**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.*

(Repeat “Adorned with virtue …”)

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope 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. (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 cleansed your soul …”)

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

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

(Repeat “Filled with boldness …”)

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

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

**Tone 7**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing,

for the order of nature was overruled by God.

Thou wast revealed to be a Mother above nature,

for thou didst remain a Virgin beyond reason and understanding.

Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos!

The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin!

Knowing thee to be the Mother of God,

devoutly we pray to thee: //

Beseech Him to save our souls!

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

**Aposticha**

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

O Savior, when You come to judge all the world,

put me not to shame,/

though I have done shameful deeds!

*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)*

Glory to You, O Christ God,

the Apostles' boast, the martyrs' joy,//

whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity!

*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 holy martyrs,

who fought the good fight and have received your crowns,//

entreat the Lord that He will have mercy on 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 7** *(Theotokion)*

You, who alone received Him Who cannot be contained,

and gave birth to God the Word incarnate,//

pray that our souls may be saved!

**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 7 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

Since you are the treasure of our Resurrection,

we put our hope in you, all-praised One.

Lead us out of the pit and the abyss of transgressions,

for you have saved us, who are subject to sin, by giving birth to our

Salvation.

Before giving birth you were a virgin, and a virgin while giving birth,

and after giving birth you still remain a virgin.

***--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------***

***( 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 8** **Prokeimenon** *(for the day)*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O you righteous! *(Ps 31/32:11)*

*v: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Ps 31/32:1)*

**Tone 1** **Prokeimenon**

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

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

**Epistle**

Galatians 1:3-10

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

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps 33/34:18)*

*v: Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all. (Ps 33/34:20)*

**Tone 2**

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

**Gospel**

Luke 13:18-29

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

**Communion Hymns**

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!

Blessed are those whom You have chosen and taken, O Lord!

Their memory is from generation to generation.

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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