

11 JULY
+ Great Martyr Effimía at Chalcedon C5
[Equal to the Apostles Olga of Russia C10]

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 8

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 O Lord, listen to me.
 O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.
 O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
 the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
 O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
 But there is forgiveness with you.
 S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
 my soul has waited for your word,
 my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Most glorious wonder! The ewe-lamb of the Lord, imitated his
 voluntary death through the pain of suffering. While lying in the
 tomb she pours out blood by the power of the Spirit. As we
 venerate this fountain for the purification of our souls, we
 continually offer to God the praise of all. X2

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
 from morning watch until night,
 from morning watch.
 S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
 and abundant redemption with *him*.
 He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

Most glorious wonder! Although she was mortal by nature, the all-
 praised athlete was steadfast today. She held the divine scroll which
 she did not give to the enemies, but entrusted to the fathers. O
 Glorious martyr, boast of all the world, save unshaken the Church of
 Christ through your prayers. X2

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
 every people, acclaim him!
 S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
 and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

The assembly of the divine fathers place the definition of the faith
 on your breast. All-glorious *martyr*, you received it, for you
 preserved the faith of God unshaken. You conquered every heresy
 and shamed the defenders of false belief. Therefore, we honour and
 bless you. X2

Glory: Tone 6

The virgin, athlete and martyr Effimía, stood at the right hand of the
 Saviour. She was clothed in the strength of victory and adorned
 with the oil of purity and the blood of suffering. She cried aloud to
 him, as she held her lamp with joy, "O Christ our God, I have
 hurried to the perfume of your sweet fragrance, for I am wounded
 by your love. O heavenly Bridegroom, do not turn me away." By
 her prayers, send down to us your great mercies through her prayers.

Both now:

O Virgin, you are worthy *to receive* our hymns; throw down the
 murderous power of our adversaries. Change the sorrow of your
 people into joy and restore us in your love, so that we may sing to
 you when we are saved.

W/F

When she saw our Life hanging on the cross, the all-pure Theotokos
 cried out with maternal grief, "O my Son and God, save the faithful
 who sing to you."

Entrance

Prophecy 1

From the Prophecy of Isaiah (43:9-14)

All the nations are gathered together, and princes will be gathered
 from them. Who will declare these things? Or who will declare to
 you things from the beginning? Let them bring out their witnesses,
 and be justified. Let them hear and declare the truth. ¹⁰ Be my
 witnesses, and I too am a witness, says the Lord God, and my
 servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know, and believe,
 and understand that I am he. Before me there was no other God,
 and after me there will be none. ¹¹ I am God; and beside me there is
 no Saviour. ¹² I have declared and have saved. I have rebuked and
 there was no strange god among you. You are my witnesses and I
 am the Lord God, ¹³ even from the beginning. There is no one who
 can deliver from my hands. I will work and who can turn it back?
¹⁴ Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of
 Israel. For your sake I will send to Babylon; I will stir up all who
 flee and the Chaldeans will be bound in ships.

Prophecy 2

From the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment will
 touch them. ² In the sight of the foolish they seemed to die and their
 departure is taken for misery, ³ and their going from us to be utter
 destruction, but they are in peace. ⁴ For although they may be
 punished in the sight of men, yet their hope is full of immortality. ⁵
 Having been a little disciplined, they will be greatly rewarded, for
 God tested them and found them worthy for himself. ⁶ Like gold in
 the furnace he has tried them and received them as a burnt offering.
⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine, and run to and fro
 like sparks among the stubble. ⁸ They will judge the nations, have
 dominion over the people, and their Lord will reign for ever. ⁹
 Those who put their trust in him will understand the truth. Those
 who are faithful in love will live with him, for grace and mercy
belongs to his saints and he visits his chosen.

