

**Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> Day of March**  
**Commemoration of our Holy Hierarch Patrick, Bishop of Armagh and**  
**Enlightener of Ireland<sup>1</sup>**

**Vespers**

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 1:**

**R**ejoice, O emerald hills of Ireland! /  
For the grace of God hath descended upon you this day, /  
Bringing grace and blessings from on high. /  
Behold, your spiritual father hath come to be with you: /  
Patrick, the most glorious among all the hierarchs, ///  
A true zealot of the Orthodox Faith, chosen by God as His new apostle.

**H**oly Saint Patrick cried out to the newly-enlightened people: /  
“Attend, O ye spiritual children: /  
‘This day have I begotten you,’ saith the Gospel; /  
For you are now betrothed as a bride to Christ our God. /  
Stand firm in the Faith, and confess it fearlessly; /  
Fear not the hostility of the pagans, /  
So that God may manifest Himself to you ///  
As a great Helper and Protector!”

**G**reat was thy faith, O holy hierarch Saint Patrick; /  
For having left thy homeland already enlightened by Christ, /  
Thou didst journey to a land languishing in heathen darkness, /  
Bearing the Gospel of Christ to its people; /  
And not departing till thou hadst converted the whole land to the Orthodox Faith. ///  
Therefore, we worthily praise thee.

**Glory..., in Tone 8:**

**W**ho can describe the struggles which thou didst endure, /  
O holy hierarch Patrick, /  
Preaching the Word of God to those who sat in pagan darkness? /  
Who can give account of the tears which thou didst shed, /  
Praying in the solitude of the wilderness, /  
Fending off the fear of wild beasts and the assaults of demons /  
Wielding the power of the Cross of Christ, ///  
Which thou didst plant triumphantly in the Irish land?

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<sup>1</sup> Text differs throughout from another service to St. Patrick composed in 2005 by Panayotis M. Somalis.

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

“What is this sight that I see, /  
What do mine eyes behold, O Master? /  
Thou, who sustainest all creation, lifted up on the Tree, /  
Dost die granting life to all,” /  
Cried the Theotokos, weeping, when she beheld upon the Cross ///  
The God-man who had ineffably shone forth from her.

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.*

**The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and**

**Glory..., in Tone 3:**

**A**biding as a stranger on the earth /  
And desiring to attain thy heavenly fatherland, /  
Thou didst forsake thy native homeland /  
And didst spiritually adopt a new people in a foreign land. /  
Thou didst show thyself to be a true father to them, /  
And crying aloud to the Lord, thou didst say: ///  
“Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given me!”

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 3:**

**B**eholding Thee, her Lamb being voluntarily led to the slaughter, /  
The chaste Ewe-lamb wept and cried aloud: /  
“What dost thou do, striving to make me childless, O Christ, /  
Who gave birth to Thee, the Deliverer of all? /  
Yet I glorify Thine ineffable grace past all understanding, ///  
O Lover of mankind.

**The Troparion of St. Patrick, in Tone 3:**

**Ō** holy hierarch Patrick, /  
Wonderworking Equal-to-the-Apostles /  
Eñlightener of the Irish lands: /  
Entreat the merciful God ///  
That He grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

**Matins**

**The Canon for the Hierarch, in Tone 4**

*having the acrostic "The seal of thine apostolate is the Irish people"  
the composition of Monk Joseph (Lambertsen)*

**Ode 1**

*Irmos: I raise a hymn of praise to Thee, O Lord my God, for Thou didst lead Thy people forth from the bondage of Egypt, and didst drown the chariots of Pharaoh and all his host.*

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

**O** holy preacher and equal to the apostles, with divinely inspired words thou didst lead the people of Ireland out of the darkness of paganism into the light of the Christian Faith, as Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt.

**C**ourageously opposing the heresy of Pelagius, thou didst manifest the power of the grace of Christ to the people, enlightening kings and princes and those of every age and station, leading them into the fold of the true Church.

**W**hat can we, who commemorate the holy Patrick, say? Shall we praise his apostolic zeal? Shall we marvel at the tribulations and threats which he endured? Shall we praise ceaselessly his labors and his struggles, and the depths of his humility? Let us then glorify God who hath given power to His chosen hierarch to accomplish all of these things.

*Theotokion:* **T**he rod of Aaron, which budded forth leaves, and the unburnt bush, prefigured thee, O unwedded Bride, Virgin Theotokos, who was the Mother of the pre-eternal Word made flesh.

**Ode 3**

*Irmos: O Christ God, Thou confirmation of those that hope in Thee: confirm us in the Orthodox Faith, in that Thou art the Lover of mankind.*

**T**hou didst patiently acquire the virtues, confirming the words of thy preaching by thy holy deeds unto the glory of God.

