

The 19th Day of April

✙ Commemoration of the Righteous & Blessèd Matrona the Blind, Wonderworker of Moscow

Great Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Kathisma.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera:

3 stichera from the Pentecostarion, and:

5 stichera to the saint:

In Tone 6: *To the melody, “Having set all aside...”*

O mother Matrona, bless’t by God, /
Never didst thou behold the light of day /
But truly wast thou illumined by the eternal Light; /
And having made thy dwelling among the angels in heaven /
Thou dost glorify the Holy Trinity /
Ever entreating with thy holy prayers ///
That blindness may be lifted from our spiritual eyes.

O holy eldress mother Matrona, /
Thou didst receive the gift of prophetic sight from God /
To behold the innermost secrets of all; /
To see the future as if it were today; /
And Thou didst bring many back to Christ who had gone astray. /
Ceaselessly entreat Him with thy holy prayers ///
That He may save and enlighten our souls.

Surning all the things of this world /
And being shunned for the sake of truth [by the unrighteous] /
Thou didst wander the earth as a pilgrim /
Having no place to lay thy head, /
Thou didst truly emulate Christ the Savior, /
O blessèd mother Matrona, /
And thou didst attain to the kingdom of heaven /
To the place where sickness, sighing and sorrow are no more, /
And found thine abode together with the angels ///
And life everlasting.

And 2 stichera in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Down from the tree...”*

When the evil Time of Troubles had come to the land /

19 APRIL

And the lives of the faithful were placed into the hands of lawless men, /
Then, O holy mother Matrona, didst thou wander far and wide, /
Throughout the cities and the countryside, /
Bravely witnessing the Orthodox Faith to all the people /
That each may find their way to God, /
And [find the strength] to withstand the forces of evil ///
And so attain their salvation.

O blessèd and holy mother Matrona, /
Lovingly didst thou say to all who came to thee: /
“Come to the place of my burial when I shall die, /
And I shall pray to the Lord that He may grant you all good things, /
For know that I am alive in Him.

Note: But if this feast falls outside the Pentecostarion, then 8 stichera to the Saint are sung, including this one:

When the time of thy passing had arrived /
And thou didst go from earth to dwell in heaven, /
Then all the words which thou had spoken came to be /
And great multitudes of the Orthodox faithful now come to thy grave, /
And through thy holy prayers they receive all that is needful to them, ///
O holy mother Matrona, bless’t by God.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

The monastery of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos exults this day /
And the city of Moscow celebrates, /
And the people of Russia and of all the world sing for joy /
For they have been given thy precious and holy relics /
As a great and holy treasure /
Which bestows the grace of physical and spiritual healing /
And the deliverance from every affliction and evil sin /
To all who come to thee asking for thy gracious prayers. /
Therefore, we gratefully glorify the Lord who hath so glorified thee, His saint, ///
And through thee, O mother Matrona, grants us His great mercy.

Now, and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Who will not bless thee, O Most Holy Virgin? /
Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing? /
The Only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, /

But from thee He was ineffably incarnate; /
God by nature, yet man for our sake; /
Not two persons, but one in two natures. /
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessèd Lady, ///
To have mercy on our souls.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from Genesis (18: 23-33)

^{18:23} **A**nd Abraham drew near and said, “Wilt Thou destroy the righteous with the ungodly, and the righteous shall be as the ungodly? ²⁴If there be fifty righteous in the city, wilt Thou destroy them? Wilt Thou not spare the whole place for the sake of the fifty righteous, if they be therein? ²⁵By no means shalt Thou do this thing, to slay the righteous with the ungodly, and the righteous shall not be as the ungodly. By no means! Shalt not Thou that judgest all the earth do right?” ²⁶And the Lord said, “If there be in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.” ²⁷And Abraham answered and said, “Now have I begun to speak unto my Lord, and I am but earth and ashes. ²⁸But if the fifty righteous should be diminished to forty and five, wilt Thou destroy all the city for the five?” And

He said, “If I find there forty and five I will not destroy it.” ²⁹And he spake yet again unto Him and said, “But if there shall be forty found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the forty’s sake.” ³⁰And he said, “Will there be aught, Lord, if I speak; but if there shall be thirty found here?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the thirty’s sake.” ³¹And he said, “Since I have taken to speak unto the Lord, what if there shall be twenty found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find there twenty.” ³²And he said, “Will there be aught, Lord, if I speak yet once? But if ten shall be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the ten’s sake.” ³³And the Lord departed when He had left communing with Abraham, and Abraham returned unto his place.

