Byzantine Monthly Menaion

Volume Seven: March

Metropolitan Cantor Institute Byzantine Catholic Seminary Pittsburgh, PA

Foreword

A Menaion is a liturgical book which contains the changeable parts of Byzantine divine services for a given month. The volume in your hands is the seventh of a series of twelve books for use in Byzantine Catholic parishes. Each day is provided with the following material:

- (1) Synaxarion (brief life of the saints remembered)
- (2) Troparia and Kontakia
- (3) Prokeimena and Alleluiaria
- (4) Communion Hymn.

On major feasts, the proper antiphons (when there are any) and the Magnification and Irmos (appointed to take the place of It is truly proper) are also included.

Texts which are contained in the Faithful's Book published by the Byzantine Catholic Church are reproduced with their musical settings from that book. Those texts were translated by the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission, and then set to plainchant by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission.

Many of the Troparia contained in this volume of the Menaion are, in fact, common texts (i.e., they are used on more than one feast). These texts, too, come from the work of the IELC/IEMC, as are all the Prokeimena and Alleluiaria and Communion Hymns.

The texts of the Troparia and Kontakia that are not from the above-mentioned source are almost always taken from the Order of Matins published by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, and we acknowledge these texts with gratitude.

This volume is intended to be used annually. Because of this, cantors must use the Typikon of the Metropolitan Church to discern how materials from the Menaion are to be combined with the Sunday Ochtoechos. The Typikon will also explain how Prokeimena and Alleluiaria are to be combined.

May this series of volumes be a blessing for all who attend daily celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, as well as for those who, unable to be at church each day, still wish to pray with the Church and honor the Lord and his saints.

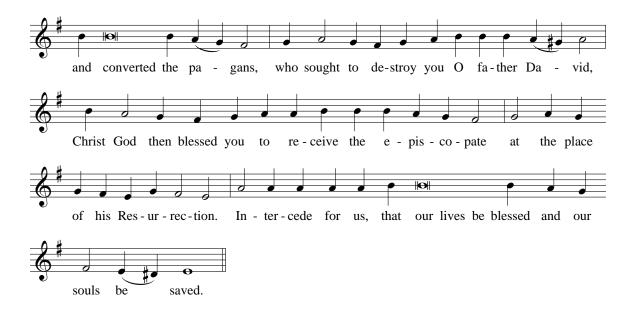
August 28, 2005 Our venerable father Moses the Ethiopian and Our holy father Augustine, bishop of Hippo

MENAION - MARCH

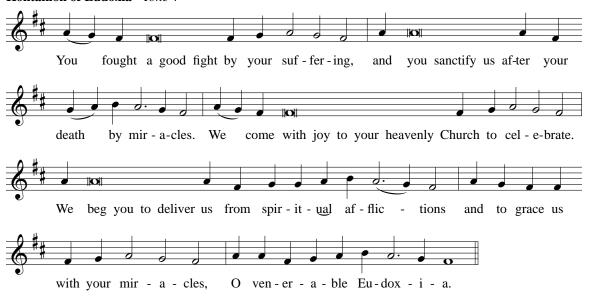
1 The venerable martyr Eudoxia. Having lived a profligate younger life, she was converted and baptized by bishop Theodotus. She was arrested and beheaded for the faith under the emperor Trajan. (2nd century)

Our holy father David, the Enlightener of Wales, who, imitating the examples and customs of the eastern Fathers, founded a monastery. From this monastery, very many monks set out and evangelized Wales, Ireland, Cornwall, and Brittany. (c.601)

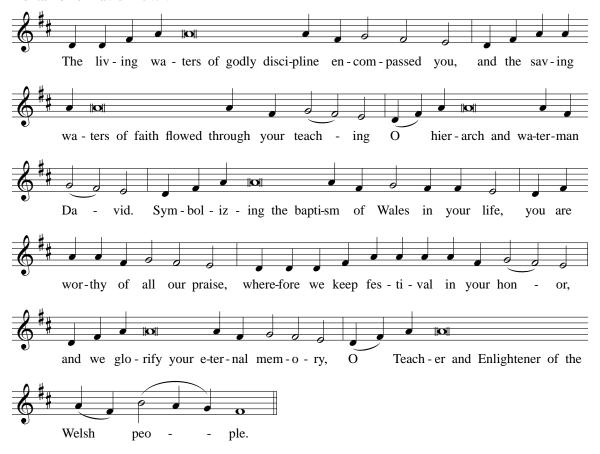




Kontakion of Eudoxia - Tone 4

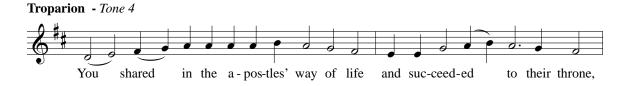


Kontakion of David - Tone 6



The Commons of a Woman Martyr are found on page 54. The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

2 The holy martyr Theodotus, bishop of Cyrene, who suffered under the emperor Diocletian. (302)





The Commons of a Priest-Martyr are found on page 51.

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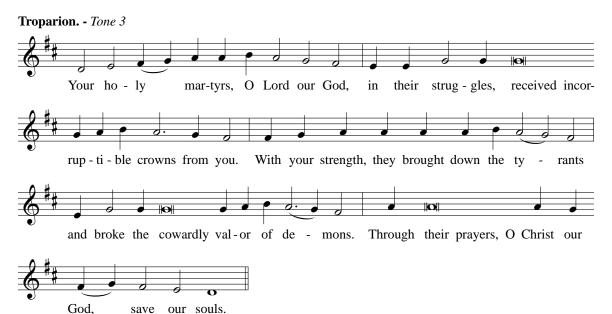
Christ our

God to have mer-cy

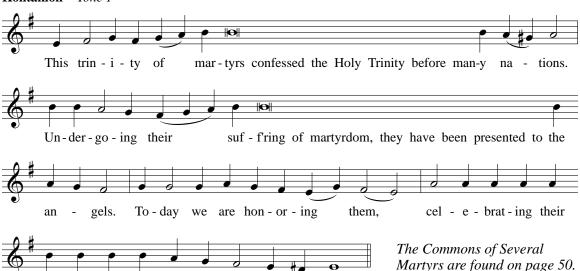
on

us.

3 The holy martyr Eutropius and his companions, Cleonicus and Basiliscus, at Amasea in Pontus, martyrs in the persecution of Maximius the emperor under the governor Asclepiodatus. (308)







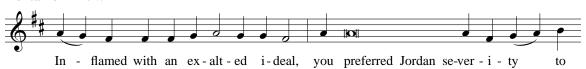
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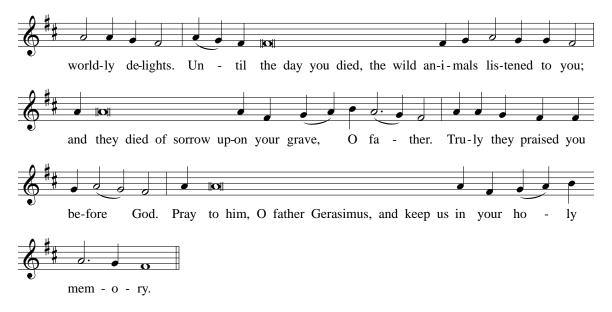
sa - cred and life - sav - ing mem - o

4 Our venerable father Gerasimus of the Jordan, anchorite. At the time of the emperor Zeno, he was brought back to the orthodox faith by St. Euthymius. He engaged in great works of penance, offering to all who practiced the monastic life under him a way of living the most irreproachable discipline. (475)



