

## The 31<sup>st</sup> Day of March

✦ Commemoration of the Repose of our Father among the Saints, Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to the Americas.

### Evening Service

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Antiphon.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stikhera.

#### 4 stikhera, in Tone 2:

Like the Apostles of long ago, /

O holy father Innocent. /

Thou didst accept the Lord’s command to baptize all peoples in His name; /

Thou didst leave thy homeland to proclaim the truth to an island people sitting in darkness. ///

With them lead us down the path to the Kingdom of Heaven. (*Twice*)

Like the betrothed of the Theotokos, /

Thou didst work in humility with thine hands /

And through thee, like Constantine, churches blossomed throughout the land, /

Built for the feeding of the flock ///

Thou didst gather and lead into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Like the holy brothers from Thessalonia. /

Who brought illumination to thy forefathers, /

Thou didst labor to bring the same inheritance /

To an untaught peoples placed in thy care, /

That worshipped the One True God in words of many tongues ///

That they might by the Word be led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### And 4 stikhera, in the Same Tone:

With what crowns of praise shall we adorn the wise Apostle of our land? /

With the radiant Gospel of salvation /

He came boldly to enlighten an island people which sat in darkness and ignorance; /

By planting there the Orthodox Faith ///

He brought them from Christ our God great mercy. (*Twice*)

With what songs of praise shall we now bless Innocent, /

Our teacher wise in God? /

Who as the first Archpastor to rule our land, /

By word and deed taught us the way we must go /

To attain to the glorious Kingdom won and promised to us by Christ //

From Whom we have great mercy.

With what songs of praise shall we exalt our father Innocent? /  
Who by his word brought heathen worship to an end /  
In the distant reaches of Alaska and Siberia? /  
Then like the Holy Apostle Paul before him, /  
Bound in chains of obedience to the will of God /  
Brought comfort to believers in the ancient capital ///  
Which through his prayers and exhortations receives from Christ our God great mercy.

**Glory... Tone 2:**

The Lord truly guided thee /  
Along the paths of many labors, /  
Through many lands and many peoples /  
To enlighten a multitude of hearts, /  
To guide and counsel an army of souls down the narrow path ///  
Which alone can lead into the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Now and ever... Dogmatic Theotokion, in the Same Tone:**

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came. /  
As the bush burned, yet was not consumed, /  
So the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin. /  
The Sun of Righteousness has risen instead of a pillar of flame! ///  
Instead of Moses, Christ the salvation of our souls!

*[Or the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection Service]*

**The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.**

**Three Readings:**

**The Reading from Proverbs (Composite 2, from Chapters 10 and 8):**

<sup>10:7</sup>The memory of the just is blessed, and  
<sup>6</sup>the blessing of the Lord is upon the head  
of the righteous. <sup>13</sup>Blessed is the man that  
hath found wisdom, and the man that  
knoweth discernment. <sup>14</sup>For it is better to  
traffick in her than in treasures of gold and  
silver. <sup>15</sup>She is more precious than prec-  
ious stones; and nothing that is precious is  
equal to her worth. <sup>16</sup>For length of  
days and years of life are in her right hand,  
and in her left hand are riches and glory;

out of her mouth proceedeth righteousness,  
and on her tongue she carrieth law and  
mercy.

<sup>8:32</sup>Now therefore hearken unto me, O my  
son, *for I will speak of solemn things.*  
Blessèd are they that keep my ways; <sup>35</sup>For  
mine outgoings are the outgoings of life,  
and *in them* is prepared the favor of the  
Lord. <sup>4</sup>“*Therefore*, O men, do I exhort you,  
and I lift up my voice unto the sons of  
men. <sup>12</sup> *For I, Wisdom, have dwelt with*

counsel and have called upon ... understanding. <sup>14</sup>Counsel is mine and safety; prudence is mine, strength also is mine. <sup>17</sup>I love them that love me, and those that seek me shall find *grace*.

