

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

TONE 3

36th Sunday after Pentecost / Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste / St George the New-martyr of Sofia
"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

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.

Reader reads the rest of Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 on pgs 31 & 32 in the pew book, then:

STICHERA

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

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior, / death's dominion has been shattered; / the devil's delusion
destroyed. / The race of man, being saved by faith, // always offers You a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord. / Paradise has been opened again. / All
creation, praising You, // always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son. / I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit: / the
undivided, uncreated Godhead, // the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ, / and we glorify and praise Your
Resurrection, // for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

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

Tone 1 (for St. Blaise) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)

The height of the virtues and foundation of the faithful, / the glory of bishops and boast of the
martyrs, / summons all the faithful to his holy memorial with splendor // that they may praise him
in song as a victor who glorified God on earth.

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.*

You were moved by a vision of Christ, / the Angel of great counsel, / as you beheld the evil
assembly, O wise martyr. / Going at once to the tribunal, you took the trophies of victory in your
hand, // and now you dwell in the heavens, O all-holy one.

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

With the drops of your blood, O martyr Blaise, / you wove a beautiful robe for the Church, /
embroidered by your well-anointed fingers / and dyed with your manifold sufferings. / She wears
it as a beautiful bride // singing hymns to Christ the Bridegroom.

*V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 4** for St. George the Newmartyr of Sofia)(As one valiant among martyrs)*

Having vanquished the adversary as an invincible warrior, O passion-bearer George, you vanquished the noetic foe with the weaponry of the Faith; and having lawfully completed your race, you have received a crown from God. Entreat Him, that those who with faith celebrate your most honored memory may be delivered from corruption and tribulations.

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

Imprisoned in a dungeon and strengthened by divine teaching, O passion-bearer George, in no way did you submit to the infidels; wherefore, through fiery torture, rejoicing, you passed over to Christ. Entreat him that those who with faith celebrate your most honored memory may be delivered from corruption and tribulations.

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

By the power of Christ you set at nought the assault of the enemy, O passion-bearer George, and put the ungodly to shame by your faith, and gladdened the Orthodox by the triumph bestowed upon you by Christ our God. Entreat him that those who with faith celebrate your most honored memory may be delivered from corruption and tribulations.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4** (for St. Blaise)*

You were a good tutor of children
and a teacher of true worship.

By the divine power of your godly words,
you led the God-loving women to the struggle of martyrdom,
supporting them in strength for Christ.

Together with them you finished well the course of your sufferings,
rejoicing with splendor in the bridal chamber of heaven,
adorned with a double crown of divine glory./ /

With them you ever pray that peace and great mercy be granted to us.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 3** (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you/ /
to be the Theotokos.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias. [43:9-14^a]

Thus says the Lord: All the nations have been assembled and rulers from them shall be assembled; who will declare these things among them? or who will make heard to you the things from the beginning? Let them bring their witnesses and let them be justified, and them hear and let them speak what is true. Be my witnesses, and I too am a witness, says the Lord God, and my servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe me, and understand that I AM; before me there was no other God, and after me there will not be. I am God, and apart from me there is none who saves. I have declared and I have saved; I reprov'd, and there was no strange god among you. You are my witnesses and I am a witness, says the Lord God. Again from the beginning I AM, and there is none who can deliver from my hands; I will make, and who will turn it back? Thus says the Lord God who redeems us, the holy one of Israel.

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment will touch them. In the eyes of fools they seemed to die and their departure was reckoned a disaster and their going from us their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Like gold in the furnace he tried them and like a whole burnt offering he accepted them. And in the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through stubble. They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones and visitation on his elect.

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [5:16-6:3^b]

The just live for ever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with his right hand he will cover them, and with his arm he will shield them. He will take his zeal as his whole armour, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and will wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against his frenzied foes. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap from the clouds to the target, as from a well-drawn bow, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen, therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High.

Vespers continues with the Augmented Litany

LITY

Tone 2 Christ our God has revealed you to your flock, O Bishop Nicholas, / as an example of faith and an image of meekness. / For you brought a sweet fragrance into Myra, / shining brightly by your divine acts of virtue, / as the advocate of orphans and widows.// Therefore never cease to intercede that our souls may be saved!

