

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

From the Triodion.

Sticheron Idiomelon. Tone 4.

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

I have blindly squandered my Father's riches. I am now empty, living in a land of evil men. In my foolishness, I have become like the senseless beasts and am now stripped of every divine grace. But turning back I cry to you: merciful and compassionate Father, I have sinned; receive me in repentance, O God, and have mercy on me!

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

I have blindly squandered my Father's riches. I am now empty, living in a land of evil men. In my foolishness, I have become like the senseless beasts and am now stripped of every divine grace. But turning back I cry to you: merciful and compassionate Father, I have sinned; receive me in repentance, O God, and have mercy on me!

For the Martyrs.

Tone 4.

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

O Martyrs of the Lord: living sacrifices and reasonable offerings; perfect incense burnt to God; sheep that know God and are known by him, into whose folds the wolves cannot break! Pray that we may be led with you to rest beside the still waters.

Stichera Prosomia. By Joseph.

Tone 6.

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

Apostles, eye-witnesses of God, rays of light from the spiritual sun, pray that light may be granted to our souls; deliver us from the gloomy darkness of the passions and ask that we may see the day of salvation! By your prayers and intercessions, cleanse our hearts wounded by the evil one. Saved by faith, we shall honor you forever, by preaching the truth, for you preserve the world!

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

Like the prodigal son, I have journeyed into a far country of wickedness. I have wasted in evil the wealth you gave me, compassionate Father. I am starved of good deeds and clothed in the shame of my transgression, for I have been stripped bare of divine grace. I cry out to you: I have sinned! Yet I know your loving kindness; accept me as one of your hired servants, merciful Christ, at the prayers of the Apostles who loved you.

Another. By Theodore.

Tone 6.

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

Apostles of the Lord, lights, benefactors, and saviors of the world: as the heavens, you declare the glory of God! You are adorned with the stars of your miracles and wonders

of healing! Intercede fervently before the Lord for us that our prayers may be accepted as pure and sweet-smelling incense; that we may all be accounted worthy to venerate the life-giving Cross and to behold it with fear. Send down on us, then, your mercy, O Savior, as the lover of mankind.

From the Menaion.

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Mode pl. 4. What a paradoxal miracle.

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

Father Theophanis, you were named for the Theophany * and appearance of Christ the Lord, * and you followed faithfully * in His steps that are full of life. * And you renounced the delights of earthly life, * you fixed your gaze on the beauty you so loved. * O godly-minded Saint, * through divine attraction to Him you who are * excellent were deified * indeed most perfectly.

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

Father Theophanis, you were named for the Theophany * and appearance of Christ the Lord, * and you followed faithfully * in His steps that are full of life. * And you renounced the delights of earthly life, * you fixed your gaze on the beauty you so loved. * O godly-minded Saint, * through divine attraction to Him you who are * excellent were deified * indeed most perfectly.

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

Father Theophanis, you endured most bitter banishment * with great fortitude, even though * you were physically infirm; * you neglected your body's needs. * All-lauded Saint, by the savage lions' wrath * you were exiled for the sake of the august * Icons. Triumphantly * you displayed the madness of their silly plans * and their vain unstable thoughts, * and their conceited mind.

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

Truly has the Giver of good things richly bestowed on you * the rewards for your labors all: * He gave you authority * over demons to drive them out, * and grace for curing diseases and to heal, * thrice-blessed Saint, and He granted you the joy, * which is ineffable, * where angelic regiments forever dance, * as you gaze upon the face of God the Ruler of all.

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Come now, O my soul, and heave a sigh, and from the bottom of your heart * offer torrents of burning tears * to the Virgin and cry out * to the Mother of Christ our God, "In your immense tender-love deliver me * from that most frightening punishment of hell, * pure Maiden, settle me * in the place where there is rest and also joy, * holy comforts and delights for all eternity."

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 4. Psalm 51 (52).

I hope in God's mercy Forever and unto ages of ages.

Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man, and in lawlessness all the day long?

The reading is from Genesis.

PRIEST

Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

READER

7:6-9

Noë was six hundred years old when the flood of water came to pass on the earth. Noë and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark because of the water of the flood. And of the clean flying creatures and of the unclean flying creatures and of the clean beasts and of the unclean beasts and of all that creep upon the earth two by two they went in to Noë into the ark, male and female, as God had commanded Noë. (*Lash*)

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 52 (53).

When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, Jacob will greatly rejoice, and Israel will be glad.

He fool said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt and abominable in lawlessness; there is none Who does good.

(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

9:12-18

My son, if you become wise for yourself, you will also be wise for your neighbours; while if you prove wicked, you will draw wickedness alone. One who relies on falsehoods, shepherds winds, while he will pursue flying birds; for he has left the ways of his own vineyard, while he has made the axes of his field go astray. He walks through a waterless desert and a land appointed to drought, he gathers fruitlessness with his hands. A foolish and insolent woman, who does not know shame, comes to lack a morsel; she sits at the doors of her house, on a bench openly in the streets, inviting the passers by and those who are going straight on their ways. Whichever of you is most foolish, let him turn aside to me and I exhort those who lack prudence, saying: Touch the secret bread of pleasure and drink the sweet water of theft. But he does not know that those born of earth are destroyed by her, and he encounters a trap of Hell. But hurry away, do not delay in the place and do not rest your eye on her; for thus you will pass through strange water, pass over a strange river; keep away from strange water and do not drink of a strange spring, that you

may live a long time and that years may be
added to your life. (*Lash*)

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