

## The 31<sup>st</sup> Day of March

✙ **Repose of our Father among the Saints Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of Siberia and Alaska, and Apostle to America.<sup>1</sup>**

### Great Vespers

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

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera, in Tone 2:

Like the holy apostles of long ago, /  
O holy father Innocent, /  
Thou didst accept the Lord’s command to baptize all peoples in His name; /  
Thou didst leave thy homeland to proclaim the truth /  
To an island people sitting in darkness. /  
With them lead us along the path ///  
Which leads to the kingdom of heaven.

Like the betrothed of the Theotokos, /  
Thou didst work in humility with thine hands /  
And through thee, like under Constantine the Great, /  
Churches blossomed throughout all the land, /  
Planted for the feeding of the flock, ///  
Which thou didst gather and led into the kingdom of heaven.

Like the holy brothers from Thessalonica. /  
Who brought illumination to thy forefathers, /  
Thou didst labor to bring the same inheritance /  
To untaught peoples placed in thy care, /  
That singing in worship to the One True God in words of many tongues ///  
They might by the Word be led into the kingdom of heaven.

**And these stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “With what crowns of praise ....”***

With what crowns of praise /  
Shall we adorn the wise apostle of our land? /  
For with the radiant Gospel of salvation /  
Boldly he came to enlighten an island people /

---

<sup>1</sup> For the Glorification of St. Innocent, see October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Russian Orthodox Church (MP) also commemorates St Innocent the Apostle to Siberia and America on April 13<sup>th</sup> (March 31<sup>st</sup> O.S.). Another service was also composed in commemoration of St. Innocent by Monk Joseph (Lambertsen) for ROCOR.

Which sat in darkness and ignorance; /  
And by planting there the Orthodox Faith ///  
He brought them from Christ our God great mercy.

**W**ith what songs of praise /  
Shall we bless our holy father Innocent? /  
For he was our teacher wise in God /  
Who as the first archpastor to rule our land, /  
By word and deed taught us the way we must go /  
To attain to the glorious kingdom won and promised to us by Christ //  
Who grants us all His great mercy.

**W**ith what songs of praise /  
Shall we exalt our father Innocent? /  
Who by his word brought heathen worship to an end /  
In the distant reaches of Alaska and Siberia. /  
Then, like the Holy Apostle Paul before him, /  
Bound in chains of obedience to the will of God<sup>2</sup> /  
Brought comfort to believers in the ancient capital /  
Which through his prayers and exhortations ///  
Receives from Christ our God great mercy.

### **Glory..., in Tone 2:**

**T**he Lord truly guided thee /  
Along the paths of many labors, /  
Through many lands and many peoples /  
To enlighten a multitude of hearts, /  
To guide and counsel an army of souls down the narrow path ///  
Which alone can lead into the kingdom of heaven.

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

**T**he shadow of the Law passed when grace came. /  
As the bush burned, yet was not consumed, /  
So the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin. /  
The Sun of Righteousness has risen instead of a pillar of flame! ///  
Instead of Moses, Christ the salvation of our souls!

*Or, on Friday or Saturday evening, the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week.*

---

<sup>2</sup> 1 Pet.1:16

## **The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.**

### **Three Readings:**

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

<sup>10:7</sup>**T**he memory of the just is blessed, and the blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the righteous. <sup>13</sup>Blessed is the man that hath found wisdom, and the man that knoweth discernment. <sup>14</sup>For it is better to traffick in her than in treasures of gold and silver. <sup>15</sup>She is more precious than precious stones; and nothing that is precious is equal to her worth. <sup>16</sup>For 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. <sup>8:32</sup>Now therefore hearken unto me, O my son, for I will speak of solemn things. Blessèd are they that keep my ways; <sup>35</sup>For mine outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared the favor of the Lord. <sup>4</sup>“Therefore, O men, do I exhort you, and I lift up my voice

unto the sons of men. <sup>12</sup>For I, Wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and have called upon under-standing. <sup>14</sup>Counsel is mine and safety; prudence is mine, strength also is mine. <sup>17</sup>I love them that love me, and those that seek me shall find grace. <sup>8:5</sup>O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, take heart. <sup>6</sup>Hearken unto me, for I will speak of solemn things and bring forth that which is right out of my lips. <sup>7</sup>For my throat shall speak truth, and false lips are an abomination in my sight. <sup>8</sup>All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing contrary or perverse in them. <sup>9</sup>They 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 the Wisdom of Solomon (Composite 3, from Chapters 4, 5):**

