

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! Tone 8*

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

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. (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.*

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

Standing in a furnace of flaming fire as though in dew,
the Holy Youths mystically prefigured Your coming from a Virgin,
by which we are illumined but not consumed.
So also the righteous Daniel, glorious among the Prophets,
clearly revealed Your divine Second Coming when he cried out:
"I saw thrones set up, and the Judge was seated,
and the river of fire flowed before Him." //
By their intercessions save us from this fire, O Christ our Master!

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 2** (for St. Herman) (With what crowns)*

With what wreaths shall we crown the venerable Herman,
leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?
He left his native land and went to an untamed people
to proclaim Christ and the Orthodox faith.
He was neither afraid nor terrified of the Enemy's darkness,
but aided by divine grace, //
he enlightened a nation and led it to Christ, Who has great mercy.

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

With what wreaths shall we crown the venerable Herman,
leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?
He received the Valaam leavening of the Holy Spirit
and preached the Gospel to the Aleuts in word and deed,
disregarding, along with the flesh, all that is of the flesh.
With tears and prayers, with suffering and with prolonged fasting,
and with a most immortal love for the people, //
he led them to Christ, Who has great mercy.

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

With what wreaths shall we crown the venerable Herman,
leader of the Aleuts and apostle of Orthodoxy?
Along with the struggle in the wilderness and the feat of holiness,
he accomplished the work of an apostle of Orthodoxy.
Laboring greatly, he saved the native peoples from the Evil One's delusion,
receiving the grace of working wonders,
quenching the fires and turning back assaults of the waters.//
Having reached the end, he passed over to Christ, Who has great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 5 (for St. Herman)

You sent forth Your Apostles, O Lord,
to proclaim the Gospel to all creation,
and in the latter times You sent out this man to bring Orthodoxy to the Aleutian Islands.
And having sown there the seed with grace,
he harvested abundantly a field of fruitfulness,
which remains, even till now, prospering in the Lord.
Therefore we pray to you, our venerable Father Herman:
Do not cease through your prayers to care for your people, //
and for all of us who lovingly celebrate your all-honorable memory!

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.

Scripture Readings

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of fools they seemed to have died, their departure was reckoned a disaster and their going from us a destruction; but they are in peace. For though in the sight of mortals they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. And having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good; because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. He proved them like gold in a furnace and accepted them as a sacrificial whole burnt offering. At the moment of their visitation they will shine out, and they will run like sparks through stubble. They will judge nations and hold sway over peoples, and the Lord will be their king to the ages. Those who have put their trust in him will understand truth; and the faithful in love will abide with him; because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and his visitation upon his chosen ones.

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [5:15-23 & 6:1,3]

The just live forever and their reward is in the Lord, and their care with the Most High. Because of this they will receive the royal crown of majesty and the diadem of beauty from the Lord's hand; because he will shelter them with his right hand, and shield them with his arm. He will take his

zeal as his panoply and he will arm creation to repel his foes. He will put on justice as a breastplate, and wear impartial judgement as a helmet. He will take holiness as an invincible shield. He will sharpen stern wrath as a sword. The world will fight with him against the frenzied. Well-aimed bolts of lightning will go forth and will leap from the clouds to the target as from a well-strung bow. Hailstones full of wrath will be hurled from a catapult. The water of the sea will rage against them, while rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them. A spirit of power will stand against them, and will winnow them like a tempest. Lawlessness will make the whole earth a desert, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of kings. Listen then, you kings, and understand. Learn, you judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that hold sway over a multitude and boast over crowds of nations. Because your might was given you from the Lord, and your power from the Most High.

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.

Litya

Tone 2 Christ our God has revealed you to your flock, O Bishop Nicholas, as an example of faith and an image of meekness.

For you brought a sweet fragrance into Myra, shining brightly by your divine acts of virtue, as the advocate of orphans and widows.//

Therefore never cease to intercede that our souls may be saved!

Tone 1 O venerable Father Herman, having heard the Apostle Paul saying that the flesh lusts against the spirit, you hastened to make the worse be subject to the better, and to make the flesh serve the spirit.

By wearing chains and carrying heavy burdens, you exhausted the troubled flesh until you attained Christ, and in return for all that you had given up for the sake of Christ, you obtained the promised recompense of grace a hundredfold on earth// and the inheritance of everlasting life.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **Tone 5** (for St. Herman)*
Meek in spirit, O venerable Father Herman, instead of the land of the meek, you received the Aleut people for an inheritance; persecuted by demons and by men,

you quickly entered the Kingdom of God;
poor in spirit and in body you received heavenly riches.
You satisfied the hunger and thirst of your soul with divine righteousness.
With your pure heart you saw God, Who is unseen.
Your tears of supplication were consoled by the Holy Spirit.
As you now have received your great reward, //
pray also for us, that we may be saved!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **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 wondrous.

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 and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrius 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, and of our venerable father Herman of Alaska , 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. (x3)

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. (x3)

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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 our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, 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. (x3)

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. (x3)

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 archbishop of Myra in Lycia, and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrius 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, and of our venerable father Herman of Alaska 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.

The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:

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 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; Tone 1 (for St. Herman)

O Holy Father,
we remember today the great teachers and ascetics,
because of your deeds and example.
Your wondrous life confounded the Enemy.
You conversed with the Angels.
Together with them, pray for the salvation of our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 3 (for the Forefathers, by Germanus)

Come all who love the feast,
let us praise in psalms the assembly of the Forefathers:
Adam, our first Father,
Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek,
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 (at Great Vespers)

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 7 Troparion (St. Herman)

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ,
guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom,
teacher and apostle of the True Faith,
intercessor and defender of the oppressed,
adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:
Blessed Father Herman of Alaska,
pray to our Lord Jesus Christ //
for the salvation of our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 2 Troparion (Forefathers)

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!