

Also on the 12th Day of February

✙ The Commemoration of our Father among the Saints Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All-Russia; and the Commemoration of the Iveron Icon of the Mother of God, which service is found separately on the 11th of October. — *not provided in RLE as of 12/2016*

Note: Vigil today is served in his temple or at the discretion of the Rector.

Small Vespers

— *not translated in RLE as of 12/2016*

Great Vespers

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

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera.

4 stichera, in Tone 5: To the melody, “Rejoice....”

Rejoice, O great, and most-honorable Alexis, /
The precious adornment of the holy Church, /
The glory and enrichment of her hierarchs, /
Helping the Orthodox faithful by thy sacred prayers. /
Rejoice, confirmation of thy native land, /
Honored teacher, helper of the helpless and joyful consolation of those who mourn, /
Fervent supplicant for the sorrowful, /
Who drives away the darkness of ignorance: /
Thou didst hasten to Christ and reached the calm havens of paradise. /
Standing now among the choir of the bodiless angels /
Delighting in the goodness and beauty of the Master, /
Thou hast moved the hearts of the pious to praise thee in song. ///
Pray to Christ that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Rejoice, bright luminary of the Russian Church, /
For truly thou didst shine as a fruitful olive in the house of God /
Blossoming forth in all the splendor of the virtues, /
Distributing their gifts abundantly to all thy flock, /
Giving them drink in the spiritual pastures by the stream of thy prayers, /
Pouring bountiful healing to those who with faith hasten to the shrine of thy holy relics. /
Thou didst prepare for thyself a bright candle to guide thy way /

12 FEBRUARY

And having made thine abode in the mansions of heaven /
Thou didst receive a crown as a reward for all thy labors, /
For thou gavest no sleep to thine eyes not slumber to thine eyelids /
Until thou didst sleep the common sleep of all, /
O ven'rable hierarch, father Alexis, ///
Pray to Christ that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Rejoice, O holy father Alexis, /
Blessèd preacher and steadfast mind, /
Fruit of the vine of life, who gladdens the hearts of the faithful with the wine of thy
instructions. /
O honored and anointed teacher, /
Come and visit us, who are oppressed by sinful passions, /
And cast aside the audacity and malice of the wicked; /
Subdue the adversary, calm civil strife, and ease all pain and illnesses, ///
And pray to Christ that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Rejoice, O glorious city of Moscow! /
For thou hast acquired another inexhaustible fountain of grace, /
The most-bless't and wondrous hierarch Alexis, /
Who was adorned with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit; /
Who from youth became it's vessel through fasting, vigilance and prayer; /
And being anointed to the holy priesthood received from Christ our God, the gift of
healing; /
Even after his repose, he restored to health a child brought barely alive by his mother; /
And to this day healings flow abundantly from his shrine upon those who come with
faith ///
Praying to Christ that He grant our souls peace and great mercy.

And 4 stichera, in the Tone 2: *To the melody, "With what crowns of praise"*

With what beautiful hymns shall we praise the holy hierarch, /
The gentle preacher of the words of Christ, /
The splendid teacher of His Holy Gospel, /
And guardian of the Church; /
The defender of his homeland, the champion of the Orthodox faithful? /
For by his prayers, Christ in His great mercy, ///
Hast cast down all our enemies. *(twice)*

With what boldness shall we praise the holy hierarch, /

The adornment of the Church of Christ, /
The follower of Peter, the heir of Paul, and the emulator of the Baptist, /
And the successor of Peter, the wonderworker of the Russian land, /
Who abundantly pours for healings upon all who approach him with faith /
And celebrate the holy memory /
Of the great defender, teacher, and astonishing wonderworker Alexis, /
The champion of the Orthodox faith? /
For by his prayers, Christ in His great mercy, ///
Hast cast down all our enemies.

