

The 12th Day of October

✙ Commemoration of the New Hieromartyr John (Pommer), Archbishop of Riga

Great Vespers

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

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera, in Tone 4: *“As one valiant among the martyrs...”*

O pure and divine vessel of grace, /
A flowing river of the Word of God /
Filling all with knowledge divine /
By which we sate our thirst today, /
And by whose light we are illumined /
As we call upon thee in faith: /
Be our intercessor until the end, ///
O holy hieromartyr, father John. *(twice)*

As thou art a divine beacon of God, /
Sent by Him to the city of Riga, /
Thou dost burn with the incense of the Spirit, /
Setting the hearts of the faithful upon the way of truth, /
Teaching all to worship in the Orthodox manner, /
The Most Holy Trinity whom thou didst fervently love till the end, ///
O our godly-wise father John. *(twice)*

Since thou art a flowering meadow /
Filled with the beautiful bouquets of divine virtues, /
Thou dost please our nature with the perfume of heaven, /
And dost satisfy the hunger of all the faithful /
Who lovingly and joyfully celebrate thy holy memory /
With the sweet bread baked by the fiery flames ///
O our God-bearing hierarch, father John. *(twice)*

Being truly a courageous soldier of Christ, /
Thou didst burn to ashes the thorns of passions in the days of thy youth, /
Adorning thyself with the pure beauty of thy life, /
And thus, thou didst return to thy native Latvian lands /
As a good and loving pastor, /
For which cause thou didst earn thy martyr’s crown, /
Accepting death in the flames of fire, /
Thus showing to all the faithful the way of salvation, ///
O divinely glorious hierarch, father John. *(twice)*

Glory..., in Tone 5:

O most luminous star of the Latvian lands /
And brilliant candle burning by the grace of God, /
By thine appearance thou dost illuminate the whole universe, /
O all-praised hierarchy, father John, /
Enlightening all the faithful who honor thee. /
And therefore, we all cry ot to thee: /
Rejoice, O most-wise hierarchy! /
Rejoice, O sweet-smelling burnt offering to God! /
Rejoice, O adornment of the new martyrs of Christ! ///
Rejoice, O fervent intercessor for our souls!

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

In the Red Sea of old, /
A type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured; /
There Moses divided the waters, /
Here Gabriel assisted in the miracle; /
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet, /
Here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed. /
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable; /
After Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a virgin. /
O ever-existing God, who appeared as man; ///
O Lord, have mercy on us!

Or the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection Service.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah: (Chapter 43:9-14)

Thus saith the Lord: ^{43:9}“All the nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them. Who will declare these things? Or who will declare to you things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the truth. ¹⁰Be ye My witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. ¹¹I am God, and beside Me there is no Savior. ¹²I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you. Ye are My witnesses, and I am the Lord God, ¹³even from the beginning; and there is none that can

deliver out of My hands. I will work, and who shall turn it back? ¹⁴Thus saith the

Lord God that redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.”

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (Chapter 3:1-9)

^{3:1}But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. ²In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, and their departure is taken for misery, ³and their going from us to be utter destruction; but they are in peace. ⁴For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. ⁵And having been a little chastised they shall be greatly rewarded, for God proved them and found them worthy for Himself. ⁶As gold in the furnace hath

He tried them and received them as a whole burnt offering. ⁷And in the time of their visitation they shall shine and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. ⁸They shall judge the nations and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. ⁹They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth, and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him, for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (5:15-6:3)

^{5:15}The righteous live forevermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. ¹⁶Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand; for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. ¹⁷He shall take to him His zeal for complete armor, and make the creation His weapon for revenge upon his enemies. ¹⁸He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate and indifferent judgment instead of a helmet. ¹⁹He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. ²⁰His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword, and the creation shall fight with him against the unwise. ²¹Then shall the right-aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds,

as from a well-drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark. ²²And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast out as a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. ²³Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away; thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. ^{6:1}Hear therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. ²Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations. ³For power is given to you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Highest, who shall try your works, and search out your counsels.

At the Litya, the stichera of the temple, and these of the Saint, in Tone 6:

Burning with love for God, /

Thou didst spurn the flames surrounding thee, /

O most hon'orable hierarch, father John, /
And as an ember burning with divine grace, /
Thou didst burn to ashes the tinder of faithlessness /
And shut the ravenous mouths of liar, /
And shedding copious rivers of thy blood, ///
Thou didst pour rivers of grace upon all the Church.