<sup>4:7</sup>...**T**he righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. <sup>16</sup>Thus the righteous that is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living, <sup>17</sup>for they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in His counsel hath decreed for him, <sup>19</sup>For He shall rend them, and cast them down headlong, that they shall be speechless; and He shall shake them from the foundations, and they shall be utterly laid waste and be in sorrow, and their

memorial shall perish. <sup>20</sup>And when they cast up the account of their sins they shall come with fear, and their own iniquities shall convict them to their face.<sup>5:1</sup> Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account of his labors. <sup>2</sup>When they see it, they shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his salvation, so far beyond all that they looked for. <sup>3</sup>And

they, repenting and groaning for the anguish of spirit shall say within themselves, "This was he, whom we held at one time in derision, and a proverb of reproach; <sup>4</sup>we fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honor: <sup>5</sup>how he is numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints!

<sup>6</sup>Therefore have we erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness hath not shined unto us, and the sun of righteousness rose not upon us. <sup>7</sup>We wearied ourselves in the way of wickedness and destruction: yea, we have gone through deserts, where there lay no way; but the way of the Lord, we have not known."

**The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (Composite 4. A paraphrase of Proverbs 10; Wisdom of Solomon 6-9)**

**T**hus saith the Lord Almighty: The mouth of the righteous bringeth forth wisdom; the lips of the righteous drop grace. The mouth of the righteous bringeth forth wisdom, but righteousness delivereth them from death. If a righteous man dies, hope doth not die, for the son of the righteous is born to life, and in his own good things he acquires the fruit of righteousness. There is always light for the righteous and they obtain grace and glory from the Lord. The tongue of the wise is a good counselor, and in their hearts resteth wisdom. The Lord loveth the hearts of the holy, and acceptable to Him are all the undefiled in the way. The wisdom of the Lord illumines the faces of the wise. For she takes hold of those de-siring her by making herself first known to them. She is easily seen by those who love her. He who rises early to seek her shall have no difficulty, and those keeping vigil for the sake of her shall quickly be without sorrows. For she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and graciously reveals herself in the pathways. Against wisdom evil doth not prevail. Therefore I was a

lover of her beauty; I loved her and sought her out from my youth. I desired to make her my bride, and even the Master of All loved her. For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and a discoverer of His works. Her labors are virtues, for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice and courage; no things in life are more necessary for men than these. And if anyone desires much knowledge, she knoweth the things of old, and beholdeth things to come; she understands turns of speech and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcome of times and seasons. She is a mediator of good things for all, for immortality is in her, and glory in the company of her words. Therefore, <sup>8:21</sup>I prayed unto the Lord and besought Him and with my whole heart I said, <sup>9:1</sup>"O God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy, who hast made all things with Thy word <sup>2</sup>and ordained man through Thy wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which Thou hast made <sup>3</sup>and order the world according to equity and righteousness and execute judgment

with an upright heart, <sup>4</sup>give me wisdom. <sup>5</sup>For I am Thy servant and son of Thine handmaid. <sup>10</sup>O send her out of Thy holy heavens and from the throne of Thy glory, that being present she may labor with me that I may know what is pleasing unto Thee. And she shall guide me in understanding, and preserve me in her glory. For the thoughts of mortals are miserable, and their intentions likely to fail.

**At the Litya, the sticheron of the temple, and these of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

**L**et us come together in joy /  
 To praise the apostle of our land /  
 Whose wise preaching and selfless labors across the barren North /  
 Prepared good soil for the seeds of faith. /  
 These he planted with loving care, /  
 And he nurtured the tender sprouts unceasingly, /  
 Pruning from them all deception and wickedness, /  
 Watering them with truth and righteousness, /  
 Until they grew into a sturdy vine /  
 Whose holy fruit we are called to be, ///  
 Worthy of the Master's table.

**Glory..., in Tone 6:**

**A**s we the faithful gather to celebrate thy holy memory, /  
 O father Innocent, /  
 We rejoice that through thy ceaseless labor /  
 The truth of the Gospel was rooted in our land. /  
 Pray that we thine unworthy servants /  
 May remain firm in the Orthodox Faith ///  
 And spread its truth to all people.

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

**W**e bless thee, O Virgin Theotokos, /  
 And glorify thee as we should: /  
 The vine which blossomed the sacred Fruit ///  
 From whom we have great mercy.

