

MARCH 31

**Rest of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts
and Apostle to the Americas**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wed., in honor of St. Innocent)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

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.

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

Tone 4 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Prodigal,
I recklessly squandered my Father's riches.
Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.
In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,
stripped of all divine grace.
But now I have returned and cry to You,
the compassionate and merciful Father://
"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

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

Tone 4 *(for the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,
living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,
perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,
whose fold no wolf can enter;//
pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Joseph)* *(Having placed all their hope)*

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,
rays of light from the spiritual Sun:
entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of
passions!

Pray that we may see the day of salvation!
By your prayers and intercessions,
may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,
so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you, //
who save the world by your wise preaching.

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

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.
I recklessly squandered the riches that You gave me.
Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.
Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.
I have sinned, and yet I know Your goodness.
Receive me as one of Your hired servants, O compassionate Christ, //
by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved You!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)* *(At the right hand of the Savior)*

O Apostles of the Savior,
lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,
like the heavens you tell the glory of God,
adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.
Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,
that He may accept our prayers as incense,
and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!
As we venerate Your Cross, O Savior, //
send down on us great mercy in Your love for mankind!

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 6* *(from the Menaion, for St. Innocent)*

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,
as you led those adrift in darkness, delusion and the storms of passions
to the calm harbor of salvation.
Pray for us now, Holy Father Innocent,//
before the Holy Trinity!

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

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

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

People of two continents with different tongues and customs
rejoice today through you in the mystery of the tongues of Pentecost
and in the fall of the cursed tower of human pride,
which kept at enmity all the nations of the earth,
until they were swept into the net of faith//
worshipping the consubstantial Trinity.

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

Tone 6 *(for St. Innocent)*

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, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

* Music for the stichera for St. Innocent from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org. These stichera are listed as the Stichera at the Aposticha.

Tone 6 *(Theotokion)*

I lift up the eyes of my heart to you, O Lady;
despise not my weak plea,
and in the hour when your Son shall come to judge the world, //
be my helper and protector.

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

I will trust in the mercy of God / for ever and ever. *(Ps. 51:8b)*

v. Why do you boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the godly? (Ps. 51:1)

Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

When the Lord turns back / the captivity of His people. [/ let Jacob rejoice and let Israel be glad.] *(Ps. 13:8b)*

v. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps. 13:1)

Reading from Proverbs (9:12-18)

("Let my prayer arise..." and then immediately:)

Tone 1 **Prokeimenon** *(St. Innocent)*

My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *(Ps. 48:3)*

v. Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth! (Ps. 48:1)

Epistle (318) Hebrews 7:26-8:2 *(St. Innocent)*

Tone 2 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. The mouth of the righteous shall proclaim wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps. 36:31)

v. The Law of God is in his heart, and his steps shall not falter. (Ps. 36:32)

Gospel (36) John 10:9-16 *(St. Innocent)*

(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)

Communion Hymn

Taste and see that the Lord is good! *(Ps. 33:8a)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!