

## The 11<sup>th</sup> Day of July

Ⲭ The Commemoration of the Greatmartyr Euphemia's Miraculous Confirmation of the Fathers; and the Commemoration of the Repose of the Blessed Olga<sup>1</sup>, Princess of Rus', given the name Helen in Holy Baptism.<sup>2</sup>

### Vespers

At "Lord, I call...", 6 stichera,

3 stichera for St. Euphemia<sup>3</sup>, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder...."*

O most glorious wonder! /  
Euphemia, the ewe-lamb of the Lord, /  
Imitates His voluntary suffering and His death; /  
And while lying in the tomb, she spills forth her blood, /  
By the power of the Spirit. /  
And we, who have recourse to this fountain for the healing of our souls, ///  
Sing each day the praises of God.

O most glorious wonder! /  
Consider how she, who by nature was dead, /  
The all-praised passion-bearer lay holding the scroll divine, /  
Entrusting it to the holy fathers, and not their adversaries. /  
O glorious martyr and praise of the faithful, ///  
By thy prayers keep steadfast and unshaken the Church of Christ.

The assembly of the holy fathers of the Church /  
Placed their confirmation of the Faith upon thy breast /  
As thou lay within thy tomb. /  
Receiving it, thou didst preserve the divine faith unharmed /  
Shaming the defenders of falsehood and vanquishing their heresy. ///  
Therefore, we honor and we bless thee.

And 3 stichera for St. Olga, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "As one valiant among the martyrs...."*

O divinely-wise princess Olga, /  
Mother of the princes of Russia, and the youngest daughter of Christ, /  
Whose memorial shines brightly upon us with the rays of the sun. /

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<sup>1</sup> St. Olga is the Grandmother of the Holy Great Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Baptizer and Enlightener of Rus', commemorated on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> A Simple Service (to St. Olga) in the Slav Menaion.

<sup>3</sup> Greek text differs.

Thou wast nourished on the teachings of the apostles /  
 And, enlightened by the power of the Holy Spirit /  
 Thou didst turn against the devil and his pagan idols, /  
 And led the whole land of Rus' from the darkness of folly to the knowledge of God. ///  
 Beseech Him now on behalf of us who celebrate thy holy memory.

**W**ith great spiritual understanding /  
 Thou didst shame the enemy who had tempted Eve; /  
 And demolishing his devices thou didst plant a paradise on earth /  
 Setting high the Cross, the Tree of Life, /  
 Establishing there a Church to serve the banquet of Immortality /  
 And the inexhaustible fountain of the Blood of Christ. /  
 And having attained to the place of incorruption, ///  
 Thou dost ever pray to God on behalf of us all.

**T**he lands of Rus' and the Orthodox faithful everywhere /  
 Are filled with spiritual joy today /  
Honoring of the memory of Olga, wise in God, /  
 For she continually prays on their behalf before Christ God /  
 Together with the wonderworkers, martyrs, and all the saints, /  
 Having the Holy Theotokos as their helper, /  
 That those singing her praises in faith be delivered from misfortune and sorrow ///  
 As they bow before the shrine of her incorrupt relics.

**Glory..., of St. Euphemia, in Tone 6: (By Anatolius)**

**A**t the right hand of the Savior stood the Virgin /  
 And the passion-bearing martyr Euphemia, /  
 Arrayed with her virtues and victories, /  
 And adorned with the oil of purity, and the blood of suffering. /  
 Joyfully, she holds out her lamp, and cries to Him: /  
 "I run to Thy sweet fragrance, O Christ my God, /  
 For I have been wounded by Thy love for me; /  
 Turn not away from me, O my heavenly Bridegroom." /  
 By her prayers, O All-mighty Savior, ///  
 Send down upon us Thy great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "Having set all aside...."**

**A** sword has pierced thy heart, /  
 As Symeon said, O most pure Lady, /

When thou didst behold Him who shone forth ineffably from thee /  
Condemned by the lawless and lifted upon the Cross, /  
Given gall to eat and vinegar to drink, /  
His hand and feet pierced with nails, His side run through with a spear, /  
Thou didst cry out to Him with a mother's sorrow: ///  
What is this new mystery, O my sweetest Child?

*Or the Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.*

**At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Octoechos, and the following verse and sticheron, in Tone 3:**

*Verse:*     **G**od is wonderous in His saints, the God of Israel.

