

APRIL 15 Great and Holy Saturday
Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (sung on Saturday)

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

Tone 1 *(from the Octoechos, for the Resurrection)*

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!
Grant us remission of sins,//
for You alone have manifested the Resurrection to the world.

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

Encircle Zion
and surround her, O people!
Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!
For He is our God,//
Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

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

Come, O people,
let us hymn and fall down before Christ,
glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!
For He is our God, //
Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

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.

We have been freed from sufferings
by Your suffering, O Christ.
We have been delivered from corruption
by Your Resurrection. //
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Tone 8 *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Today, Hell cries out groaning:
"I should not have accepted the Man born of Mary.
He came and destroyed my power.
He shattered the gates of brass.
As God, He raised the souls that I had held captive." //
Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O 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.

(Repeat: "Today, Hell cries out groaning...")

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

Today, Hell cries out groaning:
“My dominion has been shattered.
I received a dead Man as one of the dead,
but against Him I could not prevail.
From eternity I had ruled the dead,
but behold, He raises all.
Because of Him do I perish.” //
Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

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

Today, Hell cries out groaning:
“My power has been trampled down.
The Shepherd is crucified and Adam is raised.
I have been deprived of those whom I ruled.
Those whom I swallowed in my strength I have given up.
He Who was crucified has emptied the tombs.
The power of death has been vanquished.” //
Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

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

Tone 6

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day when he said:
“God blessed the seventh day.”
This is the blessed Sabbath;
this is the day of rest,
on which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works.
By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation,
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh;
by returning again to what He was,
He has granted us eternal life through His Resurrection, //
for He alone is good and the Lover of man.

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

Tone 1 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!
She destroyed the wall of enmity!
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!
Since she is our foundation of faith,
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!
Courage! Courage! O People of God!
For Christ will destroy our enemies//
since He is all powerful.

Entrance with the Gospel, "O Gladsome Light," and immediately the Readings:

Old Testament Readings

- 1. Genesis 1:1-13**
- 2. Isaiah 60:1-16**
- 3. Exodus 12:1-11**
- 4. Jonah 1:1-4:11**
- 5. Joshua 5:10-15**
- 6. Exodus 13:20-15:1**

When the Reader comes to the beginning of the Song of Moses at Chapter 15: "Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and he spoke saying," he continues in a louder voice:

"Let us sing to the Lord!"

And the choir and the people respond with this refrain, sung after each of the other verses of this song:

For gloriously has He been glorified.

The horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord!
(Refrain)

He was to me a Helper and Protector for salvation. Let us sing unto the Lord!
(Refrain)

This is my God and I will glorify Him; the God of my father, and I will exalt Him.
Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

The Lord brings wars to naught, the Lord is His Name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast into the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord. *(Refrain)*

And his chosen officers are sunk in the Red Sea. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

The floods cover them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Your right hand, O Lord, has been glorified in power. Let us sing unto the Lord!
(Refrain)

Your right hand, O Lord, has shattered the enemy, and in the greatness of Your majesty You have overthrown Your adversaries. Let us sing unto the Lord!
(Refrain)

You sent forth Your fury, it consumes them like stubble, and by the spirit of Your displeasure the water parted asunder. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

The waters stood up like a wall, the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

The enemy said: "I will pursue and I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, I will satisfy my soul, I will destroy with my sword, my hand shall have dominion." Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

You sent Your Spirit and the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty waters. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You – glorified in holiness, marvelous in glory, doing wonders! Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

You stretched out Your right hand and the earth swallowed them. You lead in Your righteousness the people whom You redeemed. Let us sing unto the Lord.
(Refrain)

Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; the leaders of Moab, trembling seizes them; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Let trembling and fear fall upon them; because of the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone! Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Until Your people pass by, O Lord, until the people pass by whom You have purchased. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

You will bring them in and plant them on Your mountain, the place, O Lord, which You have made for Your abode, Your sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have made ready. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

The Lord shall reign for ever and ever. For when the horse of the Pharaoh with the chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the water of the sea upon them. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit! Let us sing unto the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Let us sing unto the Lord!

(and the Reader concludes:)

For gloriously has He been glorified.

(And we continue the readings from the Old Testament.)

Old Testament Readings

7. Zephaniah 3:8-15

8. 3 [1] Kings 17:8-24

9. Isaiah 61:10-62:5

10. Genesis 22:1-18

11. Isaiah 61:1-9

12. 4 [2] Kings 4:8-37

13. Isaiah 63:11-64:5

14. Jeremiah 31:31-34

15. Daniel 3:1-23, Song of the Three Children 1-66 with the verses

When the Reader comes to verse 34 of the Song of the Three Children:

“Blessed are You in the firmament of Heaven, and to be sung and glorified forever.”

And the choir and the people respond with this refrain, sung after each of the other verses of this song:

Praise the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages!

Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, you heavens! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, all waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, all powers! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, sun and moon! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, stars of heaven! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, all rain and dew! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, all winds! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, fire and heat! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, dews and snows! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, nights and days! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, light and darkness! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, ice and cold! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, frosts and snows! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, lightning and clouds! (Refrain)

Let the earth bless the Lord! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth! (Refrain)

Bless the Lord, you springs! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, you whales and all creatures that move in the waters! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, you sons of men! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, O Israel! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, Ananiah, Azariah, and Mishael! *(Refrain)*

Bless the Lord, Apostles, Prophets, and Martyrs of the Lord! *(Refrain)*

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord. *(Refrain)*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

(and the Reader concludes:)

Praise the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages!

(Instead of the Trisagion, we sing:)

As many as have been baptized into Christ,
have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

Let all the earth worship You and praise You; / let it praise Your Name, O Most High! (Ps. 65:3)

V. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Epistle
(91) Romans 6:3-11

(Instead of the "Alleluia," we sing in Tone 7:)

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to You belong all the nations! (Ps. 81:8)

V. God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment. (Ps. 81:1)

V. How long will you judge unjustly and accept the faces of sinners? (Ps. 81:2)

V. Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute! (Ps. 81:3)

V. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the sinner! (Ps. 81:4)

V. They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk about in darkness. (Ps. 81:5a)

V. Let all the foundations of the earth be shaken! I say: "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like men, and fall like any prince." (Ps. 81:5b-6)

Arise, O God, judge the earth!

(and the Choir concludes:)

For to You belong all the nations!

Gospel
(115) Matthew 28:1-20

(Instead of the Cherubic Hymn, we sing the following:)

Hymn of the Entrance

Let all mortal flesh keep silent,
and in fear and trembling stand,
pondering nothing earthly minded!
For the King of kings, and the Lord of lords,
comes to be slain,
to give Himself as food to the faithful.

Before Him go the ranks of angels:
all the Principalities and Powers;
the many-eyed Cherubim;
and the six-winged Seraphim,
covering their faces, singing the hymn:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

(Instead of "All of creation rejoices...", we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

Do not lament Me, O Mother,
seeing Me in the tomb,
the Son conceived in the womb without seed!
For I shall arise
and be glorified with eternal glory as God.
I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and love.

Communion Hymn

The Lord awoke as one asleep, and arose, saving us. *(Ps. 77:70)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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