

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of April <sup>1</sup>



**Commemoration of the Holy and Glorious, Greatmartyr, Victory-Bearer, and Wonderworker, George.**

*Note:* We sing the All-night Vigil if it be a temple dedicated to the Greatmartyr, or the Rector so desires.

### Small Vespers

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

**B**rightly hath the Spring of Truth arrived /  
Renewing all creation by the knowledge of Christ, the Giver of life. /  
And with like brightness and understanding /  
Hath George, the Great Martyr of the Lord ///  
Trampled underfoot the madness of the enemy. *(twice)*

**T**hou didst wage war in defense of the King of the ages /  
Laying low the lawless ranks of the enemy /  
Shining forth with the grace given thee by God /  
As a strong warrior and worker of wonders, /  
O thrice-blessèd martyr George. ///  
Therefore, intercede that our souls may be saved.

**O** thrice-blessèd martyr George, /  
Streams of healing grace flow upon those who come to thee. /  
Thou art a defender of the bodies and souls /  
Of those who faithfully run to the shelter of thy protection, /  
O wonder-worthy martyr, ///  
Adornment of all who have suffered for Christ.

### Glory..., in Tone 6:

**R**ejoice and be glad, /  
Thou soldier of the great King and God, /  
For thy service hast been well-pleasing to Him.  
And despising every earthly thing /  
Thou hast attained eternal life in the heavens. /  
And thy mortal remains drive maladies away from men /  
For Christ, whom thou hast loved hath glorified thee ///  
O blessèd martyr George.

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<sup>1</sup> This service assumes its placement under the Julian (“Old”) Calendar, in which April 24 is the latest possible day for the celebration of Pascha, thus anticipating that it will always fall after the Feast of Feasts.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast: (from the Pentecostarion).**

**At the Aposticha, these stichera,<sup>2</sup> in Tone 4:**

Clap your hands, all ye nations, /  
 Sing to God a song of victory,  
 Be glad, all ye who love the martyrs of the Lord, /  
 For by being lifted high upon the Cross /  
 And by descending low into the tomb /  
 He hath destroyed the power of Hades, /  
 And with Himself He hath raised the dead ///  
 Who cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! to the Risen Christ.

*Verse:* The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Let us praise the Feast of Feasts together, /  
 And glorify Christ our Savior, /  
 For our victorious martyr hath slain the oppressive enemy. /  
 And with one voice let us ceaselessly cry out aloud: ///  
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! to the Risen Christ.

*Verse:* They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Thou didst shine forth, O victorious martyr George, /  
 As one beautiful among the martyrs and glorious amongst the just, /  
 For through thy courage of mind and the wisdom of thy soul /  
 Didst thou defeat the madness of the enemy upon the earth /  
 And together with them in heaven, thou dost ceaselessly cry aloud: ///  
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! to the Life-giver, Christ.

**Glory..., in the same Tone:**

Come, all ye who love the martyrs, /  
 And let us present our song as an offering to Christ, risen from the tomb. /  
 For today hath the Spring of understanding dawned for us /  
 Presenting to us, as a blossoming flower of reason, /  
 The universal commemoration of the great and wise martyr George. /  
 Let us honor him and accept his flowing streams of healing /  
 And let us entreat him to intercede before Christ the Savior ///  
 That peace may be granted for all the inhabited earth and great mercy for our souls.

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<sup>2</sup> In Greek use, these stichera are sung at the Aposticha of Great Vespers.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast:** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

**The Troparion of St. George, in Tone 4:** *(from the Slav Menaion)*

**T**hou didst fight the good fight, O martyr of Christ, /  
By faith denouncing the faithlessness of those who tortured thee; /  
Thou didst present thyself as a well-pleasing sacrifice to God, /  
Receiving from Him thy crown of victory. ///  
By thy prayers, O holy one, may we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

**Or this Troparion, in Tone 4:**

**A**s a liberator of those in chains, /  
A defender of the poor and a physician of the sick, /  
And a great champion of the kings, /  
O Greatmartyr and victory-bearer George, ///  
Intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

**Glory..., now and ever..., the Troparion of the Feast:** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

### **Great Vespers**

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

**At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera.**

**3 stichera of the Feast** *(from the Pentecostarion),*

**And 5 stichera of the Saint, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs...”*

**A**s one valiant among the martyrs, /  
O passion-bearer George, /  
We have gathered on this day to praise thee, /  
For having completed thy course, thou didst keep the Faith, /  
And received from God thy crown of victory. /  
Therefore, beseech Him that those celebrate with faith thine all-precious memory ///  
May be delivered from all danger and corruption.

**T**rusting with steadfast mind and with the boldness of a lion /  
Thou didst voluntarily face thy sufferings, /  
Ignoring thy body for it passes away /  
And wisely caring, instead, for thine incorruptible soul /  
That through thy torments it may be purified like gold seven times in the furnace, ///  
O great and glorious martyr George.

