

Saint Innocent of Alaska Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of North America

Great Vespers

Kathisma 1—"Blessed is the man..."

"Lord I call..."

Tone 2

Like the Apostles long ago,
O Holy Father Innocent,
you accepted the Lord's command
to baptize all peoples in His name;
you left your 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,
you worked in humility with your hands;
and through you, like Constantine, churches blossomed throughout the land,
built for the feeding of the flock
you gathered and led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Like the Holy Brothers from Thessalonica,
who brought illumination to your forefathers,
you labored to bring this same inheritance
to untaught peoples placed in your care,
that worshipping the One True God in words of many tongues,
they might, by the Word, be led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Then the following Stikhera, Tone 2: Special Melody: "With whose crowns..."

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 to them from Christ our God great mercy. *(twice)*

With what songs of praise shall we now bless Innocent, our Teacher wise in God?
As the first Archpastor to rule our land,
by word and deed he taught us the way we must go
to attain the glorious Kingdom won and promised to us by Christ,
from Whom we have great mercy.

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With what songs of virtue shall we exalt our Father Innocent?
By his word he 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,
he brought comfort to believers in the ancient capital
which through his prayers and exhortations
receive from Christ our God great mercy.

Glory...(same tone)

Truly the Lord guided you
along paths of many labors,
through many lands, to many peoples,
to enlighten a multitude of hearts,
and to guide and counsel an army of souls
down the narrow path which alone leads into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now and ever...(Dogmatic, 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 righteous sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame!
Instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls.

Entrance

Prokeimenon of the Day

Readings from the Old Testament (3)

Reading 1

The Reading is from Proverbs! (*Composite 2: Proverbs 10:7,6; 3: 13-16;
8:6,32,34,4,12,14,17,5-9; 1:23*)

The memory of the righteous is with praise, and the blessing of the LORD is upon his head. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, and the mortal who has understanding. For it is better to purchase her, than treasuries of gold and silver. She is more precious than precious stones and all that is precious is unworthy of her. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue.

Hear me, O child, for I speak noble things. Blessed is the man who keeps my ways, for my ways are the ways of life, and in them is prepared favor from the LORD. Therefore I pray you, and I utter my voice to the sons of men. I, Wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and reason and I have summoned understanding. Counsel and confirmation are mine, and reason and strength are mine. I love those who love me, and those seeking me shall find grace. O you guileless, understand craftiness, and, O foolish, imbibe knowledge.

Hear me again, for I speak noble things: I shall open my mouth and from my lips will come what is right; for my throat shall meditate on truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are straight to

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him who understands and right to those who find knowledge. I teach you truth, so that your hope will be in the LORD and you will be filled with the Spirit.

Reading II

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon! (*Composite 3: Wisdom 4:7, 16, 17, 119, 20–5:7*)

The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. The righteous man who had died will condemn the ungodly who are living. They will see the end of the righteous and will not understand what was said about him. For the LORD will cast down the impious speechless to the ground and shake them from the foundations; and they will vanish until the following times in illness, and their memory will perish.

They will come with dread when their sins are reckoned up, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face. Then the righteous man will stand with great confidence the presence of those who have afflicted him, and those who make light of his labors. When they see him, they will be shaken with dreadful fear, and they will be amazed at his most-glorious salvation. They will speak to one another in repentance, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, "This is the man whom we once held in derision and made a byword of reproach—we fools! We thought that his life was madness and that his end was without honor. Why has he been numbered among the sons of God? And why is his lot among the saints? So it was we who strayed from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. We took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction, and we journeyed through trackless deserts, but the way of the LORD we have not known."

Reading III

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon! (*Composite 4: Proverbs 10; 11; Wisdom 6:12–16; 7:30; 8:2–4; 7–9, 21; 9:1–4, 10, 11, 14*)

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom; the lips of wise men know grace. The mouth of the wise is taught wisdom, and righteousness delivers them from death. When a righteous man dies, his hope is not destroyed, for the son of a righteous man is born to life; in his own good things he acquires the fruits of righteousness. There is always light for the righteous, and from the LORD they obtain grace and glory. The tongue of the wise knows good, and in their hearts rests wisdom. The LORD loves the hearts of the righteous, and all who are blameless in the way are acceptable to Him.