Prophecy 3

From the Wisdom of Solomon (5:15-6:3)

The just live for evermore and their reward is with the Lord, and
 their care is with the most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they will receive a
 glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand, for
 he will shelter them with his right hand, and protect them with his
 arm. ¹⁷ He will take his fervour to himself for complete armour, and
 make the creature his weapon for revenge on his enemies. ¹⁸ He will
 put on justice as a breastplate, and judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will
 take holiness for an invincible shield. ²⁰ He will sharpen his severe
 wrath for a sword; the world will fight with him against the foolish.
²¹ Then rightly-aimed thunderbolts will go out; from the clouds, as
 though from a well-drawn bow, they will fly to the mark. ²²
 Hailstones full of wrath will be fired as though from a stone bow,
 the water of the sea will rage against them and the rivers will cruelly
 drown them. ²³ Truly a mighty wind will rise against them, and like
 a storm will blow them away. Therefore lawlessness will lay waste
 the whole earth, and ill-dealing will overthrow the thrones of the
 mighty. ¹ Hear therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, you who
 are judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you who rule many
 people and glory in the throng of nations. ³ For might is given to
 you from the Lord, and sovereignty from the Most High.

Ekteni

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you,
 O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for
 ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in
 you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are
 you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you,
 O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy

lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Lití

Tone 4

O martyr, although you have died, you live for ever and have poured streams of blood in the praise of the Lord. You water the faithful and enlighten them with understanding, but drown the unbelieving enemy. Therefore the divine scroll of the teaching of the Church was given to you; you preserve and hold it for ever.

Apósticha

Tone 4

O divinely-wise *martyr Effimía*, since you courageously stood in your mind against the fury of the tormentor with his insolent harshness, you foresaw the perpetual and sure delights of the future. O glorious *woman*, you attained them by passing from earth to the heavenly palaces and to the permanent choir.

S1: I truly waited for the Lord;

he was attentive to me and listened to my plea. ps 39

O renowned Effimía, we celebrate the sacred memory of your holy passion and glorify with ceaseless voices the Lord Jesus, the Lover of the human race and our Saviour.

S2: He set my feet on a rock and guided my steps;

he put a new song in my mouth, even a hymn for our God. ps 39

O renowned Effimía, when you opened your mouth you were filled with the grace of the Spirit. He made you eager to keep your life pure and you triumphed over the arrogance of tyrants by your patience. Then, O boast of martyrs, you received splendour in your soul in exchange for the beauty of body.

Glory: Tone 6

All-praised Effimía, you are clothed in the virtues and made radiant by your thoughts. You pour out myrrh on the hearts of the faithful as you shine like a radiant star from the east. You helped a council of the divine fathers through the coming of the Holy Spirit. Continually plead with Christ to save our souls.

Both now:

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of life. Therefore, O Lady, we implore you, together with the martyrs and all the saints, to intercede for us to obtain mercy for our souls.

Apolytikia

Tone 3

O Effimía, beautiful virgin of Christ, you filled the Orthodox people with joy and shamed the supporters of error. You gave a seal of approval to the saving teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council. O glorious martyr, plead therefore with Christ God to grant us abundant mercy.

Tone 3

O Virgin Theotokos, we praise you for mediating the salvation of our race. For your son and our God accepted suffering through the cross in the flesh he took from you. He has set us free from corruption, for he is the Lover of the human race.

ORTHROS

Kathisma 1

Tone 4

Because you valued the splendid beauty of Christ and made your spirit shine with purity, you approached him like a pure bride through your pains and torments. O widely renowned Effimía, he judged you to be worthy of the heavenly homes where you intercede before him for those who venerate you.

Glory: Both now:

O Theotokos, we shall never stop praising your majesty in spite of our unworthiness, for if you do not plead for us, who would rescue us from our many dangers? You yourself preserve us in freedom. O Lady, do not let us stray far from you, for you save your servants from every danger.

Kathisma 2

Tone 1

Like a pure and spotless lamb you were mystically united to the Lord by the holiness of your life. You were crowned with beauty by your passion. Therefore you received the power to heal and soothe every affliction by the power of the Spirit.

Glory: Both now:

We all acknowledge you as the Theotokos who remained a virgin after giving birth. We seek shelter in your goodness, for we sinners possess you as an advocate. All-pure Virgin, we have you for salvation.

Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

Tone 4

Since you revered Christ as your Spouse and had your lamp ready, you were brilliant with the radiance of virtues and entered the wedding banquet with him. You received the crown of victory from him. Rescue from every danger those who observe your holy memory with faith.

Glory: Both now:

O Christ our God, since you were willingly raised on the cross, grant mercies to your new community called by your name. Make firm our faithful rulers with your power and grant them victories over their enemies. May your help be a weapon of peace and an invincible trophy.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

¹ Many passions have fought against me from my youth, but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*

² Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord; they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*

Glory:

³ Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now:

⁴ The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit; they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 39 & 91 Tone 4

R: I truly waited for the Lord.

S: The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree.

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in the firmament of his power. ps 50

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:1-13)

The Lord said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other maidens came also and said, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of your holy martyr.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 6

The virgin, athlete and martyr Effimía, stood at the right hand of the Saviour. She was clothed in the strength of victory and adorned with the oil of purity and the blood of suffering. She cried aloud to him, as she held her lamp with joy, "O Christ our God, I have hurried to the perfume of your sweet fragrance, for I am wounded by your love. O heavenly Bridegroom, do not turn me away." By her prayers, send down to us your great mercies through her prayers.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of the great martyr Effimía, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. XI2

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontákion

Tone 2

You struggled valiantly as you defended faith in Christ your beloved Saviour. O Effimía, through the powerful intercession of the Mother of God, intercede with Christ that he may destroy false teaching and humiliate the pride of the enemy beneath the feet of the Church. You have received and faithfully preserved the rock of faith from the six hundred and thirty fathers of the Council.

Íkos

The temple of the renowned martyr has become a Paradise, because it has her body as a tree of immortality in its midst. Whoever takes its fruits is quickly sanctified. There is a miracle here when we see how her body still seems alive and sheds blood whose fragrance is noted by everyone. All of you, come along with me, although I am poor. Let us venerate her relics. Since we are purified from every ill, let us profit by the grace of her miracles.

Synaxáron

Today we remember the holy, renowned woman and great martyr Effimía, who lived in the Fourth Century. She performed a miracle to uphold Chalcedonian Orthodoxy. On the Eleventh she confirmed the true teaching.

On the same day we also commemorate Princess Olga, the grandmother of the Enlightener Vladimir. She visited Constantinople where she was converted to the faith and baptised. The Patriarch gave her the name Eleni. Her influence and prayers helped to convert her grandson. She died in 969.

Together with them we remember:

Hieromartyr Kindéos of Pamphylía C3-C4

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasias

1: I will open my mouth and be filled with the spirit. I will sing a song to the Queen and Mother. I will come, rejoice in the feast and praise all her glory.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, in your divine glory spiritually establish your choir which is assembled in chorus. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory in your mercy.

4: The counsel of God cannot be scrutinised. The Most High was incarnate from a Virgin. The prophet Habakkuk foresaw this and cried, "Glory to your power, O God!"

5: O Virgin, all creation was fearful at your divine glory, for you knew no man, yet bore the God of all. You held in your womb the Eternal Son who grants peace to those who praise you in song.

6: O believers, let us clap our hands in festivity and fulfil the most precious feast. Since we know God through the Theotokos, let us glorify the one who was born from her.

7: The godly youths worshipped the Creator rather than the creature. They courageously trampled on the flames and joyfully sang, "Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers."

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
The *Lord* who was born from the Theotokos saved the holy children in the furnace. The one who was then prefigured has now been born on earth and gathers all creation to sing, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Magnificat

9: Let every earthborn mortal be radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate as they honour the holy feast of the Theotokos and cry, "Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!"

Exaposteilária

Tone 3

O holy martyr Effimía, although you are dead, you still pour out your blood like a life-giving myrrh, for you are alive in the living God. You keep in your hands the tablets on which the teaching of Christ was written. Therefore we acclaim you.

