

THE 28th DAY OF THE MONTH OF MARCH
COMMEMORATION OF OUR VENERABLE FATHERS HILARION THE NEW &
STEPHEN THE WONDERWORKER
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera: 3 for the venerable Hilarion, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast given a sign ...”:

Having acquired a blameless life, * patience and meekness, and love unfeigned, * boundless abstinence, * standing all-night, divine compunction, * faith and true hope in compassion, O father, * thou didst live on earth * like an angel in the flesh, * O blessed Hilarion, ** intercessor for our souls.

An earthly angel and a heavenly man * wast thou, O venerable one, * a wellspring of compunction, * a stream of compassion, * an abyss of miracles, a surety for sinners, * a truly fruitful olive-tree of God, * anointing with the oil of thy labors * the faces of those who praise thee with faith, ** O wondrous Hilarion.

Illumined with divine understanding, * thy mind transcended the passions of the body, * and was aloof from earthly things, * bearing the image of God * and depicting divine beauty within itself. * Through the activity of the Spirit, * thou hast been recognized as wholly godly, * O Hilarion our father, ** thou adornment of monastics.

And 3 Stichera of the venerable Stephen, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

As a most true monk, * a most radiant star * and a wellspring of compunction, * thou wast revealed to be full of love, * meek and serene, * compassionate and humble, * guileless and blameless, O father Stephen. * Wherefore, Christ hath appointed thee as a shepherd for the venerable, ** honored with miracles.

Thou wast possessed of all-night vigilance, O father, * ineffable abstinence, * undisturbed prayer, * godly life, faith, hope and love, * Orthodox wisdom, wondrous endurance, * and the greatest compassion; * and thou didst repose, shining forth before thine end * in most glorious signs. ** Wherefore, we honor thee, O venerable Stephen.

We praise thee, O Stephen, * as a star of great brilliance, * as a never-setting sun, * as an animate heaven * adorned with divine miracles as with stars, * as a fragrant meadow * and garden of sweetness, * as a wellspring of sanctity, * as a most great physician of the infirm, ** as our good pastor and intercessor.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in the same melody:

With the showers of the most holy Spirit * bedew my thoughts, O most pure one, * who hast given birth to Christ, the Drop * Who by His compassions washeth away * the infinitely innumerable iniquities of men; * dry up the spring of my passions, * and by thy supplications * ever grant unto me ** a torrent of the food of life.

Stavrotheotokion: **A**s she beheld Thee * nailed to the Cross, O Lord, * the ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, marveled and cried out: * “What is this sight which I see, * O my Son most desired? * How hath the unbelieving and iniquitous assembly recompensed Thee, * which enjoyed Thy many miracles? * But glory, O Master, ** to Thine ineffable condescension!”

AT MATINS

ODE I

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion, the acrostic whereof is:

“I praise thy joyous traits, O father”, the composition of Joseph, in Tone II:

Irmos: In the deep of old the infinite Power overwhelmed Pharaoh’s whole army. * But the Incarnate Word annihilated pernicious sin. * Exceedingly glorious is the Lord, * for gloriously hath He been glorified.

As thou art compassionate and meek, chaste and truly glad of spirit, O father Hilarion, by thy mediation grant unto me divine compassion, that I may hymn thee now in the stillness of my heart.

Having purified thyself from childhood and taken up thy cross, O father, thou didst follow the Lord; and, adorned with dispassion, by abstinence and frequent prayer thou didst cause the passions to wither away.

Taking up the easy yoke of the Lord, obedient to His precepts, O venerable Hilarion, thou didst cast off the most onerous burden of sin, acquiring holiness, O all-wise one.

Theotokion: Uproot the tares of my transgressions, O Lady, praying to thy Son and God; and destroy thou the sin which doth torment me, O Ever-virgin, that, saved, I may ever praise thee, O all-immaculate one.

Canon of the Venerable Stephen, the acrostic whereof is: “I honor thy divine labors, O all-blessed one”, the composition of Joseph, in Tone I:

Irmos: Let us all chant a triumphant hymn unto God * Who wrought wondrous miracles * with His upraised arm, * and saved Israel, * for He hath been glorified.

