**FEBRUARY 28**

**Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn (1915)**

***(at Vespers with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, celebrated on Tuesday)***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 3**

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

**Tone 3** *Idiomelon*

You were crucified in the flesh, O Lord,

crucifying our old man with Yourself.

Your side was pierced with a spear,

and the serpent that enticed man was speared to death.

Nail my flesh to the fear of You,

wound my soul with Your love,

that fully understanding Your Passion,

I may strictly fulfill the order of Lent,

closing not only my mouth to the entrance of food,

but also the doors of any other sins!

For my past transgressions I will offer You

a contrite soul and a broken heart.//

Deliver me from them, O Lover of mankind!

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

(Repeat: “You were crucified in the flesh, O Lord …”)

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

The Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs of Christ

taught us to praise the consubstantial Trinity.

Having enlightened the nations that had gone astray,//

they made sons of men companions of the Angels.

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

**Tone 1** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (O, all-praised martyrs)*

You stretched out Your most pure hands upon the Cross, O Lord,

gathering the ends of the earth.

Therefore, I cry to You:

“Gather together my scattered reasoning, that is enslaved and beguiled by

passions!

Show me to be a partaker of Your sufferings,//

as I am being purified through abstinence!”

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

Of old, a fast strengthened the holy Youths, as it is written,

and showed them to be stronger than the burning fire.

Fast, therefore, my humble soul!

Kindle in yourself love towards the Master!

In this way, you will be able to avoid the future Gehenna,//

and burn up the wicked passions.

*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.*

**Tone 3** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (As one valiant)*

The time of Lent is a time of gladness.

With radiant purity and pure charity

filled with resplendent prayer and all good deeds,

let us sing with joy:

“Most holy Cross of Christ that blossomed the sweetness of life,

enable us all to bow down before you with pure hearts,//

granting us purification and great mercy!”

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

**Tone 2** *(for St Raphael)* *(O House of Ephratha)*

Holy Hierarch Raphael,

who can describe your many labors?

Who can count the hardships you endured?

As a shepherd of Christ’s rational flock,//

pray that He preserve His Church in peace!

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

(Repeat: “Holy Hierarch Raphael, …”)

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

Holy Father Raphael,

who can speak of your sorrows?

Who can recount your noble deeds?

Friend of the needy and protector of orphans,//

intercede with Christ for our salvation!

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

Glorious Raphael,

great light from Antioch,

seeker of the lost children of the Church,

model for bishops in North America,//

entreat Christ’s great mercy on us all!

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

**Tone 4**

Today a great festival shines like a sun over all the world,

as we celebrate the memory of the holy Bishop Raphael,

apostle to the lost sheep of North America.

Let us rejoice on this festive day and cry out unto him:

“Hail, new Moses, who led your people to the Promised Land!

Hail, new Elijah, who bequeathed a double portion of your spirit to us!

Hail, new Ezra, who built a temple of God in our midst!

Hail, new apostle of Christ our God, drawing us closer to Him!

As you stand among the saints before the throne of God,//

never cease to intercede for us who honor you!”

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

**Tone 4**  *(Cross-Theotokion)*

When the All-pure one beheld Christ, the Lover of man, crucified,

and His side pierced with a lance,

she cried out, lamenting:

“What is this that I see, O my Son?

How have the ungrateful people rewarded You

for the good things that You have done for them?

Do You hasten to leave me childless, O most Beloved One?//

I marvel at Your voluntary crucifixion, O Compassionate One!”

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon**

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps 27/28:9))*

*v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me. (Ps 27/28:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (4:8-15)**

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

The Lord shall give strength to His people, the Lord shall bless His people with peace. *(Ps 28/29:11))*

*v: Offer to the Lord, O your sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!. (Ps 28/29:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (5:1-15)**

***(“Let my prayer arise …” and then immediately)***

**Tone 1** **Prokeimenon** *(for St Raphael)*

My mouth shall speak wisdom, the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *(Ps 48/49:3)*

*v: Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world!*

*(Ps 48/49:1)*

**Epistle**

Hebrews 13:17-21 *(St Raphael)*

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*v. The mouth of the righteous shall proclaim wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps 36/37:30)*

*v: The Law of God is in his heart, and his steps shall not falter. (Ps 36/37:31)*

***(Following the Gospel, the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, in order.)***

**Communion Hymns**

Taste and see that the Lord is good! *(Ps 33/34:8)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil

tidings! *(Ps 111/112:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Liturgical texts for the stichera from the Triodion 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.

Liturgical music for the stichera for St Raphael, published by the Department of Liturgical Music of the Orthodox Church in America, is available as a download from the Department.