

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

TONE 5

6th Sunday after Pascha/ Blind Man / Third Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John

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 5

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!

Reader reads the rest of Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 in the pew book, then STICHERA:

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 5

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame.
By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin
and saved us from the gates of death.//
We glorify You, O only begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.
The princes of hell were frightened by this,
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.
Christ the King of glory had entered,
saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//
And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

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

O great wonder!
The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man
and rose again immortal.
Come, O sons of nations,
let us worship Him,
for delivered from error by His compassion,//
we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

We offer You our evening worship, / O never setting Light, / Who came in these last days to the world in the flesh; / Who even descended to hell to dispel its darkness. / Who has revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.// Glory to You, O Lord and Giver of light!

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

Tone 2 The man blind from birth asked himself:

“Was I born blind because of my parents’ sins?

Or am I a living sign of the people’s faithlessness?

I am not content to continue asking whether it is night or day.

My feet can no longer endure tripping on the stones.

I have seen nothing: neither the sun shining, nor the image of my Maker.//

But I entreat You, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on 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.

Jesus, passing by the Temple, met a man blind from birth.

He had compassion on him and put spittle on his eyes,

saying: “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!”

He washed himself and then gave glory to God.

His neighbors asked him:

“Who opened your eyes, which no one could heal before?”

He cried out: “A man called Jesus said to me:

‘Wash in Siloam!’ and now I see;

He is truly the Christ, the Messiah Whom Moses foretold in the Law.//

He is the Savior of our souls!”

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

Tone 8 *(for the Forerunner)* *(Oh, most glorious wonder)*

O blessed John the Forerunner,

your head shone from the ground with rays brighter than the sun.

It enlightens the faithful.

We have it as a divine treasure

and draw rich grace from it,

sanctifying our souls, our bodies and thoughts.//

As we celebrate, we call you blessed.

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

O blessed John the Forerunner,

your head shone from the ground with rays brighter than the sun.

It enlightens the faithful.

We have it as a divine treasure

and draw rich grace from it,

sanctifying our souls, our bodies and thoughts.//

As we celebrate, we call you blessed.

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

Your holy head, O blessed Forerunner,
poured out abundant grace.
It was shown without his foreknowledge to the priest who was wise in God.
He quickly went with faith and grace
and openly brought about its manifest appearance,
which sanctified the emperor and the divinely wise people,//
who fervently maintain the Orthodox Faith.

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

We celebrate the third revelation of your precious head,
crowned by the Holy Trinity,
which was severed, O glorious one, because of your godly zeal.
The ranks of Angels, the company of martyrs,
the Apostles of God and all the Prophets
rejoice in its discovery.//
Together with them, ever remember us, O Forerunner of the Lord!

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

Tone 6 *(for the Forerunner, taken from the "Glory..." verse)*

Your head is a treasury of godly gifts, O Forerunner.
Guarded safely by God, it came to light from the hollows of the earth.
With faith we gain possession of it, O glorious Baptist of Christ.
As we venerate it, we are enriched through you
with the wonders of miracles,//
and in the forgiveness of transgressions.

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

Passing by the way, O Lord,
You met a man blind from birth.
Your Disciples were puzzled and asked:
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
Jesus answered: "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents,
but that the works of God might be revealed in him.
I must work the works of Him Who sent me, which no one else can do."
As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle,
and anointed the man's eyes with the clay and said to him:
"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!"
He went and washed, and was made whole, crying: "Lord, I believe!"//
He worshipped You, and we cry: "Have mercy on us!"

