

READERS VESPERS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020; TONE 7
THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.
Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take

their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

- Instead of the Great Litany, we say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE SEVEN

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.

- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

For the Resurrection in Tone Seven

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord Who crushed the might of death and lighted mankind, crying to Him with the incorporeals, O Creator and our Savior, glory to Thee.

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

For our sakes, O Savior, Thou didst suffer crucifixion and burial. But Thou didst cause death to die, for Thou art God. Wherefore, do we worship Thy third-day Resurrection, O Lord; glory to Thee.

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.*

Verily, when the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Creator, they were surprised, shouting in angelic praise. This is the honor of the Church; this is the richness of the kingdom. Wherefore, O Thou Who didst suffer for our sakes, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Though Thou wast arrested, O Christ, by the transgressors of the law, Thou still remainest my God, and therefore I am not ashamed. And though Thou wast lashed on Thy back I shall not deny Thee; or nailed upon the Cross, I shall not hide it; for in Thy Resurrection do I glory; for Thy death is my life, O Almighty One and Lover of mankind. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 6. *If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.*

Verily, Christ did fulfill the Davidic prophecy; for He did manifest His wonders to His disciples in Zion, when He revealed of Himself, that He is praised and glorified always with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As for the beginning without body, for He is the Word, and for these last days He did appear in the body and died for our sakes as man, rising by His self-same power, for He is the Lover of mankind.

Verse 5. *Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

Thou didst descend to Hades, as Thou didst will, O Christ, and didst lead death captive, since Thou art God and Lord, and didst rise on the third day, raising Adam with Thee from the bonds of Hades and its corruption, who cried saying, Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Thou only Lover of mankind.

For the Third Sunday of Great Lent in Tone Five (**Rejoice**)

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.*

O Cross of the Lord to which the world aspireth, let the light-giving flashes of Thy grace raise the hearts of those who honor thee and welcome thee with divine love, O thou through whom the dismay of tears hath passed away; and by whom we have been saved from the snares of death and

translated into joy imperishable, reveal to us the splendor of thy comeliness, granting the prizes of abstinence to thy servants who ask in faith for thy rich help and the Great Mercy.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross, O bright paradise of the Church, O Tree of incorruption, thou who didst bring forth for us the enjoyment of glory everlasting, through whom the hosts of devils are driven out, the ranks of angels rejoice together, and the congregations of believers celebrate, O unconquerable weapon and impregnable foundation, the triumph of kings and the pride of Priests, grant us to apprehend the Passion of Christ and His Resurrection.

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross, the unconquerable triumph of true worship, O door of paradise, the confirmation of believers, the wall of the Church, through which corruption hath disappeared and perished, and the power of death was swallowed, and we ascend from earth to heaven, thou incontestable weapon and adversary of demons; for thou art the glory of Martyrs and their adornment in truth, the haven of salvation that granteth to the world the Great Mercy.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Come, ye first created couple who fell from the heavenly rank through man-destroying envy, because of a bitter delight resulting from the taste of the olden tree. Behold, here cometh in truth the most revered Tree. Hasten to kiss it, shouting to it in faith, Thou art our helper, O most revered Cross, of whose fruit when we partook we attained incorruption and received securely the first Eden and the Great Mercy.

DOXASTICON FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE THREE

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

O Christ our God, Who didst accept crucifixion willingly for the general resurrection of mankind; and by the red of the Cross didst dye Thy fingers with blood; and with a crimson dye didst compassionately ordain for us forgiveness with kingly authority; forsake us not in our danger of estrangement from Thee, but have compassion, O Thou Who alone art long-suffering, on Thy harassed people. Arise, and fight them who fight us; for Thou art almighty.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE SEVEN

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O pure Theotokos, thou wast known as a Mother in a supernatural way, and thou didst remain virgin in an indescribable and incomprehensible manner. Thus came about the wonder of thy birth-giving, ineffable for tongue, in that thy Conception appeared dazzling to the mind, and thy birth-giving incomprehensible; for where God willeth He overcometh the order of nature. Therefore, since we know thee as Theotokos, we beseech thee ceaselessly. Intercede then for the salvation of our souls.

- There is no entrance with the censer.

O GLADSOME LIGHT (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Choir: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light,

we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

SATURDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (ONCE)

Verse 1. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. (Refrain)

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved. (Refrain)

- Instead of the Litany of Fervent Supplication, we say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

- Instead of the Litany of Supplication, we say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou hast risen from the tomb, O Savior of the world, and hast raised mankind with Thy body, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.

Come, let us worship Him Who rose from the dead and lighted all; for He hath liberated us from the oppression of Hades by His third-day Resurrection, granting us life and the Great Mercy.

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

When Thou didst descend to Hades, O Christ, Thou didst lead death captive, and when Thou didst rise on the third day, Thou didst raise us with Thee, glorifying Thine almighty Resurrection, O Lord and Lover of mankind.

Verse 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

Thou didst appear awe-inspiring, O Lord, whereas Thou wast placed in a grave like one that slumbereth, and didst rise in three days as a mighty one, and didst raise with Thee Adam, crying, Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Thou alone the Lover of mankind.

DOXASTICON FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE FOUR

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

O Lord, Who didst support in war the all-humble David, subjecting the stranger to him, fight with our believing king; repulse our enemies with the weapon of the Cross, and reveal to us Thine ancient mercies, O compassionate One; that they may know of a truth that Thou art God; that by our trust in Thee we may vanquish them; and that by the wonted intercessions of Thy Mother, Thou mayest grant us the Great Mercy.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Choir: Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION IN TONE ONE

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

As Gabriel cried aloud unto thee, "Hail, O Virgin," with that cry did the Lord of all become incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake the righteous David; and Thou wast revealed as more spacious than the heavens, in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore, glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to Him Who came from thee; glory to Him, Who through thy birth-giving hath set us free.

THE DISMISSAL FOR READERS VESPERS

Choir: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Lord, bless.

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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