**SEPTEMBER 25**

**Repose of Ven. Sergius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Rádonezh and All Russia**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

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

**Tone 6** *(Having placed all their hope)*

Forsaking the tumult of the world

and taking up your Cross, O Saint,

you followed Christ without any thought of looking back;

and going to dwell in the wilderness,

you uprooted the passions of the soul

and mortified the feelings of the flesh;

by frequent vigils and prayers you received the grace to heal infirmities.

O fellow-converser with the angels

and companion of the venerable,//

pray to the Lord, venerable Sergius, that our souls may receive mercy!

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

Who can tell of your labors and pains, O holy Father?

What tongue can speak of your rigorous life,

your vigils and abstinence from food,

your sleeping upon the cold earth,

your purity of body and soul,

the complete silence of your lips and mind,

your true humility, unceasing prayers and discerning judgment,

the poverty of your apparel,

and your never-failing remembrance of death?//

Our holy Father Sergius, pray for the salvation of our souls!

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

O holy Father Sergius,

you were revealed to be a physician of our souls and bodies,

a fount of healing for the sick.

Adorned with the gift of prophecy, you spoke of future things.

By your prayer, O saint, you armed the prince fighting for his fatherland

against the boastful barbarians,//

and they fell, struck like the people of Amalek.

V. (5) *For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

O holy Sergius, wise in God,

you forsook the glory of the world,

living in the wilderness and the hills.

You were the pure dwelling-place of the Holy Trinity,

by Whose strength you raised up many holy churches

and built a fortress for the salvation of those living the ascetic life.

Christ our God, Whom you desired from your youth,

dwelt in you, O blessed one.//

Entreat Him, O holy Father Sergius, to save our souls!

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

**Tone 2**

Enduring with fortitude the things of the present,

rejoicing in the promise for the future,

holy Sergius, you said to all:

“If we now strive unrewarded, we still have hope for eternal life.

Our afflictions are grievous, but Paradise is sweet.

Our labors are painful, but our undertaking is everlasting.

Therefore do not be slothful, O people who fast!

Let us endure but a little that we may be crowned with incorruption//

by Christ our God, the Savior of our souls!”

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: “Enduring with fortitude…”)

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

Looking upon afflictions as pleasure,

walking along the straight and narrow way,

most blessed Sergius, you said to your disciples:

“Do not fear the struggle of abstinence,

by which we may escape the fearful torments of hell!

Let our hands be clasped in prayer, that we may reach out to God!

Let our feet be established to stand before Him in prayer!

Let us not spare the corruptible nature!

Let us surrender ourselves willingly to the fight,//

that we may be crowned with triumph by Christ our God!”

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Setting aside corruptible garments, O patient Sergius,

you walked about in winter as in summer without warm clothing, saying,

“Let us now lay aside soft clothes for the sake of the Paradise which we have lost!

Let us now put them away for the sake of the garments of incorruption!

Pay no heed, O brethren, to the passing winter!//

Let us mortify the flesh, that we may be crowned with triumph by Christ our God!”

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

**Tone 6**

You have kept the image of God within you unharmed,

and by fasting you set your mind above pernicious passion.

You rose to the Master’s divine image as far as man is able,

having restrained your nature.

You strove to make the lower part obey the higher,

so that the spirit would rule the flesh.

Therefore you have been shown to be the summit of those living the ascetic life,

a dweller of the wilderness,

a trainer of those who run the good race,

a renowned example of virtue.

O Sergius, our father,

now in the heavens you behold in all purity the Holy Trinity,//

while you pray on behalf of those who honor you in faith and love.

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

**Tone 6** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from you He was ineffably incarnate.

God by nature, yet Man for our sake,

not two persons, but one known in two natures.

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//

to have mercy on our souls!

 **Old Testament Readings**

 **Composite 2** *(Proverbs – selections from Chapters 10, 3, 8)*

 **Proverbs 10:31-11:12**

 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9**

**Litya**

*(If the rector desires the Litya, following the sticheron to the Patron Saint of the Temple,*

*these stichera are sung)*

**Tone 6**

Come, O company of ascetics, who love the feasts of the Church,

having assembled in faith today, let us honor the true ascetic, Sergius,

who joyfully followed in his Master’s steps,

on the narrow path and the life of dispassion!

In faith let us cry aloud:

“O all-blessed Father Sergius,

co-dweller with the venerable and praise of ascetics,//

entreat the Lord that He have mercy on our souls!”

O venerable and God-bearing Sergius,

for the sake of the love of Christ,

you abandoned all and entered the wilderness.

You were not frightened by the cunning of the invisible enemies.

Though they approached you many times,

displaying their fury by the gnashing of teeth,

you, by your prayers, caused them to vanish like smoke.

Oh, the purity of your soul,

and the strength of your endurance!//

Ceaselessly entreat Christ to save our souls!

O most sacred and great Church of Russia,

having drunk of the streams of the fountain of the Gospel,

with the Orthodox faithful, both monastics and laity,

let us rejoice spiritually in the appointed feast of the good shepherd and teacher!

Surrounding his healing relics, we lovingly venerate them,

and crown them with hymns and praises like flowers, saying:

“Rejoice, O blessed Sergius,

heavenly man and earthly angel,

abode of the Holy Spirit!

Rejoice, for you guided many to the path of salvation!

Rejoice, joy and support of the faithful!

Rejoice, O venerable and God-pleasing Sergius,//

all-radiant light to your native land and intercessor for our souls!”

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

 **Tone 6**

Come, O multitude of monastics,

and with songs and hymns let us praise today Sergius, the emulator of piety!

As we stand before his precious and healing reliquary, let us lovingly venerate it, saying:

“Rejoice, most wondrous Sergius, brightest luminary to your native land!

Rejoice, for by purity you were united with the most pure Light!

Rejoice, for you stand with the angels before the Trinity,//

Whom you always entreat that great mercy be granted to our souls!”

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

**Tone 6** *(Theotokion)*

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,

was born of you, O most pure Virgin.

By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.

Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!

Rejoice, O celestial Joy!

Rejoice, O Lady://

the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

**Aposticha**

**Tone 1** *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

O God-bearing Father Sergius,

the bright sun of your feast shines on us,

making radiant those who come to you in faith.

Immortality sheds its fragrance around us.

Incorruption springs forth for our souls from your holy body.//

O blessed Sergius, plead for the salvation of our souls!

V. *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.* *(Ps. 115:6)*

With the bridles of abstinence, O wonder-worker Sergius,

you conquered the sensual passions of the body.

On earth you were zealous for things beyond the flesh,

subjecting all fleshly desire to the spirit.

Therefore you now dwell in the heavenly mansions,//

praying for the salvation of our souls.

V. *Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)*

Having laid the foundation of truth, O blessed Sergius,

you put off the old Adam and the lusts of the flesh,

clothing yourself in Christ, the Truth.

Therefore, exposing the Enemy, you became a guide of ascetics.//

Pray for the salvation of our souls!

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

**Tone 8**

We honor you, O Sergius our father,

as the instructor of a multitude of monks.

We have indeed learned to walk rightly in your footsteps.

Blessed are you, for having labored for Christ,

you denounced the power of the enemy.

You were a converser with the Angels and a companion of the venerable and righteous.//

Together with them, entreat the Lord that He grant mercy to our souls!

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

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion)*

O unwedded Virgin,

who ineffably conceived God in the flesh,

O Mother of God most high,

accept the cries of your servants, O blameless One!

Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//

Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion**

A zealot of good deeds

and a true warrior of Christ our God,

you struggled greatly against the passions in this passing life;

in songs and vigils and fasting you were an image and example to your disciples,

thus the most Holy Spirit lived within you,

and you were made beautiful by His working.

Since you have great boldness before the Holy Trinity,

remember the flock which you have wisely gathered,//

and do not forget to visit your children as you promised, venerable Sergius, our father!

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

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

**Tone 4** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,

by which He resurrected the first-created man,//

saving our souls from death.

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion**

A zealot of good deeds

and a true warrior of Christ our God,

you struggled greatly against the passions in this passing life;

in songs and vigils and fasting you were an image and example to your disciples,

thus the most Holy Spirit lived within you,

and you were made beautiful by His working.

Since you have great boldness before the Holy Trinity,

remember the flock which you have wisely gathered,//

and do not forget to visit your children as you promised, venerable Sergius, our father! *(twice)*

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

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. *(once)*

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion**

A zealot of good deeds

and a true warrior of Christ our God,

you struggled greatly against the passions in this passing life;

in songs and vigils and fasting you were an image and example to your disciples,

thus the most Holy Spirit lived within you,

and you were made beautiful by His working.

Since you have great boldness before the Holy Trinity,

remember the flock which you have wisely gathered,//

and do not forget to visit your children as you promised, venerable Sergius, our father!

**Tone 8** **Kontakion**

Bound by the love of Christ, O venerable one,

and following Him with unwavering desire,

you despised all carnal pleasures, shining like the sun in your land.

Therefore, Christ has enriched you with the gift of miracles.

Remember us, who venerate your most holy memory//

and who call out to you: “Rejoice, O Sergius, made wise by God!”

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon** *(St. Sergius)*

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *(Ps. 115:6)*

V. *What shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me? (Ps.115:3)*

**Epistle**

 (216) Ephesians 1:1-9 *(only if not a Vigil rank)*

(213) Galatians 5:22-6:2 *(St. Sergius)*

**Tone 6**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)*

V. *His seed shall be mighty in the land. (Ps. 111:2a)*

 **Gospel**

 (13) Luke 4:16-22 *(only if not a Vigil rank)*

(24) Luke 6:17-23 *(St. Sergius)*

**Communion Hymn**

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

tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*