**MARCH 14**

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

**Venerable Benedict of Nursia**

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

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 8**

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

While fasting in body, O brothers,

let us also fast in spirit!

Let us loose the bonds of iniquity!

Let us undo the chains of injustice!

Let us break the yoke of oppression!

Let us give food to the hungry!

Let us shelter the poor and homeless,//

so that we may receive great mercy from Christ our God!

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

(Repeat: “While fasting in body, O brothers …”)

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

**Tone 8** *(to the Martyrs)*

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise

rightly is ascribed to the saints,

for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,

for Your sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down.

They shed their blood for You, Who emptied Yourself,

taking the form of a servant.

They humbled themselves even unto death,

following the example of Your lowliness.

By their prayers have mercy on us, O God,//

according to Your abundant mercy!

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

**Tone 2** *(to the Apostles, by Joseph) (When You appeared, O Christ)*

Jesus, the true spiritual Sun,

sent you out as lightning into all the world,

O Apostles and eyewitnesses of God.

He dispersed the darkness of error,

enlightening those held fast in the gloom of ignorance.//

Entreat Him to send down on us as well His illumination and

great mercy!

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

Glorified by fasting,

Elijah rode in the divine chariot of virtues

and was carried up to the height of heaven.

Eagerly follow his example, O my humble soul!

Fast from every evil and jealousy,

from strife and fleeting pleasures!

Then you will escape the everlasting torment of Gehenna,//

crying out to Christ: “Glory to You, O Lord!”

*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 5** *(to the Apostles, by Theodore) (O venerable Father)*

O Apostles of God, fervent intercessors for the world,

defenders of the Orthodox,

you have power to approach Christ our God with boldness.

Intercede for us, we pray you,

that we may keep the holy fast in peace

and receive the grace of the consubstantial Trinity!//

O great and glorious preachers, worthy of all honor, pray for

our souls!

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

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion, for Venerable Benedict) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

O Father, you denied the world from your youth.

You were joyful with true faith and love

as you followed the crucified Christ.

You mortified your flesh

through many tasks of obedience

and received richly the gift of healing:

You alleviated various illnesses

and drove out evil spirits,//

O greatly admirable Benedict.

*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: “O Father, you denied …”)

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

You were the adornment of monastics, O Benedict,

assembling a countless multitude to hymn the Lord.

You guided the steps of all to heaven

who rightly followed your divine teachings

and imitated your virtuous life, O Father.

With them, we fittingly honor you,//

rejoicing in your dormition.

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

You called down rain from the skies, O Father,

by your divine prayers, like Elijah of old.

You caused a vessel to pour forth with oil, O venerable one;

you raised the dead and worked many other miracles

to the glory of the God and Savior of all.//

Therefore with love we celebrate your glorious memory, O Benedict.

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

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

**Tone 2            Theotokion***(from the Menaion) (Joseph of Arimathea)*
O joy of all those who sorrow,
intercessor for the oppressed
and nurturer of the hungry,
consolation of wanderers and staff of the blind,
visitation  of those who are ill,
protection and help of those who labor,
helper of orphans:
you are the Mother of God Most High, O all-pure one.//
Speedily intercede that your servants be saved!

**Tone 5 Prokeimenon**

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation for

 ever. *(Ps 11/12:7)*

*v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps 11/12:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (1:24-2:3)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Consider and answer me O Lord, my God! *(Ps 12/13:3)*

*v: How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You*

*hide Your face from me? (Ps 12/13:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (2:1-22)**

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

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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.