**MARCH 12**

 **Sunday evening Vespers/Venerable Theophanes the Confessor**

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

**"Lord, I Call..." Tone 7**

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 7** *(Penitential stichera from the Octoechos)*

Like the Prodigal I come and fall before You, O Lord:

accept me as one of Your hired servants,//

and have mercy on me, O compassionate One!

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

Like the man who fell among thieves and was wounded,

I have fallen, and my soul is bruised by my many sins.

To whom can I, the guilty one, run,

if not to You, the only merciful Physician of our souls?//

Pour out Your great mercy on me, O God!

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

O Savior, sinner that I am,

do not cut me down like the barren fig tree!

But grant me forgiveness all the year long,

watering my soul with tears of repentance,//

that I may bring forth acts of mercy as fruit for You!

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

Since You are the Sun of righteousness,

enlighten and guide the hearts of those who cry out to You://

“O Lord, glory to You!”

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (O Lord, though you stood)*

O Lord, You willingly stretched out Your hands on the Cross;

make us ready for its adoration with reverent hearts,

radiant through fasting, prayer, abstinence and works of charity;//

for You are good and the Lover of mankind!

*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.*

Blot out the multitude of my sins by the great abundance of Your mercies,

O most compassionate Lord!

Make me worthy to behold Your Cross,

and to embrace it with a pure soul in this week of abstinence,//

for You are the Lover of mankind!

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

**Tone 3** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (O great wonder)*

Oh, great wonder!

I behold the Tree on which Christ was crucified in the flesh.

The world venerates it and, enlightened, cries out:

 “How great is the power of the Cross!

When the demons behold it, they are burned.

By its sign, they are consumed with flames.”

Therefore, O pure Tree, I bless you;

I honor and adore you with fear,//

glorifying God, Who granted me unending life through you.

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

**Tone 8** *(for Ven Theophanes) (O most glorious wonder)*

O godly-minded Father Theophanes,

named for the Theophany of Christ,

you followed in His life-bearing footsteps.

Forsaking all the delights of life,

you contemplated the beauty for which you desired.

You were deified in excellent perfection by divine inclination to Him,//

O most wonderful saint.

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

O godly-minded Father Theophanes,

you were steadfast in afflictions of the flesh.

You patiently endured bitter exile for the sake of the precious icons,

taking no pity on your body, O all-praiseworthy saint.

You were banished by the wrath of lions whose counsels you disdained,//

convicting the folly of their arguments as foolish and senseless.

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

O godly-minded Father Theophanes,

the Bestower of good things has indeed abundantly granted to you

rewards for your pains and labors.
He has bestowed on you the power, O thrice-blessed saint,

to drive out demons and to heal infirmities;

He counted you worthy of inexpressible joy,

where the ranks of Angles sing in chorus,//

and where you ever behold the face of the Almighty.

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

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

**Tone 8**  *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O resting place of the divine Light,

brightest star, and veil of sanctification!

You shine forth the Light Who illumines us from your all-pure womb.

You enlighten the ends of the world with your own grace.

Rejoice, O most pure Virgin, source of salvation;//

rejoice, awesome report and word to those who hope in you!

**Tone 8 Great Prokeimenon**

O Lord, You have given an inheritance \* to those who fear Your name.

 *(Ps 60/61:5)*

 *v: From the end of the earth I call to You.* *(Ps 60/61:2)*

 *v: I will take shelter under the shadow of Your wings. (Ps 60/61:4)*

 *v: So I will ever sing praises to Your name. (Ps 60/61:8)*

**Sunday evening Vespers/ Holy Fathers slain at the Monastery of St Sabba**

 **Venerable Theophanes the Confessor**

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

Because of my evil deeds,

I, a wretched man, dare not gaze upon heaven with my eyes.

But sighing like the Publican, I cry to You:

“O God, forgive me a sinner,

and deliver me from the Pharisee’s hypocrisy,//

for You alone are compassionate!”

*v: I lift up my eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of*

*servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of*

*her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon*

*us. (Ps 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “Because of my evil deeds …” )

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps 122/123:3-4)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,

you sanctify every place and heal every ill.

Now therefore, intercede with Him,//

that He may deliver our souls from every wile and snare of the Enemy!

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

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

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

The Hosts of Heaven praise you,

unwedded Mother, full of grace.

We glorify your ineffable childbearing.//

Therefore, O Theotokos, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

**Tone 8** **The Lenten Troparia**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb; //

for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

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

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all,

that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//

for to you is given grace to intercede for us!

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

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints,

that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//

for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior!

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.

Do not despise our supplications in adversity,//

but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one!

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.