**T**hou didst suffer with the Savior, /  
 O great and glorious martyr George. /  
 And for following Him to thine own voluntarily death /  
 Thou dost co-reign with Him in splendor /  
 Having put on the radiant purple of thine own blood ///  
 Adorned with the scepter of thy deeds and the crown of thy victory forever.

**A**rming thyself with the shield of faith /  
 And the breastplate of righteousness , /  
 Thou didst take up the spear of the Cross,  
 And being invincible against thine enemies /  
 Thou didst vanquish the ranks of the demons. /  
 And abiding now amidst the company of angels /  
 Thou dost sanctify and save the faithful when they cry to thee, ///  
 O Greatmartyr and valiant champion George. /

**We** know thee, O George, the bearer of victory, /  
 As a brilliantly shining sun, /  
 As a radiant star, blazing in the firmament, /  
 As a beautiful pearl of great price, /  
 As a dazzling and precious stone, /  
 As one brave among the martyrs /  
 And as one glorified as the defender of the faithful ///  
 Who rightly celebrate thy memory.

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

**T**hou didst live a life worthy of thy name, O soldier George, /  
 For by bearing the Cross of Christ upon thy shoulder /  
 Thou didst plough the earth made barren by the deception of Satan, /  
 And having uprooted the thorns of idolatry /  
 Thou didst plant the vine of the Orthodox Faith, /  
 From which streams of healing flow upon the faithful throughout the world. /  
 And since thou art a faithful steward of the Trinity ///  
 We beseech thee to pray for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast: (from the Pentecostarion)**

**The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.**

**Three Readings:**

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

<sup>43:9</sup> Thus saith the Lord: “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. <sup>10</sup> Be 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. <sup>11</sup> I am God; and beside Me there is no Savior. <sup>12</sup> I 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, <sup>13</sup> even from the beginning; and there is none that can deliver out of My hands: I will work, and who shall turn it back? <sup>14</sup> Thus saith the Lord God that redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

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

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

He tried them and received them as a burnt offering. <sup>7</sup> And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. <sup>8</sup> They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. <sup>9</sup> They 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 Wisd. of Solomon (Chap. 4:7-15; in Grk usage Ch. 5:15-6:3)**

<sup>4:7</sup> The righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. <sup>8</sup> For old age is not honored for length of time, nor is it measured by number of years; <sup>9</sup> but wisdom is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. <sup>10</sup> There was one who pleased God and was so beloved of Him, that while living among sinners he was taken up. <sup>11</sup> He was caught up lest evil change his under-

standing or guile deceive his soul. <sup>12</sup> For the fascination of wickedness obscures that which is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. <sup>13</sup> Being so perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; <sup>14</sup> for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. <sup>15</sup> Yet this the peoples saw and did not understand, neither did they take such a

thing to heart, that God's grace and            hath care for His elect.  
mercy are upon His holy ones, and He

**At the Litya, the sticheron of the temple and these of the Martyr, in Tone 1: (the composition of Anatolius)**

**T**hrough his glorious passion /  
George, the illustrious martyr, hath gladdened the powers on high, /  
And rejoicing with them now, he moves us the faithful to raise a song to him /  
Who are here assembled to keep his feast. /  
As a servant of Christ, he comes to celebrate with us. /  
Therefore, let us worthily honor him ///  
For he ceaselessly intercedes before God that He grant us His great mercy.

**C**ultivating the better things by thy heroic sufferings /  
Thou didst bring to Christ the best fruits of thy labors, /  
And having established thy love for God on the rock of faith /  
Thou didst reject fear by the power of faith. /  
Thus, O all-praised one, thou didst acquire the heavens by love, /  
Where, having boldness, through thy most pleasing prayers ///  
Ask peace for our souls, the cleansing of sins, and great mercy.

**And this sticheron, in Tone 4:**

**C**ome, all ye assemblies of the faithful, /  
Come, and let us keep the feast! /  
For the radiant memorial of the passion-bearer George has dawned for us today. /  
Shining with all the virtues, he invisibly enlightens our hearts. /  
Therefore, with one accord, let us all cry out to him: /  
Rejoice, O warrior of Christ, the King of all! /  
Rejoice, O radiant joy of the faithful! /  
Rejoice, most rich and all-splendid one! /  
Entreat Christ God, the Master of all for us, O blessèd one, ///  
That he may preserve us from the temptations of the evil one and save our souls.