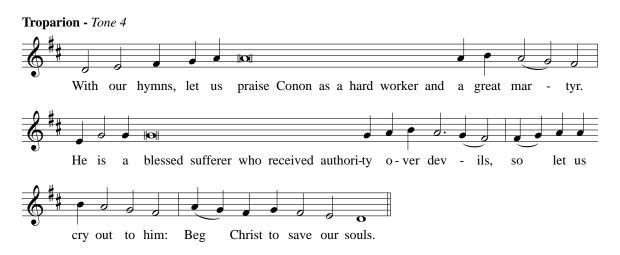




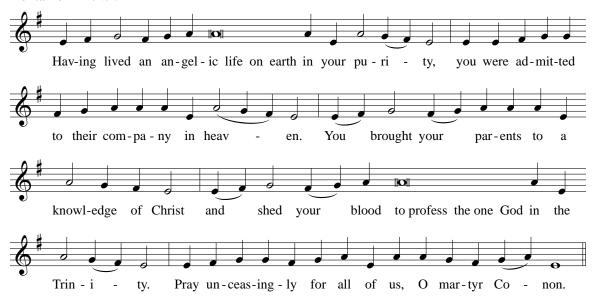


The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

5 The holy martyr Conon, who was a gardener during the reign of the emperor Decian. He was ordered to run in front of a chariot after having his feet pierced with nails. He sank down to his knees and surrendered his spirit in prayer. (251)

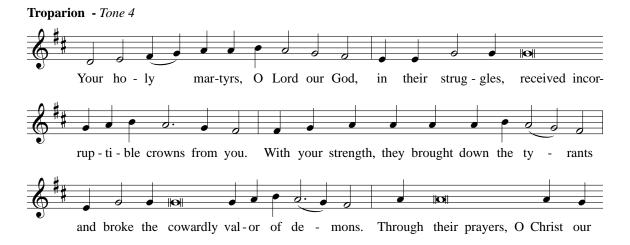


Kontakion - Tone 3



The Commons of a Martyr are found on page 49.

6 The holy forty-two martyrs of Ammorium in Syria. Captured in Phrygia and taken to the Euphrates River, they seized the palm of martyrdom by their surpassing spiritual struggle. (848)





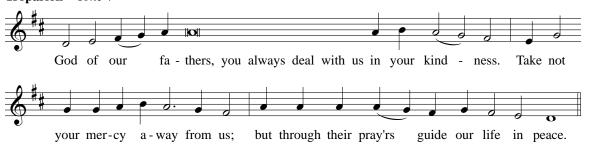




The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

7 The holy martyrs and bishops of Cherson: Basil, Eugene, Agathadorus, Elpidius, Aetherius, Capito, and Ephrem, who preached in the Crimea and gave their lives for the Faith. (4th century)

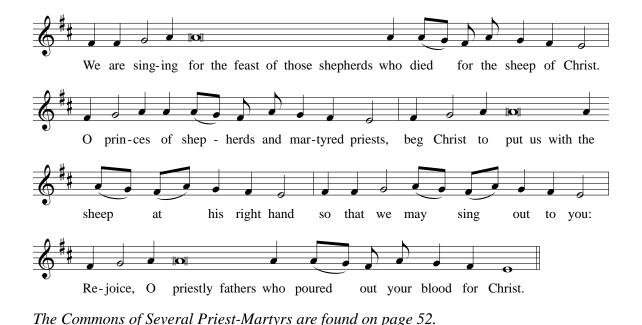
Troparion - Tone 4



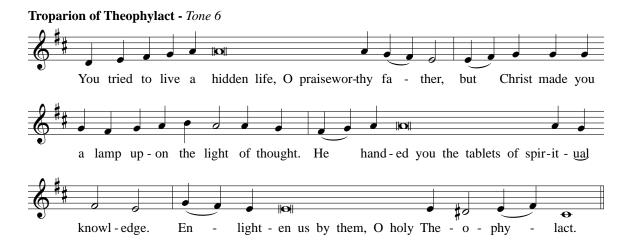
Kontakion - Tone 2



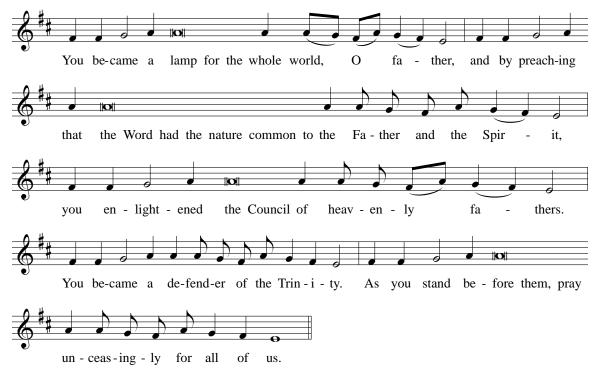
The day of splendor of those brilliant bishops of Cher - son has come to-day.



Our venerable father and confessor Theophylact of Nicomedia in Bythinia, who was exiled for the sake of the cult of the holy icons and died at Strobilis in Caria. (845)



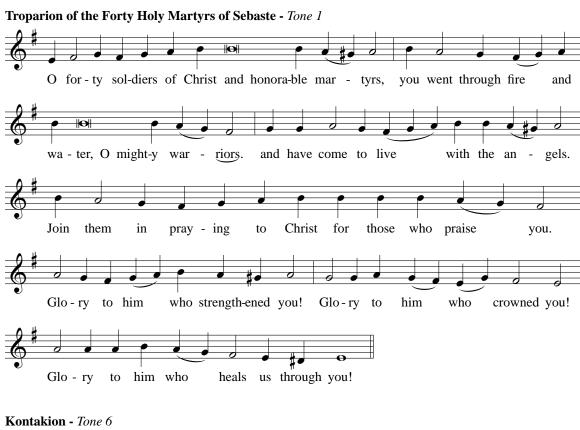
Kontakion - Tone 2

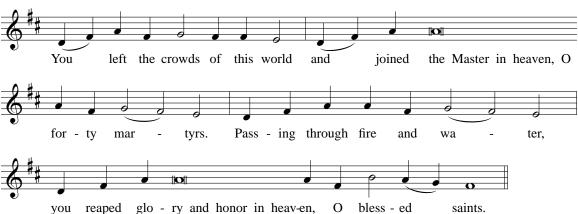


The Commons of a Confessor are found on page 56.

9 The forty holy martyrs of Sebaste in Armenia. They were comrades, not in blood, but in faith and obedience to the will of their heavenly Father. At the time of the emperor Licinius, after binding and savage tortures, they were ordered to pass the night naked at the coldest time of winter in a swamp in the open air. They consummated their martyrdom by the breaking of their legs at crucifixion. (320)

The holy martyr Urpasianus of Nicomedia. The emperor Maximian Gallerius (305-311) cruelly persecuted Christians serving in his army and at his court. Thus the dignitary Urpasian threw down his cloak and sash at the feet of the ruler and said: "Henceforth I am a warrior of the Heavenly King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Take back the insignia given me." Maximian gave orders to tie Urpasian to a tree and whip him with ox thongs. Later on they bound the saint to the lattice top of an iron grate, and beneath they built a fire. Saint Urpasian with incessant prayer endured the intolerable suffering. The glorious martyr was burned alive, and his ashes thrown into the sea. His tormentors were astonished that they had been unable to break his spirit. (c.295)

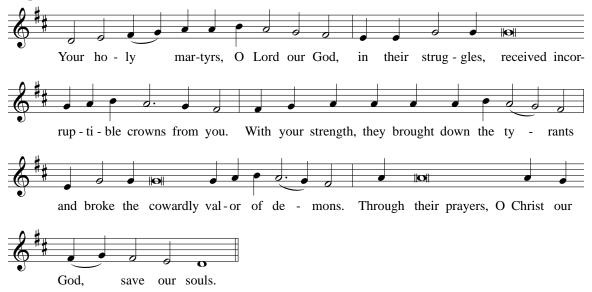




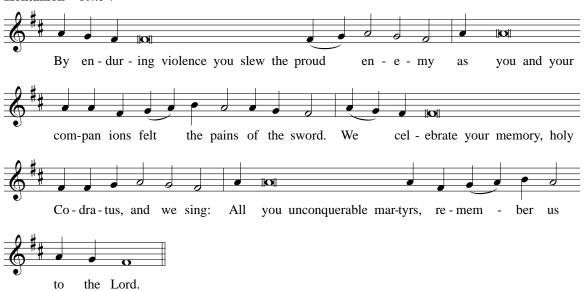
The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

10 The holy martyr Codratus and his companions Emmanuel, Sabine, and Theodosius in Anatolia, martyrs in the reign of the emperor Licinius. (250)



