

November 9

Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyrios, and of our Venerable Mother Matrona

(5th Class, 5th Tone, 11th Eothinon)

ORTHROS

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION *(Tone 5)*

Let us, O faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, for He was pleased to be lifted in the flesh upon the Cross, and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS *(Tone 4)*

Your martyrs, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of their struggle. Armed with Your strength they have vanquished their persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through their supplications, O Christ God, save our souls!

TROPARION OF MATRONA *(Tone 8)*

In you, O Mother Matrona, was restored the likeness of God, for you carried Your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away, and how to value the soul for it is immortal. Wherefore your soul is forever in happiness with the angels.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION *(Tone 8)*

O Good One, You were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion for us. You destroyed Death by Your death, and as God You made manifest the Resurrection. Turn not away from those You have made by Your hands. O Merciful One, show Your love to men and accept as our intercessor the Mother of God who gave birth to You. O our Savior, save a desperate people.

SESSIONAL HYMNS *(Tone 5)*

Let us praise the precious Cross of the Lord; let us honor in our hymns and chants His burial. Let us glorify His holy Resurrection, for our God has raised the dead from their tombs, despoiling the power of Death and shattering the might of the devil; and His light has dawned upon those held captive in Hades.

v. Arise, O Lord my God; lift up Your mighty hand, and never forget Your poor.

You were counted among the dead, O Lord, and You have put to death the prince of Death. You were laid in a sepulcher, and You have emptied all the tombs. The guards kept watch at Your tomb on Earth, while below in Hades You raised up the dead who had fallen asleep throughout the ages. Wherefore, O almighty Lord, incomprehensible God, O our Joy, glory to You!

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, O holy mountain which the Lord crossed on His journey! Hail, O burning bush which were not consumed by the fire! Hail, O bridge leading from the world to God, who lead us to eternal life! Hail, O unwedded Virgin who gave birth to the Savior of the world!

HYPACOI (*Tone 5*)

The ointment-bearing women were astounded at the sight of the angels. Their souls were enlightened by the divine Resurrection, and they declared to the disciples: "Go and announce the Resurrection of the Lord, who will sustain us by His miracles and grant us great mercy!"

KONDAKION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 5*)

O Savior, You went down to Hades, and being almighty, shattered its gates. As the Creator, You raised the dead and destroyed the sting of Death. Adam was relieved of the curse. Wherefore, O Lover of Mankind, we cry out to You: "O Lord, save us!"

IKOS (*Tone 5*)

Having heard the words of the Angel, the women brought an end to their hymns of mourning. Overcome with joy and fear, they contemplated Your Resurrection. Then You drew near to them, O Christ, and said: "Hail! Take courage, for I have overcome the world and released the captives! Hasten to the Disciples and announce that I go before them into Galilee for the sake of the Good News which they are to proclaim. "Wherefore, O Lover of Mankind, we cry out to You: "O Lord, save us!"

SYNTAXARION

On November 9, we commemorate the holy martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyry.

With his squire Porphyry, Onesiphoros was dragged by the horses and made the Adversary uncomfortable in the course; for on the ninth, in their race toward God, they reached the goal of Heaven together.

On this same day, we commemorate our venerable mother Matrona.

By her life in this world, the illustrious Matrona earned an immortal crown in the next.

On the same day, we commemorate our Father among the Saints Nectarios the Wonderworker, Metropolitan of Pentapolis in Cyrene, and Founder of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina.

You drink the nectar of a life that has no seasons, but you cause rainfalls of healings to flow.

By their holy prayers, O our God, take pity on us and save us. Amen.

EXAPOSTILARIA (Tone 2)

~After His divine Resurrection, the Lord asked Peter three times whether he loved Him, then established him as the shepherd of the sheep of His fold. Seeing him whom Jesus loved following them, he asked the Master: "And what of him?" And the Lord answered: "If I should want Him to remain until I come again, what is that to you, O Peter?"

(Tone 3)

~Let us venerate the martyrs who were outstanding in their struggles, enlightening the world by their radiant witnessing: the illustrious Onesiphoros and Porphyry with him. For they intercede for us faithful who celebrate their memory with love.

