**DECEMBER 7**

**St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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

**Tone 1**  *(from the Menaion, for St Ambrose) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Adorned with virtue, O faithful steward,

you wisely governed both the city and the Church.

The faithful of Milan, inspired by the Holy Spirit,

chose you, their earthly judge, to be their shepherd.//

Therefore you are glorified with a twofold crown.

*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.*

You cleansed your soul and body, O Ambrose, wise in God,

by abstinence and endurance,

by countless vigils and ardent prayers.

Thus, you became a chosen vessel for Christ God,//

equal to the Apostles, with whose gifts you were endowed.

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

Filled with boldness, O fearless Ambrose,

you rebuked the Emperor's violence.

As Nathan reproved David for his sin,

so you separated the king from the Church of Christ//

until he should bear the fruits of repentance.

*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 1**  *(for the Theotokos) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

With the staff of your protection, O pure Theotokos,

drive away the savage passions of my wretched soul,

and peacefully guide my life,//

counting me as one of the holy flock of your chosen sheep!

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

As you are the helper of the helpless

and the hope of all the hopeless, O Theotokos,

be my release and aid amid evil things,

delivering me from sins and tribulations,

for you are merciful, O most pure Lady!

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

Quench the burning fire of my destroying passions

with the divine dew and the rain of your will, O Virgin,

that I, like the Youths, may give thanks unto God, Who was born of

you,//

and may glorify and bless your grace, O Sovereign Lady!

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

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

**Tone 1** *(Cross-Theotokion)*

Standing at the Cross of your Son and God,

and witnessing His patient long-suffering, O most pure Mother,

you cried out, lamenting:

“Woe is me, my sweetest Child!

What is this unjust suffering, O Word of God;

for You have saved mankind?”

**St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2**  *(from the Octoechos)*

Save me, O Savior Christ,

by the power of the Cross

and have mercy on me,//

O God Who saved Peter in the sea!

*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)*

“Let him be crucified,”

cried those who had always enjoyed Your blessings

and instead of the benefactor they asked to receive back an evil-doer!

But, keeping silent, O Christ, You endured their insolence,//

in Your desire to suffer and to save us, as the Lover of mankind!

*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)*

 *(to the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs, you did not seek for the things of the earth

and so were made worthy of heavenly joy.

You became fellow-citizens with the angels.//

O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us!

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

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

**Tone 2** *(Cross-Theotokion)*

When the lawless people, O Savior, put You, the Life of all, on the wood,

Your pure and blameless Mother stood by and cried out weeping:

“Woe is me, my sweet Child, the light of my eyes!

How can You bear to be nailed to the Cross between evil-doers,//

for You hung the earth upon the waters?

**St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)**

***(at Daily Vespers)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(St Ambrose)*

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,

an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;

your humility exalted you;

your poverty enriched you.

Hierarch Father Ambrose,

entreat Christ our God

that our souls may be saved!

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

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

**Tone 4 Dismissal Theotokion**

All blameless Virgin Mother of Christ God,

Your most holy soul was pierced by a sword

when you beheld your Son and God willingly crucified.

Therefore, never cease to pray to Him, O all blessed one,//

That He may grant us remission of our sins!

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(St Ambrose)*

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,

an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;

your humility exalted you;

your poverty enriched you.

Hierarch Father Ambrose,

entreat Christ our God

that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 3** **Kontakion**  *(St Ambrose)*

You shone forth with divine doctrine, eclipsing the deception of Arius,

shepherd and initiate of the mysteries, Ambrose.

You worked miracles through the power of the Spirit,

healing various passions;//

righteous Father, entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon** *(for the day)*

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!  *(Ps 98/99:5)*

*v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! (Ps 98/99:1)*

**Tone 1** **Prokeimenon**

My mouth shall speak wisdom, the meditation of my heart shall be

 understanding. *(Ps 48/49:3)*

**Epistle**

 Titus 1:5-2:1

 1 Timothy 18-20; 2:8-15 *(St Ambrose)*

 **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!*

 *(Ps 73/74:2)*

 *v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. (Ps 73/74:12)*

**Tone 2**

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

**Gospel**

 Luke 21:28-33

 Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24 *(St Ambrose)*

**Communion Hymns**

God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. *(Ps 73/74:12)*

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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