

THE 5th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JULY
COMMEMORATION OF THE UNCOVERING OF THE PRECIOUS RELICS OF OUR
VENERABLE & GOD-BEARING FATHER SERGIUS THE WONDER-WORKER,
ABBOT OF RADONEZH
AT LITTLE VESPER

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 4 Stichera of the venerable one, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “Joy of the ranks of heaven ...”:

O the joy of the ranks of heaven * and the gladness of mortals on earth * at the present festival * of the venerable uncovering of the wonder-working relics * of the venerable Sergius, great among the fathers. ** Through his supplications, O Christ, save Thou our souls. (Twice)

Today hath dawned the uncovering of the wonder-working relics * of the blessed Sergius, sanctified from his mother’s womb * the man of God in heaven * and angel in the flesh on earth; * and it calleth all the fullness of the Church ** to send up glory to Christ God.

The angels rejoice in heaven above, * and mankind joineth chorus on earth below. * Adorned, the Church of God is jubilant, O father Sergius, * over the translation of thy precious relics, * crying aloud unto Christ: ** Thou art my might and confirmation O Christ!

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

Come all ye ends of the earth, rejoicing with psalms and spiritual songs, and let us piously praise the honored translation of our helper; and surrounding him and his wonder-working shrine, let us invoke his aid, saying thus: O most blessed father Sergius, by thy supplications grant victory over all heresies to our Christ-loving hierarchs, and protect their reason endowed flock with peace, granting them the conquest of all their enemies; and save thou our souls.

Both now ..., Theotokion or Stavrotheotokion.

Prokeimenon of the day.

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: “O house of Ephratha ...”:

Thou wast the dwelling-place * of the most-holy Spirit O father. * By thy supplications * show us to be the habitation of the Holy Trinity, ** O divinely wise and most noetically rich Sergius.

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Come, O ye faithful, and, rejoicing, * let us enter the church in gladness of heart, * venerating the precious relics * of the divinely wise Sergius; and let us receive healing ** and forgiveness of sins through his supplications.

Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; * in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

Accept the hymnody of thy children, * O father Sergius, * and grant the petitions which are profitable * for those who love thee ** and hymn the uncovering of thy relics.

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

O Virgin Theotokos * the choirs on high * chant with those below * unceasingly glorifying ** thy most pure birthgiving.

Troparion of the venerable one, in Tone VIII:

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ within thy soul, O venerable one, * and didst desire more than all to withdraw from the tumult of the world. * Thou didst manfully dwell in the wilderness, * and therein didst produce the fruit of humility, the children of obedience. * Wherefore, as thou didst become the abode of the Trinity, thou hast illumined with thy miracles * all who have recourse to thee with faith, granting healing in abundance unto all. ** O Sergius our father, entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

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

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin * and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death, * and as God revealed the resurrection: * disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand. * Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; * Accept the supplications of the Theotokos who bore Thee, ** and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

AT GREAT VESPERS

After the Introductory Psalm, we chant “Blessed is the man ...,” the first antiphon.

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 8 Stichera of the venerable one, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Called from on high ...”:

When, before thy birth, * she who had conceived thee went to the church of God, * thou didst cry out thrice within her womb, * glorifying the Trinity, O divinely wise father Sergius. * And before thou didst come to know the world, thou didst know God, * and wast known of God, O most blessed one, * making manifest unto all * the radiance of the grace of God which would descend upon thee, * and showing forth the purity of thy soul and body * through the splendors of thy countenance, * for which thou didst become a chosen vessel of Christ our God. * Him do thou entreat, ** that He save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

When the zeal of God came upon thee, * O divinely wise and all-blessed father Sergius, * thou didst overcome all things in the world, * and, loving Christ alone with all thy soul, * and following His life-bearing footsteps, * thou didst attain unto the wilderness; * and having planted it with the seed of thy labors * and watered it with showers of thy tears, * thou didst multiply the fruits of the virtues; * and, having fed thy children therewith, * thou didst lead them unto Christ God. * Him do thou entreat, * that He save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

When thou, O divinely wise one, didst hear the divine voice saying to thee: * “Lo! the most pure one cometh!”, * then, in great ascetic struggle, thou didst earnestly pray * that thou be vouchsafed her awesome visitation; * and straightway a light surpassing the sun in brightness * illumined thee, O venerable one, * and thou wast deemed worthy to behold the Sovereign Lady Mother of God * with both spiritual and bodily eyes, * and with thine ears thou didst hear her sweet voice saying: * “I shall ever be in this place, * and thy monastery shall lack for nothing!” * Her do thou beseech, ** that she save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

