**APRIL 18**

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

**Venerable John, disciple of Ven Gregory of Decapolis**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 5**

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

I am rich in passions;

I am wrapped in the false robe of hypocrisy.

Lacking self-restraint, I delight in self-indulgence.

I show a boundless lack of love.

I see my mind cast down before the gates of repentance,

starved of true goodness and sick with inattention.

But make me like Lazarus, who was poor in sin,

lest I receive no answer when I pray,

no finger dipped in water to relieve my burning tongue;//

and make me dwell in Abraham’s bosom in Your love for mankind!

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

(Repeat: “I am rich in passions …”)

*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 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 5** *(from the Triodion, by Joseph)*

When Jesus was walking in the flesh beyond the River Jordan,

He said to His companions:

“My friend Lazarus is already dead and buried,

but I rejoice for your sake, my friends.

By his death you will learn that I know all, for I am God,

even though I appear by nature as a man.

Let us go and give life to him,

so that death may truly know my victory

and the total destruction I shall make of it,//

as I grant to the world my great mercy!”

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

Let us imitate Mary and Martha, O faithful!

Let us offer divine deeds to the Lord as intercessors,

so that when He comes He may raise up our minds,

for now they lie dead and feel no fear of God.

They are deprived of all vital energy,

unaware of their own inaction.

Let us cry: “O Lord, Who once had compassion on Your friend Lazarus,

and raised him up by Your awesome presence and authority,

so now give life to us all,//

and grant to us Your great mercy!”

*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 6** *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)*

Now Lazarus has been in the tomb two days,

seeing the dead of all the ages,

beholding strange sights of terror:

countless multitudes bound by the chains of hell.

His sisters weep bitterly as they gaze at his tomb,

but Christ is coming to bring His friend to life,

to implement in this one man His plan for all.//

Blessed are You, O Savior! Have mercy on us!

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

**Tone 8** *(Venerable John) (O most glorious wonder)*

On the wings of faith you raised your mind to God, O holy Father John.

Hating the world’s confusion and vanity,

you took up your cross and followed Him Who sees all things.

You submitted your rebellious flesh to the wisdom of your mind,

through your ascetic deeds,//

by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*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: “On the wings of faith …”)

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

You found Gregory, O venerable John,

like a sun of great radiance,

shining with the light of the virtues and the rays of miracles.

You enlightened the eyes of your soul, dispelling the dark passions.

You became a light, O all-blessed Father,//

rejoicing to pass over to the never-fading light.

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

You spent your whole life in great stillness,

in weeping and tears,

by faith becoming a true monk.

Adorned with poverty and made beautiful by abstinence,

you showed yourself to be a stranger and sojourner on earth.//

Therefore, you delight in that which is good, O wondrous one.

*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)*

The pre-eternal God, receiving flesh from your blood,

showed you to be an intercessor for mankind, O pure Maiden.

Therefore, deliver your servants from every tribulation and sorrow,

and from the snares of the evil Enemy,

so that all who glorify and honor you//

may be partakers of the splendor of the elect!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. *(Ps 114/116:9)*

*v: I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my supplication.*

*(Ps 114/116:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (43:26-31; 45:1-16)**

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

I will offer my prayers to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

*(Ps 115/116:14)*

*v: I kept my faith, even when I said: “I am greatly afflicted.” (Ps 115/116:10)*

**Reading from Proverbs (21:23-22:4)**

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

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