Glory..., in Tone 4: *To the melody, "As one valiant among the martyrs..."*

Suffering both fire and torture, /
Thou didst prove thyself invincible, O most wise one, /
And as a candle burning with the grace of the Holy Spirit, /
Thou didst illumine the hearts of all the faithful with grace. /
So now, all generations and the faithful of every land ///
Honor thy glorious mem'ry as they sing the praises of God.

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

Look down, O all-pure Virgin, /
Upon the supplications of thy servants. /
Thou dost crush the savage assaults that beset us, /
And dost calm all our distress; /
Thou art the only steadfast support that we know. /
Suffer us not, O our Lady, to be put to shame, /
We who have found an intercessor in thee and who call upon thee. /
Speedily hearken to the entreaties of those who cry to thee in faith: /
Rejoice, O our Lady, thou help and joy, ///
Protection and salvation of our souls.

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

Many were thy spiritual deeds, /
O holy hierarch, father John. /
When the godless tormentors armed themselves against thee /
And inflicted their bitter tortures upon thee, /
Then wast thou filled with the love of Christ /
And patiently didst thou defeat all their cruelty, /
Thus earning thy martyr's crown in heaven, ///
Where thou dost reign forever with Christ our God.

Verse: Thou hast tried us with fire as silver is tried.

Filled with heavenly wisdom, /
Thou didst sow the good news of the Gospel, /

And thou didst reap an abundant harvest in the Latvian lands, /
Filling it with the bountiful fruit of the virtues, /
Keeping it true to the Orthodox Faith /
For which thou didst so bravely suffer. /
Plant in our hearts the same, O holy hierarch, father John, ///
That we may also harvest the fruit of the love of God.

Verse: We went through fire and water, and Thou didst lead us to place of rest.

O, the ineffable providence of God /
That dwelt in thee, O holy pastor, /
For as a golden vessel filled with the grace of God, /
Thou didst share its bounties freely with all the people. /
Standing now before the throne of the Lord, /
Pray for all who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory, ///
O holy hierarch of Christ, father John.

Glory..., in Tone 1: To the melody, "O glorious wonder...."

O most glorious wonder! /
Thou, O vessel of grace wast burned in the flames, /
And a door became a stairway to heaven. /
For upon it, thou didst worthily suffer for Christ, /
And like Him, thou wast crucified. /
Rejoice, O holy hierarch, father John, /
Thou adornment of all the martyrs /
And hon'able vessel of the Holy Spirit. /
Rejoice, O heir of the kingdom of heaven. ///
Be not thou silent and pray unto the Lord for us.

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

Behold, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: /
Virgin hast thou given birth, /
And after, as before, hast thou remained Virgin; /
For God it was who was born, /
And the nature of man was thereby restored. /
O Mother of God, despise not the supplications of thy servants, /
Which are offered to thee in thy Church; /
But do thou, who hast held in thine arms the compassionate Lord /
Be merciful towards us who serve thee, ///
And pray that our souls may be saved.

After the Blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:

Being filled with the divine grace of godliness, /
O holy hieromartyr John, /
Thou didst shine forth as the good pastor of the Latvian lands, /
And laid low the powers of godlessness. /
Having kindled the ember of God's love in thy mind, /
Courageously didst thou face death by bearing the flames of fire. /
And bearing the name proclaiming the grace of God, /
Thou dost now pour God's grace upon all who call on thy name. /
Therefore, we implore thee to beseech Christ God /
That He may grant the remission of sins ///
To all who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory. *(twice)*

And the Theotokion: "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos..." *(once)*

Matins

At "God is the Lord..." the Troparion of the Saint, 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 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: To the melody, "The choir of angels..."

O glory of the martyrs and confirmation of the hierarchs, /
Thou dost truly bless us with thy sweet-smelling incense /
And sweeten our senses with the fragrance of thy sufferings, /
As we celebrate today thy holy memory, ///
For all who honor thee are blessed by thy love, O holy hierarch, father John.

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

All who flee with love to thy goodness, /
Know thee truly to be the Mother of God, /
Who after giving birth was shown to be Virgin; /
For we sinners have thee as our intercessor, /

And our salvation amidst all perils, ///
O most holy Mother and Virgin!

