

4 DECEMBER
± Great Martyr Barbara (Varvára)
John of Damascus

VESPERS

Tone 2

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.

When Juliana saw the blessed martyr Barbara in her terrible ordeal, while she suffered from her many wounds and her body was painfully gouged in many places, she cried with tears of compassion, "O Word of God, O Lover of the human race, allow me to be her companion in martyrdom today".

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.

O holy Barbara and Juliana, you are among those who only have a true calling for just living, for you attacked the enemy and grievously wounded him. In this way you are worthy to be glorified by Christ our God, for you trampled under foot the destructive passions together with their evil. You give the means of healing to all the faithful.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord

from morning watch until night,

from morning watch.

O most pure martyr Barbara, when you were sentenced to die you faced sweet death with joy. You swiftly fulfilled the act of martyrdom when you

were killed by the hand of your most evil parent; you were offered up as fruit to God. Therefore you truly rejoice with the wise virgins as you see the light of Christ, your Bridegroom.

Tone 8

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with him.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences. O holy theologian John, what can we call you? Another David, for your hymns are like the psalms for us? You are the temple of the Spirit and the flute of the Good Shepherd; you sweeten our ears and gladden our minds. You cause the ranks of the Church to rejoice and your teaching is a river of honey which flow to the ends of the earth. Pray that our souls may be saved.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!

O father John, messenger of God, what can we call you? Shining star of the Holy Trinity? You enlighten our eyes with delightful teaching and have entered into the cloud of divine knowledge. You see mysteries beyond words or speech like Moses and proclaim the music of *God's* wisdom. Pray that our souls may be saved.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

O blessed *saint*, what can call you? A shining lampstand? A faithful minister of divine mysteries? A joyful star for the Church which enlightens those who live in darkness? A well-tuned organ and sweet-sounding harp? Pray that our souls may be saved.

Glory: Tone 6

You abandoned your home, people and earthly riches. O Barbara, you fled from the hatred of an evil father and were wedded to God in a bond of love. Therefore, as you rejoiced, he took you to himself. Pray that he will save our souls.

Both now:

O Lady, I lift the eyes of my heart to you; do not despise my small sigh, but be my helper and rescuer in the hour when your Son will come to judge the earth.

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
when we come to the setting of the sun
and see the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
with voices of praise,
O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon

Of the Day

Ektení

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.

Plirotiká

Apósticha

Tone 8

All-wise father John, you enlighten the Church with songs inspired by God. God our Father made you another David through the action of the Holy Spirit. O blessed *saint*, your hymns lead us to the Lord.

S1: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord;

there is great desire in his commandments. Ps 111

O glorious father John, O just *father*, you attained the peace of Christ in the midst of worldly commotion. Through godly action and contemplation you were enlightened with his wisdom. All-blessed *saint*, you were made rich in heavenly things and enlighten the faithful with them.

S2: The death of his saint is precious in the Lord's sight. Ps 115

Come and assemble in the temple of God today; let us praise the just John with a joyful song. He is truly a divine lamp and enables us to see the true Light. O compassionate Lord, how great is your goodness! Only good *Lord*, we have learnt to glorify you through him.

Glory: Tone 6

O venerable father John, the sound of your teaching has gone out into all the earth, therefore you have found the reward of your labours in the heavens. You destroyed the hosts of demons and reached the ranks of angels whose life you blamelessly followed. Since you have boldness before Christ God, request peace for our souls.

Both now:

O Theotokos, you are the true vine who came into bloom for us with the Fruit of life. O Lady, together with the apostles and all the saints, implore him, we pray you, to have mercy on our souls.

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace

according to your word,

² for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared before all peoples,

³ a light of revelation for *the* nations

and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságon Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 8

Let us honour the holy martyr Barbara, for she escaped the snares of the enemy like a bird and destroyed them through the help and strength of the Cross.

Tone 8

O Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of reverence and holiness, star of the world, companion of bishops, divinely-inspired and wise John you enlighten us all through your teaching. Intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 8

O good *Master*, you were born from a virgin for our sake. You suffered crucifixion, despoiled death through death and revealed the resurrection as God. O merciful *Lord*, do not despise those whom you have created with your own hand, but, reveal your love for the human race. O Saviour, receive the Theotokos as an intercessor, for she gave birth to you, and save your despairing people.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

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Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 3

O Barbara, you are worthy of our hymns; you amazed the whole world with your struggles, for you suffered beating at the hand of tyrants, imprisonment and dreadful punishments. You were given a crown by God, for you had devoted yourself to him and loved him with all your heart. He himself will grant healing to all the faithful who turn to you.