<sup>8:5</sup>O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, take heart. <sup>6</sup>Hearken unto me, for I will speak of solemn things and bring forth that which is right out of

my lips. <sup>7</sup>For my throat shall speak truth, and false lips are an abomination in my sight. <sup>8</sup>All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing *contrary* or perverse in them. <sup>9</sup>They are all plain to them that understand and upright to them that find knowledge. *I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and you shall be filled with the Spirit.*

### **The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (Composite 3, from Chapters 4, 5):**

<sup>4:7</sup>...**T**he righteous *man, though he die early* yet shall he be in rest. <sup>16</sup>Thus the righteous that is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living, <sup>17</sup>for they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in His counsel hath decreed for him, <sup>19</sup>For He shall rend them, and cast them down headlong, that they shall be speechless; and He shall shake them from the foundations, and they shall be utterly laid waste and be in sorrow, and their memorial shall perish. <sup>20</sup>And when they cast up the account of their sins they shall come with fear, and their own iniquities shall convict *them to their face*.

<sup>5:1</sup>Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account of his labors. <sup>2</sup>When they see it, they shall

be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his salvation, so far beyond all that they looked for. <sup>3</sup>And they repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit shall say within themselves, "This was he, whom we held at one time in derision, and a proverb of reproach; <sup>4</sup>we fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honor: <sup>5</sup>how he is numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints! <sup>6</sup>Therefore have we erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness hath not shined unto us, and the sun of righteousness rose not upon us. <sup>7</sup>We wearied ourselves in the way of wickedness and destruction: yea, we have gone through deserts, where there lay no way; but ... the way of the Lord, we have not known."

### **The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (Composite 4. A paraphrase of Proverbs 10; Wisdom of Solomon 6-9)**

**T**hus saith the Lord Almighty: The mouth of the righteous bringeth forth wisdom; the lips of the righteous drop grace. The mouth of the righteous bringeth forth wisdom, but righteousness delivereth them from death. If a righteous man dies, hope doth not die, for the son of the righteous is born to life, and in his own good things he acquireth the fruit of righteousness. There is always light for the righteous and they

obtain grace and glory from the Lord. The tongue of the wise is a good [counselor], and in their hearts resteth wisdom. The Lord loveth the hearts of the holy, and acceptable to Him are all the undefiled in the way. The wisdom of the Lord illumineth the faces of the wise. For she takes hold of those desiring her by making herself first known to them. She is easily seen by those who love her. He who rises early to seek her shall

have no difficulty, and those keeping vigil for the sake of her shall quickly be without sorrows. For she goeth about seeking those worthy of her, and graciously revealeth herself in the pathways. Against wisdom evil doth not prevail.

Therefore I was a lover of her beauty; I loved her and sought her out from my youth. I desired to make her my bride, and even the Master of All loved her. For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and a discoverer of His works. Her labors are virtues, for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and courage; no things in life are more necessary for men than these. And if anyone desireth much knowledge, she knoweth the things of old, and beholdeth things to come; she understandeth turns of speech and the solution of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcome of times and seasons. She is a mediator of good things for all, for

immortality is in her, and glory in the company of her words

Therefore, <sup>8:21</sup>I prayed unto the Lord and besought Him and with my whole heart I said, <sup>9:1</sup>“O God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy, Who hast made all things with Thy word <sup>2</sup>and ordained man through Thy wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which Thou hast made <sup>3</sup>and order the world according to equity and righteousness and execute judgment with an upright heart, <sup>4</sup>give me wisdom. <sup>5</sup>For I [am] Thy servant and son of Thine handmaid...<sup>10</sup>O send her out of Thy holy heavens and from the throne of Thy glory, that being present she may labor with me that I may know what is pleasing unto Thee. *And she shall guide me in understanding, and preserve me in her glory. For the thoughts of mortals are miserable, and their intentions likely to fail.*

**At the Litya, the stikhera of the Temple, and these of the Saint, Tone 2:**

Let us come together in joy /  
 To praise the Apostle of our land /  
 Whose wise preaching and selfless labors across the barren North /  
 Prepared good soil for the seeds of faith. /  
 These he planted with loving care, /  
 And nurtured the tender sprouts unceasingly, /  
 Pruning from them all deception and wickedness, /  
 Watering them with truth and righteousness, /  
 Until they grew into a sturdy vine whose holy fruit we are called to be, ///  
 Worthy of the Master's table.

