

**THE 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH OF MAY**  
**COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY & GLORIOUS MARTYR IRENE**  
**AT VESPERS**

On "Lord, I have cried ...", these stichera, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "O most lauded martyrs ...":

**S**plendidly arrayed, O most honored one, \* in a robe empurpled with thy blood, \* thou didst hasten to Him Whom thou didst desire, \* the King, Creator and Lord of all, \* from Whom thou hast truly received \* a crown of victory. \* With Him thou reignest now \* as a virgin and martyr, \* O greatly suffering one.

**T**hou didst endure the raging of the burning fire, \* O all-praised one, \* and the laceration of thy whole body, \* looking forward to heavenly rewards \* which Jesus alone hath prepared \* for those who love Him \* and fervently desire Him \* as the most comely Bridegroom of our souls, O most honored one.

**R**eveling in the love of Christ, \* thou didst despise the gods of the pagans \* and their inanimate graven images, \* O glorious Irene. \* To those who watched thee thou didst show thyself to be \* a most manifest pillar of the knowledge of God, \* in that thou didst suffer, \* didst finish thy race \* and preserve the Faith undefiled.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Doxasticon from the Pentecostarion.

Troparion, in Tone IV:

**T**hy ewe-lamb Irene crieth out to Thee with a loud voice, O Jesus: "I love Thee, O my Bridegroom, and, seeking Thee, I pass through many struggles: I am crucified and buried with Thee in Thy baptism, and suffer for Thy sake, that I might reign with Thee; I die for Thee, that I might live with Thee. As an unblemished sacrifice accept me, who sacrifice myself with love for Thee" By her supplications save Thou our souls, in that Thou art merciful.

## AT MATINS

At "God is the Lord ...", the troparion from the Pentecostarion, twice;  
Glory ..., that of the martyr, in Tone IV:

**T**hy ewe-lamb Irene crieth out to Thee with a loud voice, O Jesus: "I love Thee, O my Bridegroom, and, seeking Thee, I pass through many struggles: I am crucified and buried with Thee in Thy baptism, and suffer for Thy sake, that I might reign with Thee; I die for Thee, that I might live with Thee. As an unblemished sacrifice accept me, who sacrifice myself with love for Thee" By her supplications save Thou our souls, in that Thou art merciful.

Now & ever ..., that from the Pentecostarion, once.

Canon of the martyr, the acrostic whereof is:

"Cover me with thy supplications, O martyr Irene", in Tone IV:

### ODE I

**Irmos: I shall hymn Thee, O Lord my God, for Thou hast brought Thy people forth from the bondage of Egypt and hast covered the chariots and power of Pharaoh.**

In that Thou art the crown of the passion-bearer, O Christ, her prayers grant peace to the world and unfading glory to those who hymn Thee.

Shining with the radiance of virginity and adorned with the beauty of thy martyrdom, O Irene of great renown, thou standest before thy Bridegroom.

Entreat thy Bridegroom, O divinely wise Irene, that He be merciful to the Churches and grant remission of offenses unto those who honor thee.

**Theotokion:** In manner past recounting and understanding, O holy Virgin, thou gavest birth to God the Word, Who became flesh and is like unto us.

### ODE III

**Irmos: The bow of the mighty hath grown weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; wherefore, my heart hath been established in the Lord.**

Sensing the sweet fragrance of Him Who emptied Himself, and receiving Him Who hath perfumed the whole world with grace, O glorious one, thou didst take wing toward the desire of Him.

In thy struggles thou didst have God as a helper defending thee, O most wise one; wherefore, crowned, thou didst vanquish the tyrant. O most lauded one, thou wast an unshakable pillar of virtue, an abode of piety and courage, and a vessel of chastity.

**Theotokion:** Hastening toward thee, death perforce ended its onrush, striking against Him Who was born of thee, O most immaculate one; wherefore, we call thee the first-fruits of immortality.

**Kontakion of the martyr, in Tone IV:**

**A**dorned with the beauties of virginity, O virgin Irene, through thy suffering thou becamest most beautiful, dyed in thine own flowing blood; and thou didst cast down the falsehood of ungodliness. Wherefore, thou hast received the honors of victory from the hand of thy Creator.

**Sedalion of the martyr, in Tone VIII:**

**Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared ...":**

**W**hen thou wast separated from thy body after many pangs, O martyr, great peace was thy lot; for, rejoicing on high, the Bridegroom in the heavens received thee, all-illuminated and radiant in thy suffering, and He led thee, rejoicing, into the divine bridal-chamber.

**Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Sedalion from the Pentecostarion.**

**ODE IV**

**Irmos: The prophet, proclaiming the advent of Thy manifestation on earth, O Christ God, cried out in gladness: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!**

**H**e Who granted peace to thee, seeing thee helping Him for the sake of peace, filled thee with manly understanding and strength, O martyr, namesake of peace.

