**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 TONE 5**

**First Sunday of Great Lent/Sunday of Orthodoxy**

**St Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople**

***[Music for the stichera for the Sunday of Orthodoxy from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at*** [***www.oca.org***](http://www.oca.org)***]***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 5**

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. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 5**  *(for the Resurrection)*

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,

Thou hast put the devil to shame.

By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.

The princes of hell were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

Christ the King of glory had entered,

saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//

And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man

and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*(for the Resurrection, by Anatolius)*

We offer Thee our evening worship,

O never-setting Light,

Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;

Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness.

Thou hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//

Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

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

We glorify the Leader of our salvation;

by His Resurrection from the dead,

the world was saved from deceit.

The assembly of Angels rejoices

as the deceit of demons is overthrown.//

Fallen Adam rises as the devil falls.

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.

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones:

“Hide the rising of Christ, take money and say:

‘The body was stolen from the tomb while we were asleep.’”

But who has heard of a body being stolen,

a body embalmed and naked,

with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb?

Do not be deceived, O Jews,

study the words of the Prophets and understand://

Christ is the Redeemer of the world and all powerful!

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Lenten Triodion) (Having set all your hope)*

O Lord, Whom nothing can contain or grasp,

from all eternity Thou hast shone forth from the Father

before the morning star.

The Prophets, inspired by the Holy Spirit,

foretold that Thou wouldst take flesh and assume the form of a child,

from her who is ever-virgin.

Thou didst live among men,

and wast seen by material creation.

Through the prayers of the Prophets, O compassionate One,

make us worthy to receive Thy light,//

for we sing praises to Thy glorious Resurrection!

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

The Prophets bore the fruit of eternal life;

they prepared the way of the Lord.

By their words they proclaimed Thee; by their deeds they honored Thee:

they would not worship creation instead of Thee, the Creator.

As Thy Gospel commands, they renounced the world.

They foretold Thy passion by suffering themselves.

Through their prayers, O Lord,//

enable us to pass over the battlefield of Lent without sin!

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

Thou art infinite in Thy divine nature, O Master;

in these latter days Thou didst accept the limitations of the flesh.

By assuming our body, Thou didst accept all its weaknesses.

Therefore we make images of Thy form;

we venerate them, having Thee in mind.

We fall down before Thee in love;

by so doing we follow the tradition of the Apostles//

and are given the grace of healing.

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

Today the Church of Christ receives honorable adornment:

the holy icons of Christ our Savior, the Theotokos, and all the Saints.

The Church exults in their grace.

We lift them up with joy and gladness.

We glorify God, the Lover of man,//

for He patiently suffered for our sake.

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

**Tone 2** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Grace and truth have shone forth.

The predictions of old have been clearly fulfilled.

Behold, the Church adorns herself with the form of Christ incarnate!

The icons of the new creation transcend the adornments of the old.

As the Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God,

so now the icons reveal the presence of the One we adore.

By honoring them we will never go astray.

It is our glory to fall down and worship Christ in the flesh.

Come, O faithful, and venerate His image crying out://

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

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

**Tone 5**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,

a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.

There Moses divided the waters;

here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.

There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,

here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel’s passage, the sea remained impassable;

after Emmanuel’s birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.

O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man,//

O Lord, have mercy on us!

**First Sunday of Lent/Sunday of Orthodoxy**

**Litya *(If the rector desires the Litya, following the sticheron of the patron saint of the church or monastery, we sing:*)**

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

**Tone 2** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Rejoice, O honorable Prophets,

who ordered well the Law of the Lord,

and were made manifest as steadfast and unshaken pillars of the faith;

for ye truly appeared as mediators of Christ’s New Covenant!

Now having been translated to heaven,//

beseech Him to grant peace to the world and to save our souls!

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

**Tone 2** *(Theotokion)*

I place all my hope in thee, O Theotokos;//

keep me beneath thy protecting veil!

**First Sunday of Lent/Sunday of Orthodoxy**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 5**  *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,

O incarnate Christ and Savior.

By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,

as the Lord and Lover of man,

Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell,//

and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,

Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.

By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality.

Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,

and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God.//

Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.

Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.

Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us.

Grant us purification of sins,

who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day!

Make us worthy of Paradise//

and save us, O Lover of man!

*v. Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh,

to rise from the dead on the third day.

Heal us from our earthly passions,

and restore us from our evil transgressions;//

and save us, O Lover of man!

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

**Tone 2** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Advancing from false doctrine to true faith,

illumined with the light of knowledge,

let us clap our hands and offer grateful praise to God in song!

With due honor let us venerate the holy icons of Christ,

of the all-pure Virgin, and of all the saints,

depicted on walls or panels or sacred vessels,

rejecting the godless teaching of the heretics!

For as Saint Basil says:

“The honor shown to the image passeth to its prototype.”

By the prayers of Thy pure Mother and of all the saints,//

we beseech Thee, O Christ our God, to grant us great mercy!

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

**Tone 2** *(Theotokion)*

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!

Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,

who carried in her arms her Creator?

This birth is the will of God!

Since thou didst carry Him as an infant in thy arms, O Most Pure One,

and since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him,

do not cease praying for us who honor thee,//

that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

**First Sunday of Lent/Sunday of Orthodoxy**

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 5** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,

co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,

born for our salvation from the Virgin;

for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,

to endure death,

and to raise the dead//

by His glorious Resurrection.

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

**Tone 2** **Troparion**  *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;

and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.

Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh

and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:

“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

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

**Tone 2 Resurrectional** **Dismissal Theotokion**

All beyond thought, all most glorious,

are thy mysteries, O Theotokos.

Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,

thou wast revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True

God.//

Entreat Him to save our souls!

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***(at Vigil)*** **Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. *(twice)*

**Tone 2** **Troparion**  *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;

and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.

Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh

and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:

“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

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***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 5** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,

co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,

born for our salvation from the Virgin;

for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,

to endure death,

and to raise the dead//

by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 2** **Troparion**  *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;

and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.

Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh

and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:

“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”

**Tone 8 Kontakion** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

No one could describe the Word of the Father;

but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be

described,

and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine

beauty.//

We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Fathers)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is

Thy name forever! *(Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3)*

*v: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*

**Epistle**

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps 99/100:6)*

*v: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps 99/100:6)*

**Gospel**

John 1:43-51

***(Instead of “It is truly meet … ,” we sing the following)***

**Hymn to the Theotokos**

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace:

the assembly of Angels and the race of men.

O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,

the glory of virgins,

from whom God was incarnate and became a Child:

our God before the ages.

He made thy body into a throne,

and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens.

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace.//

Glory to thee!

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps 32/33:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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.