When the time arrived * for thy departure unto God, * then didst thou hasten, like a most radiant star, to the mansions of heaven, * and there thou standest with the choirs of the saints * before the throne of the consubstantial Trinity; * and thy blessed and precious body, * which for many years was covered by the earth, * hath now been surrendered by the ground emitting the splendor of miracles * upon those who honor thine uncovering, O divinely wise Sergius. * Grant victories over all heresies to our Christ-loving hierarchs, * and ask of Christ our God forgiveness of sins for all the faithful. * Him do thou entreat, ** that He save and enlighten our souls. (Twice)

Glory ..., in Tone VIII:

Come, all ye faithful, ye assemblies of the Church of Russia, * and let us delight in the present splendid festival! Come, ye fullness of the priesthood, ye company of monks, and see how the Church of God is adorned, filled with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; and the honored and glorious monastery of the divinely blessed father Sergius is filled with gladness and joy at the uncovering of his precious relics. And giving voice to praise, it calleth the whole world joyfully to cry out to the Lord: O Christ our Master, Thou hast given to Thy holy Orthodox Church a mighty warrior, an invincible weapon against our enemies, visible and invisible, and an infinite treasury of inexhaustible gifts for the Christian people, by his supplications grant great mercy to our souls.

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

In His love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared on earth * and dwelt among mankind; * for He Who received flesh from the pure Virgin * and cameth forth from her having received human nature, * is the only Son of God, * twofold in nature but not Hypostasis. * Therefore, proclaiming Him to be truly perfect God and perfect man, * we confess Christ our God. * Him do thou beseech, O unwedded Mother, ** that our souls find mercy!

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the day. Three Lessons:

A READING FROM PROVERBS

The memory of the just is praised, and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth righteousness proceedeth, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Harken to me, O children, for I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who shall keep my ways; for my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Ye, O men, do I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have built up; upon counsel, knowledge and understanding have I called. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. I love those that love me; they that seek me shall find grace. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge. Harken unto me again; for I will speak solemn truths. For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. For I will instruct you in truth, that your hope may be in the Lord, and ye may be filled with the Spirit.

A READING FROM PROVERBS

The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom: but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. The lips of just men drop grace: but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. False balances are an abomination before the Lord: but a just weight is acceptable unto Him. Wherever pride entereth, there will also disgrace; but the mouth of the humble doth meditate wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the overthrow of the rebellious shall spoil them. Possessions shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret: but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causeth joy. Righteousness traceth out blameless paths: but ungodliness encountereth unjust dealing. The righteousness of upright men delivereth them: but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. At the death of a just man his hope doth not perish: but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. In the mouth of ungodly men is a snare for citizens: but the understanding of righteous men is prosperous. In the prosperity of righteous men a city prospereth, but at the destruction of the wicked there is exultation. At the blessing of the upright a city shall be exalted, but by the mouths of ungodly men it is overthrown. A man void of understanding sneereth at his fellow citizens: but a sensible man is quiet.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction; but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself, as gold in the furnace hath He tried them and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

At Litiya, the Sticheron of the temple, and these Stichera:

In Tone VI: **C**ome, ye who love the feasts of the Church, ye company of fasters, and, assembling with faith today, let us honor Sergius the true faster, who gladly following in his Master's footsteps, traversed the narrow path and the life of dispassion; and let us cry out with faith: O all-blessed one, companion of the venerable and boast of fasters, entreat the Lord on our behalf, that our souls find mercy.

O venerable and God-bearing Sergius, thou didst forsake all for the sake of Christ's love, and, having entered the wilderness, wast in nowise affrighted by the machinations of the invisible foe; for even though they descended upon thee many times, gnashing their teeth and displaying their rage, by thy supplications thou didst cause them to vanish like smoke without a trace. Immaculate was thy soul, and mighty thine endurance! Unceasingly beseech Christ, that our souls be saved.

