

Matthew the Evangelist

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Tone 6

GREAT VESPERS - SATURDAY EVENING

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

“Come Let Us Worship...”

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. / You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest creep about.

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

Man goes out to his work / and to his labor until the evening. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.

The earth is full of Your possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them their food in due season.

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord rejoice in His works.

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in the Lord.

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.

READER: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

“O Lord, I Cry...” – Tone 6

Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)

O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear, give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, as incense before You and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o'er the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.

Psalm 142 (LXX 141)

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.

I cried out to You, O Lord. I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they are stronger than I."

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name.

(Tone 6) – Resurrection

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ, since You are free among the dead, You ascended the Cross raising with Yourself those who sat in the shades of death, drawing life from Your light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

The righteous shall surround me for You shall deal bountifully with me.

Today Christ tramples on death for He is risen as He said! Let us all sing this song, for He has granted joy to the world: O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

Psalm 130 (LXX 129)

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

Where shall we sinners flee from You for You are in all creation? In heaven You dwell, in hell You trampled on death. In the depths of the sea? Even there is Your hand, O Master. To You we flee, and falling before You, we pray: O You Who rose from the dead, have mercy on us!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

In Your Cross, we glory, O Christ. We sing and glorify Your Resurrection. For You are our God, and we know no other than You!

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

We will always bless the Lord by singing of His Resurrection, for He endured the Cross, trampling down death by death.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

Glory to Your power, O Lord, for You overthrew the prince of death, by Your Cross renewing us, granting us life and incorruption.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord.

(Tone 4) – Matthew

He Who knows the heart of man, inspired your mind with His divine knowledge. He called you to Himself, delivering you from iniquity, O holy Apostle and Saint Matthew. He made you a lamp to enlighten the farthest regions of all the world and commanded you to proclaim His word. Thus, you were counted worthy to record His divine Gospel. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

He Who knows the heart of man, inspired your mind with His divine knowledge. He called you to Himself, delivering you from iniquity, O holy Apostle and Saint Matthew. He made you a lamp to enlighten the farthest regions of all the world and commanded you to proclaim His word. Thus, you were counted worthy to record His divine Gospel. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.

Psalm 117 (LXX 116)

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

The Word Who had no beginning called you from the ranks of publicans to be His disciple, O Saint Matthew. You abandoned the collection of taxes and the life of wealth, and casted away the raging turbulence and worldly turmoil of this life, and followed Him in order to share in the Kingdom that He promised. Now you behold the glory of the Lord face to face. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

In days of old, as the earth lay waste in evil, the prophet Daniel was endowed with clearness of sight. He beheld a stone, cut without human hands from a mountain: a stone which ground the riches of earthly kingdoms to dust. In the fullness of time this all-wise Lord came down to earth, and passing by the tax office, He chose you to be a spokesman of His word. O holy Apostle and Saint Matthew, He called you who were serving an earthly kingdom, to serve Him and made you a light of the entire world. Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

(Tone 4) – Matthew

You were called by Christ to heavenly discipleship; O holy Apostle and Saint Matthew. You followed Him eagerly as a chosen one of God. He delivered you from the cares and anxieties of this earthly life, and you abandoned the vain collection of taxes. You faithfully kept the accounts of the heavenly King. O blessed Evangelist, you are a light for those who dwell in darkness, a guide to salvation for those who wander astray, O holy Apostle, the herald of glad tidings, pray for those who honor you.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 7) – Resurrection

O pure Theotokos, no tongue can speak of your wonderful childbearing, for you were revealed to be a mother above nature, and you remained a virgin beyond reason and understanding. Your conception was most glorious, and the manner of your giving birth was incomprehensible, O most pure Virgin Lady. For where God wills, He overcomes the order of all nature. Therefore, since we know you as Theotokos, we beseech you ceaselessly to intercede for us for the salvation of our souls.

The Prayer before the Entrance

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord Who love mankind. Direct our prayer before You as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

“O Joyful Light”

PEOPLE: O joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: the 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 all the world glorifies You.

The Evening Prokeimenon: Tone 7

Psalm 77 (LXX 76)

DEACON: The evening prokeimenon.

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

Verse: The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.

Verse: For He established the world so that it shall never be moved.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia

DEACON: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N.; for our brethren: the priests, deacons, and monastics and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God. NN.*); and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and for pardon and forgiveness of sins for (*the servants of God NN., and*) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: [O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy; and send down Your compassion on us and on all Your people, who await Your great and rich mercy.]

