

**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL**  
**THE COMMEMORATION OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT**  
**AT VESPERS:**

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

Spec. Mel.: "Having set all aside ...":

**T**hy formerly neglected pollution by impurity \* hindered thee \* from gazing upon precious things, \* but thy good sense, O divinely wise one, \* and thine awareness of what thou hadst done \* wrought thy conversion to that which is better; \* for, lifting up thine eyes to gaze upon the icon of the blessed and divine Maiden, \* and repenting, O all-praised one, \* of all thy past transgressions, \* thou didst bow down in worship before the precious Tree with boldness.

**H**aving joyfully worshipped \* at the holy places, \* from thence thou didst receive \* the most saving viaticum of virtue, \* and didst set out with exceeding great haste on a good journey; \* and having passed beyond the stream of the Jordan, \* thou didst zealously make thine abode \* in the habitation of the Forerunner, \* and by thy dwelling therein didst subdue \* the savagery of the passions, \* laying waste to the carnal uprisings of thy body \* through abstinence, \* O ever-memorable mother.

**H**aving made thine abode in the wilderness, \* thou didst piously deface \* the images of thy passions, \* inscribing within thy soul the depiction of the most divine likeness; \* and so greatly didst thou shine forth \* that thou didst easily traverse the waters on foot \* and wast elevated above the ground \* in thy supplications unto God. \* And now with boldness \* thou standest before Christ, \* O all-glorious Mary. \* Entreat Him in behalf of our souls.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

**W**ith the sword of abstinence thou didst cut apart the spiritual nets of the carnal passions, and with the stillness of fasting thou didst smother mental offenses; with the streams of thy tears thou didst water the whole desert, and hast budded forth for us the fruits of repentance. Wherefore, we celebrate thy memory. O venerable one.

Now and ever ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion:

**B**eholding Thee nailed to the Tree of the Cross. O Jesus, weeping, she that kneweth not wedlock said: "O sweet Child, wherefore hast Thou abandoned me who alone gave birth unto Thee, O unapproachable Light of the all-unoriginate Father? Haste Thou, and glorify Thyself, that they that glorify Thy divine sufferings may receive divine glory!"

**Troparion, in Tone VIII:**

**I**n thee, O mother, that which was created according to the image of God was manifestly saved; for, accepting thy cross, thou didst follow after Christ; and, praying, thou didst learn to disdain the flesh, for thou didst transcend it, and to take care of thine immortal soul. Wherefore, with the angels doth thy soul rejoice, O venerable Mary.

## AT MATINS:

The canon to the venerable Mary, in Tone IV:

### ODE I

**Irmos:** Israel of old, having traversed the depths of the Red Sea dryshod, conquered the power of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms outstretched to form a cross.

With Thy mercy, O Christ, wash away the defilement of transgressions from my lowly soul, and by the supplications of Thy venerable one dispel the darkness and gloom of the passions.

Having polluted the nobility of thy soul with carnal passions, thou didst enlighten thy mind again by abstinence, making thy soul bright with the outpouring of thy tears.

Thou didst flee from the passions of Egypt as from a wellspring of sin; and having freed thyself of the defilement of the cruel Pharaoh, thou hast now inherited the land of dispassion and ever holdest chorus with the angels.

**Theotokion:** Gazing upon the icon of thee and the Word Who was born of thine all-pure womb, O pure Virgin Theotokos and Mistress, the all-glorious one fervently entreated thee to be surety for herself before Him.

### ODE III

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

The sores of thy soul stank and festered, but by the fountain of thy tears thou didst fervently cleanse them.

Legions of demons were vanquished by thee, and thou didst route the uprisings of the passions with thy tears.

Thou hast become like a cloud of the morning and like a trickling droplet pouring forth the waters of saving repentance upon all.

**Theotokion:** Having thee as our intercessor, salvation and strength, O pure one, the honored Mary bowed down in worship before the Tree of the holy Cross.

Sedalion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "Of the wisdom ...":

Restraining all the uprisings of the flesh with the pangs of fasting, thou didst show forth the manly wisdom of thy soul; for desiring to behold the form of the Cross, O ever-memorable one, thou didst crucify thyself to the world, and hence didst fervently raise thyself up to the zeal for a life undefiled, O most blessed and all-glorious Mary. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto them that with love honor thy holy memory.

Glory ..., Now and ever ..., Theotokion:

We all, the generations of men, bless thee as the Virgin who, alone among women, gavest birth without seed unto God in the flesh; for the fire of the Godhead made its abode within thee, and thou hast given such unto the Creator and Lord as a babe. Wherefore, we, the race of angels and men, glorify thine all-holy birthgiving as is meet, and cry out to thee together: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of offenses unto them that with faith worship thine all-holy Offspring.

**Stavrotheotokion:** The ewe-lamb, beholding the Lamb, Shepherd and Deliverer upon the Cross, cried out, weeping and, bitterly lamenting, exclaimed: "The world rejoiceth, receiving deliverance through Thee, but my womb doth burn, beholding Thy crucifixion, which Thou dost endure in the lovingkindness of Thy mercy. O long-suffering Lord, abyss of mercy, inexhaustible wellspring: take pity and grant remission of offenses unto them that with faith hymn Thy divine sufferings!"

**ODE IV**

**Irmos:** The Church, beholding Thee, the Sun of righteousness, lifted up upon the Cross, stood in place, crying out as is meet: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Fleeing all the pleasurable things which are in the world, thou didst take thyself away, and through extreme abstinence and the endurance of those things which thou didst, thou didst cleave unto One alone in a pure manner.