O most sacred and great Church of Russia, having drunk of the streams of the well-spring of the Gospel with the Orthodox princes, monks and layfolk, let us be glad in the Spirit on this appointed feast of the good shepherd and teacher, and, surrounding his healing relics, let us lovingly venerate them and crown them with hymns and praises as with flowers, saying: Rejoice, O blessed Sergius, thou heavenly man and earthly angel, dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit! Rejoice, for thou hast guided mortals to the path of salvation! Rejoice, thou boast and confirmation of our Orthodox hierarchs, O venerable and God-pleasing Sergius, most radiant lamp of thy native land, and intercessor for our souls!

In Tone I: Today heaven is glad on high, and the earth rejoiceth with mankind. Let the newly-elect assemblies of Russia join chorus, and let the companies of monastics hold splendid festival! And the Holy Church of God, wondrous in righteousness, illumined as with most radiant beams, filled with the manifold miracles which flow forth from the precious and healing relics of the venerable father Sergius, calleth the whole world to praise his struggles. Wherefore, assembling all together, we who with gladness celebrate his uncovering in hymns and songs, also hymn Christ our God, that by the supplications of our father Sergius, He grant us peace and great mercy.

Today the festival of the translation of the relics of our divinely blessed father Sergius hath dawned! Come, all ye faithful, let us crown the Church of God with hymns, and therein let us glorify Christ our God, Who is hymned in the Trinity, crying out and saying: O Christ our Master, Thou hast given Thy favorite unto the city of Moscow as a steadfast rampart; to all the parts of Russia Thou hast shown him to be a mighty intercessor, and to the Christian people Thou hast revealed him as a bestower of miracles, a healer of incurable infirmities, an expeller of demons, and an intercessor for our souls.

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

Come, ye multitude of monastics, and with songs and hymns let us praise Sergius today, the emulator of piety; and, surrounding his precious and healing shrine, let us lovingly venerate it, saying: Rejoice, O most glorious Sergius, most radiant beacon for thy native land! Rejoice, for in purity thou hast united thyself to the purest Light! Rejoice, for thou standest with the angels before the Trinity, to Whom do thou unceasingly pray, that great mercy be granted to our souls.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI.

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Redeemer, * Who came forth from thy womb, O most pure one, * and clothed Himself in my nature, * hath freed Adam from the primal curse. * Wherefore, like the angel * we unceasingly cry out to thee, * O all-pure one, * who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: * Rejoice!, O Sovereign Lady, ** the intercession, protection and salvation of our souls!

On the Aposticha, these Stichera of the venerable one, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast granted a sign ...”:

O Lord, Thou hast granted to Thy Church an adornment: * the precious and much-healing relics * of Thy favorite, the venerable Sergius, * and possessing them like a royal ornament, she is adorned, * and bearing them like a most splendid crown she rejoiceth, * summoning her children, whom she begat in the Gospel by water and the Spirit. * Wherefore, we glorify Thy loving dispensation, * O Jesus, Thou Lover of mankind, ** and Savior of our souls.

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

O Lord, Thou hast given invincible might * to the reigning city of Moscow, * and confirmation to all the lands of Russia, * and to Thine honored monastery steadfast fortification * and an unshakable bulwark: * the healing and holy relics of the most blessed Sergius who loveth Thee. * Wherefore, we glorify Thy loving compassions, * O omnipotent Jesus, ** Thou Savior of our souls.

Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; * in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

O Lord, Thou hast given to Thy faithful servants, our Orthodox hierarchs, * steadfast defense and a weapon of salvation, * and to all pious Orthodox people great victory over the adversary, * a precious adornment to priests, and free healing to all the sick: * the holy relics of the venerable and thrice-blessed Sergius, * which we now venerate with joy, * receiving divers healings; and we glorify Thine ineffable loving-kindness, * O kind-hearted Jesus, ** Thou Savior of our souls.

Glory ..., in Tone VIII:

We honor thee as the instructor of a multitude of monks, O Sergius our father; for by thy steps have we learned how to walk aright. Blessed art thou who, having labored for Christ, hast denounced the power of the enemy, O converser with the angels and companion of the righteous and the venerable. With them do thou entreat the Lord, that our souls find mercy.

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

O unwedded Virgin! * thou who ineffably conceived God in the flesh, * Mother of God Most High: * accept the supplications of thy servants, O all-immaculate one, * granting unto all cleansing of transgressions; * and, accepting now our supplications, ** pray thou that we all be saved.

