

**23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 6**  
**33 Holy Martyrs of Melitene**

**Typika (Reader's Service)**

*When a priest is not present in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy*

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**NOTE:** Choose one person to be the Reader.

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**Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**All:** Amen.  
O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,  
Who are everywhere and fill all things;  
Treasury of blessings and Giver of life,  
come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity,//  
and save our souls, O Good One!

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. **(3x)**

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. Lord have mercy. **(3x)**

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

**All:** Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespasses against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**All:** Amen.

**Reader:** Lord have mercy. **(12x)**

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

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

### **The First Antiphon (Ps. 103)**

Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed are You, O Lord.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:  
Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases.  
The Lord is compassionate and merciful,  
Longsuffering and of great goodness!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed are You, O Lord.  
*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

### **The Second Antiphon (Ps. 146)**

Praise the Lord, O my soul.  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live,  
I will sing praises to my God while I have being.  
Put not your trust in princes,  
In sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs, he returns to his earth;  
On that very day his plans perish.  
The Lord will reign forever, Your God O Zion to all generations.  
Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

### **Hymn of St. Justinian**

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 were crucified,  
Who are one of the Holy Trinity,  
Glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
O Christ, our God, trampling down death by death,  
Save us.

### **Third Antiphon (Matthew 5)**

In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom  
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you,

and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.  
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

**Tone 6      Troparion      (Resurrection)**

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Your grave,  
seeking Your most pure body.  
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.  
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

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

**Tone 6      Kontakion      (Resurrection)**

When Christ God the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Trisagion Hymn**

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (3x)

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

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

***Prokeimenon***

- Reader:**      The Prokeimenon in the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone  
                    O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! (*Ps 27/28:9*)
- All:**            O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!
- Reader:**      *To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!* (*Ps 27/28:1*)
- All:**            O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!
- Reader:**      O Lord, save Your people,
- All:**            and bless Your inheritance!

**Epistle**

**Reader:**      The Reading is from the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians –  
                    Ephesians 2:4-10

**Reader:**      In the **6<sup>th</sup> Tone:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Reader:** *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps 90/91:1)*

**All:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Reader:** *He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (Ps 90/91:2)*

**All:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### **The Gospel**

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**All:** Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You!

**Reader:** Luke 8:41-56

**All:** Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You!

### **The Creed**

*(Read Together)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages;  
Light of Light, true God of true God;  
begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father;  
by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven,  
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man;  
And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;  
And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;  
And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father;  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets.  
In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.  
I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

**Reader:** Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

**All:** Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**All:** Amen.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. **(12x)**

**All:** One is Holy, One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Hymn to the Theotokos

It is truly meet to bless you O Theotokos,  
Ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.  
More honorable than the Cherubim,  
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim:  
without defilement you gave birth to God the Word:  
true Theotokos, we magnify you.

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### Litanies (optional) – Lead by Reader

#### General:

O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, in Your mercies and loving-kindness, You regard the humble prayers of all who call upon You with their whole heart. Incline Your ear and hear now our prayer, offered to You in humility.

Be mindful, O Lord, of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Confirm and strengthen it. Increase it and keep it in peace, and preserve it unconquerable forever.

Be mindful, O Lord, of our Father, Archbishop Irénée, and of every bishop of the Orthodox; the priests and deacons and all the clergy of the Church; which You have established to feed the flock of Your Word; and by their prayers have mercy on us sinners.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all civil authorities, of our armed forces, of this city in which we dwell, and of every city and country; grant them peaceful times that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and holiness.

Be mindful, O Lord, of those who travel by land, by sea, and by air; of the old and the young; the orphans and widows; the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, the afflicted, the captives, and the needy poor; and send down Your mercies on all of them, especially     N     for You are the Giver of all good things.

Be mindful of us, O Lord, Your humble servants; and grant us Your grace, that we may be diligent and faithful, avoiding evil company and influence resisting temptation ; that we may lead a godly and righteous life, blameless and peaceful, ever serving You; that we may be accounted worthy to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal, especially,           N          ; pardon all their transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, whether in word, or deed, or thought. Shelter them in a place of brightness, a place of green pastures, a place of

repose, where all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away, and where the sight of Your countenance rejoices all Your saints from all the ages. Grant them Your heavenly Kingdom and a portion in Your ineffable blessings, and the enjoyment of Your unending Life.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for You are merciful and compassionate, and love mankind, and to You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**All:** Amen

For the Sick

O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, Who have sent Your Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death: Visit and heal Your servant(s)

\_\_\_\_N\_\_\_\_, granting him/her/them release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he/she/they may give thanks unto You and bless Your holy Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**All:** Amen

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**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. **(3x)**

**All:** O Lord, Bless.

**Reader (Facing the Main Icons):**

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**All:** Amen.

### 33 Holy Martyrs of Melitene



The holy martyr Hieron was born in the city of Tiana in great Cappadocia. Raised by a pious mother, he was a kindly and good Christian.

The co-ruling emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (284-305) sent a large military detachment headed by Lysias to Cappadocia to eradicate Christianity there, and also to conscript healthy and strong men into the imperial army. Among those pressed into service, Lysias also ordered his men to draft Hieron, who was distinguished by his great physical strength and dexterity. But Hieron refused to serve emperors who persecuted Christians. When they attempted to seize him by force and bring him to Lysias, he took a stick and started beating the soldiers who had been sent to bring him. The soldiers scattered, ashamed of being defeated by a single man.

Hieron then hid himself in a cave with eighteen other Christians. Lysias would not risk losing his soldiers by storming the cave.

Upon the advice of Cyriacus, one of Hieron's friends, Lysias lifted the siege of the cave and withdrew his detachment. Then Cyriacus persuaded Hieron not to offer resistance to the authorities. He and the other new conscripts and accompanying soldiers were sent to the nearby city of Melitene.

Soon Hieron had a vision in his sleep, in which his impending martyrdom was foretold. Lysias told the soldiers gathered at Melitene to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Hieron and another thirty-two soldiers refused to do this, and openly confessed their faith in Christ. Then the persecutor gave orders to beat the martyrs, and to cut off Hieron's arm at the elbow. After cruel tortures they threw the martyrs into prison barely alive, and they beheaded them four days later.

A certain rich and illustrious Christian by the name of Chrysanthus ransomed Hieron's head from Lysias. When the persecutions finally ceased, he built a church on the place where they executed the holy martyrs, and he placed the venerable head in it. The bodies of all the executed saints were secretly buried by Christians. In reign of the emperor Justinian, during the construction of the church of Hagia Eirene (Holy Peace), the venerable relics were uncovered and found incorrupt.

The other martyrs are: Hesychius, Nicander, Athanasius, Mamas, Barachius, Callinicus, Theogenes, Nikon, Longinus, Theodore, Valerius, Xanthius, Theodoulos, Callimachus, Eugene, Theodochus, Ostrychius, Epiphanius, Maximian, Ducitius, Claudian, Theophilus, Gigantius, Dorotheus, Theodotus, Castrichius, Anicletus, Themelius, Eutychius, Hilarion, Diodotus and Amonitus..

<b>Tone 4</b>	<b>Troparion</b>	<b>Tone 2</b>	<b>Kontakion</b>
	Your thirty-three holy martyrs, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their intercessions, save our souls!		The radiant choir of martyrs, the light-bearing company, spiritually descends to us, enlightening the Church with brilliant rays. Therefore as we celebrate their honored memory, we ask You, our Savior: through their prayers deliver us from misfortunes so that we may sing to You: "Alleluia."