**Glory... Tone 6:**

**A**s we the faithful gather to celebrate thy holy memory, /  
 O father Innocent, /  
 We rejoice that through thy ceaseless labor /  
 The truth of the Gospel was rooted in our land. /  
 Pray that we thine unworthy servants /  
 May remain firm in the Orthodox Faith ///  
 And spread its truth to all people.

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

We bless thee, O Virgin Theotokos, /  
And glorify thee as we should: /  
The vine which blossomed the Sacred Fruit ///  
From Whom we have great mercy.

**At the Apostikha, these stikhera, in Tone 6:**

Called to the New World by the grace of God, /  
As a skilled helmsman of the Ship of Christ, /  
Thou didst endure dangers on the sea, /  
To lead to the calm harbor of salvation those adrift in darkness, /  
Those bemired in delusions, /  
And those bestormed by passions. /  
Now, Holy father Innocent, ///  
Intercede for us before the Holy Trinity.

**Verse:** The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord.

A prophet raised from among the Aleuts /  
Heard from an angel /  
That thou wouldst journey afar to speak to a great man. /  
Then, by the infinite wisdom and mercy of God, /  
Once his words had been fulfilled, /  
We received thee back again as the first bishop to rule our land ///  
Intercede now for us, the flock which thou has gathered.

**Verse:** The Lord knows the way of the righteous and their inheritance shall be for ever.

The people of two continents /  
Of diverse languages and customs, /  
Through thee rejoice today in the mystery of the fiery tongues: /  
The fall of the cursèd Babel of human pride /  
Which had kept in enmity all nations of the earth /  
Until they were swept into the net of faith, ///  
Worshipping the consubstantial Trinity.

**Glory... in the Same Tone:**

In mortal danger from a storm at sea /  
Thou didst look to the North Star of the Church of Christ, /  
And, through the prayers of St. Herman of Alaska /  
Thou didst find grace and deliverance. ///  
With him, intercede for our souls.

**Now and ever... Theotokion, in the Same Tone:**

**M**y maker and redeemer Christ the Lord, /  
Was born of thee, O most pure Virgin; /  
By accepting my nature He freed Adam from the ancestral curse. /  
Therefore, we magnify thee unceasingly as the Mother of God. /  
Rejoice, O joy of heaven! ///  
Rejoice, O protection, intercession and salvation of our souls.

**The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

**O** holy father Innocent, /  
In obedience to the Will of God, /  
Thou didst accept dangers and tribulations /  
To bring many peoples to the knowledge of truth /  
Thou didst show us the path /  
And now by thy prayers ///  
Help lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Morning Service**

*incomplete as of 2/2013*

**The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

**A** true celebration of the providence and the grace of God /  
Is thy life, O holy father Innocent, Apostle to our land; /  
For in hardships and dangers, toiling for the Gospel's sake /  
Thou was preserved unharmed and often-delivered. /  
While from obscurity thou wast highly exalted as an example to  
the faithful everywhere ///  
That the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.

**Polyeley and Magnification:**

**We** magnify thee, O holy father Innocent, the enlightener of the Aleuts through thy wise teachings, and through the ceaseless toils, Apostle to America.

*Selected Psalm verses:*

**T**he steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord.  
**T**he Lord knows the way of the righteous and their inheritance shall be forever.

**After the Polyeley, the Sedalen, in Tone \_:**

**O** n, / *incomplete as of 2/2013*

I

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

**O** n, / *incomplete as of 2/2013*

T

**1st Antiphon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my Youth....”**

**The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:**

The steps of a man / are rightly ordered by the Lord. (*Ps. 36:23*)

*Verse:* The Lord knows the way of the righteous and their inheritance shall be for ever. (*Ps. 36:18*)

Let every breath praise the Lord!..

