

**On Wednesday Evening
of the First Week 2015**

From the Triodion.

Sticheron Idiomelon. Tone 8.

*Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to
Your name, O Lord.*

While fasting physically, brethren, let us also fast spiritually. Let us loose every knot of iniquity; let us tear up every unrighteous bond; let us distribute bread to the hungry, and welcome into our homes those who have no roof over their heads so that we may receive great mercy from Christ our God!

*The righteous shall wait for me, until You
reward me.*

While fasting physically, brethren, let us also fast spiritually. Let us loose every knot of iniquity; let us tear up every unrighteous bond; let us distribute bread to the hungry, and welcome into our homes those who have no roof over their heads so that we may receive great mercy from Christ our God!

For the Martyrs.

Tone 8.

*Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord.
O Lord, hear my voice.*

Fame and praise befits the saints! For they bowed their necks beneath the sword for your sake, who bowed the heavens and came down. They shed blood for you, who emptied yourself and took the form of a servant! By emulating your poverty, they too humbled themselves even unto death. By their prayers, have mercy on us, o God according to the abundance of your great mercies!

Stichera Prosomia. By Joseph.

Tone 2.

*Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my
supplication.*

Jesus, the spiritually radiant sun has sent you into the world as shining flashes of lightning, apostles and eye-witnesses of God! By the rays of your divine doctrines, the error of darkness was swept away, enlightening those who were held in the gloom of ignorance. Entreat him to grant us enlightenment and great mercy.

*If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O
Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness
with You.*

Elijah was enlightened through fasting; he mounted the chariot of good works and was taken up to the heights of heaven. Emulate him, humble soul! Abstain from every evil and jealousy, from every fleeting pleasure, so that you might be cleansed of corrupting disease; the fires of gehenna, crying to Christ: o lord, glory to you!

Another. By Theodore.

Tone 5.

*Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You;
my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in
the Lord.*

Divine Apostles, fervent intercessors for the world, defenders of the Orthodox. You have authority to entreat Christ our God with boldness. We entreat you to pray for us, honorable ones, that we might spend the good time of fasting in joyousness, and receive the

grace of the consubstantial trinity. Pray for our souls, great and glorious preachers!

From the Menaion.

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

You washed your soul of uncleanness, * blessed Porphyrios, * with all those teardrops flowing * like a stream, and extinguished * the flame of sinful passions, and colored your robe * with the color of porphyry. * Now in the heavenly realm you forever live, * and you celebrate eternally.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his transgressions.

You washed your soul of uncleanness, * blessed Porphyrios, * with all those teardrops flowing * like a stream, and extinguished * the flame of sinful passions, and colored your robe * with the color of porphyry. * Now in the heavenly realm you forever live, * and you celebrate eternally.

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples.

Having excelled in divine heights * of Orthodoxy, O Saint, * you are the pride of bishops; * you were set on the lamp-stand. * As a worthy laborer you have received * from the Lord the reward indeed * for all your labors, and thus you obtained from God * gifts of grace divine, all-blessed one.

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

He used to solemnize myst'ries * upon the altar below; * now to the Lord forever * in the heavens sublimely * he offers the oblation, sublime and divine; * and from there St. Porphyrios * is watching over us, praying as a high-priest * to the consubstantial Trinity.

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

In the deep sea of transgressions * I am now tossed about; * therefore, O Theotokos, * I seek refuge and safety * in the waveless harbor of your most pure * intercession on my behalf. * I pray: Extend your almighty right hand and save * me your servant, O all-blameless one.

DEACON

Wisdom! Arise!

READER

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; and therefore the world glorifies You.

PRIEST

The evening...

THE READINGS

READER

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 1. Psalm 11 (12).

You shall guard us, O Lord; You shall preserve us from this generation forever.

Save me, O Lord, for the holy man has ceased; the truthful are diminished from among the sons of men.

The reading is from Genesis.

PRIEST

Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

READER

1:24-31 and 2:1-3

God said: Let the earth bring forth living soul according to its kind, quadrupeds, reptiles, and wild beasts of the earth according to their kind; and it was so. And God made the wild beasts of the earth according to their kind, and the cattle according to their kind, and all the reptiles of the earth according to their kinds. And God saw that they were good. And God said: Let us make humanity according to our image and according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of heaven and the cattle and all the earth and all the reptiles which creep upon the earth. And God made humanity, according to the image of God he made it; male and female he made them. And God blessed them, saying: Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over it; and rule the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of heaven and all the cattle and all the earth and all the reptiles which creep upon the earth. And God said: See, I have given you all seed-bearing grass, sowing seed, which is upon the whole earth; and every tree, which has in it fruit of seed-bearing seed, shall be food for you, and for all the wild beasts of the earth and for all the winged creatures of heaven, and for every reptile which creeps upon the earth, which has in itself a soul of life, and every green grass shall be food. And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made; and behold, they were very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. And the heaven and the earth were accomplished, and

all their array. And God accomplished on the sixth day the works which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from his works which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it; because on it he rested from all his works, which God had begun to make. (*Lash*)

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 2. Psalm 12 (13).

Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death.

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me to the end? How long will You turn Your face from me?

(sung)

Command!

PRIEST

Wisdom! Arise! The light of Christ shines upon all.

READER

The reading is from Proverbs.

PRIEST

Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

READER

2:1-22

My son, if you accept utterance of my commandment and hide it in yourself, your ear will obey wisdom and you will apply your heart to understanding; you will apply it to the instruction of your son. For is you call upon wisdom and give your voice to understanding, while you seek perception with a loud voice, and if you seek it like silver, and search it out like treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and you will find knowledge of God; because the Lord gives wisdom and from his face come knowledge and understanding. And he treasures up salvation for those who act uprightly; he will protect their path, to guard the ways of just deeds; and to protect the way of those who respect him. Then you will

understand justice and judgement, and direct all good courses. For if wisdom comes into the mind, while perception seems to be good to your soul, good counsel will guard you; while holy thought will watch over you, that it may deliver you from a wicked way, and from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy. Alas for those who abandon straight ways to journey in ways of darkness; who are glad at wickednesses, and rejoice at wicked perversity! Whose paths are crooked and whose tracks are winding, to take you far from the straight way, and make you a stranger to just purpose. My son, let not wicked counsel, which has abandoned teaching from her youth, and forgotten God's testament, take you; for she has set her house next death and her door-posts with the earthborn next Hell. All those who journey by her will not return, nor will they take straight paths; for they are not taken by years of life. For if they had journeyed on good paths, they would have found smooth paths of justice. They will be good builders of the land; but the innocent will be left behind in it; because the upright will inhabit the land and the holy will be left behind in it. The ways of the ungodly will perish from the land; while the transgressors will be destroyed from it. (*Lash*)

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