**E**nduring bodily affliction, and all manner of temptations and abasement, O Patrick, thou didst ceaselessly labor in the field of Christ, neither departing from it nor becoming weary, but being steadfast in the Faith, thou didst trust in the aid of God.

**T**hou gavest neither slumber to thine eyelids nor rest to thy body, O holy hierarch, tirelessly traversing the hills and dales of Ireland, planting the true Faith and instructing the newly-converted people.

*Theotokion:* **O** Sovereign Lady, thou art the joy and consolation of thy suffering people and the ever-sounding voice of the apostles. Grant that we, thy poor and wretched servants, may, as our meager gifts, offer thee our heartfelt song as praise worthy of thee.

**Kontakion of St. Patrick, in Tone 8: To the melody: “O victorious leader...”**

**C**ome and let us joyfully sing the praises of the luminary of Ireland, /  
Patrick, the brilliant emulator and equal of the apostles: /  
For having found great boldness he ceaselessly entreats the Lord, /  
That He may free from every sorrow those who cry aloud to him with faith: ///  
Rejoice, O father Patrick, our most holy and honored hierarch!

**Glory..., Sessional Hymn, in Tone 7:**

**O** lover of the sacred Scriptures, thou didst eagerly learn the Word of God, /  
Giving drink to thy soul from that divine wellspring of life, /  
And nurturing thine understanding with heavenly wisdom, /  
Thou didst teach thy disciples the Truth divinely revealed, ///  
Which thou didst seal in thy holy writings.

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

**O** Mother of God and Mother of Christians, /  
Take pity on us, thy children, as we cry out in repentance to thee: /  
Do not leave us orphaned, even though we have greatly sinned, ///  
But stretch forth thy hands, and guide us onto the path of salvation.

**Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:**

**P**rotected by the power of the Cross of Thy Son, /  
We escape the assaults of the demons, O Virgin. /  
Therefore, we fervently sing thy praises, O gracious Lady, ///  
And we glorify thee, O Most Holy Theotokos.

**Ode 4**

*Irmos: Proclaiming the coming of Thine appearance on earth, O Christ God, the prophet cried out with joy: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

**L**ike a hart running amidst the lush green hills of Ireland, thou didst go throughout the land erecting churches and instructing Christians in the Orthodox Faith; and finally retiring to an isolated place, thou didst make unceasing supplications that thy newly-illuminated flock may be saved.

**H**aving forsaken in thy youth the sinfulness of this world, thou wast nurtured in the monastic way by Martin the glorious, and his disciples; and having devoted many years to prayer and study, thou didst humbly accept the pastoral staff, exclaiming: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**T**hou didst summon the sheep of thy pasture with the voice of the Gospel, and leading them to the courts of the Church, showed thyself to be a true shepherd willing to lay down his life for his flock.

*Theotokion:* **O** blessed Theotokos, we offer thee the angelic salutation: Rejoice, O Lady full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

### Ode 5

*Irmos:* *O Thou who hast caused the light to shine, who hast made bright the dawn and revealed the day: glory to Thee, O Jesus, Thou Son of God.*

**T**hou didst illumine the Irish land, O Patrick, with the light of the teachings of Christ, ever rejoicing together with thy newly chosen flock and rendering glory unto God.

**T**hou didst open the spiritual eyes of those who before had been blinded by their ignorance and unbelief, teaching them to glorify Christ the Savior together with all the faithful.

**I**nsatiably didst thou preach the Orthodox Faith, standing and teaching in every season, weeping copiously and crying out to Christ God who rendered thee aid: Glory to Thy power, O Son of God!

*Theotokion:* **O** Virgin Mary Theotokos, who shone forth the Sun of Righteousness upon the world and dispelled the darkness of ignorance, drive away the night of wicked unbelief from the world!

### Ode 6

*Irmos:* *Prefiguring Thy three-day burial, the prophet Jonah cried out in the belly of the whale: Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King and Lord of hosts.*

**W**hen offended, thou didst not protest; and when abased, thou didst humble thyself, showing thyself to be a model for thy disciples. Therefore the Lord hath exalted thee, O holy father Patrick.

**W**aging war against the deceptive wiles of the devil, thou didst not fear the threats of the impious Druids, fearlessly preaching and crying aloud to God: Deliver me from their snares, O Jesus, King of all the heavenly hosts!

**T**hou didst endure sorrow, imprisonment and the bitterness of slavery in thy youth when thou wast made a captive, O glorious Saint Patrick; and thou didst win thy freedom when the Lord made Himself known to thee, as thou didst cry aloud: Glory to Thee, O Jesus, King of all the heavenly hosts!

