

## The 30<sup>th</sup> Day of December

**Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ; Commemoration of the Virgin Martyr Anysia of Thessalonica; and the Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Zoticus, the Keeper of Orphans.**

*Note: On this day we also celebrate the Commemoration of the Venerable Melanie, which is transferred from December 31 because of the Leavetaking of the Nativity. The Service to St. Zoticus is sung at Compline.*

*Further Note: If this day falls on Sunday, the Service to the Sunday After the Nativity and the Holy Righteous Ones given on 26<sup>th</sup> of December is celebrated and this service to Ss. Anysia and Melanie is celebrated whenever the Superior wishes.*

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,**

**3 stichera of St. Anysia, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”***

**R**adiant with the splendor of virginity /  
Thou didst shine forth in the struggles of martyrdom, O all-laudable martyr, /  
For by refusing to worship the sun up in the sky /  
Thou didst endure thine own slaughter. /  
And dyed in the purple of thy blood /  
Thou didst come to stand before the Sun of glory ///  
Wearing thy crown and illumined by His glorious radiance.

**R**evealing the strength of thy love, O Anysia, /  
Thou didst drench the earth with thy tears of humility /  
And thou didst dry the very footstool of Christ with thy hair /  
In contemplation of His transcendence. /  
And touching His feet in mind, /  
Thou didst enlighten thy soul ///  
With visions of His divine presence.

**H**aving distributed thy wealth and worldly goods /  
And providing for the poor /  
Thou didst betroth thyself to thine eternal Bridegroom, O glorious one, /  
And as a dowry thou didst bring to Him the streams of thy blood /  
And bore the sufferings which thou didst endure. /  
And the Most High brought thee to dwell in His bridal chamber, ///  
O passion-bearing martyr Anysia.

**And 3 stichera of St. Melanie , in the same Tone: *To the melody, “Called from on high....”***

**W**hen thou wast set aflame with divine zeal, O Melanie, /  
 Thou didst soar above all earthly things in thy dispassion and purity, /  
 And putting aside the fleeting and contentious tumult of this world /  
 Thou didst bring thy husband to the True Life with words of devout trust and piety /  
 And together with him thou didst find joy and eternal life. /  
 Now thou art counted among the choirs of angels ///  
 Where thou dost pray to the Master that He may save our souls.

**D**esiring to live the angelic life, O Melanie, /  
 Thou didst come to abhor the delightful things of this world /  
 And having trained thyself in abstinence and purity /  
 Thou didst keep long vigils sleeping only on hard ground; /  
 Thus, thou didst become a most pure vessel of the Holy Spirit /  
 And wast adorned by Him with splendid gifts, O most honored one. /  
 Therefore, thou didst draw multitudes of people towards His divine love ///  
 And didst lead them to the Master, the Savior of our souls.

**T**hou wast adorned with the beauties of the virtues /  
 When thou didst fulfill the saving words of the Savior, /  
 And distributed thy wealth of ten thousand coins of gold /  
 To the wretched and the poor, /  
 In return, thou didst receive the bounties of heaven /  
 And was enriched forever with righteousness, redemption, and incorruption. /  
 Therefore, we honor thy repose, O venerable Melanie, ///  
 And earnestly beseech thee to entreat the Savior that He may enlighten our souls.

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast, in Tone 1:**

**“G**lory to God in the highest!” /  
 We hear today in Bethlēm from the angels, /  
Glory to Him whose good pleasure it was that there be peace on earth. /  
 The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens, /  
 The light has shone upon those in darkness, /  
 And has exalted the lowly who now sing like the angels: ///  
 “Glory to God in the highest!”

**The Aposticha, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O House of Ephratha....”**

**C**hrist shone forth from Jacob like a star /  
 To enlighten the nations with the light of the knowledge of God. ///  
 Let us all now glorify Him!

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**Verse:** **O**ut of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee: the Lord  
hath sworn and will not change His mind.

**R**ejoice, O Bethlēhem, thou city of David! /  
For from thee He who is begotten of the Father without a mother /  
Became incarnate without an earthly father ///  
From the pure Virgin, the divine Maiden!

**Verse:** **T**he Lord said to my Lord: “Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine  
enemies Thy footstool.”

**T**he Word of the Father /  
Having received flesh, has been born on earth /  
And is wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger ///  
Releasing mankind from senseless ignorance.

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast, in Tone 1:**

**B**eholding the man whom He hath created in His own image and likeness /  
Become fallen through the transgression, /  
Jesus descended, bowing the heavens down /  
And without change, He took up His abode in the Virgin’s womb /  
That in her, He might restore the fallen nature of Adam, ///  
Who cries out to Him: Glory to Thine appearance, O my Deliverer and God!

**The Troparion of the Feast:** Thy nativity, O Christ our God....

**At Compline**

**We sing the service to St. Zoticus.**

**The Canon of St. Zoticus, in Tone 8**

**Ode 1**

**Irmos:** *Let us sing a song unto the Lord, who led His people across the Red Sea: for  
He alone is glorified.*

**Refrain:** Holy Martyr Zoticus pray to God for us!

**E**ntreat Christ, that He may enlighten from on high my darkened thoughts, that I may  
worthily praise thee, O venerable saint Zoticus.