**L**et us honor with hymns the martyr of Christ /  
For she is truly worthy of our songs of praise /  
As a crown of victory is placed upon her brow; /  
For indeed, she was steadfast and brave /  
As she triumphed over the brutality of her tormentors /  
Crying out joyfully to the Lord: ///  
“Be Thou to me a Helper, and do not depart from me!”

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

**O** most glorious martyr Euphemia, /  
Flourishing in the virtues and illumined in thought, /  
Ever pouring myrrh into the hearts of the faithful, /  
Shining from the East as a radiant star, /  
And, assembling the council of the holy fathers /  
Through the visitation of the Holy Spirit, /  
Cease not to pray to the Lord for us ///  
That He may save our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, “On the Third day...”**

**W**hen the Virgin, Thy Pure Mother, /  
Beheld Thee unjustly nailed to the Tree by lawless men /  
Her womb, O Savior was wounded, ///  
As Symeon had foretold.

**The Troparion of St. Euphemia, in Tone 4:**

**H**aving loved Christ, thy Bridegroom, /  
And having prepared thy lamp /

Thou didst shine bright with the virtues /  
O all-praised mother Ephemia. /  
Thou didst receive thy crown of victory from Christ God /  
And went with Him to paradise. /  
By thy prayers, deliver us, who in faith are honoring thy precious memory.

**And the Troparion of St. Olga, in the same Tone:**

**H**aving furnished thy mind with wings of the knowledge of God, /  
Thou didst soar above the visible creation seeking God, the Creator of all. /  
Having found Him, thou wast re-born through the grace of Baptism, /  
And received the gift of immortality in heaven ///  
Where thou dost behold the Tree of Life, O most glorious Olga.

**Matins**

**The Canon**

**One Canon of the Octoechos; and two Canons, one of each Saint:**

**Ode 1**

**The Canon of St. Euphemia, Tone 8**

***Irmos:** The staff of Moses performed miracles, striking the sea like the Cross, submerging Pharaoh with his chariots, saving the Israelites in their flight as they sang a song of victory.*

***Refrain:** Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia, pray to God for us!*

**S**hining with the pure radiance of the Spirit, dispel thou the gloomy darkness, O all-praised passion-bearing martyr, and deliver me from the night of my boundless evils that I may be illumined by the Light.

**T**hou didst valiantly endure the passions of the flesh transforming them joyously into painless delight, O martyr. Therefore, I entreat thee: transform the pain of my soul by thy prayers, and guide me to salvation.

**O** pure and honored bride of Christ the King, cleanse thou the evil defilements of my soul by thy holy prayers, heal my afflictions, and cure the incurable sufferings of my heart, that being saved, I may ever praise thee.

***Theotokion:** O pure and blessed Lady, thou ladder that leadeth from earth to heaven upon which God the Word descended to mankind; O thou ineffable wonder and incomprehensible vision, save them that have taken recourse unto thee!*

**The Canon of St. Olga, in Tone 5**

***Irmos:** Let us praise Christ who drowned Pharaoh in the sea with all his chariots and his horsemen, and saved Israel by leading them across upon dry land.*

*Refrain:* Holy blessed and right believing princess Olga, pray to God for us!

**T**hou art the pride and boast of all Christians, O divinely-wise princess Olga, for thou hast saved us from the falsehood of idolatry, and now thou dost pray for the countless generations which thou hast led to God praising Christ, O glorious one.

**T**hou didst drive the arrogant devil from the lands of Russia, everywhere breaking his graven images and idols, and thus freed the people from iniquity, wisely teaching them to praise Christ, O glorious one.

**G**lory...,

**T**hou didst utterly wash away the stain of sin with the laver of baptism and the love of Christ, O princess Olga, and standing now before Him, thou dost pray for us, thy servants, who glorify thee with faith and love.

**N**ow, and ever...,

*Theotokion:* Isaiah called thee the rod of the stem of Jesse, O all-pure one, and David called thee the throne of the Lord; Habakkuk saw thee as the mountain covered in shadow, and Moses proclaimed thee as the bush not burned by fire; but we call thee the Mother of God!

*Katavasia.*

### Ode 3

#### The Canon of St. Euphemia

*Irmos:* O Lord, Creator of the vault of heaven and founder of the Church, strengthen me in Thy love, for Thou art our supreme desire and the support of the faithful, O only Lover of mankind.

**T**he All-bountiful Word, beholding thee arrayed in the wounds of thy struggle as if wearing a golden vesture, O maiden, led thee to the place of rejoicing in the heavenly mansions of the bodiless angels.

