

MAY 8

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian; Ven. Arsenius the Great

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!
v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Tone 8 *(from the Pentecostarion)* *(Oh, most glorious wonder)*

After following in the steps of Christ,
serving Him with devotion, O Myrrhbearers,
you did not forsake Him even after His death.
Moved by compassion, you went, bearing myrrh with tears.//
Therefore we celebrate your sacred memory!

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

The divine company of women
desiring to see the Life, slain, in the tomb,
came in the night and heard from the angels:
"Christ is risen, as He said!
Go with haste and tell the disciples:
'Drive away the sorrow from your souls!//
Instead of tears, accept ineffable joy!'"

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

O Myrrhbearers, today we faithful rejoice in your memory,
glorifying the most gracious Lord Who glorified you!
Entreat Him to grant us eternal glory, the joy of the saints://
For you always have boldness before Him, O blessed ones!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 1 *(from the Menaion, for St. John)* *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The beholder of ineffable revelations,
the interpreter of the mysteries of God on high:
the son of Zebedee has recorded the Gospel of Christ for us, //
teaching us to confess God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Divinely inspired instrument for the songs of heaven,
whose secrets he wrote down for us,
singing wonderfully the song of songs,
with words from his mouth as music from a lyre, //
he prays for us to be saved.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

With your tongue resounding as thunder,
you declare the hidden Word of the Wisdom of God.
O beloved of God, you open your mouth to cry:
“In the beginning was the Word!” //
Thus you illumine all mankind with the knowledge of God.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 8 *(from the Menaion, for St. Arsenius)* *(Oh, most glorious wonder)*

O godly-minded Father Arsenius,
whose understanding shone with the water of tears,
through this purification you communed with God.
You shone as a radiant and perfect pillar of goodness,
inflamed with the fear of God, O boast of monks. //
By your prayers, O blessed one, ever keep watch over us!

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

O godly-minded Father Arsenius,
You appeared as the fullness of speech and knowledge,
adorned with virtues, overflowing with glory.
Aflame with zeal for God, and striving for that which surpasses speech,
you fled to Egypt, where you lived the ascetic life, //
exchanging your great burden for glory.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

O Holy Father Arsenius,
in your search for God, you were made to shine with His rays of light,
and reverently desiring this brightness, you left royal courts to receive a
blessed heritage, //
and now you abide with Christ, O divinely blessed one.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 2 *(from the Menaion, for St. John the Theologian; by Germanos)*

Let us give rightful praise to the Son of Thunder,
the source of divine words, the chief theologian,
the first to proclaim the truths of the teachings of the wisdom of God:
John the beloved and virgin.
For, divinely inspired from within, he said:
“In the beginning was the Word!”
He taught that the Word is inseparable from the Father;
equal to Him in nature,
and revealed to us the right worship of the Trinity.
He has also shown us the Creator,
Who, being with the Father and bearing life, showed us the True Light.
O Awesome and fearful wonder!
As you were filled with love, you were filled with divine speech,
and with the glory, belief, and honor
that confirm our undivided faith, //
through which we attain the eternal good on the Day of Judgment.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The Myrrhbearers came early to Your tomb, O Christ,
seeking You to anoint Your most pure Body.
Enlightened by the Angel's words,
they proclaimed joyous tidings to the Apostles:
“The Leader of our salvation has been raised;
He has captured death, //
granting the world eternal life and great mercy!”

Readings

1 John 3:21-4:6 *(Apostle John)*

1 John 4:11-16 *(Apostle John)*

1 John 4:20-5:5 *(Apostle John)*

Aposticha

Tone 4 *(from the Menaion, for St. John) (Called from on high)*

You confessed the Son of the Most High:
co-eternal and one in essence with the Father;
Light from Light, unchanging,
the express Image of the Person Who begot Him,
shining from Him timelessly and without passion,
the Creator and Lord of all ages.
You preached Him to the world as Christ our God, //
the Light leading out of darkness.

*v: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends
of the universe. (Ps 18/19:4).*

Having received the light of the Holy Spirit,
you were enlightened to speak of things divine:
of the Comforter, Who proceeds from the Father,
and Who appeared to mankind through the Son;
and of one Honor, one Throne, one Essence with the Unoriginate Father
and the Word of God.

All this, O beloved one, you proclaimed to the world.
Therefore we honor you in hymns, as the source of the faith //
that you preserve unshaken by your intercessions before the Lord.

*v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His
handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)*

Having ascended to the height of theology,
you learned the ineffable mysteries of God:
the Unity of the essence of the Godhead;
one Glory, one Kingdom, one Dominion,
ever divided into three Persons,
yet undivided and united in a divine Unity without confusion.
In this way you proclaimed Him,
glorifying the undivided Trinity.//
Pray, O Theologian, that He may save and enlighten our souls!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(from the Menaion, for St. John; by John the Monk)*

O Apostle of Christ,
Evangelist and divine Teacher,
you were an initiate of ineffable things.
You made teachings plain to the faithful,
as you thundered forth to us:
“In the beginning was the Word!”
Casting aside the words of heretics who said: “He was not!”
You were openly the bosom friend and beloved,
like the prophet Isaiah, and the God-seer Moses.
As you have boldness before Him,//
never cease to pray for our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Joseph asked for the body of Jesus
and placed it in his own new tomb.
It is fitting for Him to come forth from it as from a bridal chamber.
You destroyed the dominion of death and opened the gates
of Paradise to mankind://
O Lord, glory to You!

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 2 Troparion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord, //
granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 2 Troparion *(from the Menaion, for St. John)*

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,
hasten to deliver a defenseless people!
He who allowed you to recline on His breast,
receives you as you bow before Him.
Implore Him, O John the Theologian,
to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens, //
entreating for us peace and great mercy!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 Troparion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: ‘The Lord is risen, //
granting the world great mercy.’”

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.