



**SERVICE TO OUR VENERABLE MOTHER,  
THE HOLY NEW MARTYR  
GRAND DUCHESS ELIZABETH**

*Commemorated on July 5*

**AT LITTLE VESPERS**

*At “Lord, I have cried...,” stichera for four verses, in the Seventh Tone :*

**C**ome, let us praise and hymn the nun and martyr Elizabeth, a faithful warrior in Christ’s army, an illustrious star which super- naturally arose in the West and finished its course in the East, and which by its appearance gave light to the darkness of this godless age, only to shine even more brightly afterwards in the Kingdom of Christ our God, for He is the King of Glory, the Dayspring of all dawns. *(twice)*

**T**ell us, O Elizabeth, what mysteries thou dost now behold: the things which thou didst desire to see from thy youth, and for whose sake thou didst forsake the imaginary pleasures of this passing life, and didst account as nothing the malice of thy tormentors. Thus may we also be incurably wounded by this blessed desire; and having suffered well the pain of this salutary sickness, may we ignore what is temporal in order to obtain eternal good things.

O witnesses of the Lord, ye holy martyrs, clear mirrors of the divine glory, if the night of godlessness had not been illuminated by the light of your struggles, how would we have seen the path to salvation? And if the Russian land had not been made fertile by your blood, how would it have been kept from drying up and becoming like a barren desert? Pray to the Lord now, that He may visit this vineyard and in His mercy may not abandon His inheritance; that He may strengthen us in temptations yet to come and in sorrowful times, so as to vouchsafe even us sinners to take up the struggle as best we are able, that by this little labor we may bear witness to the greatness of His glory.

*Glory..., In the Sixth Tone:*

The Lord's judgment hath come upon the Russian land. Love hath become scarce and mercy hath waned. Spare our suffering fatherland, O Lord, through the prayers of St. Elizabeth and of all the New Martyrs, and for the sake of their precious sufferings. Grant the Russian people at least a little more time for repentance, as once with the Ninevites. And preserve, O Lord, Thy little flock, the holy Church, that, according to Thy promise, the gates of hell may not prevail against it. And may we sing the praises of Thy wonderful saints, by whose blood the Russian land hath been hallowed and the Church hath been strengthened.

*Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

As a vineyard that has never been husbanded, O Virgin, thou hast put forth Christ, the most fair vine Who pours forth upon us the redeeming wine that makes soul and body glad. Therefore, ever blessing thee as cause of good things, we cry aloud with the angel: Rejoice! Thou who art highly favored.

*“O Gladsome Light...”*

*Prokeimenon of the day.*

*“Vouchsafe, O Lord...”*

*At the Aposticha, stichera in the Third Tone:*

While resplendent in royal glory on earth, thou didst have the Kingdom of God within thyself, O Grand Duchess Elizabeth; therefore, thou art rightly called a royal martyr, and thou hast received a most precious crown from Christ, the King of Glory, with Whom thou now dost reign.

*Verse:* Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

The Kingdom of Heaven is near; for the Lord doth reign in His saints. Do thou entreat Him, O royal martyr Elizabeth, to deliver us, for the sake of our repentance, from the tyranny of the demons, and to establish His Kingdom forever in our souls.

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

May the Lord, Who accepteth the glory of the angels and the testimony of the saints, accept also our repentance now; may He turn away His righteous wrath from our fatherland, through the prayers of the royal martyr Elizabeth; and may He be merciful to those who glorify her.

*Glory..., In the Seventh Tone:*

Take account of us who are here and who pray to thee, O Elizabeth. Look down from that splendid chamber wherein thou dost rest with the saints. See if there are many among us who are good and great, or wise, or strong or righteous. From the four winds have we been gathered together here; we are like sailors of a ship, utterly worn out by the storms of the sea of life. Our helms have been broken by the tempests of the passions; our sails are tom to pieces by violent adverse winds; moreover, we have been pierced by the shoals of demonic devices, and we have almost perished in the deep, weighed down by our iniquities. Though we are useless, we have been spared by thy prayers. As we bring to the Lord our heartfelt repentance, we beseech thee, our teacher: Guide us to the right course, whereby we may reach the calm and most desired harbor which is the Kingdom of Christ.

*Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

**T**aught by God, the whole choir of prophets proclaimed before hand the untold mystery of the divine conceiving of the Word that was to take place in thee, O Theotokos; for Thou hast verily borne the true and Original light, O Mother and Virgin.

*“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart...”*

*Trisagion.*

*Troparion to the venerable martyr in the First Tone:*

**C**oncealing the rank of a princess with humility, O divinely-wise Elizabeth, thou didst honor Christ with the twofold service of Martha and Mary. Having purified thyself by charitable works, patience and love, thou wast brought to God as an offering of righteousness. As we venerate thy virtuous way of life and thy sufferings, we earnestly ask thee, as our true teacher: O holy martyr and Grand Duchess Elizabeth, entreat Christ our God to save and enlighten our souls.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

**W**hen Gabriel announced to thee, “Rejoice,” O Virgin, with that word the Master of all became incarnate in thee, the Holy Ark, as the righteous David said. Thou wast revealed as being more spacious than the heavens, having borne thy Creator. Glory to Him Who took abode in thee! Glory to Him Who cameth forth from thee! Glory to Him Who freed us by thy birthgiving!





*In the Fourth Tone, to the special melody,  
“As one valiant among the martyrs...”.*

## AT GREAT VESPERS

*After the Introductory Psalm 103, we chant  
“Blessed is the man...,” the first antiphon.*

*At “Lord, I have cried...,” stichera for eight verses, in the  
First Tone, to the special melody of “O thou joy of the heavenly  
ranks...”.*

**H**ow often the Lord tried thee from thy very youth, testing thy faith by day and by night and at all times! Yet never was any iniquity found in thee. Both pain and joy didst thou accept from the Lord with thanksgiving; thou didst submit thyself to His will, and so didst grow from strength to strength.

**S**uch are the elect of God! Such is the glory of His saints! Whoever seeketh the Lord is also sought by the Lord. Therefore, He led thee out of the land of thy kinsfolk; in thy new fatherland He first enlightened thee with the fight of Orthodoxy, and then called thee to the path of afflictions and many labors. By following this path thou didst reach the mansions on high, where with love the Lord doth grant rest to those who do not fall away from His love.

**W**hen at thy holy Anointing with Chrism thou didst receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, O Elizabeth, and didst approach the divine chalice with reverence, the Lord consoled thee with the ineffable sweetness of His Communion, as one who was a newly-chosen child of the Church. And that day was the commemoration of the raising of Lazarus; on that very day the Lord called thee to go with Him as He went to His voluntary Passion.

**W**hen thy husband was killed by the godless, O Elizabeth, thou didst not murmur against the Lord amidst thy severe struggles, but rather thou didst surrender thyself without hesitation to His will, which is unto salvation. Splendidly adorned with holiness and purity, thou didst show thyself to be a true widow, one ready to heed God’s call, untiringly imitating Christ in His charity and wisely acquiring the Holy Spirit.

**O**vessel of mercy, divinely-enlightened ascetic laborer, carrying the image of the Master’s Cross in thy heart, thou didst sincerely forgive thy husband’s murderer. Conceiving a desire for complete self-renunciation and humble service to God and thy neighbor, thou didst found a convent, in which thou thyself earnest to live and wast pleasing to the Lord by fighting the good fight.

**T**wofold is the path of love for the Lord. Of this there are two types, of which the holy women Martha and Mary gave us the proto-types. One served Christ in His Humanity, while the other sat at His feet and listened to the words of His Divinity. But thou didst most wisely unite these two types in a single life of service, O Elizabeth, favorite of God. The Lord, knowing what was yet lacking to make thee perfect, then allowed thee to undertake the contest of martyrdom, that thou mightest be adorned with a most precious and glorious crown in His Kingdom.

*In the Fifth Tone:*

**T**he joy of Bright Week and the triumph of Christ’s Resurrection were mingled with tears for the sisters of thy holy convent, when they saw thee off to a new type of labor, one great and fearful. Yet thou wast all the more strengthened in spirit, not being frightened by human fears, not wishing to reject this cup or to depart from the way of the Cross; and thou didst endure all things which came to thee from the Lord, so as not to be separated from Him.

Rejoice, O blessed Elizabeth, thou faithful favorite of the Most Holy Trinity, thou new contestant in the arena and martyr! When thou didst meet thy death in the mine-shaft of Alapayevsk, thou didst acquire thy reward in Heaven; for the Lord Himself gave thee rest from thy labors and glorified thee. We, therefore, fall down before thee and beseech thee: In thy love, which doth emulate God's own love, forsake us not; for we have thee as an intercessor for our souls and an ardent defender of the Russian land.