The movements and burnings of the body didst thou truly quell through abstinence; hence thou didst adorn thy soul with divine visions and actions, O most glorious Mary.

Through the power of thy virtue, thy tears and extreme fasting, by prayer, heat, winter's cold and nakedness, thou didst become a precious receptacle for the Holy Spirit.

**Theotokion:** Having had recourse unto the icon of thee and Him Who was born of thee, O Virgin Mary, Mary of Egypt hath now found immortal life through thee, holding chorus in Paradise.

**ODE V**

**Irmos:** Thou hast come, O my Lord, a Light unto the world, a holy Light which turneth from the gloom of ignorance them that hymn Thee with faith.

Rejoicing, thou didst follow after Christ, bearing thine own cross on thy shoulder, O Mary, and thou didst wound the demons.

**T**hou hast shown us the medicine of repentance, and hast shown us also the path which leadeth again to life which perisheth not.

**B**e thou for me an invincible helper, O honored one, and deliver me from the passions and from all pain by thine entreaties to the Lord.

**Theotokion:** **E**ver beseeching thee, the venerable one gazed upon thine icon, O pure Mistress, and put to shame the assaults of the passions.

### **ODE VI**

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

**W**ith sweat thou didst wash away the defilement of sin; and, directing thy gaze mentally towards that glory which corrupteth not, thou hast now found fruitfulness through thy pangs, O glorious one.

**T**hy life, O Mary, hath been shown to be a model for all sinners who have sinned beyond measure in life, that they, too, may arise and wash away their defilement with tears.

**T**ake pity, O Lover of mankind, on my lowly soul which I have polluted by giving rein to the impure desires of my flesh; and through the supplications of the venerable one have mercy on me.

**Theotokion:** **W**ith all thine heart and soul thou didst love the living Word of God Who was born incarnate of the Virgin, and Who spake unto thee, O venerable one.

**Kontakion, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Having been lifted up ...":**

**H**aving fled the gloom of sin and illumined thine heart with the light of repentance, O glorious one, thou didst go to Christ and didst bring His all-immaculate and holy Mother to Him as a merciful intercessor; hence, thou didst find remission of thy transgressions and dost now rejoice ever with the angels.

**Ikos:** **T**he serpent who of old caused Eve to fall through the deception of the tree in Eden, thou didst cast down into the pit through the Tree of the Cross, O glorious Mary; and, fleeing from pleasure, thou didst desire purity. Hence, with the virgins thou hast been accounted worthy to enter the chamber of thy Master and to have thy delight with them as is meet. Him do thou earnestly beseech, that He grant us remission of many sins and account us worthy of His life and to rejoice ever with the angels.

### **ODE VII**

**Irmos:** **The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace, consumed with love of piety more than by the flame, cried out: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!**

**H**aving manifestly traveled the narrow path of tribulation and made thy soul radiant with the beauty of the virtues, thou didst attain unto the endless life of heaven, where Christ is the never-ending Light.

**H**aving trampled down all the transient things in the world, thou dost now join chorus with all the armies of the angels, chanting: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

**W**ith thy fasting, prayer and tears, O venerable one, thou didst cause all of the wiles and devices of the enemy to fail; therefore, the uprisings of the passions are now driven away from thee, O honored Mary.

**Theotokion:** **O** most pure one, who without knowing wedlock truly gave birth unto the incorporeal God yet remained truly Virgin, by thy power thou hast driven away the passions and legions of demons.

### **ODE VIII**

**Irmos:** **Stretching forth his hands, Daniel shut the mouths of the lions 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!**

**H**aving illumined thy whole mind with the radiance of the virtues, O glorious Mary, and conversed with God, and broken down thy flesh with great fasting and pious thought, rejoicing thou didst chant: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**P**rotecting thyself with the sign of the Cross, with faith traversing the waters of Jordan with thy dryshod feet, having received communion of the Body and Blood of the heavenly Christ, thou didst say: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**T**he godly priest Zosimas, an initiate of the mysteries of grace, when he beheld thee crossing the Jordan's stream with dryshod feet, O glorious one, seized with fear and trembling chanted, rejoicing: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**Theotokion:** **T**hrough thee, O all-undefiled one, did the venerable one put off corruption and defilement; by thee, O Mistress, was she clothed in the garment of incorruption; and with thee did she cry out to thy Son: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

### **ODE IX**

**Irmos:** **Christ, who united the two disparate natures, the chief Cornerstone uncut by human hands, was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O virgin. Wherefore, in gladness we magnify thee, O Theotokos.**

**T**hou art now nurtured on truly incorruptible and divine food, delighting in the noetic and unwaning Light in the mansions of heaven, where the ranks of angels entreat God in our behalf.

**D**isdaining transient and corruptible glory, O Mary, thou didst inherit blessed life and glory. Entreat Christ in behalf of them that ever celebrate thy most holy memory.

**B**ehold my sorrow and the groaning of my heart, O venerable one! Behold the imprisonment of my life! Save me from my sin, and take pity on my soul by thy mediations before the Lord!

**Theotokion: O** pure Mistress Theotokos, salvation of sinners, accept this entreaty, and, by the supplications of thy venerable one, from my transgressions deliver me who flee to thy Son.

**Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "O immutable Light ...":**

**T**hou hast been given unto us as a model of repentance, O Mary; for, having acquired Mary the Theotokos as thy helper, thou didst win the victory with thy fervent compunction. With her pray thou in our behalf.

**Glory ..., Now and ever ..., Theotokion:**

**T**he timeless Light which shone forth from the Father before the ages hath now in these latter days manifested Himself in time for the salvation of the world, O Virgin. Cease thou never to pray to Him in behalf of thy people.