

Hymns in Honor of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr

Greek

Ἡ μνήμη σου ἔνδοξε, Μάρτυς Δημήτριε, ἐφαίδρυνε σήμερον, τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν Χριστοῦ, καὶ πάντα συνήγαγεν, ἄσμασιν ἐπαξίως, εὐφημεῖν σε θεόφρον, ὡς ὄντως στρατιώτην, καὶ ἐχθρῶν καθαιρέτην· διὸ ταῖς ἰκεσίαις ταῖς σαῖς, ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς πειρασμῶν.

Ἀθλήσεως καύχημα, Μάρτυς Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν ἐνδυσάμενος, κατεπολέμησας, ἐχθρὸν τὸν ἀνίσχυρον· πλάνην γὰρ τῶν ἀνόμων, ἐν αὐτῷ καταργήσας, γεγονόςας τοῖς ἐν πίστει, εὐσεβείας ἀλείπτῃς· διὸ σου καὶ τὴν μνήμην, σεπτῶς πανηγυρίζομεν.

Ἐλπίς ἀκαταίσχυντε, τῶν πεποιθότων εἰς σέ, ἡ μόνη κυήσασα, ὑπερφυῶς ἐν σαρκί, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἡμῶν· τοῦτον σὺν τοῖς Ἁγίοις, Ἀποστόλοις δυσώπει, δοῦναι τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, ἰλασμὸν καὶ εἰρήνην, καὶ πᾶσιν ἡμῖν πρὸ τέλους, βίου διόρθωσιν.

Δεῦρο Μάρτυς Χριστοῦ πρὸς ἡμᾶς, σοῦ δεομένους, συμπαθοῦς ἐπισκέψεως· καὶ ῥῦσαι κεκακωμένους, τυραννικαῖς ἀπειλαῖς, καὶ δεινῇ μανίᾳ τῆς αἰρέσεως· ὑφ' ἧς ὡς αἰχμάλωτοι, καὶ γυμνοὶ διωκόμεθα, τόπον ἐκ τόπου, συνεχῶς διαμείβοντες, καὶ πλανώμενοι, ἐν σπηλαίοις καὶ ὄρεσιν. Οἴκτειρον οὖν πανεύφημε, καὶ δὸς ἡμῖν ἄνεσιν, παῦσον τὴν ζάλην καὶ σβέσον, τὴν καθ' ἡμῶν ἀγανάκτησιν, Θεὸν ἰκετεύων, τὸν παρέχοντα τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Τεῖχος ὠχυρωμένον ἡμῖν, τὰς ἐλεπόλεις τῶν ἐχθρῶν μὴ πτοούμενον, ἐδόθης τὰς τῶν βαρβάρων, ἐπιδρομὰς καταργῶν, καὶ πασῶν τῶν νόσων τὰ συμπτώματα· κρηπὶς ἀκατάβλητος, καὶ θεμέλιος ἄρρηκτος, καὶ πολιοῦχος, οἰκιστὴς καὶ ὑπέρμαχος, ἐχηματίσας, τῇ σῇ πόλει Δημήτριε· ἦν καὶ νῦν παμμακάριστε, δεινῶς κινδυνεύουσαν, καὶ τρυχομένην ἀθλίως, ταῖς σαῖς πρεσβείαις διάσωσον, Χριστὸν ἰκετεύων, τὸν παρέχοντα τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Πᾶσαν τὴν ἀρετὴν συλλαβὼν, τῶν Ἀθλοφόρων ὁ χορὸς ἀναδείκνυται, ἐντεῦθεν τῆς ἀκηράτου, καὶ μακαρίας ζωῆς, τὴν τρυφήν ἀξίως ἐκκληρώσαντο· ἐν οἷς ἀξιάγαστε, διαπρέπων Δημήτριε, καὶ τῇ μιμήσει, τοῦ Χριστοῦ σεμνυνόμενος, καὶ καυχώμενος, τῇ τῆς λόγῃς ἰσότητι, αἴτησαι

ἐκτενέστερον, ἡμᾶς τοὺς τιμῶντάς σε, τῶν παθημάτων ῥυσθῆναι, καὶ χαλεπῶν περιστάσεων, θερμῶς ἰκετεῦν, τὸν περέχοντα τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Τὸν λόγχαις κληρωσάμενον, τῆς σωτηρίου πλευρᾶς τὴν χάριν, τῆς νυγείσης τῇ λόγχῃ, ἐξ ἧς ἡμῖν πηγάζει ὁ Σωτήρ, ζωῆς καὶ ἀφθαρσίας νάματα, Δημήτριον τιμήσωμεν, τὸν σοφώτατον ἐν διδαχαῖς, καὶ στεφανίτην ἐν Μάρτυσι· τὸν δι' αἵματος τελέσαντα, τὸν τῆς ἀθλήσεως δρόμον, καὶ θαύμασιν ἐκλάμψαντα πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, τὸν ζηλωτὴν τοῦ Δεσπότη, καὶ συμπαθῆ φιλόπτωχον· τὸν ἐν πολλοῖς καὶ πολλαῖς κινδύνοις χαλεποῖς, τῶν Θεσσαλονικέων προϊστάμενον, οὗ καὶ τὴν ἐτήσιον μνήμην γεραίροντες, δοξάζομεν Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, τὸν ἐνεργοῦντα δι' αὐτοῦ πᾶσι τὰ ἰάματα.