*Glory..., In the same Tone:*

The sons of perdition, the murderers of the saints, desired to obliterate the very memory of thee from the Russian land; but the Lord hath brought to naught their iniquitous counsel and broken the power of those who blaspheme against Him. As for us, we faithfully hymn thy labors; we magnify and glorify thee, as we say: Rejoice, O Elizabeth, thou royal martyr, crowned with a golden crown.

*Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

In the Red Sea of old, an image of the unwedded Bride was prefigured: there, Moses was the divider of the waters; and here, Gabriel was the minister of the miracle. Then, Israel crossed the sea without getting wet; and now, the Virgin, without seed, hast given birth unto Christ. The sea, after Israel's passage, remained impassible; the Spotless One, after the birth of Emmanuel, remained undefiled. O God Who art, and Who wast from everlasting and Who hast revealed Thyself as a man, have mercy upon us!

*Entrance,  
Prokeimenon of the day,  
Three Old Testament readings.*

*Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (43:9-14).*

Thus saith the Lord, all the nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them: Who will declare these things? Or who will declare to you things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the truth. Be ye my witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know, and believe, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. I am God; and beside Me there is no Savior. I have declared, and I have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you; ye are My witnesses, and I am the Lord God, even from the beginning; and there is none that can deliver out of My Hands: I will work and who shall turn it back? Thus saith the Lord God that redeems you, the Holy One of Israel.

*Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9).*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself. As gold in the furnace hath He tried them, and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him: for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He has care for His elect.

*Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (5:15 - 6:3).*

The righteous live for evermore; and their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the most High.



Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand: for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. He shall take to Him His jealousy for complete armor, and make the creature His weapon for the revenge of His enemies. He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate, and true judgment instead for an helmet. He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. His severe wrath shall He sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with Him against the unwise. Then shall the right aiming thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark. And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast as out of a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away; thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. Hear therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, ye that rule the people and glory in the multitude of nations, for power is given you of the Lord and sovereignty from the Highest.

*At the Litia*

*The sticheron of the patronal feast of the church or monastery and these stichera to the martyr in the Seventh Tone:*

Come, let us praise and hymn the nun and martyr Elizabeth, a faithful warrior in Christ's army, an illustrious star which super-naturally arose in the West and finished its course in the East, and which by its appearance gave fight to the darkness of this godless age, only to shine even more brightly afterwards in the Kingdom of Christ our God. And He is the King of Glory, the Dayspring of all dawns.

Tell us, O Elizabeth, what mysteries thou dost now behold: the things which thou didst desire to see from thy youth, and for whose sake thou didst forsake the imaginary pleasures of this pass-ing life, and didst account as nothing the malice of thy tormentors. Thus may we also be incurably wounded by this blessed desire; and having suffered well the pain of this salutary' sickness, may we ignore what is temporal in order to obtain eternal good

O witnesses of the Lord, ye holy martyrs, clear mirrors of the divine glory, if the night of godlessness had not been illumined by the light of your struggles, how would we have seen the path to salvation? And if the Russian land had not been made fertile by your blood, how would it have been kept from drying up and becoming like a barren desert? Pray to the Lord now, that He may visit this vineyard and in His mercy may not abandon His inheritance; that He may strengthen us in temptations yet to come and in sorrowful times, so as to vouchsafe even us sinners to take up the struggle as best we are able, that by this small labor we may bear witness to the greatness of His glory.

*In the Eighth Tone:*

O divinely elect and venerable martyred Princess Elizabeth, thou didst utter these things: As in a natural storm these things take place: certain ones escape, others are struck down, and the spiritual eyes of others are opened that they might behold the mighty works of God, so also do they befall amidst the wind of life. For amid the misfortunes, thy soul beheld the right hand of God; the cruel murder of thy husband led thee to the service of God and neighbor; thou didst minister unto the poor, the bereft and the crippled with humility and love. Moreover, thou didst embrace the monastic life, and refuse to flee from them that contend with God, fearlessly receiving a martyr's death for Christ. And we, honoring thy fragrant relics, earnestly entreat: Pray thou for us w'ho honor thy struggles and sufferings.

*In the Fourth Tone:*

O victims for God who were buried alive, cast down into a well-like pit! First of all the passion-bearer Elizabeth, the merciful princess who strove for the things of Heaven, finding the pearl of Orthodoxy in her new homeland, who in accordance with the Gospel forgave the slayer of her husband, and who pleased God with prayer and benevolence, yet was not spared by the godless! Pray for all, ye venerable passion-bearers Elizabeth and faithful Barbara! Harken unto us, ye who were buried in the Garden of

Gethsemane. Give ear to us, ye whose place of burial is unknown. Hear us, ye holy eight, received together into the mansions of Heaven, and pray God on our behalf.

*Glory..., In the Sixth Tone:*

**T**he Church which is in the diaspora was first to glorify thee; and afterwards thou wast also glorified in the Russian land, O Elizabeth. Hasten to reconcile the divisions in our Church by means of love; for its children have sometimes said to one another: We are the good seed, while ye are the tares. If we continue in this way, how will men recognize us? How will they believe that we are disciples of the Lord? Come together today and join in one choir, and let us extol the holy nun and martyr Elizabeth, and together with her all the New Martyrs of Russia. By their prayers may the Lord make the Russian Church steadfast; may He preserve her from schisms and heresies, and may calumny and slander cause her no harm whatsoever. May her priests be clothed with righteousness, and may her hierarchs abide in rightly dividing the word of Christ's truth; for He alone is the Head and Master of the body of the Church.

*Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

**I**nflamed with love by the Spirit of God, all generations call thee blessed, O Theotokos: for thou hast destroyed the curse of our first mother Eve. And we earnestly sing the praises of God the Word; for having received Him in thy womb without being consumed, thou hast borne Him in the flesh. Through the prayers of the venerable martyr Elizabeth, O Mother of God, pray to Him for thy faithful flock to be delivered from every necessity and sorrow.

*At the Aposticha, stichera in the Third Tone:*

**W**hile resplendent in royal glory on earth, thou didst have the Kingdom of God within thyself, O Grand Duchess Elizabeth; therefore, thou art rightly called a royal martyr, and thou hast received a most precious crown from Christ, the King of Glory, with Whom thou now dost reign.

*Verse:* Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

The Kingdom of Heaven is near; for the Lord doth reign in His saints. Do thou entreat Him, O royal martyr Elizabeth, to deliver us, for the sake of our repentance, from the tyranny of the demons, and to establish His Kingdom forever in our souls.

*Verse:* In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.

May the Lord, Who accepteth the glory of the angels and the testimony of the saints, accept also our repentance now; may He turn away His righteous wrath from our fatherland, through the prayers of the royal martyr Elizabeth; and may He be merciful to those who glorify her.

*Glory..., In the Seventh Tone:*

Take account of us who are here and who pray to thee, O Elizabeth. Look down from that splendid chamber wherein thou dost rest with the saints. See if there are many among us who are good and great, or wise, or strong or righteous. From the four winds have we been gathered together here; we are like sailors on a ship, utterly worn out by the storms of the sea of life. Our helms have been broken by the tempests of the passions; our sails are tom to pieces by violent adverse winds; moreover, we have been pierced by the shoals of demonic devices, and we have almost perished in the deep, weighed down by our iniquities. Though we are useless, we have been spared by thy prayers. As we bring to the Lord our heartfelt repentance, we beseech thee, our teacher: Guide us to the right course, whereby we may reach the calm and most desired harbor which is the Kingdom of Christ.

*Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

All of us born on earth, O Sovereign Lady, having fled under thy protection, cry out to thee: O Theotokos, our Hope, deliver us from our countless sins, and save our souls!



*“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart...,” the Trisagion, the troparia, and the Blessing of the Breads as usual. Then, if an All Night Vigil is served, “Blessed be the name of the Lord,” is sung thrice and then Psalm 33 is chanted in the usual manner in a sweet melody. If an All Night Vigil is served, the troparion of the saint is sung twice; Glory..., Now and ever...; and “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...” once. If an All Night Vigil is not served, we sing the troparion once; Glory..., Now and ever...; and the Theotokion as shown below, and Great Vespers ends according to the customary practice.*

*Troparion to the venerable martyr in the First Tone:*

Concealing the rank of a princess with humility, O divinely-wise Elizabeth, thou didst honor Christ with the twofold service of Martha and Mary. Having purified thyself by charitable works, patience and love, thou wast brought to God as an offering of righteousness. As we venerate thy virtuous way of life and thy sufferings, we earnestly ask thee, as our true teacher: O holy martyr and Grand Duchess Elizabeth, entreat Christ our God to save and enlighten our souls.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

When Gabriel announced to thee, “Rejoice,” O Virgin, with that word the Master of all became incarnate in thee, the Holy Ark, as the righteous David said. Thou wast revealed as being more spacious than the heavens, having borne thy Creator. Glory to Him Who took abode in thee! Glory to Him Who cameth forth from thee! Glory to Him Who freed us by thy birthgiving!

## AT MATINS

*At “God is the Lord...,”  
the troparion of the venerable martyr, twice; Glory..., Now  
and ever...; and the Theotokion as provided in Great Vespers.*

*After the first reading from the Psalter,  
this Sessional Hymn, in the Second Tone:*

**T**hou wast enlightened by the doctrines of Orthodoxy, O Elizabeth, thou seeker and champion of truth. Thus didst thou learn to honor the saints of God with reverence; and, having most wisely emulated their exploits, thou thyself wast added to that divine multitude. Thou didst bring to naught the powerless deceit of the demons, and didst account as nothing the vain fury of thy mad tormentors. Thou hast acquired holy boldness before the most Holy Trinity, and now, together with all the saints who have been well pleasing to God, thou dost pray for our salvation.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., Theotokion:*

**O** Mother of God, enlightener of the faithful and goodly guide, thou didst enlighten the soul of thy handmaid Elizabeth to honor thee in an Orthodox manner, and ever to follow thee in thy love for Christ and thy love toward mankind. Enlighten us also with the light of the glory of thy Divine Son.

*After the second reading from the Psalter, this sessional hymn,  
in the Sixth Tone:*

**F**rom the feebleness of earthly glory and its fleeting beauty thou hast ascended to the abundance of eternal glory, O Elizabeth, thou zealot of the Orthodox faith, follower of God’s



call and emulator of His loving-kindness, thou victorious martyr, glorious among the saints.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., Theotokion:*

**T**hou didst desire to be buried in the Garden of Gethsemane, O most holy Virgin, and there also the transcendent mystery of thy resurrection came to pass. There also was thy faithful disciple Elizabeth buried, in accordance with her will, and her remains repose there, awaiting the general resurrection.

*After the Polyeleos, the Magnification:*

We magnify thee, O holy passion-bearer Elizabeth, and we honor thy precious sufferings, which thou didst endure for Christ.

*Selected Psalm verses:*

Our God is refuge and strength, a helper in afflictions which mightily befall us.

Therefore shall we not fear when the earth be shaken.

O God, who shall be likened unto Thee? Be Thou not silent, neither be still, O God.

For behold, Thine enemies have made a noise, and they that hate Thee have lifted up their heads.

Against Thy people have they taken wicked counsel, and have conspired against Thy saints.

They have made the dead bodies of thy servants to be food for the birds of heaven, the flesh of Thy saints for the beasts of the earth.

They have poured out their blood like water.

For Thy sake are we slain all the day long, we are counted as sheep for die slaughter.

Thou hast made us a byword among the nations; and I became a man scourged all the day long.

By fire hast Thou tried us even as silver is tried by fire.

We went through fire and water, and Thou didst bring us out into refreshment.

Be glad in die Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous.

For the Lord is in die generation of the righteous, and their inheritance shall be forever.

The righteous cried and die Lord heard them.

A light hath dawned forth for the righteous man, and gladness for the upright of heart.

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be.

In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been won-drous; He hath wrought all His desires in them.

Wondrous is God in His saints.

The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

And all the upright in heart shall be praised.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., Alleluia, (thrice)*

We magnify thee, O holy passion-bearer Elizabeth, and we honor thy precious sufferings, which thou didst endure for Christ.

*After the Polyeleos, this sessional hymn, in the Seventh Tone:*

**B**ehold, our Lord and Master calleth thee. Arise, then; why sleepest thou mindlessly, O my sinful soul? Arise, and go to Him without hesitation. See how He hath need of thy charity now. He is hungry; He is thirsty; He hath nowhere to lay His head. Receive Him as a stranger, that thou mayest render Him service. Thus wilt thou follow the double mission of St. Elizabeth. Like Martha, satisfy the needs of His Body with food and drink, whilst thou thyself dost absorb His divine teachings like a sponge, as did Mary, so that thou mayest never thirst again and mayest not fear the assaults and temptations to come; for the Lord is with thee, and that is sufficient for thee.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., Theotokion:*

**M**ay the Lord open the lips of them that sing thy praises, O divine Maiden, so that they may hymn thee unceasingly as the Sovereign Lady that reigneth over the Russian land and the advocate for our whole nation.

*Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone Four.*

*Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone:*

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

*Verse:* In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.

*Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark  
Pericope #37 (Mark 8:34-9:1).*

**T**he Lord said, whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My

sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and My words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the Kingdom of God come with power.

*After Psalm 50, this sticheron, in the Sixth Tone:*

**C**ome, ye people of Russia, let us hasten to begin the labor of Crepentance. We are the laborers hired at the eleventh hour. Let us no longer remain idle, tarrying and telling the lie that no one hath hired us; but let us serve the Lord at least for a little while as good workers in His vineyard. If we will not serve Him, die evening is quite near, in which we shall be judged for our deeds and receive our due.

*Or this sticheron, in the Sixth Tone:*

Taking an example from the most holy Mother of God, thou didst desire to be buried in the Garden of Gethsemane. Now thy precious relics repose there, while thou art glorified by the faithful children of the Russian Church, both in the homeland and in the diaspora, as a vessel of divine love which death could not break, O great princess and great martyr Elizabeth.

## THE CANON

*The Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos  
with its irmos, with six troparia, in the Eighth Tone.  
And this canon to the holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth,  
with eight troparia, in the Eighth Tone.*

## ODE I

*Irmos:* Let us sing to the Lord, Who led His people through the Red Sea; for He alone hath gloriously been glorified.  
*Refrain:* O holy and venerable martyr Elizabeth, pray to God for us.



Grant enlightenment to my soul, O Lord, and open Thou mine unworthy lips, that I may hymn the holy nun and martyr Elizabeth, who was well-pleasing to Thee, and in whom Thy holy Name hath gloriously been glorified.

O beloved child of die Lord, wondrous Elizabeth, along with physi-cal beauty and princely dignity, thou wast also adorned with spiritual beauty; thou didst multiply the gift given thee by God, and didst offer thyself as a gift to Him.

Leaving behind thy homeland and thy kinsfolk, thou wast lilluminated widi die light of the Orthodox faith in thy new fatherland; thou didst serve God and man with love and works of mercy, and didst endure martyrdom at the hands of die godless. Therefore, the Lord hath glorified thee and hath shown thee to be an heiress of the heavenly fatherland.

*Theotokion:* Let us sing of the glory of the most holy Virgin Mother of God; for the virgins and women that follow after her have been brought unto Christ the King, and among them is the holy nun and martyr Elizabeth, who dwelleth in the heavenly bridal chamber and partaketh of the wedding feast therein.

*Katavasia:* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it, and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast and joyfully praising her wonders.

### ODE III

*Irmos:* Thou art the strong support of those who run to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the light of those in darkness, and my spirit doth sing of Thee.

All thy hope thou didst place in the Lord, and He was thy strong support, O great sufferer Elizabeth. When thou didst gather up the precious remains of thy husband with thine own hands, thou didst not harden thy heart, nor didst thou give thyself

over to despair, but rather thou mercifully forgavest the godless murderer, while offering up fervent prayers to the Lord.

Spurning the beauty and the pleasures of this world, O divinely-wise one, thou didst conceive a desire for the ascetic life, and thou didst found a convent, in which thou didst hide thyself away from the delights of the world, though by thy works of mercy thou didst not abandon the world and didst lovingly render service to those who were suffering.

Always keeping Christ, the Author of the contest, before the eyes of thy mind, O martyr, thou didst follow Him without hesitating, and thou didst carry thy cross of self-renunciation and service to thy neighbor. Thou didst remain obedient to the will of the Lord even unto death, which thou didst accept with equanimity, strengthened by the Lord, as thou wast praying for thy persecutors.

*Theotokion:* O most holy Virgin Mother! Mercifully enlighten my sin-darkened soul with the light of thy divine Son; melt the ice of my hardened heart with the fervor of thy prayers; and strengthen me, that I may follow the narrow way which leadeth to salvation, having as my guide the godly martyr Elizabeth.

*Katavasia:* O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, give strength to those united in spiritual fellowship, who sing hymns of praise to thee: and in thy divine glory, vouchsafe unto them crowns of glory.

### *Sessional Hymn, in the Fifth Tone:*

Having loved the Lord from thy youth, thou didst labor as His handmaid. Thou wast like unto fertile soil, upon which the good seed of Orthodoxy fell at the right time and brought forth fruit an hundredfold. Therefore, be thou our intercessor, and implore die Creator to heal the barrenness of our hearts, that we also may render Him service in prayer and work, and even more so in love and humility. If the Lord will call us even to the labor of confessing the faith and suffering for it, pray for us, that we may not reject this cup, but may endure all things to the very end, to reach the Kingdom of Heaven by a short path.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., Theotokion:*

**D**o not delay, O Theotokos, in offering thy supplication to God for the Russian land and for all of us; for we are perishing on account of the multitude of our transgressions; and we cry out to thee: Thou art the guide and the surety of all who have placed their hope in thee.

ODE IV

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

**L**ike Martha thou didst render service to the Lord, O godly martyr Elizabeth, seeing His image in the little ones, the poor, the sick and the fallen. Teach me also to honor and to serve Christ the Lord in my neighbor.

**T**hou hast chosen that good part, becoming like Mary, O Elizabeth. All thy thoughts didst thou direct toward the Lord, in unceasing prayer and the study of His word; and thou didst give thyself over to His will, that is, to His good providence.

**P**ray to the Lord for us, O Saints Martha and Mary, together with the godly martyr Elizabeth, who, as a good teacher, not only took the path of twofold holiness herself and reached the land of the meek, but also drew others to that saving path. O Saint Elizabeth, accept us also among the number of thy disciples and guide us along the path to salvation.

*Theotokion:* Blessed is thy womb, O most Immaculate One, which carried the Creator of all, Who through thee came down to us; and blessed are the people who have come to Him through thee. Make us also part-takers of this blessedness, as we ever glorify thee.

*Katavasia:* He Who sits in glory on the throne of the Godhead, Jesus the true God, is come in a swift cloud. And with His pure Hand He has saved those who cry: Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

ODE V

*Irmos:* When we wake at early morn we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us; for Thou art our God, and beside Thee we know none other.

**H**aving drunk the bitter waters of suffering, according to the ineffable dispensation of the Lord, thou didst discover the sweetness of the Divine Spirit in thy heart, that thou mightest nevermore thirst and mightest give us weaklings to drink of the living water of love and mercy, which flowed forth from thy heart.

**T**he will of the Lord is fulfilled in His saints; for they walk unflinching along the paths of His commandments. Thus, thou also, O godly martyr, didst surrender thyself entirely to the Lord; thou didst accept both joy and sorrow from Him with thanksgiving, and didst serve Him in a life of pious labors. Teach me also to serve the Lord fittingly, and to remain in obedience to His will, so that His easy yoke may not be troublesome for me, and His light burden may not seem heavy; and let my heart be strengthened and find rest in Him.

**P**ray for me, O godly martyr. May thy prayers be medicine for my ailing soul, which is suffering from the sickness of sin. For no one who has asked thee for help and consolation has gone away empty.

*Theotokion:* I have not the boldness to ask the Lord for the remission of my sins; therefore, O Lady, I fall down before thee, bending the knees of my body and soul. To thee do I entrust my feeble prayer, that thou mayest bring it to the throne of the Most High, so that through thee I may receive from Him salvation, joy and peace.

*Katavasia:* The whole world was amazed at thy divine glory: for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, hast held in thy womb the God of all, and hast given birth to an eternal Son, Who rewards with salvation all who sing thy praises.



## ODE VI

*Irmos:* Grant me a bright robe, O Thou Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Christ our God, plenteous in mercy.

To whom shall I flee in my poverty, if not to thee, O holy nun and martyr Elizabeth? My soul is stripped bare of every virtue and wounded by the darts of the enemy. I know thy love for the poor; never didst thou turn away one who sought help, whether beggar, sinner or man of evil heart. Drive me not away, therefore, though I am unworthy and miserable, but pray to the Lord for the amendment of my life.

Let the words of my prayer, offered up from the depths of my woes, not be unto my condemnation. The waves of life's sea are about to close over me, and I know not the way of uprightness. Yet I know that St. Elizabeth is praying for me, desirous to save me and to direct me to the right path, even as in former times she despised no one, but, being gentle to the weaknesses of sinners, she showed many the way to salvation.

Receive me with love, O merciful Elizabeth, even as thou hast always received the sick, the orphans, and those whose strength had failed them, such as me. Relieve my hunger and thirst; heal the ills of my soul; ever pray to Christ, and entreat from Him whatever is necessary for my salvation.

*Theotokion:* Virgin Mother of God, who gavest birth to the Cause of our joy, illuminate my heart with thy joy, since it is darkened by many passions, bound by the gloom of despondency, and sick with a cruel palsy. Wash away the filth from my soul, and give me a bright garment, in which I may stand before the Lord and not be driven out of His bridal chamber.

*Katavasia:* As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God Who was born of her.

## *Kontakion, in the Second Tone:*

Who can tell the greatness of this act of faith? In the depths of the earth the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, the passion-bearer, rejoiced with the angels in psalms and hymns, as though she were in the radiance of paradise. As she endured being slain, she prayed aloud for her godless tormentors: Lord, forgive them this sin, for they know not what they do. Through her prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy and save our souls.

*Ikos:* Even before thy passion thou didst endure murder, O martyr Elizabeth, when thy husband's murderer dealt thy soul an in-curable blow. Thus, having died to the joys of this world, thou didst rise again, as Lazarus of old, in order to serve all who were sick. In this labor thou didst receive unending joy, filled with the fight of love divine. Therefore, thou didst not flee from the tormentors who tortured thy body, and when thou wast loosed therefrom, with thy soul thou didst run to the Lord. Through her prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy and save our souls.

## *The Synaxarion*

On this, the 5th day of July, we celebrate the memory of our Venerable Mother, the Holy New Martyr, Grand Duchess Elizabeth.

St. Elizabeth was born in Germany in 1864, the daughter of Louis IV, Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt and Princess Alice of England. She was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria of England and the older sister of the future Czarina of Russia, Alexandra. Even at a young age, she was known for her high moral standards, inner spiritual beauty, and love for others. In 1884, she married Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, uncle of Czar Nicholas II of Russia. Since her husband was not in direct line to the imperial throne, she was not required to convert to the Holy Orthodox Faith; nonetheless, she converted to Orthodoxy, drawn by its holy Tradition, rich spirituality, and the fullness of the Faith. In 1905, her husband was assassinated in the Kremlin in a horrible bombing. Not seeking revenge, but displaying true Christian love and compassion, she visited her husband's assassin, forgiving him

the murder; pleading for his life and seeking his repentance.

As time passed, St. Elizabeth found her grieving soul cured by seeking refuge in the healing waters of Orthodoxy, thus causing her to forsake her life of nobility and honor, and to embrace the monastic life. She was given the blessing to establish on a former estate in Moscow the Convent of Martha and Mary, which would combine the two monastic ideals of spiritual contemplation and service to others. In God's time, there were constructed cells for the sisters, an orphanage for girls, an outpatient clinic, a pharmacy, a hospital with a domestic chapel, a dining hall for the poor, and finally a "cathedral" church dedicated to the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. As the abbess, St. Elizabeth personally led her sisters in tending to the poor, destitute, orphaned and terminally ill. Although very loving and solicitous as a mother toward her spiritual daughters, she herself slept no more than a few hours each night on a wooden bed with no mattress and ate very sparingly. She would arise at midnight to pray and then visit the sick and the suffering in the hospital wards, tending them with her own hands.

With the coming of the Bolshevik Revolution, St. Elizabeth found herself a target for the demonic hatred of the ravenous wolves that wished to destroy both the Holy Orthodox Church and Russia. On Bright Tuesday, March 13, 1918, she was arrested. Her faithful cell attendant, the Nun Barbara, joined her abbess in exile in the Urals in the town of Alapayevsk. During the night of July 4 or before dawn on July 5, 1918, St. Elizabeth, the Nun Barbara, and other members of the royal family were thrown alive down a mine shaft, thus ending their lives by receiving the crown of martyrdom. According to eyewitnesses, she crossed herself and prayed aloud: "Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they do," as she was being pushed into the gaping abyss. Then the godless ones threw Ove grenades into the shaft and debris which they set afire, hoping to erase all evidence of their shameful deed. A peasant heard the nuns as they were dying singing hymns from the divine services, especially the Divine Liturgy and the Funeral Service. When the bodies were recovered by the White Russian troops, it was found that St. Elizabeth had used her veil to bind the wounds of the injured.

Finally, in 1921, the much-suffering bodies of Sts. Elizabeth and

Barbara were laid to rest in the Russian Orthodox Convent of St. Mary Magdalene in the Garden of Gethsemane in the Holy Land. In 1981, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad glorified Sts. Elizabeth and Barbara. In 1992, the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), after being freed from the Communist yoke, officially glorified these holy ones, as well as others who were martyred for their faith. Their holy relics are still enshrined in the Holy Convent of St. Mary Magdalene, where they are a great source of consolation and blessings, healing all manner of afflictions and ills of those who resort to them in faith.

Through the prayers of our Holy and Venerable Mother, the New Martyr Elizabeth, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

#### ODE VII

*Irmos:* The Hebrew children in the furnace made bold and trod on the flames; and when they changed the fire into dew, they cried aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, forevermore.

**W**e have sinned, we have transgressed, we have departed from Thee, as did Israel of old, the peoples of Russia cry out to the Lord. Therefore we have been left to walk according to our own will, and now we suffer punishment. But, through the prayers of the holy nun and martyr Elizabeth and of all Thy New Martyrs, be merciful to us, O Lord; spare us and give us understanding, that we may turn back to Thee, and may repent of our evil deeds, and may sing Thy praises forevermore.

**B**ehold, the judgment of God is upon our fatherland. The Russian land hath brought forth for us the thorns of hatred and the thistles of unbelief; moreover, it hath been sown with the tares of heresy by the enemy. O Lord, through the prayers of the praiseworthy Elizabeth and of all the New Martyrs, do Thou protect the new growth of piety, that it may not be overgrown by the thorns, nor mingled with the tares; but may it grow up and multiply, and may the Russian people cry out: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, forevermore.



**T**ell us, O godly martyr Elizabeth: Have we the hope of salvation? Are our prayers in vain? Are we not the sons of those who killed the prophets? No; we are thy children in spirit, and thou art our mother and teacher. We have hope in thy prayers, and with thee we shall praise the Lord forevermore.

*Theotokion:* Rejoice, O land of Russia, which hast suffered so greatly! The Mother of God hath stretched over thee the veil of her Holy Protection, and she doth pray for thee untiringly, together with all the New Martyrs of Russia, that all who honor and glorify her may be saved forevermore.

*Katavasia:* The holy children bravely trampled upon the threatening fire, preferring not to worship created things rather than the Creator, and they sang in joy: "Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our fathers."

#### ODE VIII

*Irmos:* The Chaldean tyrant cruelly heated the furnace sevenfold for the pious youths; but, seeing them saved by a higher Power, he cried to the Creator and Deliverer: Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns; ye people, supremely exalt Him unto all the ages.

**A**s thou wast being put to death, O godly martyr, thy faith remained unshaken and thy kindness unaffected. Even in the hours of thine agony before death thou didst not leave off thy service to the suffering, as thou wast calling upon God and crying out: Ye people, bless the Lord and supremely exalt Him unto the ages.

**A**s in ancient times Thy martyrs, O Lord, were witnesses for the faith before the godless world, so also did the holy nun and martyr Elizabeth show forth her faith through her works and seal it with her death; and many of the people of Russia did she teach to hymn Thee unto the ages.

**S**how me thy faith and thy love in thy deeds, crieth the Lord to me. And I have no answer to give Him; for I am like unto

a barren tree, and there is no justification for me. Yet my soul hath humbled itself before the Lord and hath desired to do His will. O Elizabeth, strengthen me for this work, that my good intentions may not leave me, and that I may ever cry out: Ye children, bless; ye priests, sing hymns; ye people, supremely exalt Him unto all the ages.

*Theotokion:* If I have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal, as the Apostle says. My heart is troubled at these words, because they are spoken of me. In a little while I shall perish in my impoverishment. O all-rich Mother of God, do thou cover my destitution with thy lovingkindness, and save me, as I supremely exalt the Lord unto the ages.

*Katavasia:* The offspring of the Theotokos saved the holy children in the furnace. He who was then prefigured has since been born on earth, and He gathers together all the creation to sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all for ever.

*The Magnificat is sung in a sweet melody.*

#### ODE IX

*Irmos:* Heaven was amazed and the ends of the earth were struck with fear when God appeared to men in the flesh. Thy womb was more spacious than the heavens; wherefore, Theotokos, the leaders of angels and men magnify thee.

**M**y soul hath wept on seeing the Russian land crimsoned with the blood of the saints of God. My Lord is good; how did He allow this to happen? Weep not, my soul, but pray to the holy nun and martyr Elizabeth, and understand the dispensation of God; for He loveth His martyrs exceedingly and hath given them boldness to pray for us sinners.

**T**hy judgments are not known to us, O God. What else art Thou preparing for us in this life? By what paths dost Thou wish to lead us to salvation? Grant that we may accept Thy

will without agitation or murmuring; that we may fight the good fight and may reach the Kingdom of Heaven, where those who have pleased Thee are gathered together, and with them is the godly martyr Elizabeth, whom we now glorify.

**T**hy holy relics are laid to rest in the Holy Land, O Elizabeth, while with thy soul thou dost ever stand before the Lord in His Kingdom on high and dost pray with boldness for all people, especially for those who glorify thee and who imitate thy labors. May the Lord number us also with them, unworthy though we be!

*Theotokion:* Behold, judgment is near! O Lord, do not allow our steps to slip; do not permit us to lapse into wickedness or laziness; drive away from our souls all confusion and doubt. May we not perish with men of iniquity, but may we be saved with the saints, through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother and of the holy Princess Elizabeth, who wast pleasing unto Thee.

*Katavasia:* Let every mortal born on earth, carrying his torch, in spirit leap for joy; and let the order of angelic powers celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, and let them cry: Rejoice! Thou blessed and ever Virgin, who gavest birth to God.

#### *Exapostilarion*

**W**hat was it — a cruel loss or the triumph of the Orthodox faith? O ye who mystically represented the Cherubim, ye who carried the Lord in your hearts, holy martyrs of Alapayevsk, ye passed over to Him while having the Cherubic Hymn on your lips. How can I forget your sufferings? Your memory is unto generation and generation, O God-bearers, and we shall forever give thanks to the Lord, Who is wondrous in His saints.

#### *Glory..., Now and ever..., Theotokion:*

**S**hining brightly with purity, thou, O Lady, hast been a divine dwelling for the Master, for thou alone hast been shown forth as the Mother of God, bearing Him as a Babe in thine arms.

#### *At the Praises Four stichera in the Eighth Tone, to the special melody, “O most glorious wonder...”.*

**O** the wonder of thy words, divinely-wise Elizabeth! O the greatness of thy care for the Russian land! For thou didst liken our nation to a sick infant, who is loved more than when he is healthy and cheerful. Therefore, thou didst desire to bear its sufferings, and thou wentest valiantly along the path of martyrdom, that thou mightest acquire the boldness to pray for its salvation.

**O** how unerring was thy foresight! Though thou didst see the inglorious destruction of mighty Russia, thou wast not terrified by the terrible times, but didst recognize the greatness of God’s dispensation. Holy Russia cannot perish, thou didst say, and neither will the gates of hell be able to prevail against the Orthodox Church; in the souls of the faithful there will arise a light like that of the sun, to illumine the darkness.

**O** most glorious wonder! In times of adversity and suffering the mercy of God is truly discerned, and spiritual joy is more clearly revealed. The same Lord who punisheth is He Who also loveth us, said the Princess; and therefore didst she repeat again and again to the Lord: Thy will be done!

**O** divine desire! O firm trust in the Lord! Elizabeth most gloriously gave herself over completely to the love of God. This union could never be undone, not by tribulation, not by distress, not by persecution, not by death. But the Lord hath translated His favorite to life eternal, and to the unutterable joy which He hath prepared for them that love Him.

#### *Glory..., in the same Tone:*

**O** unwise people of Russia! Why did ye reject those who loved you? Why did ye not listen to the word of God? Touch not My anointed, He said. Ye cast off the easy yoke of God as being difficult to bear, and ye enslaved yourselves to your enemies,



who led you into the darkness of iniquities and disasters. Is this what ye desired, O people? But now weep not, as do those who have no hope. Behold, those whom ye rejected have not rejected you, and they pray to the Lord to obtain for you salvation.

*Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

**O** Virgin Mother, thou hast born Him begotten of the Father outside time, Who shone forth before the ages, and made all things, seen and unseen. Therefore all nations glorify thee as true Theotokos!

