

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS
HOLY APOSTLES OF THE SEVENTY

SUNG ON WEDNESDAY
FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

LORD I CALL: Six stikhera of the Triodion followed by three for the saints

TRIODION, tone 4:

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 fasted and endured the Cross for our sake,
make us worthy to share blamelessly in Your paschal victory,
by living in peace and rightly giving glory to You//
and to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

tone 5:

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.”

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, since you have boldness before Him,
 entreat Him to grant peace to the world//
and to our souls great mercy!

tone 1 (for the Cross):

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!

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

tone 7:

Today, as we bow before the Cross of the Lord, we cry:
“Rejoice, O Tree of life, the destroyer of hell!
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 you!

Apostles, tone 4:

Like winged eagles you passed over all the earth,
sowing treasured doctrines,
by grace, uprooting the tares of falsehood.
Thus you produced a fruitful harvest, O all-praised ones,
stored up forever in the granaries of wisdom::/
laid up in abundance for the immortal Husbandman.

Let us bless Heródon,
Ágabus, Asyncrítus, Rúfus, Hérmes, and the divine Phlégon!
They were branches of a fruitful vine,
bringing forth upon us the sweet drink of salvation,
which, with true faith in God, makes glad the thirsting hearts::
of those who celebrate their divine memory in faith.

With thoughts higher than heaven, O Apostles,
you declared the glory of our God.
You were beholders of the God Who by His own will became incarnate.
You were instructors of the righteous,
foundations of the churches, unshakable pillars,
havens of true belief, and servants of ineffable mysteries::/
leading our souls into light.

Glory...now and ever... tone 8:

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 have You done?
Your beauty was fairer than that of any man,
yet now You appear lifeless,
without form or comeliness.
Woe is me, O my Light!
I cannot bear to see You sleeping.
My soul is wounded, for a sword has pierced my heart,
and yet I praise Your passion.
I bow down before Your compassion.
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You!”

EVENING PROKEIMENA & READINGS

Tone 4

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel who alone does wondrous things
Vs. Give the King Thy justice, O God, and Thy righteousness to the royal Son.

Genesis 9:18-10:1 (*Vespers, 1st reading*)

18

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan.

19

These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

20

And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.

21

Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

22

And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

23

But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

24

So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.

25

Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."

26

And he said: "Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.

27

May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."

28

And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

29

So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

1

Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Tone 4

It is good for me to be near my God.

Vs. Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Proverbs 12:23-13:9 (*Vespers, 2nd reading*)

23

A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

24

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

25

Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

26

The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.

27

The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession.

28

In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.

1

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

2

A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.

3

He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

4

The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

5

A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.

6

Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

7

There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.

8

The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor does not hear rebuke.

9

The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked shall be extinguished.