At the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of the venerable one, in Tone VIII:

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ within thy soul, O venerable one, * and didst desire more than all to withdraw from the tumult of the world. * Thou didst manfully dwell in the wilderness, * and therein didst produce the fruit of humility, the children of obedience. * Wherefore, as thou didst become the abode of the Trinity, thou hast illumined with thy miracles * all who have recourse to thee with faith, granting healing in abundance unto all. ** O Sergius our father, entreat Christ God, that He save our souls. (Twice)

And “Virgin Theotokos, rejoice! ...,” (Once)

But if a vigil is not served, then after the Troparion:

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

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin * and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death, * and as God revealed the resurrection: * disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand. * Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; * Accept the supplications of the Theotokos who bore Thee, ** and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

AT MATINS

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “When the stone had been sealed ...”:

The day of thy memorial hath arrived, O all-famed father Sergius, gladdening thy chosen flock; and thereon we celebrate with honor the uncovering of thy holy relics and magnify with joy the Lord Who hath given thee the grace of miracles, crying aloud: Glory to Him Who hath given thee strength! Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee! Glory to Him Who hath given healing to all through thee! (Twice)

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

When Gabriel announced to thee, “Rejoice!”, O Virgin, * the Master of all became incarnate within thee, the holy tabernacle, * at his cry, as the righteous David said. Thou wast shown to be more spacious than the heavens, * having borne thy Creator. * Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee! * Glory to Him Who came forth from thee! ** Glory to Him Who hath set us free by thy birthgiving.

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “Thy tomb, O Savior ...”:

Let our great pastor now be praised! And with hymns let the godly Sergius be praised; the most radiant pillar of monasticism who sheddeth upon us the radiance of miracles, which proceed from his most precious relics, and who like a dew-bearing cloud extinguisheth the flame of our passions, bedewing the minds of the faithful! (Twice)

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

O most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high do thou unceasingly beseech God to Whom, in a manner surpassing understanding and all telling, thou hast given birth, that He grant forgiveness of all our sins and correction of life unto those who with faith and love ever glorify thee.

Polyeleos, and magnification: We bless thee, O venerable father Sergius, and we honor thy holy memory, O instructor of monks and converser with the angels.

Selected Psalm verse:

A: With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me, and He hearkened unto my supplication.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Alleluia ..., Glory to Thee, O God! (Thrice)

After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone III:

Spec. Mel.: “Awed by the beauty of thy virginity ...”:

We all earnestly pray to thee, the merciful favorite of Christ, our pastor and teacher, and we lovingly kiss thy precious relics, and joyfully cry out with all our soul: Destroy the incursions of the heathen and bring them under Christian authority, dispel the phantasms of the demons from the flock of thy disciples, and deliver from all temptations those who hymn thee with love, O venerable Sergius. (Twice)

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

Byond understanding and unapproachable is the dread mystery of God wrought in thee, O divinely joyous sovereign Lady; for having conceived the Infinite One, thou didst give birth to Him, clad in the flesh taken from thy most pure blood. Him do thou ever entreat as thy Son, O pure one, that our souls be saved.

Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Verse: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

Let every breath praise the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW, § 43 (MT. 11: 27-30)

The Lord said to His disciples: All things are delivered unto Me of My Father, and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him. Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron, in Tone VIII:

O venerable father, thou didst despise the beauty of the world and the food which passeth away, loving the monastic life more than them; and thou wast deemed worthy to become a converser with angels and the greatly radiant beacon of the Russian land, shining forth in miracles like another sun. Be thou mindful of us who celebrate thy sacred memory; for we are thy children and the reason-endowed sheep of thy teachings, and we call upon thee for help, asking that through thee we may receive peace and great mercy.

Canon of supplication to the most holy Theotokos (the Paraclysis), with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos; and that of the venerable one, with 8 Troparia, in Tone IV:

ODE I

Irmos: Parting the abyss of the Red Sea, * God drowned Pharaoh therein, * but led Moses dryshod over to the wilderness, * and rained manna as food upon the people of Israel, * for He is mighty.

With the light of Thee, the three-Sunned Godhead, O my Creator, illumine the darkened eyes of my soul, I beseech Thee, and cleanse Thou my heart, that I may hymn the uncovering of the precious relics of the venerable Sergius, who loved Thee.

