

November 12

The Holy Priest-Martyr Josaphat, Archbishop of Polotsk

GREAT VESPERS FOR ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

Beginning of Vespers with Litiya: Glory be to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, now and ever and for ages of ages. Amen.

“Blessed is the man” is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 1

8. O Josaphat, you are worthy of glory.
Your sacred vestment was stained with your martyr’s blood,
and now you have entered into the Holy of Holies
with the Lord who rejoices for you.
From Him you have received victory for your labours,
an eternal crown, everlasting beauty, and the life of Paradise.
O great martyr Josaphat,
now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches
and great mercy to our souls.

7. O Josaphat, you are worthy of glory.
Your sacred vestment was stained with your martyr’s blood,
and now you have entered into the Holy of Holies
with the Lord who rejoices for you.
From Him you have received victory for your labours,
an eternal crown, everlasting beauty, and the life of Paradise.
O great martyr Josaphat,
now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches
and great mercy to our souls.

6. O all-precious orator,
you first offered yourself as an unbloody sacrifice to God.
Like the unblemished fruit, your holy work was an acceptable sacrifice.
Then you brought yourself to Christ, by means of your blood,
as a true and great martyr.
Now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches
and great mercy to our souls.

5. O all-precious orator,
you first offered yourself as an unbloody sacrifice to God.
Like the unblemished fruit, your holy work was an acceptable sacrifice.
Then you brought yourself to Christ, by means of your blood,

as a true and great martyr.

Now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches and great mercy to our souls.

4. You destroyed the vanity of the dissenters by your sanctifying words.

You also strengthened the faith of the weakened hearts.

You have entered into the eternal life, having suffered for the cause of unity.

You were a witness to the Lord, O great martyr Josaphat.

Now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches and great mercy to our souls.

3. Your sacred vestments were stained crimson by your blood, O holy one.

So you received from Christ a two-fold crown, O generous father.

You also rejoice with the angels in heaven

as you stand in the presence of the Blessed Trinity.

Now also pray that God may grant unity and peace to our Churches and great mercy to our souls.

2. O great martyr Josaphat, in chastity you yearned for an honourable life.

You worshiped Christ the Almighty, and you led the people into union with Him by your precious words and by his grace.

You washed yourself with the blood of martyrdom, O blessed one of God.

You have entered into eternity.

Now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches and great mercy to our souls.

1. In thought you ascended into the unsetting cloud of the ineffable Light.

You, a great martyr and shepherd, knew the ineffable mysteries of Christ.

As a martyr you were enlightened, and as a shepherd you were mystically taught.

Because of that, you also received two crowns from the glory on high.

Now also pray that He may grant unity and peace to our Churches and great mercy to our souls.

In Tone 6, Glory...

O great martyr Josaphat, you were a true priest until the time of your death.

As a priest you were a minister of the ineffable mysteries of Christ.

You poured out your blood as did Christ our God, presenting yourself as an acceptable sacrifice.

Because of that, you are confident in his presence.

Pray for the faith of those who observe and venerate your all-holy memory,

so that your flock and the whole world
may be delivered from all dangers, invasions, enemies, and sieges.

Now...

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?
Who would not sing a hymn of praise
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?
The Only-begotten Son Himself,
begotten of the Father before all ages,
was made flesh out of you in a manner
that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!
And for our sake, He Who is God by nature
assumed the nature of a man.
He is not divided into two persons;
He is understood to have two natures
without commixion or confusion.
O noble and blessed Woman,
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

Prokimenon

of the day

Readings

Proverbs 3:13-16; 8:35, 4-6, 8, 9

Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
and the man who gets understanding,
for the gain from it is better than gain from silver
and its profit better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
For he who finds me finds life
and obtains favour from the LORD;
To you, O men, I call,
and my cry is to the sons of men.
O simple ones, learn prudence;
O foolish men, pay attention.
Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;
All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
They are all straight to him who understands
and right to those who find knowledge.

Wisdom 4:7, 16-20; 5:1-7

The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. The righteous man who had died will condemn the ungodly who are living, and youth that is quickly perfected will condemn the prolonged old age of the unrighteous man. For they will see the end of the wise man, and will not understand what the Lord purposed for him, and for what he kept him safe. They will see, and will have contempt for him, but the Lord will laugh them to scorn. After this they will become dishonoured corpses, and an outrage among the dead for ever; because he will dash them speechless to the ground, and shake them from the foundations; they will be left utterly dry and barren, and they will suffer anguish, and the memory of them will perish. They will come with dread when their sins are reckoned up, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face. Then the righteous man will stand with great confidence in the presence of those who have afflicted him, and those who make light of his labours. When they see him, they will be shaken with dreadful fear, and they will be amazed at his unexpected salvation. They will speak to one another in repentance, and in anguish of spirit they will groan, and say, "This is the man whom we once held in derision and made a byword of reproach -- we fools! We thought that his life was madness and that his end was without honour. Why has he been numbered among the sons of God? And why is his lot among the saints? So it was we who strayed from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. We took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction, and we journeyed through trackless deserts, but the way of the Lord we have not known.

