



**Chinese Martyrs of the Boxer Rebellion  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on June 10.**

The Holy Martyrs of Christ were native Chinese Orthodox Christians brought up in piety at the Russian Orthodox Mission in Peking, which had been founded in 1685. During the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 against the foreign powers occupying China, native Chinese Christians were commanded by the Boxers to renounce Christianity or be tortured to death. Two hundred and twenty-two members of the Peking Mission, led by their Priest Metrophanes Tsi-Chung and his family, refused to deny Christ, and were deemed worthy of a martyric death.

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*Dismissal Hymn of the Martyrs of China  
Third Tone. Awed by the beauty*

**L**ET us the flock of Christ with love and piety \* now glorify with hymns and truly joyous odes \* the faithful Martyrs of the truth who suffered for Christ

in China. \* For having confessed the Faith, \* they all bravely went unto death \* as lambs which were sacrificed \* for our Shepherd and Master Christ. \* And therefore to the Martyrs we cry out: \* Remember us all, who sing your praises.

*Kontakion of the Martyrs of China. Fourth Tone  
On this day Thou hast appeared*

**T**HE divine Metrophanes, \* the martyred shepherd, \* with his great and faithful flock, \* have hallowed China with their blood; \* wherefore we praise them with sacred hymns, \* for they were faithful to Christ even unto death.

SELECTED HYMNS  
FROM  
**THE MENAION**  
**VESPERS**

*After the Proemial Psalm we chant Blessed is the man. For Lord, I have cried,  
we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating the first two:*

*Fourth Tone. Thou who wast called from on high*

**R**EJOICE, O Father Metrophanes, with great joy, \* who didst shepherd well the flock of Christ in times of peace, \* and fleddest not when the wolves appeared, \* as doth the hireling; \* but as a good shepherd standing by his flock, \* thou didst gather many of thy sheep around thee, \* and thereby leddest \* the sheep that faithfully followed after thee \* unto the pasturelands of Paradise, \* there where one is the fold, one the Shepherd, Christ, \* He to Whose voice ye hearkened; \* Who giveth you eternal life. *(Twice)*

**T**HE ancient dragon fell writhing to perdition \* when ye pierced him through with the sharp saber of the truth; \* he that made darkness his dwelling-place \* fled from your brilliance. For in a land that he thought was his alone, \* how he raged to see the Cross and truth of Christ revered! \* And in his frenzy, he roared at you \* to bow to idols; \* but then he learned your great faith and love for God, \* and when he slew you, he himself was slain \* by your valiant confession and martyrdom \* and your greatness of spirit \* and forgiveness of your murderers. *(Twice)*

**W**HEN ye were slaughtered and shed your blood on China, \* then did a new dynasty arise majestically, \* not one that falleth with time and change, \* but one that endureth; \* for ye abide in a mighty palace now, not one wrought by hand of man, tricked out with paint and gold, \* but with eternal \* laid by the

Most High; wherein His righteousness dwelleth and His truth, \* where the assembly of the first-born Saints \* praise His Name with the awesome thrice-holy hymn, \* clad in garments of pure white, which were washed in the blood of the Lamb.

**S**INCE ye would not offer incense unto idols, \* ye yourselves were offered as sweet incense to the Lord \* and an acceptable sacrifice \* and spotless victims; \* and since ye hearkened not to your slayers' threats, \* ye have been deemed worthy of the Angels' songs on high, \* their holy dinning and joyous roar \* and thunderous praises; \* and as ye join their resounding hymnody, \* make intercession in behalf of us \* who with frail tongues of clay praise your martyrdom \* and your forcible entry \* into Heaven through your hallowed blood.

Glory. *Third Tone*

**S**HOUT with jubilation unto the Lord, all the earth; sing unto Him that in every nation hath revealed His righteousness. Rejoice, O land of China; for thou hast seen His salvation. Thine earth hath been watered with the blood of Martyrs; thy gloom hath been dispersed by the truth of Christ. Thy children now stand in the courts of the Lord, and they intercede with the Almighty God to have mercy on the world that he hath fashioned.

Both now. *Theotokion*

**H**OW can we not marvel at thy theandric Offspring, O all-revered one? For without experience of wedlock, thou, O all-blameless one, hast brought forth in the flesh a fatherless Son, Who was born motherless of the Father before the ages, and Who in no way suffered change or intermingling or division, but preserved in their entirety the properties of each essence. Wherefore, O Lady, Virgin Mother, do thou entreat Him that the souls of them that, in Orthodox manner, profess thee to be God's Birthgiver may be saved.

## **MATINS**

### **OIKOS**

**I**N times gone by, O master, many were the merchants that came from Cathy bearing spices and silks and silver vessels; but Thou, Who art not a merchant, but the Pearl of Great Price, Whom also godly Zacharias called Orient, hath now brought thence no such thing, nor aught that moth and rust doth corrupt, but living Martyrs and Confessors of Thy Name. Now are they truly celestial citizens, and the Angels are their friends, for when the time of trial came upon

them, they desired not the day or rest of man, but were faithful unto Thee even unto death.

### SYNAXARION

✠ On the tenth of this month we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Metrophanes Tsi-Chung, Priest of the Orthodox Mission in Peking; his wife Tatiana and their sons Esaias and John; Maria, the betrothed of Esaias; Paul Wan, Mission catechist; Ia Wen, teacher at the Mission School; Matthew Hai Tsuan and his brother Vitus; Clement Kui Kin; Anna Chui; and two hundred eleven other holy Martyrs with them that were slain by the godless in the year 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion in China.

### Verses

When baked in the mystical furnace of torments,  
Your clay was transformed into vessels of glory.

On the tenth Christ's Table was adorned with  
the finest of China.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.



**SAINT IA WEN,  
TEACHER AT THE MISSION SCHOOL**

*For the Praises we allow for four verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating the first one:*

*Plagal of Fourth Tone. What shall we now call you*

**W**HAT shall we now call you, O saints of God? \* China's embassy to Heaven that is granted all requests; \* Heaven's gift both unto China and to all the Church of Christ; \* the athletes that strove nobly for the Crucified; \* the Spirit's vessels fair beyond the art of man; \* the vast magnificent tapestry \* bright with martyric embroidery: \* O intercede \* with the Saviour that we all be saved. *(Twice)*

**W**HAT shall we now call your great multitude? \* Spreading sea of divine grace that drowned the demons in your blood; \* constellation thick with stars that light the heaven of the Church; \* the great wall of protection for the fold of Christ \* repelling the besetments of barbarians. \* O precious stones sparkling bright with truth, \* may we be granted to know you all \* in that great day \* who now hymn you and pronounce you blest.

**L**IFT thine eyes, O China, to Heaven's courts, \* where thou hast a vast assembly of ambassadors to God, \* interceding with such boldness as no prince ever had. \* Forget thy father's idols and thy former ways, \* thy sages and thy jaded things of vanity. \* For thou hast riches beyond compare \* and glory not eaten up by time: \* thy throng of Saints \* that have found the Way and Truth and Life.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

**Y**E are the glory of the Martyrs and the joy of the Angels; ye are to boast of the Orthodox and the purification of China; ye are the comfort of the faithful and the downfall of demons; ye are servants no longer, but Christ calleth you brethren, who have laid hold of adoption through the violence ye suffered. Ye are bold intercessors for us sinners, who cry to you: Intercede with the Lord, that He have mercy on our souls.

