

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY ON APRIL 21, 2021

TONE 5; SIXTH WEDNESDAY IN GREAT LENT

THEODORE OF SYKEON, BISHOP OF ANASTASIOPOLIS; APOSTLE NATHANAEL (SIMON THE ZEALOT);
MARTYR NEARCHOS; VSEVOLOD, GREAT PRINCE OF PSKOV; MARTYR EPIPODIOS OF LYONS

- *For the full, invariable parts of the Presanctified Divine Liturgy, consult “[The Liturgikon](#)” (P. 327-367); “[Ninth Hour, Typica and Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts](#)” by the Department of Sacred Music; and the digital text available in [PDF](#) and [RTF](#).*

“O LORD I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE FIVE

For the Sixth Wednesday in Tone Five

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

I am rich in passions; I am clothed in vile garments of hypocrisy. Through lack of abstinence, I delight in foul deeds, and show a boundless lack of tender-heartedness. Cast before the gates of repentance, I despise my mind, thirsting for every blessing, but ill from lack of concentration. Make me, O Lord, like Lazarus, who was poor in sin, lest I receive no answer when I pray for the finger dipped in water to relieve my burning tongue. Make me to dwell in the bosom of Abraham, as the lover of mankind.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

I am rich in passions ... (repeat above)

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

With boundless love in your hands, O holy martyrs, ye did not forsake Christ; enduring the various wounds of sufferings, ye laid low the torturers' impudence. Preserving unbending and unshakeable faith, ye wert translated into heaven. Since ye received boldness before Him, entreat Him to grant peace to the world, and for our souls Great Mercy.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Jesus told those who were with Him when He walked in the flesh by the River Jordan: My friend Lazarus is already dead, given over for burial. But I rejoice for your sake, O friends, for by his death ye shall learn that I know all, for I am God, even though I have appeared as man. Let us go and bring Him to life, so that death may really feel its utter destruction, and the victory I shall win, granting the world Great Mercy.

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Imitating Mary and Martha, O faithful, let us offer divine works to the Lord as they did, that He might come and raise our minds, which now lie dead in the tomb of carelessness, feeling no fear of God, and deprived of any living action. Behold, O Lord, Who of old didst raise Thy friend Lazarus by Thy coming. Give life to us also, O bountiful One, granting us Great Mercy.

For the Sixth Wednesday in Tone Six

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Lazarus is in the tomb two days, seeing the dead of all ages, beholding strange sights of terror, a great crowd held by the bonds of hell. His relatives grieve bitterly, looking at his tomb. But Christ

is coming to bring His friend to life, so that one harmonious song may be sung by all: Blessed art Thou, O Savior, have mercy on us.

For St. Theodore in Tone One (Thou art the joy**)**

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Since thou becamest the Word's own sacred initiate * and shonest forth in virtues with the light of the Spirit, * thou grantest gifts of healings to us that draw nigh * on thy sacred memorial * and who extol thee and honor thee piously, * O thrice-blessed Father Theodore.*

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Since thou becamest the Word's own sacred initiate ... (repeat above)

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

With rays of heavenly brightness, thou shinest round about; * and by Christ's gracious power, thou dost freely grant healings * unto them that ask thee with faith and that keep * thy memorial rev'rently, * O wonderworking and truly divinely-blest * wonder-worthy Father Theodore.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Thou wast shown forth as a worker of the blest vineyard in truth * by doing Christ's commandments, O God-bearer and Hierarchy; * having thus received the Lord's Kingdom on high * as thy mystic denarius, * thou intercedest unceasingly for us all, * who now honor thee, O Theodore.

THEOTOKION FROM THE MENAION IN TONE ONE (Thou art the joy**)**

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

O thou divinely-blest Maiden, who art divinely graced, * thou art the strong protection and defense of all sinners; * the sure and mighty help of those bowed down by grief; * and the refuge and safe retreat * of all the faithful, O Virgin Mother of God, * who art hymned in Heaven and on earth.

- *The clergy make the Holy Entrance with the censer, and then we say:*

O GLADSOME LIGHT

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

The First Reading

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: I will be well-pleasing before the Lord in the land of the living. I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Genesis. (43:26-31; 45:1-16)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which they had with them, and bowed down to him to the ground. And he inquired about their welfare, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" They said, "Your servant our father is well, he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and made obeisance. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" Then Joseph made haste, for his heart yearned for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there. Then he washed his face and came out; and controlling himself he said, "Let food be served." Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him; and he cried, "Make every one go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, I pray you." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Make haste and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry; you shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have; and there I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come; lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Make haste and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

At the end of the first reading, the Priest holds a lighted candle and the censer in his right hand, and the reader reads the Prokeimenon for the second reading.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: My vows unto the Lord will I pay in the presence of all His people. I believed, wherefore I spake; I was humbled exceedingly.

Command!

The people kneel. The Priest turns toward the Prothesis Table, elevates the censer and the candle, which are in his right hand at head level and makes the sign of the cross:

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Then standing in the Holy Doors, he bows to the Icon of Christ on the iconostasis and says:

Priest: The Light of Christ...

He then blesses the people, making the sign of the cross with the censer and the candle, and continues...

Priest: ...illumineth all!

The people stand and the Priest returns to the Holy Table and gives away the candle and censer as the Deacon says:

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs. (21:23-22:4)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: He who keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble. “Scoffer” is the name of the proud, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride. The desire of the sluggard kills him for his hands refuse to labor. All day long the wicked covets, but the righteous gives and does not hold back. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent. A false witness will perish, but the word of a man who hears will endure. A wicked man puts on a bold face, but an upright man considers his ways. No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel, can avail against the Lord. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord. A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all. A prudent man sees danger and hides himself; but the simple go on, and suffer for it. The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

- *The Presanctified Divine Liturgy continues as usual. Remember to include the “Litany for Those Preparing for Illumination.”*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Gregory the Dialogist, pope of Rome, whose Presanctified Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and the protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our righteous father Theodore of Sykeon, bishop of Anastasiopolis; Apostle Nathanael (Simon the Zealot); Martyr Nearchos; Vsevolod, great prince of Pskov; and Martyr Epipodios of Lyons, Pope of Rome, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Choir: Amen.

As the people come forward to reverence the Holy Cross, the Reader recites Psalms 33 and 144. Afterward, the priest concludes the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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