The wisdom of the LORD enlightens the faces of the wise. For she seizes those desiring her, in making herself first known to them, and she is easily seen by those loving her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty; and those watching for her shall quickly be without sorrows, for she goes about seeking those worthy of her and she graciously appears to them in their paths. Against wisdom evil does not prevail.

Therefore I became enamored of her beauty, I loved her and sought her from my youth. I desired to make her my bride, and even the Master of all things loves her. For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and an associate in His works. Her labors are virtues and she teaches chastity and prudence, justice and courage; nothing in life is more profitable for men than these. And if any one longs for wide experience, she knows the things of old and infers the things to come; she understands speech and the solutions of riddles; she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders and the outcome of seasons and times. She is the counselor of good to all, since there is immortality in her, and encouragement in the company of her words.

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Therefore I appealed to the LORD and besought Him, and with my whole heart I said: "O God of my fathers and LORD of mercy, Who has made all things. by Your word, and by Your wisdom has formed man to have dominion over the creatures You have made, and rule the world in holiness and righteousness: Give me the wisdom that sits by Your throne, and do not reject me from among Your children. For I am Your slave and the son of Your maidservant. Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of Your glory send her, so that she may be with me and instruct me in what is pleasing to You. She will instruct me in understanding and preserve me in her glory. For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and their intentions are likely to fail.

Litya

Following the sticheron of the church or monastery, the following stichera are sung.

Tone 2, Special Melody: "Let us come together..."

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 he 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)

As we, the faithful, gather to celebrate
your holy memory, O Father Innocent,
we rejoice that through your ceaseless toils
the truth of the Gospel was rooted in our land.
Pray that we, your unworthy servants,
may remain firm in the Orthodox Faith,
and spread its truth to all people.

Now and ever...(Theotokion, same tone)

We bless you, O Virgin Theotokos,
and glorify you as we ought,
as the Vine which blossomed the sacred fruit
from Whom we have great mercy.

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Apostikha

Tone 6

Called to the New World by the grace of God,
as a skilled helmsman of the Ship of Christ,
you endured 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 good man are ordered by the Lord.

A prophet raised from among the Aleuts
heard from an angel that leaving your family →
you would journey afar/to speak with a great man.
Then, by the infinite wisdom and mercy of God,
once his words had been fulfilled,
we received you back again
as the first bishop to rule our land.
Now intercede for the flock you gathered.

Verse: The Lord knows the way of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever.

Peoples of two continents,
of diverse languages and customs,
through you rejoice today in the mystery of the fiery tongues,
the fall of that cursed tower 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...(same tone)

In mortal danger from a storm at sea,
you looked to the North Star of the Church of Christ,
and, through the prayers of St. Herman of Alaska,
found grace and deliverance.
With him now intercede for our souls.

Now and ever...(Resurrectional Theotokion, same tone)

My maker and redeemer, Christ the Lord,
was born of you, O most-pure Virgin.
By accepting my nature He freed Adam from the ancient curse.
Therefore, we magnify you unceasingly as the mother of God.
Rejoice, O celestial joy!
Rejoice, O protection, intercession, and salvation of our souls.

Saint Innocent of Alaska Matins

Blessing of the Loaves

If Matins immediately follows, the following troparion is sung twice, and "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos" once.

Troparion of the Feast—Tone 4

O Holy Father Innocent,
in obedience to the will of God
you accepted dangers and tribulations,
bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.
You showed us the path;
now by your prayers help lead us
into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Another Troparion—Tone 2

You evangelized the Northern people of America and Asia,
proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the natives in their own tongues,
O Holy Hierarch, Father Innocent,
Enlightener of Alaska and All America, whose ways were ordered by the Lord.
Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Matins

God is the Lord—Tone 4

Troparion of the Feast—Tone 4

O Holy Father Innocent,
in obedience to the will of God
you accepted dangers and tribulations,
bringing many peoples to the knowledge of truth.
You showed us the path;
now by your prayers help lead us
into the Kingdom of Heaven. (*twice*)

Glory...now and ever...(Resurrectional Theotokion—Tone 4)

The mystery hidden from all eternity—
unknown even by the angels—
through you, O virgin Theotokos,
is made known to those on earth:
God incarnate, by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man,
saving our souls from death.

Kathisma

Following the first Psalter reading, the following Kathisma hymns are sung.

Tone 8, Special Melody: "Wisdom of the world..."

Taught as a child the wisdom of the world, your teaching of a child-like People in America began by building with your hands a temple to the Lord, then lifting up their minds, their hearts, and their reasoning to worship One True God in the Trinity.

