

APRIL 4

Vespers, Fifth Monday of Great Lent, Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer

"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!

Tone 8* *(Penitential stichera in the Tone of the week)*

The angels never cease singing praises to You,
and I fall before You, O King and Master;
and cry out like the Publican://
"Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!"

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

Since you are immortal, O my soul,
do not be overwhelmed by the waves of this life!
Come to your senses and cry out to your Benefactor://
"Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!"

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

* Music for the penitential stichera can be downloaded at <http://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/penitential-stichera>.

When I grasp with my mind the great number of terrible things I have done,
and go in my thoughts to that terrible reckoning,
then I tremble with fearfulness.
I flee for refuge to You, O God and Lover of man.
I humbly pray: "Do not turn from me, O sinless Lord, //
but grant my lowly soul compunction before the end, and save me!"

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

Give me tears, O God, as You once gave them to the woman who had sinned,
and thus count me worthy to drench Your feet with tears –
those feet that freed me from the path of error!
Let me offer You a life of purity,
acquired by me through repentance,
as fragrant ointment,
that I too may hear that voice for which I pray, //
saying: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace!"

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

Tone 3[†] *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (Great is the power)*

In this season of abstinence, O believers,
let us exert every effort,
that we may attain great glory, escaping the fire of hell, //
by the mercy of God, the great King!

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.

Having passed the middle point of this holy Fast,
let us clearly show forth the beginning of divine glory!
Let us fervently hasten to the achievement of good behavior, //
that we may receive the eternal joy!

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

[†] Music for the stichera from the Lenten Triodion can be downloaded at <http://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/lenten-triodion>.

Tone 7 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore)*

Having passed beyond the middle point of this holy Fast,
let us strive to its end, rejoicing with steadfastness!
Let us anoint ourselves with the oil of charity,
that we may be worthy to adore the noble Passion of Christ our God, //
and attain His most honored and holy Resurrection!

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 2 *(from the Menaion, for Ven. Joseph)* *(Joseph of Arimathea)*

You followed in the footsteps of the Word of God,
Who created all from nothingness,
shaking away, as He commanded, love of worldly things
together with love of all passions.
You took up the Cross on your shoulders
and were crucified to the world.
Therefore, O Father, shining forth with virtues through godly works, //
you received an eternal inheritance.

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

You were revealed to be a mystical trumpet,
calling all on high with spiritual hymns.
You were a divinely-sounded harp, praising the armies of God,
glorifying all the saints and proclaiming their victories.
You drew a depth of words from the fountain of salvation, //
enriching the house of God.

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

Crucified with love, you were shown to be a treasury of virtues.
Aflame with love and chanting sacred hymns,
you sought all those who were well-pleasing to God
through their faith and repentance.
By these you were yourself a participant in the divine image, //
and were revealed as a partaker of sweetness.

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

Tone 2 *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O Mary Theotokos,
Temple which cannot be destroyed;
Holy Temple, indeed, as the Prophet cries://
“Holy is Your Temple, wonderful in righteousness!”

Tone 8 **Great Prokeimenon**

Turn not away Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: / hear me speedily,
draw near unto my soul, and deliver it! *(Ps. 68:21-22a)*

V. Let Your salvation, O God, uphold me! (Ps. 68:34b)

V. Let the poor see and be glad! (Ps. 68:37a)

V. Seek God, and your soul shall live! (Ps. 68:37b)

Aposticha

Tone 7 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

The Savior Who planted the vineyard and called the laborers is near indeed.
Come, therefore, O workers in the Fast:
let us receive our wages, for the Giver is rich and merciful!//
Even if we have labored little we receive great mercy.

V. I lift up mine eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122:1-2)

Tone 6 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Stephen)*

When Adam fell among the robbers of thought,
he was robbed of his mind;
his soul was wounded, and he was cast out naked and without any aid.
The priest who came before the Law did not listen to him.
The Levite who came after the Law had no compassion on him:
only You, O God, Who came not from Samaria but from the Theotokos!//
O Lord, glory to You!

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)

Tone 6 *(for the Martyrs)*

Your martyr^s, O Lord,
did not deny You,
nor did they forsake Your commandments.//
By their intercessions, have mercy on us!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Archangel, O believers,
let us praise the heavenly Bridal Chamber and the well-sealed Gate!
“Rejoice, O Lady,
through whom sprang forth for us the Savior, Christ,
the Life-giver and God of all!
Undefiled hope of Christians, destroy with your own hands//
the tyrants, our godless enemies!
that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//
for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior!

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.