For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Evening Prayer

PEOPLE: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Evening Litany

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

An Excerpt from the Seventh Prayer

PRIEST: O Master, Bestower of all good things, may we, being moved to compunction on our beds, call to remembrance Your holy name in the night, that enlightened by meditation on Your commandments, we may rise in joyfulness of soul to glorify Your goodness, offering up prayers and supplications to Your tender love for our own sins and for those of all Your people, whom You visit in mercy, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos.

For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord, our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for to You, the fearful Judge, Who love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, not awaiting help from men, but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every enemy, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Your kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Aposticha: Tone 6

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
the angels in heaven sing!
Enable us on earth *
to glorify You in purity of heart.

*The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength
and has girded Himself.*

Destroying the gates of hell;
breaking the chains of death;
You resurrected the fallen human race *
as Almighty God.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, *
glory to You!"

For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Desiring to return us to Paradise,
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.
The myrrhbearing women sought Him with tears and cried out: *
“Woe to us, O Savior!
How do You submit to descend to death?
What place can hold Your life-bearing body?
Come to us as You promised *
take away our wailing and tears.”
Then the Angels appeared to them:
Stop your lamentations!
Go, proclaim to the apostles: *
The Lord is risen, granting us purification and great mercy!”

Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever.

Having been crucified voluntarily,
by Your burial You captured death, O Christ,
and arose on the third day as God in glory, *
granting the world unending life and great mercy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Soaring like an eagle on high, O blessed Apostle Matthew,
you have ascended from being a tax collector to the heights of the virtues,
You have followed in the footsteps of Him Who covered the heavens with His
praise, *
and Who covered the earth with His knowledge.

In all things you showed yourself to be an imitator of Christ,
announcing the Gospel of peace, life, and salvation to the faithful,
filling with His divine teachings those who hunger after righteousness. *

Guide us who call you blessed in the way that we may be acceptable to the
Creator.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,
was born of you, O most pure Virgin!
By accepting my nature He freed Adam from his ancient curse. *

Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God.
Rejoice, O celestial joy! *

Rejoice, O Lady, the protection, the intercessor, and salvation of our
souls.

Hymn of St. Simeon

Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Resurrection Troparion: Tone 6 (Kievan-Byzantine)

The angelic pow'rs were be-fore Your tomb; the guards became as
3 dead men. Ma-ry stood in the sep - pul-chre seek-ing Your most pure
6 bod - y. You cap-tured hell, for You were not tempt - ed by it. You
9 came to the Vir - gin grant-ing Life, You Who rose from the dead:
12 Glo - ry to You, O Lord!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Troparion Matthew: Tone 3 (Obikhod)

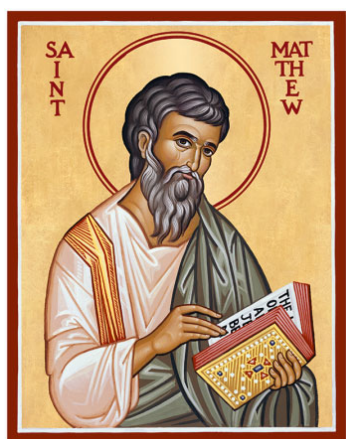
You arose from the tax collector's booth and with zeal followed Christ the Master. / He made you a blessing for men, / a chosen Apostle and Evangelist for the world. / Therefore, we honor your precious memory, O Saint Matthew. / Entreat the merciful God that He may grant us remission of our sins.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Resurrection Theotokion: Tone 3 (Byzantine)



The Blessing & Dismissal



Troparion Matthew: Tone 3 (Obikhod)

*You arose from the tax collector's booth
and with zeal followed Christ the Master.*

*He made you a blessing for men,
a chosen Apostle and Evangelist for the world.*

*Therefore, we honor your precious memory, O Saint Matthew.
Entreat the merciful God that He may grant us remission of our sins.*

