

THURSDAY IN CHEESEFARE WEEK

AT MATINS

At **G**od is the Lord..., the Troparion of the saint of the day (Twice);

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion for Thursday in the same Tone.

After the first reading from the Psalter (13th Kathisma), the Sessional hymns of repentance in the Tone of the week from the Oktoechos.

After the second reading from the Psalter (14th Kathisma), the following Sessional hymns:

In Tone V:

The forty days and the week of cleansing that proceedeth them * are today embraced by all the apostles, * whereby they sanctify this season of fasting * which they themselves received from Christ the Redeemer, * proclaiming His Resurrection unto all ** and interceding with the Lord that our souls find mercy.

Glory ..., Repeat.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone V:

Those who have a steadfast hope in thee, O pure Virgin, * find protection and deliverance from a multitude of temptations, * dangers, and wicked circumstances. * Do thou intercede together with the apostles, * before thy Son, ** and save all those who sing thy praises.

The Canons

Note: We use the two Canons from the Oktoechos, and the Canon to the saint of the day from the Menaion in the normal way. However, when the Three-Cantled Canons from the Triodion are appointed to be used, we omit both the Canons from the Oktoechos; and we use six Troparia (including the Irmos) from the Canon of the Menaion and then eight Troparia from the Three-Cantled Canons. We also sing as Katavasia, the Irmos of the 3rd Canon, (2nd Canon from the Triodion).

ODE IV

First Three-Cantled Canon, by Joseph in Tone IV:

Irmos: The prophet heard of Thy coming ...,

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

Thy disciples shone forth throughout the world with the light of the knowledge of God, overcoming and destroying the darkness of delusion. By their prayers O compassionate One, save those who sing Thy praises.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

The entranceway to the Fast hath been crowned with the fruits of ascetic endeavors, welcoming those who draw near in sobriety, who, with hymns and mystical songs, make haste, O ye faithful, to enter therein.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

Taking up garments of death, by yielding to sensual desires, I have clothed myself in wretchedness. But do Thou clothe me, O Son of God, with the radiant garment of renewal.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

I have passed my life in wickedness and all uncleanness; but unto Thee, O All-merciful One, do I flee for refuge. Do Thou come quickly, and save me, O Christ God, through Thy compassionate goodness.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos save us.

Theotokion: Beyond speech didst thou conceive, and in a supra-natural manner didst thou bear, O Mother of God, Him who doth reign over creation, and before whom we beseech thee to intercede without ceasing, that He deliver from every peril, those who call thee blessed.

Second Three-Canticle Canon, by Theodore in Tone II:

Irmos: From a Virgin didst Thou come forth ...,

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

With the radiance of your teaching, O apostles, ye have dispersed the darkness of self-indulgence; through your abstinence ye have enlightened all mankind, both sinners and the righteous, wherefore ye are praised by all.

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

Like unto radiant pearls of the Word, O apostles, through your abstinence ye have adorned all the ends of the earth, ever restoring our souls to their true nobility.

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

Ye have cooled the raging furnace of the passions with the dew of fasting, O apostles, teaching all mankind to keep that which cannot be stolen, a dwelling-place of holiness.

Glory ..., I have sinned more than all, and unrepentant like Manasses, I have transgressed. O Lord, teach me the ways of repentance, before death doth take me.

Now & ever ..., **Theotokion:** In thee have the faithful found a haven of salvation and an invincible rampart, O Theotokos: for by thine intercessions, O Lady, thou dost free our souls from danger.

Katavasia: From a Virgin didst Thou come forth, not as an ambassador, * nor as an Angel, * but the very Lord himself incarnate, * and didst save me, the whole man; * wherefore I cry unto Thee: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

ODE VIII

First Three-Canticle Canon in Tone IV:

Irmos: In wisdom hast Thou fashioned all things ...,

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

The whole earth is full of Thy praise, O Lord. For the godly preaching of Thy divine disciples hath been heard in every place, turning the world from the depths of ignorance to knowledge, as it hymneth Thee: Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord,.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

The divine grace of repentance hath been made manifest, conferring salvation and victory upon those who take pleasure therein, by the sweat and pain of their ascetic endeavors. Hasten then to the master, O my soul, and seek forgiveness for the multitude of thy sins.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

The arena of God-given abstinence hath been opened unto us: let us who are in need of mercy gladly enter therein. In His tender compassion God thirsteth for our salvation, and He longeth to grant forgiveness to those who sincerely seek Him, and serve Him with love.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

With fasting watch thy mouth, have peace in thy heart, and serve the Lord, O my soul, with the good works of virtue, offering them to Him as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, crying aloud: O all ye Works, without ceasing bless ye the Lord.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos save us.

Theotokion: O thou who reignest over all, accept the prayers of thy servants, O Lady Theotokos, and deliver me from the unquenchable flames of darkness, and cleanse me from the multitude of my evil deeds, by thy mediation and divine intercession.