*Great Doxology.*

*Troparion to the venerable martyr in the First Tone:*

**C**oncealing the rank of a princess with humility, O divinely-wise Elizabeth, thou didst honor Christ with the twofold service of Martha and Mary. Having purified thyself by charitable works, patience and love, thou wast brought to God as an offering of righteousness. As we venerate thy virtuous way of life and thy sufferings, we earnestly ask thee, as our true teacher: O holy martyr and Grand Duchess Elizabeth, entreat Christ our God to save and enlighten our souls.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., In the same Tone. Theotokion:*

**W**hen Gabriel announced to thee, "Rejoice," O Virgin, with that word the Master of all became incarnate in thee, the Holy Ark as the righteous David said. Thou wast revealed as being more spacious than the heavens, having borne thy Creator. Glory to Him Who took abode in thee! Glory to Him Who cameth forth from thee! Glory to Him Who freed us by thy birthgiving!

*Litanies and Dismissal*

## **AT THE HOLY LITURGY**

*Eight troparia on the Beatitudes, four from Ode III, and four from Ode VI of the Canon.*

*Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone:*

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

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

*Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians, Pericope #181 (II Cor. 6:1-10).*

**B**rethren, we as workers together with Him beseech you also not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He saith: "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation I have helped thee." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fasting; by purity, 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 yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.

*Alleluia, in the First Tone:*

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

*Verse:* And He brought me up out of the pit of misery, and from the mire of clay.

*Reading from the Holy Gospel  
according to the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew  
Pericope #36 (Matt. 10:16-22).*

**T**he Lord said to His disciples: Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harm less as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

*Communion Hymn:*

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

*It should be known that good and nourishing food  
is prepared today in the refectory for the brethren  
and that they are allowed to rest from their labors.*

*If this feast falls on a fast day, fish with wine and oil is allowed.*

*In honor of our Venerable Mother Elizabeth,  
a small measure of wine is given to the brethren  
for the health of their bodies and to the glory  
of the most Holy Trinity.*

**AKATHIST HYMN**

**TO THE HOLY MARTYRED NUN ELIZABETH  
& THE OTHER NEW MARTYRS OF ALAPAYEVSK**

**KONTAKION I**

**C**ome, all ye who love Christ, and let us offer up a hymn of praise unto the martyred nun Elizabeth, who was chosen by the Lord of hosts to serve as an example of Christian piety and love for those who desire to follow in His steps. For, spurning the vanity of worldly possessions, rank and cares, she dedicated her whole life to the aid of those in need. Wherefore, it hath pleased Christ our God to crown her ascetic labors with the diadem of martyrdom; and, dwelling now in His Heavenly Kingdom, she maketh supplication unto God, that He deliver from misfortunes and perils all who chant unto her with joy:

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

**IKOS I**

**T**he Creator of the angels and Lord of mankind led thee from the delusion of heresy to the divine knowledge of the Truth, O blessed Elizabeth, that thy loving heart and soul might renew Christian love, which had grown cold in the land of Russia: for through thine efforts the hearts of men again warmed to the word of God, and the Master of all vouchsafed thee to live a life exalted above thy peers, in love, humility and fervent prayer. Wherefore, we ever chant unto thee, as is meet:

Rejoice, lamp burning with the love of God;

Rejoice, handmaid of Christ the Lord!

Rejoice, scroll whereon the Holy Spirit inscribed the Christian virtues;

Rejoice, divinely wise princess and new martyr!

Rejoice, daughter who forsook thy father's house and turned to



Holy Orthodoxy;  
Rejoice, voice of prayer which was never silent!  
Rejoice, ever-flowing fountain of lovingkindness;  
Rejoice, blessed inhabitant of the Garden of Eden!  
Rejoice, vessel wherein the wine of gladness and the oil of healing are mingled together;  
Rejoice, upholder of the traditions of piety!  
Rejoice, treasure-house of compassion;  
Rejoice, radiant star resplendent with heavenly glory!  
REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

### KONTAKION II

**C**hrist found thee like a lily among thorns and chose thee to adorn His garden of Holy Orthodoxy, O venerable one: for He Who alone knoweth the hearts of men perceived from on high thy great love for thy neighbor, and bestowed upon thee a wealth of spiritual gifts, that we might come to understand the mystery of God's great mercy, enabling us to take part with thee therein and to join chorus with thee in chanting unto Him: ALLELUIA!

### IKOS II

**K**nowing in thy heart that God's will ruleth over all creation, and seeking to obey His will alone, thou wast well pleased to shoulder the great cross which He prepared for thee, O holy one: for when thou didst witness the cruel and pitiless slaughter of thy husband, thy heart was pierced with grief and sorrow, as with a two edged sword; yet thou didst take courage, and uttered the Savior's own words: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And seeking to turn this vile deed to goodness, thou didst beseech him who committed the murder to repent. And we too beg thine intercession before the Lord, that He avert His righteous anger from us who chant to thee such praises as these:

Rejoice, thou who didst deem mercy greater than sacrifice;  
Rejoice, thou who prayest for sinners and penitents! Rejoice,

thou who didst bear thy cross to a new Golgotha;  
Rejoice, thou who didst not reject the crown of thorns offered thee!  
Rejoice, thou who didst put jealousy to flight;  
Rejoice, thou who reprovest those who fall away from truth and grace!  
Rejoice, thou who didst not set the love of family above the love of God; Rejoice, thou who didst fulfill the words of Christ!  
Rejoice, thou who didst seek out the good in every man;  
Rejoice, thou who wast sent unto Russia, to turn her away from evil to the good!  
Rejoice, thou who dost ever cry out to Christ: Lord, have mercy;  
Rejoice, thou who standest invisibly in our midst as we pray!  
REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

### KONTAKION III

**T**he power of the Most High overshadowed thy sorrow and pain, O royal passion-bearer, and finding sweet consolation therein thou didst die to this world, that thou mightest live in Christ: thou didst shun the fleeting pleasures and vanities of this life, didst clothe thyself in garments of joy and salvation, and didst abide in the churches of God as before thou didst dwell in palaces, praying and chanting to God therein: ALLELUIA!

### IKOS III

**W**ith a fervent desire to serve thy fellow man, thou didst gather a multitude of souls to labor for God; and, raising up a house of mercy, which thou didst dedicate to the Protection of the All Holy Theotokos, O holy Elizabeth, thou didst choose our holy mothers Martha and Mary as thy heavenly patrons, emulating them as paragons of piety and good works. And mindful of the magnitude of thy charitable deeds and Christian virtues, we praise thy memory, chanting thus:

Rejoice, thou who didst open thy heart to good deeds;

Rejoice, thou who didst gather the virtues into a spiritual sheaf!  
Rejoice, thou who hast been reckoned among the friends of Christ;

Rejoice, thou who didst hearken to His sweet words!

Rejoice, thou who dost ever rejoice in thy Lord;

Rejoice, thou who fillest our hearts with joy when we call upon thy name!

Rejoice, thou who rewardest those who seek thy heavenly aid;

Rejoice, thou who dost speedily fulfill the requests of those who have recourse to thee with faith!

Rejoice, thou who hast adorned the city of Moscow;

Rejoice, obedient handmaid of the holy Mary and Martha!

Rejoice, thou who didst hide thy good works from the eyes of the haughty’;

Rejoice, thou who dost call all of us to perform deeds of mercy!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

#### KONTAKION IV

**T**hose who were tempest-tossed amid the tumults of life and foundered upon the floods of the passions didst thou guide to the calm haven of salvation which thou didst establish in the royal city of Moscow, O holy Elizabeth; for having opened thy heart unto God, thou didst open its doors to the children of God, showing them the mercy of their heavenly Father. Wherefore, thou hast now been shown to be the patroness of the forgotten and oppressed. Cover us all with thy holy protection, that we may be moved to cry aloud to our good God: ALLELUIA!

#### IKOS IV

Accepting the counsel of the elders of the Hermitage of St. Zosimas, thou didst prove thyself to be an obedient daughter of the Orthodox Faith, O venerable martyr, so that thine own words brought profit and consolation to all who hearkened unto thee. Thou wast a most wise abbess and a loving mother, who tended well the flock entrusted to thee, teaching them how to care for the afflicted as a sister

of mercy by thine own example, O holy princess. Wherefore, tend thou also the ailments of our souls, that we may cry aloud unto thee:

Rejoice, thou who anointest all with the oil of mercy;

Rejoice, thou who stillest the tempest of sorrows!

Rejoice, instruction of those who turn to Orthodoxy,

Rejoice, pillar of truth set firmly upon the rock of the Faith!

Rejoice, thou who dost rescue us from the mire of despondency;

Rejoice, thou who feedest the orphan and the widow!

