

MARCH 19

Thursday of the Third Week of Great Lent

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome

"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.

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

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

Like the Prodigal,

I recklessly squandered my father's riches.

Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.

In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,
stripped of all divine grace.

But now I have returned and cry to You,

the compassionate and merciful Father://

"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

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

Tone 4 (to the Martyrs)

O Martyrs of the Lord,
living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,
perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,
whose fold no wolf can enter;//
pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

Tone 6 (from the Triodion, by Joseph) (Having placed all their hope)

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,
rays of light from the spiritual Sun:
entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of
passions!
Pray that we may see the day of salvation!
By your prayers and intercessions,
may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,
so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you, //
who save the world by your wise preaching.

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.
I recklessly squandered the riches that You gave me.
Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.
Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.
I have sinned, and yet I know Your goodness.
Receive me as one of your hired servants, O compassionate Christ, //
by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved You!

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

Tone 6 (from the Triodion, by Theodore) (Clothed, O Savior)

O Apostles of the Savior,
lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,
like the heavens you tell the glory of God,
adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.
Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,
that He may accept our prayers as incense,
and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!
As we venerate Your Cross, O Savior,//
send down on us great mercy in Your love for mankind!

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 the Martyrs) (Thou hast given us a sign)

The eyes of your heart were enlightened
when you received the illumination of the knowledge of God.
You wisely abandoned the darkness of delusion, O wise one.
You confessed Christ, the Lord Who took flesh for all.
Therefore, most praised Chrysanthus,
you were made strong by the might of the Spirit,//
and were shown to be stronger than your torturers.

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

You counted the bait of the enemy and the burning of pleasures to be like a
spider's web.
As you stood in the dark dungeon,
you were illuminated with divine resplendence
and filled with spiritual fragrance
though you were surrounded by the stench of filth.
As a most excellent escort,
you led as a blameless bride to Christ//
the woman who had sought to defile you.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

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

O Daria of glorious fame,
you were wounded with the sweetest love of the Creator
and turned away from all ungodliness.
Through the many torments of your body,
you betrothed yourself to Christ
and found within yourself a bridal chamber of God.
You were a divine vessel of the Spirit,//
the adornment of athletes and the splendor of virgins.

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

Tone 4 (*Theotokion*)

O most immaculate Virgin Mother,
transform the weakness and paralysis of my soul into strength and virtue,
that with fear and love I may perform Christ's ordinances,
that I may escape the unbearable flame,
and ever rejoicing, may attain, through you, the heavenly inheritance,//
and the unsurpassable life!

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

I will trust in the mercy of God / for ever and ever. (*Ps 51/52:8*)

*v: Why do you boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the godly?
(Ps 51/52:1)*

Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

When the Lord turns back / the captivity of His people. [/ let Jacob rejoice and
let Israel be glad.] (*Ps 13/14:7*)

v: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps 13/14:1)

Reading from Proverbs (9:12-18)

Aposticha

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

Like the Prodigal,
I recklessly squandered my father's riches.
Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.
In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,
stripped of all divine grace.
But now I have returned and cry to You,
the compassionate and merciful Father://
"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

(Twice)

Tone 4 *(to the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,
living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,
perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,
whose fold no wolf can enter://
pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

Theotokion **Tone 4**

Deliver us from all perils,
O Mother of Christ our God,
You who gave birth to the Creator of all,
That we may all cry to you,//
Rejoice, O strong protection of our souls!

... and the rest of lenten Vespers as usual.

Genesis 7:6-9 (*Vespers, 1st reading*)

6

Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

7

So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.

8

Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth,

9

two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

Proverbs 9:12-18 (*Vespers, 2nd reading*)

12

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”

13

A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knows nothing.

14

For she sits at the door of her house, on a seat by the highest places of the city,

15

to call to those who pass by, who go straight on their way:

16

“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”; and as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,

17

“Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

18

But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.