

TEXTS FOR VESPERS ON FRIDAY 23rd APRIL 2021

✠ “LORD I CALL ...”

Tone 6

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 6 (For Saint Lazarus)

Wishing to see the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord,
since of Thine own will, Thou wast soon to dwell in a tomb,
Thou didst ask: “Where have ye laid him?”
Learning that which was already known to Thee,
Thou didst cry to Thy beloved friend: “Lazarus, come forth!”
and he who had no breath obeyed the Lord Who gave him breath,//
for Thou art the Saviour of our souls.

For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Repeat: Wishing to see the tomb...

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Thou hast come to the place of the burial of Lazarus, O Lord,
the tomb of a man four days dead.
Weeping for Thy friend, O Bread of Life, Thou didst raise him up.
Therefore death was bound by Thy voice,
and grave clothes were loosened by Thy hand.
The band of disciples was filled with joy.
One song of adoration was sung by all://
“Blessed art Thou, O Saviour! Have mercy on us!”

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

Thy voice destroyed the kingdom of hell, O Lord.
Thy powerful word raised from the tomb the one who was four days dead.
Lazarus became the saving first-fruits of the world’s regeneration.
All things are possible for Thee, O Lord and King of all.//
Grant Thy servants cleansing and great mercy!

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Thou didst come to the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord,
and didst call him by name,
wishing to assure Thy disciples of Thine own Resurrection.
Hell was vanquished!
It released Lazarus who was four days dead.
He cried out to Thee://
“Glory to Thee, O blessed Lord!”

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

Thou didst come to Bethany to wake Lazarus, O Lord,
accompanied by Thy disciples.
Thou didst weep for him,
but he was raised by Thine almighty power.
A man four days dead cried to Thee, O our Saviour://
“Glory to Thee, O blessed Lord!”

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

Tone 8

We have completed the forty days that profit our souls.
Let us sing: “Rejoice, city of Bethany, home of Lazarus!
Rejoice, Mary and Martha, his sisters!
Tomorrow Christ will come and raise your dead brother to life.
Bitter and unsatisfied, hell will hear His voice.
Shaking and groaning, it will release bound Lazarus.
The assembly of Hebrews will be amazed.
They will greet Him with palms and branches.
Though their priests and elders look on Him with envy and malice,
the children shall praise Him in song:
‘Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord, //
the King of Israel!’”

✠ **PROKEIMENON** Tone 6

Our help is in the Name of the Lord, * Who hath made heaven and earth.
∇. If the Lord had not been on our side, now may Israel say.

✠ **The Reading from Genesis**

(49:33-50:26)

Thus when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was added to his people. Now Joseph fell on his father’s face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, in

the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.’ ” Then Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.” So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father’s house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father. So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians.” Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father. When Joseph’s brothers saw their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him.” So they came to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.’ ” Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we are your servants.” So Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households.” Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart. So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, “I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

✠ **PROKEIMENON** Tone 6

They that trust in the Lord * shall be as Mount Zion.

✠. He that dwells in Jerusalem shall never be shaken.

✠ **The Reading from the Proverbs of Solomon**

(31:8-30)

Open your mouth for the word of God, and judge all men fairly; Open your mouth and judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and helpless. Who will find a courageous wife? For such a one is more valuable than precious stones. The heart of her husband trusts in her; she will not be at a loss for fine spoils, for she provides good things for her husband all her life. She weaves wool and linen cloth and is productive with her hands. She is like a ship trading afar off, so she procures her livelihood. She also rises before dawn and gives food to her household, and appoints tasks for her maidservants. Seeing a farm, she buys it, and from the fruits of her hands she plants her plot of land. Strongly girding her loins, she strengthens her arms for work. She experiences work as a good thing, and her lamp is not quenched all night. She extends her arms to do profitable things, and she applies her hands to the spindle. She opens her hands to the poor and reaches out with her fruit to the needy. Her husband is not anxious about those at home

when he spends a long time elsewhere, for all her household are clothed. She makes a double upper garment for her husband and garments of fine linen and purple for herself. Her husband is respected at the gates and when he sits in council with the elders who inhabit the land. She makes and sells fine linens and girdles to the Canaanites. She opens her mouth carefully and lawfully and controls her tongue. She clothes herself with strength and dignity and rejoices in the last days. She runs her household carefully, and she does not eat the bread of idleness. She opens her mouth wisely and lawfully, and her charity raises her children, and they become rich, and her husband praises her, "Many daughters acquire riches; many do mighty things, but you excel and surpass all." Desires to please are deceitful, and the beauty of a wife is vain; for a wise wife is blessed, and let her in fear praise the Lord. Give to her from the fruits of her hands, and let her husband praise her at the gates.

✠ APOSTICHA

Tone 8 (*From the Lenten Triodion*)

We have completed the forty days that profit our souls.

Now let us beg the Lover of man:

enable us to see the Holy Week of Thy Passion,

that we may glorify Thy mighty work,

Thy wonderful plan for our salvation,

as we sing with one heart and voice://

"O Lord, glory to Thee!"

℟. Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, O Thou that dwellest in heaven! Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.

Repeat: We have completed the forty days ...

℟. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.

Tone 8 (*For the Martyrs*)

O martyrs of the Lord,

we beseech you to intercede with our God,

that He may forgive our many sins,//

and grant our souls abundant mercy.

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

Tone 8 (*For Saint Lazarus*)

Standing by the tomb of Lazarus, O Saviour,

Thou didst call to Thy friend, who was dead.

He heard Thy voice, and awoke as from sleep.

Mortality was shaken by immortality.

By Thy word the bound was unbound.

All is possible! All things serve and submit to Thee, O loving Lord.//

O our Saviour, glory to Thee!

✠ TROPARION

Troparion of Lazarus Saturday in Tone 1

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion,
Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God.

Like the children with the palms of victory,
we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

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

Repeat: By raising Lazarus from the dead ...

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

Repeat: By raising Lazarus from the dead ...