

MARCH 27

Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 4 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

The Fast, the source of blessings,

now has brought us midway through its course.

Having pleased God with the days that have passed,

we look forward to making good use of the days to come,

for growth in blessings brings forth even greater achievements.

While pleasing Christ, the Giver of all blessings, we cry:

“O Lord, Who didst fast and endure the Cross for our sake,

make us worthy to share blamelessly in Thy Paschal victory,

by living in peace and rightly giving glory to Thee//

and to the Father and the Holy Spirit!”

v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Tone 5 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

Those who thirst for spiritual blessings
practice their good deeds in secret,
not announcing them in the streets and marketplace,
but keeping them hidden deep within their hearts;
and He Who sees all that is done in secret
will reward us for our abstinence.
Let us complete the Fast without wearing gloomy faces!
Let us pray without ceasing in the inner chamber of our souls:
“Our Father, Who art in heaven, lead us not into temptation,//
but deliver us from the Evil One!”

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

Tone 5 (for the Martyrs)

With souls filled with boundless love, O holy martyrs,
you endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,
laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.
By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,
you have been lifted up to heaven,
and now you have boldness before Him.
Entreat Him to grant peace to the world//
and to our souls great mercy!

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

Tone 1 (for the Cross) (O all-praised martyrs)

Let us cleanse our souls in the waters of the Fast!
Let us approach the precious and most pure Cross of the Lord,
venerating it in faith and drawing forth divine enlightenment,
reaping even now the rich harvest://
eternal salvation, peace, and great mercy!

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

O Cross, boast of the Apostles,

surrounded by Archangels, Powers, and Principalities:
save us from all harm who bow down before thee!
Enable us to fulfill the divine course of abstinence//
and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved!

v. (5) For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Tone 7 *(for the Cross)* *(Today Judas keeps vigil)*

Today, as we bow before the Cross of the Lord, we cry:
"Rejoice, O Tree of life, the destroyer of Hades!
Rejoice, O joy of the world, the slayer of corruption!
Rejoice, O power that scatters demons!
O invincible weapon, confirmation of the faithful//
protect and sanctify those who kiss thee!"

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

Tone 4 *(from the Menaion, for St. Matrona) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

With reason, thou didst oppose the harsh threats and naked savagery of
unbelievers,
for thou wast both divinely and humanly wise.
Thou didst foresee the delight of things to come that remain unchanged
throughout the ages.
Thou didst receive this unchanging delight
as thou didst depart from earth to the mansions of heaven//
to the choir of unending voices, O glorious 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.

(Repeat: "With reason...")

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

Thou wast adorned with the wounds of thy patient suffering;
it was given thee to behold the splendor of the Kingdom

and the fair beauty of thy Bridegroom.
Thou didst draw near to the Source of good things,
from where, as is fitting,//
thou didst richly receive the fruit of divine gladness and unending glory.

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

The yoke of slavery did not prevent thee, O most glorious one,
from following the patience of the martyrs,
nor did feminine weakness, starvation, or beatings.
Thou didst endure torture with fervent strength of soul.
Therefore thou hast received a heavenly dwelling place://
standing before thy Creator, thou art adorned with the crown of grace.

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

Tone 8 *(Theotokion, from the Triodion)*

Today He Who by nature is unapproachable approaches me.
He Who freed me from my passions endures the Passion.
The Light of the blind is spat upon by lawless lips.
For the sake of captives He gives His back to scourging.
When His pure Virgin Mother beheld Him on the Cross, she cried in pain:
“Woe is me, O my Child! What hast Thou done?
Thy beauty was fairer than that of any man,
yet now Thou dost appear lifeless,
without form or comeliness.
Woe is me, O my Light!
I cannot bear to see Thee sleeping.
My soul is wounded, for a sword has pierced my heart,
and yet I praise Thy Passion.
I bow down before Thy compassion.//
O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, / Who alone does wondrous things!
(Ps. 71:19)

V. Give the king Thy justice, O God, and Thy righteousness to the royal son!
(Ps.71:1)

Reading from Genesis (9:18-10:1)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

It is good for me / to be near my God. *(Ps. 72:26a)*

V. Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. (Ps. 72:1)

Reading from Proverbs (12:23-13:9)

(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.