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3:

Pouring drops of faith /
As if they were drops of myrrh, /
Thou didst extinguish the vanity of the wicked /
And exposed the evil of the faithless. /
For this, thou didst become a whole-burnt oblation /
Sanctifying every part of the world with the grace of God. /
Pray now to Christ God, O holy hierarch, father John, /
That He may grant great mercy to our souls.

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

Awed by the beauty of thy virginity /
And the exceeding radiance of thy purity, /
Gabriel called out unto thee, O Theotokos: /
What worthy hymn of praise can I offer unto thee? /
And by what name shall I call thee? /
I am in doubt and stand in awe of thee. /
Therefore, as commanded, I cry out to thee: ///
Rejoice, O Lady full of grace.

Polieley and Magnification:

We magnify thee, // O holy hieromartyr John, / and we honor thy precious sufferings / which thou didst endure for Christ.

Selected Psalm verses:

God is our refuge and our strength.
Our help in the afflictions that come heavily upon us.

After the Polieley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”*

O holy hierarch, father John, /
Thou didst pass through the flames of torture and a river of tears, /
And the Lord brought thee to rest with all the saints, /
Where thou dost bring to God the prayers of those who venerate thy holy deeds. /
Glory to Him who gave thee strength! /
Glory to Him who granted thee a crown! ///
Glory to Him who through thee grants mercy to all!

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

Accepting the prayers of those who seek refuge under thy protection, /
O most pure Mother of God, ///
Cease not to beseech the Lover of mankind that He may save our souls.

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

Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

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

Gospel: (67) Luke 12:32-40

After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-gospel Sticheron, to the saints, in Tone 6:

O preacher of true piet^y /
Burned to death in the fier^y flames, /
Thou art forever seen in the firmament of heaven /
As a luminous star of the Church /
Shedding light in the dark night of apostasy, /
And illumining the hearts of the faithful with thy divine teachings, ///
O hieromartyr father John, thou intercessor for our souls.

The Canon

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos (*Paraklesis*), with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos, and that of the Saint, with 8 Troparia.

Ode 1

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos, Tone 8

Irmos: *Having crossed the water as though it were dry land and escaped from the wickedness of the Egyptians, the children of Israel cried aloud: Let us sing to our Redeemer and our God.*

Refrain: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Distressed by many temptations, I flee to thee, seeking salvation. O Virgin and Mother of the Word, deliver me from my burdens and afflictions.

The increase of passions troubles me and fills me with great distress. Calm my soul, O Maiden, by the peace of thy Son and God, O all-blameless one.

I implore thee who gavest birth to our Savior and God, O Virgin, to deliver me from perils, for fleeing now unto thee for refuge, I lift up both my soul and my thoughts before thee.

Ailing am I in body and soul; do thou vouchsafe me the divine visitation and thy care, O thou who alone art the Mother of God, for thou art good and the Mother of the Good One.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr, Tone 2

***Irmos:** O come, ye people, let us sing a song to Christ our God, who parted the sea and through it led his people whom He had brought out of the bondage of Egypt, for He hath been glorified!*

***Refrain:** Holy hieromartyr John, pray to God for us!*

Rejoicing now in the mansions of heaven together with all the new martyrs who suffered under godless oppression, grant, I pray, that I may worthily praise thee, O blessed father John.

Thou, O blessed father, an offshoot of the root of piety whose grandfather clove himself to the True Faith, hast shone forth as a confessor of the holy Orthodox Church.

Glory...,

Serving thy first flock with the blessing of thy mentor, Father John of Kronstadt, thou thyself didst become a true shepherd of the flock of Christ, serving them with wisdom and bringing to God those who had gone astray, O glorious one.

Now and ever...,

***Theotokion:** We know that the eternal God, who was before all ages, became incarnate of thee without the action of the flesh, and we confess thee to be truly Theotokos.*

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

Ode 3

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***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 Thou who lovest mankind.*

I have thee as the protection and intercession of my life, O Virgin, Mother of God. Pilot me to thy haven, O giver of blessings, O support of the faithful, O thou only all-praised one.

I pray thee, O Virgin, to dispel the tumult of my soul and the storm of my grief; for thou, O Bride of God, hast given birth to Christ, the Prince of Peace, O only immaculate one.