Rejoice, thou who didst embrace charity with thy whole heart;

Rejoice, thou who didst exchange a palace for a poor and humble cell!

Rejoice, thou who didst put aside thy royal robes to don the hair shirt of asceticism;

Rejoice, thou who didst lay thy princely coronet at the feet of thy Savior!

Rejoice, thou who didst take up the Cross as a kingly scepter;

Rejoice, thou who didst love God more than earthly honor and glory! REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

#### KONTAKION V

**T**hou hast been revealed to us as a most radiant star adorning the vault of the firmament of the Church, O martyr of Christ. And ever illumined by the effulgence of thy sufferings, unto Christ, the Judge of the contest, do we offer hymnody of thanksgiving for thee, and we chant unto Him: ALLELUIA!

#### IKOS V

**T**hrough the guidance of the heavenly intercessors who shone forth in Russia — the venerable Sergius of Radonezh, and Alexis, the divinely eloquent Metropolitan of Moscow, in company with Martha and Mary, the sisters beloved of Christ — the narrow and royal path which alone leadeth to salvation was disclosed to thee, and traveling it thou



becamest a model for all Orthodox Christians dwelling in the Russian Empire, showing them how to unite the ideals of ascetic endeavor and charitable acts. Wherefore, for thee grace was added unto grace, and whilst thou was yet alive the report of thy holiness spread far and wide. The pious cried out in wonder to God Who is wondrous in His saints: “Glory be to Thee, O Lord!”; and to thee they uttered such praises as these:

Rejoice, scion of a royal house who tended the sores of paupers with thine own hands;

Rejoice, paragon of monastic virtue and rule of faith!

Rejoice, thou who didst reject worldly praise and hast received heavenly rewards;

Rejoice, thou who dost partake of everlasting splendor on high!

Rejoice, thou who didst expose spiritual deception;

Rejoice, thou who didst strengthen the common folk in the true Faith! Rejoice, thou who dost ever summon the faithful to prayer and vigilance;

Rejoice, thou who didst adopt the Russian nation as thy homeland! Rejoice, thou who didst spurn the praises of men;

Rejoice, thou who art ever exalted by the Church! Rejoice, beacon guiding all to the safe harbor of heaven;

Rejoice, thou who didst labor for Christ in the midst of the world! REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

#### KONTAKION VI

**H**ow can angels and men refrain from wonderment when they ponder the depths of thy love and compassion? For thy convent was not only a spiritual haven for those seeking salvation, but also a wellspring gushing forth torrents of consolation upon those parched by the burning heat of the passions. By thine own examples were thy sisters, the handmaidens of Christ, taught how to comfort the sorrowing, tend the sick, teach the ignorant, correct the erring and prepare the dying for the life which is to come. Wherefore, thy nuns joined chorus with thee to praise the Lord continually, chanting unto Him: ALLELUIA!

#### IKOS VI

**A**s a true image of piety thou didst venerate the wonder-working icons and holy relics enshrined throughout the Russian land. Her monasteries and countless churches witnessed thine ascetic feats and fervent prayers. Thy tears, shed in such profusion, adorned thy person like lustrous pearls and moved to wonder those who beheld thee. And we who cherish thy holy memory exult in spirit, crying out to thee:

Rejoice, image of piety who delighted to venerate the sacred icons of the Mother of God;

Rejoice, thou who dost ever bless those who have recourse unto thy precious relics!

Rejoice, wise pilgrim whose destiny was the Kingdom of Heaven;

Rejoice, adornment of Holy Russia!

Rejoice, thou who art ever magnified by the Holy Church;

Rejoice, thou who didst not forsake Russia in her time of tribulation! Rejoice, thou who didst perceive the providence of God in all that befell thee;

Rejoice, thou who didst teach others to set their hope on Christ alone! Rejoice, thou who wast present when the venerable Seraphim was glorified;

Rejoice, thou who didst venerate his grace-bearing relics!

Rejoice, thou who didst hear the prophecy of that holy father;

Rejoice thou who didst prophesy the downfall of the Orthodox monarchy!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

#### KONTAKION VII

**W**hen those who had been told slanderous tales about thee were brought before thee, O royal martyr, they perceived thine innocence and blamelessness and the holiness of thy life, for thou didst sacrifice thyself for the good of others, and thy heart was ever intent upon their needs, so that thou didst ever move them to chant unto God: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS VII

**T**hou didst declare unto those who sought to discredit thy convent and labors; “This is no new creation or concept, neither do I depart from the Church’s traditions, I only repeat what the Church teacheth; for it is Christ Who saith: ‘Love thy neighbor’, and the divine Theologian doth manifestly thunder: ‘If ye do not love your neighbor whom ye see, ye cannot love God Whom ye see not.’” Thou didst but renew that which had grown old, and hast revealed to us the essence of true love in the miracle of thy life. Wherefore, we chant to thee thus:

Rejoice, thou who dost ever care for our souls;  
Rejoice, holy princess, worthy of all praise!  
Rejoice, thou who didst unite love and mercy, as a bridge joineth land to land;  
Rejoice, thou who didst know well the saving words of grace!  
Rejoice, thou who wast persecuted for righteousness’ sake;  
Rejoice, for truly great is thy reward in the heavens!  
Rejoice, thou who didst silence blasphemy and impiety by thy faith in Christ;  
Rejoice, thou who didst most humbly endure the calumny and slan-der hurled at thee by thine own countrymen!  
Rejoice, thou who didst love righteousness and hate falsehood;  
Rejoice, thou who didst not seek to avoid the reproaches of men, that thou inightest receive praise from the Lord!  
Rejoice, thou who didst love the Gospel above all else;  
Rejoice, thou who didst ever delight in the words thereof!  
REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

## KONTAKION VIII

**H**aving beheld a sight strange to all, the fall of an empire once dedicated to God, the desecration of all that is holy, and the public ridicule of the martyred Emperor Nicholas, thou didst shed endless streams of tears for all the tribulations which had befallen thine adopted homeland. Yet trusting in God, and believing this to be His holy will, thou didst never cease to cry out to Him: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS VIII

**I**n a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the nation was overtaken by chaos, thy family was taken away, and all thy friends stood afar off. Only a few fearless hierarchs came to comfort thee and thy sisters, O royal martyr. Thy convent was as a sheep-fold beset by ravening wolves; yet thou didst remain undaunted by their depredations during those violent days, ever preserving thy flock from harm by thy supplications. Wherefore, receive from us these praises:

Rejoice, royal servant of the omnipotent King;  
Rejoice, handmaid of the Queen of heaven!  
Rejoice, thou who with the royal martyrs wast prey to grievous slanders; Rejoice, thou who didst find consolation in the service of God!  
Rejoice, thou who didst not judge the sinful lies of men;  
Rejoice, thou who didst refuse to condone their misdeeds!  
Rejoice, thou who didst uproot the tares of evil growing in the royal garden;  
Rejoice, thou who didst not approve of vile and wicked deeds!  
Rejoice, thou who ever helpest us to see the will of God in all things;  
Rejoice, thou who didst rebuke the riotous multitude with thy cour-age!  
Rejoice, for thou didst not turn away from the hapless Tsar when he was mocked and abused;  
Rejoice, thou who with him and his family dost ever rejoice in heaven!  
REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

## KONTAKION IX

**T**he angelic armies on high were stricken with awe, beholding Holy Russia bound and led to bloody slaughter by those who wage war against God; for, bleeding and dying in the arena of martyrdom, the land is dyed red with the blood of the countless new martyrs, who cry out continually to the Lord of hosts: ALLELUIA!



## IKOS IX

**T**he vile minions of Satan, sinful men with hands reeking of the blood of the innocent, openly reviled God, and mockingly asked thee how thou who art of royal blood couldst minister to the poor and lowly, O royal passion-bearer. But we marvel at thy patience and humility, and cry out unto thee:

Rejoice, thou who didst quench the flames of discontent with thy tears;

Rejoice, thou who didst lament the woes of Russia, as Martha and Maryr wept over Lazarus!

Rejoice, thou who didst submit to the will of God;

Rejoice, thou who didst behold the Savior enthroned on high!

Rejoice, venerable martyr of royal birth;

Rejoice, thou who didst put to shame those who mistreated thee! Rejoice, thou who dost bless those who bless thee;

Rejoice, thou who wipest the tears away from those who grieve!

Rejoice, thou who dost calm our troubled hearts;

Rejoice, thou who bowest down before the throne of God, offering Him our entreaties!