**T**hou didst hasten to receive the sweet-smelling myrrh gushing forth from the All-pure Virgin, pouring divine healing upon all the world. Therefore, I cry out to thee, O Euphemia, dispel the foul passions of my heart.

**P**rotect and heal my soul that has become diseased with corrupt passions by thy holy prayers before it rushes headlong over the cliff of destruction, and strengthen it confirm it, O all-praised martyr.

*Theotokion:* **R**ejoice, thou who alone gavest birth to the Lord of all! Rejoice, O mediatrix of our life! Rejoice, O mountain overshadowed by the grace of God! Rejoice, O immaculate Lady, thou confirmation of the faithful!

#### The Canon of St. Olga

*Irmos: Thou didst create the heavens and the earth with Thine almighty arm and all-powerful Word; and Thy Church which is established in Thee, and which Thou didst redeem with Thine own blood, cries out to Thee: None is holy as Thee, O Lord.*

**W**ith perceptive knowledge, inspired words, and wise lessons didst thou teach thy grandson the Laws of Christ, and forbade thy people to offer sacrifice to idols, O all-glorious Olga, and we, the faithful, now assembled in thy memory, praise and glorify thee.

**L**aboring like a wise bee didst thou seek the Faith of Christ which had blossomed in a far-away land; and, having been baptized in the Great Imperial City, thou didst bring it home, like the sweetest honey, for the people of thy city; and with it sweetness, thou didst rid the bitter taste of sin.

**We** offer thee our cries of praise and supplication, O blessed Olga, for through thee we have come to know God, before whom thou dost now stand entreating for peace and the victory over the adversaries of all Orthodox Christians, and for the remission of sins of those who praise thee.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou art the habitation of the unapproachable God whom the ranks of angels praise unceasingly, paying homage to the Master of all, for thou gavest birth to the Word of the Father, who is equally unoriginate and without an earthly father. O, glorious wonder, how the Holy Spirit overshadowed thee!

*Katavasia.*

**The Kontakion of St. Olga, in Tone 2:**

**T**oday the grace of God is revealed to all /  
For the divinely-wise Olga is glorified. ///  
Through her prayers, O Christ God, grant us the remission of our sins.

**The Sessional Hymn of St. Euphemia, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "Of Wisdom...."***

**T**hou didst drown the ungodly with the streams of thy blood, /  
O blessed Euphemia, martyr of Christ; /  
And thou didst water the spiritual pastures with showers of grace /  
Making them blossom with the most beautiful flowers of faith. /  
In death thou art revealed to all as a cloud shimmering with the witness of life,  
And so, we entreat thee to beseech Christ our God /  
That He may grant the remission of sins /  
To those who celebrate thy mem'ry with faith and love, ///  
O all-praised and glorious champ'ion of the Lord. *(twice)*

**Glory..., the Sessional Hymn of St. Olga, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "When the stone***

*had been sealed ...”*

**H**aving furnished thy mind with wings of the knowledge of God, /  
Thou didst soar above the visible creation seeking God, the Creator of all. /  
Having found Him, thou wast re-born through the grace of Baptism, /  
And received the gift of immortality in heaven ///  
Where thou dost behold the Tree of Life, O most glorious Olga.

**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!

**Or, the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**A**s she stood by the Cross beholding Thee, /  
Stretched out, dead, upon the Cross, O Christ, /  
She cried out: O my Son, who art equally unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, /  
What is this ineffable dispensation /  
By which Thou hast saved the creation of Thine own hands, ///  
O only compassionate One?

#### Ode 4

#### The Canon of St. Euphemia

*Irmos: I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have considered Thy works and glorify Thy Godhead.*

**I** weep for myself for I have lived my life without ever changing my ways, but do thou help me, O glorious martyr, and free me from the judgment that will befall me.

**T**hou who hast quenched the consuming fire with the waters of divine grace; so do thou free me from the fire of eternal condemnation.

**O** Euphemia, thou vessel of virginity and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, deliver me through thine intercessions, from every harm brought on by the enemy.

*Theotokion:* **O** thou who gavest birth to the compassionate Savior of all who praise thee, grant the full measure of thy loving kindness to me as I call upon thee.

#### The Canon of St. Olga



*Irmos: The prophet Habakkuk, cleansed by the breath of the Spirit within him, with trembling said: Thou, O God, shalt be known at the coming of time for the salvation of mankind.*

**T**he Spirit of God rested upon thee as on the prophetess Deborah of old, and being illumined and strengthened by Him, thou didst baptize and raise thy grandson Vladimir the Wise, and thus, brought down the devil as Barak once vanquished Sisera at the river of Kishon.