Celebrating thy divine memory with faith, O divinely wise father Stephen, we ever glorify the Lord of all Who hath glorified thee with many miracles.

Thy mind, deified at the bidding of God, turned utterly away from the passions of the flesh and showed thee to be an angel on earth, O all-wise Stephen.

Thou didst endure the pangs of fasting, O father, and didst mortify the passions of the flesh, which are subdued only with difficulty; and thou didst manifestly clothe thyself in dispassion as with a garment.

Crucified by restraining thy members, O father, thou didst live for Christ Who by the Cross destroyed death and hath enriched thee with the abundant grace of healings.

Theotokion: **A**t the ineffable word of the archangel, O most pure one, thou didst conceive Him Who by His word sustaineth all the ends of the earth, and hast given birth to Him. Earnestly beseech Him to have mercy upon us.

ODE III

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **The desert of the barren Church of the nations * blossomed like a lily * at Thy coming, O Lord, * therein hath my heart been established**

Thy life shone forth with radiant deeds like the sun, O venerable one, and hath illumined the choirs of monastics and dispelled the darkness of the demons.

Thou wast glad of heart, humble of spirit and full of divine love, O venerable one, ever possessing a courteous character.

With the drops of thy tears thou didst quench the burning embers of sin and even after thine end, as before it O wise one, thou pourest forth an abyss of healings upon those who have recourse to thee.

Theotokion: **H**eal the wounds of my soul, O Lady, and direct the movements of my mind to fulfill the will of the Word Who became incarnate from thee, I pray.

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: **Let my heart be established in Thy will O Christ God, * Who hath established a second heaven over the waters, * and founded the earth upon the waters, * O all-powerful One.**

Thou didst shine forth like a most radiant star in honorable deeds and the corrections of the virtues upon the assembly of the monastics; and thou hast illumined the whole world with beams of miracles.

By the power of the grace of the Spirit thou didst cast down the incorporeal foes, and was right gloriously exalted by humble wisdom; and thou wast thyself a worker of miracles, O wise father.

With the word of truth thou didst shut the mouths of the heretics, O father; and, having endured persecution apart from thy wounds, thou hast received a divine crown, O wise one, as a most eminent martyr.

Theotokion: **T**hat mankind might become divine, God became a man: the Beginningless One received a beginning in time through thee, the only pure one. Wherefore, we, the faithful, call thee blessed, O Virgin.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: “Go thou quickly before ...”:

Thou didst consecrate thy whole life to God, O all-blessed and sacred one, as a truly most excellent performer of sacred Christian acts. Wherefore, rejoicing amid thy great exertions and pangs, thou wast translated to the immaterial mansions and now pourest forth streams of healings upon us.

Glory ..., in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: “Thy tomb, O Savior ...”:

Thy memory, O father, shining forth like the radiant sun, illumineth the hearts of the faithful, driving away the passions and dispelling the darkness. Protect us who celebrate it with pure faith, O father Stephen, and preserve us from the temptations of life.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone I:

O pure Virgin Theotokos who knewest not wedlock, thou sole intercessor and protection of the faithful: from tribulations, sorrows and cruel circumstances deliver all who place their trust in thee, O Maiden, and save our souls by thy divine supplications.

Stavrotheotokion: **B**eholding Thee stretched out dead upon the Cross, O Christ, Thine all-immaculate Mother cried aloud: “O my Son, Who with the Father and the Spirit, art beginningless, what is this ineffable dispensation, wherewith Thou hast saved the work of Thy most pure hands, O Compassionate One?”

ODE IV

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **F**rom a Virgin didst Thou come forth, not as an ambassador, * nor as an Angel, * but the very Lord himself incarnate, * and didst save me, the whole man; * wherefore I cry unto Thee: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Having cleansed thy heart, thou didst furnish thy mind with wings to soar aloft in honorable ascents, to behold the inconceivable beauty of the one God and to be illumined by the splendors thereof.