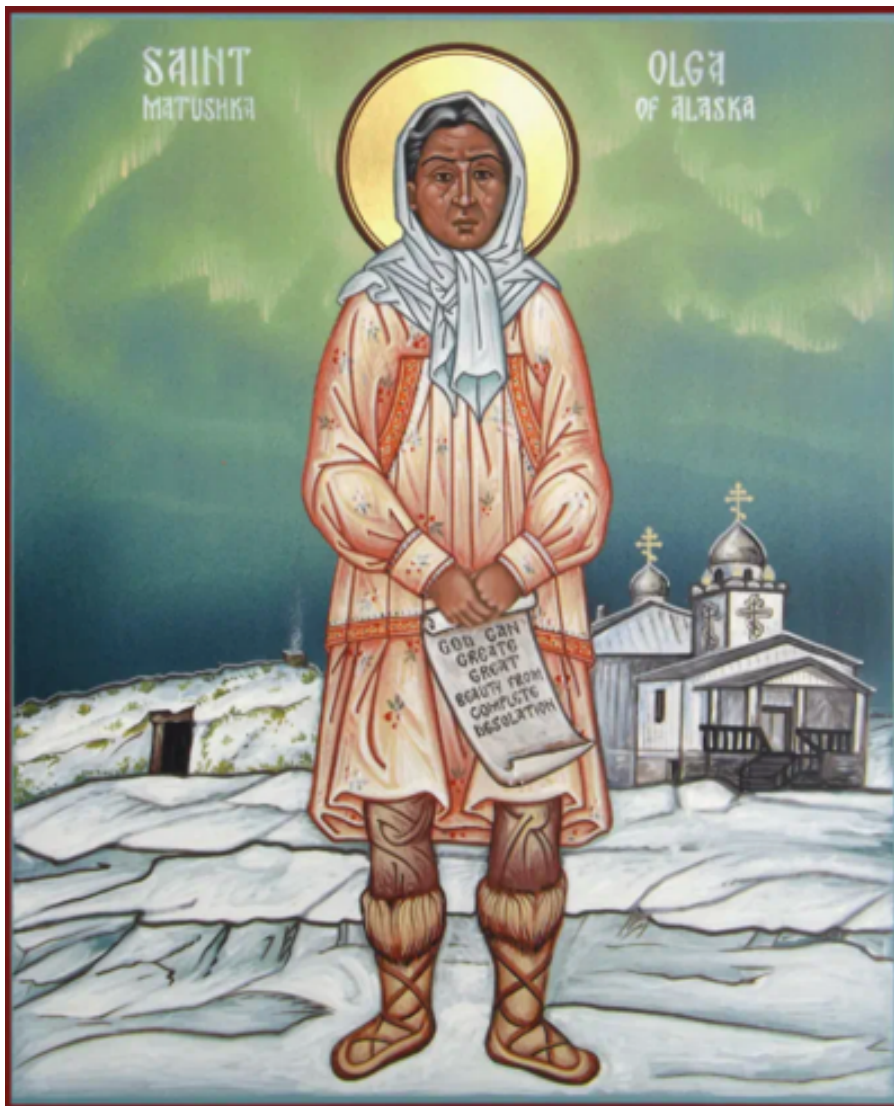
Troparion Olga: Tone 4 (Valaam Chant)



Olga of Kwethluk

Another Troparion Olga: Tone 4 (Carpatho-Russian)

*By your righteous deeds you were revealed to the world
as an image of the perfect servant of the Lord in Alaska.
By your fasting, vigils and prayers, you were inspired in your evangelical life.
You fed the hungry and you cared for the poor.
You served as a mid-wife and you brought babies into the world.
You nurtured children and you clothed all those in need.
Now, O holy Olga, you stand at the right hand of Christ the Master,
and you intercede for our souls.*





Alexander Hotovitsky, Priestmartyr of New York (Dec 4)
Tone 6 (Kievan)

In a time of fiery temp - ta - tions for the Church of
 Rus - sia, you manifested Christ's love to your flock,
 through meekness and hu - mil - - i ty.
 As a good pastor you laid down your life for Him.
 Pray for us, O Hieromartyr Al - ex - an - der,
 that our souls may be il - lu - mined!

Forefeast Entrance Troparion: Tone 4 (Znamenny)

Now Anna seeks joy for all in-stead of grief hav-ing giv-en birth to the on-ly ev-er
Vir - gin, whom to-day she brings into the tem-ple of the Lord, in glad ful-
fill-ment of her vow. For she carries the pure Moth-er, the tem-ple of God the Word.

Forefeast Entrance Kontakion: Tone 4 (Znamenny)

The universe is filled with joy to-day, pre - par-ing for the joy - ous feast,
the feast of the Moth - er of God! All cre - a - tion cries a - loud:
This is the ho - ly tem - ple!



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple