

Month of September

THE 16TH DAY

AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS OF THE LORD Commemoration of the Holy Passion-bearer Liudmila, Princess of Bohemia

THE COMPOSITION OF THE NUN KASSIA

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried..." , 6 stichera: 3 of the feast (see in the Menaion), and 3 of the saint, in Tone IV—

Let us hymn the wondrous Liudmila, the adornment of the land of the Czechs, the all-radiant lamp of piety, the shining ray of loving-kindness and meekness, the treasury of humility and patience, who prayeth in behalf of our souls.

O all-blessed Liudmila, who wast pleasing to Christ in thy manner of life, who didst teach thy children piety and set thy hope in God amid tribulations and griefs: thou didst vanquish the prince of darkness by thy humility, and didst hasten to the noetic mansions, bearing thy suffering to thy Bridegroom like a crown.

Having been sanctified by the blood of Christ thy Bridegroom, O all-lauded one, with thine own blood thou didst adorn the vesture of thy flesh; wherefore, enlightened by both, O most hymned Liudmila, thou hast been accounted worthy of His splendid bridal-chamber. Him do thou entreat, that those who celebrate thy most honored memorial with faith may be delivered from corruption and misfortunes.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the saint, in Tone VI—

As a passion-bearer and martyr, the holy Liudmila standeth at the right hand of the Savior, arrayed in the virtues, unvanquished, and wholly adorned with the oil of purity and the blood of suffering; and, holding her lamp, she crieth out to Him with joy: "I have made haste to the sweet fragrance of Thy myrrh, O Christ God, for I have been wounded by love of Thee. Depart not from me, O heavenly Bridegroom!" By her supplications O almighty Savior, send down Thy mercy upon us.

Now & ever..., of the feast (see in the Menaion).

Aposticha stichera of the feast; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the saint, in Tone VIII—

Come, O ye faithful, let us hymn the right laudable martyr Liudmila; for in the virtues she shone like the sun, and having flourished in a princely house like a palm-tree, she spurned the ungodliness of her ancestors and accepted the Christian Faith with all her heart. With her spouse she raised up churches of God, fed the poor and needy, from the time of her widowhood led a life of chastity and purity, and afterward received a martyr's end for Christ. And she prayeth now that we be saved.

Now & ever..., of the feast (see in the Menaion).

Troparion of the saint, in Tone II—

Let us praise the wondrous Liudmila as a holy vessel of piety and purity, a most splendid ray of loving-kindness, a divine receptacle of meekness, a fervent advocate, a patient-hearted martyr of Christ, and our helper unashamed.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Troparion of the feast (see in the Menaion).

At Matins

At “God is the Lord...”, the troparion of the feast, twice; Glory..., that of the saint; Now & ever..., troparion of the feast, once.

After the kathismata of the Psalter, the sessional hymns of the feast (see in the Menaion). Canon of the feast, with 6 troparia, including the irmos; and this canon of the saint, with 6 troparia, in Tone VIII—

Ode I

Irmos: Let us chant unto the Lord, Who led His people through the Red Sea, for He alone hath gloriously been glorified.

By her miracles the most lauded Liudmila draweth to hymnody the armies of the heavenly hosts and the choirs of those on earth.

Thou didst grow up amid a heathen race, but didst recognize the true God with thy heart; and like a most beautiful lily in the garden of Christ thou didst flourish in the land of the Czechs.

Thou didst plant the Orthodox Faith in thy land, O all-honored Liudmila; wherefore, rejoice now, we cry unto thee.

The Master of all, desiring the comeliness of thy most beautiful heart, O most lauded one, vouchsafed unto thee the mansions of heaven.

Theotokion: We hymn thee, O all-pure Theotokos, who in manner transcending nature gavest birth unto the eternal and all-divine Word incarnate.

Ode III

Irmos: Thou art the confirmation of those who have recourse to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the light of the benighted; and my spirit doth hymn Thee.

O all-hymned Liudmila, mercifully regard our entreaties, and deliver from sufferings and misfortunes us who honor thy memory with faith.

As thou didst raise thy three children in Christian piety, so now also teach all the young to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Thou didst live with thy spouse in love and unanimity, wherefore teach all to lead their lives in a God-pleasing manner.

Heal thou the stripes of my soul, O most lauded Liudmila, martyr of Christ, and by thy supplications still thou the storm of my life.

Theotokion: Thee have we Christians all acquired as our refuge and bulwark, and thee do we unceasingly glorify, O thou who knewest not wedlock.

Kontakion & ikos of the feast (see in the Menaion, after Ode VI)

Sessional hymn of the saint, in Tone VIII—

With the light of thy suffering, O most lauded martyr of Christ, thou dost ever dispel the darkness of ungodliness; and with showers of grace thou dost ever water the spiritual meadows whereon thou growest the grain of faith. Wherefore, even after death thou wast all-gloriously shown to be a cloud pouring forth living witness, O wondrous passion-bearer Liudmila. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of offenses unto those who honor thy holy memory with faith.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn of the feast (see in the Menaion).

Ode IV

Irmos: I have heard, O Lord, the mystery of Thy dispensation; I have understood Thy works, and have glorified Thy divinity.

Having made thyself an undefiled mirror of divine understanding, thou didst shine forth as a lamp of women who suffered, golden in its beauty, O martyr.

From thy widowhood thou didst live in purity and chastity, shining forth upon thy people like a star amid a dark night; and the Lord vouchsafed thee the heavenly kingdom.

Meditating on the word of God, thou didst come to know that mercy boasteth in judgment; wherefore, in rejecting love of possessions and loving the poor thou didst strive to please the Master and Judge of all.

Distributing corruptible riches thou didst acquire that which is incorrupt and everlasting; and enjoying now the food of paradise, by thy supplications vouchsafe that we also may partake thereof.

Theotokion: As Thou art sinless, O God, grant us cleansing of our ignorance, and give peace to Thy world, through the supplications of her who gave Thee birth.

Ode V

Irmos: Waking at dawn, we cry to Thee: Save us, O Lord! For Thou art our God, and we know none other than Thee.

The word of the Lord was fulfilled in thee, O blessed mother, for thy daughter-in-law rose up against thee, her mother-in-law; yet thou didst meekly endure all things until the end, and hast received the portion of the saved.

Harkening to the words of Christ: "When they persecute you in this city, flee unto another," thou didst withdraw before the unjust wrath of thy kinswoman; but she, taught by the devil, sent evil men to slay thee.

Like a spark from the stubble didst thou fly aloft to the heavenly bridal-chamber, O Liudmila, having made thy raiment lustrous by thy suffering; and now, with the angels thou chantest the thrice-holy hymn.

Grant me enlightenment and peace, O most laudable one, by thy supplications releasing me from most vexing turmoil.

Theotokion: O Theotokos, we hymn thee, who wast Virgin after giving birth; for for the world thou gavest birth to God the Word in the flesh.

Ode VI

Irmos: Grant me a robe of light, O Thou Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, O most merciful Christ our God.

Bearing manly-mindedness in the flesh of a woman, O glorious one, thou didst pay no heed to the threats of those who hated thee, O most hymned Liudmila.

With meekness and humility thou didst smite all enemies, visible and invisible, and hast received the crown of victory.

The Lord, the Bridegroom of souls, brought thee to Himself as one beautiful, comely, honorable and shining with rays of loving-kindness, O all-glorious one.

Theotokion: O thou who alone, at a word, gavest birth to the Word in the flesh, deliver our souls from the snares of our enemies, we beseech thee.

Kontakion of the saint, in Tone II—

Thy precious relics pour forth miracles and healings upon those who honor thee with faith. Thy life was full of good works, and thine all-glorious end moveth all the faithful to chant unto thee: Rejoice, O Liudmila, blessed of God!

Ikos: Gathered together, let us honor as is meet Liudmila, who betrothed herself to Christ through her suffering, that, delivered by her supplications from soul-corrupting peril, from pestilence, plague and earthquake, from flood and fiery conflagration, we may lead our lives in humility, vouchsafed with all the saints who have pleased God from ages past, to walk in the light and to chant with them: O Savior, Thou hast made wondrous

Thy mercies upon all men who with faith praise Thy favored one; wherefore, we cry out to her: Pray thou unceasingly for us all!!

Ode VII

Irmos: Once, in Babylon, the youths who had come forth from Judæa trod down the flame of the furnace with their faith in the Trinity, chanting: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Thou didst receive baptism from the holy Methodius, O Liudmila, and having received martyrdom at the hands of the heathen, thou prayest now for the Christian people.

Thou didst weave a robe of light from good works, and later didst by thy martyrdom render it whiter than snow; and thou didst freely enter into the bridal feast of the Lamb of God.

As in thy lifetime thou didst care for the poor and needy, so now take pity on us, who are devoid of the virtues, and beg for us time for repentance.

Theotokion: As Thou didst desire to arrange our salvation, O Savior, Thou madest Thine abode in the womb of the Virgin, whom Thou hast shown to be an intercessor for the world. O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Ode VIII

Irmos: The King of heaven, Whom the hosts of angels hymn, praise and exalt ye supremely for all ages!

O most blessed of women, possessed of the freely given grace of the Most High, thou didst sing, praising Christ for all ages.

Thy daughter-in-law, who forsook the Christian Faith, turned again to her heathen ungodliness like a dog to its own vomit; and, unable to bear the sight of thy holy life, she devised a plot to betray thee into the hands of pitiless murderers, O right laudable martyr Liudmila.

The cord wherewith the iniquitous men strangled thee, O blessed one, was for thee like a necklace of great price, wherewith thou didst adorn thyself, departing to the wedding feast of Christ the Bridegroom.

From thy grave light shone and miracles poured forth with divine power, unto the confounding of the heathen and unbelieving, but as the joy and boast of the faithful

Theotokion: O Virgin, disdain not those who demand help of thee, who hymn and exalt thee supremely forever.

Ode IX

Irmos: With unceasing glorification we magnify thee, the Mother of the Most High, who knewest not wedlock, who didst truly give birth unto God the Word in manner past understanding, and art more highly exalted than the all-pure hosts.

Thy precious relics, O Liudmila, martyr of Christ, have been shown to be a treasury of healings for those who unceasingly draw them forth.

Death befell thee through the law of nature, O divinely wise one; yet by dispassion thou wast clothed in life-bearing mortality. Wherefore, thou abidest in incorruption and pourest forth torrents of miracles upon all.

O all-wondrous Liudmila, we all praise thee as a ray of the Sun that illumineth all, as the all-comely bride of Christ, as turtle-dove of pure love, as an olive-tree, as a cedar, as a chosen dove.

Theotokion: O Virgin Mother, Bride who knewest not wedlock, O vessel of

sweet fragrance, we magnify thee as the true and immaculate one, the cloud of the divine Light, who received in thy womb the Rain of heaven.

Exapostilarion of the saint—

Treeding the path of virtue, thou didst escape the council of the evil one, O most honored Liudmila Thou didst light thy lamp with the oil of mercy, hast entered into the wedding-chamber of the Lord like a wise virgin, and as a martyr hast received the grace to heal the sufferings of the flesh. By thine entreaties unto God deliver us who hymn thee from sickness of soul.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Exapostilarion of the feast (see in the Menaion).

On the Praises, 4 stichera of the saint, in Tone III—

Beholding the triumph of the athlete accomplished in divinely wise manner, O ye faithful, let us sing hymnody of thanksgiving unto our God, Who is wondrous in His counsels; for in womanly nature He vanquished the invisible might of the power of the enemy, perfecting His divine glory in the weakness of the goodly martyr, through whose prayers He saveth our souls.

O holy Liudmila, wondrous wellspring of healings, mirror of the virtues, who didst mortify the passions of the body through fasting and enlighten thy soul with loving-kindness: standing now before Christ in heaven, pray for those who honor thee with faith.

O all-honored Liudmila, ewe-lamb of the divine Lamb, bride of the immortal Bridegroom, who hast been crowned with the crown of martyrdom and glorified with incorruption of body: joining chorus now in the mansions of paradise, pray for those who honor thee with faith.

O most lauded Liudmila, from misfortunes deliver those who have recourse unto thee, and free from the passions those who unceasingly cry unto thee: Rejoice, O glorious martyr!

Glory...: Idiomelon of the saint, in Tone VI—

Standing at the right hand of Christ God, O Liudmila, martyr of great renown, ask peace and prosperity for the Church, confirm the people in virtue, defend the Orthodox Faith from heresies, and by thy supplications vouchsafe that we may enter the eternal kingdom.

Now & ever..., of the feast (see in the Menaion).

Aposticha sitchera of the feast (see in the Menaion); and Glory..., idiomelon of the saint, in Tone I—

Today, faithful people, arriving at thy tomb, draw forth healings in abundance, and cry out to thee in thanksgiving: Rejoice, O merciful Liudmila, thou favorite of Christ!
Now & ever..., of the feast (see in the Menaion).

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from Ode III of the canon of the feast (see in the Menaion), and 4 from Ode VI of the canon of the saint.

Prokimenon, in Tone IV—

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

Stichos: In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the wellsprings of Israel.

EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS, §181

Brethren: As workers together with Christ, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For He saith, I have heard thee in a

time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: but in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Alleluia, in Tone VI—

Stichos: With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me, and He hearkened unto my supplication

Stichos: The righteous shall live for evermore, and in the Lord is their reward.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE, §33

At that time, one of the Pharisees desired Jesus that He would eat with him. And He went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had bidden Him saw it, he spake within himself, saying: "This man, if He were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is who toucheth Him: for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said unto him: "Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee." And he said: "Master, say on." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?" Simon answered and said: "I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most." And He said unto him: "Thou hast rightly judged." And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon: "Seest thou this woman? I entered into thy house, thou gavest Me no water for My feet: but she hath washed My feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss My feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed My feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee: Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." And he said unto her: "Thy sins are forgiven." And they who sat at meat with Him began to say within themselves: "Who is this who forgiveth sins also?" And He said to the woman: "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

*Communion verse—*In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.