

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

TONE 3

Meatfare Sunday - Sunday of the Last Judgment / Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

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! **Tone 6***
When You will come, O righteous Judge,
To execute just judgement
Seated on Your throne of glory,
A river of fire
Will draw all men amazed before Your judgement seat;
The powers of heaven will stand beside You,
And in fear mankind will be judged
According to the deeds that each has done.
Then spare us, Christ, in Your compassion,
With faith we entreat You,
And count us worthy //
Of Your blessings with those that are saved.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.
The books will be opened
And the acts of men will be revealed
Before the unbearable judgement seat;
And the whole vale of sorrow shall echo
With the fearful sound of lamentation,

As all the sinners, weeping in vain,
Are sent by Your just judgement
To everlasting torment.
Therefore we beseech You,
O compassionate and loving Lord:
Spare us who sing Your praise, //
For You alone are rich in mercy.

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 trumpets shall sound
and the tombs shall be emptied,
and all mankind in trembling shall be raised.
Those that have done good shall rejoice in gladness,
Awaiting their reward;
Those that have sinned shall tremble and bitterly lament,
As they are sent to punishment
and parted from the chosen.
O Lord of Glory,
Take pity on us in Your goodness,
And count us worthy //
Of a place with them that have loved You.

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

I lament and weep when I think of the eternal fire,
The outer darkness
And the nether world,
The dread worm and the gnashing of teeth,
And the unceasing anguish
That shall befall those
Who have sinned without measure,
By their wickedness arousing You to anger,
O Supreme in love.
Among them in my misery I am first; //
But, O Judge compassionate, in Your mercy save me.

*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. Raphael) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

Let all the choirs of Orthodox Christians in America
sing hymns in honor of the holy Bishop Raphael!
By birth an Arab, nourished by streams of Greek theology,
he was consecrated by the Church of Russia, which had adopted us all.
True to his name, he brings God's healing to us //
as we celebrate his holy memory.

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

As the Archangel Raphael guided Tobit in a foreign land long ago,
Bishop Raphael kept his flock on the true path in a land far from their homes.
Always imitating the Good Shepherd,
he fed his many sheep from a table that the Lord prepared in the presence of their enemies.
So now, as we are fed by his teaching and example,//
we pray that he continue to intercede for us with Christ our God.

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

Let us sing hymns of praise to the holy Bishop Raphael,
who shone forth from Brooklyn and enlightened those in darkness!
To those who were wounded by sin, he brought healing in Christ;
to those who were deceived, he brought the truth of the Orthodox Faith;
he gathered his scattered sheep safely into the fold of the Church.//
Therefore we praise him as a worthy bishop and a citizen of Heaven.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 8** (from the Lenten Triodion)*

When the thrones are set in place and the books are opened,
then God will take His place on the judgment seat.
Oh, what a fearful sight!
The angels stand in fear, and the river of fire flows by.
What shall we do, who are already condemned by our many sins,
as we hear Christ call the righteous to His Father's Kingdom,
and send the wicked to eternal damnation?
Who among us can bear that terrible verdict?
Hasten to us, O Lover of man and King of the universe;
grant us the grace of repentance before the end,//
and have mercy on us!

*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.

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

Tone 5 Rising in distant Syria,
ascending through the land of Russia,
a bright star hath appeared over the New World!
Shining with divine knowledge
and radiating the love of Christ,
the luminous Raphael overcomes every deception of the Enemy.//
Now crowned among the saints, he intercedes for us before the throne of God.

Tone 6 I think upon that day and hour
when we shall all stand naked as persons condemned
before the Judge Who respects no one's person.
Then the trumpet shall sound
and the earth's foundations shall shake:
the dead shall rise from their graves,
and people shall be brought together from all generations.
Then each one's secrets will be openly brought before You,
and those who have never repented shall weep and lament,
departing to the outer fire;
but with gladness and rejoicing//
the company of the righteous shall enter the heavenly bridal chamber.

How shall it be in that fearful day and hour,
when the Judge shall sit on His dreadful throne!
The books shall be opened, and people's actions examined,
and the secrets of darkness shall be made public.
Angels shall move quickly, gathering all the nations:
Come and listen, O kings and princes,
those who were slaves and free,
sinners and righteous, rich and poor,
for the Judge is come to pass sentence on all of the inhabited earth!
And who shall bear to stand before His face
in the presence of the angels,
calling us to account for our actions and thoughts by night or by day?
How shall it then be in that hour?
But before the end is here,
make haste, O my soul, and cry aloud://
"Turn me back and save me, O only compassionate God!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 5 (for St. Raphael)
Enlightened by the memory of the holy Raphael,
we celebrate his sacred feast.
For, having been made divinely wise, he draws us all into Christ's own net,//
and entreats great mercy for our souls.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 7 Idiomelon (from the Lenten Triodion)

Knowing the commandments of the Lord,
let us conduct our lives in this way:
let us nourish the hungry, let us give drink to the thirsty;
let us clothe the naked, let us welcome the strangers;
let us visit the sick, the infirm, and those in prison,
so that He Who is coming to judge the whole earth may say to us:
“Come, O blessed of My Father,//
inherit the Kingdom which has been prepared for you!”

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, archbishop of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimethos, the wonderworkers; 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, and of our holy father Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn, 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 archbishop of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimethos, the wonderworkers; 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, and of our holy father Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn, 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. (1)

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. (2)

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 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 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 man!

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 St. Raphael)

Today a great festival shines like a sun over all the world,
as we celebrate the memory of the holy Bishop Raphael,
apostle to the lost sheep of North America.

Let us rejoice on this festive day and cry out unto him:

“Hail, new Moses, who lead your people to the Promised Land!

Hail, new Elijah, who bequeathed a double portion of your spirit to us!

Hail, new Ezra, who built a temple of God in our midst!

Hail, new apostle of Christ our God, drawing us closer to Him!

As you stand among the saints before the throne of God, //
never cease to intercede for us who honor you!”

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 8 (from the Lenten Triodion)

Woe, to you, O my darkened soul!

Your life is stained by depravity and laziness;
your folly makes you shun all thought of death.

How complacent you remain!

How can you flee the awesome thought of Judgment Day?

When will you change your way of life?

On that day your sins will rise against you.

What will your answer be then?

Your acts will condemn you; your deeds will expose you.

The time is at hand, O my soul.

Turn to the good and loving Savior!

Beg Him to forgive your malice and weakness, as you cry in faith:

“I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against You,
but I know Your love for all mankind. //

O good Shepherd, call me to enjoy Your lasting presence on Your right hand!”

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 1 Troparion (St. Raphael)

Your proclamation has gone out through North America,
calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church.
Hearing your voice, they respond to your teaching,
and through your writings you instructed them in piety.
Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael,
we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God:
“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!”

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!

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.