**Glory..., in Tone 5: (the composition of Theophanes)**

**C**ome, and let us delight in the return of Spring /  
For the Resurrection of Christ hath risen upon the world! /  
Let us come, and let us all rejoice and be glad, /  
For the memorial of the passion-bearer hath risen upon the faithful! /  
Let us come together and celebrate who love the feasts of the Church! /  
For by bravely fighting his tormentors as a valiant warrior /

HOLY GREATMARTYR, WONDERWORKER AND VICTORY-BEARER GEORGE

He put them to shame by willingly following Christ the Savior; /  
He did not spare his earthly vessel of clay, /  
But stripped it bare, and transformed it by his sufferings. /  
Let us all cry out to him: ///  
O George, the passion-bearer, pray that our souls may be saved.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast: (from the Pentecostarion)**

**At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 4: To the melody, "Called from on high..."**

**T**he people praise thy memory with psalms and hymns, /  
O most glorious George, /  
For with radiant majesty hath it shone forth for us /  
Adorned with glory and grace, /  
And all the angels and martyrs with the apostles ceaselessly exalt /  
Thy sufferings and the struggles, O holy martyr, /  
As they glorify Christ God, our Savior, /  
Who hath so glorified thee. ///  
Beseech Him now that He may save and enlighten our souls.

**Verse:** The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**H**aving put on the whole armor of Christ, /  
Thou, O George, hast been found by those who sought thee not. /  
And tortured by fire for the sake of Christ thou didst mock the ungodly savag'ry /  
Of the pagans gods and all their vanity, /  
Crying out to those tormenting thee: /  
"I go to war for Christ my King! /  
And neither beasts nor wheels of torture, nor any device of torture /  
Will ever separate me from the love of Christ my God!" ///  
Entreat Him now to save and enlighten our souls.

**Verse:** They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**S**corning all the instruments of torture /  
And laying aside all fear /  
Thou didst finish thy course with godliness /  
Wearing thy crown, O victorious martyr George, /  
And we crown thy glorious memory with our flowers of praise /  
As we venerate thy precious relics with faith. /  
And as thou standest now before the throne of our Master, Christ our God, ///  
Ceaselessly pray that He save and enlighten our souls.

**Glory..., in the same Tone:** *To the usual melody (the composition of the Studite)*

Let us spiritually praise, O brethren, /  
That living, tempered-steel of endurance,  
George, the glorious martyr who was burnt for the sake of Christ, /  
For he faced dangers and sufferings which tormented his perishable body. /  
But love overcame nature /  
And allowed him, through death, to reach the belovèd One, ///  
Christ God, the Savior of our souls.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast:** *(from the Pentecostarion).*

**After the Blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion of St. George, in Tone 4:**

**Thou** didst fight the good fight, O martyr of Christ, /  
By faith denouncing the faithlessness of those who tortured thee; /  
Thou didst present thyself as a well-pleasing sacrifice to God, /  
Receiving from Him thy crown of victory. ///  
By thy prayers, O holy one, may we receive the forgiveness of our sins. *(twice)*

**And then, in Tone 4:** “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos.... *(once)*”

*And the rest, as usual.*

### **Matins**

**At “God is the Lord...”** the Troparion of the Feast: *(from the Pentecostarion)*  
*(twice)*, “Glory..., *that of the Martyr*; Now and ever...,” *that of the Feast (once)*.

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional hymn from the Pentecostarion, Glory..., now and ever..., the same hymn is repeated.**

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn of the Saint, in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”*

**Behold**, the Spring of Grace hath dawned for us, /  
And the Resurrection of Christ hath illuminated all, /  
And together with it, we celebrate the festive and radiant festival /  
Of the great and valiant martyr, George, /  
Come, all ye faithful, bearing candles burning with faithfulness ///  
And let us celebrate this most bright and glorious day!

**Glory..., another Sessional Hymn the same Tone:** *To the melody, “The choir of angels....”*

**Disdaining** the army on earth, thou didst seek the glory of heaven /



And endured a painful and violent end. /  
So we celebrate thy most precious and holy memory today, ///  
Offering our praises to Christ, O all-blessèd Greatmartyr George.

**Now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion, or this 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 only pure one!

**Polyeley and Magnification:**

**We** magnify thee, // O holy and victorious greatmartyr George / and we honor thy  
precious sufferings / which thou didst endure for Christ.

*Selected Psalm verses:*

**G**od is our refuge and our strength.  
**O**ur help in the afflictions that come heavily upon us.

**After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3:** *To the melody, “The faith divine....”*

**A**flame with fervent love for the Master /  
Courageously didst thou destroy the vanity of idols by confessing Christ at the  
tribunal./  
Therefore, we beseech thee, O glorious and victorious greatmartyr George, /  
To entreat Christ God that he grant our souls great mercy.

**Glory..., another Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Joseph was amazed....”*

**C**ultivating the seed of the divine commandments /  
Thou hast scattered all thy riches among the poor /  
Piously exchanging thine earthly wealth for the glory of Christ /  
And submitting thyself to great torments and struggles. /  
And having thus participated in the passion and suffering of the King /  
Thou dost now share in His Resurrection ///  
And dost now pray to Him on our behalf, O greatmartyr George.