**T**hou didst emulate the angels by thy life on earth by rightly spurning the beautiful things  
of this world, O Zoticus, wise in God.

**Glory..., now and ever....**

*Theotokion:* **T**he human race is spiritually uplifted through thee, O Virgin Lady, for through thee God came down to earth without ever leaving heaven.

### **Ode 3**

*Irmos:* *Thou art the strength of those who flee to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the Light to those that sit in darkness; and my Spirit praises Thee.*

**C**ome, all ye pilgrims, and let us joyfully lift up our voices on this day celebrating Zoticus on his radiant festival.

**T**hou didst set up a tent as thy dwelling place like Abraham of old, to welcome there the poor and richly nourished them.

*Theotokion:* **B**y thy birthgiving, O most pure Lady, thou didst cause all storms to cease; the faithful now vanquish all their enemies; and the world is filled with joy.

### **Ode 4**

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

**T**he light-filled festival celebrating the venerable Saint Zoticus summons all to celebrate the Feast of the nativity of Christ.

**B**eing thyself adorned with miracles, thou hast left us adorned with thy wondrous and glorious teachings for us to follow, O all-blessed Zoticus.

*Theotokion:* **W**e have acquired thee as a mercy-seat and an impregnable fortress amid battles, and the faithful bear thy dominion, O all-pure Lady.

### **Ode 5**

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

**O** wondrous Zoticus, thou art the adornment of the virtues and thy precious teachings are for us a divine refuge and the vesture for the naked.

**H**ealing leprosy, O blessed father Zoticus, thou didst turn thy humble home into a hospital rightly healing every infirmity.

*Theotokion:* **G**reat and wondrous is the mystery made manifest in thee, O Ever-virgin Theotokos, for behold! Through thee are we mortals truly reconciled with God.

### Ode 6

***Irmos:** The abyss of sin and the storm of temptations discomfit me, and I am cast into despair; but stretch forth Thy mighty hand to me as Thou didst to Peter, O my helmsman, and save me!*

**W**e the faithful, all know thee to be a temple of the Spirit, O all-glorious Zoticus, for thou didst make thy dwelling, where every ailment is expelled by thy prayers into a magnificent temple of the Lord.

**E**mulating Abraham of old, thou didst render hospitality to strangers on the earth, receiving there the homeless, the naked, and the crippled, the infirm, and the poor.

***Theotokion:** He who revealed the cave to be heaven on earth, O Virgin, hath shown thee to be a heavenly temple surrounded by the angelic choir singing: Glory in the highest to thy Child.*

**The Kathisma Hymn, in Tone 5:** *To the melody, “The co-unoriginate Word....”*

**T**hou didst extinguish the furnace of thy passions, O venerable Zoticus, /  
With the dew of abstinence /  
And thou wast enriched with the gift of healing by God; /  
Thou didst receive into thy house multitudes of the faithful /  
And didst heal them of their pain and drove away the demons tormenting them. ///  
Therefore, we honor thee with gladness and joy.

### Ode 7

***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 hast joined the numbers of the saints and the choirs of angels in heaven, O all-blessed Zoticus and with them thou dost cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou forever, O Lord, God of our fathers.

**B**y the power and grace, O father wise in God, wast thou shown to be the protector of widows and the weak and the father of orphans, as thou dost cry: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers.

***Theotokion:** Destroy thou the power of the barbarians and save thy people; and strengthen thou the faithful rulers who cry out: Blessèd is the Fruit of thy womb, O Lady most pure!*

### Ode 8

***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, and praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!*

**A**ll thy lessons, and thy victories, and the tears shed by pious women, O wise one, have shown that the temple thou hast wrought touches the heights of heaven and have opened to thee the gates of the kingdom, for thou didst cry out with faith: Bless Him, O ye children, and praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!

**T**hou gavest neither sleep to thine eyes nor slumber to thine eyelids, O thou wondrous and beloved spiritual paradise of Christ, until thou didst complete thy God-given task as thou didst cry: Bless Him, O ye children, and praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!

***Theotokion:** Thou didst come to us in the loving-kindness of Thy mercy by becoming man for our salvation from the Virgin, making Thine abode within a cave wrapped in swaddling clothes. Thou hast raised us mortals up from the passions and together we cry aloud: Bless the Lord, O ye priests, and praise Him, O ye people, exalt Him throughout all ages!*

### Ode 9

***Irmos:** The heavens were filled with fear, the ends of the earth were filled with awe, for God revealed Himself in the flesh to men; and thy womb became more spacious than the heavens, so the leaders of men and angels magnify thee, O Theotokos!*

**G**race hath been given thee by God, O father, to heal the infirmities of the poor, the lame and those with withered limbs; and faithfully receiving them as the beloved of Christ, with them thou dost now rejoice abiding forever in the bosom of Abraham.