O pure Virgin, God has given you to you as a refuge, stronghold and support in trial and distress. Therefore be pleased to rescue us from all our despair.

Praises

Tone 8

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O faithful, as we observe the feast of Effimía being solemnly celebrated, let us sing a hymn of gratitude to our God who is marvellous in his plans. For he has overthrown the invisible

strength of the powerful enemy through a woman. His divine strength is perfected in the weakness of the martyr Effimía. May he grant us great mercy through her prayers. X2

S2: I truly waited for the Lord;

he was attentive to me and listened to my plea. Ps 39

After she had filled the cup of truth with her own blood during her struggles, the amazing martyr of Christ continually presents it to the Church. Through her voice Wisdom cries out to the faithful children when she says, "Come and drink from the cup of witness to the divine resurrection, for she banishes the enemies of faith, cleanses us from passions and protects the souls of believers."

S1: He set my feet on a rock and guided my steps;

he put a new song in my mouth, even a hymn for our God. Ps 39

Our souls were sealed for the day of redemption by the blood of the Saviour. As the prophet proclaims let us receive with joyful hearts the blood which pours for us from the spring of the holy martyr who emulated the suffering of Christ and delights in his eternal glory. So let us cry to *the Lord*, "O Lord, you are marvellous in your saints, so grant us great mercy through the prayers of your renowned martyr Effimía.

Glory: Tone 8

Let every tongue celebrate the praise of Effimía. Let every elder, maiden and youth crown the virgin martyr of Christ with hymns. After she had struggled like a man and shaken off the weakness of her female nature, she conquered the hostile tyrant through her ascetic struggles in accordance with the faith. Now that her head is adorned with a divine and sublime crown, she pleads with Christ, her Bridegroom, to grant our souls great mercy.

Both now:

O Lady, accept the prayers of your servants. Rescue us from every peril and distress.

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!

glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us,

for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,

for you sit on the right of the Father,

and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,

O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day

and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day

to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!

Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy be on us,

for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!

Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;

heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;

teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 3

O Effimía, beautiful virgin of Christ, you filled the Orthodox people with joy and shamed the supporters of error. You gave a seal of approval to the saving teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council. O glorious martyr, plead therefore with Christ God to grant us abundant mercy.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
and shout with gladness to him in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God
and an exalted king over all the earth.

S3: For the ends of the earth are in his hand
and the summits of the mountains are his.

For the sea is his and he made it;
his hands have formed the dry land.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 39 Tone 1

S1: I truly waited for the Lord;
he was attentive to me and listened to my plea. Ps 39

R: O Effimía, beautiful virgin of Christ, you filled the Orthodox people with joy and shamed the supporters of error. You gave a seal of approval to the saving teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council. O glorious martyr, plead therefore with Christ God to grant us abundant mercy.

S2: He set my feet on a rock and guided my steps;
he put a new song in my mouth, even a hymn for our God. Ps 39

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

Tone 3

O Effimía, beautiful virgin of Christ, you filled the Orthodox people with joy and shamed the supporters of error. You gave a seal of approval to the saving teaching of the Fourth Ecumenical Council.

O glorious martyr, plead therefore with Christ God to grant us abundant mercy.

Of the Patrons

Kontákion

O unfailing protection of Christians and unchanging mediator before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to those of us who faithfully cry to you, "O Theotokos, you always protect those who honour you, so hurry to intercede for us and hasten to plead for us."

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 115 Tone 7

R: What shall we give back to the Lord
for everything which he has given us?

S: I will repay my dues to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Apóstolos

From the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (6:1-10)

Brothers, as we then work jointly with Christ, we implore you not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you and helped you on the day of salvation." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. ⁴As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labours, watching, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of justice for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill-repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true; ⁹as unknown and yet well-known; as dying, and, see, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Prokeímenon Ps 39 & 91 Tone 4

S1: I truly waited for the Lord. Ps 39

S2: The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree. Ps 91

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (7:36-50)

At that time one of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and took his place at table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it, Teacher?" ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves,

"Who is this, who even forgives sins?"⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!