain the virtues./ And the Lord of the vineyard, pleased by our labour,/ will provide the payment,/ whereby He redeems our souls from the debt of sin,// for He alone is rich in mercy.

Both Now, Theotokion, Tone II



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 is Christ God// Who hast been so pleased, glory to Thee.

Доми стыхи жени муроносици

Holy Myrrh-bearers Ὁ Οἶκος τῶν Ἁγίων Μυροφόρων

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