**APRIL 23**

 **The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (served on Monday)**

*(The Matins of the first three days of Holy Week are commonly called the “Bridegroom Service.” This service is customarily served in anticipation on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings.” Vespers with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in most places is celebrated early on the following day.)*

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

**Tone 1** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

As the Lord was going to His voluntary Passion,

He said to the Apostles on the way:

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem,

and the Son of Man shall be delivered up, as it is written of Him.”

Come, therefore, let us also go with Him,

purified in mind!

Let us be crucified with Him and die through Him

to the pleasures of this life!

Then we shall live with Him and hear Him say:

“I go no more to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer,

but to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.

I shall raise you up to the Jerusalem on high//

in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

(Repeat: “As the Lord was going to His voluntary Passion …”)

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

**Tone 5**

We have reached the saving Passion of Christ our God.

Let us, the faithful, glorify His ineffable forbearance,

that in His compassion He may raise us up who were dead in sin,//

for He is good and loves mankind!

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

(Repeat: “We have reached the saving Passion of Christ our God …”)

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

Going to Your Passion, O Lord,

You took Your Disciples aside and reassured them:

“How have you forgotten the words that I once spoke?

Is it not written:

‘A prophet cannot be killed but in Jerusalem?’

Now is the time of which I told you.

Behold, I am betrayed into the hands of sinners to be mocked!

They will nail Me to the Cross and deliver Me up to burial,

regarding Me, as a dead man, a thing of loathing.

Yet, take courage, for I will arise on the third day,//

giving to the faithful joy and life everlasting!”

*v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

(Repeat: “Going to Your Passion, O Lord …”)

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

The mother of Zebedee’s children, O Lord,

could not understand the ineffable mystery of Your dispensation.

She asked the honor of a temporal kingdom for her sons;

but instead, You promised Your friends

that they should drink the cup of death,

a cup that You would drink before them for the cleansing of sins.

Therefore we cry out to You://

“O Salvation of our souls, glory to You!”

*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: “The mother of Zebedee’s children, O Lord, …”)

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

You taught Your Disciples, O Lord,

to desire what is perfect,

saying: “Be not like the Gentiles, who oppress the weak!

It shall not be so with you, O my Disciples.

for of my Own will I am poor.

Let the first among you, therefore, be the servant of all!

Let the ruler be like those who are ruled!

Let him who is first be like the last!

For I have come to serve Adam in his poverty,

and to give My life as a ransom for the many who cry to Me://

‘O Lord, glory to You!’”

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

**Tone 8**

The fig tree was withered up because it was unfruitful.

We should fear the same punishment, O brethren,

and bring worthy fruits of repentance to Christ,//

Who brings to us 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 8**

The serpent found a second Eve in the Egyptian woman,

and plotted the fall of Joseph through words of flattery.

But, leaving behind his garment, Joseph fled from sin.

He was naked but unashamed, like Adam before the fall.//

Through his prayers, O Christ, have mercy on us!

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

The Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem!

(Ps 127/128:5)

*v: Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.*

 *(Ps 127/128:1)*

**Reading from Exodus (1:1-20)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

We bless you in the name of the Lord. (Ps 128/129:8b)

*v: Sorely have they afflicted me from my youth. (Ps 128/129:1)*

**Reading from Job (1:1-12)**

***(“Let my prayer arise …” and then immediately)***

 **Gospel Reading (Matthew 24:3-35)**

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

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations published by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, “The Bridegroom Services of Holy Week”, 1978.