

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018

TONE 8; FIRST WEDNESDAY IN GREAT LENT

UNCOVERING OF THE SEVEN MARTYRS' RELICS AT GATE OF EUGENIOS IN CONSTANTINOPLE;
MARTYR ANTHUSA AND HER TWELVE SERVANTS

- For the full, invariable parts of the Presanctified Divine Liturgy, consult "[The Liturgikon](#)" (P. 327-367); "[Ninth Hour, Typica and Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts](#)" by the Department of Sacred Music; and the digital text available at the [Online Liturgical Guide](#).

"O LORD I HAVE CRIED" IN TONE EIGHT

For the First Wednesday in Tone Eight

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*

While fasting physically, brethren, let us also fast spiritually. Let us loose every knot of iniquity. Let us tear up every unrighteous bond. Let us distribute bread to the hungry, and welcome into our homes those who have no roof over their heads, so that we may receive the Great Mercy from Christ our God.

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

While fasting physically, brethren ... (repeat above)

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.*

Fame and praise befits the saints, for they bowed their necks beneath the sword to Thee Who didst bow the heavens and come down. They shed their blood for Thee Who didst empty Thyself and take the form of a servant. By emulating Thy poverty, they also humbled themselves even unto death. By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, according to the abundance of Thy mercies.

For the First Wednesday in Tone Two

Verse 7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Jesus, the spiritually radiant Sun, hath sent ye into the world as shining flashes of lightning, O apostles and eyewitnesses of God. By the rays of your divine doctrines the error of darkness was swept away, enlightening those who were held in the ignorant gloom. Entreat Him to grant us enlightenment and Great Mercy.

Verse 6. *If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.*

Elias was enlightened through fasting. He mounted the chariot of good works and was taken up to the heights of heaven. Emulate him, O humble soul. Abstain from every evil and jealousy, from every fleeting pleasure, so that ye might be cleansed of corrupting disease, the fires of Gehenna, crying to Christ: O Lord, glory to Thee.

For the First Wednesday in Tone Five

Verse 5. *Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

O divine apostles, fervent intercessors for the world, defenders of the Orthodox. Ye possess the authority to entreat Christ our God with boldness. We entreat ye to pray for us, O honorable ones, that we might spend the good time of fasting in joyousness and receive the grace of the consubstantial Trinity. Pray for our souls, O great and glorious preachers.

For the Holy Martyrs in Tone Four (***Thou who wast called from on high***)

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.* O ye illustrious Martyrs of the Most High, * when, through diverse tortures, ye had stripped from off yourselves * the ancient coats of mortality, * ye clothed yourselves in * the Godlike vesture of incorruption's grace. * Now as ye have all of Heaven for your dwelling-place * and ever stand at the throne of God, * ye shine with splendor, * brightly illumined, O ye divinely-blest; * wherefore, with faith we gladly celebrate * your exceedingly radiant memory, * and we sacredly gather * to embrace your relics' holy shrine.

Verse 3. *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

O ye illustrious Martyrs of the Most High ... (repeat above)

Verse 2. *Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.*

Out of the weakness of mortals, a divine strength * sendeth forth swift healings unto them that come with faith; * the paltry dust of the bodies of * the trophy-bearers, * by grace, doth make springs of miracles gush forth. * Let us all approach, ye men, and draw forth for ourselves * the health of body and health of soul, * and let us cry out * with thankful voices and hymns, and let us say: * O Sovereign Savior of the world, for Whom * the august athletes struggled most mightily, * by their holy entreaties * do Thou free us all from every harm.

Verse 1. *For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

The right-victorious Martyrs, who were hidden * for the space of many years, are now made manifest * as precious treasure that maketh rich * the Queen of Cities * as they are solemnly borne upon the hands * of the wise High Priest with an exceeding reverence * and are escorted with faith and love * into God's temple * and are apportioned to all that make request, * unto complete health and enlightenment, * for our help, and for all things that profit those * who receive and acknowledge * them as faithful servants of our God.

THEOTOKION FROM THE MENAION IN TONE FOUR

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

I tell thee plainly my grievous sins and stumblings, O pure Theotokos, for though I should hide them all, they shall be made manifest upon the day of judgment when all the books shall be brought and opened up. Looking on unseemly things, I have befouled mine eyes; by working shameful deeds lawlessly, my hands are sullied; my body have I, the wretch, made good for nought and with my sins have filled my soul with wounds; but have mercy, take pity, and by thy prayers show me forth in the number of the blessed portion of the saved.

- *If the Compline Gospel will be read during the Presanctified Liturgy, then the clergy make the Entrance with the Gospel Book. But if your parish will serve Great Compline with the third quarter of the Great Canon by St. Andrew of Crete later this evening, then read the Gospel lection at Great Compline instead, and make the Entrance in the Presanctified Liturgy with the censer. After the Entrance, we say:*

O GLADSOME LIGHT

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we

hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

The First Reading

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us from this generation forevermore. Help us, O Lord, for there is no longer any that are godly, for the faithful have vanished from among the sons of men.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Genesis. (1:24-2:3)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in His Own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He had done in creation.

At the end of the first reading, the Priest holds a lighted candle and the censer in his right hand, and the reader reads the Prokeimenon for the second reading.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Look upon me, hear me, O Lord my God. How long, O Lord? Wilt Thou forget me forever? How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?

Command!

The people kneel. The Priest turns toward the Prothesis Table, elevates the censer and the candle, which are in his right hand at head level and makes the sign of the cross:

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Then standing in the Holy Doors, he bows to the Icon of Christ on the iconostasis and says:

Priest: The Light of Christ...

He then blesses the people, making the sign of the cross with the censer and the candle, and continues...

Priest: ...illumineth all!

The people stand and the Priest returns to the Holy Table and gives away the candle and censer as the Deacon says:

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs. (2:1-22)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you; understanding will guard you; delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil; men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. You will be saved from the loose woman, from the adventuress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the shades; none who go to her come back nor do they regain the paths of life. So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will inhabit the land, and men of integrity will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

- *The priest then leads the singing of “Let My Prayer Arise,” followed by the reciting of the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, and then the Wednesday Compline Gospel (see the note on page 2).*

THE WEDNESDAY COMPLINE GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark. (11:22-26 & Matt 7:7-8)

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: The Lord said to His Disciples: “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses. Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For, everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

- *The Presanctified Divine Liturgy continues as usual.*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Gregory the Dialogist, pope of Rome, whose Presanctified Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and the protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Seven Martyrs uncovered at the Gate of Eugenios in Constantinople; and Martyr Anthusa and her twelve servants, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Choir: Amen.

As the people come forward to reverence the Holy Cross, the Reader recites Psalms 33 and 144. Afterward, the priest concludes the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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