**O** divinely-wise princess Olga, thou didst fervently beseech God for the deliverance of thy people from the bondage of the idols, and, receiving help from Christ, thou didst free them from their yoke.

**T**he Church keeps joyous festival on this, the day of thy repose, O divinely-wise princess Olga, and we send up hymns of praise to Christ who has set an imperishable crown upon thy head. Entreat thou Him for the remission of sins for those who rightly glorify thee with faith and love.

*Theotokion: We* praise thee as the pure Virgin and the Mother of God, the rod of the Spirit which Isaiah had foretold, that budded forth Christ as a flower from the root of Jesse, and bore the pre-Eternal One in the flesh within thy womb.

## Ode 5

### The Canon of St. Euphemia

*Irmos: Why hast Thou cast me away from Thy face, O never setting Light? Why has this dismal darkness covered me, the wretched one? Guide me in return to the light of Thy commandments, I pray Thee.*

**T**hou didst shine most splendidly like the sun amid the stars, O martyr, and didst illumine the whole world with thy struggle in the arena with those that were with thee. So we beseech thee, O Euphemia, to enlighten the hearts of those that had been darkened by the earthly passions.

**B**y thy vigilant prayers, still thou the soul-corrupting passions of our hearts, and grant us courage for we are enslaved by the sleep of slothfulness as we lie on the bed of despondency.

**T**he snares of evil fowlers have trapped me like a bird, and I am grievously wounded and held fast in their evil hands. O help me, thou chosen dove of the Lord, and rescue me from their wicked bonds.

*Theotokion: H*aving maternal boldness towards thy Son, O most-pure Lady, reject us not, thy children, we beseech thee, for we Christians have thee alone, as our merciful intercessor before the Master.

### The Canon of St. Olga



## GREATMARTYR EUPHEMIA; BLESSED PRINCESS OLGA.

*Irmos: O Almighty Word of God, send down Thy peace unto all the world, that those sitting in the darkness may be enlightened and illumined with the Light of truth, and may ever glorify Thee.*

**A**s a pure dove with sacred wings of silver, thou didst set upon the palm tree of the virtues, and taking flight, thou didst build thy nest in the pastures of paradise, O blessed princess Olga.

**K**ing Solomon of old once sang of thee as an olive tree that had blossomed in the vineyard of the King, for thou didst plant in the lands of Rus' the sacred grapevine, which brought forth the fruit of repentance in which Christ God rejoices, O blessed princess Olga.

**H**ave pity O Master, on the newly-enlightened people of Rus', and do not give them, nor us, over to the hands of the ungodly because of our iniquities, but through the prayers of our teacher, the blessed princess Olga, deliver us from every peril and danger.

*Theotokion: L*et gladness fall down as rain upon us mortals, O ye clouds, as it is written, for Christ, the Son of God who takes away the sin of the world, became incarnate as a Babe of the Virgin, and hath been given unto us.

### Ode 6

#### The Canon of St. Euphemia

*Irmos: Cleanse me, O Savior, for many are my transgressions, and lead me from the depths of evil, I pray Thee, and I cry: Hear me, O God of my salvation.*

**O** blessed martyr who bravely endured the assaults of wild beasts, deliver me from the invisible beasts which beset me and pitilessly fall upon me because of my weakness.

**T**aking upon thyself the yoke of Christ, thou didst subdue the prideful enemy and crush him beneath thy feet. O martyr of the Lord, Euphemia, rescue me too from the oppressor, for I run to thee for help.

**T**hou didst pass through the gauntlet of cruel torments, O martyr, and didst arrive at the tranquil harbor of Life. Save me too, O Euphemia, for I am floundering on the storm-tossed sea of life's passions.

*Theotokion: D*eliver us from our cruel transgressions by thy prayers, O pure Theotokos, that we may behold the divine radiance of thy Son who ineffably became incarnate of thee.

#### The Canon of St. Olga

*Irmos: Let my prayer be heard in Thy holy and heavenly temple, O Lord, for like Jonah, I cry unto Thee from the depths of the abyss of the sea: Deliver me up from my sins, I entreat Thee, O Lord.*

**B**eing zealous in thy heart for the Holy Spirit, thou didst spurn the false beliefs of thy forebears, O blessed princess Olga, and, seeking Christ, the True God, thou wast shown

to be a child of light and hast now joined chorus with the First Fruits of the saints in heaven.