The Reading from the Prophet Joel (2:27-32—*Slav. O.T.*)

Thus saith the Lord: ^{2:27} “And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and that there is none beside Me; and My people shall no more be ashamed forever. ^{3:1} ‘And it shall come to pass after, that I will pour out My Spirit

upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ² And upon My servants and upon Mine handmaidens I will pour out in those days My Spirit. ^{3:3} And I will show

wonders in heaven and on the earth:
blood and fire and vapor of smoke.
⁴The sun shall be turned into darkness
and the moon into blood before the
great and manifest day of the Lord
come. ⁵And it shall come to pass that

whosoever shall call on the name of the
Lord shall be saved; for in mount Sion
and in Jerusalem shall be he that is
saved, as the Lord hath said, and they
that have glad tidings preached unto
them, whom the Lord hath called.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9):

^{3:1}**T**he souls of the righteous are in the
hand of God, and there shall no
torment touch them. ²In the sight of the
unwise they seemed to die, and their
departure is taken for misery, ³and
their going from us to be utter
destruction: but they are in peace.
⁴For though they be punished in the
sight of men yet is their hope full of
immortality. ⁵And having been a
little chastised, they shall be greatly
rewarded: for God proved them and
found them worthy for Himself. ⁶As

gold in the furnace hath He tried them
and received them as a burnt offering.
⁷And in the time of their visitation they
shall shine and run to and fro like
sparks among the stubble. ⁸They shall
judge the nations, and have dominion
over the people, and their Lord shall
reign forever. ⁹They 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 the Litya, these stichera of the Saint, in Tone 7:

When the new Time of Troubles had befallen the Land of Rus' /
There appeared a great multitude of new confessors and martyrs, /
And Matrona, the blessed eldress, though a martyr who shed no blood, /
Was hounded, shunned and homeless; she wandered the land. /
Braving the cold and hunger, she remained faithful to the Lord /
Even to the hour of her death. /
And now, as before, she instructs us by her holy prayers /
To live a Godly and righteous life on this earth, ///
And thus, to ever abide in Christ.

Thou didst boldly say to those who came to thee: /
“The loss of faith brings great misfortune upon the people,” /
Therefore we must bring great repentance and offer earnest prayers to the Lord, /
That He may have compassion on us, /
And not remove us from the face of the earth; /
So that those who confess the Orthodox Faith may glorify Him ///
Who grants us life and great mercy.

Glory..., in the same Tone:

“If a city cannot stand without the presence of one righteous man, /
Neither will the Land of Rus’ survive if she loses her faith.” /
Thus, didst thou teach all those who had gone astray. /
O blessèd mother Matrona, ///
Earnestly beseech the Lord to have mercy on us.

Now, and ever..., from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion, in Tone 7:

O holy Lady, Virgin Theotokos, /
Whose image, the “Search of the Lost” was written at the urgings of the righteous
Matrona; /
And was brought into the temple of thy Dormition /
For the strengthening of the faith of all who place their hope in thee. /
O Mother of God, our souls seek thine intercession for we are lost in the gloomy
darkness of sin, ///
Through the prayers of our blessèd mother Matrona.

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 5: To the melody, “Rejoice...”

Rejoice, O monastery of the most-holy Theotokos /
Wherein lie the precious relics of the blessèd Matrona, /
For she who had never seen the light of day received spiritual sight from God /
And was enriched with the gifts of discernment and healing, /
And taught sinners how to seek the path of salvation, ///
So that on the Day of Judgment we may receive from the Lord ///
The forgiveness of our sins and great mercy.

Verse: The Lord freeth them that are in fetters, the Lord giveth wisdom to the blind.

Rejoice, O chosen vessel of the Holy Spirit! /
Rejoice, O helper of the helpless, who dwellest now in the kingdom of heaven! /
Rejoice, O righteous eldress and guide to salvation! /
For thou didst foresee the things of the future as if they were today, /
And didst return those from the path of sin and led them back to Christ. /
Therefore, we beseech thee, O holy mother Matrona: ///
Entreat the Lord that He may grant us sinners the remission of sins and great mercy.