**Now and ever..., of the Sessional Hymn of the Feast: (from the Pentecostarion),  
or this Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**O** immaculate Lady, /  
Who alone art most blessed and most pure /  
Through thee have we come to know the Word of the Father, Christ our God. ///  
Therefore with ceaseless songs of praise, we magnify thee!

**1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone (Song of Ascents), “From my youth....”**

**Prokeimenon in the Tone 4:**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree / and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. *Verse:* They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**L**et every breath....

**Gospel:** (63) Luke 12:2-12

**After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel sticheron, of the Martyr, in Tone 6:**

**T**oday the whole world is illumined by the light of the martyr, /  
And the Church of Christ, adorned with flowers, cries aloud: /  
O holy George, our fervent defender and favorite of Christ, ///  
Always intercede for us, thy servants.

**The Canon**

**We sing the Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos; and two Canons of the Greatmartyr, with 8 Troparia.**

**Ode 1**

**First Canon of the Saint, in Tone 2,**

*the composition of Theophanes.*

*Irmos:* In days of old a mighty force sent the armies of Pharaoh into the deep sea; the Word Incarnate hath destroyed pernicious sin; the most glorious Lord hath been greatly glorified.

**Refrain:** Holy greatmartyr George, pray to God for us!

**S**tanding, most radiant, before the precious throne of the Ruler of all, O crown-bearing martyr George, by thy prayers and supplications preserve those who fervently call upon thee with faith and love.

**T**hou didst prove to be a profitable servant for Christ, O greatmartyr George, for through thy heroic sufferings, the Master of all laid up for thee riches in heaven as a reward for thy courageous and glorious deeds.

**F**irmly and with resolve didst thou set thyself upon the path of war, O most blessed

George, and cast down the vicious ranks of the tormentors, becoming the advocate of all who call upon thee.

**T**hou, O glorious one, hast now come to that blessed life which is within Christ for which thou didst fight, even to the shedding of thy blood. Pray now that we, who faithfully cry out unto thee, may be saved from all adversity, O holy martyr George.

*Refrain:* Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

*Theotokion:* **T**hou art the spiritual paradise, O Mother of God, since thou didst contain within thy womb the divine Word by whom all the heavens and the earth, and all that is within them came to be. Therefore, pray with boldness to Him that we who sing thy praises may be saved.

### **Second Canon of the Saint, Tone 4,**

*the composition of Cosmas.*

*Irmos:* *The people of Israel, having fled across the watery deep of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, beheld the horsemen of the enemy drowned therein, and they cried aloud with joy: let us sing to God, for He hath been glorified!*

**T**hou didst complete thy course of blessed sufferings and attained unto heaven, O crown-bearing martyr George, where thou art revealed as an unblemished flower and a companion to the angels, with whom thou dost joyfully sing: Let us sing to God, for He hath been glorified! *(twice)*

**G**lory...,

**S**till sweating with the pain of thy blessed torments, thy face, O greatmartyr George, glowed with the grace of peace. The bodiless powers were amazed by thy divine sufferings, and now together with them, thou dost joyfully sing: Let us sing to God, for He hath been glorified!

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

*Theotokion:* **T**he blossoming rod of Aaron prefigured thee as the stem of the root of Jesse, O most pure one, for thou didst give to the world the Flower, God incarnate. Cease not to entreat Him on behalf of us all, who flee to thee, O Ever-virgin Mary.

*Katavasia:* *The Irmosi of the Paschal Canon.*

### **Ode 3**

#### **First Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos:* *The Church of the Gentiles was like a desert, barren in its pagan ways, but now it hath blossomed by Thy coming, O Lord; in that same coming is my heart confirmed.*

**O** glorious and blessed martyr resplendent in thy crown of suffering, we piously

entreat thee: pray to our Redeemer and God that He deliver from every need and affliction all who call on thee in faith.

**B**eing enlightened by an abundance of radiant light, O all-wise one, drive the darkness of despair and the gloominess of passions away from all who call on thee in faith.

**M**ade steadfast by hope and love, and strengthened by the power of Christ, thou didst overthrow the deceit of idolatry.

*Theotokion:* **O** all-pure one, thou gavest birth in the flesh to the incorporeal One, who enlightened the ends of the earth and who is equally unoriginate, before all time, with the Father. Therefore, we, the faithful, honor thee as the Mother of God.

### **Second Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos:* *Like a barren woman hath the Church of the Gentiles given birth, and beholding the great assembly of children born of her, we cry out to our wondrous God: Holy art Thou, O Lord!*

**A**fter quietly distributing thy wealth to the poor, O George, and anointing thyself with the oil of love before the contest, didst thou defeat thy tormentor with both thy body and thy soul. *(twice)*

**M**ade steadfast by grace and consumed with the fire of zeal for the sake of Christ, thou wast angered at the deceit of idolatry, O George, and those who sought to interrogate thee, could neither see nor hurt thee.

*Theotokion:* **O** thou who barest in thine arms and feedest at thy breast Him, who feedeth everything that hath breath, O Mother of God, worshipping Him we entreat thee: pray to Him on behalf of us all.

*Katavasia.*

### **The Kontakion from the Pentecostarion and the Ikos.**

**The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:** *To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”*

**F**ighting courageously in the ways of holiness /  
And overthrowing the deceit of impiety /  
Thou didst trample down the arrogance of the enemy; /  
And being kindled by divine zeal /  
Thou didst quench the tyrant’s blasphemy. /  
And in reward for thy torments /  
Thou didst receive thy crown and the power of healing. /  
O great and victorious martyr George, /  
Intercede with Christ our God, ///

To grant remission of sins to those who keep thy holy memory with love.

**Glory....,**

**D**istributing thine earthly wealth to all on earth /  
By thy labors inheriting the riches of heaven, /  
O wise and victorious martyr George. /  
And putting on the breastplate of the precious Cross /  
Thou didst shame the tyrant's arrogance, /  
Granting grace and the gifts of healing by thy prayers  
To all who ask them of thee. /  
O great and victorious martyr George, /  
Intercede with Christ our God, ///  
To grant remission of sins to those who keep thy holy memory with love.

**Now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion.**

#### Ode 4

##### First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* Thou hast come from a Virgin, not as a minister nor an angel, but as the Lord Himself incarnate; to me a human, Thou hast brought salvation; so I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**We** sing the praises of thy struggles, O most blessed George, by which thou hast overthrown the worship of idols thus bringing an end to the beguilements of the demons.

**Still** the tumult of temptations and every evil assault of the demons from those who sing thy praises, O wondrous and worthy soldier of Christ.

**Thou** hast risen at dawn like the morning star, O valiant George, thou confirmation of the faith, chasing away the darkness of error and saving those who sing thy praises.

*Theotokion:* **O** Virgin, thou hast given birth in thy holiness and goodness to Him who is Salvation, thus redeeming mankind and restoring the image that before had fallen.

##### Second Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* I have heard the truly glorious report of Thee, O Christ; how, being God incarnate, Thou didst assume the likeness of mortal man, yet didst remain that which Thou wast before. Wherefore, I glorify Thy power.

**Thy** words of wisdom, which transcended human understanding, struck thine oppressors with awe at thy trial, O greatmartyr George, and Christ God became known by those who knew Him not.

**With** one word of the faith of Christ, O all-wise George, didst thou demolish the absurd fables of the philosophers and denounce the falsehood of their gods, O

champion of the Holy Trinity.

**T**he oppressors who heard thy words were put to shame, O George, for by exposing their gods by preaching Christ God who was crucified in the flesh, thou didst show them to be objects of scorn, and abolished the deceit that destroys the souls of mankind.

*Theotokion:* **W**e glorify thee, O All-pure Lady and Mother of God, the one true Ever-virgin whom Moses, the eye-witness of God, beheld prefigured in the bush that not consumed by fire.

## Ode 5

### First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *O Savior Christ, Thou enlightenment of those who lie in darkness and the salvation of those in despair, rising early unto Thee, O King of the world, may I be enlightened by Thy radiance, for I know no other God than Thee.*

**H**aving a martyr's boldness before the Master, earnestly beseech Him for the salvation of those who sing thy praises, O all-blessèd George, transforming our sick souls by thy prayers, O victorious martyr.

**R**ejoicing as a martyr with the assembly of angels, O crown-bearing George, and being completely instilled with eternal and blessèd glory, do thou rescue from the stormy waves of the sea those who run to thee for protection.

**A**s Thou art merciful, O Christ, deliver us from every necessity, destroying the manifold turmoil of sin and danger, and accept, O Lord, the prayers of Thy servant, George.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou, O Mother of God, didst repay the debt of first mother, Eve, having borne in the flesh, the Savior of the world. Therefore, we all call thee blessèd, O Virgin, alone without blemish and full of grace.

### Second Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *Send down upon us Thine enlightenment, O Lord, and free us from the gloom of transgressions, O Good One, granting us Thy peace.*

**W**restling courageously against diverse deceptions and being naked to the world, O victorious martyr George, thou didst strip away the power of the prince of the world.

**P**rotected by the weapon of the Cross, O valiant George, by the strength of faith and the power of love, thou didst blunt all the sharp edges of the cruel enemy's weaponry.

