

April 23

Great Martyr and Wonderworker George

VESPERS

KATHISMA READING

Blessed is the man... is sung.

AT PSALM 140

In Tone 2

8.

When the myrrhbearers sought you early, O Christ, the Life of all,
bearing myrrh and spices, they wept in love,
but then heard the young man say from the tomb: Stop your lamentations!
Rejoice in your salvation and proclaim to all:
the Lord is risen!

7.

Noble Joseph, you took Christ the king down from the Cross.
He who sits on the throne of the cherubim was borne on your shoulders!
Blessed hands! Happy eyes, which gazed upon His face!
Most honourable arms, that carried God the Word to the tomb.
You laid the Light of the world to rest beneath the earth!
May your memory be eternal!

6.

Now we celebrate the myrrhbearers and blessed Joseph:
this day is the fountain of the life of paradise!
It waters the earth with the showers of grace!
It pours out on us the streams of Christ's resurrection!
All the faithful feast, singing:
glory to You, for you have given the resurrection to all!

In Tone 4

5.

Having gathered together today,
we praise you, O George, as a valiant martyr.
You kept the faith and completed the course
and received from God the crown of victory.
Entreat Him to deliver from tribulations and corruption
those who faithfully observe your precious memory.

4.

Drawing hope from your firmness of mind, O glorious one,
you willingly persevered to martyrdom like a lion.
Scorning the body as something that would wither,
you were wisely concerned with your incorruptible soul.

Covered with wounds by various forms of torture, O George,
like gold you were purified sevenfold.

3.

You suffered martyrdom in behalf of the Saviour, O glorious one,
by a death similar to his voluntary death.

You reign gloriously with Him,
clothed with the resplendent purple robes of your blood,
and you are adorned with the sceptre of your sufferings.
O great-martyr George,
you are resplendent in your crown of victory
throughout all generations.

2.

With faith as your armour and with grace as your shield,
with the cross as your spear, you waged war.
You were invincible in facing the foes, O George.
Like a mighty warrior, you destroyed the camps of the demons.
Now you are dancing joyfully with the angels.
Indeed you defend, sanctify, and save the faithful who invoke you.

1.

We recognize you as a very bright star,
a sun shining in the firmament of the heavens,
a very precious pearl sparkling more than a gem.
O George the conqueror, we glorify you
as a son of the day and a courageous martyr.
We commemorate you as a defender of the faithful in tribulations.

In Tone 6, Glory...

You were true to your name, O warrior George,
for you took the cross of Christ upon your shoulders.
You ploughed well the land made barren by the deceits of the devil;
you rooted out the weeds of idol worship
and planted the vine of the true faith.
Therefore, your healing overflows to the faithful throughout the whole world,
and you have shown yourself to be the righteous gardener of the Trinity.
Pray for peace in the world and salvation for our souls.

In Tone 2, Now...

The myrrhbearers came early to your tomb, O Christ,
seeking You to anoint Your most pure body.
Enlightened by the angel's words they proclaimed joyous things to the apostles:
He has captured death!
Granting the world eternal life and great mercy!

READINGS

Isaiah 43:9-14

Wisdom 3:1-9

Wisdom 4:7-15

LYTIA

In Tone 1

Because of his glorious suffering,
the brilliant warrior George rejoices with the powers above.
At this time we also rejoice with them.
He has inspired the faithful on earth
to observe the feast and to celebrate with them.
Because of that he was considered a servant of Christ.
Let us, therefore, worthily venerate him
who prays unceasingly to the God of all to grant us great mercy.

You produced the best by valiant sufferings
and offered up your fruitful toils, O blessed martyr George.
Strengthening your yearning by faith and scorning fear by hope,
you revealed your love for heaven.
You showed courage to us.
By your fervent prayers ask for peace for our souls,
the cleansing of our sins,
and great mercy for us.

In Tone 4

Come, O assembly of the faithful.
Come, let us celebrate the feast.
Today is manifested the glorious memory of George the martyr.
Sparkling with virtues, he is invisibly illuminating our hearts.
Therefore, let us cry out with one mind:
Rejoice, O warrior of Christ the great king!
Rejoice, O most splendid and rich one!
O most blessed one, in our behalf, implore Christ our God, the Master of all,
that we may be preserved from temptations of the Evil One
and that our souls may be saved.

In Tone 5, Glory...

Come, let us be filled with delight.
Spring has come and brought forth the Resurrection of Christ.
Come, let us be joyful.
The commemoration of the martyr has arrived and illumines the faithful.
Therefore, come, O lovers of feasts;
let us celebrate that mystery.
For, as a good soldier, he courageously overcame and confounded the torturers.
He was an imitator of the passion of Christ the Saviour.

He did not spare his earthen vessel,
but exposed it naked, allowing it to suffer tortures.
Let us cry out to him:
O Martyr, pray that our souls may be saved.

In Tone 1, Now...

My Creator and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,
came forth from your womb, O all-pure One.
Being en clothed with me, He freed me from the ancient curse of Adam.
Therefore, O all-pure One, the true Mother of God and Virgin,
to you do we cry out unceasingly the angel's greeting:
Rejoice! Rejoice, O Lady,
protection and salvation of our souls.

APOSTICHA

In Tone 4

With psalms and hymns
the people are praising your glorious memory, O George;
for you shone forth as a beautiful bearer of the light,
and you are radiant with grace.
Therefore, the angelic ranks now dance with joy.
The martyrs and apostles are praising the struggles
of the suffering ones, O Martyr.
They are exalting the Saviour, Christ our God, who glorified you.
Implore Him to save and illumine our souls.

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

You have put on the shield of Christ, O George,
and you were not found by those who were hunting you.
Inflamed with the fire of Christ,
you scoffed at the barbarity of the meaningless idols.
You exclaimed to Christ, to the warrior king, and to the transgressors:
Neither wild beasts nor wheels of torture,
neither fire nor sword shall ever separate me from the love of Christ my God.
Implore Him now to save and enlighten our souls.

Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courtyard of our God.

O crown-bearer George,
you scorned the various instruments of torture and the terrifying weapons.
Therefore, we crown your resplendent memory with flowers of hymns,
and we kiss your precious relics with faith.
Since you stand before the Master's throne,
pray unceasingly that He save and enlighten our souls.

In Tone 4, Glory...

Let us spiritually praise the great-martyr George,
the living steel of endurance.
He was tried by fire and branding irons
and sharp instruments of torture for the sake of Christ.
These various tortures ravaged the body which is perishable by nature;
but love conquered nature,
persuading the beloved to make his way through death to Christ our God,
the Saviour of our souls.

In Tone 2, Now...

Women disciples, why do you open the myrrh with tears?
The stone is gone; the tomb is empty!
Behold corruption destroyed by life!
The seals witness that the guards of the godless have watched in vain!
Mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God.
Hell is wailing.
Go with joy and proclaim to the apostles:
Christ has slain death, the First-Born of the dead!
He awaits you in Galilee!

TROPARIA

In Tone 4

O victorious great-martyr George,* as a liberator of captives and helper of the poor,* physician of the sick,* and champion of kings, entreat Christ God to save our souls. (twice)

In Tone 1

Hail, Mother of God, Virgin Mary full of grace! The Lord is with you. * Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. * For you have borne Christ, the Saviour and Deliverer of our souls.