**At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 6:**

**C**alled to the New World by the grace of God, /  
 As a skilled helmsman of the Ship of Christ, /  
 Thou didst endure dangers on the sea, /  
 To lead to the calm harbor of salvation those adrift in darkness, /

Those bemired in delusions, /  
And those bestormed by passions. /  
Now, holy father Innocent, ///  
Intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

*Verse:* The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord.

**A** prophet raised from among the Aleuts /  
Heard from an angel /  
That thou wouldst journey afar to speak to a great man. /  
Then, by the infinite wisdom and mercy of God, /  
Once his words had been fulfilled, /  
We received thee back again as the first bishop to rule our land ///  
Intercede now for us, the flock which thou has gathered.

*Verse:* The Lord knows the way of the righteous and their inheritance shall be forever.

Peoples of two continents /  
Of diverse languages and customs, /  
Through thee rejoice today in the mystery of the fiery tongues: /  
The fall of the cursèd Babel<sup>3</sup> of human pride /  
Which had kept in enmity all nations of the earth /  
Until they were swept into the net of faith, ///  
Worshiping the consubstantial Trinity.

**Glory... in the same Tone:**

**I**n mortal danger from a storm at sea /  
Thou didst look to the North Star of the Church of Christ, /  
And, through the prayers of St. Herman of Alaska /  
Thou didst find grace and deliverance. ///  
With him, intercede for the salvation of our souls.

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

**M**y 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! ///

---

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 11:1-9

Rejoice, O protection, intercession and salvation of our souls.

**After the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of Saint Innocent, in Tone 4:**

O holy father Innocent, /  
In obedience to the will of God, /  
Thou didst accept dangers and tribulations /  
To bring many peoples to the knowledge of truth /  
Thou didst show us the path /  
And now by thy prayers ///  
Help lead us into the kingdom of heaven.

**Glory..., another Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

O holy father Innocent, /  
Thou didst evangelize the Northern people of America and Asia, /  
Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ /  
To the people in their own tongues. /  
O holy hierarch, father Innocent, Enlightener of Alaska and All America, /  
Whose ways were ordered by the Lord. /  
Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His heavenly kingdom.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion:** “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos....”

**Matins**

**At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

O holy father Innocent, /  
In obedience to the will of God, /  
Thou didst accept dangers and tribulations /  
To bring many peoples to the knowledge of truth /  
Thou didst show us the path /  
And now by thy prayers ///  
Help lead us into the kingdom of heaven. *(twice)*

**Glory..., now and ever, the Theotokion, in Tone 4:**

The mystery of all eternity /  
Unknown even by angels /  
Through thee is revealed on earth, O Mother of God /  
God incarnate by union without confusion. /  
For our sake He voluntarily endured the Cross, /  
By it He resurrected the first-created Adam ///

And saved our souls from death.

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:** *To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”*

**T**aught as a child the wisdom of the world /  
Thou didst begin thy ministry in North America /  
By building a temple to the Lord with thine own hands. /  
There thou didst teach an innocent People to lift their hearts and their reasoning  
minds ///  
To worship the One True God in Trinity.

**Glory... in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “When the stone had been sealed ...”*

**I**n the temple built with thine own hands, O father Innocent, /  
Thou didst gather a bright and receptive flock /  
To hear the preaching of Christ, the Son of God, /  
And of His loving Father who sent Him into the world /  
To deliver our race from the bondage of hell /  
And sanctify us by the waters and His Spirit /  
That they might become the living temples of God the Word ///  
And in their own tongue lift up their hearts to Him.

**Now, and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:** *(and melody)*

**S**tretch forth thy divine hands, O most-pure Virgin, /  
Upon which thou didst carry the Creator of all who became incarnate of His own  
good will. /  
And pray that He may deliver us who lovingly sing thy praises and cry out to thee, /  
From every temptation, peril, and sorrow. /  
Glory to Him who dwelt in thee! /  
Glory to Him who came forth from thee! ///  
Glory to Him who freed us by being born of thee!

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”*

**G**uardian angels prepared thy coming to this, thy flock /  
And prophesied thy travel back to thy native land. /  
Then thou didst return to us as an angel in the flesh ///  
To oversee and guide thy flock before the throne of God.

**Glory... in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”*



**A**s the radiant angel of our Church, /  
Through thy prayers thou dost ever guide the flock /  
Which thou hast zealously gathered from across the northern wilderness ///  
Into the kingdom of heaven.