With what eloquence shall we praise the hierarch, / /
Who is wondrous in accomplishing miracles, /
Who was blessed in his infancy and abidest now with the angels, /
Who is the immovable pillar of the Orthodox Church, /
And the great joy of the Russian lands, /
The model of righteousness, and helper of the oppressed, /
And the unmercenary physician of the sick? /
For by his prayers, Christ in His great mercy, ///
Hast brought the spirit of unity to dwell in the Church.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

Come all ye people who love the feasts of the Church /
And let us sing the praises of the adornment of hierarchs, /
The well-spring of miracles and great defender of his native land, /
And let us cry: Rejoice, Alexis of a steadfast mind sprinkled with the grace of Truth! /
For having become a receptacle of the Most-holy Spirit /
Thou didst receive the gift of miracles, /
And standing now before the throne of Christ together with the first hierarchs, ///
Thou dost ever pray for us thy servants.

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

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin? /
Who will not sing of thy most pure child-bearing? /
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.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from Proverbs (Composite 2, from Chapters 10 and 8)

^{10:7}**T**he memory of the just is blessed, and ⁶the blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the righteous. ¹³Blessed is the man that hath found wisdom, and the man that knoweth discernment. ¹⁴For it is better to traffick in her than in treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵She is more precious than precious stones; and nothing that is precious is equal to her worth. ¹⁶For length of days and years of life are in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and glory; out of her mouth proceedeth righteousness, and on her tongue she carrieth law and mercy. ^{8:32}Now therefore hearken unto me, O my son, for I will speak of solemn things. Blessed are they that keep my ways; ³⁵For mine outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared the favor of the Lord. ⁴“Therefore, O men, do I exhort you, and I lift up my voice unto the sons of

men. ¹²For I, Wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and have called upon understanding. ¹⁴Counsel is mine and safety; prudence is mine, strength also is mine. ¹⁷I love them that love me, and those that seek me shall find grace. ^{8:5}O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, take heart. ⁶Hearken unto me, for I will speak of solemn things and bring forth that which is right out of my lips. ⁷For my throat shall speak truth, and false lips are an abomination in my sight. ⁸All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing contrary or perverse in them. ⁹They are all plain to them that understand and upright to them that find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and you shall be filled with the Spirit.

The Reading from Proverbs (10:31-11:12)

^{10:31}**T**he mouth of the righteous bringeth forth wisdom, but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. ³²The lips of the righteous bring forth grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. ^{11:1}False balances are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is acceptable to Him. ²Whosoever pride entereth, there will be also dishonor, but the

mouth of the humble mediteth wisdom. ³When a righteous man dieth, he leaveth regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is hard at hand, and bringeth joy. ⁴The integrity of the righteous shall guide them, but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. ^{4a}Riches shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness

delivereth from death. ⁵The virtue of the righteous makes straight their paths, but unrighteousness leadeth to deceit. ⁶The righteousness of the upright delivereth them, but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. ⁷When the righteous dieth, his hope perisheth not, but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. ⁸A righteous man escapeth from a snare, but the ungodly man is

delivered up in his place. ⁹A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor, but through knowledge shall the righteous be delivered. ¹⁰In the prosperity of the righteous a city doth prosper, ¹¹but it is overthrown by the mouth of the ungodly. ¹²A man that is void of understanding despiseth his neighbor, but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

^{4:7} **T**he righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. ⁸For old age is not honored for length of time, nor is it measured by number of years; ⁹but wisdom is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. ¹⁰There was one who pleased God and was so beloved of Him, that while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. ¹²For the fascination of wickedness

obscures that which is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. ¹³Being so perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; ¹⁴for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. ¹⁵Yet this the peoples saw and did not understand, neither did they take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are upon His holy ones, and He hath care for His elect.

At the Litya, the sticheron of the temple, and these stichera of the Saint, in Tone 8: *(To the regular melody)*

O ven' rable father and hierarch Alex^{is}, /
Which city or land can keep silent of thee? /
For all are enlightened beholding and hearing of thy many miracles. /
And with them we cry aloud and sing praises to thee: /
Thou, art a successor the apostles of Christ and an enlightener of the world, /
By the grace of the Most-holy Spirit, /
And the proclamation of thy miracles has gone forth to the ends of the universe. ///
By thy prayers, free us from the misfortunes which come heavily upon us.

