

APRIL 23

Bright Thursday

Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victory-bearer and Wonderworker, George
Vespers (sung on Wednesday)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

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

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,

You have put the devil to shame.

By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify You, O only begotten One.

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.

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.

The princes of hell were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

Christ the King of glory had entered,

saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//

And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

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

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man
and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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 4 *(from the Menaion, for St. George) (Automelon – Model Melody)*

As one valiant among the martyrs, O Great Martyr George,
today we gather to sing your praise.

You have harvested the wheat of virtue;

you have sown in tears and reaped in joy.

You have finished the race and kept the faith;

you have received from God the crown of victory.

Pray for us to Christ our God

that He may deliver us from corruption and misfortune//

as we celebrate your noble memory in faith!

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

You trusted with a steady mind

and like a lion, went eagerly to the battle, O glorious one.

Despising the body as a corruptible thing,

instead you cared for your incorruptible soul.

Like gold purified seven times in the fire,//

you were burned by many torments, O wise Martyr George.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

You suffered with the Savior, O glorious one,
united with His death by death.

And you reign with Him in splendor,

arrayed in a robe dyed in the bright purple of your blood,

adorned with the scepter of your sufferings,

magnificent for eternity in the crown of victory,//

O holy great Martyr George.

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

Tone 6 *(from the Menaion, for St. George)*

As a tiller of the earth you deserved your name*, O warrior George.
By carrying on your shoulders the Cross of Christ,
you have plowed the earth, barren through Satan's snares.
The thorns of idolatry held it fast,
but you planted it with the vine of true faith in Christ.
You have brought healing for the faithful in every land.
You have tended well the garden of the Trinity.
Pray for the well-being of the world//
and the salvation of our souls!

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

Tone 5 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.
There Moses divided the waters;
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.
O ever-existing God Who appeared as Man, //
O Lord, have mercy on us!

Tone 7 **Great Prokeimenon**

Hearken to my prayer, O God, / and hide not Yourself from my supplication!

(Ps 54/55:1)

v: Attend to me, and hear me! (Ps 54/55:3)

v: For they bring iniquity upon me. (Ps 54/55:4)

v: I cried out to God, and the Lord heard me in the evening and the morning and at noon. (Ps 54/55:17-18)

Old Testament Readings

Isaiah 43:9-14 *(St. George)*

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 *(St. George)*

Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15 *(St. George)*

* "Georgios," in Greek, means "earth-worker, tiller of the earth, farmer."

Aposticha

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify You in songs of praise,
O incarnate Christ and Savior.
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,
as the Lord and Lover of man,
You overthrew the gates of hell, //
and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

(Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses from Psalm 67/68)

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

Tone 4 *(from the Menaion, by the Studite)*

Come, brethren, let us praise in spiritual songs
the ever-memorable Martyr George!
His endurance was harder than diamond;
he fervently declared himself for Christ!
He faced dangers and bore with hardships,
hardening his perishable body to suffer torment!
His love overcame earthly nature,
enabling the lover to reach his Beloved through death: //
Christ our God, the Savior of our souls!

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

This is the day of resurrection!
Let us be illuminated by the feast!
Let us embrace each other!
Let us call Brothers even those that hate us,
and forgive all by the resurrection,
and so let us cry:

“Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!” *(Thrice)*

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

Tone 4 Troparion (St. George)

As a martyr of Christ, you were bound for good deeds, O George,
by faith you conquered the torturer's godlessness.
You were offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God;
thus you received the crown of victory.//
Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

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.

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical 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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.