Wisdom 5:15-6:3

The righteous live for ever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with his right hand he will cover them, and with his arm he will shield them. The Lord will take his zeal as his whole armour, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against the madmen. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap to the target as from a well-drawn bow of clouds, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High, who will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

Litiya

In Tone 1

Come, let us all celebrate in spirit with heavenly priestly words
the memory of the great martyr Josaphat.
Because he cleared the thorns of division
and with abundant virtue through the fruit of the sanctuary,
he planted the teachings of salvation for our souls.

As a priest you acted according to the divine gospel.
You sealed the divine teachings with your blood
at the hands of the flock in disunity, O great martyr Josaphat.
You dried up the river of demons, and you went up into heaven
as a conqueror receiving the crown of victory.

O great martyr Josaphat,
the Eastern Church possessed you and your priestly works.
Now you protect her in an unshakeable manner from hostile wolves
as she preaches about your courage and extols you, O blessed one.

In Tone 5, Glory...

The Church celebrates your light-bearing feast,
and she rejoices, O great martyr Josaphat.
She faithfully venerates you.
As a shepherd do not cease to bless her.
Pray for the salvation of all.

Now...

O most pure Virgin,
you are the temple, the gate, the palace, and the throne of the king.
Christ, our Redeemer and Lord,
appeared through you to those who slumbered in darkness.
For He, as the Sun of Righteousness,
wished to enlighten those whom He created with his own hands
according to his own image.
Therefore, O Lady, whom we always praise in song,
we beseech you to intercede with Christ for the salvation of our souls,
for as his mother you can approach Him with the greatest confidence.

Aposticha

In Tone 4

Like a very bright sun
you shone upon the firmament of the Church.
By the splendour of your words, by your God-inspired teaching,
and by your life equal to that of an angel,
you enlightened the souls that were darkened by the wickedness of the enemy.
You led back onto the way of truth those who had strayed.
Because of that, we rejoice today
and observe your light-bearing and holy memory.

Your priests shall be clothed with holiness; your faithful shall ring out their joy.

O great martyr Josaphat,
you were equal in honour to the apostles.
You received an understanding like theirs.
You did not fear the cruelty of malicious torturers,
but manfully and courageously you preached the unity of the faith.
You suffered many varied wounds and torments.
And now you have received a great reward for your long-suffering
from the Source and Judge of victory, Christ our God.
Implore Him for all who in faith venerate your holy memory.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

O great martyr Josaphat,
offering up precious service and a spotless sacrifice to the Master, Christ our God,
you offered yourself as a perfect holocaust to Him.
You courageously suffered out of love for Him by spilling your blood.
As a true shepherd and follower of Christ,
you did not cease to cry out:
O Father, protect everyone in your name.
All-blessed Josaphat, now pray that the Churches and all people be reunited
and that we may be saved.

Glory...

Your good deeds are radiant like the sun upon heaven and earth,
O conciliator of Christ, all-blessed great martyr Josaphat.
You rightly preached to us the true and spotless faith of Christ.
For this, as a good shepherd, you also laid down your life,
following the wellspring of shepherds, Christ our God.
O all-blessed sanctifier, O God-bearer,
Implore that all may be saved
who lovingly celebrate the precious memory of your sufferings.

Now...

O most pure Virgin, hear the petitions of your servants.
Remove the burdens which oppress us
and deliver us from our sorrows;
for you are the only firm and constant support on whom we rely.
O Mother of God, never permit us who call upon you
to be overwhelmed by our cares.
Hasten to fulfil the supplications of all who, in faith, cry out to you:
Rejoice, O Lady, helper of all mankind,
the joy, the refuge, and the salvation of our souls.

Troparia

In Tone 4

You appeared as a radiant light,* O priest-martyr Josaphat.* Like the Good Shepherd, you lay down your life for your sheep;* killed by enemies who loved division, you entered the holy of holies to dwell with the bodiless powers.* Therefore we pray you, long-suffering saint:* beg Christ, the Prince of Shepherds,** to number us among the sheep at His right hand and to save our souls. (*twice*)

In Tone 1

Rejoice, Virgin Mary, Mother of God, full of grace,* the Lord is with you.* Blessed are you among women* and blessed is the fruit of your womb,** for you have given birth to Christ, the Saviour and Deliverer of our souls.

Note:

Texts of hymnography taken from a variety of sources.

Scripture used from the [Revised Standard Version](#).

Troparia taken from *The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship* ([Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University](#): Ottawa, 2004).