**APRIL 1**

**Sunday evening Vespers/Repose of St Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas *(transferred from March 31)***

***[Music for the stichera from the Triodion from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at*** [***www.oca.org***](http://www.oca.org)***]***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 8**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (O Lord, though you stood)*

O Lord, Thou didst willingly stretch out Thy hands on the Cross;

make us ready for its adoration with reverent hearts,

radiant through fasting, prayer, abstinence and works of charity;//

for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind!

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

(Repeat: “O Lord, Thou didst willingly …” )

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Blot out the multitude of my sins by the great abundance of Thy mercies,

O most compassionate Lord!

Make me worthy to behold Thy Cross,

and to embrace it with a pure soul in this week of abstinence,//

for Thou art the Lover of mankind!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 3** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (Oh, great wonder)*

Oh, great wonder!

I behold the Tree on which Christ was crucified in the flesh.

The world venerates it and, enlightened, cries out:

“How great is the power of the Cross!

When the demons behold it, they are burned.

By its sign, they are consumed with flames.”

Therefore, O pure Tree, I bless thee;

I honor and adore thee with fear,//

glorifying God, Who granted me unending life through thee

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 2** *(St Innocent)*

O Holy Father Innocent,

like the Apostles long ago,

thou didst accept the Lord’s command to baptize all peoples in His name;

thou didst leave thy homeland to proclaim His truth

to an island people sitting in darkness.//

With them lead us down the path to the Kingdom of Heaven!

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Like the betrothed of the Theotokos,

thou didst work with thy hands in humility;

and through thee, like Constantine, churches blossomed throughout the

land,

built for the feeding of the flock//

that thou didst gather and lead into the Kingdom of Heaven.

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord.*

Like the Holy Brothers\* from Thessalonica,

who brought illumination to thy forefathers,

thou didst labor to bring this same inheritance

to untaught peoples placed in thy care;

that, worshipping the One True God in words of many tongues,//

they might, by the Word, be led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 2** *(With what crowns)*

With what crowns of praise shall we adorn the wise Apostle of our land?

With the radiant Gospel of salvation he came bodily to enlighten an island

people,

who sat in darkness and ignorance;

by planting there the Orthodox Faith,//

he brought to them great mercy from Christ our God.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

With what songs of praise shall we now bless Innocent, our Teacher wise

in God?

As the first archpastor to rule our land,

by word and deed he taught us the way we must go

to attain the glorious Kingdom, won and promised to us by Christ,//

from Whom we have great mercy.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.*

With what songs of virtue shall we exalt our Father Innocent?

By his word he brought heathen worship to an end

in the distant reaches of Alaska and Siberia.

Then, like the Holy Apostle Paul before him,

bound in chains of obedience to the will of God,

he brought comfort to believers in the ancient capital,

who through his prayers and exhortations//

receive great mercy from Christ our God.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion, for St Innocent)*

Truly the Lord guided thee along paths of many labors,

through many lands, to many peoples,

to enlighten a multitude of hearts,

and to guide and counsel an army of souls//

down the narrow path that alone leads into the Kingdom of Heaven.

 *now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;

as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,

so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.

Instead of a pillar of flame, the Righteous Sun has risen.//

Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

**Tone 8 Great Prokeimenon**

O Lord, Thou hast given an inheritance \* to those who fear Thy name.

 *(Ps 60/61:5)*

 *v: From the end of the earth I call to Thee.* *(Ps 60/61:2)*

 *v: I will take shelter under the shadow of Thy wings. (Ps 60/61:4)*

 *v: So I will ever sing praises to Thy name. (Ps 60/61:8*

**Old Testament Readings** *(St Innocent)*

 **Composite 2** *(Proverbs 10:7,6; 3:13-16; 8:6,32,4,12,14,17,5-9; 1:23)*

 **Composite 3** *(Wisdom 4:7, 16, 17, 119; 20:5-7)*

 **Composite 4** *(Proverbs 10:11; Wisdom 6:12-16; 7:30; 8:2-4,7-9,21; 9:1-4*

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**Aposticha**

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Because of my evil deeds,

I, a wretched man, dare not gaze upon heaven with my eyes.

But sighing like the Publican, I cry to Thee:

“O God, forgive me a sinner,

and deliver me from the Pharisee’s hypocrisy,//

for Thou alone art compassionate!”

*v: To Thee, I lift up mine eyes, O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “Because of my evil deeds …” )

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul hath been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps 122/123:3-4)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,

ye sanctify every place and heal every ill.

Now therefore, intercede with Him,//

that He may deliver our souls from every wile and snare of the Enemy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6**  *(from the Menaion for St Innocent)*

In mortal danger from a storm at sea,

thou didst look to the North Star of the Church of Christ,

and, through the prayers of St. Herman of Alaska,

found grace and deliverance.//

With him now intercede for our souls!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

 **Tone 6** *(Theotokion)*

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,

was born of thee, O most pure Virgin.

By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.

Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God!

Rejoice, O celestial Joy!

Rejoice, O Lady://

the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

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***(at Vespers alone)***

**Tone 4** \***Troparion** *(for St Innocent)*

O Holy Father Innocent,

in obedience to the will of God,

thou didst accept dangers and tribulations,

bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.

Thou didst show us the way;

now by thy prayers help lead us//

into the Kingdom of Heaven!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through thee, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,

by which He resurrected the first-created man,//

saving our souls from death.

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***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 4** \***Troparion** *(for St Innocent)*

O Holy Father Innocent,

in obedience to the will of God,

thou didst accept dangers and tribulations,

bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.

Thou didst show us the way;

now by thy prayers help lead us//

into the Kingdom of Heaven! *(Twice)*

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

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*\*Alternate Troparion for St Innocent*

**Tone 2** *(Troparion for St Innocent)*

Thou didst evangelize the Northern people of America and Asia,

proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the natives in their own tongues,

O Holy Hierarch, Father Innocent,

Englightener of Alaska and All America, whose ways were ordered by the

Lord.//

Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His Heavenly Kingdom!

*(If this troparion is sung at Vespers alone, then the Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion is the following:)*

**Tone 2 Resurrectional** **Dismissal Theotokion**

All beyond thought, all most glorious,

are thy mysteries, O Theotokos.

Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,

thou wast revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True

God.//

Entreat Him to save our souls!

In addition to liturgical texts from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.