

## Vespers texts for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021

✕ “LORD I CALL...”

**Tone 4**

[Music on website]

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.

*Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 4 (For the Resurrection)**

[Music on website]

We glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,  
by always honouring Thy life-creating Cross;  
by it Thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man,  
O almighty One.  
By it Thou hast renewed our entrance to heaven,//  
for Thou art good and the Lover of man.

*The righteous await me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Thou didst loose the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Saviour,  
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.  
By descending to hell, O almighty God,  
Thou didst break the bonds of death.  
Therefore, we adore Thy Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://  
“Glory to Thee, O all-powerful Lord!”

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Thou didst smash the gates of hell, O Lord,  
and by Thy death Thou didst demolish the kingdom of death.  
Thou didst deliver the race of men from corruption,//  
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

Come, O people,  
let us sing of the Saviour's Resurrection on the third day!  
By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.  
By it, we have received life and incorruption.  
Save us by Thy Resurrection!//  
O Life-creating and almighty Saviour, glory to Thee!

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

Angels and men sing of Thy Resurrection  
on the third day, O Saviour.  
By it, the ends of the earth have been illumined.  
By it, we have been delivered from bondage to the enemy.  
Save us by Thy Resurrection.  
O life-creating and almighty Saviour, glory to Thee!

*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.*

Thou hast shattered the gates of brass  
and destroyed the chains of death, O Christ God.  
Thou hast raised the fallen human race.  
O Lord, risen from the Dead, glory to Thee!

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

**Tone 6 (For Saint Mary of Egypt)**

[Music on website]

Thou wast standing before the doors of the Church,  
polluted with evil and unable to enter.  
Accused by thine own conscience, O wise one of God,  
thou wast converted to a better way of life.  
Looking upon the icon of the blessed Mother of God,  
thou didst condemn all thy past sins, O Mother Mary,//  
and didst go to bow before the precious Cross.

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

*Repeat: "Thou wast standing before the doors ..."*

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

Having worshipped at the holy places with great joy,  
thou didst receive saving grace for thy journey of virtue.  
Thou didst set out in haste to follow the narrow path,  
crossing the river Jordan,  
and going to live where the Baptist had dwelt.  
Through self-denial thou didst tame the savagery of the passions,  
and through violence thou didst break the rebellion of thy flesh, //  
taking the Kingdom of God by force.

*For His mercy is confirmed on us; and the truth of the Lord endureth  
forever.*

Thou didst live alone in the wilderness,  
and as thou didst erase the images of sin from thy soul,  
God marked it with the imprint of holiness.  
Filled with the spirit, O Blessed Mother,  
thou didst walk on the surface of the waters;  
by thy prayers thou didst ascend from earth to heaven.  
Since thou standest before Christ, O glorious Mary, //  
entreat Him with boldness to save our souls!

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

**Tone 4** (*For Saint Mary of Egypt*) [Music on website]

The power of Thy Cross has worked a wonder, O Christ.  
Through it a harlot became a champion of the ascetic life.  
She cast aside her weakness and bravely fought the devil,  
and having won the prize of victory, //  
she ceaselessly prays for our souls.

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

**Tone 4** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*) [Music on website]

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord  
through thee, O Virgin.  
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonder in thee:  
"At Thy right hand stood the Queen,"  
Thy Mother, the mediatrix of life,  
since God was freely born of her without a father.  
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,  
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder  
and brought it to His Father,  
joining it to the heavenly powers. //  
Christ who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

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✘ **READINGS** – No readings are appointed for today

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✘ **APOSTICHA**

**Tone 4** (*For the Resurrection*) [Music on website]

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,  
Thou hast annulled our ancestral curse.  
By descending to hell, Thou hast freed the eternal prisoners,  
granting incorruption to the human race. //  
Therefore in songs we glorify Thy life-creating and saving Resurrection.

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,  
Thou didst shake all of creation.  
By being laid in the tomb Thou hast raised those who dwelt in the tombs,  
granting life and incorruption to the human race. //  
Therefore in songs we glorify Thy rising on the third day.

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

The lawless people, O Christ,  
handed Thee over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,  
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.  
But voluntarily Thou didst endure burial,  
rising by Thy own power on the third day as God, //  
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

*v. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

With tears the women reached Thy tomb,  
searching for Thee, but not finding Thee.  
They wept with wailing and lamented:  
“Woe to us! Our Saviour, King of all,  
how wast Thou stolen?  
What place can hold Thy life-bearing body?”  
An Angel replied to them:  
“Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, //  
granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

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

**Tone 2 (For Saint Mary of Egypt)** [\[Music on website\]](#)

With the sword of abstinence,  
thou didst cut down the corrupt desires of thy soul and the  
passions of thy flesh.  
With the silence of the wilderness thou didst strangle thy sinful words  
and thoughts.  
Thou didst water the desert with the streams of thy tears,  
and madest the fruits of repentance to grow for us. //  
We celebrate thy memory, O holy one.

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

**Tone 2 (Aposticha Theotokion)** [\[Music on website\]](#)

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!  
Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,  
who carried in her arms her Creator?  
This birth is the will of God!  
Since thou didst carry Him as an infant in thine arms, O most pure one,  
and since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him,  
do not cease praying for us who honour thee, //  
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

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✠ **TROPARIA**

**Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 4** [\[Music on website\]](#)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel  
the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen, //  
granting the world great mercy!”

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

**Troparion of Saint Mary of Egypt in Tone 8** [\[Music on website\]](#)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother,  
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.  
By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;  
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. //  
Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 8** [\[Music on website\]](#)

For our sakes Thou wast born of a virgin,  
and didst endure crucifixion, O good one,  
and didst destroy Death by death,  
and being God didst reveal the Resurrection.  
Despise not the works of Thy hands  
but show Thy love for man, O merciful one.  
Accept the prayers of the one who gave birth to Thee //  
and save Thy despairing people, O our Saviour.