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✓ Glory...(Tone 1)

In a temple built with his own hands, Innocent gathered a simple flock, that by hearing the Preaching of Christ, the Son of God, and about His loving Father Who sent Him into the world to deliver our race from the bonds of hell, and sanctify us by water and His spirit, they might become a living temple of God the Word, and in their own tongue lift their hearts to Him.

✓ Now and ever...(Theotokion—Tone 1)

O most-holy Virgin, whose arms held our Creator in the flesh, stretch now your arms in supplication that He may deliver from temptations, passions and distress all of us who sing in faith and love: Glory to Him Who took abode in you! Glory to Him Who came to us from you! Glory to Him Who by being born of you redeemed us from the curse of death!

Following the second Psalter reading the following Kathisma hymns are sung.

Tone 8, Special Melody: "Wisdom of the world..."

Guardian angels prepared Your coming to your flock and prophesied your travels to your native land. You then returned to us yourself an angel in the flesh to oversee and guide your flock before the throne of God.

Glory...(Tone 4, Special Melody: "You have revealed yourself today...")

As the radiant angel of our Church, through Your Prayers you ever guide the flock you zealously gathered from across the northern wilderness into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Now and ever...(Tone 4)

As a fervent helper of those in need, O Theotokos, our sure intercessor before the Lord, Who coming from you delivered us from corruption, we, the faithful, magnify you.

Polyeleion

Magnification

We magnify,
we magnify you,
O Holy Father Innocent,
The Enlightener of the Aleuts through your wise teachings,
and through your ceaseless toils,
Apostle to America!

Verse: The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the Lord (Ps. 36:23).

Litany **Kathisma Hymn**

Tone 8, Special Melody: "Wisdom of the world..."

✓ Peoples across the Northern lands, rejoice today and exalt your wise pastor and enlightener, through whose vigilance and ready word the demonic darkness was made to flee as you were led to the Kingdom of Light and Grace. All of America, now join our celebration, remembering the Apostle of our Holy Faith, as we ask Christ through the Prayers of our Holy Father Innocent to grant us forgiveness and great mercy for our souls. *(twice)*

Glory...now and ever...(Theotokion)

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✓ O Spotless Bride of our Creator, O pure Mother of the Redeemer, O Sure Helper and Comforter of those in distress, hear the petitions of us your unworthy servants, and through your prayers and those of our Holy Father Innocent, hasten to deliver us from the snares of the evil one. Drive far from us the darkness of ignorance. Grant to us the knowledge of all things good and lead us into the eternal Kingdom of light and grace Prepared for us on High by your Son, our God.

First Gradual Antiphon, Tone 4: ("From my youth...")

Prokeimenon—Tone 4

The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the Lord (*Ps. 36:23*).

Verse: The Lord knows the way of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever (*Ps.36:18*).

Gospel: John 10:9--16

Post Gospel Stichira—Tone 6

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Through the prayers of Hierarch Father Innocent, O Merciful One,
blot out the multitude of our transgression.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Through the Prayers of the Theotokos,
O Merciful One,
blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your great goodness,
and according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

Stikhera, Tone 6

O Sower of the good seed of faith,
and Enlightener of Peoples across the North,
we exalt you, 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 Architect of the Orthodox Church in America,
pray for the flock you gathered throughout the world,
who in faith and love
celebrate ~~your~~ memory.

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Canon

The canon to Saint Innocent, on 8, has the acrostic "Apostle to America, Pray For Us!"

Tone 4

Ode 1

Eirmos: There is none like You, O Lord, most glorious,
Who in Your love for the human race
led from captivity a people
whom Your mighty arm delivered.

— *Refrain:* Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

An ancient people held captive by the Prince of Darkness, having for an instant seen the great Light, reached out in hunger for salvation. Yet among many called only one was chosen—you, our Holy Father Innocent, to cross the depths of the sea and bring Christ to them.

Perceiving in your flock innate patience and humility, by your word of exhortation you labored diligently to cultivate these virtues, and through the waters of Baptism to bring them to fruition in Christ. Pray that like them we may be confirmed in godliness.

G Obedient to the Lord's command that the children all be brought to Him, you endured the dangers of the deeps to visit a distant People, who with child-like faith and trust accepted the Word You brought to them.

