

## **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of February**

### **Commemoration of the Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.**

#### **Vespers**

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”***

**T**hou wast joined to the bodiless powers /  
While living here on earth, /  
Together with them ceaselessly serving the Trinity, /  
O divinely bless’t father; /  
And dwelling now in the highest as a man of heaven ///  
Thou teachest the Mysteries of God to those still dwelling on the earth.

**T**hou, O divinely blessed one /  
Art a flowering branch planted by God /  
Bringing forth the fruit of the Divine Word; /  
From which we truly draw the sweetness of Christ ///  
And bring thy teachings to the world with all our heart.

**B**eing illuminated with divine radiance, /  
Thy body being consumed by a material fire, /  
Thou didst pass over to the immaterial dawn /  
Bringing light to the darkness of night, /  
Dispelling the passions of our souls, O wise one, ///  
And granting us remission through thy prayers, O father.

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

**I** am tossed about on the sea of transgressions /  
And with recourse to the calm harbor of thy prayers /  
I cry out to thee, O Mother of God: /  
Stretch out the right hand of thy might to thy servant, ///  
O all-pure Lady, and save me.

**Or the Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 1:**

**W**hen she beheld the Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, /  
The most pure Virgin cried out lamenting: /  
O my Sweet Child, /  
What is this new and all-glorious wonder? /  
How is it that Thou who holdest all things in the hollow of Thy hand, ///

Art nailed to the Tree in the flesh?

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

**T**hou didst sit upon the throne of the apostles /  
O bishop and martyr Polycarp. /  
Thou didst share in their virtues, /  
And realized the joy of contemplation in thy deeds; /  
Therefore thou didst preach the word of truth /  
And suffered for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood. ///  
O hieromartyr Polycarp, pray Christ God that He may save our souls.

**Matins**

**The Canon of the Hieromartyr, in Tone 2,**

*Having the acrostic: “I praise Saint Polycarp with hymns,” the composition of Theophanes.*

*— incomplete as of 1/2013*

**The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 1: To the melody, “The choir of angels...”**

**O** wise hierarch Polycarp, thou didst offer spiritual fruit to God /  
And became worthy because of thy virtues. /  
So we, who have been enlightened by thy teachings ///  
Honor thy memory on this day and glorify the Lord.

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