Pour forth on us from the wealth of thy generosity, O thou who hast brought forth the Benefactor and Cause of all good; for thou canst do all things, O blessed one of God, since thou didst bear Christ, the One mighty in power.

I am tortured by grievous sicknesses and morbid passions. Help thou me, O Virgin, for I know thee, O all-blameless one, to be an inexhaustible treasury of unfailing healing.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

Irmos: Establish us in Thee, O Lord, who by the wood of the Cross didst put sin to death, and didst implant the fear of Thee in our hearts, as we sing praises to Thee.

Thou didst chose to live in the cellar of a church rather than in well-appointed rooms, O father, for thou wouldst rather be a servant in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of sinners.

From thy youth thou didst emulate Christ God, who in the flesh labored in the house of the carpenter Joseph, O father John, and didst thyself never shrink from hard labor, saying that work is the best means of warding off evil.

The faithless howled at thee like dogs, unable to bear thy indictments against them, and they subjected thee to horrendous tortures before finally burning thee to death; but thou, O father John, feared neither the pain of torture nor the flames, for thou didst quench them both.

Theotokion: **T**hou, O Theotokos, gavest birth without knowing man to the Incarnate Word of God, whom the holy hieromartyr John courageously confessed, being a victorious warrior of Christ.

Katavasia: “In thy divine glory, O Theotokos, living and abounding fountain...”

Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1:

Bearing the threats and accusations the godless made against thee /
And the tortures they inflicted on thee, /
Deeply didst thou drink of the cup of martyrdom, /
Suffering for the truth and thy love for the Church. /
Thou wast crucified upon the plank of a door and burned by fire, /
Thus accepting a hieromartyr's crown. /
Therefore, we cry out to thee: ///
By thy prayers save us, O hierarch father John.

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

O Virgin Mother /
Stretch forth thine all-pure hands /
And protect all those who place their hope in thee, ///
Who cry out to thy Son: “Grant unto all thy mercy, O Christ!”

Ode 4

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

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

O Bride of God, who gavest birth to the Lord and Master, still thou the turmoil of my passions and the stormy seas of my sins.

O, bestow thy compassion on me, thy servant, out of the depths of thy tender mercy; for thou didst give birth to the compassionate One, the Savior of all those who praise thee.

While delighting in thy gifts, O immaculate one, we sing a song of thanksgiving to thee, knowing thee to be the Mother of God.

As I lie on the bed of my pain and infirmity, do thou help me, as thou art a lover of goodness, O Theotokos, who alone art Ever-virgin.

Having thee as our staff and hope, and as our salvation's unshakable defense, we are delivered from all adversity, O thou all-praised one.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

***Irmos:** I have heard, O Lord, the news of Thy dispensation, and I have glorified Thee who alone lovest mankind.*

Thy steadfast heart did not waver under the assaults of the godless, O Passion-bearer John, and the burning fervor of thy faith proved mightier than the flames of fire.

Having rebuilt many temples destroyed by the heretics, O father John, thou didst reveal thyself a living temple of the Holy Spirit.

“Not unto us, O Lord — not unto us, but to the glory of Thy name,” thou didst say every day of thy life, O father John, for neither fire, nor sword, nor death, could separate thee from the love of God.

***Theotokion:** Illumine my darkened soul with thy light, O pure Lady, for thou hast given birth to the everlasting Light.*

Ode 5

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** Enlighten us by Thy commandments, O Lord, and by Thine uplifted arm grant us Thy peace, O Lover of mankind.*

Fill my heart with gladness, O pure Lady, with thine incorruptible joy, for thou didst bear the Cause of all joy.

Deliver us from dangers, O pure Theotokos, who didst give birth to Eternal Redemption, and to the Peace that doth pass all understanding.

Dispel the darkness of my sins, O Bride of God, by the radiance of thy splendor for thou didst bear the divine and pre-eternal Light.

Heal, O pure one, the infirmity of my soul, when thou hast deemed me worthy of thy visitation, and grant me health by thy blessed intercessions.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

***Irmos:** O Lord, Bestower of light and Creator of the ages, by the light of Thine ordinances guide Thou us, for we know no other God but Thee.*

The cities of Chernigov and Vologdá were blessed to hear thy teachings, O father, and Minsk, Tambov, and Penza also had thee as their pastor; and Riga received thy most holy relics, O father John, and having committed thy body to flames there, thou hast illuminated all the ends of the earth.

