**MARCH 15**

 **The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (served on Wednesday)**

 **Martyr Agapius and those with him**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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 4 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

The Fast, the source of blessings,

now has brought us midway through its course.

Having pleased God with the days that have passed,

we look forward to making good use of the days to come,

for growth in blessings brings forth even greater achievements.

While pleasing Christ, the Giver of all blessings, we cry:

“O Lord, Who fasted and endured the Cross for our sake,

make us worthy to share blamelessly in Your paschal victory,

by living in peace and rightly giving glory to You//

and to the Father and the Holy Spirit!”

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

**Tone 5**

Those who thirst for spiritual blessings

practice their good deeds in secret,

not announcing them in the streets and marketplace,

but keeping them hidden deep within their hearts;

and He Who sees all that is done in secret

will reward us for our abstinence.

Let us complete the fast without wearing gloomy faces!

Let us pray without ceasing in the inner chamber of our souls:

“Our Father, Who art in heaven, lead us not into temptation,//

but deliver us from the Evil One!”

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

**Tone 5** *(for the Martyrs)*

With souls filled with boundless love, O holy Martyrs,

you endured terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ,

laying low the arrogance of those who tortured you.

By keeping the faith unshaken and whole,

you have been lifted up to heaven.

And now, since you have boldness before Him,

entreat Him to grant peace to the world//

and to our souls great mercy!

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

**Tone 1** *(for the Cross) (O all-praised martyrs)*

Let us cleanse our souls in the waters of the fast!

Let us approach the precious and most pure Cross of the Lord,

venerating it in faith and drawing forth divine enlightenment,

reaping even now the rich harvest://

eternal salvation, peace, and great mercy!

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

O Cross, boast of the Apostles,

surrounded by Archangels, Powers, and Principalities:

save us from all harm who bow down before you!

Enable us to fulfill the divine course of abstinence//

and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved!

*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 7** *(Today Judas keeps vigil)*

Today, as we bow before the Cross of the Lord, we cry:

“Rejoice, O Tree of life, the destroyer of hell!

Rejoice, O joy of the world, the slayer of corruption!

Rejoice, O power that scatters demons!

O invincible weapon, confirmation of the faithful,//

protect and sanctify those who kiss you!”

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Menaion, for the Martyrs) (O most glorious wonder)*

You seven martyrs of Christ

counted the assaults of the torturers and violent death to be nothing.

You hastened to battle with readiness and courage,

covering yourselves with the glory of victory.

You are numbered among all the righteous;//

we call you blessed, glorifying you with them forever.

*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: “You seven martyrs …”)

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

O martyred athlete Agapius,

you loved the Well-spring of good things and the Summit of desires.

You hastened to drain the cup of martyrdom,

calling on the divine name of the living God.

What courage was yours; what endurance,//

by which you were openly given the gift of glory and splendor!

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

O all-blessed martyrs,

you gave yourselves to voluntary slaughter;

you sanctified the earth with your blood

and illumined the air with your passing.

Now in the image of God you live in the heavens,//

ever praying for us to the never-fading Light.

 *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, from the Triodion)*

Today He Who by nature is unapproachable approaches me.

He Who freed me from my passions endures the Passion.

The Light of the blind is spat upon by lawless lips.

For the sake of captives He gives His back to scourging.

When His pure Virgin Mother beheld Him on the Cross, she cried in pain:

“Woe is me, O my Child! What have You done?

Your beauty was fairer than that of any man,

yet now You appear lifeless,

without form or comeliness.

Woe is me, O my Light!

I cannot bear to see You sleeping.

My soul is wounded, for a sword has pierced my heart,

and yet I praise Your passion.

I bow down before Your compassion.

O long-suffering Lord, glory to You!”

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone does wondrous things!

*(Ps 71/72:18)*

*v: Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son! (Ps 71/72:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (9:18-10:1)**

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

It is good for me to be near my God. *(Ps 72/73:28)*

*v: Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. (Ps 72/73:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (12:23-13:9)**

***(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

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