**MARCH 17**

**Fourth Saturday of Great Lent/Memorial Saturday**

**Venerable Alexius the Man of God/\****St Patrick, Bishop of Armagh*

***(at Vespers served alone (i.e., not together with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

**"Lord, I Call..." Tone 7**

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

**Tone 7** *(stichera to the Martyrs, in the tone of the week)*

The martyrs drove out the darkness of godlessness,//

by revealing to all men the light of the knowledge of God.

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

O Savior, when Thou comest to judge all the world,

put me not to shame,//

though I have done shameful deeds!

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

Glory to Thee, O Christ God,

the Apostles’ boast, the martyrs’ joy,//

whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity!

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

**Tone 1\*** *(from the Menaion for St Alexius) (O all-praised martyrs)*

We know thee to be a man of God,

both in name and deed,

for thou didst shine with the virtues,

enduring immeasurable poverty and abysmal conditions here on earth.//

Thou didst strengthen the faithful with thy miracles.//

Entreat the Lord that our souls may be granted peace and great mercy!

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

With desire that drenched thy flesh, O Alexis,

thou didst quench the burning lusts.

Devoutly thou didst exchange the bridal chamber for an inner shrine

and bodily pleasure for the divine likeness of Angels.//

Pray with them that peace and great mercy may be granted to our souls!

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

Thou didst remain unrecognized before the gates of thy holy parents,

living in tribulation, O wise one.

The household servants mocked thee in thy time of need.

After death, thou didst reveal thyself to them by miracles,//

healing infirmities and casting out evil spirits.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

**Tone 2**  *(from the Menaion, for St Alexius)*

Christ God, Who loved thy peaceful, silent, innocent and mild way of

 life,

revealed thee to the whole world, O most blessed Father Alexius,

as a lamp even brighter than the sun.

For thou didst regard marital fellowship and temporal wealth as dust,

and didst settle, unknown, in the house of thy parents;

thou didst desire Christ, thine only beloved.

But remember thy servants at the throne of Christ our God, the King of

 all,//

and do not cease praying for them, O venerable father!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 7**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon*

No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing,

for the order of nature was overruled by God.

Thou wast revealed to be a Mother above nature,

for thou didst remain virgin beyond reason and understanding.

Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos!

The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin!

Knowing thee to be the Mother of God,

devoutly we pray to thee://

Beseech Him to save our souls!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Give ear, thou Shepherd of Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock! (Ps 79/80:1)

*v: Thou Who art enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth! (Ps 79/80:1b)*

**Reading from Genesis (12:1-7)**

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Rejoice in God, our helper! (Ps 80/81:1)

 *v: Raise a song, sound the timbrel! (Ps 80/81:2)*

**Reading from Proverbs (14:15-26)**

**Fourth Saturday of Great Lent/Memorial Saturday**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 7 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

My soul’s nobility has been enslaved to passions.

Like a beast, I cannot lift up mine eyes to Thee, O Most High.

But bowing down, O Christ, I pray like the Publican and cry://

Have mercy on me, O God, and save me!

*v: I lift up my eyes to Thee, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of*

*servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps. 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “My soul’s nobility …”)

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122/123:3-4)*

**Tone 7** *(to the Martyrs)*

Despising all earthly things, O holy martyrs,

and bravely proclaiming Christ in the arena,

ye received from Him the just reward

for all your sufferings;

and now, since ye have boldness to approach Him,

we beseech you to entreat Him as the almighty God//

to preserve the souls of us who take refuge in you.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

 **Tone 7** *(Theotokion)*

Thou who alone didst received Him Who cannot be contained,

and gavest birth to God the Word incarnate,//

pray that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 2 Troparion**

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets,

Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones:

who completed well the fight and kept the faith,

ye have boldness before the Savior.

We pray: Intercede for us with Him, as He is good,//

that He may save our souls!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember thy servants, O Lord, since Thou art good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but Thou,//

Who givest rest to the departed.

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2 Theotokion**

O holy Mother of the ineffable Light,//

honoring you with angelic hymns, we magnify you.

 ***(at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning)***

**Tone 2 Troparion**

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets,

Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones,

who completed well the fight and kept the faith,

ye have boldness before the Savior.

We pray: Intercede for us with Him, as He is good,//

that He may save our souls!

**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember thy servants, O Lord, since Thou art good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but Thou,//

Who givest rest to the departed.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

**Tone 8** **Kontakion**

With the saints give rest, O Christ,

to the souls of Thy servants,

where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing,//

but life everlasting!

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8 Theotokion**

We have thee as a wall and a haven

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, Whom thou hast borne,//

O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

 **Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous! *(Ps 31/32:11)*

*v: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Ps 31/32:1)*

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon**

Their souls shall dwell with the blessed. *(Ps 24/25:13)*

**Epistle**

 Hebrews 6:9-12

 1 Corinthians 15:47-57 *(Departed)*

 **Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps 33/34:18)*

*v: Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all. (Ps 33/34:20)*

**Tone 6**

*v: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. (Ps 64/65:4; 101/102:12)*

**Gospel**

 Mark 7:31-37

 John 5:24-30 *(Departed)*

**Communion Hymns**

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just!

Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Their memory is from generation to generation.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*\* (Stichera on “Lord, I call” for St Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland (c. 461))*

**Tone 1\***

Rejoice, hills and groves of Ireland!

Leap for joy, lakes and rivers!

For behold, through the grace of God from on high,

blessing and strength have come upon you,

for your enlightener and spiritual father comes to you:

Patrick, glorious among hierarchs,

a zealot of the Orthodox Faith,//

chosen by God to be an apostle!

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

Holy Patrick cries out to the newly-enlightened Christians:

“Listen, my spiritual children;

I have begotten you as the Gospel says;

I have betrothed you as a bride to Christ God.

Stand fast, therefore, in the Faith and confess it fearlessly!

Do not be afraid of the hostile pagans,//

that God may manifest Himself to you as a great Helper and Protector!”

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

Great is thy faith, holy Bishop Patrick.

Having left thy homeland and lands enlightened by Christ,

thou didst journey to a land lying in the darkness of idolatry,

bringing the Gospel of Christ to the lost.

Thou didst not depart till thou hadst brought the whole land to the

Orthodox Faith.//

Therefore we rightly praise thee.

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.