

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

TONE 2

Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross

Before the beginning of Vespers, the priest takes the Venerable Cross from the place in which it is kept throughout the year, places it on a round tray arranged with basil and flowers, and sets it on the Table of Oblation [жертвеника].

STICHERA

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 2

Come, let us worship the Word of God
begotten of the Father before all ages,
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!
Having endured the Cross,
He was buried as He Himself desired.//
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

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

Christ our Savior
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

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

With the Archangels
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!
He is our Savior, our Redeemer.
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//
to judge the world which He made.

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

The Angel proclaimed You,
the crucified and buried Master.
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay!
He is risen as He said,
for He is almighty."
We worship You, O only immortal One.//
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

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

By Your Cross, You destroyed the curse of the tree.
By Your burial You destroyed the dominion of death.
By Your rising, You enlightened the race of man.//
O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You!

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.

The gates of death opened to You from fear, O Lord.
When the guards of hell saw You they were afraid,
for You demolished the gates of brass and smashed the iron chains.//
You have led us from the darkness and shadows of death, and have broken our bonds.

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

Tone 5 (from the Lenten Triodion) (Rejoice, O ascetics)

Shine, Cross of the Lord,
Shine with the light of thy grace
Upon the hearts of those who honor thee.
With love inspired by God,
We embrace thee, O desire of all the world.
Through thee our tears of sorrow have been wiped away;
We have been delivered from the snares of death
And have passed over to unending joy.
Show us the glory of thy beauty
And grant to us thy servants
The reward of our abstinence,
For we entreat with faith
Thy rich protection//
And great mercy.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Rejoice, life-bearing Cross,
The fair Paradise of the Church,
Tree of incorruption
That brings us the enjoyment of eternal glory;
Through thee the hosts of demons have been driven back;
And the hierarchies of angels
Rejoice with one accord,
As the congregations of the faithful keep the feast.
Thou art an invincible weapon,
An unbroken stronghold;
Thou art the victory of kings
And the glory of priests.
Grant us now to draw near to the Passion of Christ//
And to His Resurrection.

v. (2) O praise the Lord, all ye nations! Praise Him, all ye peoples!

Rejoice, life-giving Cross,
Unconquerable trophy of godliness,
Door to Paradise,
Succour of the faithful,
Rampart set about the Church.
Through thee corruption is utterly destroyed,
The power of death is swallowed up,
And we are raised from earth to heaven;
Invincible weapon,
Adversary of devils,
glory of martyrs,
true ornament of saints,
haven of salvation,//
bestowing on the world great mercy.

v. (1) For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us; and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.

Come, O Adam and Eve,
our first father and mother,
who fell from the choir on high,
through the envy of the murderer of man!
When of old with bitter pleasure
Ye tasted from the tree in Paradise.
See, the Tree of the Cross,
Revered by all, draws near.
Run with haste and embrace it joyfully,
And cry to it with faith:
O precious Cross,
Thou art our succor;
Partaking of thy fruit, we have gained incorruption;
We are restored once more to Eden,//
And we have received great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 3** (from the Lenten Triodion)*

Wishing to restore all men to life,
You accepted crucifixion, O Christ our God.
Burning with boundless love for man,
You took the quill of the Cross in Your hand;
dipping it in ink of royal crimson,
You signed our release with blood-stained fingers.
Though temptations assault us,
may we never forsake You again!
Have mercy on Your despairing people,
O long-suffering Master!//
Arise and fight Your enemies in Your almighty power!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 2 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

APOSTICHA

Tone 2 Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
has enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.//
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By the Tree You destroyed the curse of the Tree, O Savior.
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection.//
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

When You were seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Your side with a spear.
The Hebrews, not knowing Your power,
asked that Your tomb might be sealed,
but through the mercy of Your compassion,
You accepted the tomb
and rose on the third day!//
O Lord, glory to You!

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

O Christ, the Giver of life,
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,
descending into hell as the Mighty One
to save those who awaited Your coming,
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.
Grant also to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day//
cleansing of our sins 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 4 The humble David / defeated his enemies by Your help, O Lord. / Now come to the aid of
Your right-glorifying people; / show us Your power as You did of old, / and our adversaries will
know that You are God! / And we will be victorious, for we hope in You. / Through the constant
intercessions of Your all-pure Mother,//grant us Your great mercy

TROPARIA

Tone 2 When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross**
O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 1 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**
When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”
with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^you,
the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!
Your womb became more spacious than the heavens,
for you carried your Creator.
Glory to Him Who took abode in you!
Glory to Him Who came ^forth from you!//
Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

Then:

Tone 1 O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation! (*thrice*)

*[At the first singing of O Lord, save Thy people, the priest censes the Cross on the tray, kisses it
At the second singing of O Lord, save Thy people, he takes the tray upon his head and, preceded by
a sacred server with the censer, carries it to the Holy Table and places it on the spot for the Holy
Gospel, which in turn he places slightly above [its usual place].]*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! The prokeimenon in the second tone: Arise, O Lord my God,
by the decree which you have commanded / and the assembly of the nations shall
surround you!

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, by the decree which you have commanded / and the assembly
of the nations shall surround you!

Deacon: Save me, O Lord my God, for I have hoped in you.

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, by the decree which you have commanded / and the assembly
of the nations shall surround you!

Deacon: Arise, O Lord my God, by the decree which you have commanded

Choir: and the assembly of the nations shall surround you!

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For you are holy, our God, and rest in the holy place, and to you we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Deacon: Praise God in his saints, praise him in the firmament of his power.

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Deacon: Let every breath

Choir: praise the Lord.

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all!

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (21:1-14)

Choir: Glory to you, O Lord. Glory to you.

Priest: Let us attend! (*reads the Gospel reading*)

Choir: Glory to you, O Lord. Glory to you.

Choir: Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, * let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, * the only sinless One. * We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ * and we praise and glorify Thy holy Resurrection * for Thou art our God * and we know no other than Thee, * we call on Thy name. * Come, all you faithful, * let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection! * For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. * Let us ever bless the Lord, * praising His Resurrection * for by enduring the Cross for us, * He has destroyed death by death!

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy, and according to the magnitude of your compassions blot out my transgression.

More thoroughly wash me from my lawlessness, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I do know my lawlessness, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only I have sinned and have done the evil before you, so that you are righteous in your words and conquer in your judging.

For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me.
For, behold, you have loved truth, the unseen and hidden things of your wisdom you have shown me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be cleansed; you will wash me and I will be made whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit in my inward parts.

Do not cast me away from your Face, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me back the joy of your Salvation, and make me steadfast with a governing Spirit.

I will teach the lawless your ways, and the ungodly will turn around to you.

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will rejoice in your righteousness. Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

For if you had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not be well-pleased in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit; a shattered and humbled heart God will not despise.

Do good, Lord, to Sion in your good pleasure and the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt!

Then you will be well-pleased in sacrifice of righteousness, offering and whole-burnt offerings.

Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver. * for my spirit rises early to pray towards Thy Holy Temple, * bearing the temple of my body all defiled, * but in Thy compassion, * purify me by the loving-kindness of Thy mercy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God, * for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins * and have wasted my life in laziness. * But by your intercessions deliver me from all impurity.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgressions. When I think of the many evil things I have done, * wretch that I am * I tremble at the fearful Day of Judgement. * But trusting in Thy loving-kindness * like David I cry to Thee: * Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy.

GREAT DOXOLOGY

The final *Holy God* is sung very slowly, during which we do the following:

Translation [ИЗНАСЯНЕ] of the Holy Cross.

The priest venerates the Cross by making three prostrations and kissing it.

He then takes up the round tray with the Cross, places it upon his head, and preceded by the deacon bearing the censer, processes around the Holy Table and exits the altar through the north door.

Before them go the altar servers and cantors, who sing *Holy God* slowly

As they reach the middle of the Church, where an analogion has been set out beforehand, **the priest goes around the analogion three times**, and then stands in front of it.

The cantors then bring the singing of *Holy God* to an end

The priest exclaims in front of the analogion: *Wisdom! Upright!* as he sets down the tray with the Precious Cross on it.

Immediately after this the priest sings *O Lord, save Your people* once, and the cantors twice.

At this time the priest censes [crosswise] around the analogion three times.

Then he makes three prostrations, and taking up the Holy Cross in his hands together with some basil branches, he lifts it high standing in front of the analogion, and sings: *We venerate Thy Cross, O Master...* once.

The cantors then sing the same twice, as the priest then bows low to the ground and kisses the Cross [in the usual way].

Then the cantors then sing the stikhira, *Come, ye faithful* [cf. Lenten Triodion, pages 348-350], as the people come to prostrate before the Cross and kiss it.

After these stikhira, *O Lord, save Thy people* is sung once more.

The Apolysis