Verse: I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Rejoice, O fearsome enemy of the foe! /
Who destroyeth his snares keeping us safe along the way of life, /
And like a mother, kindly rebuking us for all our faults! /

19 APRIL

Standing now before the King of the heavenly hosts /
Forget not those who faithfully honor thy holy memory, ///
And ask for the forgiveness of our sins and great mercy

Glory..., in Tone 6:

O come, all ye faithful, /
And with pure hearts let us sing songs of praise /
To our blessed and righteous mother Matrona, /
Who during the times of godless oppression and persecution /
Was an unshakeable pillar of faith and piety; /
And with her frail body showed forth the power of grace divine /
Thus bringing a multitude of people back to God, /
Calling all to remembrance, and praying for the suffering land of Rus'; /
And who hath joined the company of the saints of Moscow ///
Is now revealed as a faithful intercessor and advocate for us before the throne of God.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine /
Who didst bud forth for us the Fruit of Life: /
We pray thee, O Lady, intercede together with the holy apostles, ///
That He will have mercy on our souls.

The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 2:

Let us the faithful venerate today /
The Godly-wise blessed eldress Matrona /
The flower of Tula and the glory of Moscow /
Who shone forth though never beholding the light of day /
Being enlightened by the Light of Christ, /
She was given the gifts of discernment and healing; /
She wandered the earth as a stranger and pilgrim, /
And now she stands in the heavenly mansions before the throne of God ///
Ever praying for our souls.

Matins

The Canon of the Righteous Matrona, in Tone 8,

— incomplete as of 4/2016

At the Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Third Ode and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of the Saint.

1. Thy holy life was pleasing unto God, O righteous and blessed mother Matrona; therefore, help us, as we come to thee, that we may be filled with the grace of God.
2. Entreat Christ who loveth mankind, whom thou didst love from thy youth, O holy mother, that we be firmly established upon the rock of His commandments.
3. The Lord, the Creator of the Church and Lover of mankind, made thee a shining child of the Church, O righteous mother Matrona, and He confirmed thee in His love.
4. (*Theotokion*): O Virgin Mother of God, and Queen of heaven and earth, O all-powerful protection of the Church, establish thy habitation that it may abide in peace and piety.
5. Offering thy prayers to God, thou didst entreat Him to assuage all our needs and sufferings, O righteous mother; and like Jonah in the belly of the whale, thou didst earnestly cry aloud: "Lead me up from the depths of evil, O God!"
6. Humbly enduring all deprivations with the help of God, O righteous Matrona, thou didst vanquish the power of the enemy by thy prayer; therefore, having now abundantly received the grace of Christ, pray that we be delivered from the malice of the enemy.
7. By thy many struggles, O righteous Matrona, thou didst overcome the malice of the devil, and waged war against the prince of the darkness of this world; therefore, pray for us now, that we may put on the full armor of God, and may in the times of evil, withstand the spirits of wickedness.
8. (*Theotokion*): O pure Virgin Theotokos, who gavest birth to the Vanquisher of hell and death, entreat thy Son and Lord, that He may deliver us from the malice of the enemy.

The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 2:

Let us the faithful venerate today /
The Godly-wise blessed eldress Matrona /
The flower of Tula and the glory of Moscow /
Who shone forth though never beholding the light of day /
Being enlightened by the Light of Christ, /
She was given the gifts of discernment and healing; /
She wandered the earth as a stranger and pilgrim, /
And now she stands in the heavenly mansions before the throne of God ///
Ever praying for our souls.

The Kontakion of the Martyr, in Tone 3:

Being chosen even from thy mother's womb for a life of service /
Thou didst walk the path of grief and sorrow, O blessèd Matrona /
But showing steadfast faith and piety thou wast found to be pleasing to God /
Therefore, honoring thy memory we entreat thee: /
Help us also to earn the favor of God, ///
O blessèd eldress.

Prokeimenon, Tone 3: The Lord is my light and my salvation / whom then shall I fear? *Verse:* The Lord is the defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

The Epistle: (208) Galatians 3:23-29

The Alleluia, Tone 7: The Lord freeth them that are in fetters, the Lord giveth wisdom to the blind. *Verse:* I lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

The Gospel: (33) Luke 7:36-50

The Communion Hymn: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

Prayer to our Blessèd Mother Matrona

O blessèd mother Matrona, whose spirit doth stand before the throne of God in heaven, while reposing in the body here on earth performing wonderful miracles with the grace given thee from above. Look down with thy merciful eye, even now upon us sinners living out our earthly lives beset by sorrow, infirmity and sinful temptations, and comfort us who are in distress; heal the miserable failings which inflict us because of our sin and deliver us from numerous calamities that befall us. Entreat our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive the sins, lawless deeds and trespasses which, from our youth even unto this present day and hour we persist to commit; that through thy prayers, having received grace and great mercy, we may glorify the One God in Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.