

Akolouthia for the
HOLY HIEROMARTYR ELEFThERIOS OF ILLYRICUM
Doxology Rank Commemoration on December 15th



**The Holy Hieromartyr Eleftherios of Illyricum
Patron Saint of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America
on whose feast in the year 2004
the Diocese was formally established and its first Bishop enthroned**

DAILY VESPERS WITH AN ENTRANCE

We chant Lord, I have cried *in the Fourth Tone, allowing for six verses as below:*

Verse 6: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Fourth Tone. Unto them that fear Thee

The All-holy Spirit's great and sacred vessel didst thou become, * cleansed in soul from passions' filth, * O wise Eleftherios; * and upon receiving * from Him the divine holy chrism, thou wast made high priest, * a guide that guided a godly people's ways, * a Martyr unsubdued for Him Who bare the Passion for all of us, * that dispassion might flow abroad, * O contender of sacred fame.

Verse 5: For Thy Name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

The All-holy Spirit's great and sacred vessel didst thou become ...

Verse 4: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

Thou didst give no thought unto thy body tortured with stripes and wounds * and brought near to the blazing fire; * for thou hadst thy mind nailed fast * with unequalled longing * to the comely beauty of that Divine One thou didst love, * with Whose sweet love thou wast wounded through and through, O athlete Eleftherios, thou bright adornment of God's high priests, * gem of Martyrs exceeding fair, * and ambassador for our souls.

Verse 3: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Thou didst give no thought unto thy body tortured with stripes and wounds ...

Verse 2: Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

When she saw that thou hadst fought right well and finished thy contest well, * she that did well in bearing thee * longed also herself to run * that same course of contest; * and as she embraced thee in the arena of thy fight, * she like a heifer was slaughtered ruthlessly. * With her, O Eleftherios, implore the Saviour and Lord for us, * we entreat thee, O truly wise, * and thrice-blessed high priest of Christ.

Verse 1: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.

When she saw that thou hadst fought right well and finished thy contest well ...

Glory. *Sixth Tone*

Unto the end, thou wast a most upright priest, O blessed Eleftherios; for as a sacrificer of the divine and ineffable Mysteries, thou didst shed thy blood for Christ God, and didst offer thyself as an acceptable victim. Wherefore, since thou hast boldness with Him, pray fervently for those who celebrate thine ever-venerable memory with faith, that they who honour it may be delivered from temptations and all manner of perils and adversities.

Both now. *Of the Forefeast. Same Tone*

Make ready, O cave, for the Ewe-lamb cometh, bearing Christ in her womb. And do thou, O manger, receive Him that with a word hath loosed us, the firstborn, from irrational deeds. Ye shepherds abiding in the field, be ye witnesses of the dread wonder. And ye Magi from Persia, offer gold, and frankincense, and myrrh unto the King; for the Lord hath appeared from a Virgin Mother. And bowing to Him like a handmaiden, His Mother worshipped Him, and addressed Him that was in her arms: How wast Thou sown within me? And how hast Thou grown with me, O my Redeemer and my God?

We chant the Aposticha as below:

First Tone. Thou art the joy

Having become a protector of the divine Church of Christ, * and as the truly worthy child of godly Anthia, * and the wise Apostles' initiate in truth, * thou, O Father, didst turn to God * the peoples that had once senselessly offered up * worship unto demons as to gods.

Verse 1: Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

Thou showest great care for women that are about to give birth, * for when they come to thy church, thou dost grant their deliv'rance; * thou gavest a fair voyage to sailors at sea * when, O Father, they asked of thee; * and thou bestowest full health on them that are sick, * as thou shinest forth in miracles.

Verse 2: The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

Since thou wast wholly held fast with thy Maker's ardent love, * thou didst endure with courage in martyric contention; * Hadrian's sharp torments affrighted thee not; * and on taking thy mother as * thy fellow athlete, O wise Eleftherios, * thou in gladness didst ascend on high.

Glory. *Eighth Tone*

Thou didst redden thine episcopal robe with the streams of thy blood, O righteous Father. And when she that had borne thee and nurtured thee well saw thee, her sweet child, courageously suffering death in the midst of the stadium, she fell down and embraced thee. Wherefore, when she also was beheaded, she entered with thee into the heavenly bridal chambers. O blessed mother! O sacred breasts which thou didst suckle, O blessed Eleftherios! For through her thou camest to know the Fashioner of nature. Together with her, therefore, intercede that our souls find mercy.

Both now. *Theotokion in the Same Tone*

Lady, do thou receive the supplications of thy slaves, and deliver us from every affliction and necessity.

APOLYTIKION ¹

Fifth Tone. Let us worship the Word

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honouring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleftherios. (*Once*)

¹ For the musical arrangement, see litresswraoc.networks-now.net/Music%20Files/ApolytikionStEleftheriosIllyricum.pdf

Glory; both now *Theotokion in the Same Tone*
Rejoice, O uncrossed gate! Rejoice, O wall and protection of those who hasten unto thee! Rejoice, O quiet haven who hast not known wedlock! O thou who hast given birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God, thou shalt continue to intercede for the sake of those who praise and worship thy birth-giving.

