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

**Tone 7** *(3 stichera to the Martyrs in the tone of the week)*

The martyrs drove out the darkness of godlessness,//

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

*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.*

O Savior, when You come 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 You, 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 you to be a man of God,

both in name and deed,

for you shone with the virtues,

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

You strengthened the faithful with your 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 your flesh, O Alexius,

you quenched the burning lusts.

Devoutly you exchanged 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.*

You remained unrecognized before the gates of your holy parents,

living in tribulation, O wise one.

The household servants mocked you in your time of need.

After death, you revealed yourself 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 your peaceful, silent, innocent and mild way of

 life,

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

as a lamp even brighter than the sun.

For you regarded marital fellowship and temporal wealth as dust,

and settled, unknown, in the house of your parents;

you desired Christ, your only beloved.

But remember your 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 your wonderful childbearing

for the order of nature was overruled by God!

You were revealed to be a Mother above nature,

for you remained a Virgin beyond reason and understanding!

Your conception was most glorious, O Theotokos!

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

Knowing you to be the Mother of God,

devoutly we pray to you://

“Beseech Him to save our souls!”

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, as You guide Joseph like a flock! (Ps 79/80:1)

*v: You Who are 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 my eyes to You, 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 You, 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,

you received from Him the just reward

for all your sufferings;

and now, since you have boldness to approach Him,

we beseech you to entreat Him as 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)*

You, who alone received Him Who cannot be contained,

and gave 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,

you 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 your servants, O Lord, since You are good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but You,//

Who give rest to the departed.

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

O holy Mother of the ineffable Light,//

we honor and magnify you with angelic hymns.

 ***(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,

you 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 your servants, O Lord, since You are good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but You,//

Who give 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 Your 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 you as a wall and a haven

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, Whom you have borne,//

O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

 **Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you 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 You have 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 you righteous; praise befits the just!

Blessed are those whom You have 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 your faith, holy Bishop Patrick.

Having left your homeland and lands enlightened by Christ,

you journeyed to a land lying in the darkness of idolatry,

bringing the Gospel of Christ to the lost.

You did not depart till you had brought the whole land to the Orthodox

 Faith.//

Therefore we rightly praise you.

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.