**Now, and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**We**, the faithful magnify thee, /  
As a fervent helper of those in need /  
And our sure and constant intercessor before the Lord /  
Who delivered us from corruption by His coming forth from thee ///  
O Lady Theotokos.

**Polyeley and Magnification:**

**We** magnify thee, / O holy hierarch father Innocent, / the Enlightener of the Aleuts  
through thy wise teachings, / and through thy ceaseless toils, / Apostle to America.

*Selected Psalm verses:*

**T**he steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord.  
**T**he Lord knows the way of the righteous and their inheritance shall be forever.

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

**T**he peoples of the Northern lands rejoice today /  
As they praise their wise pastor and enlightener /  
Through whose vigilance and ready words  
The demonic darkness was made to flee /  
As they were led into the kingdom of light and grace. /  
And now all America joins in this celebration /  
As we remember the apostle of our holy Faith /  
And ask Christ through the prayers of our holy father Innocent ///  
To grant us the forgiveness of our sins and His great mercy to our souls. (twice)

**Glory..., now, and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**O** spotless Bride of our Creator, /  
O most-pure Mother of the Redeemer,  
O sure helper and comforter of those in distress, /  
Hear the petitions of us, thine unworthy servants /  
And through thy prayers and those of our holy father Innocent, /  
Hasten to deliver us from the snares of the evil one; /  
Drive far from us the darkness of ignorance; /

31 MARCH

Grant to us the knowledge of all good things, /  
And lead us all into the eternal kingdom of light and grace ///  
That is prepared for us on high by thy Son, our God.

**1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone (The Song of Ascents),** “From my Youth....”

**The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:**

The steps of a man / are rightly ordered by the Lord. *Verse:* The Lord knows the way  
of the righteous and their inheritance shall be forever.

**Let every breath praise the Lord! ...**

**Gospel: (35-ctr) John 10:1-9**

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

**O** sower of the good seed of faith, /  
And enlightener of peoples across the North, /  
We exalt thee, O holy father Innocent, /  
As the wise apostle of our land, /  
A beacon of godliness and true piety, /  
A model of humility and self-denial, /  
And an example of missionary zeal and charity. /  
O chief pillar of the Orthodox Church in America, /  
Pray for the flock thou hast gathered throughout the world ///  
Who in faith and love celebrate thy holy memory.

### **The Canon**

**For Odes 2, 8, and 9, in which the Canons from the Triodion are sung: St. Innocent—  
6 troparia; Triodion (both—8); Irmos—St. Innocent; Katavasia—Triodion.**

### **Ode 1**

#### **The Canon of Saint Innocent, in Tone 4**

*having the acrostic: “The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord.”*

**Irmos:** *None is like Thee, O Lord, in glory, for by the strength of Thy mighty hand  
Thou hast delivered Thy people, whom Thou hast created, O Thou who  
lovest mankind.*

**Refrain:** Holy hierarch, father Innocent pray to God for us!

**An** ancient people being held captive by the prince of darkness, having for an instant  
seen the great Light, reached out in hunger for salvation; yet from among the many

called, only one was chosen to cross the depths of the sea and to bring them Christ—thou, O holy father Innocent.

**P**erceiving in thy flock an innate patience and humility, by thy words and exhortations thou didst labor diligently to cultivate these virtues, and through the waters of Baptism brought them to fruition in Christ. Pray that like them, we too may be confirmed in godliness, O holy father Innocent.

**O**bedient to the Lord's command that the children all be brought to Him, thou didst endure the dangers of the deep to come to a distant People, who with their innocent faith and trust accepted the Word which thou didst bring to them, O holy father Innocent.

*Refrain:* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

*Theotokion:* **S**ave me from all dangers, O pure Lady, who from the royal lineage of David, beyond all human understanding, gavest birth to God, the Almighty King of all creation in the flesh. It is to Him, thy Son, that I sing: "There is none like Thee, O most-glorious Lord!"

*Katavasia:* I shall open my mouth....

### Ode 3

*Irmos:* *We boast not of wisdom, wealth, or power, but in Thee the Wisdom in person of the Father, O Christ, for there is none holy save Thee, O Christ, O Thou who lovest mankind.*

**S**ending thee, O holy father, to teach Christ, the personal Wisdom of God, to the people of Unalaska, thou didst bring them great comfort, help and joy. The holy books thou didst translate to teach them how to read are still cherished by the Aleut people. And as they faithfully celebrate thy holy memory they sing aloud: "There is none Holy but the Lord; none like Him, no protector like our God!"

