

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

TONE 3

4th Sunday of Pascha / Paralytic / Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Cyril and Methodius, First Teachers of the Slavs

After *Blessed is our God...* the priest sings *Christ is risen* once from the altar. Then the chanters sing *Christ is risen* two times. Immediately after this we chant Psalm 103 (without *Come, let us worship...*)

“Lord I Call...” Tone 3

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.

STICHERA

v. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 3 (for the Resurrection)*

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,
death’s dominion has been shattered;
the devil’s delusion destroyed.
The race of man, being saved by faith,//
always offers You a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.
All creation, praising You,//
always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

v. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! (Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection,//
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

v. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. Tone 1 Idiomela (from the Pentecostarion)*

With Your pure hand, You created man, / and You came to heal the sick, O compassionate Christ. /
By Your word You raised the paralytic at the Sheep’s Pool, / and cured the pain of the woman with
the issue of blood. / You had mercy on the daughter of the Canaanite woman, / and did not reject
the request of the centurion. / Therefore we cry to You:// “Glory to You, O almighty Lord!”

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.

The Paralytic was like an unburied corpse.
He saw You and shouted: "Lord, have mercy on me!
My bed has become my grave! Why should I live?
What use is the Sheep's Pool to me?
I have no one to put me into the pool when the waters are stirred,
but I come to You, O Fountain of healing.
Raise me up, that with all I may cry to You://
'Glory to You, O almighty Lord!'"

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

Tone 2 *(from the Menaion, for Sts. Cyril and Methodius) (With what crowns)*

With what crowns of praise shall we adorn the divinely-wise teachers:
the voices of wisdom sounding amid clouds of darkness,
enlightening those in the shadow of death with the light of the Gospel,
the great preachers of the undivided Trinity,
who grafted barren unbelievers as branches
into the fruitful tree of the Orthodox Church,//
that they might obtain from Christ our God peace and great mercy?

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

With what songs of praise shall we glorify the divinely-wise teachers:
the golden-mouthed Cyril, who reached the heights of wisdom through his sweet preaching,
humbling the fierce pride of the foolish Moslem sages; / and Methodius, the lover of solitude,/
who in silence received the fruits of the Spirit?//
Through their prayers, O Christ our God, grant us great mercy!

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

With what hymns of praise shall we magnify the divinely-wise teachers:
Cyril, who chose to live with wisdom in his youth,
and multiplied his talents to the glory of God;
and Methodius who renounced the things of this world for love of Christ?
He strove like an angel for the Kingdom of heaven.
Through them, we have come to know God, the eternal Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,//
receiving from Christ our God great mercy.

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

With what spiritual songs shall we magnify you, O most blessed teachers? / For the sake of the salvation of the Slavs / you became Equals-to-the-Apostles. / You labored to enlighten them by the lamp of the Word of God, / opening for them the door of the written word. / As we enter, we understand the blessed teaching of Christ,// receiving from Him peace and great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6 (from the Menaion, for Sts. Cyril and Methodius)

Come, O lovers of feasts,
let us glorify the apostolic laborers with songs of praise,
the pride of hierarchs,
the enlighteners and fervent intercessors for the Slavic people!
Rejoice, Cyril, golden herald of the Word of God!
You light up the mysteries of the Holy Trinity as the sun,
closing the blaspheming mouths of the Moslem sages.
Methodius, rejoice as well!
You assisted him with prayers and miracles.
O most-blessed fathers, never cease to intercede before Christ our God//
for those who praise you with faith and love!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 5 (from the Pentecostarion)

Jesus went up to Jerusalem. / He came to the Sheep's Pool, called in Hebrew "Bethesda." /
It had five porches, each filled with a multitude of the sick, / for at certain times an angel of the
Lord stirred up the water, / and granted strength to those who approached in faith. / There the
Lord saw a man who for many years had been afflicted. / He said: "Do you want to be whole?" /
The sick man replied to the Lord: / "I have no man to lower me into the pool when the water is
stirred. / I have spent all my wealth on physicians, / but have not been granted mercy!" / Then the
Physician of souls and bodies said to him: / "Take up your bed and walk!//Proclaim My power
and great mercy to the ends of the earth!"

Scripture Readings *(Sts. Cyril and Methodius)*

The reading is from Proverbs (selection)

The memory of a just man is praised, and the Lord's blessing is upon his head. Blessed is one who has found wisdom; a mortal who knows understanding. To import her is better than treasures of gold and silver. She is more valuable than precious stones; nothing of value equals her worth. Justice proceeds from her mouth; she bears law and mercy on her tongue. Therefore, my children, listen to me, for I speak weighty things. And blessed is the one who keeps my ways. For my goings out are the goings out of life, and favour is prepared from the Lord. Therefore I exhort you, and utter my voice to the children of humankind. Because I, Wisdom, have prepared counsel, knowledge and understanding. I have called on them. Counsel and sureness are mine; prudence is mine, strength is mine. I love those who are my friends, while those who seek me will find grace. You innocent, then, understand cunning; you untaught, take it to heart. Listen to me, for I will speak weighty things, and I will open right things from my lips. Because my throat will meditate truth; lying lips are abominable before me. All the words of my mouth are with justice, there is nothing crooked in them nor twisted. They are all straight for those who understand, and right for those who find knowledge. For I teach you what is true, that your hope may be in the Lord and that you may be filled with spirit.