~Having elevated your spirit beyond all earthly possessions, O venerable mother Matrona, without turning back you followed the road of the commandments of the Savior. Thus we pray you to intercede for us.

(Tone 2)

~O awesome mystery! O strange wonder! Death has been trampled down by death! Who then would not praise Your divine

Resurrection, O Word, and bow in worship before it? Who would not honor the Virgin Mother who gave You birth in the flesh? At her prayers, save us from the never-dying flames!

PRAISES *Stichera of the Resurrection (Tone 5)*

8. O Lord, despite the seals placed by the unbelievers, You came forth from the tomb, just as You came forth in birth from the Theotokos. Just as the angels were not able to explain Your mysterious Incarnation, so the soldiers could not behold the moment of Your holy Resurrection. For these two marvels have been sealed from the wise, but have been revealed to those who adore with faith the Mystery which they celebrate in their hymns. Grant us Your joy and Your great mercy!
7. Lord, You have shattered the bolts of eternal damnation; You have broken the chains of the tomb. As You rose, You left behind Your linen shroud as a witness that You had truly been buried for three days. Leaving the guard keeping watch over the tomb, You went ahead of the Apostles into Galilee. Great is Your mercy, O Lord, which the whole universe cannot contain: O Savior, have mercy on us!
6. O Lord, the holy women hastened to the sepulcher to behold You, O Christ, who had suffered for our sake! And when they arrived, they found an angel seated on the stone before the tomb. And that angel said to them: "The Lord has risen! Go and tell the Apostles that He has risen from the dead, the Savior of our souls!"
5. Lord, despite the seals, You came forth from the tomb; and You stood in the midst of Your disciples although the doors were closed. You showed them the sufferings in Your flesh which in Your love You endured to save us. As Son of David, You were willingly slain; but as Son of God, You saved the whole world! Great is Your mercy, O Lord, which the whole universe cannot contain: O Savior, have mercy on us!

Stichera of Anatolios the Patriarch

4. O Lord, King of the ages and Creator of all things, who have deigned to suffer in Your flesh the Cross and burial to free us from Hades: You are our God and we have no other.

3. O Lord, who can speak of Your wondrous marvels? Who can proclaim Your divine mysteries? By Your will, You were incarnate for our sake; You manifested might and power; by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the thief; in the tomb, You shattered the bars and locks of Hades; by Your Resurrection, You have filled the universe. O Lord of great mercy, glory to You!
2. Very early in the morning, the Myrrh-bearers came to Your tomb, to anoint Your body, O immortal Lord and Word of God. But directed by the words of an angel, they returned in joy to announce clearly to the Apostles that You were risen, O Giver of Life to the whole universe, granting to the world forgiveness and great mercy.
1. The guards keeping watch at the divine sepulcher declared to the Pharisees: "How senseless was your plan! Seeking to keep guard over Him whom nothing can contain, you have plotted in vain! Wishing to conceal the Resurrection of the Crucified One, you have revealed it clearly to all! O foolish council! Why have you decided again to hide that which cannot remain hidden? It would be better for you to heed and believe what has happened! Coming down from Heaven, a radiant angel rolled away the stone, which made us almost die from fright! Speaking to the valiant myrrh-bearing women, he said: 'Do you not behold the guards as dead, the seals broken and Hades despoiled? Why do you seek among the dead the One who has ruined the victory of Hades and broken the sting of death? Hasten to bring the good news of the Resurrection to the Apostles, and fearlessly cry aloud to them: He is truly risen, the Lord who grants us great mercy!'"
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

When You appeared to Your Disciples after Your Resurrection, O Savior, You charged Peter to care for Your sheep as a reward for His love, and You told him to pasture them with care. Thus You said to Him: "If you love Me, Simon, be the shepherd of My lambs, be the pastor of My sheep!" Then Peter asked You about the other Disciple, the beloved. By their prayers, O Lord, save Your flock from the devouring wolves!

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion from the Orthros booklet

You are truly most blessed...