**T**hou didst sate the hunger of every stranger, naked wanderer and pilgrim who came to thee, O father, and now, together with the patriarchs and all the saints thou dost rejoice where Christ, the treasure of all, is the delight and the eternal hope of those who are saved.

***Theotokion:** Being the Mother of God, thou art the intercessor and haven of those who honor thee and the refuge of all who take refuge in thee, O Virgin; and as thou art the joy of kings, their glory, their worthy crown and confirmation, save thou thy people, O Theotokos!*

**The Stichera of the Martyr, in Tone 6:** *To the melody, "On the third day...."*

**T**hou wast like a new Abraham in character, /

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

For thou didst open the abundance of thy home to all, /  
Giving to those in need and presenting alms to the poor, ///  
O wise father Zoticus,

**C**hrist revealed thee as a haven for the widows and the poor /  
A fervent helper of the afflicted, an advocate for the oppressed, /  
The champion and deliverer of all who came to thee, ///  
O our wise father Zoticus,

**Glory..., of the Martyr, in Tone 6:**

**S**trengthened with the power and adorned with grace /  
Of Him who was born in the cave /  
Thou didst triumph over the passions through fasting and abstinence ///  
And hast won thy crown of victory, O father Zoticus.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the same Tone:**

**T**he Virgin who gave birth to Thee without seed, /  
O Christ our God, /  
Laid Thee in the manger as a newborn babe /  
As the choirs of the angels cried aloud from on high: ///  
Glory to Thee, the Creator and God of all!

**Matins**

**At God is the Lord, the Troparion of the Feast:** “Thy nativity, O Christ our God ...”  
(*thrice*)

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “When the stone had been sealed....”*

**T**he Son who with the Father and the Spirit is everlasting /  
Who before all time is Wisdom and Understanding, /  
Desired to be born of the Virgin for our sakes in these latter times /  
That He might save the world from the tyranny of the enemy. /  
Glory to Thee who wast born in the flesh! /  
Glory to Thee who was thus well pleased! /  
Glory to Thee who hast delivered us by Thy nativity!

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the same Tone: Repeat:** “The Son who with the Father....”

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:** *To the melody “That which*



*was commanded....”*

**L**et the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad /  
 For the Lamb of God has been born on the earth /  
 Granting deliverance to the world. /  
 The Word who is in the bosom of the Father /  
 Has issued forth from the Virgin’s womb without seed, /  
 And the Magi marvel beholding God born in the flesh, /  
 And the shepherds cry out with them: //  
 Glory to Him who alone is truly God!

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the same Tone: To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”**

**T**hou didst come forth from the Virgin’s womb, /  
 O incorrupt and divine Glory, /  
 And didst preserve inviolate her who gave birth to Thee. /  
 Thou didst turn the cave into a wondrous palace; /  
 Thou didst rest in the manger as upon a throne; /  
 Shepherds sang Thee hymns as to the King of all; /  
 And the star showed the Magi their way with a light divine. /  
 Therefore, we all cry out to Thee, O Master Christ our God, ///  
 Send down the remission of sins to those who with faith celebrate Thy divine nativity!

### **The Canon**

**The Canon of the Feast, with 6 Troparia;  
 and two Canons for the Saints, with 8 Troparia.**

### **Ode 1**

#### **The Second Canon of the Feast,<sup>1</sup> in Tone 1,**

*the composition of St. John of Damascus.*

***Irmos:*** *Of old the Master that works wonders saved His people, making the watery waves of the sea into dry land; and now of His own will has He been born from a Maiden, and so He establishes a path for us whereby we may mount to heaven. We glorify Him who in essence is equal to the Father and to mortal men.*

***Refrain:*** Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee!

**P**lainly foreshadowed by the burning bush that was not consumed, a hallowed womb has borne the Word. God is mingled with the form of mortal men, and so He looses the unhappy womb of Eve from the bitter curse of old. We men give Him glory!

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<sup>1</sup> The Second Canon of the Feast is taken from *The Festal Menaion*, by Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware. STS Press, 1990, pp. 270-284.



HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**A** star showed plainly to the Magi the Word that was before the sun, who has come to make transgressions cease, they saw Thee wrapped in swaddling clothes, within a poor and lowly cave, who sharest all our sufferings, and in joy they gazed upon Thee, who art at once both man and Lord!

**Canon of the Martyr Anysia, in Tone 4:**

*the composition of Theophanes.*

***Irmos:** In days of old Israel crossed the depths of the Red Sea with dry-shod feet, and vanquished the power of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms upraised in the form of the Cross.*

***Refrain:** Holy martyr Anysia, pray to God for us!*

**S**end down the light of heaven upon me as I praise thy radiant memory, O most lauded Anysia, who standest now in joy before the Father of lights, and by thy prayers, drive from me the storm of my passions.

**T**hou didst renew the meadow of thy soul through abstinence, O divinely wise maiden, thus producing a harvest by thy martyrdom for the Master Husbandman who gave thee strength and preserved thee, O most wondrous virgin martyr.

