**FEBRUARY 26**

**Wednesday of Cheesefare Week. St. Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza.**

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

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

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 3** *(from the Octoechos)*

Creation was changed by Your Crucifixion, O Lord;

the sun hid its rays in fear,

the veil of the Temple was torn in two,

and every believer was saved.//

Therefore we glorify Your immeasurable riches.

*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.*

The God and Master Who assumed our flesh in His mercy,

was nailed to the Wood of the Cross;

and being lifted up in the body,

He lifted up us who were fallen,//

as He was well pleased to do in His compassionate mercy.

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

Divinely flowing drops of blood and water

refashioned the world as they poured from Your side, O Lord.

With the water You wash away the sins of all,

as You are compassionate,//

while with the blood You write out their pardon.

*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 8** *(St Porphyrius) (O most glorious wonder)*

O Venerable Father Porphyrius,

you took the Cross of Christ upon your shoulder,

abandoning all and reaching the desert.

Armed with fasting and prayers,

you battled with the ruler of this world.

Therefore as a temple of the Spirit of God,//

you cast him down together with carnal mindedness.

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

As of old God saved the three Youths from the fire by His Angel,

so now He has saved three youths by you.

They had been dragged down into a pit.

God bore them up as in a basket,

overshadowing them with the light of a cloud

which formed three crosses on their bodies,//

reproving those who opposed you, O Porphyrius.

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

Who can worthily sing hymns to your temptations and pains, O Porphyrius,

your misfortunes, tribulations, and your struggles for the faith?

You showed that you have great boldness before God.

Therefore, because of that boldness, we entreat you://

Pray on our behalf to the Lord that we 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 8**  *(Cross-Theotokion) (O most glorious wonder)*

Beholding You nailed to the Cross

and voluntarily accepting suffering, O Jesus,

Your Virgin Mother, O Master, cried aloud:

Woe is me, my sweet Child!

How is it that You endure wounds unjustly inflicted,

O Physician Who heals human infirmities,

and has delivered all from corruption//

in Your lovingkindness?

**Aposticha**

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

O faithful, let us receive with joy

the divinely-inspired announcements of Lent!

Like the Ninevites of old, like harlots and publicans,

who heard John preaching repentance,

let us prepare ourselves through fasting

for the Master’s communion in Zion!

Let us wash ourselves with tears of purification;

let us pray to behold the fulfillment of Pascha, the true revelation!

Let us prepare ourselves to adore the Cross and Resurrection of Christ our

God!//

Deprive us not of our expectation, 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: “O faithful, let us receive with joy …”)

*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 1** *(to the Martyrs)*

You made a wise exchange, O saints:

you offered your blood and received heaven in return.

You suffered for a time and now rejoice eternally.

Your trade was wise indeed!

Forsaking the corruptible, you received the incorruptible.

Now rejoicing with the angelic host,//

you ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity.

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

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

 **Tone 1** *(Cross-Theotokion)*

When the most pure Virgin saw her Son on the Tree,

her heart was pierced with a sword of sorrow, and she cried aloud:

“How can the Creator of all be lifted on the Cross as one condemned//

in His desire to save mankind?”

**Tone 8** **The Lenten Troparia**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb; //

for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

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

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all,

that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//

for to you is given grace to intercede for us!

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

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints,

that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//

for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior!

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.

Do not despise our supplications in adversity,//

but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, 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.