Recounting divine words, O father Hilarion, thou didst draw forth divine understanding therefrom, and transmit it unto all who piously have recourse unto thee.

With the sweetness of thy words calm thou the hearts of those who have recourse unto thee; for, laboring, thou didst teach them with right acceptable discourse and didst preserve love amid compassion, O venerable one.

Theotokion: **T**he Lord made thee the Sovereign Lady and Queen of all, O most pure one; for He became incarnate from thy womb, delivering His creation from the dominion of the enemy.

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: **F**oreseeing in the Spirit O Prophet Habbakuk, * the incarnation of the Word, * thou didst proclaim, crying aloud: * When the years draw nigh, Thou shalt be known; * when the season cometh, Thou shalt be shown forth! * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou wast shown to be a fruitful tree, O wise Stephen, having watered thyself with the drops of thy sacred tears, bringing forth the sweet-smelling fruits of the virtues; and thou pourest forth countless miracles. Wherefore, we piously honor thee.

The church which possesseth the shrine of thy relics is seen to be a divine garden of paradise, O wise Stephen, wherein divers flowers of miracles bloom, wherein the hearts of those who ever praise thee with faith delight.

Unto the glory of Christ thou curest the blind and dost cause the cruel infirmities of the ailing to cease; and hence, having been enriched by the grace of good works, thou hast been magnified, illumined and glorified, O our father, thou glory of monastics.

Theotokion: Sanctify me, O holy Theotokos who hast given birth in the flesh unto the Most holy One Who desired to become like unto mortals; and by thy supplications show us all forth as having a share in the life of heaven, O most pure one.

ODE V

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: O Christ God Thou art a mediator between God and man; * for by Thee, O Master, * we have been led from the night of ignorance, * to Thy Father, the Source of light.

Out of thine own sufferings thou didst weave for thyself a robe of salvation, O venerable one; for, clad therein, thou didst clothe the prince of darkness in everlasting shame.

Having caused the pleasures of the flesh to wither through abstinence, O venerable father Hilarion, thou didst receive the grace of heaven to cure the infirmities of all.

With thy hands, unceasingly lifted up to God, thou hast delivered the pious from the hands of the deceiver, O father, and hast granted health to all the ailing.

Theotokion: Thou wast the might of the faithful and the dominion of the venerable; for through thee, O pure one, have higher things come down upon all, and those who dwell on earth have ascended to the heavens.

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: Grant us Thy peace, O Son of God, * for we know no other God than Thee, * and we call upon Thy Name, * for Thou art the God of the living and the dead.

As a phial full of the divine virtues, O wise one, after thy repose thou didst pour forth sweet-smelling myrrh, causing the faithful people who venerate thee with love to marvel.

Thou didst shine forth in the great performing of awesome miracles, O all-wise Stephen, before death, and even after thy departure, O right wondrous one, and during thy sacred burial.

Having come to the end of thy life in Christ in a holy manner, O Stephen, our divinely wise father, thou hast made thine abode with the saints, sanctifying those who with faith honor thee.

Theotokion: **O** most immaculate one who hast given birth to Emmanuel our God, Who manifestly became a man in His tender compassion: beseech Him to have pity upon sinners, in that He is the Lover of mankind, O pure one.

ODE VI

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **Whirled about in the abyss of sin, * I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Thy compassion: * Raise me up from corruption, O God.**

Having slain thyself to this world, O Hilarion, after thy repose thou dost now dwell in the mansions of heaven, ever pouring forth life-bearing healing.

Thou wast rightly named, meek, guileless, blameless and venerable, easy to entreat and calm of spirit, O most noetically rich father.

Adorned with boundless compassion and honored with the beauty of love for the poor, thou wast shown to be a chosen favorite of God, O most excellent Hilarion.

As thy life was honorable and blameless and thy character all-comely and beautiful, O most wondrous one, so are the miracles which thou dost ever perform awesome in nature.

Theotokion: **All** of us, the generation of generations, bless the Theotokos as the divine, undefiled bridal-chamber of God, the fiery throne of the Almighty.