*Theotokion:* **T**he womb of the virgin put to shame the wisdom of the oppressors, for when a child was bitten on the hand by a deadly viper, the prideful arrogance of him who fell away from God, was trampled beneath the feet of the faithful.

## Ode 6

### First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *Compassed about in the depths of sin, I entreat the unfathomable depth of Thy compassion; bring me out of corruption, O Lord.*

**We** ceaselessly praise thy courageous deeds and valor, which transcend nature and are beyond all understanding, O most blessed martyr George.

**As** thou art now a companion in the ranks of heaven and truly a worthy beholder of the glory of God, save, through thy prayers, those who faithfully honor thee.

**Having** dedicated thyself to God in every way, and receiving from Him the brilliant grace of working miracles, do thou, O all-blessed George, distribute them to all who are in need.

*Theotokion:* **S**ave me, O most pure Lady, for now I flee under thy protection! Shelter me by thy prayers, for as the Mother of the Almighty, thou canst do all things that thou desirest.

### Second Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *Prefiguring Thy three-day burial, the prophet Jonah prayed within the belly of the whale and cried aloud: Deliver us from corruption, O Jesus, Lord of hosts!*

**Thou** didst cry out, O George, with boldness to the Creator: Give not thy servant over to the lawless, but grant me the strength to destroy their arrogance.

**Scorning** the implements of torture, O George, thou didst of thine own will courageously set out upon thy *pódvig*, receiving from Christ God thy crown and the honors of victory.

**Thy** deceitful tormentors marveled as they beheld thy virtuous endurance of torture, O George, and thy prayers to Christ, the Giver of life.

*Theotokion:* **T**he serpent of old made me subject to death by deceiving my first mother Eve; but now, my Creator hath returned me from corruption through thee, O most pure Lady.

*Katavasia.*

### The Kontakion of St. George, in Tone 4:

**G**od hath made thee His own husbandman, /  
For thou hast gathered for thyself the sheaves of virtue; /  
Through thy suffering at the shedding of thy blood didst attain to Christ. /  
And having sown in tears, thou dost now reap with joy, ///  
Through thy prayers, obtain the forgiveness of our sins, O greatmartyr George.

*Ikos:* Desiring to attain to Christ the King, who laid down His life for the life of the world, the great warrior George, made haste to die for Him, for having the divine zeal in his heart, he offered his own self up. Let us then, sing with faith, and praise him as our fervent advocate and glorious servant of Christ, who clearly emulated his own Master and ceaselessly begs Him to grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

## Ode 7

### First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *The profane command of the lawless tyrant made the flames to rise exceedingly, but Christ sent the dew of the Spirit to the godly youths; blessed is He and most glorious!*

**E**mulating thy Master, O glorious martyr, thou didst willingly hasten to the struggle, and having won the victory thou art become the guardian of the Church of Christ preserving her forever by thy prayers.

**A**s an invincible martyr, O most wise George, a warrior through suffering, and an undefeated champion of the Faith, be thou, through thy prayers, an unshakeable fortress protecting those who call upon thee in faith.

**W**isely scattering the divine seed, thou hast made it increase by watering it with the streams of thy blood; and by cultivating it by the labor of thy sufferings, thou hast quenched the insolence of thine oppressors.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou didst remain virgin after giving birth to the Nourisher of all, who through His ineffable compassion and abundant mercy as God, became man. Entreat Him, O most pure Lady for the salvation of us all.

### Second Canon of the Saint

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

**S**eeing the deceit of idolatry prevailing, O George, and burning with fervent zeal, thou didst set out upon the road leading to thy martyrdom crying: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**B**eing a true teacher of the persecuted Faith, O George, thou didst expose the gloominess of deceit crying: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**T**hou didst cut falsehood off at the root thereby cultivating great faith through piety, O George, and rejoicing thou didst cry: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

*Theotokion:* **M**ore exalted than all creation, O Theotokos, thou gavest birth to the Creator and Lord of all. Therefore, we cry out to thee, O blessed one: the Lord is with thee!

*Katavasia.*



## Ode 8

### The First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* In Babylon of old by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in a double way: it burned the Chaldeans while it refreshed the faithful who sang: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!

**C**ause the flood of grievous passions, perils and troubled circumstance, the onset of disease, the attacks of demons and the invasions of enemies to cease, through thy prayers, O crown-bearing martyr George.

**A**s thou art an invincible martyr, a champion of godliness and a victor crowned by God, wholly illumined with purity by the light of the Holy Trinity, by thine intercessions, save those who honor thee, O blessed dweller of paradise.

**B**eautifully adorned with the spiritual crown, and by the diadem and scepter of the Kingdom, and clothed in royal purple dyed red with thine own blood, thou dost reign with the King of hosts, O blessed martyr George.

*Theotokion:* **O** Virgin Mother, thou gavest birth to Him who was timelessly begotten of the Father, the Son who shone forth before the very beginning of time, the Creator of all things visible and invisible. Therefore, all the nations glorify thee, O Theotokos.