**W**ith thy hands, which bestow riches far more precious than corruptible wealth, thou didst receive the richness of life which cannot pass away, a treasure that cannot be taken away, and heavenly glory, O Anysia, thou holy martyr.

***Refrain:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

***Theotokion:** The Creator of all is born for us this day of thee, O thou who knew not wedlock; and He who is wrapped the sea in mist is today wrapped in swaddling clothes. O Ever-virgin Mother!*

**Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie, in Tone 4:**

*the composition of Joseph.*

***Irmos:** I shall open my mouth, and it shall be filled with the Spirit, I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen radiantly keeping festival, and joyfully praising her wonders.*

***Refrain:** Venerable mother Melanie, pray to God for us!*

**I**llumine me by the radiant prayers of the venerable Melanie and cleanse me who am fully darkened by my passions, and inspire me to praise her, O Thou Lover of mankind.

**D**iligently taking up thy cross upon thy shoulder, thou didst follow after Him who voluntarily endured crucifixion for thy sake, and didst keep all of His commandments, O most blessed Melanie.

**Glory....,**

**T**hou didst forsake thy parents' wealth and denied thyself the pleasures of the flesh, O divinely wise one, desiring only the beauty of thy beloved Christ, the one true desire of all who seek the Word.

**Now, and ever...,**

*Theotokion:* **H**e who is rich, maketh Himself poor, enriching me with His divinity, who had wickedly impoverished myself by my intemperance. Behold, He who hath no beginning receives a beginning by being born of the divine Virgin Maiden.

*Katavasia: from the Second Canon of the Nativity of Christ.*

### **Ode 3**

#### **Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* Graciously accept, O Benefactor, the praises of Thy servants, and bring down the despiteful and haughty looks of the enemy. O blessed Lord who seest all, raise us up far above sin and establish Thy singers firm and unshaken upon the foundation of the faith.

**T**he choir of shepherds abiding in the fields was overwhelmed by the strange sight they were counted worthy to behold: for they looked upon the all-blessed Offspring of the all-pure Bride; And they saw also the ranks of bodiless angels, who sang in praise of Christ the King, incarnate without seed.

**H**e who rules the heights of heaven, in His compassion, has become such as we are, born of a Maiden who has not known man. The Word who before was wholly outside matter, in these last times has assumed the material substance of the flesh that so He might draw to Himself fallen Adam, the first-formed man.

#### **Canon of the Martyr Anysia**

*Irmos:* The Church rejoices in Thee, O Christ, and it cries aloud: Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge and confirmation!

**T**hy Creator, desiring thy spiritual beauty, betrothed Himself to thee, a beautiful and blameless bride, O martyr.

**L**oving the sufferings and death of the Dispassionate Lord who died for our sake, O all-honored Anysia, thou didst die a martyr's death.

**S**he who loved Thy Cross, offered herself as a spiritual whole-burnt offering, a pure and perfect sacrifice, to Thee, O God.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou wast the dwelling place of the infinite Creator, O all-pure and joyous Lady, containing Him in the flesh.

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie**

*Irmos:* We glory not in wisdom nor in power, nor yet in riches, but in Thee, the hypostatic Wisdom of the Father, O Christ, for there is none more holy than Thee, O lover of mankind.

**O** glorious Melanie, having denied the base desires thou didst freely and piously give all thy desires solely to the everlasting things that are to come.

**H**aving emulated the life of the bodiless angels, O venerable mother Melanie, thou didst adorn thy senses with earnest prayer, and thyself became radiant through the grace and power of the Spirit.

**T**hou wast an example, whether by word or in silence, to those seeking God, and a confirmation and model for monastics. Therefore, we praise thee, O Melanie, wise in God.

*Theotokion:* **H**e who clothed the heavens with clouds is wrapped in swaddling clothes of His own will, and He is held in the arms of the Virgin, thus drawing us away from the clutches of the enemy.

*Katavasia.*

**After the Third Ode, the Sessional Hymn of St. Anysia, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, "As Thou wast voluntarily crucified...."*

**G**aining dominion over the carnal passions /  
By dyeing a robe for thyself with the royal purple of thy blood /  
Thou didst attain thy crown through thy life-bearing sufferings /  
And art now revealed as an immaculate bride of the King of all. ///  
Deliver us from all misfortunes as we celebrate thy glorious memory, O martyr  
Anysia.

**Glory..., the Sessional Hymn of St. Melanie, in the same Tone:** *To the melody, "Quickly go before..."*

**T**hou didst zealously keep the divine commandments, O venerable Melanie, /  
And distributed thousands of gold coins to the poor; /  
Then thou didst take thy cross upon thy shoulders /  
And with thy husband thou didst faithfully follow after Christ, ///  
Who was crucified in the flesh, our One true God.

**Now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn of the Feast, in the same Tone:** *(and melody)*

**A**ll creation rejoices in godliness /  
For Christ the Lord, the Son of God, is born of the pure Virgin. /

Thus He grants immortality the human race /  
And lifts the ancient curse from our first mother, Eve. ///  
Therefore, we offer Him praise as to our Benefactor.

