

GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 06, 2024

TONE 3 | THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS
MARTYR KALLIOPIOS OF CILICIA; REPOSE OF TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF
MOSCOW AND ENLIGHTENER OF NORTH AMERICA

AT “O LORD, I HAVE CRIED”

For the Resurrection

Tone 3

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

O Christ Savior, the might of death hath verily broken down under Thy Cross; and the deceit of Diabolus hath ceased; and the race of man hath by faith escaped and been saved. Wherefore, praise is offered Thee perpetually.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

The whole creation, O Lord God, hath been lighted by Thy glorified Resurrection; and paradise hath been opened withal. Wherefore, all creatures laud Thee and offer Thee praise perpetually.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

I glorify the power of the Father, magnify the power of the Son, and praise the might of the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, indivisible, uncreated, consubstantial Trinity, reigning through all eternity.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Thy glorified Cross, O Christ, do we worship, and Thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for by Thy wounds we are all healed.

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Let us praise the Savior Who was incarnate of the Virgin; for He was crucified for our sake, and arose on the third day, granting us Great Mercy.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Verily, Christ did descend to Hades to bring good tidings to those therein, saying, Have faith now; for I have conquered; for I am the Resurrection, Who, unlocking the gates of death, shall set ye free.

For the Third Sunday of Great Lent in Tone 5 (**Rejoice**)

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Shine the bright lightning-bolts of thy grace * upon the hearts of them that honor thee faithfully, * embracing thee with divinely-inspired fondness and love, * O Cross of the Lord, desired by all the world. * Through thee have the gloomy tears of dejection all disappeared; * we have been rescued from the all-snaring nets of death * and have passed beyond unto gladness that hath no end. * Show us the fairest majesty and grace of thy comeliness, * granting thy servants the recompenses of fasting and abstinence, * as we make petition * with firm faith for thy great mercy and rich protecting might.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Rejoice, life-giving Cross of the Lord, * thou art the Church's very beautiful Paradise, * thou tree of true incorruption, that hast now blossomed for us * with the joy of glory lasting evermore. * Through thee the battalions of warlike demons are chased away; * the ranks of angels all rejoice with exceeding joy; * the assembled hosts of the faithful keep festival. * Weapon of strength invincible, impregnable citadel, * thou certain vict'ry of kings, and the holy glory and boast of priests. * Now grant to us also * to attain to Christ's dread Passion and Rising from the dead.

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Rejoice, life-giving Cross of the Lord, * thou never-conquered battle-trophy of piety, * support and staff of the faithful, the wall surrounding the Church, * and the door that leadeth into Paradise. * Through thee hath the ancient curse been abolished and seen no more; * death's mighty power hath been vanquished and swallowed up, * and we have been raised from the earth to celestial things. * O truceless foe of demons, and our weapon invincible, * thou art the glory of Martyrs and true adornment of all the Saints, * calm port of salvation, * that which granteth the great mercy of God unto the world.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Come ye, the pair first fashioned by God, * who fell away in ancient times from the choir on high * because of the mortal-slayer's murderous envy and spite, * through that bitter pleasure, tasting of the tree. * Behold, the all-ven'erable Tree proceedeth and cometh forth; * run forth to meet it, and embrace it with joy of heart, * and with fervent faith, raise your voice and cry unto it: * Thou art our help and refuge, O all-ven'erable Cross of Christ, * whose fruit we freely partake of, and thence are made incorruptible, * receiving great mercy* and that first and ancient Eden as sure inheritance.

Doxasticon for the Third Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 3

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O Christ our God, Who didst accept crucifixion willingly for the general resurrection of mankind; and by the red of the Cross didst dye Thy fingers with blood; and with a crimson dye didst compassionately ordain for us forgiveness with kingly authority; forsake us not in our danger of estrangement from Thee, but have compassion, O Thou Who alone art long-suffering, on Thy harassed people. Arise, and fight them who fight us; for Thou art almighty.

Theotokion for the Resurrection

Tone 3

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lady of exceeding honor, how can we but wonder at thee giving birth to incarnate God? For thou, O all-blameless, not knowing a man, didst give birth in the flesh to a Son without father, who before eternity was begotten of the Father without mother, the property and essence of each substance

remaining intact. Wherefore, O virgin Mother, beseech Him to save the souls of those who assent and confess, with true belief, that thou art the Theotokos.

O GLADSOME LIGHT

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee.

EVENING PROKEIMENON

Saturday Prokeimenon

Tone 6

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (ONCE)

Verse 1. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. (Refrain)

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved. (Refrain)

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

AT THE APOSTICHA

Aposticha for the Resurrection

Tone 3

O Christ, Who didst darken the sun with Thy Passion, and didst light all created things with the light of Thy Resurrection, and didst make them to rejoice, accept our evening praise, O Lover of mankind.

Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.

Verily, Thy life-giving Resurrection hath lighted the whole universe, renewing Thy corrupt creation. Wherefore, in that Thou hast delivered us from the curse of Adam, we shout to Thee, O Lord Almighty, glory to Thee.

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

O changeless God, Thou didst suffer in the changing body, and when creation could not bear to behold Thee suspended on the Cross, it trembled with fear, and sighed, praising Thy long-suffering. Then, descending to

Hades, Thou didst arise on the third day, granting life to the world and Great Mercy.

Verse 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

Thou didst suffer death, O Christ, that Thou mightest deliver our race from death. Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, and didst arouse with Thee those who know that Thou art true God, verily illuminating the world, O Lord. Wherefore, glory to Thee.

Doxasticon for the Third Sunday of Great Lent

Tone 4

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

O Lord, Who didst support in war the all-humble David, subjecting the stranger to him, fight with our believing king; repulse our enemies with the weapon of the Cross, and reveal to us Thine ancient mercies, O compassionate One; that they may know of a truth that Thou art God; that by our trust in Thee we may vanquish them; and that by the wonted intercessions of Thy Mother, Thou mayest grant us the Great Mercy.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

DISMISSAL HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for the Holy Cross

Tone 1

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

Resurrectional Theotokion

Tone 1

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

As Gabriel cried unto thee, "Hail, O Virgin," with that cry did the Lord of all become incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake the righteous David; and Thou wast revealed as more spacious than the heavens, in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore, glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to Him Who came from thee; glory to Him, Who through thy birth-giving hath set us free.