

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

TONE 8

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (12<sup>th</sup> of Luke)/ Sunday of the Holy Forefathers/St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus

**STICHERA**

*V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!*

**Tone 8** We offer to You, O Christ,  
our evening song and reasonable service,  
for You willed to have mercy on us//  
by Your Resurrection.

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

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!  
For You willed to have mercy on us//  
by Your Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Sion:  
Mother of the churches, the abode of God,  
for you were the first to receive remission of sins//  
by the Resurrection.

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

The Word of God the Father,  
begotten before the ages,  
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin  
and endured crucifixion unto death.  
He has saved mortal man//  
by His Resurrection.

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

**Tone 8** *(for the Forefathers) (The Paradise of Eden)*

Today, as we celebrate the Forefathers' memory,  
let us the faithful praise Christ the Redeemer,  
Who magnified them in all the nations!  
He is the Lord Who does wondrous deeds,  
for He is powerful and mighty!  
Through them He has shown us the rod of His strength:  
she is Mary, the only pure and Virgin Maiden of God.  
From her Christ blossomed//  
bringing forth life, eternal salvation, and unending bliss for all.

*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.*

O Master, You delivered the Holy Youths from the fire,  
and Daniel from the mouths of lions;  
You blessed Abraham, Isaac, Your servant, and Jacob, his son;  
You consented to become like us by being born of their seed,  
to be crucified and buried,  
in order to save our Forefathers, who fell of old.  
Thus You crushed the bonds of death  
and raised with Yourself all the dead of ages past,//  
who worship You, O Christ, King of the ages.

**V. (4)** *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*  
Walking amidst the flames as in a gentle shower of rain,  
the godly Youths exulted in the dew of the Spirit.  
By this they mystically prefigured the Trinity and Christ's incarnation.  
Wise through faith, they quenched the power of fire.  
So also the righteous Daniel stopped the mouths of lions.  
Through their intercessions we beseech You, O Savior and Lover of man:  
Deliver us from the unquenchable and eternal fire,//  
and make us worthy of Your heavenly Kingdom!

**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 5** Rejoice, rule of bishops,  
The unshaken foundation of the Church!  
The glory of the Orthodox,  
A wellspring of miracles!  
An unquenchable fountain of love,  
A most radiant lamp and instrument of the Spirit!  
A godly mind, meek and guileless,  
Adorned with true simplicity!  
A heavenly man and earthly angel,  
A worker in the vineyard and true friend of Christ!//  
Beseech Him to grant great mercy to those who honor you!

**V. (2)** *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*  
Spyridon, glory of the fathers,  
You were revealed as a meek inheritor of the earth!  
By ords of wise and simple words  
With divine grace you strangled the evil and demented teachings of the enemy!  
You made clear divine teachings for all,  
And by the Spirit you praised that which leads to salvation!  
You openly enlightened all the Orthodox  
Teaching the faithful to glorify the one word  
As truly the only begotten of the unoriginate Father//  
Who grants the world great mercy!

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

You put to death the carnal passions, Father,  
And raised the dead by the grace of God!  
You transformed a serpent into gold  
And by your prayer restrained the raging of the river!  
You appeared to the afflicted emperor by night:  
You healed him by coming close to his heart  
As the Lord glorified you most gloriously!  
Therefore, we honor your memory with a mighty voice!  
We reverence the divine and sacred shrine of your relics//  
From which flows a divine stream of healing and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6 (for the Forefathers, by Anatolius)*

Today, let us the faithful acclaim  
all the Fathers before the Law:  
Abraham, the friend of God,  
Isaac, born of the promise,  
Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs,  
honoring with these the gentle David,  
and Daniel, the Prophet of Desires,  
and the three Youths who changed the furnace into dew.  
Let us ask forgiveness of Christ our God,//  
Who is glorified in His saints!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 8 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,  
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.  
He took flesh from the pure Virgin  
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.  
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.  
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,  
we confess Christ our God!//  
Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**The Reading is from Proverbs.** Selection.[25]

The memory of a just man is praised, and the Lord's blessing is upon his head. Blessed is one who has found wisdom; a mortal who knows understanding. To import her is better than treasures of gold and silver. She is more valuable than precious stones; nothing of value equals her worth. Justice proceeds from her mouth; she bears law and mercy on her tongue. Therefore, my children, listen to me, for I speak weighty things. And blessed is the one who keeps my ways. For my goings out are the goings out of life, and favour is prepared from the Lord. Therefore I exhort you, and utter my voice to the children of humankind. Because I, Wisdom, have prepared counsel, knowledge and understanding. I have called on them. Counsel and sureness are mine; prudence is mine, strength is mine. I love those who are my friends, while those who seek me will find grace.

You innocent, then, understand cunning; you untaught, take it to heart. Listen to me, for I will speak weighty things, and I will open right things from my lips. Because my throat will meditate truth; lying lips are abominable before me. All the words of my mouth are with justice, there is nothing crooked in them nor twisted. They are all straight for those who understand, and right for those who find knowledge. For I teach you what is true, that your hope may be in the Lord and that you may be filled with spirit.