**T**eaching this people languishing in ignorance about the goodness of our God, thou didst bring them to the heights of a new spiritual life, and through thy legacy of the written Word, they became companions of the princes in heaven.

**L**et those who doubt the Lord's promise to raise the needy from their misery now look to the people who were sent our holy father Innocent. For by teaching them in their own language the treasures of the Word of God, he gave them victory and power over the darkness of this world.

*Theotokion:* **W**e ceaselessly magnify thee, O unwedded Bride of God, to whom all we Christians run as our haven in trouble and our bastion of defense.

*Katavasia as prescribed.*

**The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:**

What distant and remote island, hill or valley, /  
 What portion of thy vast and far-flung See /  
 Did ever fail to receive the joy of thy presence? /  
 To whom did thy words of salvation ever fail to come? /  
 What church was not graced by thy presence?  
 America boasts of the churches thou hast built; /  
 Throughout Kamchatka and Siberia thou hast planted the good seed of the Gospel of  
 Christ; /  
 And Moscow itself, received salvific words of instruction from thee, /  
 And rejoices today in thy glorious relics; /  
 And in Irkutsk the faithful honor the place of thy humble birth /  
 As the foundation of the Orthodox Church in America, /  
 And as a bright star shining in the Russian skies, ///  
 That confirms our lives in peace and our unity in Christ.

**Ode 4**

***Irmos:** Thou art our God incarnate of the Virgin, and Thou hast made our nature like unto God. Thee do we praise in song and cry aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

Completing thy great labors for God's holy Church on the island of Unalaska, in the Savior's own words thou didst prophesy to the small flock which thou didst gather and love: "In a little while you will see me no more, then a while later you will see me again."<sup>4</sup> Grant, O father Innocent, that we too may see thy face, when we are brought through thy holy prayers, into the kingdom of heaven.

Thou didst come bearing the Gospel of Peace to the Tlingit Indians, but the fierce warriors of Sitka, like Midian of old,<sup>5</sup> were struck by the hand of God before accepting the light yoke of Christ in obedience. Hearing this may we now tremble, and with them receive into our midst, the holy hierarch Innocent, as a wise messenger from God.

On the eve of thy departure from the New World, thou, O father Innocent wast sent south from Sitka as a forerunner of the coming of the true faith to all the peoples of America. The small flock, then gathered within Fort Ross, was the first to rejoice in thy coming, and San Francisco opened its arms to thee. Now we, the faithful heirs

---

<sup>4</sup> John 16:6

<sup>5</sup> Judges 7:1-18

to all that thou hast begun, sing in the words of the ancient prophet: “Having heard of all that thou hast done, we are filled with awe.”<sup>6</sup>

*Theotokion:* **O** Virgin Mother of the Word, as He said through thine own lips, the Lord has brought down the mighty from their thrones;<sup>7</sup> He has filled with His own gifts those who in thirst cry out in faith, “Glory to Thy power, O Lord!”

### Ode 5

*Irmos:* *O Thou who hast fashioned us as an excellent people by Thy blood, O Lord, grant unto us Thy peace and preserve Thy flock in one accord.*

**A**fter completing the task assigned thee to enlighten the Aleut and Tlingit peoples, thou didst travel back around the world to the Northern Capital of the Russian lands,<sup>8</sup> to intercede with the Holy Synod of Bishops, for the good of thy beloved Orthodox Church in America.

**M**eeting the rulers of this God-loving land, thou didst fulfill the words of an Aleut prophet. Thou didst speak those words of wisdom in the City of St. Peter and clearly revealed to all that the growth in the vine entrusted to thy care was wholly the work of God Himself. Hearing this, the hierarchs were moved to provide the spiritual dew with which to refresh the souls of the pious faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

**S**urrendering thyself again wholly to the Lord, whose ineffable will it was to call thy beloved wife Katherine into His rest, thou was tonsured into the angelic life<sup>9</sup> and exalted to the grace of the episcopate. Thus, thou didst begin a new lot of ministry, and renewed thy labors to bring prosperity and unity to the Orthodox Church in America.

*Theotokion:* **G**od became incarnate, O most-pure Lady, joining Himself as One of the Trinity to the flesh He took from thee, while remaining all the while unchanged and bodiless in His divine nature.