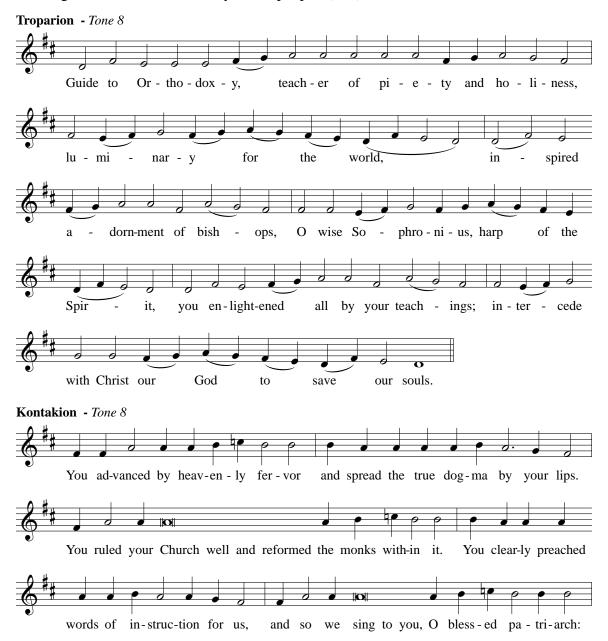


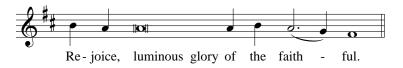
Kontakion - Tone 4



The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

11 Our holy father Sophronius, patriarch of Jerusalem. He had John Moschus as a teacher and friend, with whom he visited monastic sites. He was elected patriarch of the see after Modestus. When the Holy City fell into the hands of the Saracens, he defended with vigor the faith and the safety of the people. (644)





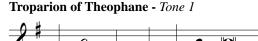
The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

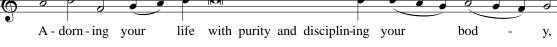
12 Our venerable father and confessor Theophane of the Sygrian Mountain in

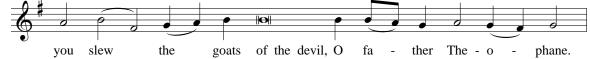
Bithynia in the monastery of Ager Magnus. He was called the Chronographer. Having been a very wealthy man, he became a poor monk. He was held in prison for two years by the emperor Leo the Armenian on account of his defense of the cult of holy icons. From there he was deported to Samothrace, where, consumed by his tribulations, he yielded up his spirit. (817)

Our holy father Gregory, pope of Rome. After having entered the monastic life, he performed the duty of ambassador to Constantinople. Then on the third of September, he was chosen for the Roman See. He dealt well with earthly matters and, as a servant of the servants of God, he attended to holy things. He showed that he was a true pastor in directing affairs, in fully assisting the needy, in fostering the monastic life, and everywhere strengthening or extending the faith. He also wrote excellently on many things concerning moral and pastoral matters. (604)

Our venerable father Simeon the New Theologian was born in Galatia in Paphlagonia and educated in Constantinople, where he entered the imperial service. He left all for Christ and entered a monastery. He became hegumen of the monastery of St. Mamas, and finally became a hermit. He is accounted the greatest theologian since St. Gregory the Theologian. (1022)



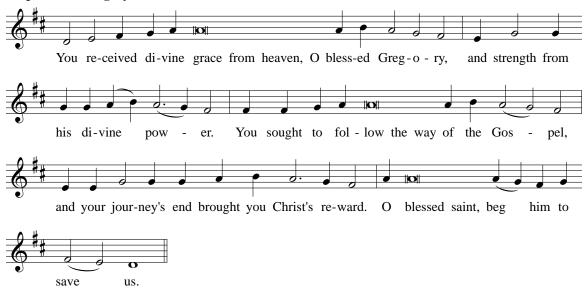




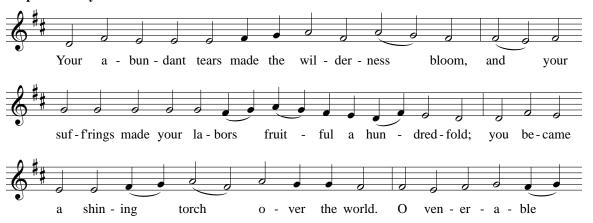


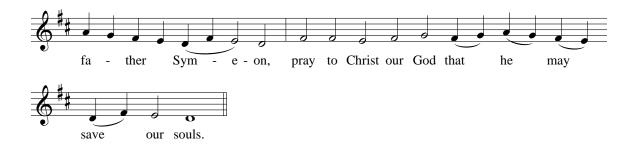


Troparion of Gregory - *Tone 4*

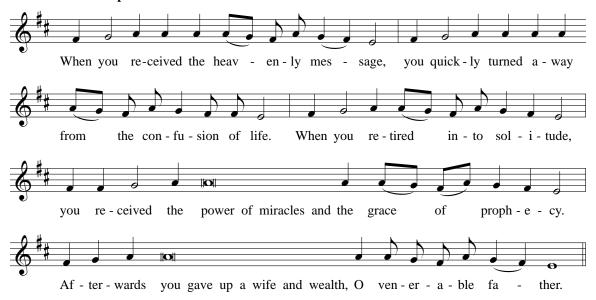


Troparion of Symeon - *Tone 8*

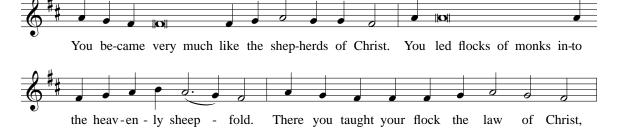


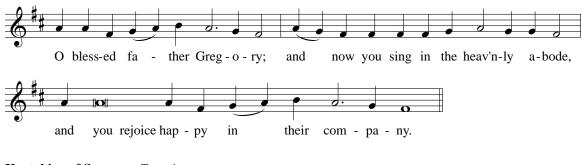


Kontakion of Theophane - *Tone 2*

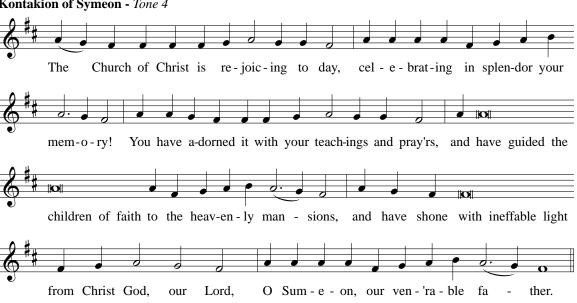


Kontakion of Gregory - Tone 4



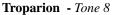




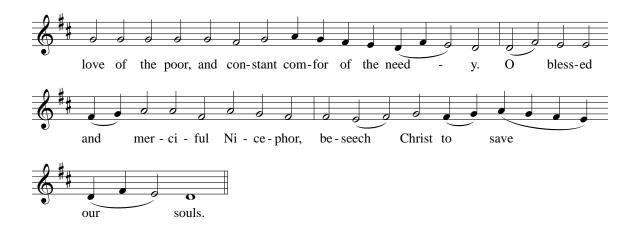


The Commons of a Confessor are found on page 56.

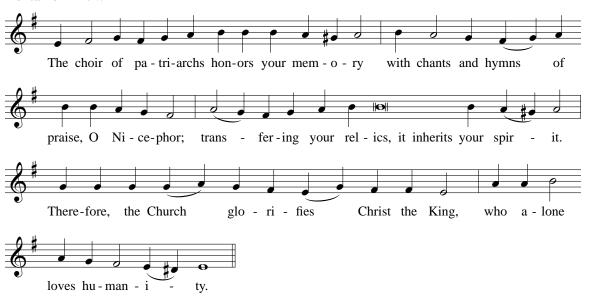
The translation of the relics of our holy father Nicephor, patriarch of 13 **Constantinople.** Nicephor died in exile on the island of Prochonis in the year 827. After the death of the last iconoclast emperor, the relics of the holy father were brought back to Constantinople, first to the church of Hagia Sophia and then finally to the Church of the Holy Apostles in the year 846.