The reading is from Proverbs (10:31-32, 11:1-12)

The mouth of the just drops wisdom; but the tongue of the unjust will be cut out. The lips of just men know graces; but the mouth of the impious is turned away. A false balance is an abomination before the Lord; but a just weight is acceptable to him. Wherever pride enters, there too dishonour; but the mouth of the humble meditates wisdom. The perfection of the devout will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will carry them off. Property does not profit in the day of wrath, but justice will deliver from death. When a just man dies he leaves regret; ready and welcome the destruction of the ungodly. The justice of the blameless keeps their ways straight, but impiety encounters injustice. The justice of upright men will deliver them, but transgressors are caught by base counsel. When a just man dies his hope does not perish; but the boast of the ungodly perishes. A just man escapes from the hunt, but the ungodly is given up in his place. In the mouth of the ungodly is a snare for citizens, but the perception of the just brings prosperity. By the good things of the just a city is successful, and in the loss of the ungodly their is gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the ungodly it will be overthrown. One who lacks sense sneer at their fellow citizens, an intelligent man practices stillness.

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

A just man, even if he die early, will be at rest. For an honoured old age is not so for length of time, nor is it measured by the number of years. Understanding is peoples' true grey hairs, and a ripe old age a spotless life. Having become pleasing to God, he was loved; and while living among sinners, he was taken away. He was snatched away lest wickedness pervert his understanding, or trickery deceive his soul. For the witchery of what is paltry dims what is good, and the inconstancy of desire undermines an innocent mind. Made perfect in a short time, he fulfilled long years, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he hurried him from the midst of evil. But the peoples saw and did not understand, nor did they lay such a thing to heart, that grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his presence with his chosen ones.

LITY

Tone 2 Christ our God has revealed you to your flock, O Bishop Nicholas, / as an example of faith and an image of meekness. / For you brought a sweet fragrance into Myra, / shining brightly by your divine acts of virtue, / as the advocate of orphans and widows.// Therefore never cease to intercede that our souls may be saved!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 5** (from the Pentecostarion)*

A man lay sick by the Sheep's Pool. / Seeing You, O Lord, he cried to You: / "There is no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred. / Another always goes before me and receives healing, / while I lie here in misery." / Immediately the Savior was moved to pity, and said to him: / "It was for you that I became Man; / because of you I was clothed in mortal flesh. / Yet you say: 'I have no man!' / I tell you, take up Your bed and walk!" / All things obey and submit to Your power, O Lord!// Remember us all, and have mercy, O holy Lover of man!

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

O most precious Virgin, / you are the gate, the temple, / the palace, the throne of the King. / From you, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord, / appeared to those asleep in darkness. / He is the Sun of Righteousness, / Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created. / Since you possess motherly boldness before Him, O all praised Lady, // pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

Deacon: God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of the holy Cyril and Methodius, equals-to-the-apostles and first teachers of the Slavs, whose remembrance we fulfill, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name).

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross whose universal lifting up we fulfill, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of the holy Cyril and Methodius, equals-to-the-apostles and first teachers of the Slavs, whose remembrance we fulfill, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: 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. (x1)

Choir: 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. (twice)

The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:

Priest: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*once*)

Choir: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*twice*)

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 (*for the Resurrection*)

The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

(Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses from Psalm 67)

V. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; [let those who hate Him flee from before His face!] (Ps. 67:1)

Tone 5 Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us: / a new and holy Pascha, / a mystical Pascha, / a Pascha worthy of veneration, / a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer, / a blameless Pascha, / a great Pascha, / a Pascha of the faithful, / a Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise, // a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

V. As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; [as wax melts before the fire!] (Ps. 67:2a)

Come from that scene, O women bearers of glad tidings, / and say to Sion: / "Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, / of Christ's Resurrection! / Exult and be glad, / and rejoice, O Jerusalem, / seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb // like a bridegroom in procession!"

V. So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad! (Ps. 67:2b-3a)

The myrh-bearing women, / at the break of dawn, / drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver. / There they found an angel / sitting upon the stone. / He greeted them with these words: / "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? / Why do you mourn the Incorrupt amid corruption? // Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples!"

V. This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Ps. 117:24)

Pascha of beauty, / the Pascha of the Lord, / A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us. / O Pascha! / Let us embrace each other joyously! / Pascha, ransom from affliction! / For today, as from a bridal chamber, / Christ has shone forth from the tomb, / and filled the women with joy saying: // "Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 8 (from the Menaion, for Sts. Cyril and Methodius)
Rejoice, O blessed ones who enlightened us with the knowledge of God!
Rejoice, Cyril, living source of spiritual wisdom!
You quenched the thirst of the Slavic people.
Rejoice, Methodius, pure dwelling of prayer!
Now you stand in the glory of Christ.
Therefore never cease to pray that we may glorify Him, //
as we magnify you throughout the ages!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 8 (from the Pentecostarion)
Solomon's porch was filled with the sick. / In the middle of the feast, / Christ found a man who
had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. / He shouted to him in a commanding voice: / "Do you
want to be healed?" / The sick man replied: "Lord, when the water is stirred, I have no man to
lower me into the pool." / The Lord said to him: / "Pick up your bed! / Now that you are healed,
see that you sin no more!" / Show to us Your great mercy, O Lord, // through the prayers of the
Theotokos!

TROPARIA

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world //
great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 4 Troparion (Sts. Cyril and Methodius)
Cyril and Methodius, inspired by God,
you became Equals-to-the-Apostles by your life.
As you were teachers of the Slavs,
intercede with the Master of all,
that He may strengthen all Orthodox peoples in the true faith;
that He may grant peace to the world //
and great mercy to our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
The mystery hidden from all eternity,
unknown even by Angels,
through you, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man, // saving our souls from death.