Glory: Tone 5

Let us faithfully assemble to remember the holy martyrs. Let us celebrate their memory today and greet them with spiritual songs, for through their prayers they have put to death the one who charmed Eve to leave immortality. They plead with Christ to bestow his mercy on our souls.

Both now:

Hail, O holy mountain which was crossed by the Lord! Hail, O bush, for you burned without being consumed! Hail, O ladder, for you join the world to God and lead all from earth to eternal life! Hail, O unwedded Virgin, for you have ushered in Salvation for our souls!

Kathísma 2

Tone 1

O holy father John, you are a flute with a joyful sound, a trumpet with solemn tones, a zither with sweet melody, a divine lyre with pleasant notes, a harp which pours out music and an instrument with delightful harmony. You resound with the breath of the Advocate to captivate our hearts and minds.

Glory:

We sing about your heavenly toils which you truly suffered for the Church. O holy John, worthy to receive our praise and canticles, we celebrate with sings the sacred hymns through which you raised us to praise the Lord and brought joy to the hearts of believers.

Both now:

O Theotokos, we all confess that you remained a virgin after giving birth and seek shelter under your goodness, for you continually offer your help to sinners. Most pure Virgin, in you we find salvation in the midst of dangers.

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*

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.

Tone 6

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy

and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.

You abandoned your home, people and earthly riches. O Barbara, you fled from the hatred of an evil father and were wedded to God in a bond of love. Therefore, as you rejoiced, he took you to himself. Plead with him to save our souls.

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 great-martyr Barbara, of our holy father John of Damáskos, 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. X12

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your only-begotten 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.*

Kontákia

Tone 4

O faithful, let us sing praises to John who is worthy of great honour. *He is* the composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the Orthodox Church, and the defender of its doctrines. He overcame heretical error through the might of the Lord's cross. Now he is fervent in prayer to Christ our God that he will grant forgiveness for our sins.

Tone 4

O honourable and victorious Barbara, you believed in God the Holy Trinity. You renounced the multitude of heathen idols, fought for your faith with great courage and were not frightened by the threats of your

persecutor, but cried out with a loud voice, "I adore one God in three divine Persons.

Íkos

Together let us honour the memory of Barbara whose martyrdom was linked to that of Christ her Bridegroom. After we have been rescued by her prayers from sin, famine, earthquake and destruction, we will live the remainder of our lives in peace. We will reach the home of light, in company with all the saints who were pleasing to the Lord in every age. Then we will be able to sing with her, "O Saviour, you have accomplished wonders of love for all your faithful who acknowledge, 'I adore one God in three divine Persons'"

Synaxáron

Today we remember the holy great martyr Barbara of Iliopólis who lived in the Fourth Century. Her father was angry that she refused a rich marriage. After discovering her Christian faith he handed her over to the authorities. Together with her we remember Juliana who decided to confess her Christianity and stand alongside her. On the Fourth Barbara finished her race and reached her goal at the hand of her father.

On the same day we commemorate our renowned father John of Damascus, monk and priest of the monastery of Sávvas the Sanctified, who lived in the Eighth Century. For a time he reluctantly served in the court of the Caliph instead of his father. However, his place there protected him from the iconoclasts, even when he published works in favour of the icons. He wrote "The Fount of Knowledge" and compiled the Paraklitikí. After he had filled the earth with melodious song he ascended to sing before the Lord.

Together with them we remember:

Bishop John of Polyvótom C8

Archbishop Gennádios of Novgorod C16

New Hieromartyr Seraphím of the Phanar C17

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

Katavasías

1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ is from heaven, receive him! Christ is on earth, be raised! All the earth, sing to the Lord! All you people, praise him with joy, for he has been glorified!

3: Let us cry out to Christ our God, to the Son begotten of the Father before all ages and incarnate from the Virgin without seed in these latter days, "O Lord, you have raised our horn and are holy."

4: O Rod of the stem of Jesse and Flower which bloomed from a virgin, O all-praised Christ, you have come from the mountain covered with darkness. You have been made flesh from her who did not know marriage. O God not formed from matter, O Lord, glory to your might!

5: God of peace and Father of mercies, you have sent us the Angel of Great Council who grants us peace. So we are guided to the light of the knowledge of God. O Lover of the human race, we wake early from the night and praise you.

6: The sea-monster threw out Jonah unharmed as it had received him, like a baby from the womb. When the Word came to live in the Virgin and was made flesh, he came out, yet preserved her incorrupt, for he himself was not subject to decay and he kept his mother free from harm.

