

MARCH 27

Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

"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.

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

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

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

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. (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.

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. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel
hope 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. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and
He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Tone 4 *(from the Menaion, for St. Matrona) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

With reason, you opposed the harsh threats and naked savagery of unbelievers,
for you were both divinely and humanly wise.
You foresaw the delight of things to come that remain unchanged throughout the
ages.
You received this unchanging delight
as you departed from earth to the mansions of heaven,//
to the choir of unending voices, O glorious one.

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

You were adorned with the wounds of your patient suffering;
it was given you to behold the splendor of the Kingdom
and the fair beauty of your Bridegroom.
You drew near to the Source of good things,
from where, as is fitting,//
you richly received the fruit of divine gladness and unending glory.

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

The yoke of slavery did not prevent you, O most glorious one,
from following the patience of the martyrs,
nor did feminine weakness, starvation, or beatings.
You endured torture with fervent strength of soul.
Therefore you have received a heavenly dwelling place://
standing before your Creator, you are adorned with the crown of grace.

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

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

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.