

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

TONE 2

3rd Sunday after Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Forerunner

“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!*

The Angel proclaimed You,
the crucified and buried Master.
He told the women: “Come, see the place where He lay!
He is risen as He said,
for He is almighty.”
We worship You, O only immortal One.//
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

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

By Your Cross, You destroyed the curse of the tree.
By Your burial You destroyed the dominion of death.
By Your rising, You enlightened the race of man.//
O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You!

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 gates of death opened to You from fear, O Lord.
When the guards of hell saw You they were afraid,
for You demolished the gates of brass and smashed the iron chains.//
You have led us from the darkness and shadows of death, and have broken our bonds.

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

Tone 4 John is born, ending Zachariah's silence.
The father cannot keep silent when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.
When at first he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,
but now John has been born to free his father:
the one who heard the good news,
and from whom was born the voice of the Word, //
the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.

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

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The father cannot keep silent when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.
When at first he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,
but now John has been born to free his father:
the one who heard the good news,
and from whom was born the voice of the Word, //
the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.

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

Today the voice of the Word is born,
releasing Zachariah's silence,
revealing the harvest of the Church,
loosing the bonds of barrenness.
The candlestick of the Light is drawing near.
The ray of the Sun proclaims His coming//
for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

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

The messenger of God's Word comes forth from the womb:
the greatest among those born of women;
the most high of the Prophets.
Wonderful events precede the divine mystery:
a seedless conception; a marvelous birth!//
Glory to You, Who have worked miracles for our salvation!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 8** (for the Forerunner)*

Elizabeth greeted the Virgin Mary:
“Why is it that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?
You bear the King, and I His soldier;
you the Giver of the Law,
and I its proclaimer;
you bear the Word, and I the voice//
that preaches the Kingdom of Heaven.”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 2** (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

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.

APOSTICHA

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

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

By the Tree You destroyed the curse of the Tree, O Savior.
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection.//
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

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

When You were seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Your side with a spear.
The Hebrews, not knowing Your power,
asked that Your tomb might be sealed, /but through the mercy of Your compassion,/ You accepted
the tomb / and rose on the third day!//O Lord, glory to You!

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

O Christ, the Giver of life,
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,
descending into hell as the Mighty One
to save those who awaited Your coming,
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.
Grant also to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day//
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

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

Tone 6 Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of grace;
the Virgin conceived the King of glory.
Both mothers greeted each other with a kiss.
The infant leaped in the womb, praising his Master.
His mother was amazed and cried out:
“Why is this granted me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?//
He will save the forsaken people, since He possesses great mercy.”

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!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 4 Troparion (Forerunner)***
O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,
although we cannot praise you worthily,
we honor you in love at your nativity,
for by it you ended your father’s silence and your mother’s barrenness,//
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

*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.