**T**hou wast the new teacher of the Church in the lands of Rus', going about its cities and villages, destroying graven images and idols, and teaching the people to worship the One true God. Entreat Him now on behalf of those who praise thee.

**O** blessed princess Olga, pray to God for us, thy children, beseeching Him to grant peace to His Church, His priests, and us the faithful, and for the remission of all our sins.

*Theotokion:* **H**aving come know the Only-begotten Son and almighty Word of God through thee, we mortals cry aloud: Rejoice, O blessed Theotokos, thou only hope and mediatrix of our souls.

*Katavasia.*

### **The Kontakion of St. Euphemia, in Tone 4:**

**T**hou didst struggle for the sake of thy Bridegroom, Christ, /  
Both in faith and in martyrdom, O all-praised Euphemia, /  
Now beseech the Mother of God /

That the heresies that beset the Orthodox Church be subdued and put to shame, ///  
As they were by the fathers of the Fourth Council who, by thy prayers, preserved the  
Faith.

*Ikos:* **W**hat more can be said of thy sufferings, of thy teachings, of thy chastity, or thy pure and unblemished life, O Euphemia? For thou didst gladden the Father when thou became the bride of the Son and adorned thyself for the Holy Spirit. Who is able to fully recount all the things concerning thee? Who can describe all the unfading virtues that illumine thee? For, even thy tomb, which shines forth in the East, emits rays of light that illumine and make fragrant all the lands and seas of the earth! And when the scroll with the true confession of the Faith was entrusted to thee by the fathers of the Fourth Council, thou didst miraculously preserve and confirm it, O all-praised martyr of the Lord.

### **Ode 7**

#### **The Canon of St. Euphemia**

*Irmos:* *The Hebrew children in the furnace boldly trampled upon the flame, and they changed the fire into dew as they cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers.*

**T**hou didst quench the flames of idolatry and false teachings with the streams of thy blood, which still flow after thy death, O holy martyr, and I implore thee, extinguish thou the flames that burn in my carnal body with the showers of thy prayers.

**A**las, my wretched soul, why dost thou continue in thy sin and why dost thou not repent? How canst thou hope to stand before the dread Judge on the final Day? Make haste now, and cry out to the Lord: Cleanse me, O my God!

**L**ike the three youths didst thou trample the fire underfoot, O divinely-wise maiden; O deliver me also from the unbearable fire as I flee under thy protection!

*Theotokion:* **H**aving put on the nature of man, the Incarnate God came forth from thy womb, O pure and immaculate Lady. Entreat thou Him that He may save them that honor thee with faith.

### **The Canon of St. Olga**

*Irmos:* *The pious children held the flames of the furnace captive as they were sprinkled, beyond all nature, from above with dew, and with boldness sang: Blessed art Thou seated on the throne of glory in Thy kingdom, O Lord!*

**L**ike Judith of old, thou didst go amongst the idols and broke their chief to pieces, putting the demonic worshippers to shame. Thus, thou didst cleanse the people and teach them how to sing: Blessed art Thou seated on the throne of glory in Thy kingdom, O Lord!

**We** offer thee our songs of praise like a precious diadem for thy precious head on this, the day of thy memorial, O blessed princess Olga, whom Christ hath already crowned with the glory of incorruption. Pray thou, for all thy spiritual flock that they may be delivered from evil as they cry: Blessed art Thou seated on the throne of glory in Thy kingdom, O Lord!

**S**hall we call thee the mountain of Lebanon, for the dew of heaven hath descended on thee? Or shall we call thee the River Pishon that flowed from Eden to water the Garden, for the great Vladimir who enlightened the lands of Rus' came forth from thee? Yet do thou, O princess Olga who art more precious than any jewel, pray for us as we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou seated on the throne of glory in Thy kingdom, O Lord!

*Theotokion:* **We** call thee the golden ark for thou hast saved the world from the mystic flood. Save us now, O Virgin, for unto thee we flee for refuge as we have set our hope on thee, and deliver us from every sin and temptation as we lie in the pit of despair and cry aloud: Blessed art Thou seated on the throne of glory in Thy kingdom, O Lord!

