

**THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021**  
**LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS**

**FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT**  
**(sung on Wednesday)**

**LORD I CALL: 29 stikhera of the Lenten Triodion**

**Tone 8:**

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.  
My mind has been robbed, and I have been sorely beaten.  
My soul is wounded, and I am stripped of virtues.  
I lie naked in the highway of life.  
The priest saw my pain and hopeless wounds and looked away.  
The Levite could not bear my groaning and passed me by.  
But You were pleased to come, O Christ my God,  
not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.  
In Your love for mankind, grant me healing//  
and pour upon me Your great mercy!

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise  
rightly is ascribed to the saints,  
for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,  
for Your sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down.  
They shed their blood for You, Who emptied Yourself,  
taking the form of a servant.  
They humbled themselves even unto death,  
following the example of Your lowliness.  
By their prayers have mercy on us, O God,//  
according to Your abundant mercy!

You made Your disciples into living heavens, O Lord.  
By their prayers deliver me from the evils of this earth,  
and by abstinence lift up my thoughts to Your Passion,//  
for You are merciful and love mankind!

This season of fasting helps us all to do the works of God.  
Let us weep, then, with our whole heart and cry to the Savior:  
“Through Your disciples, save us, O Lord of great mercy,//  
as with reverence we sing of Your great love for mankind!”

O Apostles, worthy of all praise and intercessors for the world,  
physicians of the sick and guardians of health,  
protect us on all sides as we pass through the fast!  
By God’s grace may we remain at peace with one another!  
Preserve our minds untroubled by passions,//  
so that we all may sing praises to the risen and victorious Christ!

**Tone 4:**

I have wasted my whole life with harlots and publicans.  
Will I be able to repent of my many sins even when I grow old?  
I cry to You, the Creator of all and Healer of the sick://

“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

Weighed down with indifference, I wallow in sin.  
Pierced by the devil’s darts, I have defiled Your image in me.  
Yet You convert the heedless and save the sinful.//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

I have become a stumbling block.  
Born of earth, I have remained attached to earthly things.  
Wed to Your commandments,  
I transgressed them and defiled my bed.  
Yet do not despise the creature whom You formed of earth,//  
but save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

Obsessed with the flesh, I have murdered my soul.  
I have become the demons’ toy, the slave of lusts.  
In Your compassion, spare me! Put the demons to flight!//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

**20 more skikhera of the Triodion in Tone 4... ending with: “Save me before I utterly perish, O Lord!”**

### GLORY...

How ineffable is Your mercy, O gracious Lord!  
You are long suffering and almighty in love!  
Do not cast me away from Your face  
That with thanksgiving and joy I may sing to You://  
Save me before I utterly perish O Lord!

### NOW AND EVER...

O ineffable condescension!  
O strange and wondrous birth!  
How does the Virgin carry You as a child in her arms,  
For You are her Creator and God!  
O Benefactor, as You consented to take flesh from her,//  
Save me before I utterly perish, O Lord!

### PROKEIMENA

**Tone 4:** O Lord, Thou God of vengeance: Thou God of vengeance show  
Thyself.

**Vs.** Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render to the proud their desserts.

Genesis 17:1-9 (*Vespers, 1st reading*)

1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

2

“And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.”

3

Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

4

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

5

“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

6

“I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

7

“And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

8

“Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

9

And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

**Tone 4:** Sing to the Lord a new song.

**Vs.** Sing to the Lord, bless His Name.

Proverbs 15:20-16:9 (Vespers, 2nd reading)

20

A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.

21

Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, but a man of understanding walks uprightly.

22

Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

23

A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

24

The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.

25

The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.

26

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, but the words of the pure are pleasant.

27

He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

28

The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

29

The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

30

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and a good report makes the bones healthy.

31

The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise.

32

He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

33

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

1

The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

2

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits.

3

Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.

4

The Lord has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

5

Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces, none will go unpunished.

6

In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.

When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice.

A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.