*Theotokion:* **T**hou art the helper of the oppressed and the liberation of all the captives, for thy Son and our God doth ever hearken to thy prayers, O Ever-virgin Sovereign Lady.

**Another Kontakion of St. Patrick, in Tone 4:**

**T**hou wast revealed as a true fisher of men, /  
Casting the net of the good news of the Holy Gospel; /  
Thou didst draw the heathen into the kingdom of Christ, /  
Enlightening with baptism those languishing in the darkness of idolatry /  
Making them children of the living God. /  
Therefore, we beseech thee, O holy hierarch, father Patrick: ///  
Intercede for us who honor thy holy memory.

**Ode 7**

***Irmos:** In Babylon of old, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace as they sang aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

**O** holy hierarch Patrick, thou didst behold divinely revealed visions, and didst follow the voice of God which summoned thee and sent thee to convert a new people to the True Faith.

**I**n thy youth thou didst receive the angelic habit of monasticism, and thou wast zealous in planting the monastic life in the newly-enlightened Irish land, founding many monastic communities in every place, ever singing to the Lord: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

**A**ll of Ireland doth boast in thee, O holy hierarch Patrick, and it doth piously honor thy holy memory; and we also earnestly call upon thee in our prayers, thanking the Lord for giving us thee and crying aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

***Theotokion:*** **A**ccept now these prayers of thy servants, O all-pure Lady, as of old thou didst always hearken to the supplications of those who ran to thee; for as was yesterday, and is today, and will be in the age to come, thou art our only merciful helper.

**Ode 8**

***Irmos:** Those who confessed Christ the King, the Children held prisoner in the furnace, cried with a loud voice, saying: Praise ye the Lord, O all ye works of the Lord!*

**T**hou didst sow the seed of faith, thus growing a fertile meadow for Christ the Lord, O holy hierarch Patrick, teaching the newly-illuminated people of Ireland to cry aloud: Praise ye the Lord, O all ye works of the Lord!

**H**aving laid the firm foundation of the Faith of Christ, thou didst erect countless churches and monastic habitations, exhorting those who struggled therein to cry aloud: Praise ye the Lord, O all ye works of the Lord!

**T**hou didst ordain countless priests of God and didst dispatch them over all the land to exercise their ministry, that they might confirm in the Faith which thou didst preach the

newly-enlightened people of Ireland, who cried out in thanksgiving: Praise ye the Lord, O all ye works of the Lord!

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

*Theotokion:* **O** our Sovereign Lady Theotokos, render vain the errors of idolatry and the arrogance of heresy, and establish the faithful in the Truth, and mystically teach them to sing praises unto God in an Orthodox manner.

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

*Katavasia*

### Ode 9

*Irmos:* Thou art our boast, O pure Lady Theotokos, who wast born of mortals yet hast given birth to the Creator of all. We magnify thee as the Lady and Queen of all of created and living beings.

Assembling from the East and from the West, we Orthodox faithful celebrate this, thine annual commemoration, and, praising all thine apostolic labors, we magnify thee with all our heart and soul.

**T**hou didst offer thy youth to Christ as a sacrifice, serving Him until thou hadst grown old, O holy hierarch, emulating the apostles and imitating all the venerable saints who came before thee. Therefore, we worthily magnify thee.

**T**hou didst hallow the emerald hills and dales of the Irish land with thy prayer, showering with dew the newly-planted meadow of Christ with thy copious tears, that it might grow and bring forth fruit a hundredfold. Therefore, magnifying God, we also magnify thee and thy zealous labors for the Lord.

*Theotokion:* **W**ithdraw not thy care from Ireland or from any Christian land, O Virgin Theotokos, and ever entreat thy divine Son and our God, together with the holy Saint Patrick, that He may have mercy and save those who ceaselessly magnify thee.

**The Exapostilarion:**

**H**aving illumined the heathen night with the light of Christ, O Patrick, thou dost now abide amidst the never-waning light, gazing upon the Sun of Righteousness, and praying ceaselessly that the noetic light of Orthodoxy may shine forth throughout all the world.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion:** **O** immaculate Lady Theotokos, thou ray illuminated by the Sun of righteousness which eternally radiates with the Light of the threefold Sun into the darkness: illumine thou our souls!

17 MARCH

## Liturgy

### The Troparion of St. Patrick, in Tone 3:

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Wonderworking Equal-to-the Apostles /  
Eñlightener of the Irish lands: /  
Entreat the merciful God ///  
That He grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

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