

MARCH 13, 2025

Translation of the Relics of St. Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday, March 12, 2025)

“Lord I Call...” Tone 1

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 1*

Let us keep a spiritual fast, O brethren!
Let us speak no lies or deceit with our tongue!
Let us not give each other cause for stumbling,
but by repentance let the lamp of our soul shine brightly!//
Forgive us our sins in your love for mankind!

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

Let us keep a spiritual fast, O brethren!
Let us speak no lies or deceit with our tongue!
Let us not give each other cause for stumbling,
but by repentance let the lamp of our soul shine brightly!//
Forgive us our sins in your love for mankind!

v. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Tone 1*

O Martyrs, truly worthy of praise,
although you were dishonored on earth,
the heavens received you.
The gates of Paradise opened to you,
and now you enjoy the Tree of Life.//
Entreat Christ to grant us peace and His great mercy!

v. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! Tone 3*

Through the prayers of Your divine Apostles, O Lord,
grant us to spend this time of fasting with compunction of heart,//
that being saved we may glorify You, O compassionate One!

v. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.
Great and awesome is Your coming, O Lord,
when You will sit in righteous judgment.
Despite my guilt, do not condemn me, O God,// but by the prayers of Your Apostles, spare me!*

*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. **Tone 6***

O Apostles of Christ, / lights for those born on earth, / rich treasuries of the knowledge of God, / by your holy prayers deliver from temptations us who praise you. / Guide us safely through the course of the Fast, / keep our lives in peace, / so that we may reach Christ's Passion unharmed // and with boldness offer hymns of praise to our God.

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!
Tone 1 (from the Menaion, for St. Nicephorus) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The streams of your wisdom were drawn from the spiritual clouds,
pouring forth a fountain of Orthodoxy upon the world.
We the faithful draw forth the sweetness from them,
and we turn from the outpourings of heresy //
as from the bitter waters of Marah.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

The streams of your wisdom were drawn from the spiritual clouds,
pouring forth a fountain of Orthodoxy upon the world.
We the faithful draw forth the sweetness from them,
and we turn from the outpourings of heresy //
as from the bitter waters of Marah.

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

As your most pure body lay in the tomb,
it did not decay in any way.
It was found to be whole, O most blessed Nicephorus.
We bear it forth with zeal.
We rejoice, fed by the Orthodox faith, //
and we bless you, O divinely-wise one!

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

The Church which is honored by the name of the Apostles
received you, O most blessed one,
for through your godly deeds, you became a temple of God.
After your burial you are again buried in a holy manner, //
and you have buried the foolish talk of the heretics.

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

Tone 1 Tossed on a sea of transgressions,
I flee for refuge to the calm harbor of your supplications,
and cry out to you, O most pure Theotokos:
"Extend your strong right hand to your servant, //
and save me, O all-blameless Lady!"

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!
Choir: O Gladsome Light...

1st Reading—Genesis 4:16-26

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the sixth tone: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O you righteous!

Chanter: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O you righteous!

Reader: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.

Chanter: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O you righteous!

Reader: Be glad in the Lord,

Chanter: and rejoice, O you righteous!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Mehujael, the father of Methushael, and Methushael the father of Lamech. And Lamech took two wives; the name of one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. Zillah bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice: you wives of Lamech, hearken to what I say: I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged seven-fold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold." And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore him a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, for Cain slew him." To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time, men began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the first tone: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Chanter: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Chanter: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Reader: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us

Chanter: as we have set our hope on you.

EVERYONE KNEELS.

Deacon: Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Upright! The Light of Christ illumines all!

2nd Reading – Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely hind, a graceful doe. Let her affection fill you at all times with delight, be infatuated always with her love.

Why should you be infatuated, my son, with a loose woman and embrace the bosom of an adventuress? For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths.

The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is caught in the toils of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is lost.

My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger, if you are snared in the utterance of your lips, caught in the words of your mouth; then do this, my son and save yourself, for you have come into your neighbor's power: go, hasten, and importune your neighbor.

THE PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY CONTINUES WITH "LET MY PRAYER ARISE..." ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 25