N#F *Theotokion:* Save me from all dangers, O Pure Lady, descendant of the Royal lineage of David, who beyond the bounds of human nature gave birth in the flesh to God the Almighty King of all creation. To Him, your Son, it is that I will sing: "There is none like You, O Lord, most-glorious!"

Ode 3

Eirmos: Not in human wisdom, riches or power shall we boast,
but in You alone, O Christ, the personal Wisdom of God the Father.
There is none holy but You, O Lover of Mankind.

— *Refrain:* Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

Sending you, O Holy Father, to teach the people of Unalaska Christ, the personal Wisdom of God, brought them great comfort, help and joy. The books you wrote and taught them to read are still cherished by the Aleuts. And as they faithfully celebrate your holy memory they sing: "There is none Holy but the Lord; none like Him, no protector like our God!"

Telling this people languishing in ignorance about the goodness of our God, you carried them to the heights of a new spiritual life, and through your legacy of the written Word they became companions of the princes in heaven.

G Let those who doubt the Lord's promise to raise the needy from their misery now look to the people who were sent our Holy Father Innocent. For by teaching them in their own language the treasures of the Word of God, he gave them victory and power over the darkness of this world.

N#F *Theotokion:* Unceasingly we will magnify you, O Unwedded Bride of God, to whom all we Christians run as our haven in trouble and our wall of defense.

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✓ **Sedalen, Tone 4**

What forsaken island, hill or valley, ^{DISTANT}
what portion of your vast and far-flung flock
failed to receive the joy of seeing you?
To whom did your word of salvation not come?
What church was not graced by Your presence?
America boasts of churches built by you;
throughout Kamchatka and Siberia you planted the good seed of the Gospel of Christ;
lastly Moscow received your word of exhortation.
Today it rejoices in your glorious relics.
In Irkutsk the faithful honor the place of your humble birth.
As the foundation of ~~the~~ Orthodox Church in America
and a bright star shining in the Russian skies,
confirm our lives in peace and unity.

Ode 4

Eirmos: This is our God, incarnate of a Virgin,
who has made all of creation divine.
Therefore, let us sing to Him:
"Glory to Your might, O Lord!"

— *Refrain:* Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

Ending the great works of God, you were assigned on Unalaska, in the Savior's own words you prophesied to the small flock you gathered and loved: "In a little while you will see me no more, then a while later you will see me again." Grant, O Father Innocent, that we too may see your face, brought through your prayers into the Kingdom of Heaven.

To the ⁽²⁾Tlingit Indians, fierce warriors of Sitka, you came bearing the Gospel of Peace. Like Midian of old they were struck by the hand of God before accepting in obedience the light yoke of Christ. Hearing this may we now tremble, and with them receive into our midst Innocent, a wise messenger from our God.

On the eve of his departure from the New World, Innocent our Father was sent south from Sitka as a forerunner of the coming of the True Faith to all the peoples of America. The small flock, then gathered within Fort Ross, was the first to rejoice in his coming; San Francisco opened its arms to him. Now we, the faithful, heirs to all that he began, sing in the words of the ancient prophet: "Having heard of all that you have done, we are filled with awe."

Theotokion: O Virgin Mother of the Word, as He said through your own lips, the Lord has brought down the mighty from their thrones; He has filled with His own gifts those who in thirst cry out in faith, "Glory to Your power, O Lord!"

Ode 5

Eirmos: By Your blood You established us,
Your chosen people, O Lord.
Now grant peace to us,
preserving Your flock in unity.

— *Refrain:* Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

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After completing the task assigned to you of enlightening the Aleuts and Tlingits, you traveled all the way around the world to the Northern Capital of the Russian lands, to intercede with the Holy Synod of Bishops there, for the good of your beloved Orthodox Church in America.

Meeting the rulers of this people of God, you fulfilled the words of an Aleut prophet. The words of wisdom you in turn spoke in the City of St. Peter showed clearly that if there had been growth in the vine entrusted to your care, this was wholly the work of God Himself. Hearing this, the hierarchs were persuaded to provide the spiritual dew which would refresh the souls of the pious faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

Enrolled in the Angelic Life and exalted to the grace of the episcopate, you began a new lot of ministry, surrendering yourself wholly to the Lord, Whose ineffable will it was to call your beloved wife Katherine to His rest, and you to renewed labors of bringing prosperity and unity to the Orthodox Church in America.

