

MARCH 31

Rest of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts & Apostle to the Americas Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wed.)

"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!

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

The Fast, the source of blessings,
now has brought us midway through its course.
Having pleased God with the days that have passed,
we look forward to making good use of the days to come,
for growth in blessings brings forth even greater achievements.
While pleasing Christ, the Giver of all blessings, we cry:
"O Lord, Who fasted and endured the Cross for our sake,
make us worthy to share blamelessly in Your Paschal victory,
by living in peace and rightly giving glory to You//
and to the Father and the Holy Spirit!"

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Tone 5 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

Those who thirst for spiritual blessings
practice their good deeds in secret,
not announcing them in the streets and marketplace,
but keeping them hidden deep within their hearts;
and He Who sees all that is done in secret
will reward us for our abstinence.
Let us complete the Fast without wearing gloomy faces!
Let us pray without ceasing in the inner chamber of our souls:
“Our Father, Who art in heaven, lead us not into temptation,//
but deliver us from the Evil One!”

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

Tone 5 (for the Martyrs)

With souls filled with boundless love, O holy martyrs,
you endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,
laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.
By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,
you have been lifted up to heaven,
and now you have boldness before Him.
Entreat Him to grant peace to the world//
and to our souls great mercy!

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

Tone 1 (for the Cross) (O all-praised martyrs)

Let us cleanse our souls in the waters of the Fast!
Let us approach the precious and most pure Cross of the Lord,
venerating it in faith and drawing forth divine enlightenment,
reaping even now the rich harvest://
eternal salvation, peace, and great mercy!

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

O Cross, boast of the Apostles,
surrounded by Archangels, Powers, and Principalities:
save us from all harm who bow down before you!
Enable us to fulfill the divine course of abstinence//
and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved!

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 7 *(for the Cross)* *(Today Judas keeps vigil)*

Today, as we bow before the Cross of the Lord, we cry:
“Rejoice, O Tree of life, the destroyer of hell!
Rejoice, O joy of the world, the slayer of corruption!
Rejoice, O power that scatters demons!
O invincible weapon, confirmation of the faithful,//
protect and sanctify those who kiss you!”

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

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

O Holy Father Innocent,
like the Apostles long ago,
you accepted the Lord’s command to baptize all peoples in His name;
you left your homeland to proclaim His truth
to an island people sitting in darkness.//
With them lead us down the path to the Kingdom of Heaven!

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

Like the betrothed of the Theotokos,
you worked with your hands in humility;
and through you, like Constantine, churches blossomed throughout the land,
built for the feeding of the flock//
that you gathered and led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

Like the Holy Brothers† from Thessalonica,
who brought illumination to your forefathers,
you labored to bring this same inheritance
to untaught peoples placed in your care;
that, worshipping the One True God in words of many tongues,//
they might, by the Word, be led into the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

* Music for the stichera for St. Innocent from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

† Sts. Cyril and Methodius

Tone 2 *(from the Menaion, for St. Innocent)* *(With what crowns)*

With what crowns of praise shall we adorn the wise Apostle of our land?
With the radiant Gospel of salvation he came bodily to enlighten an island
people,
who sat in darkness and ignorance;
by planting there the Orthodox Faith,//
he brought to them great mercy from Christ our God.

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

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

Truly the Lord guided you along paths of many labors,
through many lands, to many peoples,
to enlighten a multitude of hearts,
and to guide and counsel an army of souls//
down the narrow path that alone leads into the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

Tone 8 *(Theotokion, from the Triodion)*

Today He Who by nature is unapproachable approaches me.
He Who freed me from my passions endures the Passion.
The Light of the blind is spat upon by lawless lips.
For the sake of captives He gives His back to scourging.
When His pure Virgin Mother beheld Him on the Cross, she cried in pain:
“Woe is me, O my Child! What have You done?
Your beauty was fairer than that of any man,
yet now You appear lifeless,
without form or comeliness.
Woe is me, O my Light!
I cannot bear to see You sleeping.
My soul is wounded, for a sword has pierced my heart,
and yet I praise Your Passion.
I bow down before Your compassion.//
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You!”

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, / Who alone does wondrous things!
(Ps. 71:19)

V. Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son! (Ps.71:1)

Reading from Genesis (9:18-10:1)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

It is good for me / to be near my God. *(Ps. 72:26a)*

V. Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. (Ps. 72:1)

Reading from Proverbs (12:23-13:9)

Old Testament Readings *(St. Innocent)*

Composite 2 *(Proverbs 10:7,6; 3:13-16; 8:6,32,4,12,14,17,5-9; 1:23)*

Composite 3 *(Wisdom 4:7, 16, 17, 119; 20:5-7)*

Composite 4 *(Prov. 10:11; Wisdom 6:12-16; 7:30; 8:2-4, 7-9, 21; 9:1-4, 10, 11, 14)*

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

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.