#### Ode 4 Second Canon of the Feast

*Irmos:* Of old Habakkuk the prophet was counted worthy to behold ineffably the figure and symbol of Christ's birth. And he foretold in song the renewal of mankind. For a young babe, even the Word, has now come forth from the Mountain that is the Virgin, unto the renewal of the peoples.

**O**f Thine own will, O Most High, Thou hast come forth equal to mortal men, taking flesh from the Virgin, to purge the poison of the serpent's head. God by nature, Thou ledest all from the gates that know no sun to the life-giving light.

**O** ye people that before were sunk in corruption, but now have escaped wholly from the perdition of the adversary, lift up your hands and clap them in songs of praise, honoring Christ alone, our Benefactor, who in His compassion is come in our midst.

**O** Virgin, sprung from the root of Jesse, Thou hast passed beyond the boundaries of human nature, for thou hast borne the pre-eternal Word of the Father. According to His good pleasure, by a strange self-emptying, He passed through thy womb, yet kept it sealed.

#### Canon of the Martyr Anysia

*Irmos:* Beholding Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, lifted up upon the Cross, the Church stood rooted in place, and rightly it cried aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**F**ollowing in Thy life-creating footsteps, O Master Christ, Thy handmaid is wounded in her side by a spear as she sings Thy praises, and bravely, she continues on.

**S**hining with the splendors of martyrdom and crowned with the wreath of incorruption, O most laudable martyr Anysia, thou standest now, rejoicing, before Christ thy Bridegroom.

**T**hou didst vanquish with thy martyr's courage the serpent who caused our first mother to stumble and sin; casting him down and showing him to be powerless, thou didst cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

*Theotokion:* **H**e who created the bodiless powers is born of thee today as a man in the body, O Mother of God, and to Him we sing: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

#### Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie

*Irmos:* He who sits in glory on the Throne of divinity, Jesus the True God is come on a swift cloud: with His pure hand He has saved those who cry: Glory to Thy power, O Christ!

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**M**ortifying thy carnal lust with abstinence, O most honorable Melanie, the Life of the living came to abide within thee, and at thy passing from this earth, thou didst make thine abode with Him, delighting now in the heavenly kingdom.

**H**aving distributed thy wealth of gold to the hungry, thou didst not keep it in coffers that molder away forever, but rather, purchased for thee everlasting life.

**T**he richness of thy almsgiving was like a river watering the heart of every pauper, O glorious one, for it washed away the dirt of their poverty; thine alms were like riches that cannot be stolen, and they have purchased for thee the inexhaustible treasure of heaven.

*Theotokion:* **E**ven though I am endowed with reason, I have submitted to lust as an irrational beast and so have joined them. But despise me not, O thou who gave birth to the everlasting Word, for I am perishing!

**Ode 5**

**Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* *From the night of deeds of dark error we watch valiantly, and sing to Thee, O Christ, as to our Benefactor. Come to us and grant us cleansing: make the path easy for us, whereby we may ascend and so attain to glory.*

**T**he Master, by His coming in the flesh, has cut clean through the harsh enmity of the flesh against Him, and has destroyed the might of the murderer of our souls. Uniting the world to the immaterial essences, He has made the Father merciful to His creation.

**T**he people that before walked in darkness this day have seen a light from the beacon on high. The Son offers to God the nations as His inheritance, bestowing grace past telling where sin once flourished more abundantly.

**Canon of the Martyr Anysia**

*Irmos:* *Thou hast come, O Lord, as a light into the world, a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to Thee with faith.*

**K**nowing Thee, O Lord, as the well-spring of salvation, Thy martyr drank the cup of salvation with a sure heart.

**O** passion-bearer and pure offering to Christ the Lord, O sacrifice well-pleasing unto God, pray that we all may be saved!

**H**aving clearly come to the great Light, thou hast thyself become a light that illumines those who celebrate thy holy memory.

*Theotokion:* **W**e have acquired thee as the confirmation and hope for our salvation, and thou art our invincible weapon against the enemy, O Bride of God.

### Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie

*Irmos:* The impious do not perceive Thy glory, O Christ, but we, rising early in the night sing Thy praises, O only-begotten radiance of the Father's glory who lovest mankind.

**T**hou didst record dispassion and unfeigned love upon thy heart with the ink of abstinence, O honorable Melanie, thus utterly blotting out the ugliness of the passions from thy soul.

**T**hou didst receive the radiant gifts of the Holy Spirit, O glorious mother Melanie, and like bright mirror, thou hast reflected them upon the faithful, illumining them with the brilliant splendor of thy life.

**H**aving quenched the burning passions with abstinence, thou didst set thy soul aflame, driving away the darkness of demons and illumining thy life.

*Theotokion:* **T**he Virgin gave birth in the city of Bethlĕhem to Emmanuel, who opened Eden, which of old, was closed to me because of the deception of the serpent that caused my first parents not to abstain from eating the forbidden fruit.

### Ode 6

#### Second Canon of the Feast

*Irmos:* Enclosed in the uttermost depths of the sea, Jonah entreated Thee to come and still the storm, and I, O Christ, pricked to the heart by the dart of the tyrant, call upon Thee, the Slayer of evil, beseeching Thee to come quickly and deliver me from my slothfulness.

**G**od the Word, who was in the beginning with God, seeing our nature powerless to guard unharmed its ancient fellowship with Him, now grants it new strength; abasing Himself, in a second act of fellowship he makes it once again free from the passions.

**F**or our sakes He has come forth from the loins of Abraham, to raise up as His sons those who were sadly fallen into the darkness of sin that bowed them down to the earth; and He that dwells in light has now been pleased, despite His high dignity, to dwell in a manger for the salvation of mankind.

### Canon of the Martyr Anysia

*Irmos:* I will sacrifice to Thee with a voice of praise, O Lord! The Church cries out to Thee, having been cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

**M**anfully displaying courage, the woman martyr Anysia went to battle against the incorporeal foe, and slew him with the sword of long-suffering.

**T**he flow of thy blood dried up the sea of paganism and watered the honored Church of Christ, O boast of the virgins, passion-bearer Anysia.

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**T**hou didst pass over the sea of torment without floundering or sinking as thou hastened to the tranquil havens, where thou dost now enjoy serenity and peace, O all-glorious Anysia.

*Theotokion:* **H**e who created man in His own image, now edifies him, in His great loving-kindness, by clothing Himself wholly in him through thee, O Virgin Mother of God.

**Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie**

*Irmos:* I will sacrifice to Thee.... (same as above)

**T**hou didst pass through the tempest of life without foundering, steered by the hand of Him who created all things by His Word, O venerable mother Melanie, and thus thou has reached the harbor of salvation.

**A**ll the fiery darts of sin were burned up by the sparks of thine ardent love for the Lord of all, and all the malice of the demons was thus utterly destroyed.

**W**hen thou didst undertake the labors of the ascetic life thy mind was deified by the union with the higher, and thou wast separated from the love of the flesh by the hand of the Almighty.

*Theotokion:* **H**e who cannot be contained is today contained with the cave: the Lord born of the Virgin today deifies mankind, and as He is being wrapped in swaddling clothes, He unbinds our transgressions.

*Katavasia.*

**After the Third Ode: The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 3: To the melody "Today the Virgin...."**

**T**oday the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent One, /  
And the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable One! /  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him! /  
The wise men journey with the star; ///  
Since for our sake the eternal God is born as a little child!

**Ikos of the Feast, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**B**ethlĕhem has opened Eden, O come let us see! /  
Let us receive the things of paradise within the cave; /  
We have found nourishment in a secret place; /  
There the unwatered root hath appeared blossoming with forgiveness; /  
There is found the undug well from which David longed to drink; /  
There the Virgin hath brought forth the Child, /



Quenching both Adam's and David's thirst. ///

Therefore let us go to Him where He is born a little Child, yet is God before the ages.

## Ode 7

### Second Canon of the Feast

***Irmos:** Caught and held fast by the love for the King of all, the children despised the impious threats of the tyrant in his boundless fury; and as the terrible fire withdrew before them, they said to the Master: "Blessèd art Thou unto all ages!"*

**T**he seething and roaring furnace, heated sevenfold, in its fury burnt up the servants of the king, but spared the Children: for as the flame encircled them, the Lord, rewarding their godliness, she upon them abundant dew.

**O** Christ our Defender, Thou hast put to shame the adversary of man, using as shield Thine ineffable Incarnation. Taking man's form, Thou hast now bestowed upon him the joy of becoming godlike: for it was in hope of this that of old we fell from on high into the dark depths of the earth.

**T**hou hast overthrown by Thine almighty power the fierce sin that raised its head in wanton pride, and raged with blasphemy throughout the world gone mad. Those whom in times past it dragged down, today Thou hast delivered from its snares, O Benefactor, who of Thine own will hast taken flesh.

### Canon of the Martyr Anysia

***Irmos:** O all-praised Lord, who saved the children in the fire slaying the Chaldeans whom righteousness justly pursued, blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!*

**T**he waves of torture which tormented thee, could not shake the house of thy soul which stood noetically firm as thou didst witness for Christ, O holy martyr, crying aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

**H**aving come to know Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, O martyr Anysia, thou didst refuse to offer sacrifice to the sun up in the sky when commanded to do so, rather thou didst cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

**H**aving dyes for thyself a purple robe in thy sacred blood, thou didst adorn thy head with a crown of victory, and thou standest now, rejoicing, before God, the immortal King of all.

***Theotokion:** **H**e who wrapped the sky in clouds and the earth in mist was born of thy womb, O most pure Mother of God, and now is wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, saving those who know thee to be the Theotokos.*

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie**

*Irmos: O all-praised Lord.... (same as above)*

**B**earing with thy husband the yoke of Christ, O God-bearer Melanie, together you renewed your souls with the plough of prayer, and having cultivated the field of good works, you both now delight forever in glory on high.