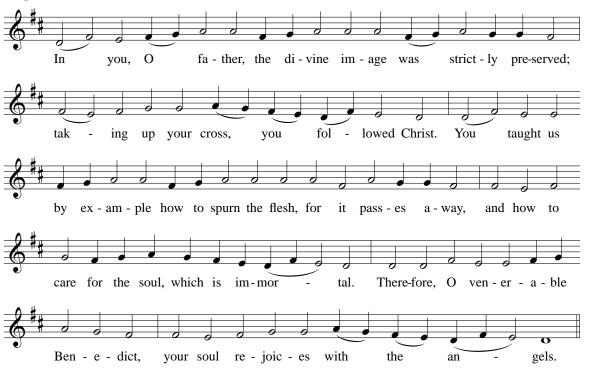
Kontakion - Tone 1



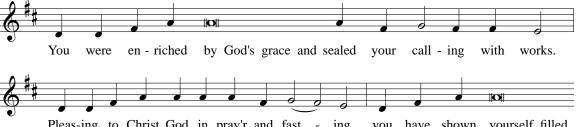
The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

14 Our venerable father Benedict. Born in Nursia in Umbria and educated in Rome, he began a hermit's life in the Subiaco region. He gathered many disciples around himself, and then went to Monte Casino. There he founded his celebrated monastery and composed his "Rule for Monks." This rule spread so widely that he has deserved to be called the patriarch of monks in the West. It is said that he died on the twenty-first day of March. (550)

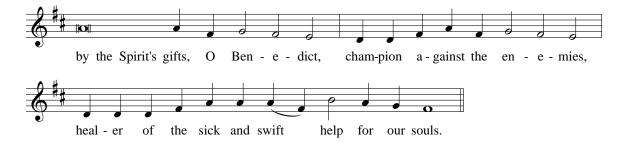




Kontakion - Tone 8

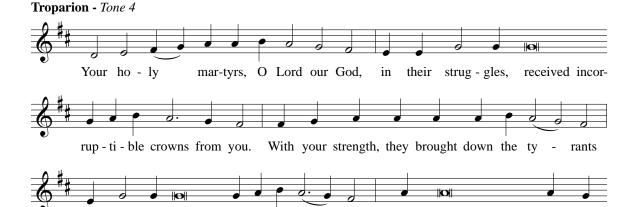


Pleas-ing to Christ God in pray'r and fast - ing, you have shown yourself filled



The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

15 The holy martyr Agapius and his companions. The holy martyrs Timolaus, Dionysius, Pausis, Romulus, Alexander, and another Alexander at Caesarea in Palestine, who were led with bound hands to Urbanus the prefect in the persecution of Diocletian the emperor and confessed that they were Christians. A few days later, with their companions Agapius and another Dionysius, they were beheaded and earned the crowns of eternal life. (303)

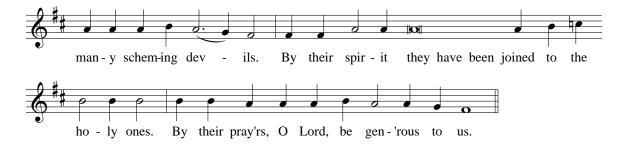


and broke the cowardly val-or of de - mons. Through their prayers, O Christ our



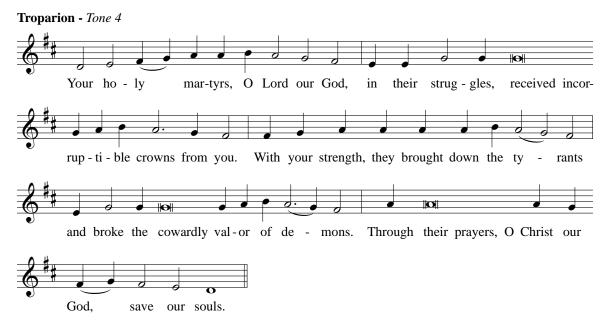
Kontakion - Tone 8

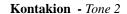




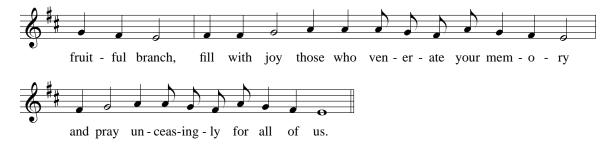
The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

The holy martyrs Sabinus and Papas in Hermopolis in Egypt, martyrs, who suffered many things and finally died after being thrown into a river in the persecution of Diocletian. (287)





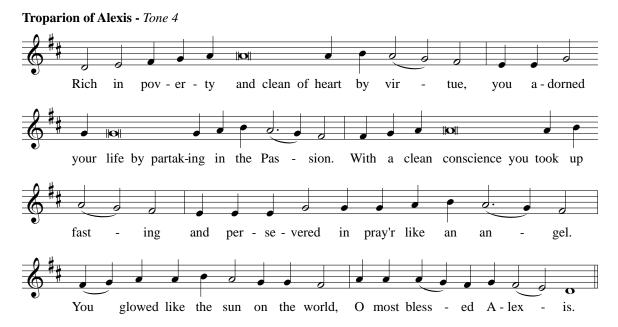




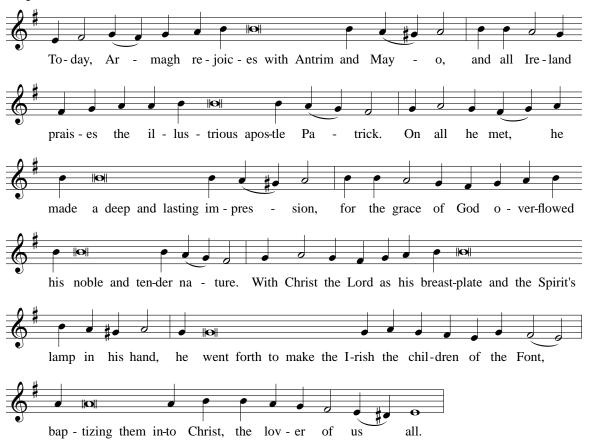
The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

17 Our venerable father Alexis, Man of God. Today we remember the man of God celebrated under the name of Alexius, at Rome in the church on the Aventine Hill, who, as tradition relates, left his rich home that he might become poor and beg alms incognito.(411)

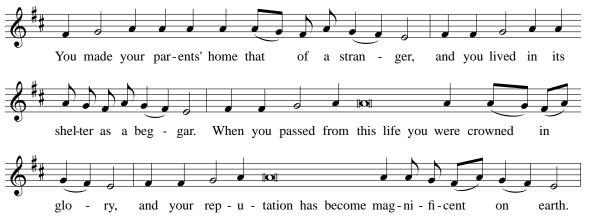
Our holy father Patrick, enlightener of Ireland. As a youth, he was brought as a captive from Britain to Ireland. Then, having received his freedom, he wished to be numbered among the clergy and returned to Ireland. Having been made a bishop, he zealously announced the Gospel to the people and steadfastly governed the Church, until he fell asleep in the Lord at the city of Down, in Ulster in Ireland. (461)

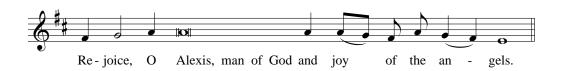


Troparion of Patrick - *Tone 1*



Kontakion of Alexis - Tone 2



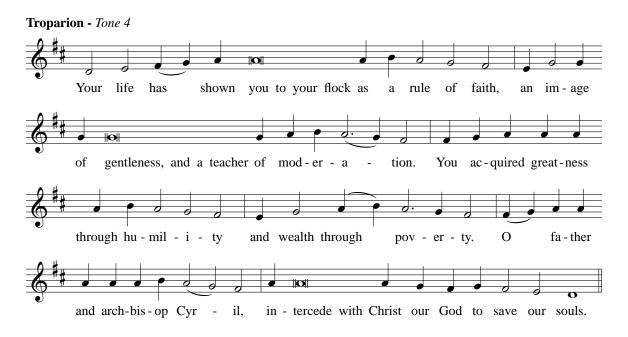


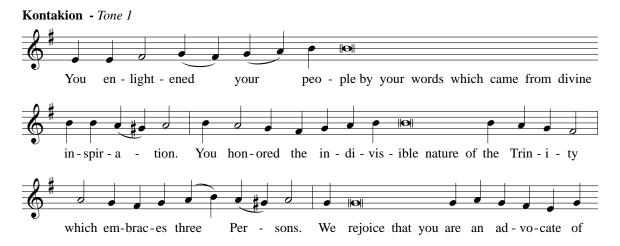
Kontakion of Patrick - Tone 4



The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48. The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

