

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

TONE 3

4th Sunday of Pascha/Paralytic/Repose of St. Alexis Toth

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 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.

**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 3*

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! Tone 1*

With Your pure hand, You created man,
and You came to heal the sick, O compassionate Christ.
By Your word You raised the paralytic at the Sheep’s Pool,
and cured the pain of the woman with the issue of blood.
You had mercy on the daughter of the Canaanite woman,
and did not reject the request of the centurion.

Therefore we cry to You://
“Glory to You, O almighty Lord!”

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

With Your pure hand, You created man,
and You came to heal the sick, O compassionate Christ.
By Your word You raised the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool,
and cured the pain of the woman with the issue of blood.
You had mercy on the daughter of the Canaanite woman,
and did not reject the request of the centurion.

Therefore we cry to You://
"Glory to You, O almighty Lord!"

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 Paralytic was like an unburied corpse.
He saw You and shouted: "Lord, have mercy on me!
My bed has become my grave! Why should I live?
What use is the Sheep's Pool to me?
I have no one to put me into the pool when the waters are stirred,
but I come to You, O Fountain of healing.
Raise me up, that with all I may cry to You://
'Glory to You, O almighty Lord!'"

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

Tone 6* *(from the Menaion, for St. Alexis)*

Come, all who love the saints,
let us honor the new Man of God,
a fruitful branch of Christ, the True Vine,
a defender of the Orthodox Church,
the thrice-blessed Priest Alexis,//
our father and teacher!

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

Zealous for the Law of God,
King Josiah taught Israel to serve only the Lord.
Our divinely-wise Father Alexis
guided his people to the Orthodox Faith,
teaching them to cry aloud://
"O Lord, have mercy on us!"

* Music for the stichera for St. Alexis from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

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

Our holy Father Alexis,
guided by the Spirit of Truth,
exposed the error of ignorance
and led his people to the True Faith.
In humility concealing his virtues from others,//
he thereby received a heavenly crown.

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

Today the Church celebrates a feast of great joy,
for the holy Priest Alexis guides his sheep back to the knowledge of the Truth,
watering them with the ever-flowing fountain of his teachings,
and instructing them to sing://
“Glory to God for His great mercy!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 5** (from the Pentecostarion)*

Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
He came to the Sheep’s Pool, called in Hebrew “Bethesda.”
It had five porches, each filled with a multitude of the sick,
for at certain times an angel of the Lord stirred up the water,
and granted strength to those who approached in faith.
There the Lord saw a man who for many years had been afflicted.
He said: “Do you want to be whole?”
The sick man replied to the Lord:
“I have no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred.
I have spent all my wealth on physicians,
but have not been granted mercy!”
Then the Physician of souls and bodies said to him:
“Take up your bed and walk!//
Proclaim My power and great mercy to the ends of the earth!”

*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 Proverbs (10, 3, 8)

The memory of a just man is praised, and the Lord's blessing is upon his head. Blessed is one who has found wisdom; a mortal who knows understanding. To import her is better than treasures of gold and silver. She is more valuable than precious stones; nothing of value equals her worth. Justice proceeds from her mouth; she bears law and mercy on her tongue. Therefore, my children, listen to me, for I speak weighty things. And blessed is the one who keeps my ways. For my goings out are the goings out of life, and favour is prepared from the Lord. Therefore I exhort you, and utter my voice to the children of humankind. Because I, Wisdom, have prepared counsel, knowledge and understanding. I have called on them. Counsel and sureness are mine; prudence is mine, strength is mine. I love those who are my friends, while those who seek me will find grace. You innocent, then, understand cunning; you untaught, take it to heart. Listen to me, for I will speak weighty things, and I will open right things from my lips. Because my throat will meditate truth; lying lips are abominable before me. All the words of my mouth are with justice, there is nothing crooked in them nor twisted. They are all straight for those who understand, and right for those who find knowledge. For I teach you what is true, that your hope may be in the Lord and that you may be filled with spirit.

