

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

TONE 5

30th Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday before the Theophany/Forefeast of the Theophany/Holy Prophet Malachi/Martyr Gordius/Ven. Genevieve of Paris

STICHERA

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! **Tone 5***

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame.
By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin
and saved us from the gates of death.//
We glorify You, the only begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.
The princes of hell were frightened by this,
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.
Christ the King of glory had entered,
saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//
And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

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

Oh, great wonder!
The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for mankind
and rose again immortal.
Come, O sons of nations,
let us worship Him,
for delivered from error by His compassion,//
we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! **Tone 6** (For the Forefeast)*

Behold the Enlightenment of the faithful!
See, our Atonement desires to enter the streams of the river,
that He may wash away man's filth and corruption,//
refashioning us, who had been broken to pieces!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.
O Lord, Your Forerunner cried out in fear,
when he saw You approaching and asking to be baptized:
“O my God! My Creator!//
How can I baptize You, the sinless 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.

O faithful, let us assemble in spirit
at the streams of Jordan,
that we may clearly behold the great wonder!
We shall see the Creator of all made manifest,//
as He comes to be baptized.

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

Tone 8 Beholding the words that came forth from your divinely-inspired tongue,
truly marveling, I bless you, O Prophet of truth,
for your clear message has illuminated the world,//
foretelling the coming of the Lord for our salvation.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. (*Angel - * the name Malachi in Hebrew means "my messenger.")*

You were an angel on earth,
as you emulated the Angels with your way of life.
You were enriched by appropriately bearing the name of *Angel,
and harmoniously you joined beauty of soul with beauty of body,//
O most blessed Malachi.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples! **Tone 8** (for Martyr Gordius)*

Beholding the darkness of deception,
you fled for refuge and patiently waited for the Lord,
O passion-bearing Gordius.
Through exercise, work, and fasting,
being conscious of your own potential,//
you became an eager combatant challenging the adversary.

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

With powerful conviction, O most glorious Gordius,
you destroyed the multitude of hostile enemies,
regarding the assembly of the lawless as nothing.
Standing in their midst as a herald of free will,
you loudly proclaimed Christ, the Creator and Lord,
co-eternal with the Father,//
and equally honored and co-everlasting with the Holy Spirit.

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

O marvelous wonder!

He who baptizes by the Holy Spirit and by fire

comes to be baptized by John in the Jordan.

Neither simply God nor plainly man,

but, in both His natures, He is one only-begotten Son.

In His humanity, He asks a servant to baptize Him;

in His divinity, He takes away the sins of the world//

granting great mercy to all.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 5** (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,

a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.

There Moses divided the waters;

here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.

There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,

here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;

after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.

O ever-existing God, Who appeared as Man, //

O Lord, have mercy on us!

APOSTICHA

Tone 5 We magnify You in songs of praise,

O incarnate Christ and Savior.

By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,

as the Lord and Lover of mankind,

You overthrew the gates of hell, //

and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of mankind,

You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.

By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.

You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,

and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God. //

Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of mankind!

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

Your crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of mankind.

You have captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.

You have opened Paradise and given it to us.

Grant us purification of sins,

who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day!

Make us worthy of Paradise //

and save us, O Lover of mankind!

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

For our sake, You accepted death in the flesh,
to rise from the dead on the third day.

Heal us from our earthly passions,
and restore us from our evil transgressions; //
and save us, O Lover of mankind!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 5 Christ our God is coming to be baptized in the river Jordan,
desiring to cleanse us from our iniquities by His appearance; //
for He alone is good and loves mankind.

TROPARIA

Tone 5 Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead //
by His glorious Resurrection.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

Prepare, O Zebulon;
and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!
River Jordan, cease flowing
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!
Adam, rejoice with our First Mother
and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise;
for having seen you naked,
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. //
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.