### Ode 6

*Irmos:* *O Christ, Jonah, who spent three days in the whale, hath prefigured Thee, O Immortal, as having of Thine own will, spent three days in the womb of the earth.*

**R**eturning to the flock, that in thy truly apostolic labors thou had gathered, in the fullness of apostolic dignity and authority, thou didst fulfil thy promise to see them

---

<sup>6</sup> Luke 5:26

<sup>7</sup> Luke 1:52

<sup>8</sup> St. Petersburg.

<sup>9</sup> The taking of monastic vows.

again, and brought grace in abundance to this land.

**I**ntercede together with St. Herman for us, O holy father Innocent, that, as it was through his holy prayers that thou wast delivered from the depths of the sea, we may be delivered from the abyss of sins which ever threatens to swallow us.

**E**ncountering throughout the vast new expanses of thy labors those who worshipped worthless idols, thou didst bring new peoples to the knowledge of God. Koryaks, Kamchadals, and Yakuts now number together with Aleuts and Tlingits, as they offer their praises to God—a sacrifice well-pleasing to the Lord.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou gavest birth to the One who surpasses all nature, and through thee, the Word of God came to us in our flesh. Therefore, with our souls and lips we proclaim thee as being truly Theotokos.

*Katavasia.*

### **The Kontakion of Saint Innocent, in Tone 2:**

**A** true celebration of the providence and the grace of God /  
Is thy life, O holy father Innocent, apostle to our land; /  
For in hardships and dangers, toiling for the Gospel's sake /  
Thou was preserved unharmed and often-delivered. /  
While from obsurcity thou wast highly exalted as an example to the faithful  
everywhere ///  
That the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.

*Ikos:* Examining the chronicle of thy holy life, the marvelous deeds which fill it — thy birth in poverty deep in Siberia, thy coming in obedience to Alaska, thine elevation while in grief to its episcopal throne, thy building of churches across two continents, and thine election in ripe old age to the great See of the Third Rome<sup>10</sup>— who can fail to comprehend the profound truth of the saying that “The Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go?”

### **Ode 7**

*Irmos:* *In the beginning was the Word without beginning with the Father and the Spirit, the only-begotten Son: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers, and exalted above all forever.*

**A**s the Apostles once proclaimed the only true God to the nations bound in the fetters of error and ignorance, so didst thou, O holy father Innocent, teach new peoples in

---

<sup>10</sup> The tenet that Moscow is the spiritual successor of the Second Rome, Constantinople.

their own tongues to praise in truth the One God of our fathers.

**P**lacing all thy trust in the Lord's promise that those who follow Him with their whole heart, and who fear Him, and seek His presence, shall never be put to shame, thou didst arm thyself, O holy father Innocent, with truth, faith, and righteousness and proclaimed boldly on two continents the one God of our fathers.

**R**eward is not denied to those who labor long and well;<sup>11</sup> such was the teaching of the Lord Himself. And thou, O holy father, received thy reward everywhere thou didst go, seeing multitudes of people turning from their error to serve the living God. Places where no prince, no prophet, no leader was to be found, where no offerings had ever been lifted up, through thy ministry found themselves adorned with churches, raised to the glory of the God of our fathers.

***Theotokion:*** Like dew falling upon the fleece, Christ our God descended to thee, O most-pure Virgin, and came forth from thee clothed in our human flesh, uniting within Himself that which before was divided. Peace He has given to earth and heaven. Most glorious indeed is the God of our fathers!

### Ode 8

***Irmos:*** Thou, who didst bear all things by Thine ineffable might, O Christ, hast sprinkled the holy children with dew in the flames as they sang: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

**A**s thy years increased in righteousness and having refreshed with the spiritual dew of faith the peoples of Kamchatka and America, thou, O holy father Innocent bestowed thy blessing upon the faithful flocks in China and Japan before being called back to thy homeland to a lofty new ministry.

**T**hou didst leave for us, as the legacy of thy many labors, a zealous devotion to the Lord which to this day unites a multitude of nations, languages, and customs, in praising the One God of our fathers.

**T**hou didst leave behind the remote the land of thy birth to ascend the cathedra of the holy See of Moscow, as a worthy heir to her holy hierarchs—Peter, Alexey, Jonah and Philip—together with all their illustrious brethren of this ancient Church, and zealously taught all people to love to bless the God of our fathers.

***Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!***

***Theotokion:*** O Most Holy Virgin who gavest birth in the flesh to God the Word, by thy prayers drive far from my soul all darkness, and enlighten me as I cry out: “Bless

---

<sup>11</sup> 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 3:22-24



the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!”

***We praise, bless, and worship the Lord singing and exalting Him throughout all ages!***

*Katavasia as prescribed.*

***Magnificat:*** My soul magnifies the Lord...

### **Ode 9**

***Irmos:*** *O most glorious Bride and Most Holy Mother of God, who hast borne the Creator of all things visible and invisible, in hymns do we magnify thee.*

**O**n the exalted and ancient throne of the Church of Moscow, thy soul rejoiced to see thy flock learn from thine example and zealous preaching that Christ our God commanded salvation to be preached to all the people.

**R**ejoice, O holy father, for the Lord who exalted thee to a mighty throne, has through thee, taught us that the humble, indeed, are to be lifted up; that those who hunger for righteousness should, indeed, receive their fill; that in His great and rich love for all mankind, He remembers to show mercy to His faithful people.

**U**nto us, thy children in America, hast thou been shown to be a true prophet of the Most- high God, and a wise builder of the Church, which through thy ceaseless labors, has been established upon our shores.

**S**alvation, as a brilliant sun hath dawned upon our Land through thy words and zealous preaching. Now by thy holy prayers before the Throne of God, guide our steps along the path of peace.

***Theotokion:*** **O** Most Holy Mother of God, thou art the praise of Christ’s Apostles, the glory of His martyrs, and the preaching of His prophets. Therefore we, the faithful, rightly magnify thee!

*Katavasia as prescribed.*

### **The Exapostilarion of the Saint:**

**T**oday, we, the faithful, gather to celebrate the joyful memory of our holy father and enlightener, who brought the dawning of the radiant light of Salvation to many peoples that once sat in the darkness of ignorance. O Innocent, thou wise apostle of our Land, confirm in thy flock the true faith in Christ and guard our lives in peace. *(twice)*



**Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:**

Great and most-glorious is the mystery of the manner of thy birthgiving, O Virgin Mother of God, to the Source of thy joy: whom the prophets foretold, whom the apostles preached, to whom the martyrs bore their witness, in whom the angels boast, and whom all mankind rightly magnifies.

**At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Thou hast given a sign...."***

**"How wonderful,"** the Psalmist declares, /

"Is the coming of the messengers"<sup>12</sup> /

Who carry the good news of the salvation throughout the world. /

In obedience to the Lord's command that His disciples forget themselves and  
each bear his cross, /

Thou didst forsake the comforts of thy native land to journey in danger to distant  
shores /

And enlighten the peoples there in the name of the Holy Trinity, /

To bring light and life to those dead in darkness. /

Thereby earning for thyself a good reward from the Master /

Who promised that those who leave all things and follow Him will receive eternal  
life ///

In the age to come.

**Grace** as a flood from heaven covered our land, /

When thou didst appear in answer to a truly apostolic call /

To a country whose people thou didst make thine own. /

Enduring great dangers in the wilderness and on the seas , /

Hunger and thirst, work and toil, /

Like the great apostles to the Gentiles /

Thou didst labor for the sake of the Son of the Living God. ///

Therefore, we rightly honor thee through whom the Light hath dawned on us.

**Like** John, the beloved apostle of Christ, /

Whose name thou didst bear from thy mother's womb /

Until thy birth to the monastic life, /

Thy voice thundered across the wilderness proclaiming to untaught peoples /

That the Word who was in the beginning came in the flesh to save mankind /

And will surely come again in judgment. ///

Christ, the Son of the Living God sent thee to our land that Light might dawn upon it.

**A**s a faithful servant of the Master, /

---

<sup>12</sup> Ps. 40:5

Thou didst labor in all humility /  
And didst wander from place to place like the apostles, /  
A spectacle to the world. /  
Thy hunger for righteousness fed thy flock. /  
Thy thirst for the kingdom led a siege on it. /  
In all things thou endured and blessed, teaching the churches everywhere, /  
Bringing the Good News to the New World. /  
Therefore, we exalt thee our father in Christ. ///  
Pray that we may follow the example thou didst leave for us.