### **Ode 8**

### **The Canon of St. Euphemia**

*Irmos:* *The Chaldean torturer became enraged; he ordered the furnace to be heated sevenfold; but seeing the godly youths saved by a greater might, he sang to the Creator and Redeemer: Bless Him, O ye children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!*

**T**hou didst betroth thyself to the beautiful Word of God who preserved thee incorrupt when thou didst present thyself to Him adorned with thy wounds of torture, O blessed

martyr Euphemia. Therefore, we entreat thee, enable us who are corrupted by the passions, to attain a measure of thy beauty through our sincere repentance, that we may always praise thee as our intercessor.

**T**hy heart became a scroll bearing the Law of God inscribed by His finger, and thou wast entrusted to preserve the scroll bearing the confessions of Orthodoxy inscribed by the holy fathers, O holy and most-honored martyr. Therefore, we pray thee, tear apart the record of my evil deed, and pray that God may record our names in the book of the saved.

**T**hou didst leave this life in accordance with the laws of nature, yet transcending those bounds, thy blood still flows from thy slain body, thereby slaying the enemy of our lives, O honored maiden, and granting health to all the faithful. Therefore, we cry aloud: Raise up my soul that I have slain by sin!

***Theotokion:*** Emulating thee, O most-pure Virgin, the martyr Euphemia kept her body and her soul unblemished, patiently extinguishing the burning of her passions. And having endured the test by many torments, she has joined chorus together with thee, O Virgin, in the mansions of heaven where she rejoices now, forever.

### **The Canon of St. Olga**

***Irmos:*** The three youths, strengthened by the power of the Holy Trinity, brought down the might of the Chaldeans, for nature was wondrously altered and fire was transformed into dew covering them as if with swaddling clothes. O God, who pours forth wisdom into all Thy works, we exalt Thee forever!

**I**nvested with the power of the Holy Spirit and as strong as a lioness, the princess Olga made haste to destroy the idols of the pagans everywhere, to the marvel of all in heaven and on earth: How first, she came to the knowledge of God, and then how, in atonement for the sin of Eve, she sought to lead mankind toward salvation. O God, who pours forth wisdom into all Thy works, we exalt Thee forever!

**T**he Wisdom of God once wrote concerning thee: Behold, thou art My good and comely one, and there is no blemish upon thee! The radiance of thy beauty, and the sweet fragrance of myrrh, marked thy baptism, O princess Olga, whereby Christ perfumed from thee the falsehood of the idols, and thus, by His mercy, brought us out from the stench of demons unto the sweetness of repentance.

**R**emember me, O blessed Olga, in thy prayers before the Lord, for I have been robbed by the enemy and have sinned more than any other. Beseech Christ that He may grant me the forgiveness of all mine offenses which, wretch that I am, I have senselessly committed, that in my repentance I may cry aloud: O God, who pours forth wisdom into all Thy works, we exalt Thee forever!

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

*Theotokion:* **D**isdain not the prayers of thy servants, O Virgin, for we have our boast in thee, and we are thy flock. Make haste to help us and rescue us from all our enemies, and take pity on us who know thee to be the Mother of God and who cry out to thy Son: O God, who pours forth wisdom into all Thy works, we exalt Thee forever!

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

*Katavasia.*

## Ode 9

### The Canon of St. Euphemia

*Irmos:* Every ear trembled with fear at hearing of the ineffable condescension of God: how the Most High of His own will came down even unto the flesh and was made man from a virgin womb. Therefore, we the faithful magnify the Most-pure Theotokos.

**T**he all-praised martyr Euphemia disdained her body and the world so that she might come to behold Thy radiant glory, O Master, and she cried aloud to Thee: O my Bridegroom, Thou Word of the Father, show me Thy beloved countenance and Thy divine beauty which hath so wounded me!

**T**hou didst rise early in the dawn to meet Him, who shone forth from the bosom of the Father before the morning star, and thou didst become full of light, more dazzling than the sun. Therefore, I cry aloud: enlighten me who has become darkened by the evil assaults of the demons, O glorious Euphemia!

**B**ringing to mind the dreadful Day of Judgment I tremble, for the deed which I have done will condemn me to cruel torments. O great martyr, who didst endure bitter torments for the sake of Him whom thou dost love, free me by thy prayers, from such a bitter condemnation.

**O** sweet nightingale Euphemia, thou purest swallow, and most precious turtledove, save us from every grievous circumstance, and vouchsafe that we may attain to the glory of God.

*Theotokion:* **E**nlighten the eyes of my heart, O Theotokos, thou portal of the Light, that I may not fall into the deadly sleep of sin, but that I may with faith, praise and magnify thee, O boast of the angels, forever.