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: **Emulating the Prophet Jonah, I cry aloud: * Free Thou my life from corruption, O Good One; * and save me who crieth out: * O Savior of the world, Glory be to Thee!**

O venerable father Stephen, in Christ thou dost set the lame aright and dost cause the blind to see, dost enable the paralyzed to walk and drivest away evil spirits.

A stream of healing ever floweth from thy precious shrine in abundance, as from a pure spring, O blessed one, drying up every torrent of the passions.

O father Stephen, who wast shown to be a wondrous worker of miracles and a true pastor, ever preserve thy flock, which thou didst gather together with great effort.

Theotokion: **T**he Savior, descending upon thee like dew upon a fleece, O Theotokos, hath manifestly dried up the torrents of ungodliness and ever giveth drink to the souls of those who honor thee.

ODE VII

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **The godless order of the lawless tyrant * fanned the roaring flame; * but Christ bedewed the God-fearing children with the Spirit, * therefore He is blessed and supremely exalted.**

With the sword of thine ascetic feats thou didst wound the incorporeal serpent and utterly destroy him. Wherefore, thou hast received the prize of miracles, O venerable one, to heal the most cruel sufferings of both souls and bodies.

Thy discourse issueth forth like dew, O our venerable father, dispelling the burning heat and despondency of those who with faith have recourse to thee, ever illumining their character with thy virtues and spirit.

Having made thy mind the ruler over thy passions, thou didst clearly reign as an excellent victor and vanquisher of alien nations, O wise one, destroying the most pernicious passions of the demons.

The winds of temptations did not shake the tower of thine unmovable heart, O venerable one; for strengthened by the love of the Lord, thou wast firmly established upon the rock of faith, becoming the divine confirmation of many, O father.

Triadicon: O transcendent Trinity, I hymn Thee, the indivisible, unconfused Unity of three Hypostases, incomprehensible in essence: the one God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Theotokion: O pure one, the grace of the Spirit prefigured thee from afar in images and the proclamations of the prophets, calling thee the fertile and holy mountain, the gate of salvation, the newest scroll and the tabernacle.

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: Thy children who were in the furnace O Savior, * were neither touched nor troubled by The fire. * Whereupon the three sang, as with a single mouth * Thy praises and blessed Thee, saying: * ‘O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou.’

Performing the sacred mysteries, thou didst reveal thyself to be wholly the sweet fragrance of Christ, for by the ember of thine ascetic sojourn, thou dost ever perfume the faces of the faithful, working miracles past understanding.

Radiant with the brilliance of Orthodoxy, thou didst drive away the darkness of heresies, O wise one; and having endured persecution for many years, thou wast a martyr who shed not his blood. Wherefore, we praise thee with faith.

Having acquired great patience, abstinence, faith and true love, thou wast shown to be a father of orphans, a compassionate and meek intercessor for widows, and the glory and boast of monks, O Stephen.

The horde of those of evil mind were amazed by thy standing all night, thine abiding in prayer, thy tears and sighing to the Creator of true love, O Stephen, whereby thou didst destroy their machinations.

Theotokion: How is it that thou dost nourish with milk the Son thou didst bear without father, Who feedeth every creature, O pure Mother? How is it that thou bearest in thine arms Him Who sustaineth all things? Thy wonder passeth understanding! Wherefore, we ever hymn thy mighty works.

ODE VIII

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: In Babylon, the activity of the fire was once divided, * for, by the command of God it consumed the Chaldeans, * but bedewed the faithful, who chant: * Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Having abandoned the transitory glory of life and fleeting pleasure, O all-wise father, in the heavens, with all those who fear the Lord, thou hast received glory and lasting sustenance, which cannot be taken away.

Thou didst pass all thy life with downcast countenance; wherefore, thou hast been deemed worthy of the blessedness and consolation in which the saints share. And now, rejoicing, O venerable one, thou abidest in the land of the meek as one intelligent and wise.

Thy death was revealed to be precious in the sight of the Lord, O most sacred father; for thou didst venerate His icon and endure persecutions, O venerable one, oppressed by tyrants and therein shown to be a martyr.

