**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 TONE 3**

**Meatfare Sunday – Sunday of the Last Judgment. Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna**

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

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 3**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee.

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Thy 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 Thy name!*

**Tone 3**  *(for the Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death’s dominion has been shattered;

the devil’s delusion destroyed.

The human race, being saved by faith,//

always offers Thee a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising Thee,//

always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

*(for the Resurrection, by Anatolios)*

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,

and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//

for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

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

We praise the Savior incarnate of the Virgin,

for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day,//

granting us great mercy.

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:

“Behold! Now I have triumphed!

I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out,//

for I have shattered the gates of death!”

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Lenten Triodion) (Having placed all their hope)*

O righteous Judge of all mankind,

Thou shalt come, enthroned in glory and escorted by Angels,

to judge the living and the dead.

Every man will stand in fear before Thee,

trembling at the river of fire flowing past Thy throne,

as each one waits to hear the sentence he deserves.

On that awesome day have mercy on us as well, O Christ;

count us worthy of salvation,

for, worthless as we are, we turn to Thee in faith,//

O compassionate and merciful Lord!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

The books will be opened, and the works of all men laid bare;

the vale of tears will echo with the gnashing of teeth;

the sinners will mourn in vain, as they depart to eternal damnation.

Thy judgments are just, O Lord Almighty!

We beg Thee, O Master full of goodness and compassion,//

take pity on us who sing to Thee, O most merciful One!

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

The trumpet shall sound, and the graves shall be opened;

all mankind will arise in trembling;

the righteous will rejoice, as they receive their reward,

but the wicked will depart to eternal fire with wailing and horror.

O Lord of Glory, have mercy on us!

Number us with those who love Thee,//

for Thou alone art good, O Master!

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

I shudder in terror when I think of that dreadful day;

I weep as I consider the darkness that will never see light:

there the worm shall not cease nor the fire be quenched;

the pain of those who reject Thee will never end.

Save me, Thy most worthless servant, O Righteous Judge,//

for Thy mercy and compassion are my only hope!

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

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

When the thrones are set in place and the books are opened,

then God will take His place on the judgment seat.

Oh, what a fearful sight!

The Angels stand in fear, and the river of fire floweth by.

What shall we do, who are already condemned by our many sins,

as we hear Christ call the righteous to His Father’s Kingdom,

and send the wicked to eternal damnation?

Who among us can bear that terrible verdict?

Hasten to us, O Lover of man and King of the universe;

grant us the grace of repentance before the end,//

and have mercy on us!

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

**Tone 3**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder

at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,

to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee//

to be the Theotokos.

**Litya** *(If the rector desires the Litya, following the stichera to the Temple,*

*these stichera are sung)*

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

**Tone 7** *(from the Lenten Triodion)**(Idiomelon)*

Knowing the commandments of the Lord,

let us conduct our lives in this way:

let us nourish the hungry, let us give drink to the thirsty;

let us clothe the naked, let us welcome the strangers;

let us visit the sick, the infirm, and those in prison,

so that He Who is coming to judge the whole earth may say to us:

“Come, O blessed of My Father,//

inherit the Kingdom which has been prepared for you!”

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 7** *(Theotokion)*

Fleeing under thy protection, O Lady,

we mortals seek refuge and cry aloud to thee://

“O Theotokos, our hope, deliver us from our countless sins, and save our souls!”

**Aposticha**

**Tone 3** *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,

but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//

Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,

enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.

Delivered from Adam’s curse, we sing://

O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Thou art the changeless God,

Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.

Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.

It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.

By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//

Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

*v. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,

to deliver the human race from death.

Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,

raising with thyself those who knew Thee as God//

and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

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

Woe to thee, O my darkened soul!

Thy life is stained by depravity and laziness;

thy folly makes thee shun all thought of death.

How complacent dost thou remain!

How canst thou flee the fearful thought of Judgment Day?

When wilt thou change thy way of life?

On that day thy sins will rise against thee.

What will thine answer be then?

Thine acts will condemn thee; thy deeds will expose thee.

The time is at hand, O my soul.

Turn to the good and loving Savior!

Beg Him to forgive thy malice and weakness, as thou criest in faith:

“I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against Thee,

but I know Thy love for all mankind.//

O good Shepherd, call me to enjoy Thy lasting presence on Thy right hand!”

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

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion)*

O unwedded Virgin,

who ineffably didst conceive God in the flesh,

O Mother of God most high,

accept the cries of thy servants, O blameless one!

Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//

Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

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 3 Resurrectional** **Dismissal Theotokion**

We praise thee as the mediatrix of our salvation,

O Virgin Theotokos.

For thy Son, our God, Who took flesh from thee,

accepted the Passion on the Cross,//

delivering us from corruption as the Lover of Man.

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. *(thrice)*

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

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

**Tone 1 Kontakion** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,

all things shall tremble,

and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat;

the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;

then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//

and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond

measure. (Ps 146/147:5)

*v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!* (Ps 146/147:1)

**Epistle**

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our*

*Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)*

*v: v: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. (Ps 94/95:2)*

**Gospel**

Matthew 25:31-46

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

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