**MARCH 7**

**Wednesday Vespers of Cheesefare/ Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus**

***(at Daily Vespers, Wednesday evening)***

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

**Tone 7** *(from the Octoechos)*

O glorious Apostles,

you plowed the whole earth with the plow of the understanding of God,//

making a great harvest of the faithful to grow.

*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.*

O blessed Apostles,

disperse the storm of my passions,//

and enlighten me with the radiance of pure light!

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

As Disciples of the Word, you led the assembly of nations//

from ignorance to the understanding of God.

*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 4** *(Hieromartyrs of Cherson) (You have given a sign)*

O heavenly-minded fathers,

you were invincible martyrs,

all-praised hierarchs and beacons of the universe,

immovable pillars of the Church of God,

and a foundation of sound doctrines,

instructors of the pious and destroyers of error,

light-bearing guides for our souls,

fellow citizens with the Angels,//

and champions of the Trinity.

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

Let the glorious Ephraim be blessed with divine speeches,

together with the divinely wise Basil,

the mighty Cápito, the godly Agathadórus,

Elpídius, Aethérius and the glorious Eugene;

for they lived righteously and suffered in a holy way.//

They were revealed to be inhabitants of the Kingdom of heaven.

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

Having mortified the carnal mind with ascetic labors,

by invoking the name of God,

the glorious Basil raised up a man from the dead.

The most holy shepherd, Capito,

was seen unconsumed while he stood and rejoiced in the midst of the fire.

By their supplications, O Lover of mankind,//

grant us the means of atonement and Your great mercy!

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

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

**Tone 4**  *(Theotokion) (As one valiant)*

Wash away the filth of the passions of my heart,

O all-praised Theotokos,

and cleanse all the wounds which come from my sins and their corruption, O

pure one!

Set in order my unstable mind

so that I, who am condemned and am your worthless servant,//

may magnify your power and great protection!

**Tone 5 Prokeimenon**

Save me, O God, by Your name, and judge me by Your strength!  *(Ps 53/54:1)*

*v: Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth! (Ps 53/54:1)*

**Reading from Joel (3:12-21)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Let Israel hope in the Lord henceforth and forevermore!  *(Ps 130/131:3)*

*v: O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high.*

*(Ps 130/131:1)*

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**Aposticha**

**Tone 3**

The Lenten spring has come,

the flower of repentance.

Brethren, let us cleanse ourselves from all evil,

crying out to the Giver of light://

“Glory to You, O Lover of mankind!”

*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: “The Lenten spring …”)

*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)*

**Tone 3**  *(to the Martyrs)*

Your martyrs, O Lord,

were confirmed by faith and strengthened by hope.

Spiritually united by love of Your Cross,

they overcame the tyranny of the Enemy.

They have obtained crowns of glory,//

and together with the Angels, they pray for our souls.

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

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

**Tone 3** *(Theotokion)*

O Lady, first in holiness among the saints,

hymned by the angelic hosts,

song of the Apostles, preaching of the Prophets,//

accept our entreaties!

**Tone 5** **Troparion**  *(Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson)*

Since You have given us the miracles of Your Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson as

an invincible rampart,

foil the machinations of the ungodly, O Christ our God,

and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians,//

for You are good and love mankind!

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

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

**Tone 5** *(Theotokion)* **Wednesday Vespers**

The wonderful mystery of the Virgin

was the salvation revealed to the world,

for You, O Lord, were born of her without human seed,

and appeared in the flesh without corruption, the Joy of all./

O Lord, glory to You!

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