**The Reading is from Proverbs. [10:31-32 & 11:1-12]**

The mouth of the just drops wisdom; but the tongue of the unjust will be cut out. The lips of just men know graces; but the mouth of the impious is turned away. A false balance is an abomination before the Lord; but a just weight is acceptable to him. Wherever pride enters, there too dishonour; but the mouth of the humble meditates wisdom. The perfection of the devout will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will carry them off. Property does not profit in the day of wrath, but justice will deliver from death. When a just man dies he leaves regret; ready and welcome the destruction of the ungodly. The justice of the blameless keeps their ways straight, but impiety encounters injustice. The justice of upright men will deliver them, but transgressors are caught by base counsel. When a just man dies his hope does not perish; but the boast of the ungodly perishes. A just man escapes from the hunt, but the ungodly is given up in his place. In the mouth of the ungodly is a snare for citizens, but the perception of the just brings prosperity. By the good things of the just a city is successful, and in the loss of the ungodly their is gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the ungodly it will be overthrown. One who lacks sense sneer at their fellow citizens, an intelligent man practices stillness.

**The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7-15]**

A just man, even if he die early, will be at rest. For an honoured old age is not so for length of time, nor is it measured by the number of years. Understanding is peoples' true grey hairs, and a ripe old age a spotless life. Having become pleasing to God, he was loved; and while living among sinners, he was taken away. He was snatched away lest wickedness pervert his understanding, or trickery deceive his soul. For the witchery of what is paltry dims what is good, and the inconstancy of desire undermines an innocent mind. Made perfect in a short time, he fulfilled long years, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he hurried him from the midst of evil. But the peoples saw and did not understand, nor did they lay such a thing to heart, that grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his presence with his chosen ones.

**AUGMENTED LITANY and the rest**

**LITY**

*(If the rector desires the Lity, following the sticheron to the Patron Saint of the Temple, these stichera are sung)*

**Tone 8** Bishop Spyridon, shining with the brilliance of wisdom;

Light of the Church, adornment of hierarchs,

You followed truly the way of ascetic fasting,

And are manifestly our defender, //

Delivering our souls from the destruction of the enemy!

Bishop Spyridon, you received great power from God,  
Driving off the host of demons with your prayer, //  
Saving from their attacks those who honor you in faith.

How can we worthily hymn the great Bishop Spyridon,  
Whose venerable wisdom and divinely shining light  
Illumine us and grant us the knowledge of God!  
O confessor of hidden mysteries,  
Singing together let us cry: //  
Rejoice! O Spyridon, our father!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 1 (for the Forefathers)*  
Enlightened by the rays of divine utterance,  
the Prophets, distinguished in name, are called blessed forever.  
With the words of the Spirit, they proclaimed to all the birth of Christ God,  
which in words is inexpressible. //  
And having lawfully completed their end, they live the life that is most

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 1 (Theotokion)*  
Behold, Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled,  
for the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin!  
God was born, and so nature was restored anew.  
Do not despise the entreaties of your servants, O Mother of God!  
We offer them to you in your temple.  
Since you carried in your arms the compassionate One,  
have compassion on your servants, //  
and pray that our souls may be saved!

**When the singers have completed the stichera, the deacon says:**

God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius and Cyril, John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra the wonderworker and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, whose remembrance we fulfill; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, the holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ whose remembrance we fulfill, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (40 and 3)

Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name).

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3 and 40 and 3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every city, monastery, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (40 and 10 and 3)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, 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.

**Priest:** Peace to all.

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

*All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:*

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius and Cyril, John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra the wonderworker and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworker whose remembrance we fulfill; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the

holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, the holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus Christ whose remembrance we fulfill, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*x1*)

*Choir:* Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*twice*)

*The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this holy city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Rich men have turned poor \* and gone hungry; \* but they that seek the Lord \* shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*once*)

*Choir:* Rich men have turned poor \* and gone hungry; \* but they that seek the Lord \* shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*twice*)

## APOSTICHA

**Tone 8** Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,  
the eternal Life has come for death  
to raise those who are fallen;  
to enlighten those in darkness.//  
O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.

He accepted the human body and soul,  
and freed both from suffering.

His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.

His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.// He is the Redeemer of our souls.

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

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.  
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell//  
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

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

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,  
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.  
Accepting burial and arising in glory,  
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.  
Glory to Your rising on the third day!  
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//  
as the only compassionate One.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 2 (Saint Spyridon)*

Venerable and wise father Spyridon,  
Your virtues revealed you to be the divine treasure of bishops!  
As an intercessor for the Church,  
You cast out the leader of heretics.  
In council, you crushed the blasphemy of Arius to the earth.  
Since you work wonders in both word and deed,//  
Beseech Christ that our souls may be saved!

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

Come all who love the feast,  
let us praise in psalms the assembly of the Forefathers:  
Adam, our first Father,  
Enoch, Noah, Melchisedek,  
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob;  
and those who came after the Law:  
Moses, Aaron, Joshua,  
Samuel and David,  
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel,  
and with them the Twelve Prophets:  
Elijah, Elisha, and all the rest,  
Zachariah and John the Baptist:  
all those who proclaimed Christ,//  
the Life and Resurrection of the human race!

## TROPARIA

**Tone 8** You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

**Tone 1** You were revealed as a champion of the First Council  
and a wonderworker, our God-bearing father Spyridon.  
You spoke to one dead in the grave  
and transformed a serpent into gold.  
While chanting your holy prayers  
you had angels serving with you!  
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!  
Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! //  
Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

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

**Tone 2** Through faith You justified the Forefathers,  
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.  
These saints exult in glory,  
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:  
she who bore You without seed.//  
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2** All beyond thought, all most glorious,  
are your mysteries, O Theotokos.  
Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,  
you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True God.//  
Entreat Him to save our souls.

## APOLYSIS

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for mankind,  
always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Glory to You, Christ God our Hope, glory to you.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of  
ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

**Priest:** He who is risen from the dead, Christ our true God, ...

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ God, have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Amen.