Second Three-Canticle Canon in Tone II:

Irmos: **The relentless fire, fed with endless fuel ...,**

Refrain: **Holy Apostles pray to God for us.**

As effulgent lights Christ hath given you to all the ends of the earth, O apostles, saying: Go ye and teach the nations, that seeing me as One in the flesh who lived in abstinence, and thereby trampled underfoot all the strength of the enemy; that the straight path may be revealed to them.

Refrain: **Holy Apostles pray to God for us.**

Thou hast shown, O Christ, how abstinence leadeth mankind to cleansing and deliverance from passions. For through it Thine apostles pleased Thee, becoming shining lights upon the earth; preaching to all The Lord in three Hypostases, single in Essence, hymning Thy praises.

Refrain: **Holy Apostles pray to God for us.**

Ye were sent by Christ your Teacher, O disciples, as heralds to the gentile nations, to enlighten their thoughts with divine teachings, encouraging them to abstain from an excess of food and passions, and to desire abstinence, and thereby learn that He is the Lord, Creator, and Benefactor of all.

Refrain: **We bless the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord.**

Like Cain, the murderer of old, I have not brought before Thee an unblemished offering O Christ; held fast by unclean thoughts. Reject me not, as I draw near to Thee through fasting O most beneficent Savior; but look favorably upon the gifts that I bring to Thee with love, O my God, during this season of the Fast.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion: **B**lessed is the womb of the Mother of God, for it hath received the Word, assuming the form of a man from her, He united to His Hypostasis flesh, whereby she was revealed as the City of God in which the Lord Most High was pleased to dwell. To her We cry aloud: Rejoice, O pure Theotokos, full of grace!

Verse: **We praise, bless and worship the Lord...**

Katavasia: **The relentless fire, fed with endless fuel, * drew back in fear before the pious Children, * pure in body and in soul; * and as the flame waned in strength, * they sang an everlasting song: * O all ye works, praise ye the Lord * and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.**

And then we sing the Song of the Most Holy Theotokos (the Magnificat)

Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

And after each Verse:

Refrain: More honorable than the Cherubim, * and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; * who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, * the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Verse: For He hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; * for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Refrain: More honorable ...

Verse: For the Mighty One hath done great things to me, * and holy is His name; * and His mercy is on them that fear Him * unto generation and generation.

Refrain: More honorable ...

Verse: He hath showed strength with His arm, * and He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart.

Refrain: More honorable ...

Verse: He hath put down the mighty from their seat, * and exalted them of low degree; * He hath filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich He hath sent empty away.

Refrain: More honorable ...

Verse: He hath holpen His servant Israel * in remembrance of His mercy, * as He spake to our fathers, * to Abraham and his seed forever.

Refrain: More honorable ...

ODE IX

First Three-Canticle Canon in Tone IV:

Irmos: For the Mighty One hath done great things ...,

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

As inextinguishable flames ye were sent forth into the World, delivering mankind from the depths of sin, wherefore with joy we sing in praise of Christ, who gave you the strength to be His apostles.

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

O Wise ones, Christ sent you out as salt into a world that had lost its savor. Bringing it back to the knowledge of God, wherefore we praise you in faith.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

I am beset by a multitude of grievous sins: in tears I fall down before Thee, O Christ, asking Thee to grant me forgiveness, in the good season of the Fast.

Refrain: Have mercy on me O God, have mercy on me.

Bound fast by the chains of my passions, I groan and cry aloud to Thee, O Savior: free me, that with great joy I may sing in praise of Thy loving-kindness.

Refrain: Most holy Theotokos save us.

Theotokion: God hath appointed thee, O pure Virgin, to help the race of mankind: cease not to diligently intercede before Him on behalf of us the faithful.

Second Three-Canticle Canon in Tone II:

Irmos: Thou didst contain within thy Womb ...,

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

The choir of the apostles shone forth with divine radiance upon the whole of the inhabited earth, enlightening the world.

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

O Jesus, Lover of mankind, the choir of Thy disciples hath taught the nations of the gentiles to treasure the riches of abstinence.

Refrain: Holy Apostles pray to God for us.

As a twelve-stringed harp, the company of Thy disciples brought the riches of abstinence and the wellspring of salvation to mankind.

Glory ..., With the voice of the Prodigal I cry to Thee, O Lord: I have sinned, Father; save me and be compassionate, reject me not from Thy glory.

Now & ever ..., Theotokion: In thy womb thou didst bear God as a man, gushing forth the fountain of life throughout all the world, wherefore we sing thy praises, O all-holy Virgin.

Katavasia: Thou didst contain within thy Womb * the God whom nothing can contain, * and hast brought forth joy to the world, * wherefore we sing thy praises, * O Virgin Theotokos.

The Exapostilarion of the day from the Oktoechos; Glory ..., the Exapostilarion of the saint from the Menaion, if such is appointed; Now & ever ..., and the usual Theotokion.