18 Our holy father Cyril, archbishop of Jerusalem. He suffered many injustices from the Arians for the sake of the faith and was frequently driven from his see. He set forth by his preaching and instruction to the faithful the orthodox doctrine, the Scriptures, and the sacred Mysteries. (386)

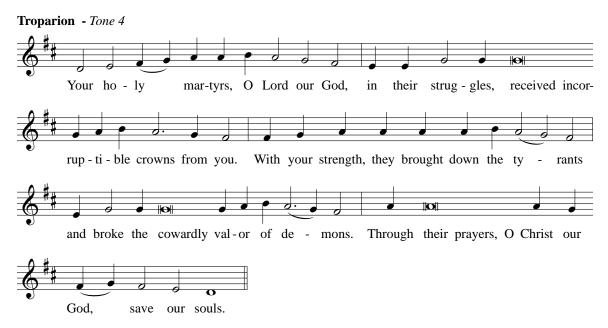


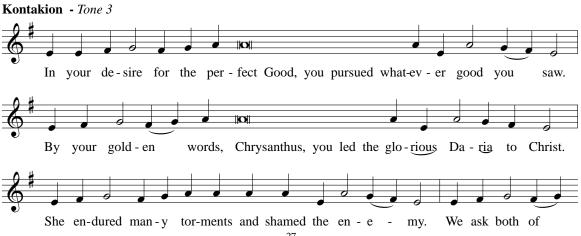




The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

19 The holy martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, in the catacomb of Thraso on the Via Salaria Nova, whom Pope St. Damasus praised. (c.253)

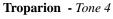


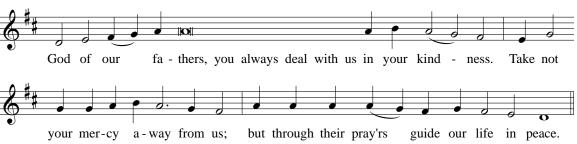




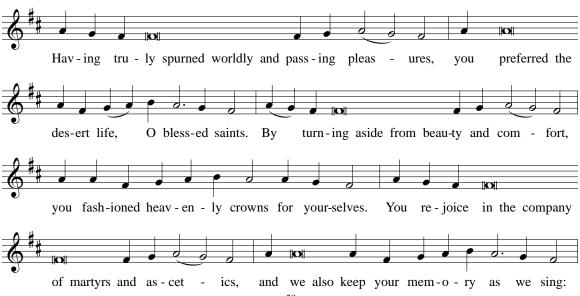
The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

20 Our venerable fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery, killed by Saracens in 796. The monks refused to flee from the Muslim invasion, saying "We have fled from the world into this wilderness for the love of Christ; it would be shame to us now to flee from the wilderness for fear of men. If we are killed here, we shall be killed through love of Christ, for whose sake we have come here to live."





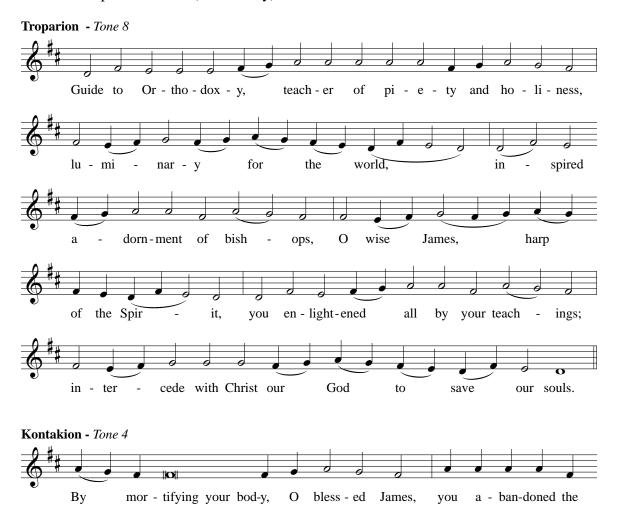
Kontakion - Tone 4

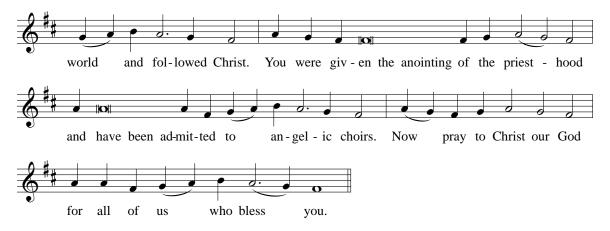




The Commons of Venerable Martyrs are found on page 53.

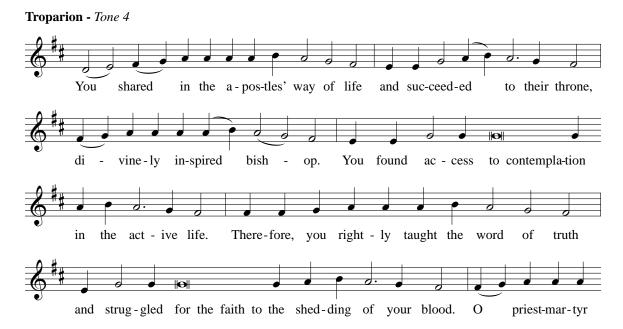
21 Our venerable father and confessor James, bishop of Catania, who died in the Iconoclastic persecutions. (8th century)





The Commons of a Confessor are found on page 56.

22 The holy martyr Basilides, priest of Ancyra in Galatia, priest and martyr. When Constantius held the office of emperor, Basilides most courageously opposed the Arians. Soon after, under the emperor Julian, he implored God that none of the Christians leave the faith. For this reason he was captured and handed over to the governor of the province. Having suffered many tortures, he consummated his martyrdom. (363)









You ran the course and kept the faith, O Ba-sil - i-des, Be-cause of this you were



crowned with glo-ry in mar-tyr-dom and hailed as an immovable pil-lar of the Church.



You con-fessed the Son to be coeternal in the Trinity with the Father and the Spir - it.



The Commons of a Priest-Martyr are found on page 51.

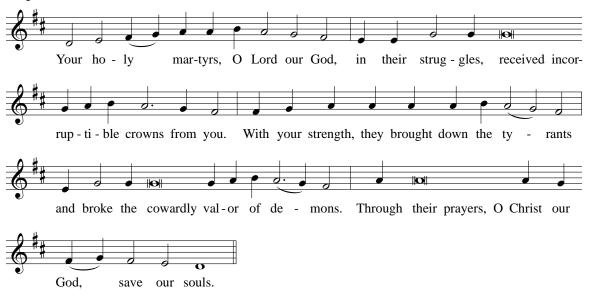
23 The holy venerable martyr Nicon and his students martyred with him fled the persecutions in Palestine to a refuge in Sicily, where they were put to death under the emperor Decius. (250)

Our holy mother Rafqa. Born in a small village in the mountains of Lebanon in 1832, she entered the Maronite Antonian order at the Monastery of Saint Simon. In 1885, she asked of the Lord Jesus that she might share in a special way in the sufferings of his crucifixion. She soon became blind and crippled, but continued to work and to pray, eating only left-overs and wearing cast-off clothing. In all of this, she remained humble, and was a profound mystic. (1914)

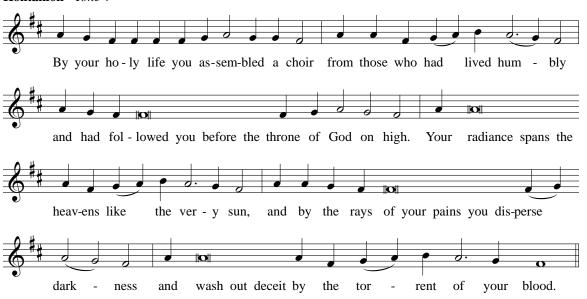
Our venerable father Methodius Dominic Trcka. Born in 1886 in Bohemia, he entered the Redemptorists in 1902 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1910. After World War I, he asked to work among the Greek Catholic faithful, and was sent to L'viv to work with Bl. Nicholas Charneckyj. In 1921, he was sent to Slovakia, and oversaw the foundation of a Greek Catholic community of Redemptorists in Michalovce. In 1945, a Greek-Catholic vice-province was set up in Michalovce, and Trcka was appointed superior. In 1950, the Communists arrested him, tried him, and condemned him to twelve years' imprisonment. He was treated with great cruelty and died in prison. (1959)