### The Canon of St. Olga

*Irmos:* Mankind was banished from Eden because of our foremother Eve, but our forefather Adam leapt for joy when thou, O Lady who gavest birth for us to Christ, the new Adam in two natures, called and delivered him from the ancient curse. And we, who have our boast in thee, have come to know God because of thee, and therefore, we magnify thee, O Lady.

**B**e glad, O Eve our foremother, for he that deceived thee hath been expelled from Eden and now is trampled down by thine offspring! For behold! Olga the blessed princess hath planted the Tree of Life, the Cross, in Russia, whereby paradise hath been opened

there to all the faithful. And we, rejoicing that we have come to know God because of her, magnify her grandson Vladimir, together with her.

**F**rail by nature as a woman, yet thou didst labor with the strength of a man. By disbursing thy gold to the poor, thou didst learn the Law of Christ, thy Teacher, by which thou didst enlighten the lands of Rus'; and we, rejoicing that we have come to know God because of thee, magnify thee, together with all the martyrs and the saints, O blessed princess Olga.

**O** instructor of the Law and teacher of the Faith of Christ, accept the praise of us, thy servants, and pray to God for us who keep thy blessed memory, that we may be freed from all temptations, misfortunes, grievous sins and sorrows; and deliver us who ceaselessly magnify thee, from the torments that await us, through thy holy prayers.

*Theotokion:* **B**ehold, the tabernacle of the Lord! Behold, the holy mountain of God! Behold, the sealed well-spring of the stream of immortality! Behold, the holy paradise of the new Adam! Behold, the awesome and glorious throne of God! Behold, the all-pure Mother of God, the help of all who praise her!

*Katavasia.*

**The Exapostilarion:** Come, all ye faithful, and let us glorify the wondrous miracle of how the glorious martyr Euphemia confirmed the declaration of the scroll entrusted to her care while lying without life in her tomb, and showing the Orthodox fathers to be victorious in the city of Chalcedon.

**G**lory..., now, and ever...,

*Theotokion:* **O** thou who gavest birth to the transcendent Word in Trinity, the Wisdom of the Father, and the Physician of our souls and bodies, heal the sores and the wounds of my soul, and calm the sorrows of my heart, O Virgin.

**At the Praises, 4 stichera for St. Euphemia, in Tone 3:**

**C**ome all ye faithful /

And let us commemorate the feast of the passion-bearer with devotion and faith; /

Let us thankfully sing to God a song of praise /

For He is truly glorified in the council of His saints; /

Behold, a heroic martyr with the frail nature of a woman /

Hath vanquished the invisible dominion of the power of the enemy; /

Making God's own power perfect in the weakness of the good martyr, /

Through whose supplications He saves our souls. *(twice)*

**D**rawing on Truth from the cup of her own sufferings /



She offered them to the Nourisher of the Church and all the faithful; /  
 Thus, the good and all-praised martyr of Christ, Euphemia /  
 Summons all believers with the voice of wisdom, saying: /  
 Draw ye the drink of the Resurrection from the martyr's cup /  
 And drive away the darkness of unbelief; /  
 Thus, she cleanses the passions and preserves the souls /  
 Of the pious who cry out to Christ: /  
 Thou, who givest us to drink from the Cup of spiritual nourishment, ///  
 O Lord, save our souls.

**C**ome, all ye faithful, who have signed your souls with the blood of Christ /  
 Awaiting the day of deliverance, /  
 And with spiritual gladness, let us draw from the well-spring of the martyr's blood /  
 Which flows for us like a spring of life-giving sufferings of the Savior and His eternal  
glory. /  
 And let us cry out to Him: O Lord who art glorified in the council of Thy saints, ///  
 Through the prayers of Thine own passion-bearing martyr, save our souls.

**Glory..., in Tone 8: (*the composition of Byzantius*)**

**L**et every tongue be moved to praise Euphemia the Great, /  
 Let those of every generation, age, youths, and monastics alike, /  
 Crown the virgin martyr of Christ with praises! /  
 For she showed her courage in the face of the law /  
 And casting her feminine weakness aside /  
 And cast to the ground the tyranny of the enemy /  
 With the pain of her sufferings. /  
 And having been adorned with a divine crown /  
 She now entreats her Bridegroom and God ///  
 That He grant us all His great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder...."***

**B**eholding Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /  
 And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /  
 The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Master, cried aloud: /  
 "Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /  
 How is it that Thou dost endure unjust wounding, /  
 O Physician who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///  
 And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?"



