

STICHERA at PAGE 21

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

Like the Prodigal,  
I recklessly squandered my Father's riches.  
Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.  
In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,  
stripped of all divine grace.  
But now I have returned and cry to You,  
the compassionate and merciful Father://  
"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

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

Like the Prodigal,  
I recklessly squandered my Father's riches.  
Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.  
In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,  
stripped of all divine grace.  
But now I have returned and cry to You,  
the compassionate and merciful Father://  
"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Tone 4*

O Martyrs of the Lord,  
living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,  
perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,  
whose fold no wolf can enter;//  
pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,  
rays of light from the spiritual Sun:  
entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of passions!  
Pray that we may see the day of salvation!  
By your prayers and intercessions,  
may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,  
so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you,//  
who save the world by your wise preaching.

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

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.  
I recklessly squandered the riches that You gave me.  
Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.  
Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.  
I have sinned, and yet I know Your goodness.  
Receive me as one of Your hired servants, O compassionate Christ, //  
by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved You!

*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 the Savior,  
lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,  
like the heavens you tell the glory of God,  
adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.  
Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,  
that He may accept our prayers as incense,  
and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!  
As we venerate Your Cross, O Savior, //  
send down on us great mercy in Your love for mankind!

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

**Tone 4** The mystery hidden from all eternity,  
unknown even by the Angels,  
is now entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel.  
He will come to you, O precious vessel;  
he will salute you and cry in joy:  
"Rejoice, pure dove! Rejoice, all-holy one! //  
Make ready by your word to conceive the Word of God!"

*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 mystery hidden from all eternity,  
unknown even by the Angels,  
is now entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel.  
He will come to you, O precious vessel;  
he will salute you and cry in joy:  
"Rejoice, pure dove! Rejoice, all-holy one! //  
Make ready by your word to conceive the Word of God!"

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

The palace of light is ready for You, O Master,  
the womb of the undefiled child of God.  
Come down to her; come to visit Your fallen world,  
which is held in bitter slavery to the jealous Enemy!  
Many ages have passed since its beauty was destroyed.  
Make haste to descend to earth, O Lord!//  
Come to deliver us from the way of death!

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

Gabriel the Archangel comes to you, O all-blameless one;  
he will greet you, crying with joy:  
“Rejoice, deliverance from condemnation!  
Rejoice, chosen vessel made perfect for God!  
Rejoice, life-bearing dawn of the endless day!//  
The Lord, Whom the heavens cannot contain, is pleased to  dwell in you!”

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

**Tone 2** Today Gabriel announces the good tidings to her who is full of grace:

“Rejoice, unwedded Maiden!  
Be not amazed at my strange appearance, nor be afraid.  
I am an Archangel.  
The serpent once beguiled Eve,  
but now I announce to you the good tidings of joy, O most pure one.//  
You shall remain inviolate and shall give birth to the Lord.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Upright!

**Choir:** O Gladsome Light... (page 22)

## **READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES – on PAGE 23**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Genesis 7:6-9**

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Peace to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: I will trust in the mercy of God to the ages / and to the ages of ages. (*Psalm 51:8*)

**Chanter:** I will trust in the mercy of God to the ages / and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Why do you boast of iniquity in wickedness, O powerful one? All day long your tongue has contrived injustice. (*Psalm 51:1*)

**Chanter:** I will trust in the mercy of God to the ages / and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** I will trust in the mercy of God to the ages

**Chanter:** and to the ages of ages.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came to pass on the earth. Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark because of the water of the flood. And of the clean flying creatures and of the unclean flying creatures and of the clean beasts and of the unclean beasts and of all that creep upon the earth two by two they went in to Noah into the ark, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: When the Lord turns back the captivity of his people; / Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad. (*Psalms 13:7*)

**Chanter:** When the Lord turns back the captivity of his people; / Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

**Reader:** The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." (*Psalms 13:1*)

**Chanter:** When the Lord turns back the captivity of his people; / Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

**Reader:** When the Lord turns back the captivity of his people; /

**Chanter:** Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

**EVERYONE KNEELS.**

**Deacon:** Command!

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Proverbs 9:12-18**

**Reader:** The reading from Proverbs.

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** My son, if you become wise for yourself, you will also be wise for your neighbours; while if you prove wicked, you will draw wickedness alone. One who relies on falsehoods, shepherds winds, while he will pursue flying birds; for he has left the ways of his own vineyard, while he has made the axes of his field go astray. He walks through a waterless desert and a land appointed to drought, he gathers fruitlessness with his hands. A foolish and insolent woman, who does not know shame, comes to lack a morsel; she sits at the doors of her house, on a bench openly in the streets, inviting the passers-[by and those who are going straight on their ways. Whichever of you is most foolish, let him turn aside to me and I exhort those who lack prudence, saying: Touch the secret bread of pleasure and drink the sweet water of theft. But he does not know that those born of earth are destroyed by her, and he encounters a trap of Hell. But hurry away, do not delay in the place and do not rest your eye on her; for thus you will pass through strange water, pass over a strange river; keep away from strange water and do not drink of a strange spring, that you may live a long time and that years may be added to your life.

**PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY continues with "Let my prayer arise..." on PAGE 24**