

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

TONE 4

29th Sunday after Pentecost/Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity/Sunday after the Nativity
Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord
Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

STICHERA

V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 4

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,
by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;
by it You have renewed the corrupted nature of man,
O almighty One.
By it You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//
for You are good and the Lover of man.

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

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.
By descending to hell, O almighty God,
You broke the bonds of death.
Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://
"Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!"

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

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,
and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.
You delivered the race of men from corruption,//
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

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

Come, O people,
let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day!
By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.
By it, we have received life and incorruption.
Save us by Your Resurrection!//
Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to You!

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

Tone 2 Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,
as we sing of this present mystery:
the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,
now feast on the delights of Paradise:

for today the Father's perfect Image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,
has taken the form of a servant.
Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;
He was true God, and He remains the same,
but through His love for mankind,
He has become what He never was: true man.
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://
"O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

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.

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
the whole universe was filled with light.
The shepherds watched in the fields.
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.
But Herod was troubled,
for God had appeared in the flesh.//
He is the Savior of our souls.

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

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.
Your rule is from age to age.
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,
You have filled all creation with joy.
The light of Your coming has shone on us;
every living creature praises You,
the Image of the Father's glory.
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,
the same yesterday, today, and forever,
You have shone forth from the Virgin.//
O God, have mercy on us!

*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 4***

Your soul was illumined with the grace of the Holy Spirit;
Your face shone as an angel, O Stephen.
Your body was made radiant by the brightness within you:
Contemplation of God's light was your only joy:
Therefore the heavens were wondrously opened to you,//
Leader and glory of the martyrs.

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

The torrent of stones became a ladder for you:
On its steps you ascended to the gates of heaven.
You beheld the Lord standing at the right hand of the Father;
He offered you a crown with His own life-giving hand;
Truly you have fulfilled the meaning of your name!
Now you stand before him, glorious conqueror;//
The first warrior offered in battle.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*
Renowned with signs, wonders, and heavenly preaching,
You destroyed the malice of the wicked council.
As they stoned you to death, you begged God to forgive them,
Using the words of the Savior as He hung upon the Cross,//
Commending your pure spirit into His hands, O blessed Stephen.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 6** (for the Righteous Ones)*
Let us celebrate the memory of the God-fearing David and James:
one was the Prophet King,
and the other - an Apostle and the first bishop.
Since we have been saved from error by their teachings,//
let us glorify Christ, Who shone forth from the Virgin and took on flesh//
in order to save our souls!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 4** (Theotokion - Dogmatikon)*
The Prophet David was a father of the Lord through you, O Virgin.
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in you:
“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”
Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,
since God was freely born of her without a father.
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder
and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers.//
Christ who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

APOSTICHA

Tone 4 By ascending the Cross, O Lord,
You have annulled our ancestral curse.
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,
granting incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

V. *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*
By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,
You shook all of creation.
By being laid in the tomb You have raised those who dwelt in the tombs,
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Your rising on the third day.

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

The lawless people, O Christ,
handed You over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.
But voluntarily You endured burial,
rising by Your own power on the third day as God, //
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

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

With tears the women reached Your tomb,
searching for You, but not finding You.
They wept with wailing and lamented:
“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,
how were You stolen?
What place can hold Your life-bearing body?”
An Angel replied to them:
“Do not weep but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, //
granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6

Blessed Stephen, the adornment of Christ’s warriors,
First of deacons and first of martyrs,
Joy of the faithful and glory of the righteous,
As you stand before Christ, the Lord of all,
Pray for us who celebrate your honorable memory
That we may receive remission of our sins //
And be accounted worthy of the kingdom of heaven.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 6 (for the Feast)

Today the Invisible Nature is joined to mortal men,
coming forth from the Virgin.
Today the Infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes at Bethlehem.
Today God leads the Magi by a star to worship Him,
and with gold and frankincense and myrrh they foretell His three-day burial. //
Therefore we sing: “O Christ our God, made flesh of the Virgin, save our souls!”

TROPARIA

Tone 4 When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 Protomartyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God,
you were victorious in battle and crowned with glory, holy Stephen.
You confounded the council of those who persecuted you,
beholding your Savior enthroned at the Father's right hand. //
Never cease praying that our souls may be saved!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 2 **Troparion** *(Righteous Ones)*
Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you have seen a Virgin great with child;
and you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi,
and received the news from the Angel.//
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Feast)*
Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!