### The Second Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* Rejoicing in their condemnation by the tyrant for not worshiping all his abominable gods, but rather the One Living God, the youths disdained the fire, and sprinkled with dew by the angel they sang: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

**S**trengthened by the Holy Spirit thou didst disdain the instruments of torture, for thou would not offer praise to deaf idols made of stone, but only to Christ, faithfully loving Him alone; and thou didst cry out to Him, O George: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

**N**ot seeking the fleeting beauty of this life, but rather, rejoicing in the hope of life divine, thou didst submit thyself to sufferings, O holy martyr George, and paying no heed to thy terrible mutilations, with a steadfast spirit thou didst cry out: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

**S**eeing thy body sawn apart by instruments of bronze, and dismembered limb by limb, while yet alive thou didst cry out: Know ye not, unworthy ones, that these present tortures are for the glory yet to come? So, bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

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

*Theotokion:* **T**he Lord of all who formed thee from the rib of Adam, became incarnate of thy virginity, O Lady, and praising Him we all cry out: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

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

*Katavasia.*

## Ode 9

### The First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *The Son of the eternal Father, God the Lord incarnate of the Virgin, has appeared to us to give light to those in darkness and to gather those who had gone astray; so we magnify thee, O Theotokos*

**C**easelessly entreat the Lord for us who praise thee, O blessed one, for thou art a martyr of Christ; the vanquisher the tyrants; an exorcist of evil spirits; a vigilant guardian of the Church; and the steadfast defender of us all.

**T**he Master of all hath richly rewarded thee for all thy sufferings, O thrice-blessed one, and standing now before Him with the boldness of a martyr, preserve those who joyously honor thee.

Though the earth hath covered thee, the heavens have received thee and have opened the gates of paradise before thee, O passion-bearing martyr. Rejoice and be glad, and by thy prayers, preserve those who faithfully praise thy holy memory.

*Theotokion:* **T**he Tabernacle of the Witness in which lie the tablets of the Law, the jar of manna, and the golden ark, prefigured thee, O all-pure Virgin; for like it, thou didst contain the unoriginate Word incarnate, within thy womb, O Theotokos.

### The Second Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* *Though born of mortal parents, thou gavest birth to the Creator, O most pure Theotokos, our pride and boast. Therefore we magnify thee as the sovereign Lady ruling over all!*

**T**he priests sing hymns, the kings offer praise, and we the people honor thy glorious sufferings, O holy martyr George; therefore, we all call thee blessed! *(twice)*

**A**ll the hosts of heaven glorify thy struggles, for by sacrificing thyself, thou didst make thyself most pleasing to God, O holy martyr George; therefore, we all call thee blessed!

*Theotokion:* **R**ejoice, O most pure Theotokos, our pride and boast, who thyself wast born of mortal parents yet gavest birth to the Maker of all creation! Therefore we magnify thee as the sovereign Lady over all!

*Katavasia:*

**The Exapostilarion of the Saint:**

A joyful Spring hath dawned for us! The divine and radiant Resurrection hath sent us from the earth towards the heavenly Passover; and with it, the splendid memorial of the most glorious martyr George, which we brightly celebrate with joy, shines forth, that we may be found worthy to obtain divine grace from Christ the Savior.

**Glory..., Another Exapostilarion:**

The rays of thy miracles illumine all creation with the brilliance of the Sun, O passion-bearer George, Therefore, celebrating thy holy memory, we praise Him who hath risen from the tomb.

**Now and ever..., the Exapostilarion of the Feast: *(from the Pentecostarion).***

**At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, "Down from the tree..."***

**C**ome, all ye faithful, having just sung the songs of praise /  
Of the great and holy Feast of Feasts, /  
The joyful and glorious Resurrection of Christ, /  
And let us celebrate again /  
And keep the festival of the great and holy martyr George. /  
Let us weave for him a crown of victory /  
From the beautiful flowers of Spring ///  
That through his prayers we may be delivered from all sorrow and sin.

**W**holly hast thou consecrated thyself to Him who gave thee life, /  
O holy and victorious greatmartyr George, /  
As a living, spiritual, and most pure sacrifice, /  
A whole burnt-offering, most pleasing to God. /  
Therefore, thou art become a most fervent intercessor ///  
Rescuing from every storm and tempest those who faithfully sing and call upon thee.

**E**arnestly having sown the seed of the Word with purity of soul, /  
Increasing it by thy labors and sufferings, /  
And wisely storing it in the vaults of heaven, /  
Thou hast found the incorruptible delights of paradise. /  
And now, enjoying them, O most blessèd one, ///  
By thy prayers save those faithfully sing thy praises.