Thou wast truly an example of sobriety and fasting, a true monastic, a good shepherd, and a courageous defender of the Church from the godless enemy, O holy hierarch John.

Thy spiritual strength was invincible before the power of the enemy, O hierarch of Christ, John, and the diabolical plan of a certain woman to entice thee came to nought as thou didst prove thyself innocent and righteous before the Lord.

Theotokion: **The** Ancient of Days descended upon thee like dew upon the fleece, and from thy holy womb came forth the new Adam, the Lover of mankind.

Ode 6

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** I will pour out my prayer before the Lord; I will make known to Him my sorrow, for my soul has been filled with afflictions, and my life has drawn near to hell, and like Jonah I will pray: O God, raise me up from corruption.*

My nature, held by corruption and death, hath He saved out of death and corruption; for unto death hath He submitted Himself. Therefore, O Virgin, do thou intercede with Him who is thy Lord and Son, to deliver me from the wickedness of the enemy.

I know thee as the protection of my life, and a most safe fortress, O Virgin; disperse the horde of temptations, and drive away demonic vexation. Unceasingly I pray to thee: Deliver me from the corruption of passions!

We have acquired thee as a wall of refuge, and the perfect salvation of our souls, and a relief in afflictions, O Maiden, and we ever rejoice in thy light. O Sovereign Lady, do thou also now save us from passions and dangers.

Bedridden, I lie supine with sickness now and there is no healing for my flesh; but to thee, O good one who gavest birth to God, the Savior of the world and the Healer of infirmities, I pray: Raise me up from the corruption of illness.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

Irmos: An abyss of sins has finally encompassed me; but, O Lord, lead my life up from corruption as Thou hast led Joseph.

Thou didst expose the seething hatred of Satan's servants as they burned thee, O holy hierarch John, and thou didst bring thyself as a pure and blameless whole burnt offering unto the Savior of all.

Hierarchs and priests, and all the pious faithful praise thee, O father, who in life served as the pastor of Latvia, gathering all to the Orthodox Church.

Thou didst gird thyself in the simplicity and holiness of the Gospel, O hierarch John, and having thus armed thyself, thou wast revealed as a powerful preacher who destroyed the fortress of heresy.

*Theotokion: A*s thou didst conceive the pure Lamb who taketh away the sin of the world, O immaculate Lady, entreat Him to grant thy servants the remission of all their sins.

Katavasia: "Let us clap our hands in gladness..."

The Kontakion of the Hieromartyr, in Tone 2:

Thou didst accept the divinely inspired confessor John, /
Who endured great torments and wast burned to death, /
As a pure and whole-burnt offering, O Lord, ///
Who alone doth so glorify Thy saints.

Ikos: Enlighten the darkness of my mind, O Christ, as I dare to open my mouth and extol the labors and sufferings of Thy hieromartyr John, who amazed all the visible and invisible powers with his great deeds and sufferings; by protecting the oppressed from the oppressors; by never bowing in fear before the powerful; by exposing the deceit of liars and the godless; and in every way confirming Orthodoxy — who, for all these, was subjected to arrests, slander, oppression, deprivation, and even death by fire, and whom Thou didst glorify, for Thou alone art He who doth so glorify Thy saints.

Ode 7

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

Irmos: The children of Judæa who dwelt of old in Babylon trampled underfoot the flames of the furnace by their faith in the Trinity, as they sang: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Having willed to accomplish our salvation, O Savior, Thou didst dwell in the womb of the Virgin, and didst show her forth unto the world as its intercessor. Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Pray to Him, the Dispenser of mercy whom thou didst bear, O pure Mother, and implore Him to deliver from all transgressions and defilements the souls of those who with faith cry out: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

A treasury of salvation and a fountain of incorruption is she who gave Thee birth; a tower of safety and a gate of repentance hast Thou proved her to those who cry: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Grant healing from physical weakness and spiritual infirmities to those who with love draw near to thy protection, O Virgin Theotokos, for thou gavest birth to Christ our Savior.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

***Irmos:** The three children trampled upon the ungodly command to adore the golden idol on the field of Dura, and besprinkled with dew in the midst of the fire sang: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers.*

By the flames of thy sufferings, O divinely blessèd John, thou didst extinguish the flames of godlessness, and by the copious streams of thy blood thou didst drown the incorporeal enemies, as thou didst sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Thou didst arise as sweet-smelling incense, O wise one, to thy Creator, dispersing the foul stench of deceit, as thou didst cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Thou didst imitate the three youths in the furnace, O blessèd father John, as thou didst cry out amidst the flames: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Theotokion: **T**hou alone art the Mother of God, O most pure Virgin Mother who knewest no wedlock, and therefore we piously sing aloud to thee: Blessèd art thou who gavest birth to God in the flesh.