English

O all-blessed one, * comprehending with an upright and honorable heart * the Boundless God, * and unequivocally believing in Him; * thou hast faithfully followed His ineffable and saving commandments, * O most wise one, * and patiently enduring sufferings, * attained the eternal Kingdom.

With thy honored blood * consecrating the earth * and abolishing the defiled blood-sacrifice * offered lawlessly unto demons, * O all-honored one, * thou didst receive an incorruptible crown upon thy brow. * We beseech thee to intercede for us * that our souls may be granted peace * and great mercy.

O all-honored Great Martyr Demetrios, * Glorifying thy sacred struggles and exploits * we are also consecrated, * for by them thou hast become an associate of Angels * and a companion of all the Martyrs; * wherefore we beseech thee to pray, together with them, * that our souls may be granted peace and great mercy.

Today the universe is illumined * with the bright rays of the passion-bearer, * and the Church of God, decorated with flowers, * cries aloud unto thee, O Great Martyr Demetrios; * O favorite of Christ * and most fervent intercessor, * cease not to pray for thy servants.

Even though callous tyrants gave thee over * to be subjected to the most cruel and painful tortures, * and thy much-suffering and steadfastly enduring body * did undergo a multitude of various torments, * thou, O Godly-minded Demetrios, * didst not renounce Christ, * neither didst thou offer sacrifice unto idols, * but endured all as if it were somebody else who suffered, * awaiting future reward and the undying love of the Word of God.

Raised up and cut asunder, * assaulted with stones, * wounded with iron instruments of torture * and executed with a sword; * thou didst remain steadfast, * fixing the gaze of thy soul upon the judicious Rock, * and wast thereby numbered among the choirs of the Angels, * and accounted worthy of the never-setting Light.

Thy relics, O glorious Demetrios, * give forth unto those who desire it, * healing of their senses, drowning of their passions, * curing of their diseases. * They disperse whole armies of evil spirits, * and unto the hearts of the faithful * they provide nourishing waters cultivating the divine fruits of virtues * and the understanding of piety.

O come all ye friends of the Martyrs, * let us reverently glorify the Great Martyr of Christ Demetrius, who bravely finished his course here upon the earth, * bruising the head of the serpent, * and with his blood consecrating the earth, * passed over from here unto the everlasting habitations of the righteous; * obtaining there great honors for his exploits from the hand of the Almighty, * unto Whom he prays that our souls may be cleansed * from all iniquity and be granted great mercy.

Thy Martyr, O Lord Demetrios, * hast through his sufferings obtained from Thee O our God an incorruptible crown; * for rejoicing in Thy strength, * he overcame his tormentors and subdued the impotent offenses of the demons; * by his intercessions O Lord save our souls.

O God-blessed one, strengthened with the power of God, and empowered to overcome the pride of the enemy, thou hast become a great champion and citizen of the city on high.

Withdrawing from the stink of the passions and approaching God with divine purity, thou, O worthy of glory, hast obtained illumination from

God, who showed thee to be a son of light, as one who fulfills the work of light.

O most wise one, in the streams of thy blood thou hast extinguished the coals of seduction, and now, pouring forth healing waters, thou, by God's grace, drivest away the flames of disease.

Partaking of many sufferings, O blessed one, thou didst attain the life that knows no sorrow, from whence thou dost now cry out: 'All ye works of the Lord praise ye the Lord, and highly exalt him unto all the ages'.

Thou wast found, O Demetrios, * to be armed with the armor of Christ by those who did not expect thee to resist; * for being burned with fire for Christ's sake and scorning the godless fury of the vain gods, * thou didst cry out to the lawless ones saying: * 'I wage war for my King, Christ; * neither beast, nor wheels, nor any other torment * can ever separate me from the love of Christ'. * Him do thou pray that He may save and enlighten our souls.

Thy Martyr, O Lord Demetrios, * hast through his sufferings obtained from Thee O our God an incorruptible crown; * for rejoicing in Thy strength, * he overcame his tormentors and subdued the impotent offenses of the demons; * by his intercessions O Lord save our souls.

Apolytikion of St. Demetrios

Ἦχος γ'

Μέγαν εὗρατο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις,
σὲ ὑπέρμαχον ἢ οἰκουμένην,
Ἄθλοφόρε τὰ ἔθνη τροπούμενον.
Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου καθεῖλες τὴν ἔπαρσιν,
ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύννας τὸν Νέστορα,
οὕτως Ἅγιε,
Μεγαλομάρτυς Δημήτριε,
Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἰκέτευε,
δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Tone Three

The world has found you to be a great defense against tribulation
and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer.
As you bolstered the courage of Nestor,
who then humbled the arrogance of Lyaios in battle,
Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Kontakion

Ἦχος β'

Τοῖς τῶν ἱαμάτων σου ρεῖθροις Δημήτριε, τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν Θεὸς
ἐπορφύρωσεν, ὁ δοὺς σοι τὸ κράτος ἀήττητον, καὶ περιέπων τὴν πόλιν σου
ἄτρωτον· αὐτῆς γὰρ ὑπάρχεις τὸ στήριγμα.

God, who has given you invincible might,
has tinged the Church with streams of your blood, Demetrius!
He preserves your city from harm,
for you are its foundation!