31

Troparion - Tone 4



Kontakion - Tone 4

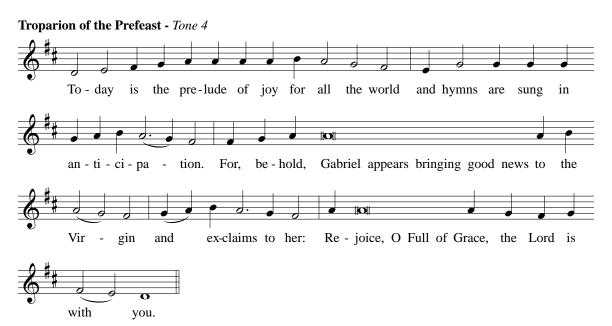


The Commons of Several Martyrs are found on page 50.

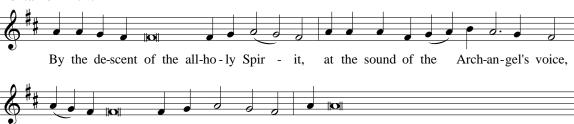
24 Prefestive day of the Annunciation

Our venerable father Zachary. He was born in Egypt, and his father left his family to become a monk and took Zachary with him. God gave him great gifts of grace; he was a great light among the monks in the desert, and went to his peace in the Lord at an early age.

Our holy father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia. Born and educated in Selucia, he encountered the Apostle Paul, who encouraged him and made him bishop of the city. Artemon guided the flock of Christ with love and zeal, and entered into rest at a great old age. (1st century)







O The-otokos, you con-ceived the One who shares the Father's essence and his throne,



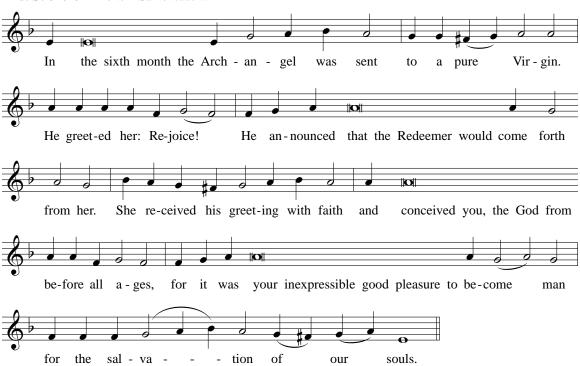
The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN

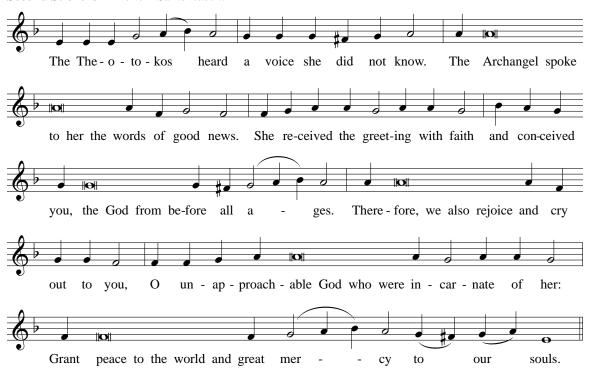
MARY when, in the city of Nazareth, the angel of the Lord announced to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most High." Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And thus the fullness of time was accomplished, and he who before time was the only-begotten Son of God was made flesh for our sake and for our salvation, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became human.

If the Annunciation falls on a Lenten weekday, the Divine Liturgy of Our Holy Father John Chrysostom is celebrated with Vespers on March 25, in the evening.

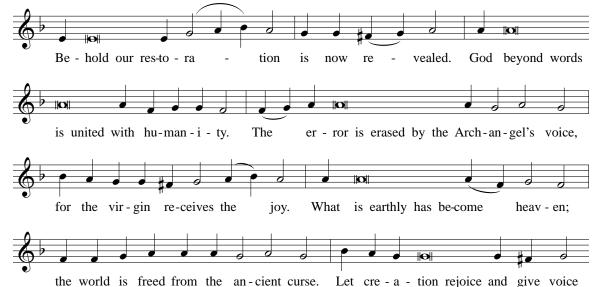
First Sticheron – *Tone 4 Samohlasen:*



Second Sticheron – *Tone 4 Samohlasen:*



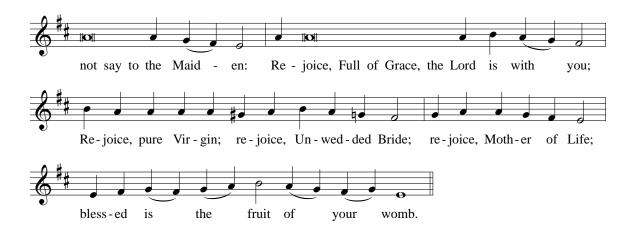
Third Sticheron – *Tone 4 Samohlasen:*





Theotokion – *Tone 6 Samohlasen:*

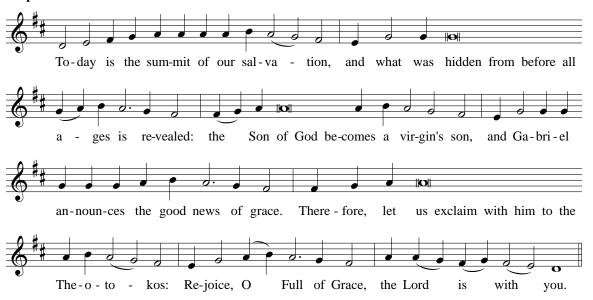




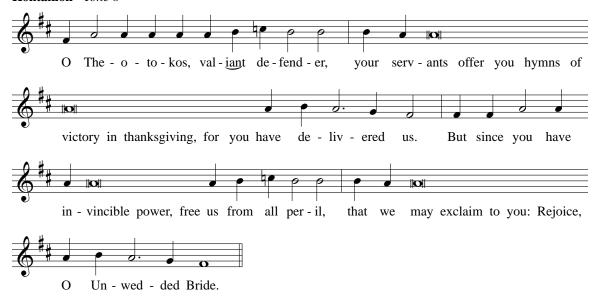
Entrance Hymn - *Tone 4 Troparion* (Psalm 95:2):



Troparion - Tone 4:



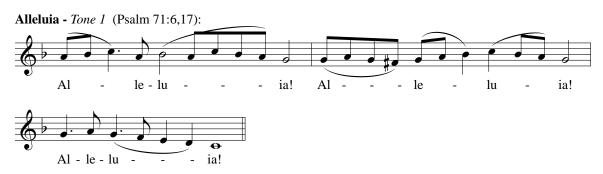
Kontakion - Tone 8



Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 95:2,1):



Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

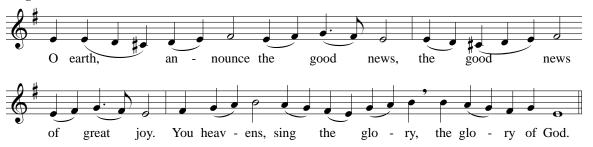


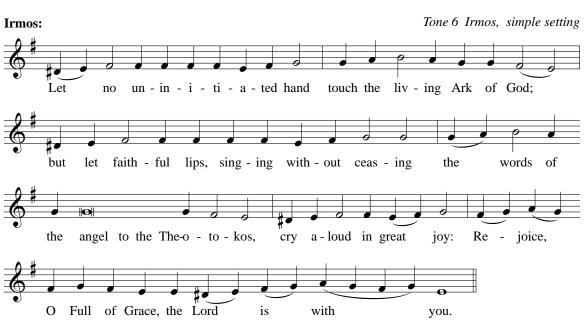
Verse: He will descend like rain on the meadows, like raindrops on the earth.