Grant me words for the opening of my mouth, O Word of God, make my tongue brilliant, O Merciful One, and be not mindful of the multitude of my sins, that, guided by Thy grace, I may hymn Thy venerable saint, Sergius.

As thou didst preach the Trinity by crying out within thy mother's womb, so did the Trinity glorify thee. Lo! thy precious relics, hidden for so many years beneath the ground, were found to be incorrupt, filling the faithful with sweet fragrance and miracles.

Theotokion: **O** most pure Sovereign Lady who art more exalted than the hosts of heaven, and hast given birth to the Savior and Creator of all, Who is consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit: grant us discourse, O all-hymned one, that we may hymn thee who art the helper of our race.

Katavasia: **I shall open my mouth, ...**

ODE III

Irmos: **Let not the vainglorious sage praise himself, * but let him consider this: * There is none as holy as our God, * Who exalteth our horn, * granting might unto our rulers.**

Strengthened by the power of the Cross of the Lord, thou didst make the spiritual passions and reasoning of the flesh subject to thy spirit; wherefore, thou didst become a most comely habitation of the most holy Spirit and the chosen resting-place of the indivisible Trinity.

Having become a model for all who have labored for Christ with all their soul by thy life in this world, thou didst shine forth in purity like the sun; wherefore, thou hast received recompense an hundredfold from the hand of the Almighty, O divinely wise Sergius, for which cause we joyfully call thee blessed.

Come, let us now come together on this present feast, and let us behold and be filled with joy, that we may glorify Christ Who hath glorified those who glorify Him, and hath given us the divinely blessed Sergius as an invincible rampart and bestower of miracles.

Theotokion: **R**ejoicing, we offer thee thanks together with hymnody, O Mother of God, for in the flesh thou hast given birth to the Almighty God, Who hath given thee unto Christians as a steadfast intercessor.

Sessional Hymn of the venerable one, in Tone VIII:

With great abstinence thou didst sail across the sea of life, and put in at the calm harbor, the mansions of heaven, shining like a radiant star, and like a never-setting sun illumining the whole world with the lightning-flashes of thy miracles, and thereby enlightening the flock of thy disciples. To our pious Orthodox hierarchs and all the faithful dost thou grant forgiveness of sins, correction of life, and victory over the adversary, that, standing joyfully round about thine honored and much-healing shrine, we may lovingly venerate thy holy relics and cry aloud to thee, as to a caring father: O divinely wise and most blessed father Sergius, entreat the Holy Trinity, for Whom thou didst labor in this life, that we who honor the uncovering of thy precious relics with love may be granted the forgiveness of sins. **(Twice)**

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

All we, the generations of mankind, * call thee blessed, * in that thou art the Virgin who alone among women * hast given birth without seed unto God in the flesh; * for the fire of the Godhead made its abode within thee, * and thou didst feed the Creator and Lord * with milk as an infant. * Wherefore, we, the race of mankind and of angels, * glorify thy birthgiving, * and together we cry out to thee: * Entreat Christ God to grant forgiveness of sins ** unto those who with faith worship thy most holy Offspring.

ODE IV

Irmos: **Thy** virtue hath covered the heavens, * and the earth is full of Thy glory, O Christ; * wherefore, we cry out with faith: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou didst cleave unto God from thy mother's womb, O blessed father Sergius, having in thy heart the fear of God as the beginning of wisdom, and as the root and foundation of all good things, thou didst love poverty of spirit. Wherefore, Christ the Master hath enriched thee with miracles.

Like a fragrant lily thy precious relics have been budded forth from the bosom of the earth, O most blessed Sergius, and like a treasure they emit the radiance of miracles, gladdening thy spiritual children.

Today the royal city of Moscow rejoiceth, and the whole world is filled with gladness; and thy monastery, O divinely blessed Sergius, boasting, is adorned, having thy precious relics within it as an inexhaustible and most wondrous treasure.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin Lady, Queen of all creation, who wast foretold by many prophets and hast given birth to the King of the hosts of heaven: grant victory to thy servants, our pious Orthodox hierarchs, over all heresies, O Sovereign Lady, and by thy supplications grant unto us all the kingdom of heaven.

ODE V

Irmos: **O** Lord, Thou art my portion * Thou art the glory of my countenance; * for by the knowledge of God Thou alone hast delivered me * from the darkness of ignorance. * Wherefore I pray to Thee, O Christ: * Grant peace to Thy servant, * in that Thou lovest mankind!