Thou didst manifestly cause the displeasure of the fishermen to cease, O father, and didst multiply their draught of fishes, which before they were unable to catch; for God hearkened unto thy prayers, O venerable and all-blessed sacred minister.

Theotokion: Wash away the defilement of my passions and the mire of my sins, O divinely joyous one, and open the portal of repentance unto me who have stumbled, and am impeded mightily by transgressions, and have angered God.

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: Him of whom the angels and all the hosts of heaven are in awe * as their Lord and Creator, * ye priests hymn, ye children praise, * ye peoples bless and supremely exalt * throughout all ages.

Doing venerable works in holiness, O all-blessed one, thou hast joined the venerable and all the elect. With them we honor thee, worshiping at the shrine of thy relics, O God-bearing father Stephen.

Having acquired purity of mind, O wise one, thou wast a beautiful mirror of the Spirit, receiving its manifestations, and illumining the people with thy teachings.

Through thee, O all-blessed and all-wise one, that which is most glorious and perfect is seen; for at the mere sight of thee, a woman was loosed from the illness which afflicted her, and began to walk aright.

Triadicon: Let us hymn the beginningless Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the indivisible First Cause, the eternal Rule, the Essence in three Hypostases, the one glory and sole reign.

Theotokion: The Incorporeal One Who was divinely incarnate of thee, O most pure one, do thou beseech, that He slay the passions of my flesh and enliven my soul, which hath been slain by my sins.

ODE IX

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **The Son of the Beginningless Father, God and Lord, * hath appeared to us incarnate of a Virgin, * to enlighten those in darkness, * and to gather the dispersed; * therefore the all-hymned Theotokos do we magnify**

Thy tomb, pouring forth healings through the grace of the Spirit, drieth up the showers of the passions, expelling spirits of deception, and illumining the hearts of all the faithful who bless thee with faith, O venerable Hilarion.

In the meadow of fasting thou didst blossom like a rose, like a sweet-smelling lily, like a fragrant apple, perfuming the souls and hearts of all the pious, O glorious Hilarion, intercessor for those who praise thee.

Thou didst have compassion, love, humility and mercy, a simple demeanor, true faith and hope, an honorable life and upright character, O venerable Hilarion, adornment of monastics.

Thy memory hath shone forth today like the sun, truly illumining the hearts of the pious with the splendor of thy sufferings and the effulgence of thy miracles, O father; be thou mindful of all who honor thee with faith.

Theotokion: **Rejoicing, we offer thee the cry of Gabriel, saying: Rejoice, O place of sanctity! Rejoice, glory of the venerable and salvation of all the faithful, because of thee we have been deified, O Ever-virgin Theotokos!**

Canon of the venerable Stephen

Irmos: **The light-bearing cloud upon whom * the beginningless Master of all descended from heaven, * like the dew upon the fleece, * and of whom He was incarnate, * becoming a man for our sake, * let us all magnify as the pure Mother of God.**

Following the steps of those who lived piously and in holiness upon the earth, O God-bearing Stephen, thou didst reveal thyself to be meek, guileless, compassionate and humble, peaceful and full of the love of God; wherefore, we praise thee with faith.

Like sweet-smelling myrrh, like a most pure lily, like a fully blossomed rose, O father, thou dost emit from thy precious shrine the fragrance of countless healings, dispelling the fetid illnesses of those who fervently have recourse unto thee with faith.

We entreat thee, O divinely wise one, the godly shepherd and emulator of Christ, the Chief Shepherd. With thy holy mediations ever save us, who are of thy flock, from the wolves of evil.

Thy most holy memory, shining forth like a great sun, doth splendidly illumine creation; and celebrating it with piety, we cry aloud to thee, O Stephen: having enlightened the thoughts of all by thy supplications, protect and preserve us.

Theotokion: Being sin-loving and careless of life, O pure one, I tremble before the inexorable judgment. By thy holy entreaties keep me uncondemned when there, O Bride of God, that I may ever bless thee as mine intercessor.