Theotokion: God became incarnate, O Pure Lady, joining Himself as a Person to the flesh He took from you, while remaining all the while unchanged and fleshless in His Divine Nature.

Ode 6

Eirmos: Jonah passed three days inside a whale to foretell, O Christ, the three days which You would willingly endure deep within the heart of the earth as a dead man—yet God immortal.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

Returning in the fullness of Apostolic dignity and authority to the flock your truly-apostolic labors before had gathered, you fulfilled your promise to see them again and brought grace in abundance to this land.

Intercede together with St. Herman for us, O Holy Father Innocent, that as through his prayers you were delivered from the depths of the sea, we may be delivered from the abyss of sins which ever threatens to encompass us.

Confronting throughout the vast new field of your labors those who worshipped worthless idols, you brought new peoples to the knowledge of God. Koryaks, Kamchadals, and Yakuts now together with Aleuts and Tlingits offer their praises to God, the sacrifice well-pleasing to the Lord.

Theotokion: You gave birth to the One who surpasses all nature, through you the Word of God came to us in our flesh. Therefore, with our souls and lips we proclaim you as truly the Mother of God.

Kontakion—Tone 2

Your life is a true celebration of the Providence and Grace of God,
O Holy Father Innocent, the Apostle to our Land.
For in hardships and dangers toiling for the Gospel's sake,
you were preserved unharmed and often delivered,
while from obscurity you were highly exalted as an example to the faithful everywhere
that the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.

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✓ *Eikos:* Examining the chronicle of your holy life, the marvelous deeds which fill it—your birth in poverty deep in Siberia, your coming in obedience to Alaska, your elevation while in grief to its episcopal throne, your building of churches across two continents, and your election in ripe old age to the great see of a third—who can still fail to comprehend the profound truth of the saying that “The Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go”?

Ode 7

Eirmos: In the beginning was the Word,
Who with His Father and the Spirit had no beginning;
the Only-begotten Son, blessed and exalted—
He is the God of our fathers!

← *Refrain:* Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

As the Apostles once proclaimed the only true God to many peoples fettered in errors and ignorance, so our Holy Father Innocent taught new tribes and nations in their own languages to praise in truth the One God of our fathers.

Putting full trust in the Lord's promise that those who follow Him with their whole heart, who fear Him and seek His presence, will never be put to shame, you armed yourself, O Holy Father Innocent, with truth, faith, and righteousness to proclaim boldly on two continents the one God of our fathers.

↳ Reward is not to be denied to those who labor long and well; such was the teaching of the Lord Himself. And you, O Holy Father, received your reward everywhere you went, seeing hosts of people turning from their error to serve the living God. Places where no prince, no prophet, no leader was to be found, where no offerings had ever been lifted up, through your ministry found themselves adorned with churches raised to the glory of the God of our fathers.

✱ *Theotokion:* Like rain falling on wool, O Virgin, Christ our God descended to you. And from you He emerged clothed in our flesh, uniting within Himself that which before was divided. Peace He has given to earth and heaven. Most glorious indeed is the God of our fathers!

Ode 8

Eirmos: By His might unapproachable,
Christ Who upholds all things
refreshed with dew the godly youths who sing:
“Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord!”

← *Refrain:* Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

As his years increased in righteousness, having refreshed with the spiritual dew of faith, the peoples throughout Kamchatka and America, our Holy Father Innocent bestowed his blessing upon the flocks in China and Japan before being called to a lofty new ministry.

You left behind when you departed from us, as a legacy of your many labors, zeal and devotion to the Lord which unites a multitude of nations, the languages and customs in blessing the one God of our fathers.

Let us Bless... Forsaking the land of your birth to ascend the throne of Moscow, as heir to its holy hierarchs—Peter, Alexey, Jonah and Philip—together with all their illustrious brethren, you taught anew this ancient Church how with zeal and love to bless the God of our fathers.

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NE **Theotokion:** O most-holy Virgin who gave birth in the flesh to God the Word, by your prayers drive far from my soul all darkness, and enlighten me as I cry out: "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord!"

We bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Magnificat is sung

Ode 9

Eirmos: Most-glorious maiden, most-holy Theotokos, who gave birth in the flesh to the Creator of all things both visible and invisible— in hymns of praise we magnify you.

— **Refrain:** Holy Hierarch Innocent, pray unto God for us!