**L**ike the olive tree of David's Psalms which was planted in the house of God, thou dost mystically anoint with oil the hearts and faces of those who praise thy struggles with faith, O venerable mother Melanie.

**H**aving extinguished the furnace of the passions with the dew of abstinence, thou hast poured forth a shower of healings by the power of thy prayers, engulfing the onslaughts of the passions of those who honor thee, O Melanie.

*Theotokion:* **A**s the fleece of David's Psalm that received the rain of heaven, O pure Lady, thou dost dry up the torrents of iniquity and dost water the minds of the faithful that had been withered up because of sin.

**Ode 8**

**Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos: The children of the Old Covenant who walked in the fire, yet were not burnt, prefigured the womb of the Maiden that remained sealed, when she gave birth in a manner beyond nature. It was the same grace of God that brought both these wonders to pass a miracle and rouses the people to sing in praise.*

**S**hunning the guilt of its vain attempts to become as God, the whole creation sings, like the three Children, in praise of the eternal Word, who now empties Himself: yet sings with trembling, afraid to bring a prayer unacceptable to God, for it is subject to decay, even though the divine wisdom maintains it ever in being.

**T**hou hast come, O Resurrection of the nations, to bring back the nature of man from its wanderings, leading it from the hills of the wilderness to a pasture rich in flowers. Do Thou destroy the violent strength of the murderer of man, O Thou who in Thy providence hast appeared as man and God.

**Canon of the Martyr Anysia**

*Irmos: Stretching forth his hands, Daniel the prophet closed the mouths of the lions in the pit; and the young lovers of piety, girded with strength, quenched the power of the fire crying out: Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!*

**L**oving the commands of the Almighty above all else, thou didst distribute thy wealth to widows, orphans, paupers, and to all that are in need, O exalted virgin martyr, and sought the honorable cup of martyrdom, and having drained it thou didst quench thy

thirst.

**T**hou didst bring to Christ thy dowry of tears and fasting, the mortification of the passions, the shedding of thy blood, and the piercing of thy side with a spear. Therefore the eternal Lord Himself granted thee a crown and heavenly glory in His incorrupt bridal chamber.

**T**hou dwellest now in the light of heaven together with the bodiless angels and the ranks of virgins, ever celebrating with the martyrs, and gazing upon thy Bridegroom face to face; and partaking in His radiant glory thou dost cry out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Theotokion:*** **B**ehold, the Ruler and King hast risen from the tribe of Judah, for thou, O most pure Lady, hast given birth to Christ, the expectation of the nations, the begotten of the Father before all ages, and to Him we sing: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

### **Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie**

***Irmos:** The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace He who was then prefigured has since been born on earth, and He raises up all creation to sing: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly exalt Him throughout all ages!*

**H**aving made thy heart and thy body a temple for the All Holy Trinity, O right-glorious Melanie, thou didst erect numerous churches in which thou gathered monks and nuns to sing: Praise Christ the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**T**hou didst acquire mercy by distributing as alms thy great wealth to the poor. Thy righteousness abideth forever, as doth the reward which thou didst gain through it. Therefore, we honor thee, O victorious and venerable God-bearing mother Melanie!

**S**hining with wisdom, courage, chastity and godly righteousness, thou didst possess the deep humility that elevated thee to the heights of heaven, and enabled thee to cast down the serpent's pride. Therefore, we honor thee, O truly victorious and venerable mother Melanie.

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

***Theotokion:*** **T**he waves of passions beset me and the abyss of despair engulfs my soul, but do thou rescue me, O most pure Mother, and I shall be saved: for thou gavest birth to the Lord and Savior of all who is now laid in a manger as a babe, He whom we exalt throughout all ages!

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

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

*Katavasia.*

**Ode 9**

**Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* Speech is our natural gift, O Virgin, but it would be easier, free from all danger, to keep silence in fear; so difficult it is to compose songs of love for thee. But do thou, O Mother, give us strength that so we may fulfil our good intent.

**W**e have seen, O pure Mother, the dim figures of the Word and the shades that are past; and now that He has newly appeared from the closed gate, we who are counted worthy to behold the Light of truth, as is meet and right, bless thy womb.

**T**he people that delights in Christ has attained its desire, being counted worthy of the coming of God, and now they humbly pray for the regeneration that gives life. O undefiled Virgin, grant them the grace to worship Christ in His glory.

**Canon of the Martyr Anysia**

*Irmos:* Christ, the Chief cornerstone not cut by human hands, who united two different natures was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin. Therefore, with joy we magnify thee, O Theotokos!

**T**hose who worshipped stones rather than the Creator were unable to bear thy faith in God, O glorious one, and cut thee down with a sword, thus betrothing thee through death to immortality divine.

**T**he city of Thessalonica boasts in thy grave-clothes and sufferings, O virgin martyr, and the Church of the righteous is glad in possessing thy divine spirit.

**W**ith faith, the Magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to Him who was born in Bethlĕhem; and thou, O passion-bearer, brought Him the torrent of thy martyr's blood as thou prays to Him on our behalf.

