

## **FEBRUARY 23 – Martyr Polycarp of Smyrna**

### **FIRST ANTIPHON. PSALM 91.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord; to sing praises to Your name, O most High.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To show that the Lord is upright, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

### **SECOND ANTIPHON. PSALM 92.**

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, He has girded Himself.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

The world also is established, so that it cannot be moved.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and was crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit - save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON. PSALM 94**

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

## **TROPARIA**

**Tone 4** By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / you became a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. / Hieromartyr Polycarp, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

**Tone 4** In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, / so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, / O Holy Father Nicholas, / intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen. **KONTAKION**

**Tone 6** Protection of Christians never failing, / Mediatrix before the Creator, ever constant. / Do not despise the voice of prayer of sinners, / but in your goodness come to help us who faithfully call upon you. / Hasten to entreat, hurry to pray, O Theotokos, // interceding always for those honor you.

*The prokeimenon in the third tone: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47)*

*v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1:48)*

## **THE READING FROM THE FIRST CATHOLIC EPISTLE OF JOHN (3:21-4:6)**

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

*Alleluia, Tone 8*

*v. Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear. (Psalm 44:11)*

*v. Before your face the richest of people will pray. (Psalm 44:13)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (14:43-15:1)**

**COMMUNION HYMN** I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! *(Psalm 115:4)*