Who can recount thy valiant labors, O ven' rable father? /
Who cannot be amazed at hearing of thy boundless humility and love for thy children? /
Who can but wonder and praise thy miracles which pass understanding? /

For when the cruel Khan of the Golden Horde, /
 Heard of thy countless healing miracles /
 He summoned thee to heal the blindness of his mother. /
 Thou didst not hesitate but bravely said to those with thee; /
 Be not sorrowful, but wait just a little while, /
 Place your hope in God and His pure Mother, ///
 And ye shall behold the glory of God.

O ven'rable Alexis, hierarch of Christ, /
 As a good disciple thou didst follow the example of the Good Shepherd, /
 By offering thy life for the lives of thy sheep. /
 And the raging of the Khan which was like that of a lion /
 Was transformed into the meekness of a lamb /
 When sight was restored to his mother's eyes. /
 Then the sorrow of thy flock was turned to joy /
 And Dimitri the Prince rejoiced for the peace of the Church had been preserved. /
 So we now beseech thee, O father: /
 Pray to Christ the Lover of mankind, ///
 That He may save our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

When thou didst return from the Khan bearing peace, /
 The assemblies of hierarchs, clergy, and the people /
 Greeted thee with great joy, O father, /
 And hailed thee as their deliverer; /
 Others, bearing gifts, joyfully revered thee a great victor, /
 And Prince Dimitri, with tears in his eyes, cried aloud to thee: /
 O Vladyko, what shall we render to thee for thy labors in bringing us peace? /
 Therefore, we now beseech thee, O holy hierarch Alexis: /
 Earnestly pray to Christ our God ///
 That thy cities may be spared from all their enemies.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: (From the Annunciation)

Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven /
 To announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving; /
 And coming to Nazareth he pondered in amazement on this wonder. /
 'O how shall He who dwelleth in the heights,
 Whom none can comprehend, /

Be born of a Virgin? /
How shall He whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is the earth /
Be held in the womb of a woman? /
He upon whom the six-winged Seraphīm and the many-eyed Cherubīm cannot gaze /
Has been pleased at a single word to be made flesh of this His creature, /
It is the Word of God who dwells within her. /
Why then do I stand here, and not say to the Maiden; /
Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee! /
Rejoice, O pure Virgin; /
Rejoice, O unwedded bride; /
Rejoice, O mother of Life, ///
Blessèd is the Fruit of thy womb!'

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, "O House of Ephratha...."*

O father Alexis, thou hast shown thyself to be /
The habitation of the Holy Spirit and the abode of grace. ///
Now we, who have gathered together to celebrate thy memory, sing praises to thee.

Verse: Let the saints be exalted in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

Thou art the praise of hierarchs, the adornment of all the priests /
And the model for all monastics. /
Therefore we cry out to thee, O father Alexis: ///
Rejoice, thou confirmation of the Church!

Verse: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy saints shall rejoice!

Acept now the songs of thy children, O father, /
Who celebrate thy memory with faith, /
And grant unto them that love thee ///
The fulfilment of their well-meaning prayers.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

O good servant and faithful worker in the vineyard of Christ /
Daily didst thou carry a heavy burden, /
Increasing the talent given to thee, /
Freely giving of thyself to those who came to thee. /
Therefore, the gates of heaven were opened to thee. /
Enter now into the joy of thy Lord, ///

And pray for us, O holy father Alexis.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 2:

My maker and redeemer Christ the Lord, /
Was born of thee, O most-pure Virgin; /
By accepting my nature He freed Adam from the ancestral curse. /
Therefore, we magnify thee unceasingly as the Mother of God. /
Rejoice, O joy of heaven! ///
Rejoice, O protection, intercession and salvation of our souls.

After the Blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 8:

As thou art a successor to the throne of the apostles, /
A most-wise physician and most-pleasing minister of the Lord, /
We hasten to thee, O divinely-wise and wonder-working hierarch Alexis. /
And having gathered with love in thy memory we celebrate thy blessèd feast, /
Rejoicing and glorifying Christ with songs and hymns ///
For He hath granted the gift of healing to thee and granted thy city peace. *(twice)*

And the Theotokion: “Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos....” *(once)*

Matins

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Saint, twice; Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 8:

Thou wast born of a Virgin for our sake, O Good One; /
Thou didst endure crucifixion and didst destroy death by death. /
As God Thou didst reveal the Resurrection. /
Despise not the work of Thy hands, but reveal Thy love for man, O merciful One; /
Accept the prayers of Thy Mother, the Theotokos, for us ///
And save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:

The radiant day commemorating Alexis the wonderworking hierarch has arrived /
Let us come and having assembled, let us form a choir /
And honor him with this song of praise: /
Rejoice, honored luminary of the Russian land /
For thou pourest forth miracles and healings to all, ///
Praying always on behalf of our souls. *(twice)*

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Thou didst take flesh from the Virgin /
In secrecy from the angelic hosts /
In order to create anew /
Thine image which had been corrupted by passions. /
So with one voice we cry aloud to her: ///
Rejoice, O Lady full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:

Come, all ye who honor the mem'ry of Alexis, the wonderworking hierarch /
And let us celebrate his festival today /
For he passed from earth to the immaterial mansions in heaven /
Where, as a converser with the angels, he beholds their ineffable beauty, /
And joining with the choirs of the apostles and martyrs /
He earnestly beseeches Christ the Master on behalf of us all ///
Who with faith honor his holy memory. (*twice*)

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Thou, O Virgin Theotokos, /
Art the invincible wall of protection for us Christians. /
Fleeing to thee, we remain unharmed /
And though we sin again, thou art our advocate. /
So, with thanksgiving we cry out to thee: /
Rejoice, O Lady full of grace, ///
The Lord is with thee!

Polyeley and Magnification:

We magnify thee, // O holy hierarch father Alexis, / and we honor thy holy memory, /
for thou dost pray to Christ our God for us!

Selected Psalm verses:

Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: To the melody, "Of Wisdom...."

The entire Church of Russia proclaims thy wonders /
As do all countries and lands, /

12 FEBRUARY

For through thee, all are delivered from their afflictions and sorrows. /
O blessèd of God, father Alexis, /
Thou feeder of widows and father to orphans, /
Most-excellent helper of those in trouble, and comforter of those who mourn. /
Shepherd and guide for the abandoned and lost. /
Deliver us also, though thy prayers, from every misfortune /
And pray to Christ our God for us /
That He may grant the remission of sins ///
To those who honor with faith and love thy holy mememory. (twice)

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone:

Rejoice, for thou didst receive in thy womb the Joy of the world, /
Rejoice, for thou gavest birth to thy Creator and Lord, ///
Rejoice, thou, who was counted worthy to become the Mother of God!

1st Antiphon of the 4th Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my youth....”

Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. *Verse:* **W**hat shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

Let every breath...

Gospel: (36) John 10:9-16

After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel sticheron, of the Saint, in Tone 6:

Inexhaustible is the grace of the holy hierarch Alexis, /
Which he had received from Christ, the God of all. /
For, by the power of God his relics stream miracles and healing to all /
Who approach and call upon him with faith. /
Through his prayers, O Lord, grant victory to all Orthodox Christians over their enemies, /
And free us from the tribulations of the soul and bodies that assail us, ///
In that Thou art good and the lovest mankind.

The Canon

The Supplicatory Canon to the Mother of God (*Paraklesis*) with 6 Troparia, including its Irmos; and two Canons of the Saint with 8 Troparia, in Tone 8:

— incomplete as of 12/2016.

After the 6th Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 8: To the melody: “O

ALEXIS, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW

victorious Leader... ”

Come all ye people, and let us praise Alexis, the new wonderworker of Christ /
And let us bless him with love as a great pastor and wise minister and teacher of his
flock. /

Let us all joyfully sing to him for he is truly a bearer of God: /
As thou hast boldness before God, deliver us from every evil calamity, ///
That we may sing: Rejoice, O confirmation of thy city and all the faithful!

RLE 1/2/2017 SDA
UPDATED 2/22/2023 SDA