The Holy Church, wondrous in righteousness in our God the Trinity, is splendidly adorned, O divinely wise Sergius, and a multitude of the people spiritually rejoice, beholding thee carried with honor in the arms of the hierarch of God, borne up upon the shoulders of the priests.

Filled with joy at the visitation of the Mother of God, thou didst become a light for thy flock and a guide for the new Israel, O father, leading us from earth to the mansions of heaven, where thou now enjoyest ineffable effulgence.

Thy mother's womb was sanctified by thine honored conception, and the glorious city of Rostov was rendered splendid by thy nativity; thy great and abundantly glorious monastery hath been glorified by thy struggles, and the whole world hath been filled with thy miracles, O venerable father Sergius.

Theotokion: **O** most pure Mother of God, thou steadfast helper of those who set their hope on thee, O protection and guardian of our city, invincible bulwark of this holy community, and weapon of salvation for our devout hierarchs: save all who piously venerate thy holy image.

ODE VI

Irmos: **L**et not the watery tempest drown me, * nor the abyss destroy me; * for I have been cast into the heart of the deep of the sea. * Wherefore, like Jonah I cry aloud to Thee: * Raise up my life from the corruption of wickedness, unto Thee O God!

Having loved Christ from childhood, O father Sergius, following His life-bearing footsteps thou didst flee this world, and didst attain unto the never-waning light of understanding, where thou now standest with boldness before the Holy Trinity, Whom do thou beseech on behalf of us all.

The ranks of the incorporeal ones marveled at thy life in the flesh, and the hordes of the demons were affrighted by the victory which God gave thee over them; and we glorify thee, O venerable Sergius, standing round about the shrine of thy precious relics, and we magnify Christ who hath glorified thee with miracles.

By thy supplications, O most blessed father Sergius, ask what is beneficial for all who venerate the honored and glorious uncovering of thy holy relics with love and pure faith, and who celebrate thy sacred memory with splendor.

Theotokion: **H**aving conceived the Creator and Savior of all without seed in thy womb, O Lady and Mother of God, and having given birth to Christ God in the flesh, by thy supplications render Him merciful unto us, that we all may be deemed worthy of His revelation and kingdom.

Kontakion of the venerable one, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "To thee, the champion leader ...":

Thy precious relics, shining forth from the ground today like a most radiant sun, * have been found to be incorrupt, resplendent with a multitude of miracles like a fragrant flower, * pouring forth divers healings upon all the faithful, and gladdening thy chosen flock, * which, having wisely assembled, thou didst shepherd well. * On their behalf thou dost now stand in supplication before the Trinity, * praying that victory be granted to our Orthodox hierarchs over all heresies, ** that we may all cry out to thee: Rejoice, O divinely wise Sergius!

Ikos: **H**aving disdained that which is in the world, O divinely wise father, thou didst acquire incorrupt habitations which are above the world, and having been enriched with abundant gifts by the right hand of the Almighty, in accordance with the number of thy virtues, and been crowned with the wreath of honor as a victory, thou dost enrich with miracles all who hymn thee thus: Rejoice, O thou who, before thy nativity, didst glorify the Holy Trinity by a threefold exclamation; Rejoice, thou who didst consider the beauty and glory of the world to be as dung! Rejoice, for thou didst make thine abode in the wilderness; Rejoice, for thou didst make of it a city! Rejoice, for therein thou didst erect an all-honored temple for the praise of the Holy Trinity; Rejoice, for, having assembled there multitudes of monastics, thou didst lead them to the Lord! Rejoice, for thou wast deemed worthy of the merciful visitation of the Mother of God; Rejoice, for thou didst serve her in the flesh like an angel! Rejoice, for thou prayest to the Lord on behalf of those who honor the uncovering of thy precious relics; Rejoice, for thou art a weapon of salvation for our Orthodox hierarchs and a vanquisher of all heresies! Preserve them ever in health and gladness, that we may all celebrate thine uncovering with splendor, joyously crying: Rejoice, O divinely wise Sergius!

ODE VII

Irmos: **F**orsake us not to the end for Thy names sake, * for we have not forsaken Thy commandments, * and take not Thy mercy from us * O Lord God of our Fathers, * who art supremely hymned throughout the ages.