Verse: May his name be blessed forever, more enduring than the sun.

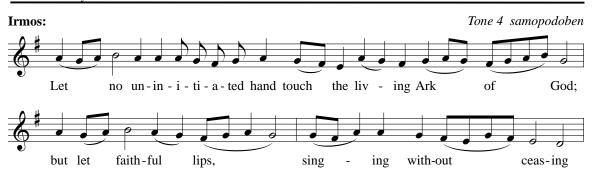
Instead of "It is truly proper . . ."

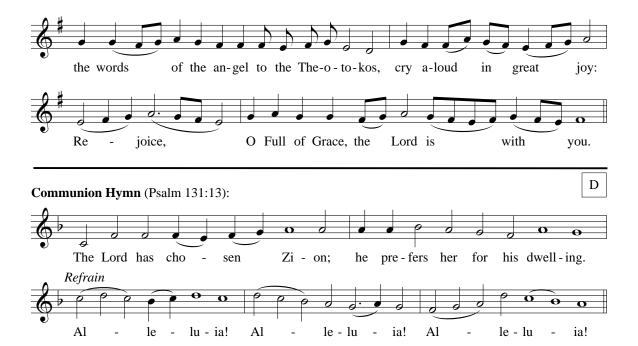
Magnification:





Or this melody:

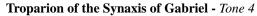




26 Postfestive day of the Annunciation

Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel, who brought the Good News to Mary, the chosen one, and to the priest Zachary, the father of the prophet and forerunner John.

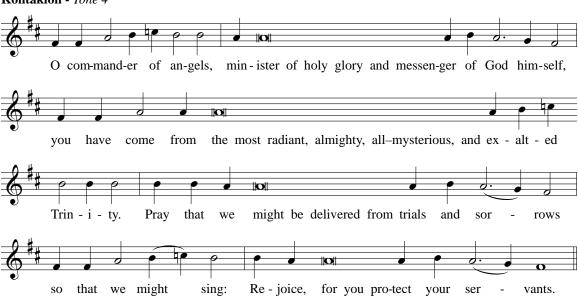
All as on March 25, with the addition of:



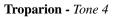


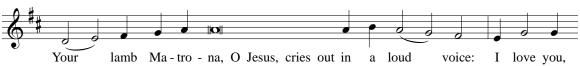


Kontakion - Tone 4



27 Our venerable mother Matrona of Thessalonica in Macedonia, martyr. She was a handmaid of a certain Jewish woman. When she secretly worshipped Christ, she was caught by her mistress and struck with many blows. She was finally beaten to the point of death with cudgels. While confessing Christ, she returned her spirit incorrupt to God. (c.350)







so wise in God, now pray for those who hon - or your mem - o - ry.

life for

him.

O

mar - tyr Ma

tro - na,

The Commons for a Venerable Woman are found on page 55.

your

and

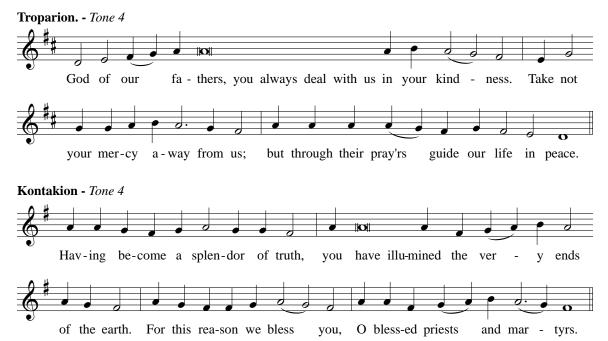
e - ven gave

28 Our venerable father Hilary the Younger and the holy Stephen the Wonderworker, both of whom died in the persecution of the emperor Leo the Armenian. Hilary was hegumen of Pelekete near the Hellespont, and was a wonderworker. He was exiled with forty of his monks to a deserted place near Ephesus, where they died there in prison. (754)



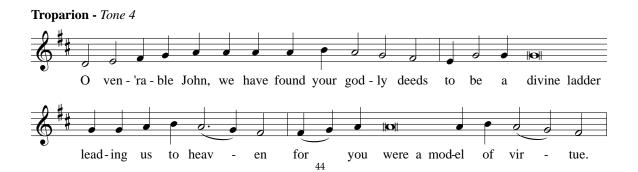
The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

29 Our venerable father Mark, bishop of Arethusa in Syria and of the Deacon Cyril, and the others who suffered martyrdom under Julian the Apostate. Mark departed not at all from the orthodox faith at the time of the Arian controversy. He was violently abused under the emperor Julian the Apostate, and was hailed by St. Gregory of Nazianzus as an exceptional man. (364)



The Commons of Several Priest-Martyrs are found on page 52.

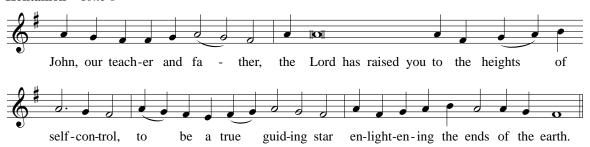
30 Our venerable father John Climacus, author of "The Ladder" was born in Palestine. At the age of sixteen, he entered a monastery on Mount Sinai, where (in his later years) he wrote "The Ladder of Perfection." (649)





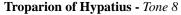
There-fore, beg Christ our God to save our souls.

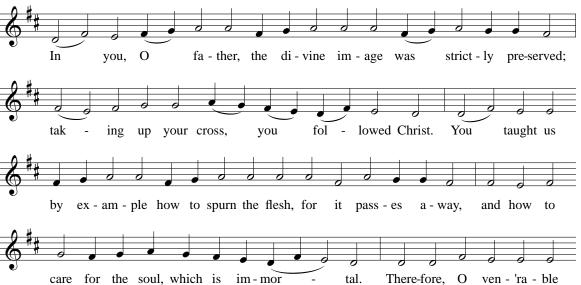




The Commons of a Venerable are found on page 48.

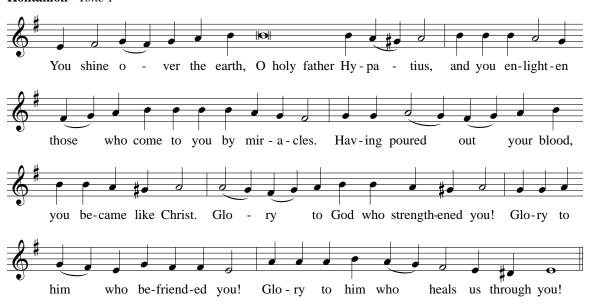
31 Our venerable father Hypatius, bishop of Gangra in Paphlagonia, bishop, who, pelted with stones by Novatianist heretics on a road, died a martyr. (326)







Kontakion - Tone 1

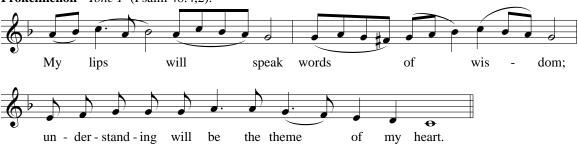


The Commons of a Hierarch are found on page 47.

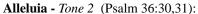
Commons

For a Hierarch (Bishop):



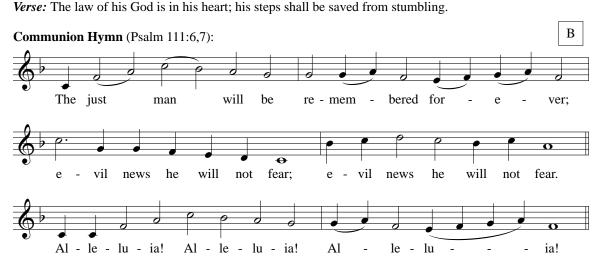


Verse: Hear this, all you peoples; give heed, all who dwell in the world.



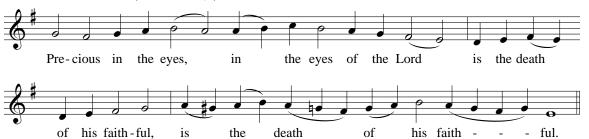


Verse: The mouth of the just utters wisdom, and his tongue will pronounce judgment.