✓ On the exalted and ancient throne of the Church of Moscow, your soul rejoiced to see a new flock learn from your example and zealous preaching that it is to all the faithful that Christ our God commanded salvation to be preached to all creatures.

✓ Rejoice, O Holy Father, for the Lord who exalted you to a mighty throne has through you taught us that the humble indeed are lifted up, that those who hunger for righteousness indeed receive their fill, that in His great and rich love for the human race, He remembers to show mercy to His faithful people.

Unto us, your children in America, have you been shown a true prophet of the Most High God, and a wise architect of the Church which your labors established upon our shores.

G Salvation as a brilliant sun dawned upon our Land through your words of zealous preaching. Now by your holy prayers before the Throne of God, guide our steps into the path of peace.

NE **Theotokion:** O most-holy Mother of God, you were the praise of Christ's Apostles, the glory of His Martyrs, the preaching of His Prophets; therefore we, the faithful, rightly magnify you.

— **Exapostilarion**

Special Melody: "We hear from the women..."

✓ Today, we, the faithful, gather to celebrate in joy the memory of our Holy Enlightener, through whom to many peoples languishing in darkness, there dawned salvation's radiant light. O Innocent, Wise Apostle of our Land, confirm in your flock the true faith in Christ and guard our lives in peace. (~~twice~~)

✓ Glory...now and ever...(Theotokion)

✓ Great and most-glorious is the mystery of the manner in which you gave birth, O Virgin and Mother of God, the Source of your joy: Of whom the Prophets foretold, of whom the Apostles preached, to whom the Martyrs bore witness, of whom the Angels boast, and whom all mankind rightly magnifies.

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The Praises

Tone 4: Special Melody: "The sign from on high..."

"How wonderful," the Psalmist declares,
"is the coming of the messengers"
who carry the good news of salvation throughout the world.
In obedience to the Lord's command that His disciples forget themselves and bear His Cross,
you forsook the comforts of your 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, you earned for yourself a good reward from the Master
Who promised that those who leave all and follow Him ///
will receive eternal life in the Age to come.

Grace as a flood from heaven covered our land
when you appeared in answer to a truly apostolic call
to a country whose people you made your own.
Enduring great dangers in wilds and on the seas,
hunger and thirst, work and toil,
like the great Apostles to the Gentiles
you labored for the sake of the Son of the Living God.
Therefore, we rightly honor you ///
through whom the Light has dawned on us.

Like the beloved Apostle of Christ,
whose name you bore from your mother's womb,
until your birth to the monastic life,
your 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 you to our land that light might dawn on it.

As a faithful servant of the Master,
You labored in all humility
You wandered from place to place like the Apostles,
a spectacle to the world.
Your hunger for righteousness fed your flock,
your thirst for the Kingdom led a siege on it.
In all things you endured and blessed, teaching the churches everywhere,
bringing Good News to the New World.
Therefore, we exalt you as our Father in Christ. ///
Pray that we may follow the example you left for us.

Glory... Tone 6

**Saint Innocent of Alaska
Divine Liturgy**

O Holy Apostle of our Land
and venerable Hierarch of our Mother Church,
pray that your flocks across three continents
may in peace and tranquillity glorify the Lord
Who in His love saved the world ///
from the darkness of godlessness.

Now and ever...*(Same tone)*

O Theotokos, you are the True Vine
that has put forth the Fruit of Life.
We pray you, O Lady,
intercede together with the Apostles
and Saint Innocent ///
that mercy may be granted to our souls.

Great Doxology

Troparion of the Feast—Tone 4

You evangelized the Northern Peoples of America and Asia,
Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the Natives in their own tongues.
O Holy Hierarch Innocent,
Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America,
whose steps were ordered by the Lord.
Pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls
in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Divine Liturgy

Troparia

Church (if of the Theotokos); St. Innocent.

Troparion of the Feast—Tone 4

You evangelized the Northern Peoples of America and Asia,
proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the Natives in their own tongues.
O Holy Hierarch Innocent,
Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America,
whose steps were ordered by the Lord.
Pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls
in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Kontakia

Glory...*(St. Innocent)*

Kontakion of the Feast—Tone 2

Your life is a true celebration of the Providence and Grace of God,
O Holy Father Innocent, the Apostle to our Land.
For in hardships and dangers toiling for the Gospel's sake,
you were preserved unharmed and often delivered,
while from obscurity you were highly exalted as an example to the faithful everywhere,
that the Lord truly guides a man in the way he should go.