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [Proverbs 10:31-32 & Selection]

The mouth of a just man distils wisdom; the lips of men know graces. The mouth of the wise meditates wisdom; justice delivers them from death. When a just man dies hope is not lost; for a just son is born for life, and among his good things he will pluck the fruit of justice. There is light at all times for the just, and they will find grace and glory from the Lord. The tongue of the wise knows what is good, and wisdom will take its rest in their hearts. The Lord loves holy hearts; while all who are blameless in the way are acceptable to him. The wisdom of the Lord will enlighten the face of the understanding; for she anticipates those who desire her before they know it, and is easily contemplated by those who love her. One who rises for her at dawn will not toil, and one who keeps vigil because of her will be without care. For she goes about seeking those who are worthy of her, and shows herself favourably to those on her paths. Wickedness will never prevail against wisdom. Because of this I too became a lover of her beauty and became her friend, and I sought her out from my youth, and I sought to take her as my bride, because the Master of all things loved her, for she is an initiate of the knowledge of God and one who chooses his works. Her toils are virtues; she herself teaches sobriety and prudence; justice and courage, than which things nothing is more useful in human life. If anyone longs for much experience, she knows how to compare things of old and those that are to come. She knows the twists of words and the explanations of riddles. She foresees signs and wonders and the outcomes of seasons and times. And to all she is a good counsellor. Because immortality is in her, and fame in the fellowship of her words. Therefore I appealed to the Lord and besought him and said from my whole heart, 'God of my Fathers and Lord of mercy, who made all things by your Word, and established humanity by your Wisdom to be sovereign over the creatures that had come into being by you, and to order the world in holiness and justice, give me Wisdom who sits by your throne, and do not reject me from among your children, for I am your servant and the son of your maid servant. Send her out from your holy dwelling and from the throne of your glory, that she may be present with me and teach me what is

well pleasing before you. And she will guide me with knowledge and guard me with her glory. For all the thoughts of mortals are wretched and their ideas are unstable.'

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [Selection]

When a just man is praised, peoples will be glad; for immortality is his memory, because it is known both to God and humankind, and his soul is pleasing to the Lord. Therefore, O men [28], desire wisdom, and long for it and be instructed. For her beginning is love and keeping of laws. Honour Wisdom, that you may reign for ever. I will declare the mysteries of God to you and not hide them from you. Because he is both the guide of Wisdom and the One who sets right the wise. In his hand are all prudence, and knowledge of works. Wisdom, the artificer of all things, taught me, for in her is an understanding spirit, holy, brightness of the eternal light and image of the goodness of God. She makes friends of God and prophets. She is more lovely than the sun, and beyond every order of the stars. If compared to light, she is found before it. She delivered her devotees from toils, and guided them in straight paths. She gave them holy knowledge and protected them from those who lay in ambush for them. She awarded them a mighty contest, that all might know that true religion is more powerful than all, and that wickedness can never prevail against Wisdom, nor will justice in passing sentence overlook evil people. For they said in themselves, not reasoning correctly, 'Let us overpower the just one, let us not spare his saintliness, nor feel reverence for the aged grey hairs of an elder. Let our strength be law. Let us lie in ambush for the just, for he is a hindrance to us and he is opposed to our works and alleges the sins of our upbringing. He claims to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He has become a reproof to our thoughts. He is grievous for us even to look at, for his life is not like others and his paths are quite different. We are reckoned by him to be counterfeit, and he keeps away from our ways as from filth. He calls the end of just people blessed. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen to him at the end. Let us examine him by insult and torture, that we may know his forbearance and make trial of his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for he will have protection from his own words.' This was how they argued, and they were deceived, for their wickedness had blinded them. And they did not know the mysteries of God, nor did they judge that you alone are God, who have authority over life and death, who save in time of tribulation and deliver from every ill; pitying and merciful, giving grace to your holy ones, and by your right arm resisting the proud.

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!

(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 Zion:

“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 6** (from the Menaion, for St. Alexis)*

Fleeing the harm that comes from vanity and pride,
you strove to hide your virtues from the eyes of others
and patiently endured trials and afflictions.
Therefore the Lord, Who sees all things, //
has glorified you, O our Father Alexis.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 8 (from the Pentecostarion)

Solomon's porch was filled with the sick.

In the middle of the feast,

Christ found a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years.

He shouted to him in a commanding voice:

"Do you want to be healed?"

The sick man replied: "Lord, when the water is stirred, I have no man to lower me into the pool."

The Lord said to him:

"Pick up your bed!

Now that you are healed, see that you sin no more!"

Show to us Your great mercy, O Lord, //

through the prayers of the Theotokos!

"Christ is risen from the dead,

trampling down death by death,

and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!" *(once)*

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 4 Troparion (St. Alexis)

O righteous Father Alexis,

our heavenly intercessor and teacher,

divine adornment of the Church of Christ,

entreat the Master of All

to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America,

to grant peace to the world //

and to our souls great mercy!

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.