

Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)
St. Theodore the Sykeote, Bishop of Anastasiopolis

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

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!

Tone 5 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I am rich in passions;
I am wrapped in the false robe of hypocrisy.
Lacking self-restraint, I delight in self-indulgence.
I show a boundless lack of love.
I see my mind cast down before the gates of repentance,
starved of true goodness and sick with inattention.
But make me like Lazarus, who was poor in sin,
lest I receive no answer when I pray,
no finger dipped in water to relieve my burning tongue;//
and make me dwell in Abraham's bosom in Your love for man!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

(Repeat: "I am rich in passions...")

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

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

Tone 5 *(from the Triodion, by Joseph)* *(Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross)*

When Jesus was walking in the flesh beyond the River Jordan,
He said to His companions:
“My friend Lazarus is already dead and buried,
but I rejoice for your sake, My friends.
By his death you will learn that I know all, for I am God,
even though I appear by nature as a man.
Let us go and give life to him,
so that death may truly know My victory
and the total destruction I shall make of it, //
as I grant to the world My great mercy!”

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

Let us imitate Mary and Martha, O faithful!
Let us offer divine deeds to the Lord as intercessors,
so that when He comes He may raise up our minds,
for now they lie dead and feel no fear of God.
They are deprived of all vital energy,
unaware of their own inaction.
Let us cry: “O Lord, Who had compassion on Your friend Lazarus,
raising him up by Your dread presence and authority,
so now give life to us all, //
and grant to us Your 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.

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)*

Now Lazarus has been in the tomb for two days,
seeing the dead of all the ages,
beholding strange sights of terror:
countless multitudes bound by the chains of hell.
His sisters weep bitterly as they gaze at his tomb,
but Christ is coming to bring His friend to life,
to implement in this one man His plan for all.//
Blessed are You, O Savior! Have mercy on us!

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

Tone 5 *(from the Menaion, for St. Theodore)* *(O venerable father)*

O venerable Father, holy Theodore,
you were sanctified from your mother's womb
and were known to God, like Jeremiah of old.
A star heralded your nativity
and indeed the whole world has been truly enlightened
by the splendor of your life.
The darkness of the demons has vanished.
Infirmities have been driven away from people of every age
and grace has poured out all kinds of healings.
Therefore, we cry out to you://
"Ever pray to Christ that He may grant the world great mercy!"

V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

(Repeat: "O venerable father...")

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

O venerable Father, truly wondrous Theodore,
you consumed all the tinder of sin
through mighty abstinence and the fire of prayer.
You received the illumination of God,
making the grace of the Trinity abide in you.
You became wholly radiant with rays of healing,
beholding future things, like Elijah of old,
breaking the bonds of barrenness,
and driving away hordes of demons with the might of the Spirit of God.//
Beseech Him that He may grant the whole world peace and great mercy!

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

O venerable Father, most honored Theodore,
you are the sun who has enlightened the earth
with your works and countless signs.
You are a precious gift given to Christ our God,
the excellent foundation of the priesthood,
a model for monastics,
the strength of those who turn to you with faith,
a precious stone, a dwelling of the Trinity,
a bowl pouring forth a sea of healings.//
Ever pray to Christ that He may grant the whole world peace and great mercy!

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

Tone 5 *(Theotokion)*

What have you come to resemble, O soul,
always growing in what is worse,
and senselessly adding wounds to your many injuries
so that your whole body will be harmed,
not being mindful that the Judge is drawing near, before Whom you will stand,
to receive sentence and retribution in accordance with your actions?
But turn and fall down before the Virgin, calling out:
“O Lady, Sovereign Mistress, do not despise me,
who have angered the all-merciful God Who was born of you//
and was crucified in the flesh for the salvation of man!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

I will walk before the Lord / in the land of the living. (Ps. 114:9)

V. I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my supplication. (Ps. 114:1)

Genesis 43:26-31, 45:1-16 (Vespers, 1st reading)

And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive."

And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves. Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there. Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."

Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

"But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

"Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall

dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.

"There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine. And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

"So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

I will offer my prayers to the Lord / in the presence of all His people. *(Ps. 115:5)*

V. I kept my faith, even when I said: "I am greatly afflicted." (Ps. 115:1)

Proverbs 21:23-22:4 (Vespers, 2nd reading)

Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

A proud and haughty man - "Scoffer" is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.

The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!

A false witness shall perish, but the man who hears him will speak endlessly.

A wicked man hardens his face, but as for the upright, he establishes his way.

There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the Lord.

The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all.

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.

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