**O**vercoming thy womanly weakness with strong fervor, O all-blessed martyr, thou didst steadfastly denounce those who worship falsehood.

**S**howing forth divine patience, thou didst cast down the arrogance of the tyrants, crying out to thy Bridegroom: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**W**ith constant hymnody and entreaties to the Master; O divinely wise one, thou didst sing, and, having hastened to Him, thou beholdest ineffable glory.

**Theotokion: S**aved by thee, O all-pure one, with joy and gladness with cry aloud to thee: Rejoice, O most honored Virgin! Rejoice, O most hymned Theotokos!

**ODE V**

**Irmos: Thou hast sent Thine enlightenment down upon us, O Lord, and hast released us from the darkness of transgressions, granting us Thy peace, O Good One.**

**W**ith manly mind thou didst manifestly confess Christ, the God of all; and with steadfast discourse thou didst put the adversary to shame, O passion-bearer.

**T**hou didst desire to follow the sufferings of Christ, and, suffering like the Master, thou didst fervently follow Him, O thou who art most rich.

**L**egions of martyrs didst thou lead to Christ by thy wisdom and divine discourse, O glorious one, truly teaching them the mysteries by thy words of faith.

**Theotokion:** Having learned of the mystery of thy conception and thine ineffable and divine birth giving, O Virgin, we now hymn thee with all honor, O most hymned Theotokos.

### ODE VI

**Irmos:** Prefiguring the three-day burial, the Prophet Jonah cried aloud, praying within the sea monster: Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King of hosts!

Thou didst set aright the fall of Eve our first mother, O passion-bearer, casting down the power of the enemy and vanquishing his arrogance with divine grace.

Having acquired strength of mind, O Irene, thou didst oppose the tyrants with valor of soul, and hast been crowned by Christ God with a wreath of victory.

With the blood of thy suffering thou didst make thy natural beauty yet more comely, O pure martyr, having steadfastly undertaken valiant struggles, O goodly virgin.

**Theotokion:** He who beheld God revealed beforehand the mystery of thy birthgiving, O pure Ever-virgin Theotokos, in the image of the bush which burned yet was not consumed.

### Kontakion & Ikos from the Pentecostarion

### ODE VII

**Irmos:** Once, in Babylon, the children of Abraham trampled the flame of the furnace underfoot, crying out in hymns: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Standing, crowned, before the throne of thy Master, O martyr, preserve those who cry out with faith: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Thou hast been counted worthy to dance in the mansions of heaven, O right wondrous martyr Irene, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Desiring to obtain the beauty of He whom thou lovest, O Irene, thou didst endure the pangs of martyrdom, crying out: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

**Theotokion:** Following the words of thy lips, O Mother of God, we bless thee with faith, crying out to thine Offspring: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

### ODE VIII

**Irmos:** The birthgiving of the Theotokos saved the pious youths in the furnace-then in figure, but now in deed; and it moveth the whole world to chant to Thee: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

**T**hou didst suffer valiantly, O blessed Irene, and didst cast down the tyrant, having as thine invincible aid the power of thy Master assisting thee; and thou didst cry out: Hymn the Lord, and exalt Him supremely forever!

**W**ounded with youthful love, thou didst follow after thy Bridegroom, bearing His sufferings and wounds on thy body, and crying aloud: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely forever!

**T**hine endurance amid torments mocked those who place their trust in vanity and ungodliness, O crown-bearer Irene; and thou didst chant with faith: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely forever!

**Theotokion:** **T**he Wisdom of God, the Fashioner of all, making His abode within thy womb, O Mother of God, made thee a temple, noetic and animate, for Himself, and hath saved the world, which crieth out: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely forever!

### **ODE IX**

**Irmos:** **T**hrough the weakness of disobedience Eve came to dwell under the curse; but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, hast caused blessing to blossom forth for the world through the Offspring of thy pregnancy. Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

**D**ancing around thy Lover in the highest, O good virgin Irene, ask peace for the world and remission of offenses for those who with faith keep thy radiant and sacred memory.

**C**hrist hath caused thee, as a martyr and virgin, to dwell within His bridal-chamber, where thou dost rejoice with the virgins and the armies of martyrs, O most lauded and crowned Irene. Wherefore, we all call thee blessed.

**O**pening the gates of heaven, He Who alone reigneth over all, the Giver of justice, received thy most immaculate soul, O namesake of divine peace. Wherefore, we all call thee blessed.

**Theotokion:** **A**s thou hast unashamed boldness before thy Son, O all-immaculate one, entreat Him to send peaceful order upon the world, and oneness of mind upon all the Churches, that we may all magnify thee.