

The 23rd Day of February

Commemoration of the Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stikhera, in Tone 1: *Special melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven...”*

Thou wast joined to the bodiless powers /
While living here on earth, /
Together with them ceaselessly serving the Trinity, /
O divinely bless’t father; /
And dwelling now in the highest as a man of heaven ///
Thou teachest the Mysteries of God to those still dwelling on the earth.

Thou, O divinely blessèd one /
Art a flowering branch planted by God /
Bringing forth the fruit of the Divine Word; /
From which we truly draw the sweetness of Christ ///
And bring thy teachings to the world with all our heart.

Being illumined with divine radiance, /
Thy body being consumed by a material fire, /
Thou didst pass over to the immaterial dawn /
Bringing light to the darkness of night, /
Dispelling the passions of our souls, O wise one, ///
And granting us remission through thy prayers, O father.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

Adrift on the storm-tossed sea of sin, O immaculate one, /
I run to the calm haven of thy pure intercessions, crying out: /
“Stretch out thy mighty hand to me, thy servant, ///
And save me, O Mother of God.

Or this Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 1:

When she beheld the Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, /
The most pure Virgin cried out lamenting: /
O my Sweet Child, /
What is this new and all-glorious wonder? /
How is it that Thou Who holdest all things in the hollow of Thy hand, ///
Art nailed to the Tree in the flesh?

The Troparion for the Saint, in Tone 4:

Thou didst sit upon the throne of the Apostles /
O bishop and martyr Polycarp. /
Thou didst share in their virtues, /
And realized the joy of contemplation in thy deeds; /
Therefore thou didst preach the word of truth /
And suffered for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood. ///
O hieromartyr Polycarp, pray Christ God that He may save our souls.

Morning Service

The Canon for the Saint.... *incomplete as of 12/2013*

The Kontakion for the Saint, in Tone 1: *Special melody, "The angelic choir...."*

O wise hierarch Polycarp, thou didst offer spiritual fruits to God /
And became worthy because of thy virtues. /
So we, who have been enlightened by thy teachings ///
Honor thy memory on this day and glorify the Lord.