

TEXTS FOR VESPERS ON WEDNESDAY 21st APRIL 2021

✕ "LORD I CALL ..."

Tone 5

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 5 *(From the Triodion)*

When Jesus was walking in the flesh beyond the River Jordan,
He said to His companions:
"My friend Lazarus is already dead and buried,
but I rejoice for your sake, My friends.
By his death you will learn that I know all, for I am God,
even though I appear by nature as a man.
Let us go and give life to him,
so that death may truly know My victory
and the total destruction I shall make of it,//
as I grant to the world My great mercy!"

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.

Let us imitate Mary and Martha, O faithful!
Let us offer divine deeds to the Lord as intercessors,
so that when He comes He may raise up our minds,
for now they lie dead and feel no fear of God.
They are deprived of all vital energy,
unaware of their own inaction.
Let us cry: "O Lord, Who hadst compassion on Thy friend Lazarus,
raising him up by Thy dread presence and authority,
so now give life to us all,//
and grant to us Thy great mercy!"

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

Tone 6 *(From the Triodion)*

Now Lazarus has been in the tomb for two days,
seeing the dead of all the ages,
beholding strange sights of terror:
countless multitudes bound by the chains of hell.
His sisters weep bitterly as they gaze at his tomb,
but Christ is coming to bring His friend to life,
to implement in this one man His plan for 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.

Tone 5 *(For Saint Theodore)*

O venerable father, holy Theodore,
thou wast sanctified from thy mother's womb
and wast known to God, like Jeremiah of old.
A star heralded thy nativity
and indeed the whole world has been truly enlightened
by the splendour of thy life.
The darkness of the demons has vanished.
Infirmities have been driven away from people of every age
and grace has poured out all kinds of healings.
Therefore, we cry out to thee://
“Ever pray to Christ that He may grant the world great mercy!”

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

O venerable father, truly wondrous Theodore,
thou didst consume all the tinder of sin
through mighty abstinence and the fire of prayer.
Thou didst receive the illumination of God,
making the grace of the Trinity abide in thee.
Thou didst become wholly radiant with rays of healing,
beholding future things, like Elijah of old,
breaking the bonds of barrenness,
and driving away hordes of demons with the might of the Spirit of God.//
Beseech Him that He may grant the whole world peace and great mercy!

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

O venerable Father, most honoured Theodore,
thou art the sun who hast enlightened the earth
with thy works and countless signs.
Thou art a precious gift given to Christ our God,
the excellent foundation of the priesthood,
a model for monastics,
the strength of those who turn to thee with faith,
a precious stone, a dwelling of the Trinity,
a bowl pouring forth a sea of healings.//
Ever pray to Christ that He may grant the whole world peace and great 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 5 (*Theotokion*)

What hast thou come to resemble, O soul,
always growing in what is worse,
and senselessly adding wounds to thy many injuries
so that thy whole body will be harmed,
not being mindful that the Judge is drawing near, before Whom thou wilt stand,
to receive sentence and retribution in accordance with thine actions?
But turn and fall down before the Virgin, calling out:
“O Lady, Sovereign Mistress, do not despise me,
who have angered the all-merciful God Who was born of thee//
and was crucified in the flesh for the salvation of man!”

✠ **PROKEIMENON** Tone 4

I will walk acceptably before the Lord * in the land of the living.
✠. I am well pleased: for the Lord will hear the voice of my prayer.

✠ **The Reading from Genesis**

(43:26-31; 45:1-16)

When Joseph came home, they brought the present in their hand to him in the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?” So they answered, “Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive.” Then he said, “Blessed be that man in God”; and they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves. Then Joseph lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your younger brother you said you would bring to me?” So he said, “May God grant you mercy, my son.” Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. Then he went into his inner chamber and wept there. He then washed his face and came out; and he composed himself. Now Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. Then he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph then said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were stunned in his presence. But Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said, “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Now therefore, do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to save life. For this is the second year of famine in the land, and five years still remain in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. For God sent me before you to preserve you as a remnant on the earth, and to sustain you as a great remnant. So now, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. “Hurry then and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, “God made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children’s children, your sheep and oxen, and all you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all you have, come to poverty; for five years of famine still remain.’ ” And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see it is my mouth that speaks to you. Therefore, you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all you have seen; and you shall hurry and

bring my father down here.” Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after this his brothers talked with him. Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh’s house, saying, “Joseph’s brothers have come.” So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

✠ **PROKEIMENON** Tone 4

I will pay my vows unto the Lord * in the presence of all His people.

℣. I believed, and therefore have I spoken; but I was greatly humbled.

✠ **The Reading from the Proverbs of Solomon** (21:22-30, 22:1-4)

He who guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from tribulation. A troublemaker is called rash, arrogant, and boastful, and he who bears malice is called lawless. Desires kill a slothful man, for his hands choose not to do anything. The ungodly man desires evil all day long, but the righteous man shows mercy and compassion unsparingly. The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord, for they offer them lawlessly. A false witness shall perish, but an obedient man will speak guardedly. An ungodly man resists shamelessly to the face, but the upright man himself understands his ways. There is no wisdom, there is no courage, there is no counsel for the ungodly. The horse is prepared for the day of war, but help is from the Lord. A good name is to be chosen more than much wealth, and good grace more than silver and gold. The rich man and the poor man meet with one another, but the Lord made both. An astute man, seeing an evil man severely punished, is himself instructed, but those passing by without discernment suffer loss. The fear of the Lord and riches and glory and life are the offspring of wisdom.

✠ **APOSTICHA**

Tone 5

I am rich in passions;

I am wrapped in the false robe of hypocrisy.

Lacking self-restraint, I delight in self-indulgence.

I show a boundless lack of love.

I see my mind cast down before the gates of repentance,

starved of true goodness and sick with inattention.

But make me like Lazarus, who was poor in sin,

lest I receive no answer when I pray,

no finger dipped in water to relieve my burning tongue; //

and make me dwell in Abraham’s bosom in Thy love for man!

℣. *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: I am rich in passions ...

℣. *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.*

With souls filled with boundless love, O holy martyrs,
you endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,
laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.
By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,
you have been lifted up to heaven,
and now you have boldness before Him.
Entreat Him to grant peace to the world//
and to our souls great 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 5 (*Theotokion*)

We call thee blessed, O Virgin Theotokos,
and we rightfully glorify thee:
the unshakeable wall, the invincible city,//
the firm protection and refuge of our souls.