7: The children brought up together in godliness, despised the unjust command, and were not afraid of the threat of fire, but as they stood in the midst of the flames, they sang, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The furnace which was moist with dew was the image of a wonder beyond nature, for it did not burn the children whom it had received, just as the fire of divinity did not consume the Virgin's womb when it entered. So let us raise the song, "Let tthe one whole creation bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever!"

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord

and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim

and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
 You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
 O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
 see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
 and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
 on those who fear him. R:

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
 and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
 and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
 in remembering his mercy,
 as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: I see a strange and most glorious mystery. Heaven is the cave and the
 cherubic throne is the Virgin. The manger is the place where Christ lay.
He is the God who cannot be contained and whom we glorify in song.

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to
 the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the
 ages of ages. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 3

O Barbara, you are worthy of all praise, for you received from God the gift
 of healing and the power to ease the sufferings of the faithful who come to
 you. For the glory of God, who rules over all, rescues us from every
 danger, from bodily weakness and from ills which trouble our souls.

O blessed father John, you destroyed every heresy with your wisdom. You gave the Church the teaching of true faith, so that it could correctly glorify the Trinity who is united in Being, yet three Persons in one God.

Most pure Virgin, you gave birth to the uniquely-fathered Son of God. *He is* the divine Word who brought salvation to the world and accomplished our redemption. Therefore we are united in singing to you, for you are the *Lady* who pleads with him to rescue us from every danger and anguish.

Praises

Tone 4

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.
You despised the sweetness of earthly food and your father's wealth. O Barbara, you also turned away from glory and loved the heavenly Bridegroom. When you were beheaded by the sword, you entered into Christ's *presence* with the wise virgins. You dispelled a deadly plague and healed the faithful through the action of the Holy Spirit. Now you continually pray for our souls.

Tone 2

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
The evil enemy, who lured our first mother into sin, is put to shame and conquered by a woman. Christ, the Word of the Father, *who was* incarnate from the Virgin without change or confusion, lifted the curse from Eve and Adam through his knowledge. He rightly crowned the martyr Barbara and granted the world great mercy for her sake.

S2: I truly waited for the Lord;

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

The divinely-called martyr Barbara, as she suffered in the tribunal, said, "My torturers, my present torments are cruel, but it will be joyful to receive eternal life; I will never prefer the things of earth to those of heaven. Therefore cut and tear my flesh; give me over to the fire so that I may go with rejoicing to Christ my Bridegroom. O Christ our God, send down your mercies and save us through her prayers as we celebrate her sufferings with faith.

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 people, come and sing a hymn today for the feast of the athlete Barbara. Neither sword, fire, torture or the crafty snares of the Devil were able to triumph over her. We cry out to her with faith, "O good and most glorious martyr, implore Christ to grant us great mercy."

Glory: Tone 6

O venerable martyr Barbara, you turned into the road of struggles, but did not fall like the first woman. Instead you entered the joy of your Lord like a wise virgin with her lamp lit. You received the grace to heal bodily suffering because you were a courageous martyr. Save the souls of us who celebrate your feast today from all their ills through your prayers to the Lord our God.

Both now:

O virgin Theotokos, save us, for the Word took our flesh in your womb. Implore him to grant salvation to our souls.

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

Apolytíkion

Tone 8

Let us honour the holy martyr Barbara, for she escaped the snares of the enemy like a bird and destroyed them through the help and strength of the Cross.

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 92 Tone 2

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

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

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house
to length of days.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 8

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

R: Let us honour the holy martyr Barbara, for she escaped the snares of the enemy like a bird and destroyed them through the help and strength of the Cross.

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

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!"

Apolytíka

Tone 8

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Tone 8

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Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave where she will ineffably give birth to the pre-eternal Word. O inhabited earth, rejoice when you hear the news! Glorify with the angels and shepherds the one who chose to be revealed as a new born Child, *yet was* God before the ages.

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 67 Tone 4

R: God is wonderful in his saints.

S: Bless God, in *the* churches.

Apóstolos of Saint

From the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (3:23-4:5)

Brothers, before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, shut up to the faith which should afterwards be revealed. ²⁴So that the law has become our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶For you

are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to promise. ¹But I say that so long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, though he is lord of all; ²but is under guardians and stewards until the day appointed by the father. ³So we also, when we were children, were held in bondage under the elements of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent out his Son, born to a woman, born under the law, ⁵that he might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of children.

Alleluia Ps 39 Tone 4

S1: I truly waited for the Lord.

S2: He set my feet on a rock.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Mark (5:24-34)

At that time a great crowd followed Jesus and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the haemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone forth from him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, "Who touched my garments?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!