Ode 8

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** The King of heaven whom the hosts of angels praise, let us praise and exalt throughout all ages.*

Disdain not those who need thy help, O Virgin, and who hymn and supremely exalt thee unto all ages.

Thou healest the infirmity of my soul and the pains of my body, O Virgin, that I may glorify thee, O pure one, unto all ages.

Thou pourest forth a wealth of healing on those who with faith sing praises unto thee,

O Virgin, and who supremely exalt thine ineffable childbearing.

Thou drivest away the assaults of temptations and the attacks of the passions, O Virgin; Wherefore do we sing thee hymns unto all ages.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

***Irmos:** God came down upon the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and changed the flames into dew. Praise the works of the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages.*

Thy pastoral staff, O holy and glorious hierarch, father John, brought many to the Orthodox Church, and we all cry out together with thee: Praise the works of the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages.

Courageously didst thou face the flames of the fire as did the Hebrew children, and like them didst thou cry aloud: Praise the works of the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages.

With firm resolve didst thou prove thyself stronger than the unbearable flames, as if it were not thine own body that was set alight, as thou didst sing to the Lord exalting Him forever.

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

***Theotokion:** A miraculous cloud and pillar of fire led thee to thy heavenly inheritance, O pure Theotokos! Be thou the same to me, O immaculate Virgin, for I wander and am lost in the wilderness.*

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

***Katavasia:** “The Offspring of the Theotokos...”*

***The Magnificat is sung:** “My soul magnifies the Lord...”*

Ode 9

The Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

***Irmos:** Saved through thee, O pure Virgin, we confess thee to be truly Theotokos, and with the choirs of angels we magnify thee.*

O Virgin who didst give birth to Christ, who doth wipe away every tear from every face: turn not away from the torrent of my tears.

O Virgin who didst receive the fullness of joy, and didst banish the grief of sin: fill my heart with joy.

Be thou the haven and protection, the unshakable wall, the refuge, the shelter, and the joy of those who flee to thee, O Virgin.

Illuminate with the rays of thy light, O Virgin, those who piously confess thee to be the Theotokos, and banish from them the darkness of ignorance.

I am brought low by mine afflictions and infirmities, but do thou, O Virgin, heal me, bringing me from illness into health.

The Canon of the Holy Hieromartyr

***Irmos:** God the Word from God, who in His ineffable Wisdom came to renew Adam, grievously fallen through food into corruption, and who was made flesh ineffably for our sakes from the Virgin, do ye faithful magnify in hymns with one accord.*

While preparing them for the storm, thou didst teach thy flock that the wages of the godless and faithless sins of Israel of old in the wilderness will be visited upon the offspring of the New Israel, for God remaineth the same through all ages; and that a pasture of salvation hath been prepared for the faithful through the grace of God.

Today the city of Riga commemorates thy divine sufferings as being her stalwart protector and defender, together with all who, in every city and land, are protected by thy holy prayers.

Thou dost shine down like the sun, O father John, calling the people of God to unity in Christ, illumining all the Church with thy radiance, O wonder-worthy martyr, and giving us solace through the warmth of thy fervent love as we bless thy holy memory.

***Theotokion:** O Virgin, being thyself the gateway of the divine Radiance, enlighten my darkened soul with the immaterial rays of thy divine light, and by thy prayers and those of the holy hieromartyr John, deliver me from the eternal fire, that I may ever sing thy praise with faith and love.*

***Katavasia:** “Let every earth-born exult...”*

Exapostilarion of the Hieromartyr:

Having been tested as gold both by torture and by fire, thou didst accept the grace of heaven from the hand of God. Cease not to pray for us, O holy hieromartyr, father John.
(twice)

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

By thy mighty protection, O pure Lady, preserve us all of us, thy servants unharmed from the attacks of the enemy; for we have thee as our only refuge in our time of need.