SCRIPTURE READINGS (*Forerunner*)

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias. [40:1 and selection]

Thus says the Lord: Comfort, comfort my people, says God. Priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem. Comfort her, because her humiliation has been completed; for her sin has been abolished, because she has received from the Lord's hand double for her sins. A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. Every valley will be filled and every mountain and hill made low; what is crooked will become straight, and the rough ways will be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Go up onto a high mountain, you who bring good tidings to Sion; lift up your voice with strength, you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem. Lift it up, do not be afraid. I the Lord God, I, the God of Israel, will hearken and will not forsake them; but I will open rivers from the mountains and springs in the middle of plains. I will turn the wilderness into water meadows and the thirsty earth with water courses. Let the heavens rejoice from on high and let the clouds rain justice. Let the earth sprout and blossom with mercy and justice. Announce a voice of gladness to the end of the earth and let this be heard: Say that the Lord has delivered his servant Jacob. And if they thirst through deserts, he will bring water for them from a rock. Rejoice you barren who have never given birth, break out and shout, you who have never known birth pangs, for the children of the deserted are more than those of her who has a husband.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Malachy. [3 & 4 and selection]

Thus says the Lord Almighty: See, I am sending my Angel, my messenger, before your face, who will prepare your way before you. And the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple. And who will endure the day of his entrance? And who will withstand at his appearing? Because he will enter like fire in a smelting furnace and like the lye of launderers. And he will come to you in judgement; and he will be a swift witness against the wicked and against adulteresses and against those swear falsely in his name and those who do not fear him, says the Lord Almighty. Because I am the Lord your God, and I have not changed and you, children of Jacob, have perverted the laws and not kept them. Therefore turn back to me and I will turn back to you, says the Lord Almighty. And all the nations will call you blessed and you will know that I am the Lord who discern between just and lawless on the day on which I make a peculiar possession of those who love me. Know then and remember the law of Moses my servant, as I gave him commandment on Horeb, to all Israel ordinances and judgements. And see, I will send you Elias the Thesbite, before the great and manifest day of the Lord comes; he will turn again the heart of father to son and of a man to his neighbour, lest when I come I smite the earth grievously, says the Lord Almighty, God the Holy One of Israel.

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7, selection, & 5:1-7]

A just man if he comes to his end will be at rest. A just man who dies will condemn the ungodly who are alive; for they will see the end of a just man and will not understand what they counselled concerning him. For the Lord will break the ungodly, render them voiceless and cast them headlong, and he will shake them from the foundations and they will be utterly worsted in sorrow, and their memory shall perish. They shall come with fear at the accounting of their sins, and their iniquities will convict them to their face. Then the just will stand with much boldness in the face of those who afflicted him and made his toils of no account. When they see this they will be troubled with great fear and will be amazed at the wonder of his salvation. For they will say as they repent and with anguish they will groan and say: Is this he whom we fools once made a laughing stock and a byword of reproach? We reckoned his life folly and his end dishonour. How has he been numbered among the children of God and his lot with the Saints? Therefore we have erred from the way of truth and the light of righteousness has not shone on us and the sun has not dawned on us. We have been filled with paths of lawlessness and destruction and journeyed through trackless paths, but have not known the way of the Lord.

APOSTICHA

Tone 5 We magnify You in songs of praise, / O incarnate Christ and Savior. / By accepting the Cross and death for our sake, / as the Lord and Lover of man, / You overthrew the gates of hell, // and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

(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 myrrh-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 2** (for the Forerunner)*

O all-praiseworthy John,
your head, the all-revered vessel of divine thoughts,
which clearly gazed on the mystery of the Essence beyond words,
today has come to light from the recesses of the earth, as from a mother’s womb.
It makes the whole world fragrant,
pouring forth a myrrh of sanctification,
preaching the way of repentance,//
and interceding with the Savior of all in behalf of our souls.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 8** (from the Pentecostarion)*

O Christ God, Sun of Righteousness,
by Your touch You enlightened all.
Give sight now to our spiritual eyes,
and show us to be sons of the day!
Great is Your ineffable goodness towards us!//
O Lover of man, glory to You!

TROPARIA

Tone 5 Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 4** Troparion (Forerunner)*

Your head was revealed to us by Christ
as a divine treasure in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner.
We gather in honor of this discovery
with inspired hymns of praise to the Savior,//
Who saves us from corruption through your prayers.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 4** Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion*

The mystery hidden from all eternity, / unknown even by Angels, / through you, 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.