**At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Octoechos, and the following verse and sticheron, in Tone 8:**

*Verse:* **B**less God in the churches, the Lord, from the wellsprings of Israel.

**R**ejoice, O confirmation of the Symbol of the Faith! /  
Rejoice, O bride of Christ and confirmation of the holy fathers' faith! /  
Rejoice, O steadfast guardian of the believers' faith! /  
Rejoice, O living bastion of virginity! /  
Rejoice, O glorious vessel of peace /  
Rejoice, for the blood of healing pours out from thee upon the faithful! /  
Rejoice, O good and all-praised martyr Euphemia!

**Glory..., in Tone 1:**

**T**he assembly of the fathers gathered on this day for the sake of Christ /  
And brought to thee a scroll bearing the articles of the Orthodox Faith /  
Which thou didst receive in thine honored hands, O good Euphemia, /  
Preserving them to this day. /  
Therefore, we, the assembly of the faithful having gathered to honor thy sufferings /  
Cry aloud to thee: /  
Rejoice, O good and all-praised martyr of the Lord, /  
For thou didst combine a woman's frailty with manly strength! /  
Rejoice, O all-praised one, for preserving intact the Orthodox faith /  
Which the holy fathers transmitted to us! ///  
Rejoice, O good Euphemia, for thou dost ever pray for our souls!

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "O all-praised martyrs...."**

**A**s she beheld her Lamb upon the Cross, /  
Bereft of form or comeliness, /  
The unblemished Ewe-lamb, the sovereign Lady, cried lamenting: /  
Woe is me! Where hath Thy beauty fled? /  
Where is Thy splendor, O most Sweet One? ///  
Where is the radiant grace of Thine image, O my most belovèd Son?

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from the Third Ode of the Canon of St. Euphemia.**

**1-4. (From the Octoechos)**

**5.** The All-bountiful Word, beholding thee arrayed in the wounds of thy struggle as if wearing a golden vesture, O maiden, led thee to the place of rejoicing in the heavenly mansions of the bodiless angels.

**6.** Thou didst hasten to receive the sweet-smelling myrrh gushing forth from the All-pure Virgin, pouring divine healing upon all the world. Therefore, I cry out to thee, O Euphemia, dispel the foul passions of my heart.

**7.** Protect and heal my soul that has become diseased with corrupt passions by thy holy prayers before it rushes headlong over the cliff of destruction, and strengthen it confirm it, O all-praised martyr.

**8. Theotokion:** Rejoice, thou who alone gavest birth to the Lord of all! Rejoice, O mediatrix of our life! Rejoice, O mountain overshadowed by the grace of God! Rejoice, O immaculate Lady, thou confirmation of the faithful!

**The Troparion of St. Euphemia, in Tone 4:**

Having loved Christ, thy Bridegroom, /  
And having prepared thy lamp /  
Thou didst shine bright with the virtues /  
O all-praised mother Euphemia. /  
Thou didst receive thy crown of victory from Christ God /  
And went with Him to paradise. /  
By thy prayers, deliver us, who in faith are honoring thy precious memory.

**And the Troparion of St. Olga, in the same Tone:**

Having furnished thy mind with wings of the knowledge of God, /  
Thou didst soar above the visible creation seeking God, the Creator of all. /  
Having found Him, thou wast re-born through the grace of Baptism, /  
And received the gift of immortality in heaven ///  
Where thou dost behold the Tree of Life, O most glorious Olga.

**The Kontakion of St. Euphemia, in Tone 4:**

Thou didst struggle for the sake of thy Bridegroom, Christ, /  
Both in faith and in martyrdom, O all-praised Euphemia, /  
Now beseech the Mother of God /  
That the heresies that beset the Orthodox Church be subdued and put to shame, /  
As they were by the fathers of the Fourth Council who, by thy prayers, preserved the  
Faith.

**The Kontakion of St. Olga, in Tone 2:**

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**T**oday the grace of God is revealed to all /  
For the divinely-wise Olga is glorified. ///  
Through her prayers, O Christ God, grant us the remission of our sins.

**The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:** God is wondrous in His saints, / the God of Israel.  
*Verse:* Bless God in the churches, the Lord, from the wellsprings of Israel.

**The Epistle:** (181) 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

**The Alleluia, in Tone 1:** I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my prayer. *Verse:* And He brought me up out of the pit of misery and from the mire of clay.

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

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

RLE 7/9/2020 SDA  
UPDATED 5/23/2023 SDA