*Theotokia:* **O** all-pure Theotokos, the Rod has budded forth from the root of Jesse, and thou hast given birth this day to Christ, the Flower of the Godhead. And we magnify Him, the uncontainable God who now lies swaddled as a babe!

**Canon of the Venerable St. Melanie**

*Irmos:* Through weakness, Eve brought about the curse of disobedience, but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, hast budded forth blessing unto the world in the Fruit of thy pregnancy. Therefore, we all magnify thee.

**T**hou didst hasten speedily to the summit of utter perfection, O blessed one, and didst attain to the ranks of the bodiless angels; and having drawn near to thy true Desire, thou didst receive from Him the bounty of His blessings. Therefore, we all call thee blessed, O venerable mother Melanie.

**H**aving labored in fasting and prayer, thou dost now rejoice with the choir of the ascetics; and having first acquired chastity and mortified the passions, thou dost now gaze directly upon the beauty of God, O most blessed and venerable mother Melanie.

**H**aving walked along the narrow path thou didst reach the broad expanse of paradise where is the joy of those who keep festival at the Tree of Life, and art ever mindful of us, who honor thy repose, in thy holy prayers, O most blessed and venerable mother Melanie.

*Theotokion:* **H**e who is triumphantly upborne by the cherubim upon their shoulders now sits in the arms of the pure Maiden. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes as He looses the bonds of our evil deeds, and He who feeds every creature in the world is fed milk as a babe at His Mother's breast.

*Katavasia.*

### **Exapostilarion of the Feast:**

**O**ur Savior, the Dayspring from the east, has visited us from on high, and we who were in darkness and shadow have found the truth: for the Lord is born of the Virgin. *(thrice)*

**The Aposticha, in Tone 6:** *To the melody, "Go on before, ye angelic powers...."*

**B**ehold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world as God /  
As He lies in a manger as a babe, /  
Desiring to deliver the reason-endowed sheep from irrational passions /  
And from the eternal torments of Hades. /  
Let us cry ot to Him: /  
Blessed art Thou who has been born this day, O our God, ///  
Glory to Thee!

*Verse:* **O**ut of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee: the Lord hath sworn and will not change His mind.

**O** Thine ineffable mysteries past our feeble understanding! /  
God is born on earth out of His deep compassion for us, /  
And having covered Himself in the image of a servant /  
That He may deliver out of the bondage of the enemy /  
Those who with faith cry out to Him: /  
Blessèd art Thou who has been born this day, O our God, ///  
Glory to Thee!

*Verse:* **T**he Lord said to my Lord: "Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."

HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR ANYSIA; HOLY MARTYR ZOTICUS; AND THE  
COMMEMORATION OF VENERABLE ST. MELANIE

**L**et us stand reverently in the house of the Lord /  
And with one voice let us sing to Him, /  
Praising His deep compassion and great mercy toward us, /  
At how, in Bethlēhem in Judæa, He condescended to reveal Himself as an infant, /  
And let us cry out to Him: /  
Blessed art Thou who has been born this day, O our God, ///  
Glory to Thee!

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

**O** my Son who art brighter than the sun, /  
How art Thou covered in swaddling clothes? /  
How art Thou fed with my milk, who art the Nourisher of all creation? /  
How art Thou held with hands, who holdest all things in the palm of Thy hand? /  
How can I gaze upon Thee without fear, /  
Upon whom the many-eyed cherubīm dare not gaze? ///  
Exclaimed the Virgin Mother as she held Christ the Babe in her arms.

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from Ode 8 of both Canons of the Feast.**

**1-2.** The daughter of Babylon once led captive from Sion the children of David, whom she had taken with the sword; but now she sends her own children, the Magi bearing gifts, to entreat the Daughter of David in whom God came to dwell. Therefore, in praise, let us sing: Let the whole creation bless the lord and exalt Him above all for ever.

**3.** Sorrow silenced the harps of the children in Sion, for they sang not among strangers; while Christ, shining forth in Bethlēhem, destroys all the error of Babylon and all the music of her instruments. Therefore, in praise let using: Let the whole creation bless the lord and exalt Him above all for ever.

**4.** Babylon despoiled Sion the Queen and took her wealth captive. But Christ by a guiding star drew to Sion the treasures of Babylon, with her kings who gazed upon the stars. Therefore, in praise let using: Let the whole creation bless the lord and exalt Him above all for ever.

**5.** Shunning the guilt of its vain attempts to become as God, the whole creation sings, like the three Children, in praise of the eternal Word, who now empties Himself: yet sings with trembling, afraid to bring a prayer unacceptable to God, for it is subject to decay, even though the divine wisdom maintains it ever in being.

**6.** Thou hast come, O Resurrection of the nations, to bring back the nature of man from its wanderings, leading it from the hills of the wilderness to a pasture rich in flowers.

30 DECEMBER

Do Thou destroy the violent strength of the murderer of man, O Thou who in Thy providence hast appeared as man and God.

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