Tone 1 The radiant martyr has gladdened the heavenly hosts by his glorious suffering and has moved us on earth to exalt the day of his repose. And glorifying thereon the struggles which he endured for Christ even unto death, let us cry out to him thus: Pray for us, O holy George, that we may receive a dwelling-place in paradise and great mercy.

Tone 2 Be glad in the Lord, O city of Sofia! Rejoice, all ye outlying lands, and with praises hymn the new athlete George, who in these latter days suffered and showed forth endurance equal to that of the ancients! Let us glorify Christ Who strengthened him and gave him victory over the adversaries, Who invested him with a splendid crown, has imparted the fragrance of sweet savor to his relics on earth, and through his supplications gives us great mercy.

Tone 3 In the struggle of martyrdom you shone forth in goodly measure, and, strengthened by divine signs, you destroyed the power of the demons. You put to shame the teachers of Amirakhan, amazed the people of Serdica and the surrounding parts, and brought glory to the choir of martyrs, with whom you now abide, invested with a crown of incorruption by the right hand of Christ, out of love for Whom you committed yourself to the fire, O blessed one. Pray to God in our behalf, O greatmartyr George.

Tone 4 By your valiant suffering you amazed the armies of the angels, who saw you undaunted by the fire and hastening to the flame for the sake of Christ, as the three youths hastened to the Babylonian furnace. Abiding now with them, O George, be mindful of those who honor you and bow down before the shrine of your relics.

Glory... **Tone 5** O brethren, let us hasten with love to this present festival of the glorious martyr George. Let the armies of heaven be glad, and let the clouds drop sweetness as on the day of his honorable immolation. Let the earth marvel at the all-glorious declaration of the splendid youth: "Break my body with blows and burn it with fire, but I will never deny my Christ! Sweeter is it to accept tortures, which will vouchsafe me yet greater spiritual blessings!" Who will not marvel, who will not glorify, who will not chant hymns of praise to him, saying: O martyr George, entreat God in behalf of us who honor your memory and bow down before the shrine of your relics, that we may be delivered from every assault of the adversary, and that our souls may be saved.

Now & ever... **Tone 5** O most precious Virgin, / you are the gate, the temple, / the palace, the throne of the King. / From you, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord, / appeared to those asleep in darkness. / He is the Sun of Righteousness, / Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created. / Since you possess motherly boldness before Him, O all praised Lady,// pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

When the singers have completed the stichera, the deacon says:

God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trih~~m~~eethous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of the holy newmartyr George of Sofia and the holy ieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste, whose remembrance we fulfill, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name).

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, of the holy newmartyr George of Sofia and the holy ieromartyr Blasie, bishop of Sebaste, whose remembrance we also fulfill, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (x1)

Choir: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (twice)

The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:

Priest: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*once*)

Choir: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*twice*)

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ, / but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection. // Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord, / enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation. / Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing: // O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

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

You are the changeless God, / Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed. / Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross. / It was filled with fear while praising Your patience. / By descending to hell and rising on the third day, // You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

You endured death, O Christ, / to deliver the race of men from death. / You rose from the dead on the third day, / raising with Yourself those who knew You as God // and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6 (for St. George)

Be glad, O city of the Bulgars, namesake of wisdom*, for within you the right victorious martyr George the all-comely shone forth in suffering; for, having manfully trampled underfoot all the machinations of the tyrannical foe, he received a crown of victory as is meet, and preached to all the people, that they bow down in worship before the one God in Trinity. To Him do we also cry out with boldness, that He bring peace to the world and save our souls.

* Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, is a Greek word, meaning "wisdom."

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 6 (Theotokion)

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord, / was born of you, O most pure Virgin. / By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse. / Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God! / Rejoice, O celestial Joy! / Rejoice, O Lady://the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

TROPARIA

Tone 3 Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world//great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Blaise) By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / you became a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood.// O Hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

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

Tone 4 Troparion (Newmartyr George) In much-tried patience, O blessed martyr George, you endured death by fire; and after your end you received with the choirs of the martyrs an imperishable crown from Christ. Dwelling now in the land of the meek, as is meet, unceasingly entreat Christ God in behalf of us who with faith bow down before the shrine of your relics.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 4 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion

The mystery hidden from all eternity, / unknown even by Angels, / through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth: / God incarnate by union without confusion. / He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us, / by which He resurrected the first-created man, // saving our souls from death.

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, Christ God our Hope, glory to You.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: (*reads apolysis*)...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers...

Choir: Amen.