

THE 5th DAY OF THE MONTH OF MARCH
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR CONON
AT VESPERS:

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 3 Stichera of the martyr, in Tone VIII:
Spec. Mel.: “O most glorious wonder ...”:

O unwaning, divine ray, * luminous radiance of the commandments of God, * ever-memorable passion-bearer, most excellent of martyrs! * Thou hast dispelled the gloom of darkness * like a brilliant star, O blessed one! * O good offering, * and unblemished sacrifice! * Wherefore, unceasingly entreat Christ, ** that He save our souls.

O proclaimer of the truth! * Showing thyself to be a sword-wielding opponent of ungodliness, * thou didst fell the enemy * with the severing of thy head, O most wise one, * clearly proclaiming the command of God, * speaking good things to the unlearned people. * O Conon, dweller with the martyrs: * entreat the Redeemer, * that He deliver from the passions ** thy servants who hymn thee.

Good was the transformation * which the Lord of our fathers wrought upon thee * by the right hand of the Most High, * O most glorious passion-bearer! * A fruit blossoming forth from the root of unbelief * wast thou revealed to be, O all-blessed and praised Conon, * and, having Christ as thy most excellent Leader, * thou didst mightily overthrow ** the hordes of the demons.

Glory ..., Both now ..., in Tone VIII:

Rejoice, bearer of the divine Light, * most bright star, and tabernacle of sanctity! * From thy most pure womb * Light hath shone upon us, * illumining the ends of the earth, * and enlightening them with His grace. * Rejoice, O most pure one, origin of salvation! * Rejoice, report and saying ** awesome to those who trust in thee!

Stavrotheotokion: **B**eholding Thee O Lord Jesus, * nailed upon the cross and voluntarily accepting the passion, * the Virgin Mother cried aloud: * Woe is me, O my sweet Child! * how dost Thou wrongfully endure such wounds? * O compassionate Physician * and healer of the infirmities of mankind, * Thou hast redeemed all from corruption ** by Thy tender compassion.

AT MATINS:

Canon, the acrostic whereof is: “I hymn Conon, the crowned martyr,” in Tone VI:

ODE I

Irmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, * on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, * they cried: * Let us sing to God * a song of victory.

Illuminate my mind with the light which hath been most clearly manifest in thee, O martyr, that with divine hymnody I may praise thee, the martyr of Christ and steadfast spiritual athlete.

Taught by the instruction of the angel of God, O blessed one, thou didst truly transcend the flesh, like an angel on earth, restraining the lusts and adorning thyself

Having kept the commandments of God, thou didst openly revile the iniquity of the Hellenes, O venerable one; and having convinced many by sacred miracles, thou didst lead them to God by thy teachings.

Theotokion: Having adorned thyself with the comeliness of the virtues, thou didst give birth to Him Who is more comely than all of mankind and Who hath wisely adorned us with His own comeliness, O all-immaculate one.

ODE III

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thou, * O Lord my God, * who hast exalted the horn of Thy faithful O good One, * and strengthened us upon the rock * of Thy confession.

Having adorned thy soul with divine virtues, O venerable one, O martyr, thou didst truly make of it a dwelling-place for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

They who of old fell miserably into the abyss are by thine exalted teachings, shining afar, led up to an eminent height, O martyr Conon.

As a temple of God, thou didst cast down idols by thine invocations of God, O all-blessed one, standing forth in the temple of the idols, guiding the erring to the knowledge of God.

Theotokion: He Who alone is holy was born from thee, O most holy one, in a manner past understanding and all telling, sanctifying mortals who are enslaved to the passions because of the vile counsel of the enemy.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: “Of the Wisdom ...”:

Having arrayed thyself in the full armor of Christ, thou didst show thyself to be a destroyer of demons and a constant sacrifice for the faithful. Possessed of an impregnable tower of faith, thou dost bear us up to the heights of thy miracles. Hence, thou hast, fittingly received wreaths of victory from God, O much-suffering martyr Conon. Wherefore, we cry to thee: Entreat Christ God, that He grant forgiveness of sins to those who honor thy holy memory with love.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VIII:

From the snares of enemies visible and invisible, * we have been overcome by the storms of our uncountable sins, * and fleeing unto the safe harbor of thy goodness O pure one, * we have thee as our rampart and sure protection. * Wherefore we thy servants beseech thee * to ceaselessly make fervent supplication, O most pure one, * unto Him who seedlessly became incarnate from thee, * that those who worthily hymn thee ** may be granted the remission of their sins.

Stavrotheotokion: Upon beholding the Lamb, Shepherd and Redeemer * upon the Cross, * the ewe-lamb exclaimed weeping, bitterly lamenting, and crying aloud: * “The world rejoiceth, having received deliverance through Thee, * but my womb doth burn, beholding Thy crucifixion, * which Thou hast endured in Thy merciful loving-kindness. * O long-suffering Lord, * Thou abyss and inexhaustible well-spring of mercy, * take pity, and grant forgiveness of sins ** unto those who hymn Thy divine sufferings with faith!”

ODE IV

Irmos: Christ is my power, * my God and my Lord, * the holy Church divinely singeth, * crying with a pure mind, * keeping festival in the Lord.

Thou didst lay low the temples of the idolaters, O holy martyr, and committed their gods to utter perdition, working miracles and performing wondrous signs.

