**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 You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your 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 Your name!*

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

O Lord, You willingly stretched out Your hands on the Cross;

make us ready for its adoration with reverent hearts,

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

for You are good and the Lover of mankind!

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

(Repeat: “O Lord, You willingly …” )

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

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

O most compassionate Lord!

Make me worthy to behold Your Cross,

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

for You are the Lover of mankind!

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

**Tone 3** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (O 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 you;

I honor and adore you with fear,//

glorifying God, Who granted me unending life through you.

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

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

O Holy Father Innocent,

like the Apostles long ago,

you accepted the Lord’s command to baptize all peoples in His name;

you left your 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 Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Like the betrothed of the Theotokos,

you worked with your hands in humility;

and through you, like Constantine, churches blossomed throughout the

land,

built for the feeding of the flock//

that you gathered and led 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 your forefathers,

you labored to bring this same inheritance

to untaught peoples placed in your 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 endures 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 you 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, You have given an inheritance \* to those who fear Your name.

 *(Ps 60/61:5)*

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

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

 *v: So I will ever sing praises to Your 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 You:

“O God, forgive me a sinner,

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

for You alone are compassionate!”

*v: I lift up my eyes to You, 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 has 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,

you 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,

you looked 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 you, O most pure Virgin.

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

Unceasingly we magnify you 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,

you accepted dangers and tribulations,

bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.

You showed us the way;

now by your 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 you, 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,

you accepted dangers and tribulations,

bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.

You showed us the way;

now by your 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 you!

Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of your womb,//

for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

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*\*Alternate Troparion for St Innocent*

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

You evangelized 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 your mysteries, O Theotokos.

Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,

you were 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.