

APRIL 1, 2021

Thursday of the Third Week of Great Lent
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)/ Saint Mary of Egypt

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

STICHERA

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 (to the Martyrs)

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 have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord. **Tone 6** (from the Triodion, by Theodore) (Clothed, O Savior)*

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 6 The clinging defilement of earlier sins
Hindered you from the contemplation of holy things,
But then your conscience and the awareness of your actions
Turned you, Mother Mary, wise in God,
To a better way of life!
When you had looked upon the icon of the blessed Maiden of God,
You condemned all your earlier transgressions.
Then with confidence, Mother worthy of all praise, //
You went to venerate the precious Wood!

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 clinging defilement of earlier sins
Hindered you from the contemplation of holy things,
But then your conscience and the awareness of your actions
Turned you, Mother Mary, wise in God,
To a better way of life!
When you had looked upon the icon of the blessed Maiden of God,
You condemned all your earlier transgressions.
Then with confidence, Mother worthy of all praise, //
You went to venerate the precious Wood!

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

Having worshipped at the holy places with great joy,
You received saving grace for the journey of virtue.
With all haste you set out joyfully upon the good path you had chosen.
You crossed the stream of the Jordan,
Eagerly going to live in the dwelling place of the Forerunner.
You tamed the savagery of the passions by your ascetic way of life;
You boldly broke the rebelliousness of the flesh through abstinence, //
Ever-glorious Mother Mary!

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

Having made your dwelling in the wilderness,
You devoutly blotted out the images of your sensual passions from your soul,
Marking upon it the God-given imprints of the virtues.
You attained such glory that you walked lightly across the waters on foot
And were elevated above the ground!
Now, all-glorious Mary, as you stand with boldness before Christ, //
Pray to him on behalf of our souls!

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

Tone 6 Ready is that marriage feast
made for the Heavenly Bridegroom;
even now the heralds cry;
why, O darkened soul, do you tarry willingly?
Truly your garments are all exceedingly filthy
with licentious deeds and lewd desires;
how shall you enter in, you unhappy wretch?
But before the end come fall down and cry aloud
to the Ever-virgin with all your heart:
Sprinkle me and cleanse me, O pure one,
with the hyssop of your prayers;
vouchsafe that bridal chamber unto me, //
so that I may magnify you.

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Choir: O Gladsome Light...

1st 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. (*Ps 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. (*Ps 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 is 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. (*Ps 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." (*Ps 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!

2nd Reading – Proverbs 9:12-18

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

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.

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