When the Word of God came to thee in a holy manner, O holy martyr, He subjected the hosts of demons to thee and glorified thee with many wondrous demonstrations.

The supremely good One, loving thee greatly, O Conon most great, gave thee the great chastiser Michael, manifestly teaching thee the greatest of the mysteries.

Theotokion: O holy Lady who hast given flesh to the all-holy Word, grant sanctification to my soul, guiding my mind which rusheth headlong through trackless wastelands.

ODE V

Irmos: Illumine with Thy divine light, I pray, O Good One, * the souls of those who with love rise early to pray to Thee, * that they may know Thee, O Word of God, * as the true God, * Who recallesh us from the darkness of sin.

Having most manifestly dyed for thyself a martyr’s cloak with the flow of thy sacred blood, O wise martyr, rejoicing, thou dwellest in the habitations and splendors on high.

The evil-minded one stretched thee out, O blessed and ever-memorable one, who possesseth a mind wholly stretched out towards God, and he mutilated thee who called upon the great name of the Almighty.

Adorned and enlivened by grace, as a martyr thou didst endure the drops of blood of the wounded; and vanquishing ungodliness, O Conon, thou wast deemed worthy of immortality.

Theotokion: Delivered from the ancestral curse, O most pure one, we have all received blessings through thee. Wherefore, with love we bless, magnify, honor and call thee blessed.

ODE VI

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life surging with the tempest of temptations, * I run to Thy calm haven, and cry to Thee: * Raise up my life from corruption, * O greatly Merciful One.

Having shone like the sun with radiant virtues and most glorious miracles, and having greatly adorned thyself with the endurance of sufferings, thou hast enlightened the ends of the earth which praise thee, O great renowned martyr.

Having shown thyself to be most comely in the beauty of thy wounds, thou workest most wondrous miracles; and having died and been buried, dost still vanquish infirmities, driving away the spirits of deception, O blessed one.

Cure the passions of our souls, O wise one, and dispel the weaknesses of the flesh, for thou hast been given to us by God as a most excellent physician, O glorious Conon.

Theotokion: The Lord looked upon thee, and through thee, O most pure one, visited those who had withdrawn far from Him. Wherefore, as thou didst say, the generations of the saved call thee blessed.

Kontakion of the martyr, in Tone III:

Having lived on the earth in angelic purity, * thou wast deemed worthy to converse with angels, * bringing thy parents to the knowledge of Christ, * and having confessed the one God in Trinity, * thou didst suffer unto the shedding of thy blood. * O martyr Conon, ** entreat Him unceasingly on behalf of us all.

ODE VII

Irmos: An Angel made the furnace bedew the holy Children. * But the command of God consumed the Chaldeans * and prevailed upon the tyrant to cry: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

The never-waning light shone upon thee who hated the darkness of the passions, O venerable one, and gladness hath seized thee who fervently fought the good fight. Wherefore, standing before Christ, do thou remember us.

Exalted by divine virtues and awesome miracles, O venerable Conon, foundation of martyrs, thou hast revealed thy heart to be meek and thy mind to be humble, whereby thou didst destroy all the haughtiness of the enemy.

As one dreadful to all the demons, thou didst command them to submit to thy sacred commands, O divinely wise one, as to God Who glorified thee, O Conon, who hast glorified Him with good works on earth.

Theotokion: **H**e Who accomplisheth all things desired to make His abode within Thy most immaculate womb, O Theotokos, the one God Who is glorified in the holy councils as great and awesome.

ODE VIII

Irmos: **T**hou didst make flame bedew the holy children, * and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. * For Thou alone, O Christ, dost do all as Thou willest, * Thee do we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Thou didst steadfastly oppose the vain-minded one who sought to compel thee to offer worship to his strange and abominable gods, O passion-bearer. Wherefore, having suffered lawfully, thou hast been glorified.

Those wounded by the onslaughts of the demons were healed by thy divine teachings, receiving deliverance from sorrows, and hymning thy grace, O divinely wise one.

Those who have recourse with faith to the shrine of the venerable one draw forth the healing of all manner of ailments, for it manifestly floweth with the grace of the Spirit, quenching the passions with its torrents of grace.

Theotokion: **O** divinely joyous one, offer supplication to God the Creator, that He save our souls and deliver us from the grasp of the passions and the temptation of evil-doers.

ODE IX

Irmos: **I**t is impossible for mankind to see God * upon Whom the orders of Angels dare not gaze; * but through thee, O all-pure one, * did the Word Incarnate become a man * and with the Heavenly Hosts * Him we magnify and thee we call blessed.

Thou wast seen to be like a ship riding the tempests of the sea of life without taking on water, O God-bearer, guiding thy freight of good deeds safely to the comely harbors of rest, the kingdom of God and light.

Having armed thyself with the Cross as with a breastplate, thou didst strip bare the hordes of the enemy and enslave them under thy beautiful feet; and being a faithful servant of the Master, thou didst deliver those who are beguiled by the enemy.

Standing before Christ with the countless hosts of heaven, as one crowned, remember us who praise thee with love, that by thy prayers we may find mercy and deliverance from the evil and the cruel ones, O all-praised Conon.

Theotokion: **W**ith thy light, O Virgin, illumine me who am ever caught fast in the night of despondency, and am cast down to the ground, and who commit every sin through the depravity of my mind, that, saved by thee, I may hymn thee, the greatly hymned one.