

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 ...,” 3 Stichera of the holy martyr, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “O all-praised 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 ..., Both now ..., Doxasticon from the Pentecostarion.

Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

**T**hy ewe-lamb Irene, O Jesus crieth out with a loud voice: \* “Thee do I love, O my Bridegroom, \* and, seeking Thee, I endure suffering. \* In Thy baptism I am crucified and buried with Thee. \* I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; \* I die for Thee, that I may live with Thee. \* Accept me, who with love sacrifice myself for Thee, \* as an unblemished offering!” \*\* By her supplications, in that Thou art merciful, save Thou our souls.

## AT MATINS

On “God is the Lord ...,” the Troparion from the Pentecostarion, (Twice);

Glory ..., that of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

**T**hy ewe-lamb Irene, O Jesus crieth out with a loud voice: \* “Thee do I love, O my Bridegroom, \* and, seeking Thee, I endure suffering, \* in Thy baptism I am crucified and buried with Thee. \* I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; \* I die for Thee, that I may live with Thee. \* Accept me, who with love sacrifice myself for Thee, \* as an unblemished offering!” \*\* By her supplications, in that Thou art merciful, save Thou our souls.

Both now ..., that from the Pentecostarion.

Canon of the holy martyr, the acrostic whereof is:

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

### ODE I

**Irmos:** **I** will sing unto Thee, O Lord my God, \* for Thou hast led Thy people out of the bondage of Egypt, \* and hast drowned in the waters \* the chariots and the might of Pharaoh.

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

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

**E**ntreat thy Bridegroom, O divinely wise Irene, that He be merciful to the Churches and grant forgiveness of sins unto those who honor thee.

**Theotokion:** **I**n a manner past understanding and all telling, O holy Virgin, thou hast given birth to God the Word, Who became flesh and is like unto us.

### ODE III

**Irmos:** **T**he bow of the mighty hath waxed feeble \* and the weak have girded themselves with strength: \* therefore is my heart established \* in the Lord.

**S**ensing 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. (Twice)

**I**n thy struggles thou didst have God as a helper defending thee, O all-wise one; wherefore, crowned, thou didst vanquish the tyrant. O all-praised one, thou wast an unshakable pillar of virtue, an abode of piety and courage, and a vessel of chastity.

**Theotokion:** **H**astening toward thee, death was staunch, striking against Him Who was born of thee, O all-immaculate one; wherefore, we call thee the first-fruits of immortality.

### Kontakion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

**A**dorned with the beauties of virginity, \* O virgin Irene, through thy suffering \* thou hast been rendered most beautiful, \* dyed in thine own flowing blood, \* casting down the delusion of ungodliness. \* Wherefore, thou hast received the honors of victory \*\* from the hand of thy Creator.

### Sessional Hymn of the holy martyr, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast appeared ...”:

**W**hen thou wast separated from thy body after much suffering, O martyr, great peace bedewed thee; 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 ..., Both now ..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

### ODE IV

**Irmos: Proclaiming the advent of Thine appearance on earth, O Christ God, \* the prophet cried aloud with 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, thou namesake of peace.

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

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

**W**ith never-silent hymnody and entreaties to the Master; O divinely wise one, thou didst sing, and hastening to Him, thou dost behold ineffable glory.

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

### ODE V

**Irmos: Do Thou O Lord send down upon us \* Thine enlightenment, and free us \* from the gloom of transgression, O Good One, \* granting us Thy peace.**

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

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

**L**leading legions of martyrs to Christ by thy wisdom and divine discourse, O glorious one, thou hast truly taught them the sacred mysteries through thy words of faith.

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

## ODE VI

**Irmos:** Prefiguring Thy three-day burial \* Prophet Jonah praying in the belly of the sea-monster cried aloud: \* Deliver me from corruption \* O Jesus Thou King of hosts.

**T**hou 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.

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

**W**ith 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:** **H**e 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:** Of old the Children of Abraham in Babylon \* trampled down the flame of the furnace, \* crying aloud with hymns: \* O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

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

**T**hou 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!

**D**esiring to obtain the beauty of Him whom thou lovest, O Irene, thou didst endure the pangs of martyrdom, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

**Theotokion:** **F**ollowing 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 Offspring of the Theotokos \* saved the holy children in the furnace. \* He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, \* and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: \* all ye works praise ye the Lord \* and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

**T**hou didst suffer valiantly, O blessed Irene, casting down the tyrant, and having as thine invincible aid the power of thy Master assisting thee; wherefore thou didst cry aloud: Hymn ye the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

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

**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 supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

**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 supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

### ODE IX

**Irmos:** **E**ve dwelt under the curse of sin \* because of the infirmity of disobedience; \* but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, \* hast through the Offspring of thy pregnancy \* blossomed forth blessing upon the world. \* Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

**D**ancing around thy Bridegroom in the highest, O good virgin Irene, ask peace for the world and forgiveness of sins on behalf of 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 all-praised 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 Thine all-immaculate soul, O namesake of divine peace. Wherefore, we all call thee blessed.

**Theotokion:** **A**s thou hast unashamed boldness before thy Son, O most 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.

## AT LITURGY

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