December 13th

Herman of Alaska, Enlightener of the Aleuts

Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

1) Thou didst accept long exile for Christ,

to bring to knowledge them that once slept in ignorance;

and no toil or tribulation deterred thy marvelous zeal

to console the Aleuts in their every grief.

The more fleshly vision failed, all the more were thine inward eyes

given the vision of a Prophet to guide a right,

telling things to come and forewarning the proud of heart.

Wherefore, thy mighty works were crowned, a people was saved through thee,
and from the seeds of thy sowing, the fruit of martyrdom graced our land, rejoicing the planter,
and with joy, O Herman, thou didst request his prayer for thee.

2) Rejoice, O Herman, dwelling of God,
Valaam both old and new rejoice at thy memory;
the New World and Holy Russia both claim thy grace as their own,
one being thy mother, one thy child in Christ.

Rejoice, eye of prophecy, scourge of demons, the Angels' friend;
downfall of idols, death of passions, bright flame of prayer,
never-failing fount of the kind-est bene-fi-cence.

Thou wast the new A-pos-tle of God's love to the Al-eut tribes;

and thine own coun-try-men also didst thou turn back from un-god-li-ness; and all with thank-giv-ing sang thy praise as their com-pas-sion-ate heal-er in the Lord.

3) Thou didst con-trol both wa-ter and fire, mak-ing the el-e-ments to serve thee, God's ser-vi-tor;

the An-gels came out of Heav-en to bless the wa-ters for thee, and at thy de-cease, they took thee up in light.
The wild beasts perceived in thee that which Adam lost anciently,
and they revered thee, showing loving obedience,
while the unclean fiends fled with terror at thy rebuke.
Clothed in the Holy Spirit with the power of miracles,
thou wast the meekest of servants, consoling all
and subduing all with Christ-like affection
that was manifest in labors beyond the strength of man.