

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

TONE 3

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Beheading of the Forerunner / SS. Alexander, John, and Paul the New, Patriarchs of Constantinople / Transfer of the relics of St Alexander Nevsky

STICHERA

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 3*

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,  
death's dominion has been shattered;  
the devil's delusion destroyed.  
The race of man, being saved by faith, //  
always offers You a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.  
Paradise has been opened again.  
All creation, praising You, //  
always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.  
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:  
the undivided, uncreated Godhead, //  
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,  
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection, //  
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. Tone 4 (for the Forerunner) (Called from on high)*

You are the divine mediator between the Old and New Testaments,  
O Prophet and Forerunner,  
an angel in the flesh, the denouncer of lawlessness,  
offspring of a barren womb, a mouth breathing fire.  
You rebuked Herod who committed iniquity.  
Not accepting your rebuke, he commanded that your head be cut off.  
And you, being the food of abstinence,  
were brought in as a divine delight upon a platter,  
ever denouncing the adulterous one.

*v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Incited by her lawless mother,  
the depraved daughter asked for your all-glorious head, honored by the angels,  
for she was unable to endure your denunciation.  
Therefore, bearing it on a platter and dancing as she carried it,  
she turned the revelry of those at the banquet into lamentation.  
But as you ever expose the abomination of debauchery, O blessed one, //  
intercede with Christ that He may save our souls!

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

Made foolish by drunkenness,  
Herod was tricked by the words of a woman who seduced him by dancing.  
In fulfillment of his unrighteous oath,  
he caused your murder, O righteous and glorious Prophet.  
But your death clearly revealed immortality to those who had died before,  
for you became a preacher and herald for those in hell,  
proclaiming the saving coming of Christ our God! //  
Entreat Him that He may save and enlighten our souls!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 6** (for St Alexander Nevsky)*

Your life was in accordance with your name,  
O right-believing Prince Alexander;  
for having helped your people with your courage and goodly government on earth,  
you now help your people by your supplications in heaven.  
Wherefore, we honor you ↓ //  
and in you our God Who is glorified in His saints.

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

As a bold steward and a valiant warrior,  
governing rightly on your throne with your scepter,  
and defending your people with your sword in battle,  
you have been granted twofold honor //  
from the Ruler on high, the Lord Sabaoth.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

Greater love has no man  
than he who lays down his life for his friends.  
With such love you loved your people,  
bravely setting out to defend them against the weapons of the adversary, //  
as God protected your head on the day of battle.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 6** (for St Alexander Nevsky)*

Be glad, O land of Estonia!  
O land of Russia, and you, Baltic Sea, clap your hands!  
O River Neva, spread forth your streams!  
For, lo! your prince and master,  
who has liberated you from the Swedish yoke,  
celebrates his triumph in the City of God.//  
Him do the river's streams make glad.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 3 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder  
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?  
For without receiving the touch of man,  
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.  
The Son born of the Father before eternity  
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.  
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,  
but preserved the fullness of each nature.  
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,  
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you//  
to be the Theotokos.

## READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

**The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [66:10-14]**

“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may suck and be satisfied with her consoling breasts; that you may drink deeply with delight from the abundance of her glory.” For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall suck, you shall be carried upon her hip, and dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.” Thus says the LORD Who delivers you, the God of Israel.

**The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [61:10-62:5]**

Let my soul rejoice in my God; for he has clothed me with a garment of salvation and a tunic of gladness, as a bridegroom he has put a garland upon me, and as a bride he has adorned me with beauty. For as the earth brings forth its flower, and as a garden it seeds, so the Lord God will cause justice and joy to spring forth before all the nations. For Sion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until my justice goes forth like light, and my salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your justice, and kings your glory; and he will be call you by a new name which the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed 'Forsaken', and your land shall no more be termed 'Desert'; but you shall be called 'My Will', and your land 'Inhabited'; for the Lord has been well pleased in you, and your land shall be inhabited. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons make their dwelling, and as bridegroom rejoices over bride, so shall the Lord rejoice over you.

**The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah. [60:1-16]**

Shine, shine, Jerusalem; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, like thick darkness over nations; but the Lord will appear upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And kings will walk by your light, and nations by your brightness. Lift up your eyes round about, and see your children have been gathered; your sons have come from far, and your daughters shall be carried on the shoulders. Then you shall see and be afraid, and be amazed in heart; because the wealth of the sea shall be turned to you, and that of nations and peoples. Flocks of camels shall come to you, the camels of Madian and Gaipha will cover you; all those from Sheba shall come, bringing gold and they will bring incense and precious stone, and shall proclaim the good tidings of the Lord's salvation. All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you; acceptable sacrifices will be offered on my altar, and my house of prayer will be glorified. Who are these that fly like clouds, and like doves with their nestlings? For the islands have waited for me, the ships of Tharsis first of all, to bring your children from far, their silver and gold with them, for the holy name of the Lord, and for the Holy One of Israel to be glorious. Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall stand before you; for in my wrath I smote you, but in mercy I have loved you. Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut; that men may bring to you the power of nations, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kings that will not serve you shall perish; the nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with cypress, pine, and cedar, to glorify my holy place; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons of those who oppressed you and troubled you shall come to you in fear; you shall be called 'City of the Lord, Sion of the Holy One of Israel'. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one to help, I will make you a joy for ever, a gladness from generation to generation. You shall suck the milk of nations, eat the wealth of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and the God of Israel your Redeemer.

**APOSTICHA**

**Tone 3** The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ,  
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//  
Accept our evening song, O Lover of mankind!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*  
Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,  
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation.  
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://  
O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*  
You are the changeless God,  
Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.  
Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.  
It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.  
By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//  
You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

You endured death, O Christ,  
to deliver the race of men from death.  
You rose from the dead on the third day,  
raising with yourself those who knew You as God//  
and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4** (for the Forerunner)*

Herod's birthday celebration was a lawless and shameful feast,  
for, spellbound by feminine licentiousness  
and stricken with madness by a woman's wantonness,  
he cut off the head of the Forerunner;  
but he did not cut out the Prophet's tongue, which had denounced his foolishness.  
Spilling innocent blood, he wished to conceal a lawless sin;  
but he could not stop the voice of one who called all to repentance.  
He joined in taking delight in murder,  
but let us join in celebrating with love the blessed slaying of John the Baptist;  
for he was in hell in anticipation  
to proclaim to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death  
the Life, the Dayspring from on high, //  
Christ our God, Who alone is rich in mercy.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 4** (Theotokion)*

Look on the entreaties of your servants, O Blameless One!  
Stop all the terrible attacks against us,  
freeing us from every affliction,  
for we have only you as our sure and firm anchor!  
Do not let us be put to shame, O Lady,  
for we call on you for our intercession!  
Hasten to pray for those who call in faith:  
"Rejoice, O Lady, Help of all://  
the Joy and Shelter and Salvation of our souls!"

## **TROPARIA**

**Tone 3** Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

**Tone 2** The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,  
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner.  
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,  
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the steams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold.  
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,  
you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,  
Who takes up the sin of the world//  
and grants us great mercy.

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

**Tone 4** Recognize your brethren,  
O right-believing Prince Alexander,  
Russian Joseph who reigns not in Egypt, but in heaven;  
and accept their entreaties,  
increasing the harvests of your people through the fertility of your land,  
and protecting the cities of your dominion by your supplications.//  
And together with our Orthodox hierarchs do battle against all heresies.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion*

The mystery hidden from all eternity,  
unknown even by Angels,  
through thee, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate by union without confusion.  
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,  
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//  
saving our souls from death.