**O** passion-bearer George, thou martyr of Christ, /  
By thy prayers save those assailed by danger and necessity, /  
Delivering them from every peril and harm, /  
Chasing from them cruel sorrows which destroy the soul; /

And ask that mercy and grace may be granted to us, ///  
That being saved by thy prayers, we may joyfully honor thy precious sufferings.

**Glory..., in Tone 2: (in the usual melody)**

**L**et your eyelids nod assent to righteous things, as King Solomon said, /  
For he who looks for the right shall find favor with Christ God. /  
And heeding these words, George, the long-suffering martyr /  
Set out to follow the teachings of the Master. /  
He gave himself over to the lawless torturers /  
And endured the most terrible torments; /  
Finally surrendering his body out of love for the Creator. /  
Then Belial was wounded and put to shame beholding thee perfect and crowned  
with glory. /  
O martyr of Christ, who abidest now in the courts of the Lord with all the hosts  
on high ///  
Intercede before Him that our souls may be saved.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast: (from the Pentecostarion).**

**The Great Doxology.** After the Trisagion prayers through “Our Father...,” the Troparion of the Martyr; Glory..., now and ever...: the Troparion of the Feast (from the Pentecostarion); the usual litanies, the Dismissal, and the First Hour.

**At the Anointing with oil from the lamp before the Icon of the Saint, these stichera, in Tone 2: To the melody, “Down from the tree...”**

**D**isdaining all the things of this life, /  
O thou great light of the Church, /  
Thou didst lead thy soul to love one Master, /  
Courageously committing thyself to boundless torment, /  
And hath received a beautiful crown of victory. /  
Therefore, we beseech thee, O blessed one, /  
To pray for those who praise thee, /  
O victorious greatmartyr George, ///  
That we be delivered from every danger and necessity.

**T**he sorrows and grief, and all the storms of this life, /  
And the turbulence of evil passions, /  
Assail me now, O blessed one, /  
But be thou my help and my protection, /  
And guard me standing by my side. /

For I have come to thee with faith /  
That, being saved, I may ever bless thee, ///  
O great and holy martyr George.

**Glory..., in Tone 4: (to the usual melody)**

**C**ome, all ye assemblies of the faithful,  
And let us keep the sacred festival /  
And the radiant memory of the passion-bearing martyr George, /  
Who, shining with virtue, invisibly enlightens our hearts. /  
Let us sing with one voice and in unity of mind: /  
Rejoice, O warrior of Christ the King of all! /  
Rejoice, O all-radiant boast of the Faith! /  
Rejoice, O splendid and richly-blessèd one! /  
Entreat the Master of all, Christ our God, ///  
That He may preserve us from the temptations of evil and save our souls.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast: (from the Pentecostarion).**

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the designated Ode of the Canon from the Pentecostarion; and 4 from the Third Ode of the First Canon of the Martyr.**

**1.-4. From the designated canon.**

- 5. O** glorious and blessèd martyr resplendent in thy crown of suffering, we piously entreat thee: pray to our Redeemer and God that He deliver from every need and affliction all who call on thee in faith.
- 6. B**eing enlightened by an abundance of radiant light, O all-wise one, drive the darkness of despair and the gloominess of passions away from all who call on thee in faith.
- 7. M**ade steadfast by hope and love, and strengthened by the power of Christ, thou didst overthrow the deceit of idolatry.
- 8. Theotokion: O** all-pure one, thou gavest birth in the flesh to the incorporeal One, who enlightened the ends of the earth and who is equally unoriginate, before all time, with the Father. Therefore, we, the faithful, honor thee as the Mother of God.

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

**T**hou didst fight the good fight, O martyr of Christ, /  
By faith denouncing the faithlessness of those who tortured thee; /  
Thou didst present thyself as a well-pleasing sacrifice to God, /

Receiving from Him thy crown of victory. ///  
By thy prayers, O holy one, may we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

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

God hath made thee His own husbandman, /  
For thou hast gathered for thyself the sheaves of virtue; /  
Through thy suffering at the shedding of thy blood didst attain to Christ. /  
And having sown in tears, thou dost now reap with joy, ///  
Through thy prayers, obtain the forgiveness of our sins, O greatmartyr George.

**The Prokeimenon (from the Pentecostarion); and that of the Martyr, in Tone 7:**  
The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall set his hope on him.

**The Epistle:** (29) Acts 12:1-11

**The Alleluia (from the Pentecostarion); and that of the Martyr, in Tone 4:** The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**The Gospel:** (52) John 15:17-16:2

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

*Note:* Under the Julian (Old) Calendar, the service of Greatmartyr George may fall between Great and Holy Friday and the Thursday of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week after Pascha. If it should fall on Great Friday, Great Saturday, or Pascha itself, the service (stichera, canon, etc.), is sung on Monday of Bright Week, together with the service appointed on that day.

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