By divine preservation thy precious body was kept intact, O divinely wise Sergius, which was covered wholly by the earth for many years, and it came forth, untouched by any harm. And we, thy children, beholding it, cry out with joy: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Thou wast clothed in the raiment of gladness, and thy precious head was crowned with a wreath of joy; and thou hast entered in splendor into the heavenly bridal-chamber of Christ the King, receiving honor for thy labors, and chanting to the Lord: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Resplendent in thy radiant life, O wondrous Sergius, in this life thou didst attain unto the ranks of the incorporeal ones; and now thou joinest chorus with them before the throne of the God of all, Whom do thou beseech, that He grant forgiveness of sins unto those who with love celebrate the memory of the uncovering of thy precious relics.

Theotokion: **E**xtend supplication, O most pure Virgin Lady, unto our God Who was born of thee, and Who through thee hath restored Adam and renewed our nature, that we may all cry out to thee: O most pure one, blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!

ODE VIII

Irmos: In wisdom hast Thou fashioned all things, O Master, * Thou didst establish the earth firmly upon the fathomless depths of the waters, * in accordance with Thy knowledge, * wherefore we hymn Thee chanting: * Unceasingly bless ye the Lord all ye works of the Lord.

The Church of God is gladdened today, arrayed as in a robe of royal purple; and thy holy monastery, O divinely blessed Sergius, doth possess as a treasure beyond price thy precious body which imparteth divers healings unto all who chant with faith: Unceasingly bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

The temple of God is illumined with heavenly light, and therein the assemblies of the pious rejoice, beholding thee, O divinely blessed Sergius, borne in the hands of the hierarchs and venerated with mouth and soul by all the faithful who cry out to Christ: Unceasingly bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Standing now with the armies of heaven before the Trinity, and dwelling with the choirs of all the saints, ask thou that forgiveness of sins be given to those who honor thy memory with faith; and to us who celebrate with splendor the uncovering of thy precious relics grant salvation, that rejoicing, we may chant: Unceasingly bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: The Pre-eternal One is conceived in thy womb, O pure Virgin, and the perfect God, Who is born an Infant in the flesh, of thee, the Maiden who knewest not wedlock, is seen by men to be perfect God and man, co-enthroned with the Father and the Spirit. Him do we supremely exalt throughout the ages

ODE IX

Irmos: On the mountain Moses beheld the unconsumed bush; * and in the cave Joseph heard the ineffable birth. * O Theotokos, and undefiled Virgin, * thou Mother who knewest not a man: * thee do we magnify!

Thou wast taken up to the heights of heaven by the virtues, O divinely wise Sergius, and in gladness of heart thou standest before the throne of the Holy Trinity. Forget not thy servants, but grant perfect health and wondrous victory over all heresies to our pious Orthodox hierarchs, that we may all magnify thee unceasingly with hymns.

More brightly than the rays of the sun, O God-bearer, doth thy most glorious memory illumine the faithful who piously honor thee, who venerate the shrine of thy precious relics with faith and love, and praise thee in hymns, O divinely wise Sergius.

O divinely blessed father Sergius, accept thou this small supplication, offered to thee by mine unworthy hand and with heartfelt love, and by thy supplications grant salvation for our souls, health for our bodies and peace for the world, that we may magnify thee yet more in hymnody.

Theotokion: **O** most hymned Virgin Lady, Mother of Christ our God, save all who set their hope on thee, who have recourse to thine aid, and in hymns piously magnify thee, who art the Theotokos.

Exapostilarion of the venerable one:

Spec. Mel.: “Hearken, ye women ...”:

Assembling today, those of heaven rejoice with those on earth, and the companies of the faithful, together with the priests and monks, are filled with spiritual gladness and the gifts of thy miracles, O venerable Sergius, glorifying the Lord on the day of thine uncovering. **(Twice)**

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion:

O most pure Virgin, who hast given birth to the hypostatic Wisdom, the eternal Word of the Father, Christ the Physician of mortals, heal thou the grievous and long-standing wounds and sores of my heart, and quell the uprisings of the passions of my flesh.