DAILY ORTHROS WITH SUNG PRAISES & DOXOLOGY

We chant God is the Lord *in the Fifth Tone with the Apolytikion (Twice) and the Theotokion as below:*

APOLYTIKION

Fifth Tone. Let us worship the Word

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honouring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleftherios.

Glory.

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes ...

Both now. *Theotokion in the Same Tone*

Rejoice, O uncrossed gate! Rejoice, O wall and protection of those who hasten unto thee! Rejoice, O quiet haven who hast not known wedlock! O thou who hast given birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God, thou shalt continue to intercede for the sake of those who praise and worship thy birth-giving.

The Poetic Kathismata are all from the Parakletiké in the Tone of the Week.

Lord, have mercy (*Thrice*)

Glory; both now *and the Fiftieth Psalm* Have mercy on me, O God

The Kontakion

We all extol thee as an adornment of priests, O righteous one, and an encourager of trophy-bearers, O Hieromartyr Eleftherios; and we beseech thee: Free from all manner of peril them that celebrate thy memorial with love, and intercede unceasingly in behalf of us all.

The Oikos

Look upon the moonless night of my soul, O compassionate Giver of Life, for Thou art the only man-befriending and merciful God; and with Thine almighty right hand, O Word, set me free from the shame of the passions, that I may hymn Thy hierarch Eleftherios. For like Samuel, he was truly known to Thee even from the womb, and was sanctified and dedicated to Thee, the Creator, by a sacred mother; and he intercedeth unceasingly in behalf of us all.

SYNAXARION

† On the fifteenth of the month we commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleftherios, Bishop of Illyricum.

Verses

Eleftherios, being by nature no servant,
Gave no service to error on seeing the broadswords.

Blades on the fifteenth murdered Godlike Eleftherios.

† On this day we commemorate Saint Anthia, the mother of Saint Eleftherios, who was beheaded while embracing her dead son.

Verses

The mother, being cut down by swords, bestoweth
Herself on her child as a dead man's adornment.

Saint Eleftherios had Rome as his homeland. Having been orphaned of his father from childhood, he was taken by his mother Anthia to Anicetus, the Bishop of Rome, by whom he was instructed in the sacred letters (that is, the divine Scriptures). Though still very young in years, he was made Bishop of Illyricum by reason of his surpassing virtue, and by his teachings he converted many unbelievers to Christ. However, during a most harsh persecution that was raised against the Christians under Hadrian (reigned from 117-138), the Saint was arrested by the tyrants. Enduring many torments for Christ, he was finally put to death by two soldiers about the year 126. As for his Christ-loving mother Anthia, while embracing the remains of her son and kissing them with maternal affection, she was also beheaded.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

After The Theotokos and the Mother of the Light *we chant in the First Tone the Ninth Scriptural Ode*
My soul doth magnify the Lord *with its refrain* More honourable

We conclude with the Katavasia of Ode IX of the first Canon for the Nativity of Christ in the First Tone
A strange and marvellous mystery do I behold

The Exaposteilarion in the Third Tone. Thou Who as God adornest

Thou as a shepherd broughtest * droves of believers unto Christ; * and when the heifer that bare thee * embraced her calf, with thee she died. * O Eleftherios, with her * I sing thy praises, O Father.

Theotokion in the Same Tone

O thou all-holy Maiden, * unto thy Son I bring thee forth * as my divine mediatrix * that I, the hapless wretch, be freed * from all affliction and suff'ring * and from the torment eternal.

We chant the Praises in the Sixth Tone, allowing for four verses as below:

Verse 4: Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Sixth Tone. As it is written

From Christ our God didst thou receive * His wise Disciples' mighty grace * and, O Hierarch, * thou didst also eagerly * complete their course of context. * We therefore now acclaim thee * as is meet, O Eleftherios.

Verse 3: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

From Christ our God didst thou receive ...

Verse 2: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.

The lies of men didst thou convict * with thy wise words, and thou didst slay * in thy contest * the inventor of the lie; * though once he boasted greatly, * thy feet have trod him under, * O wise and prudent Eleftherios.

Verse 1: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.

O Hierarch, do thou water us * in spirit with the holy rains * of thine own blood, * as we honour thee in faith * and celebrate with longing * on thy divine remembrance, * while magnifying Christ our Saviour's Name.

Glory. *Second Tone*

As the namesake of Godlike freedom, O Father, thou wast counted worthy of the priestly robe. While boldly teaching piety, thou didst instruct us in the principles of the things that have been enjoined us. Wherefore, having also with youthful vigour accomplished thy martyric resolution, thou hast excelled both as a hierarch and martyr, and hast received thy crown from Christ God. Entreat Him, O Hieromartyr Eleftherios, that our souls be saved.

Both now. *Theotokion in the Same Tone*

Unto thee do I commit mine every hope, O Mother of God; guard me under thy shelter.

We chant the Great Doxology and end Orthros as on a Lord's Day.

DIVINE LITURGY

The Prokeimenon. Seventh Tone

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

Verse: What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

The Epistle is II Timothy 1:8-18

My son Timothy, be not thou ashamed ...

The Alleluiarion. First Tone

Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

Verse: For the Lord hath elected Sion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself.

The Gospel is Mark 2:23 – 3:5

At that time, Jesus went through the grain fields ...

The Koinonikon

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia.