

APRIL 27

Great and Holy Tuesday

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Tuesday)

(The Matins of the first three days of Holy Week are commonly called the "Bridegroom Service." This service is customarily served in anticipation on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings. Vespers with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in most places is celebrated early on the following day.)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1

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!

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

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

Tone 1

How shall I, the unworthy one,
appear in the splendor of Your saints?
For if I dare enter Your bridal chamber with them,
my garments will betray me:
they are unfit for a wedding.
The angels will cast me out in chains.
Cleanse the filth of my soul, O Lord,//
and save me in Your love for mankind!

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.

Tone 2

O Christ the Bridegroom,
my soul has slumbered in laziness.
I have no lamp aflame with virtues.
Like the foolish virgins, I wander aimlessly when it is time for work.
But do not close Your compassionate heart to me, O Master!
Rouse me; shake off my heavy sleep!
Lead me with the wise virgins into the bridal chamber,
that I may hear the pure voice of those that feast and cry unceasingly://
“O Lord, glory to You!”

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

Tone 4

You have heard the condemnation, O soul,
of the man who hid his talent.
But do not hide the Word of God!
Proclaim His wonders,
that, increasing the gift of grace,//
you may enter into the joy of your Lord!

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

Come, O faithful,
let us work zealously for the Master,
for He distributes wealth to His servants!
Let each of us, according to his ability,
increase his talent of grace:
let one be adorned in wisdom through good works;
let another celebrate a service in splendor!
The one distributes his wealth to the poor;
the other communicates the Word to those untaught.
Thus we shall increase what has been entrusted to us,
and, as faithful stewards of grace,
we shall be accounted worthy of the Master's joy.
Make us worthy of this, O Christ our God,//
in Your love for mankind!

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

When You shall come in glory, O Jesus,
with the Angelic Hosts,
and shall sit upon the throne for judgment,
do not drive me away, O Good Shepherd!
For You know the paths on Your right hand,
but those on Your left hand lead astray!
Do not destroy me with the goats,
though I am coarse with sin,
but number me with the sheep on Your right hand, //
and save me in Your love for mankind!

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

You are more beautiful than all men, O Bridegroom!
You have invited us
to the spiritual banquet of Your bridal chamber.
Strip me of the ugly garment of my sins,
as I participate in Your Passion!
Adorn me in the glorious robe of Your beauty //
that proclaims me a guest in Your Kingdom, O merciful Lord!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 7

Behold, the Master has entrusted you with the talent, O my soul!
Recieve the gift with fear!
Repay the One who gave by giving to the poor,
and gain the Lord as your friend,
so that when He comes in glory,
You may stand at His right hand and hear His blessed voice:
“Enter, my servant, into the joy of your Lord!”
Though I have gone astray, make me worthy of this, O Savior, //
through Your great mercy!

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

Arise, O Lord, and go to Your resting place, / You and the ark of Your might!
(Ps. 131:8)

V. Remember, O Lord, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured! (Ps. 131:1)

Reading from Exodus (2:5-10)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Behold, how good and pleasant it is / when brothers dwell in unity! *(Ps. 132:1)*

V. It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron. (Ps. 132:1a-b)

Reading from Job (1:13-22)

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

Gospel

(102) Matthew 24:36-26:2

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

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, ("The Bridegroom Services of Holy Week").