**Gospel: (35-ctr) John 10:1-9.**

**After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel Stikheron, to the Saint, Tone 6:**

**O** sower of the good seed of faith /  
And enlightener of peoples across the North /  
We exalt thee, O holy father Innocent /  
As the wise Apostle of our land, /  
A beacon of godliness and true piety, /  
A model of humility and self-denial /  
An example of missionary zeal and charity. /  
O chief pillar of the Orthodox Church in America, /  
Pray for the flock thou hast gathered throughout the world ///  
Who in faith and love celebrate thy memory.

### **The Canon**

*Incomplete as of 2/2013*

**Exapostilarion (Svietilen):**

**Thou. Twice** **O** n, / *incomplete as of 2/2013*

**Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion, Tone 6:**

**O** n, / *incomplete as of 2/2013*

**On the Praises, 4 stikhera, in Tone 4:**

**“How wonderful,”** the Psalmist declares, /  
“Is the coming of the messengers /  
Who carry the good news of the salvation throughout the world. /  
In obedience to the Lord’s command that His disciples forget themselves and  
each bear his cross, /  
Thou didst forsake the comforts of thy native land to journey in danger to distant shores /  
And enlighten the peoples there in the Name of the Holy Trinity, /  
To bring light and life to those dead in darkness. /  
Thereby earning for thyself a good reward from the Master /  
Who promised that those who leave all things and follow Him will *receive* eternal life ///  
In the age to come.

**G**race as a flood from heaven covered our land, /  
When thou didst appear in answer to a truly apostolic call /  
To a country whose people thou didst make thine own. /  
Enduring great dangers in the wilderness and on the seas, /  
Hunger and thirst, work and toil, /  
Like the great Apostles to the Gentiles /  
Thou didst labor for the sake of the Son of the Living God. ///  
Therefore, we rightly honor thee through whom the *Light* hath dawned on us.

**L**ike the beloved Apostle of Christ, /  
Whose name thou didst bear from thy mother’s womb, /  
Until thy birth to the monastic life, /  
Thy voice thundered across the wilderness proclaiming to untaught peoples /  
That the Word Who was in the beginning came in the flesh to save mankind /  
And will surely come again in judgment. ///  
Christ, the Son of the Living God sent thee to our land that *Light* might dawn on it.

**A**s a faithful servant of the Master, /  
Thou didst labor in all humility /  
And didst wander from place to place like the apostles, /  
A spectacle to the world. /  
Thy hunger for righteousness fed thy flock. /  
Thy thirst for the Kingdom led a siege on it. /  
In all things thou endured and blessed, teaching the churches everywhere, /  
Bringing the Good News to the New World. /  
Therefore, we exalt thee our father in Christ. ///  
Pray that we may follow the example thou didst leave for us.



**Glory... Tone 6:**

O holy apostle of our land /  
And venerable hierarch of our Mother Church, /  
Pray that thy faithful sheep across three continents may in peace and tranquility ///  
Glorify the Lord Who in His love saved the world from the darkness of godlessness.

**Now and ever... Theotokion, in the Same Tone:**

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine /  
That has put forth the Fruit of Life. /  
We pray thee, O Lady, intercede together with the Apostles and St. Innocent ///  
That mercy may be granted to our souls.

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from Ode 3, and 4 from Ode 6.**

**The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

O holy father Innocent, /  
In obedience to the Will of God, /  
Thou didst accept dangers and tribulations /  
To bring many peoples to the knowledge of truth /  
Thou didst show us the path /  
And now by thy prayers ///  
Help lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

**The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

A true celebration of the providence and the grace of God /  
Is thy life, O holy father Innocent, Apostle to our land; /  
For in hardships and dangers, toiling for the Gospel's sake /  
Thou was preserved unharmed and often-delivered. /  
While from obscurity thou wast highly exalted as an example to the faithful everywhere ///  
That the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.

**Prokeimenon of the Saint, Tone 1:** My mouth shall speak wisdom / and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *Verse:* Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

**The Epistle:** (318) Hebrews 7:26-8:2.

**The Alleluia, Tone 2:** The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment. *Verse:* The Law of God is in his heart and his steps shall not falter.

**The Gospel:** (36) John 10:9-16

**The Communion Hymn:** The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.