**MARCH 19**

**Thursday of the Third Week of Great Lent**

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)**

**Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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

Like the Prodigal,

I recklessly squandered my father’s riches.

Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.

In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,

stripped of all divine grace.

But now I have returned and cry to Thee,

the compassionate and merciful Father://

“I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on

me!”

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

(Repeat: “Like the Prodigal…”)

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

**Tone 4** *(to the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,

living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,

perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,

whose fold no wolf can enter;//

pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Triodion, by Joseph) (Having placed all their hope)*

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,

rays of light from the spiritual Sun:

entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of

passions!

Pray that we may see the day of salvation!

By your prayers and intercessions,

may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,

so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you,//

who save the world by your wise preaching.

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

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.

I recklessly squandered the riches that Thou gavest me.

Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.

Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.

I have sinned, and yet I know Thy goodness.

Receive me as one of Thy hired servants, O compassionate Christ,//

by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved Thee!

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Triodion, by Theodore) (Clothed, O Savior)*

O Apostles of the Savior,

lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,

like the heavens you tell the glory of God,

adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.

Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,

that He may accept our prayers as incense,

and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!

As we venerate Thy Cross, O Savior,//

send down on us great mercy in Thy love for mankind!

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

**Tone 4[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(from the Menaion, for the Martyrs) (Thou hast given us a sign)*

The eyes of thy heart were enlightened

when thou didst receive the illumination of the knowledge of God.

Thou didst wisely abandon the darkness of delusion, O wise one.

Thou didst confess Christ, the Lord Who took flesh for all.

Therefore, most praised Chrysanthus,

thou wast made strong by the might of the Spirit,//

and wast shown to be stronger than thy torturers.

*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: “The eyes of thy heart…”)

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

Thou didst count the bait of the enemy and the burning of pleasures to be

like a spider’s web.

As thou didst stand in the dark dungeon,

thou wast illumined with divine resplendence

and filled with spiritual fragrance,

though thou wast surrounded by the stench of filth.

As a most excellent escort,

thou didst lead as a blameless bride to Christ//

the woman who had sought to defile thee.

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

O Daria of glorious fame,

thou wast wounded with the sweetest love of the Creator

and didst turn away from all ungodliness.

Through the many torments of thy body,

thou didst betroth thyself to Christ,

and didst find within thyself a bridal chamber of God.

Thou wast a divine vessel of the Spirit,//

the adornment of athletes and the splendor of virgins.

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

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

**Tone 4**  *(Theotokion)*

O most immaculate Virgin Mother,

transform the weakness and paralysis of my soul into strength and virtue,

that with fear and love I may perform Christ’s ordinances,

that I may escape the unbearable flame,

and ever rejoicing, may attain, through thee, the heavenly inheritance,//

and the unsurpassable life!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

I will trust in the mercy of God / for ever and ever. *(Ps 51/52:8)*

*v: Why dost thou boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the godly?*

*(Ps 51/52:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)**

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

When the Lord turns back / the captivity of His people. [/ let Jacob rejoice and let Israel be glad.] *(Ps 13/14:7)*

*v: The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” (Ps 13/14:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (9:12-18)**

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

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.

1. Music for the stichera from the Menaion from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at <www.oca.org>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)