

MARCH 15, 2021

First Monday of Great Lent / Martyrs Agapius and Publius / Forgiveness Vespers

STICHERA

V. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 7*

Like the Prodigal I come and fall before You, O Lord:
accept me as one of Your hired servants,//
and have mercy on me, O compassionate One!

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

Like the man who fell among thieves and was wounded,
I have fallen, and my soul is bruised by my many sins.
To whom can I, the guilty one, run,
if not to You, the only merciful Physician of our souls?//
Pour out Your great mercy on me, O God!

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

O Savior, sinner that I am,
do not cut me down like the barren fig tree!
But grant me forgiveness all the year long,
watering my soul with tears of repentance,//
that I may bring forth acts of mercy as fruit for You!

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

Since You are the Sun of righteousness,
enlighten and guide the hearts of those who cry out to You://
“O Lord, glory to You!”

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

Tone 2 Let us humble the flesh by abstinence,
as we follow the divine path of pure fasting!
With prayers and tears let us seek the Lord, Who saves us!
Let us put an end to anger, crying out:
“Save us for we have sinned against You!
Save us, O Christ our King, as You saved the men of Nineveh,//
and make us partakers of Your heavenly Kingdom, O compassionate One!”

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 I think of my deeds, O Lord,
I am filled with despair,
and know that I am worthy of every torment.
I have despised Your commandments, O Savior.
I have spent my life as a prodigal.

I pray to You, O only merciful One:

“Cleanse me by repentance,
enlighten me through prayers and fasting,//
and despise me not, O most gracious Benefactor of all!”

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

Tone 2 Let us begin the fast with joy!

Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts!

Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh!

Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food!

Let us rejoice in virtues of the Spirit and fulfill them in love,

that we all may see the Passion of Christ our God,//

and rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!

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 8

O seven martyrs of Christ,

you counted the assaults of the torturers and violent death to be nothing.

You hastened to battle with readiness and courage,

covering yourselves with the glory of victory.

You are numbered among all the righteous;//

we call you blessed, glorifying you with them forever.

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

O martyred athlete Agapius,

you loved the Well-spring of good things and the Summit of desires.

You hastened to drain the cup of martyrdom,

calling on the Divine Name of the living God.

What courage was yours; what endurance,//

by which you were openly given the gift of glory and splendor!

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

O all-blesséd martyrs,

you gave yourselves to voluntary slaughter;

you sanctified the earth with your blood

and illumined the air with your passing.

Now in the image of God you live in the heavens,//

ever praying for us to the never-fading Light.

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

Tone 8 Rejoice, O godly chariot of the Light,

temple and house of the Lord and tabernacle of holiness;

rejoice, for from your spotless womb, Light is risen on all,

thus making the ends of the world exceedingly bright,

for in His goodness, He has sanctified us.

Rejoice, O pure Maiden, the crown of our salvation and life; //

Rejoice, O report and fame of those who trust in you!

The prokeimenon in the eighth tone:

Turn not away Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: / hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it! (Ps. 68:21-22a)

V. Let Your salvation, O God, uphold me! (Ps. 68:34b)

V. Let the poor see and be glad! (Ps. 68:37a)

V. Seek God, and your soul shall live! (Ps. 68:37b)

APOSTICHA

Tone 4 *Idiomelon (from the Lenten Triodion)*

Your grace has shone forth, O Lord:

the grace which illumines our soul.

This is the acceptable time!

This is the time of repentance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,

that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

we may reach the Resurrection on the third day //

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

V. I lift up mine eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us.

(Ps 122:1-2)

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that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

we may reach the Resurrection on the third day //

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)

Tone 4 *(for the Martyrs)*

You are glorified
in the memory of Your saints, O Christ God.//
At their supplications, send down on us Your great mercy!

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

Tone 4 The angelic hosts glorify you, O Mother of God,
for you gave birth to God,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
Who, by His own desire, created the angelic hosts out of nothing.
Beseech Him to deliver from corruption and to enlighten//
the souls of those who rightly praise you, O most pure one!

LENTEN TROPARIA

Tone 8 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. (*prostration*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all,
that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//
for to you is given grace to intercede for us! (*prostration*)

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints,
that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//
for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior! (*prostration*)

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.
Do not despise our supplications in adversity,//
but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one!