On the Praises, 4 Stichera of the venerable one, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

As a greatly radiant star * of Christ, the never-setting Sun, * thou dost enlighten all * with the beams of thy virtues, * O divinely wise father Sergius, blessed of God, * and with the radiance of miracles thou dost illumine all the ends of the earth * and those who with faith cherish thy holy memory * and splendidly honor in hymns ** the venerable uncovering of thy relics. **(Twice)**

Thou hast been shown to be a beacon of great radiance, * a most excellent physician of the sick, * and a right prudent shepherd of monastics, * a weapon of salvation for our pious Orthodox hierarchs, * victory over the enemy, * the adornment of all the land of Russia, * a constant advocate * for all who invoke thy name with faith, O Sergius, ** and celebrate the uncovering of thy precious relics with love.

Like a fragrant flower, * incense of sweet savor, * a divine phial of myrrh, thou sendest forth * the scent of thy sweet perfume * upon all nations, * and with the lightning-flashes of thy miracles * thou dost illumine the Christian people, * who celebrate thy sacred memory with faith, ** O venerable and divinely blessed Sergius.

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

Having assembled today, O ye faithful Christian people, let us be filled with joy, and, forming a choir, let us spiritually celebrate the right eminent solemnity of the venerable father, crying out to Christ in psalms and hymns: O Master Christ, to our latter-day race thou hast revealed such a bestower of miracles, the great ally of the whole Russian land! O venerable and divinely wise father Sergius, earnestly beseech Christ our God on behalf of all who honor thee with faith and love!

Both now ..., Theotokion or Stavrotheotokion.

AT LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from ODE III and 4 from ODE VI of the canon of the venerable one.

Strengthened by the power of the Cross of the Lord, thou didst make the spiritual passions and reasoning of the flesh subject to thy spirit; wherefore, thou didst become a most comely habitation of the most holy Spirit and the chosen resting-place of the indivisible Trinity. (Twice)

Having become a model for all who have labored for Christ with all their soul by thy life in this world, thou didst shine forth in purity like the sun; wherefore, thou hast received recompense an hundredfold from the hand of the Almighty, O divinely wise Sergius, for which cause we joyfully call thee blessed.

Come, let us now come together on this present feast, and let us behold and be filled with joy, that we may glorify Christ Who hath glorified those who glorify Him, and hath given us the divinely blessed Sergius as an invincible rampart and bestower of miracles.

Having loved Christ from childhood, O father Sergius, following His life-bearing footsteps thou didst flee this world, and didst attain unto the never-waning light of understanding, where thou now standest with boldness before the Holy Trinity, Whom do thou beseech on behalf of us all.

The ranks of the incorporeal ones marveled at thy life in the flesh, and the hordes of the demons were affrighted by the victory which God gave thee over them; and we glorify thee, O venerable Sergius, standing round about the shrine of thy precious relics, and we magnify Christ who hath glorified thee with miracles.

By thy supplications, O most blessed father Sergius, ask what is beneficial for all who venerate the honored and glorious uncovering of thy holy relics with love and pure faith, and who celebrate thy sacred memory with splendor.

Theotokion: **H**aving conceived the Creator and Savior of all without seed in thy womb, O Lady and Mother of God, and having given birth to Christ God in the flesh, by thy supplications render Him merciful unto us, that we all may be deemed worthy of His revelation and kingdom.

Troparion of the venerable one, in Tone VIII:

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ within thy soul, O venerable one, * and didst desire more than all to withdraw from the tumult of the world. * Thou didst manfully dwell in the wilderness, * and therein didst produce the fruit of humility, the children of obedience. * Wherefore, as thou didst become the abode of the Trinity, thou hast illumined with thy miracles * all who have recourse to thee with faith, granting healing in abundance unto all. ** O Sergius our father, entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

Kontakion of the venerable one, in Tone VIII:

Thy precious relics, shining forth from the ground today like a most radiant sun, * have been found to be incorrupt, resplendent with a multitude of miracles like a fragrant flower, * pouring forth divers healings upon all the faithful, and gladdening thy chosen flock, * which, having wisely assembled, thou didst shepherd well. * On their behalf thou dost now stand in supplication before the Trinity, * praying that victory be granted to our Orthodox hierarchs over all heresies, ** that we may all cry out to thee: Rejoice, O divinely wise Sergius!

Prokeimenon, in Tone VII: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Verse: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS, §213 (5: 22-6: 2)

Brethren: the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Alleluia, in Tone VI: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

Verse: His seed shall be mighty upon the earth.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE, § 24 (6: 17-23)

At that time, Jesus came down and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; and they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven:

Communion Verse: In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.