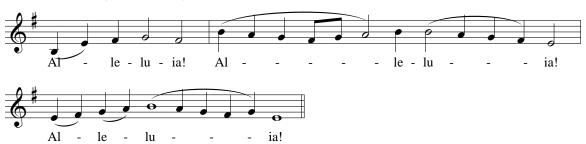
For a Venerable:

Prokeimenon - *Tone* 7 (Psalm 115:6,3):



Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Alleluia - *Tone* 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):



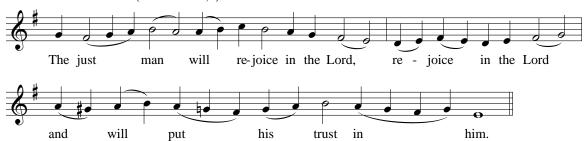
Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.

Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.



For a Martyr:

Prokeimenon - *Tone* 7 (Psalm 63:11,2)



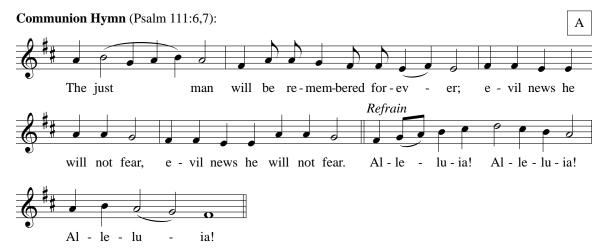
Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.

Alleluia - *Tone 4* (Psalm 91:13,14):



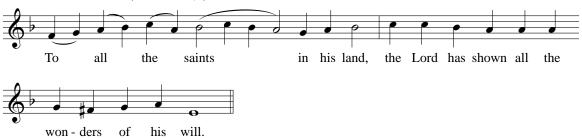
Verse: The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, he will flourish in the courts of our God.



For Several Martyrs:

Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 15:3,8):



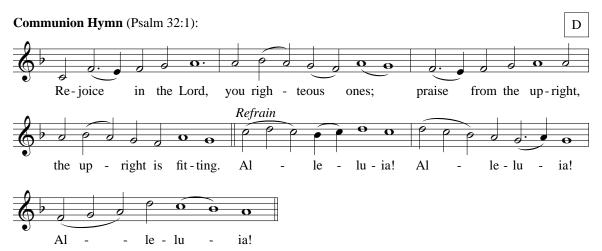
Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - *Tone 4* (Psalm 33:18,20):



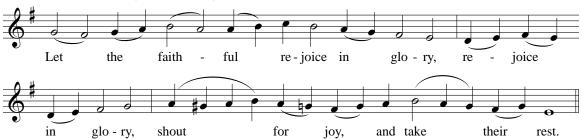
Verse: The just cried out and the Lord heard them, and rescued them from all their distress.

Verse: Many are the trials of the just, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

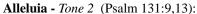


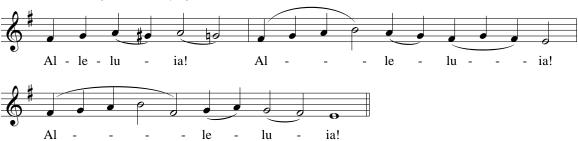
For a Priest-Martyr:

Prokeimenon - *Tone* 7 (Psalm 149:5,1):



Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.





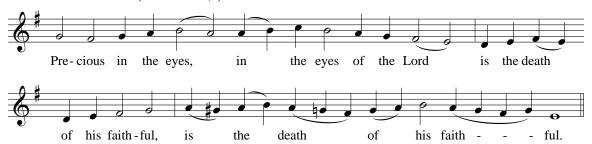
Verse: Your priests will be clothed with righteousness and your saints will rejoice.

Verse: The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.

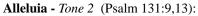


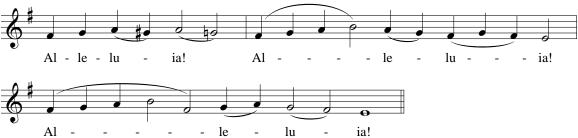
For Several Priest-Martyrs:

Prokeimenon - *Tone* 7 (Psalm 115:6,3):



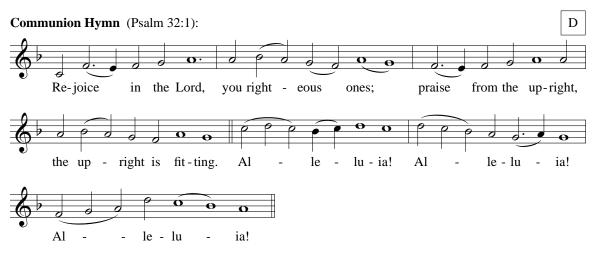
Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?





Verse: Your priests will be clothed with righteousness and your saints will rejoice.

Verse: The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.



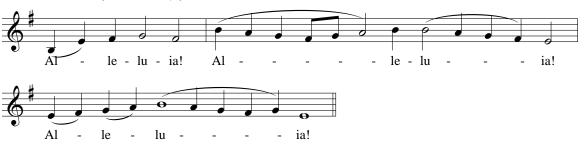
For Several Venerable Martyrs:

Prokeimenon - *Tone* 8 (Psalm 149:5,1):



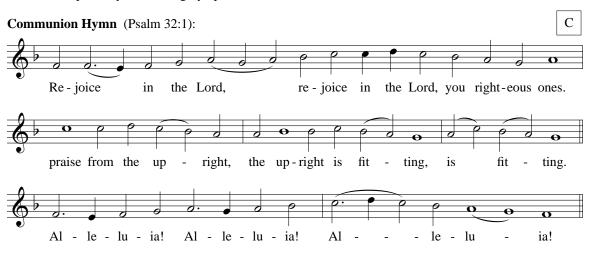
Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Alleluia - *Tone* 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):



Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.

Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

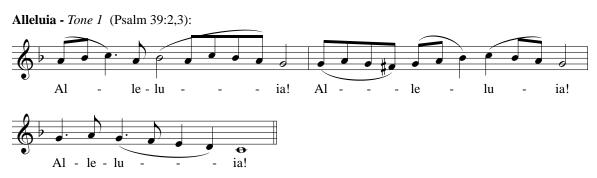


For a Woman-Martyr:

Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 67:36,27):

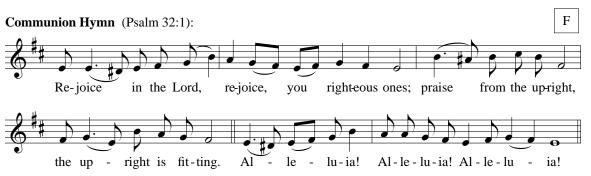


Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel's wellsprings bless the Lord.



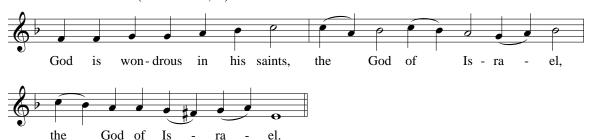
Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.

Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

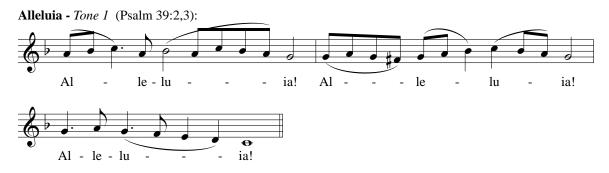


For a Venerable Woman:

Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 67:36,27):



Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel's wellsprings bless the Lord.



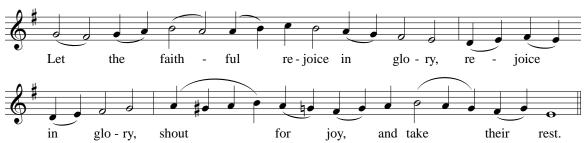
Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.

Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

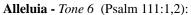


For a Confessor:

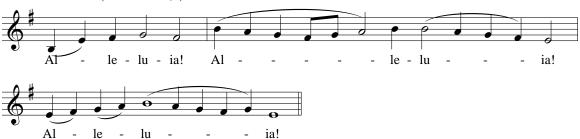
Prokeimenon - *Tone* 7 (Psalm 149:5,1):



Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.



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Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.

Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