Rejoice, thou who art ever attentive to His decrees;

Rejoice, thou who dost continually preserve us from all harm!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

## KONTAKION X

**W**ishing to make thee captive, O martyr, evil-minded men arrived at thy convent on the third day of Pascha, to separate thee from thy flock; for after the holy Patriarch Tikhon the Confessor blessed thee and thy nuns, the wicked fell upon thee and took thee away into exile. Yet knowing what was to follow, thou didst take with thee thy faithful companion, the venerable nun Barbara, and with thee she chanted the hymn of victory' unto the risen Christ: ALLELUIA!

## IKOS X

**B**anished to the heart of Russia, hidden away from the eyes of the world, with prayer and fasting thou didst prepare for thy departure from this life, O Elizabeth, when to thy great joy thou wast reunited with thy faithful companion Barbara, and with the holy Princes Sergius, John, Igor, Constantine and Vladimir, who were all to share in thy sufferings and receive incorruptible crowns from the Hands of the Savior. And sharing together in the delights of heaven, attend ye unto our praises:

Rejoice, ye who ever pray for the salvation of Russia;

Rejoice, ye who, though cast down by the ungodly into the depths, have been raised on high by Christ!

Rejoice, ye who shed the scarlet robe of royalty and put on the purple robe of martyrdom;

Rejoice, ye who were not deceived by the deceit of the evil one!

Rejoice, ye who lift up your hands to God in supplication;

Rejoice, ye who cast away earthly riches to receive treasure in heaven!

Rejoice, patient sufferers who endured all for the Lord;

Rejoice, ye who put to shame those who took your lives, but could not slay your souls!

Rejoice, ye who received wreaths of victory fashioned by the hand of the Creator;

Rejoice, bright constellation of holy stars shining in the firmament of the Church!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

## KONTAKION XI

**O** the glorious wonder! A mine depleted of its ore is shown to be full of the lustrous gold of grace and piety! A shaft sunk deep into the bowels of the earth is shown to be a ladder extending

up to heaven, whereby Elizabeth and her companions ascend from the depths unto the heights of Paradise! O holy martyrs, ye blessed ones, as ye delight in celestial joys forget not us who celebrate the memory of your godly struggles, that with you we also may chant the angelic hymn: ALLELUIA!

#### IKOS XI

**T**he minds of men, darkened by their fallen state, are unable to devise for you hymns worthy of the pangs and sufferings ye endured, O holy passion-bearers of Christ; for ye were like unto the youths of Ephesus who fell asleep in the cave, in that ye fell into the sleep of death in a shaft sunk into earth, only to awaken in the splendid mansions of heaven, where ye now receive from us our poor praises:

Rejoice, ye seven-branched lampstand burning before the throne of God; Rejoice, glory of Alapayevsk!

Rejoice, ye who planted the tree of life amid the barren mountains and watered it with your blood;

Rejoice, royal passion-bearers, adorned with kingly diadems more precious than gold and costly jewels!

Rejoice, O Barbara, devoted daughter of thy spiritual mother;

Rejoice, ye who intercede for your compatriots who find themselves amid suffering and exile!

Rejoice, O Sergius, valiant confessor of the true Faith;

Rejoice, O brethren, equal in number to the Trinity!

Rejoice, O Princes John, Igor and Constantine, who were like unto the holy youths in the fiery furnace;

Rejoice, O Vladimir, prince and martyr, who foresaw thine own suffering and death!

Rejoice, ye who have washed your souls clean in the streams of your blood;

Rejoice, ye who stand before the Savior in the ranks of the new martyrs and confessors!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

#### KONTAKION XII

**W**ith what words of praise shall we weave a wreath of victory to adorn the new passion-bearers of Alapayevsk? For even if we try to recount their manifold labors, our own weakness and hardness of heart puts us to shame. For while they ever sought after the Lord, we ever stray farther away from Him. Wherefore, come ye speedily to our aid, and drive our enemies, visible and invisible, far away from us, that unvexed and at peace, we may chant aloud unto God: ALLELUIA!

#### IKOS XII

**W**e chant your praises, O holy new martyrs of Alapayevsk, for when faced with death, ye manifestly confessed Christ as God in the presence of the ungodly. Wherefore, the martyred nun Barbara received from the Hand of God a wreath fashioned of truth and obedience, and her royal companions were endowed with twofold crowns of majesty and martyrdom for their struggles. And thus hath Christ the Lord, the Judge of the contest, shown us all that it is meet to glorify them with such praises as these:

Rejoice, boast of the Urals;

Rejoice, ye who shone forth like rays out of a dark pit!

Rejoice, ye who sanctified a lowly mineshaft;

Rejoice, ye who were like unto Joseph, who was likewise cast into a pit by envious brethren!

Rejoice, ye who were like unto Daniel, who was thrown into a lions' den;

Rejoice, ye who have summoned countless other new martyrs to the banquet of the Bridegroom!

Rejoice, ye who were welcomed to the mansions of heaven by your kin, the martyred Tsar and his holy family;

Rejoice, ye who were slaughtered by the godless and unbelieving!

Rejoice, O Elizabeth, who didst bind thy companions' wounds



and tend to their hurts;

Rejoice, thou who didst encourage and strengthen them until the moment of their souls' departure!

Rejoice, for thou didst chant fitting hymns as their life ebbed away;

Rejoice, thou who before an icon of the Savior didst surrender thine own soul into His hands!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

### KONTAKION XIII

**O** all-praised and venerable martyr Elizabeth, with the other passion-bearers of Alapayevsk — the martyrs Barbara, John, Igor, Constantine, Vladimir, and Sergius — accept this, our meager hymnody of praise, which we offer to you in honor of the sufferings and violent death ye endured for Christ; and beseech the All-Holy Trinity our God, that we be delivered from the perils and evil circumstances which beset us throughout our life: that with you and all the new martyrs and confessors of Russia we may ever chant unto the omnipotent Lord of heaven and earth: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

*(This KONTAKION is recited thrice)*

### IKOS I

**T**he Creator of the angels and Lord of mankind led thee from the delusion of heresy to the divine knowledge of the Truth, O blessed Elizabeth, that thy loving heart and soul might renew Christian love, which had grown cold in the land of Russia: for through thine efforts the hearts of men again warmed to the word of God, and the Master of all vouchsafed thee to live a life exalted above thy peers, in love, humility and fervent prayer. Wherefore, we ever chant unto thee, as is meet:

Rejoice, lamp burning with the love of God;

Rejoice, handmaid of Christ the Lord!

Rejoice, scroll whereon the Holy Spirit inscribed the Christian virtues;

Rejoice, divinely wise princess and new martyr!

Rejoice, daughter who forsook thy father's house and turned to Holy Orthodoxy;

Rejoice, voice of prayer which was never silent!

Rejoice, ever-flowing fountain of lovingkindness;

Rejoice, blessed inhabitant of the Garden of Eden!

Rejoice, vessel wherein the wine of gladness and the oil of healing are mingled together;

Rejoice, upholder of the traditions of piety!

Rejoice, treasure-house of compassion;

Rejoice, radiant star resplendent with heavenly glory!

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

### KONTAKION I

**C**ome, all ye who love Christ, and let us offer up a hymn of praise unto the martyred nun Elizabeth, who was chosen by the Lord of hosts to serve as an example of Christian piety and love for those who desire to follow in His steps. For, spurning the vanity of worldly possessions, rank and cares, she dedicated her whole life to the aid of those in need. Wherefore, it hath pleased Christ our God to crown her ascetic labors with the diadem of martyrdom; and, dwelling now in His Heavenly Kingdom, she maketh supplication unto God, that He deliver from misfortunes and perils all who chant unto her with joy:

REJOICE, O venerable martyr Elizabeth, true model of Christian sacrifice!

## PRAYER

### TO OUR VENERABLE MOTHER, THE NEW MARTYR ELIZABETH

**O** holy and wondrous Elizabeth, New Martyr of Russia! With thy whole heart, thou didst embrace the Holy Orthodox Faith and the Russian people, and until thy last breath, thou didst serve them with fervor and love. Thou didst endure threefold trials to the glory of the Holy Trinity: in thy royalty, no haughtiness was to be found; in thy monasticism, thou was not neglectful; and in thy martyrdom, thou didst endure fully to the end. And now, O Bride of Christ, thou dost stand before the throne of the King of All, together with thy faithful companion, the Nun Barbara, singing the thrice-holy hymn to the Holy Trinity. Pray fervently that the Russian land may be delivered from the godless ones and from all evil, for the forgiveness of our iniquities, and for the strengthening and protection of our community (family, church, city, nation...) so that our souls may be saved. **AMEN**

