

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

TONE 2

3rd Sunday of Pascha / Holy Myrrhbearing Women / Holy Apostle James, the brother of St. John the Theologian

After Blessed be our God, Christ is risen is sung once from the Altar. The cantors then sing Christ is risen two more times.

Immediately after this we read the Introductory Psalm (without Come, let us worship).

“Lord I Call...” Tone 2

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!

**After “Lord I Call...” the Reader reads the rest of Ps. 140 & Ps. 141 on pgs 31 in the pew book, then:
STICHERA**

V. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 2*

Come, let us worship the Word of God
begotten of the Father before all ages,
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!
Having endured the Cross,
He was buried as He Himself desired.//
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

V. (9) *The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

Christ our Savior
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

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

With the Archangels
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!
He is our Savior, our Redeemer.
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//
to judge the world which He made.

V. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! Tone 2*

Early in the morning,
the myrrhbearing women brought spices to the tomb of the Lord.
They found the stone unexpectedly rolled away,
and they asked among themselves:
“Where are the seals of the tomb?
Where are Pilate’s guards?”
The radiant Angel came to the wondering women and proclaimed to them:
“Why do you seek with tears the Life Who gives life to the human race?
Christ our God has risen from the dead as almighty,//
granting us incorruption, life, enlightenment, and great mercy!”

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

O women disciples,
why do you mingle myrrh with your tears?
The stone is gone; the tomb is empty.
Behold, corruption destroyed by life!
The seals witness that the guards of the godless have watched in vain.
Mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God.
Hell is wailing.
Go with joy, and proclaim to the Apostles:
“Christ has slain death as the first-born of the dead.//
He awaits you in Galilee!”

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.*

The Myrrhbearers came early to Your tomb, O Christ,
seeking You to anoint Your most pure Body.
Enlightened by the Angel’s words,
they proclaimed joyous tidings to the Apostles:
“The Leader of our salvation has been raised;
He has captured death,//
granting the world eternal life and great mercy!”

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

Tone 4 *(As one valiant among the martyrs)*

You drew men up from the depths of vanity
with a fisherman’s rod of grace.
You obeyed the commands of the Teacher, O worthy James,
Who enlightened all your thoughts
and revealed you as an Apostle and holy preacher,//
for you expounded His incomprehensible divinity, O most blessed one.

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

You drew men up from the depths of vanity
with a fisherman’s rod of grace.
You obeyed the commands of the Teacher, O worthy James,
Who enlightened all your thoughts
and revealed you as an Apostle and holy preacher,//
for you expounded His incomprehensible divinity, O most blessed one.

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

The illumination of the Spirit descended on you in the form of fire
and made you a divine vessel, O blessed one,/ dispelling with power the darkness of godlessness;/
enlightening the world with the brightness of your all-wise words,
O preacher of mysteries, O leader of the Apostles,// James, the eye-witness of Christ.

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

You illumined those lying in the darkness of ignorance
with the lightning flash of your preaching, O glorious James.
You revealed them to be sons through faith of the Master and God
Whose passion and death you did imitate with zeal.
You became an heir of glory, O wise one, //
as one speaking from God, and a most faithful disciple.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6

The myrrhbearing women reached Your tomb
and saw the seals of the tomb broken.
Not finding Your most pure Body, they lamented, saying:
“Who has stolen our hope?
Who has taken the dead One, naked and anointed,
the sole consolation of His Mother?
How can the Life of the dead have died?
How can the Capturer of hell have been buried? //
But arise in three days as You said, O Savior, and save our souls!”

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 2

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame. //
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Reading is from the Universal Epistle of James. [1:1-12]

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greeting. Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing
of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, that you may be perfect
and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let them ask God, who gives to all
generously and without reproaching, and it will be given them. But let them ask in faith, doubting
nothing, for one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that
person must not suppose that someone double-minded, unstable in all their ways, will receive
anything from the Lord. Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation,
because like the flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and
withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So will the rich man fade away in the
midst of his pursuits. Blessed is the one who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will
receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him.

The Reading is from the Universal Epistle of James. [1:13-27]

Beloved, let no one say when they are tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when they are lured and enticed by their own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good giving and every perfect gift is from on high, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow of change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Know this, my beloved brethren. Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for a person's anger does not work the justice of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, they are like a person who observes their natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, not being hearer that forget but doers that act, shall be blessed in their doing. If any one thinks they are religious, and does not bridle their tongue but deceives their heart, their religion is vain. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

The Reading is from the Universal Epistle of James. [2:1-13]

My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if someone with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and pauper in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while you say to the pauper, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you, is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme that honourable name which was invoked over you? If you really fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself,' you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not kill.' If you do not commit adultery but do kill, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgement is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy; yet mercy triumphs over judgement.

APOSTICHA

Tone 2 Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
has enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.//
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

(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 1

You followed Christ and despised the world,
keeping His teachings in your treasury, O godly James.
You were revealed to be His Apostle.

Therefore, going to the nations with the commandments of the Savior,
you enlightened the souls in the darkness of delusion and passion,//
that they might believe in the consubstantial Trinity.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 5

Joseph, together with Nicodemus, / took You down from the Tree, /
Who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment.

He gazed on Your body - dead, naked, and unburied,

and, in grief and tender compassion, he lamented: / “Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus! /

A short while ago, the sun beheld You hanging on the Cross, / and it hid itself in darkness. /

The earth quaked in fear at the sight. / The veil of the Temple was torn in two. /

Lo, now I see You willingly submit to death for our sake. / How shall I bury You, O my God? /

How can I wrap You in a shroud? / How can I touch Your most pure Body with my hands? /

What songs can I sing for Your exodus, O compassionate One? / I magnify Your Passion. /

I glorify Your burial, / and Your holy Resurrection, / crying, ‘O Lord, glory to You!’”

“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs
bestowing life!” (*once*)

TROPARIA

Tone 2 When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, / You slew hell with the splendor of Your
Godhead. / And when from the depths You raised the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried
out://“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 2 The noble Joseph, / when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree, /
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, / and placed it in a new tomb. / But You rose
on the third day, O Lord, // granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 8 Troparion (St. James)

You were called to be a disciple and warrior of Christ, one of the exalted choir of Apostles. / With
your brother John, you abandoned all to follow the Master, O James; / you were filled with the Holy
Spirit and proclaimed Him to all. / You bowed your head to the sword, the first of the twelve to shed
your blood! // We celebrate your memory, O blessed one!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 2 Troparion (Pentecostarion)

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:

“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;

but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!

So proclaim: “The Lord is risen, //
granting the world great mercy.”