At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 8: To the melody, “O most glorious wonder...”

O most glorious wonder! /

The glorious flower of the Latvian lands /

Is perfuming the Church with its sweet-smelling fragrance, /

Giving joy to all who celebrate and sing: /
Rejoice, most-wondrous hierarch! /
Rejoice, our heavenly and divine protector! /
And accept from our unworthy lips /
These songs of praise which we offer to thee ///
O thou, who hast been so glorified by God! *(twice)*

O most glorious wonder! /
The city of Riga rejoices today /
For a new martyr well-pleasing to God hath appeared /
And hath been glorified by the faithful: /
Rejoice, O angel born on earth! /
Rejoice, our fervent intercessor! /
Accept these songs of praise we offer to thee, /
And grant peace to our souls ///
For thou hast been found worthy to obtain the peace of God.

O most glorious wonder! /
On this day our father John was burned to death in this world /
And was crowned with glory in paradise, /
Accepting from us, the faithful, these songs of praise: /
Rejoice, O joy of the heavens! /
Rejoice, O praise of the faithful on earth! /
Pray that we may end our lives in peace and repentance /
And share in thine inheritance of heaven, ///
For thou art the beloved of the bountiful God of mercy.

Glory..., in Tone 1: To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven...”

Thou didst faithfully serve the Word of God, /
And didst offer thyself to Him /
As a sweet-smelling whole burnt offering, /
And wast found worthy of the joys of paradise. /
Therefore, we entreat thee, O holy father John: ///
Ever pray for us who honor thy holy memory.

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

Acccept, O Sovereign Lady /
The prayers of us, thy servants, ///
And deliver us from every danger and necessity.

The Great Doxology, the Troparion of the saint, usual Litanies, and the Dismissal.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from the Third Ode and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the canon of the saint.

1. Thou didst chose to live in the cellar of a church rather than in well-appointed rooms, O father, for thou wouldst rather be a servant in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of sinners.

2. From thy youth thou didst emulate Christ God, who in the flesh labored in the house of the carpenter Joseph, O father John, and didst thyself never shrink from hard labor, saying that work is the best means of warding off evil.

3. The faithless howled at thee like dogs, unable to bear thy indictments against them, and they subjected thee to horrendous tortures before finally burning thee to death; but thou, O father John, feared neither the pain of torture nor the flames, for thou didst quench them both.

4. *Theotokion:* Thou, O Theotokos, gavest birth without knowing man to the Incarnate Word of God, whom the holy hieromartyr John courageously confessed, being a victorious warrior of Christ.

5. Thou didst expose the seething hatred of Satan's servants as they burned thee, O holy hierarch John, and thou didst bring thyself as a pure and blameless whole burnt offering unto the Savior of all.

6. Hierarchs and priests, and all the pious faithful praise thee, O father, who in life served as the pastor of Latvia, gathering all to the Orthodox Church.

7. Thou didst gird thyself in the simplicity and holiness of the Gospel, O hierarch John, and having thus armed thyself, thou wast revealed as a powerful preacher who destroyed the fortress of heresy.

8. *Theotokion:* As thou didst conceive the pure Lamb who taketh away the sin of the world, O immaculate Lady, entreat Him to grant thy servants the remission of all their sins.

The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:

Being filled with the divine grace of godliness; /

O holy hieromartyr John, /

Thou didst shine forth as the good pastor of the Latvian lands, /

And laid low the powers of godlessness. /

Having kindled the ember of God's love in thy mind, /

Courageously didst thou face death by bearing the flames of fire. /
And bearing the name proclaiming the grace of God /
Thou dost now pour God's grace upon all who call on thy name. /
Therefore, we implore thee to beseech Christ God /
That He may grant the remission of sins ///
To all who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory.

The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 2:

Thou, didst accept the divinely inspired confessor John, /
Who endured great torments and wast burned to death, /
As a pure and whole-burnt offering, O Lord, ///
Who alone doth so glorify Thy saints.

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4: Thou hast tried us with fire / as silver is tried.
Verse: We went through fire and water, and Thou didst lead us to a place of rest.

The Epistle: (334) Hebrews 13:7-16

The Alleluia, in Tone 2: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy saints shall rejoice! *Verse:* I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my prayer.

The Gospel: (67) Luke 12:32-40

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