**Glory..., in Tone 6:**

**O** holy apostle of our Land /  
And venerable hierarch of our Mother Church, /  
Pray that thy faithful sheep across three continents may in peace and tranquility ///  
Glorify the Lord who in His love saved the world from the darkness of godlessness.

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

**O** Theotokos, thou art the true vine /  
That has put forth the Fruit of Life. /  
We pray thee, O Lady, intercede together with the apostles and St. Innocent ///  
That mercy may be granted to our souls.

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 6 Troparia from the Third and Sixth Odes of the Canon of St. Innocent.**

**1.** Sending thee, O holy father, to teach Christ, the personal Wisdom of God, to the people of Unalaska, thou didst bring them great comfort, help and joy. The holy books thou didst translate to teach them how to read are still cherished by the Aleut people. And as they faithfully celebrate thy holy memory they sing aloud: "There is none Holy but the Lord; none like Him, no protector like our God!"

**2.** Teaching this people languishing in ignorance about the goodness of our God, thou didst bring them to the heights of a new spiritual life, and through thy legacy of the written Word, they became companions of the princes in heaven.

**3.** Let those who doubt the Lord's promise to raise the needy from their misery now look to the people who were sent our holy father Innocent. For by teaching them in their own language the treasures of the Word of God, he gave them victory and power over the darkness of this world.

**4. Returning** to the flock, that in thy truly apostolic labors thou had gathered, in the fullness of apostolic dignity and authority, thou didst fulfil thy promise to see them again, and brought grace in abundance to this land.

**5. Intercede** together with St. Herman for us, O holy father Innocent, that, as it was through his holy prayers that thou wast delivered from the depths of the sea, we may be delivered from the abyss of sins which ever threatens to swallow us.

**6. Encountering** throughout the vast new expanses of thy labors those who worshipped worthless idols, thou didst bring new peoples to the knowledge of God. Koryaks, Kamchadals, and Yakuts now number together with Aleuts and Tlingits, as they offer their praises to God—a sacrifice well-pleasing to the Lord.

**The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

O holy father Innocent, /  
In obedience to the will of God, /  
Thou didst accept dangers and tribulations /  
To bring many peoples to the knowledge of truth /  
Thou didst show us the path /  
And now by thy prayers ///  
Help lead us into the kingdom of heaven.

**Another Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

O holy father Innocent, /  
Thou didst evangelize the Northern people of America and Asia, /  
Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ /  
To the people in their own tongues. /  
O holy hierarch, father Innocent, Enlightener of Alaska and All America, /  
Whose ways were ordered by the Lord. /  
Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His heavenly kingdom.

**The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

A true celebration of the providence and the grace of God /  
Is thy life, O holy father Innocent, apostle to our land; /  
For in hardships and dangers, toiling for the Gospel's sake /  
Thou was preserved unharmed and often-delivered. /  
While from obsurity thou wast highly exalted as an example to the faithful  
everywhere ///  
That the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 1:** My mouth shall speak wisdom / and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *Verse:* Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

**The Epistle:** (318) Hebrews 7:26-8:2

**The Alleluia, in Tone 2:** The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment. *Verse:* The Law of God is in his heart and his steps shall not falter.

**The Gospel:** (36) John 10:9-16

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

**A Prayer to our Father among the Saints, Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow,  
Enlightener of Siberia and Alaska, and Apostle to America:**

**O** good pastor and most wise teacher, the image of piety and godliness to all who strive to attain unto a holy life, O our holy hierarch, father Innocent! We run to thee like children to their father and pray, remembering thy love for all people: Be thou an invincible shield protecting the Orthodox Church and our homelands; adorn our hierarchs with the beauty of sanctification and wisdom; grant our pastors to zealously serve their flocks; that our monastics be confirmed in pious deeds and strengthened in their obedience; pray that all the Orthodox faithful preserve the Holy Orthodox Faith undefiled; and entreat peace for the whole world through thine intercessions. O all-glorious luminary of the Russian lands, enlightener of Siberia and apostle to America, shelter us all under the shadow of thy blessing from on high, and grant comfort to those who are in sorrow; give healing and deliverance to those suffering from physical and spiritual infirmities; beseech for all of us charity, humility, chastity, patience and love, that we may spend the rest of the days of our lives in faith and repentance, and that we may in the world to come to give eternal praise to the Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who glorified thee, the Trinity One in Essence and Undivided, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

RLE 3/15/2004 SDA  
UPDATED 2/20/2013 SDA  
8/21/2020 SDA  
3/18/2023 SDA