At the Aposticha in Tone III:

The solemnity of the Fast hath illumined us, * expelling the darkness of wicked spirits. * The time of abstinence hath come, * bearing with it healing for the passions of our soul. * By it, Daniel of old shut the mouths of the lions, * and the Children in Babylon quenched the flames in the furnace. * By it save us also with them, * O Christ God, ** since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

First Verse: We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants, and upon Thy works, * and do Thou guide their sons.

Repeat: The solemnity of the Fast hath shone upon us ...,

Second Verse: And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hand do Thou guide aright upon us, * yea, the works of our hands do Thou guide aright.

To the Martyrs in Tone III:

Even after death ye shine as lights in the world O holy martyrs, * ye who have fought the good fight: * since ye have great boldness, ** pray to Christ that He be merciful to our souls.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion in Tone III:

Holy art thou among women, O Theotokos, * Mother unwedded: * pray to the King and Son Whom thou didst bear, ** that He save us in that He is the Lover of mankind.

THURSDAY IN CHEESEFARE WEEK
AT VESPERS

After the Psalm of Introduction (Psalm 103) and the Great Litany. We read the 15th Kathisma. At **L**ord, I have cried ..., the usual Stichera are sung.

Entrance, **O** joyous Light ...,

Prokeimenon for the day in Tone VI:

Prokeimenon: **M**y help cometh from the Lord, * Who hath made heaven and the earth

Verse: **I** have lifted up mine eyes to the Mountains, from whence cometh my help

At the Aposticha, in Tone II:

For those who steadfastly venerate the Cross of Christ, * it is a bridle restraining all manner of sensuality, * and a law of abstinence. * For, ever looking upon Him who was crucified thereon, * they crucify the flesh with its passions and lusts. * Let us also flee from such things; * fasting in purity, that we become one with Him, * who out of love for mankind * hath made Himself one with us by suffering the Passion, * enabling us to share in His own passionlessness; ** for He hath great mercy

Verse: **U**nto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, * until He take pity on us.

Repeat: **F**or those who steadfastly venerate the Cross of Christ ...,

Verse: **H**ave mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, * and abasement on the proud.

To the Martyrs in Tone II:

Having no desire for earthly pleasure, * O ye passion-bearers, * ye were granted heavenly blessings, * and became fellow-citizens with the angels. ** By their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., in Tone II:

Stavrotheotokion: **W**hen thou didst behold, O pure Virgin, * the unblemished Vine, * whom thou didst conceive within thy womb, * hanging upon the Tree, * lamenting, thou didst cry aloud: * O Child, Thou sweetness which doth drive away the drunkenness of the passions, * O Benefactor, grant this for the sake of me who hath given birth to Thee, * by Thy divine comforting, ** since Thou art Compassionate.

Reader [or the Choir]: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, ... **O**ur Father ...

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom,

In Tone V:

O Theotokos and Virgin, rejoice, O Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. (Prostration)

Glory ...,

O Baptist of Christ, be mindful of us all, that we may be delivered from our iniquities, for unto thee is given the grace to pray on behalf of us all. (Prostration)

Both Now & ever ...;

Pray for us, holy apostles and all ye saints, that we may be delivered from perils and afflictions: for ye are our fervent supplicants before the Savior. (Prostration)

We take refuge beneath thy tender mercy O Theotokos: despise not our supplications in distress: but deliver us from perils, for thou alone art pure and blessed. (No Prostration)

Lord have mercy (40 Times)

Glory ..., Now & ever ...,

More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the word, the very Theotokos thee do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord father (master) bless!

Priest: He that is blessed, Christ our God, always, Now & ever ..., and unto the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. **O** Heavenly King, strengthen Orthodox Christians, establish the Faith, subdue the nations, give peace to the world, keep well this city (or habitation, or town); settle our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and receive us in penitence and confession, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Then the Prayer of St Ephraim:

Priest: **O** Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition, and idle talking give me not. (Prostration)

But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant. (Prostration)

Yea, O Lord King, grant me to see my own failings and not condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

O God, cleanse me a sinner. (Twelve times)

O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition, and idle talking give me not. But rather a spirit of chastity, humble-mindedness, patience, and love bestow upon me Thy servant. Yea, O Lord King, grant me to see my own failings and not condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

Reader: **H**oly God, Holy Mighty, ... **O**ur Father ...

Priest: **F**or Thine is the Kingdom,

Lord have mercy (12 Times)

Priest: **G**lory to Thee, O Christ God our hope, glory be to Thee

Choir: **G**lory ..., **N**ow & ever ..., **A**men., **L**ord, have mercy (Thrice),
Father (Master), Bless.

Priest: (The dismissal)

Note: We say Great Compline, with prostrations, as on Tuesday. At the Midnight Office we say the Prayer of St Ephraim with prostrations, as in Lent.