

**On Wednesday Evening
Before Palm Sunday 2015**

CHOIR

Mode pl. 1.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

From the Triodion.

Sticheron Idiomelon. Tone 5.

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

I am rich in passions, and clothed in the deceitful robe of hypocrisy. I rejoice in the sins of self-indulgence. There is no limit to my lack of love. I neglect my spiritual understanding that lies at the gate of repentance. Make me, Lord, like Lazarus, poor in sin, that I may not be tormented in the unquenchable fire, praying in vain for a finger to be dipped in water to relieve my burning tongue. But make me dwell in the bosom of Abraham, as the lover of mankind.

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

I am rich in passions, and clothed in the deceitful robe of hypocrisy. I rejoice in the sins of self-indulgence. There is no limit to my lack of love. I neglect my spiritual understanding that lies at the gate of repentance. Make me, Lord, like Lazarus, poor in sin, that I may not be tormented in the unquenchable fire,

praying in vain for a finger to be dipped in water to relieve my burning tongue. But make me dwell in the bosom of Abraham, as the lover of mankind.

For the Martyrs.

Tone 5.

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

Your souls filled with unquenchable love, you endured the most terrible sufferings without denying Christ, and cast down the tyrants pride. You who kept the faith unchanged and unharmed have gone to dwell in heaven. Since you have boldness before the Lord, pray that he may grant us great mercy!

Stichera Prosomia. By Joseph.

Tone 5.

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

Jesus as you walked in the flesh, on the other side of the Jordan, you said to your companions: My friend Lazarus is already dead, and now has been committed to the tomb. And so for your sakes, I rejoice, my friends, for by this you shall learn that I know all things. For I am God, inseparable from the Father, though in my visible appearance I am man. Let us go, then, to bring him back to life, that death may feel the defeat and complete destruction I bring upon it, granting the world great mercy.

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

Faithful, let us follow the example of Martha and Mary: Let us send our acts of righteousness to intercede before the Lord, that he may come to raise up from the dead our spiritual understanding which lies insensible within the tomb of negligence, lacking all feeling of the fear of God, and deprived of living action. Let us cry: Merciful Lord, as once by your dread authority you raised up your friend Lazarus, so now give life to us all, and grant us your great mercy!

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.

Lazarus has now been two days in the tomb. He sees the dead from all the ages. He beholds strange sights of terror, a countless multitude, prisoners of hell. His sisters lament bitterly, beholding his tomb. But Christ comes to bring his friend to life, that a single hymn of praise may be offered up by all with one accord: Savior, blessed are you! Have mercy on us!

From the Menaion.

Thursday, April 2, 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.

Titus, you took up your cross and followed after Christ with zeal, * and you brought under the control * of your soul the passions all, * O our father of godly mind;

* then from on high you were given grace divine * to heal the ailments of those who came to you, * to cure diseases all, * and to drive out evil spirits. Therefore now * we observe and celebrate your sacred memory.

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

Titus, you took up your cross and followed after Christ with zeal, * and you brought under the control * of your soul the passions all, * O our father of godly mind; * then from on high you were given grace divine * to heal the ailments of those who came to you, * to cure diseases all, * and to drive out evil spirits. Therefore now * we observe and celebrate your sacred memory.

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

Titus, through ascetic discipline sacredly purified * and illumined in mind and heart * by participation in * things divine, O all-blessed one, * the Holy Spirit approved, and you indeed * received the holy anointing of divine * priesthood within yourself, * and you excellently ministered on earth * like an Angel in the Church of your Creator and God.

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

Holy father Titus, God-inspired, being illumined in soul * by the light of Orthodox faith, * you dispelled the murky mist * and the darkness of heresy; * and rising up like a most resplendant star, * you now and ever enlighten all the world * with your illustrious * and amazing miracles. * And therefore we *

faithfully now honor you and we all call you blest.

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

What eyes can I gaze upon you with, upon your beautiful face, * I whose eyes are polluted by * carnal passions and by sin? * And again, how am I to kiss * your holy Icon, which is the work of God, * for I the prodigal have unholy lips? * I, the most wretched one, * how can I extend my hands to pray for grace, * when I have defiled them? O Lady, save me, I pray.

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 114 (115).

I shall be well pleasing before the Lord in the land of the living.

I have loved, because the Lord Shall hear the voice of my supplication.

The reading is from Genesis.

PRIEST

Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

READER

43:26-31 and 45:1-16

And the brothers brought Joseph the gifts which they had in their hands, into the house; and they prostrated before him with their faces to the ground. But he asked them, 'How are you?' and he said to them, 'Is your father, the old man of whom you spoke, well? Is he still alive?' And they said, 'Your servant our father is well. He is still alive.' And he said, 'That man is blessed by God'. And bowing down, they prostrated before him. And Joseph, lifting up his eyes, saw his brother Benjamin, born of the same mother, and said, 'Is this your younger brother, whom you said you would bring to me?' and he said, 'God have mercy on you, my child.' And Joseph was deeply troubled, for so strong was the affection he felt for his brother that he wanted to weep; and he went into his private chamber, and wept there. And having washed his face and came out and controlled himself. And Joseph could not refrain him with everyone standing near him, but he said, 'Send everyone away from me.' And no one stood near Joseph, when he made himself known to his brethren. And he cried aloud with weeping. All the Egyptians heard, and it became known Pharaoh's house. But Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive? And his brothers could not answer him, for they were deeply troubled. But Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come near me'; and they came near. And he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now then do not be grieved, and do not let it seem hard to you that you sold me here, for God sent me before you for life. For this is the second year there is famine in the land, and there are still five years left, in which there will be neither ploughing, nor harvest. For God sent me before you that a remnant might be left for you on earth to nourish a great remnant of you. Now then it was not you that sent me here, but God; and he has made me like a father to Pharaoh, and

lord of all his house, and ruler of all the land of Egypt. Hurry, therefore, and go up to my father, and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all the land of Egypt; come down therefore to me, and do not delay. And you shall dwell in the land of Gesem of Arabia; and you shall be near me, you and your sons, and your sons' sons, your sheep and your oxen, and whatever is yours; and I will nourish you there—for there are still five years of famine—lest you and your sons, and all your possessions be wiped out. Look, your own eyes can see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin can see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. Report, therefore, to my father all my glory in Egypt, and everything you have seen, and make haste and bring down my father here. And he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept on him; and Benjamin wept on his neck. And he kissed all his brothers, and wept on them; and after this his brothers spoke to him. And the report was carried into Pharaoh's house, saying, 'Joseph's brothers have come.' And Pharaoh rejoiced, and his household. (*Lash*)

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 115 (116).

I shall pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

I believed; therefore, I spoke; I was greatly humbled.

(*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

21:23-31 and 22:1-4

One that guards their mouth and tongue keeps their soul from affliction. An arrogant, self-willed and boastful person is called a plague; while one that remembers ills is a transgressor. Desires kill the sluggard; for his hands do not choose to do anything. An ungodly person longs for evil desires all day; but the just is ungrudgingly merciful and compassionate. The sacrifices of the ungodly are abomination to the Lord, for they offer them lawlessly. A false witness will perish; but an obedient man will speak cautiously. An ungodly man brazenly gives undertakings in person; but the upright himself understands his ways. There is no wisdom, there is no courage, there is no counsel against the ungodly. A horse is prepared for the day of war; but help is from the Lord. A good name is better than great wealth, while good favour is above silver and gold. A rich and a poor person met together; but the Lord made them both. An intelligent man seeing a bad man severely chastised is himself disciplined, but fools pass by and are punished. The offspring of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and wealth, and glory, and life. (*Lash*)

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