**MARCH 14**

**Saturday of the Second Week of Great Lent**

**Vespers, served alone (sung on Friday)**

**Venerable Benedict of Nursia**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 5**

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

**Tone 5** *(for the Martyrs, from the Octoechos in the Tone of the week)*

The passion-bearers quenched the fire of terrible wickedness

with the streams of their blood,

having kindled the brightness of true piety in all the world;

but the martyrs utterly burned up the falsely-named gods

and their odors and temples,

and shone the most pure light to those on earth.

Enlightened by them, we flee from the darkness of godlessness

and shun the deception of idolatry,//

worshipping Christ, Who grants the world 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.*

Putting on the shield of faith

and strengthening themselves with the sign of the Cross,

Thy saints, O Lord, bravely went of their own accord to torture,

laying low the pride and error of the devil.

By their supplications, O all-powerful God,//

send the world peace, and our souls great mercy!

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

Not rejoicing in earthly things,

but bravely going forth to tortures,

O all-laudable martyrs, ye did not fail in your blessed hopes,

but were heirs of the heavenly Kingdom.

Since now ye have boldness before God, the Lover of man,//

entreat peace for the world, and for our souls, great mercy!

*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 2[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(for Ven. Benedict, from the Menaion) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

O Father, thou didst deny the world from thy youth.

Thou wast joyful with true faith and love

as thou didst follow the crucified Christ.

Thou didst mortify thy flesh

through many tasks of obedience

and didst receive richly the gift of healing:

Thou didst alleviate various illnesses

and didst drive out evil spirits,//

O greatly admirable Benedict.

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

Thou wast the adornment of monastics, O Benedict,

assembling a countless multitude to hymn the Lord.

Thou didst guide to heaven

the steps of all who rightly followed thy divine teachings

and imitated thy virtuous life, O Father.

With them, we fittingly honor thee,//

rejoicing in thy dormition.

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

Thou didst call down rain from the skies, O Father,

by thy divine prayers, like Elijah of old.

Thou didst cause a vessel to pour forth with oil, O venerable one;

thou didst raise the dead and work many other miracles

to the glory of the God and Savior of all.//

Therefore with love we celebrate thy glorious memory, O Benedict.

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

**Tone 5** *(for the departed, by John of Damascus)*

I called to mind the Prophet who cried:

“I am earth and ashes”;

and again, I looked into the tombs and saw the naked bones.

And I said: “Who then is the king or the soldier,

the rich man or the poor,

the righteous or the sinner?

But give rest, O Lord, to Thy servants with the righteous,//

since Thou art the Lover of man!”

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

**Tone 5**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,

a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.

There Moses divided the waters;

here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.

There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,

here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel’s passage, the sea remained impassable;

after Emmanuel’s birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.

O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man,//

O Lord, have mercy on us!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Let Thy mercy and Thy truth / preserve me forever! *(Ps 39:40:11)*

*v: I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry. (Ps 39/40:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (5:32-6:8)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

I said: “Lord, have mercy on me. / Heal my soul!” (Ps 40/41:4)

 *v: Blessed is he who considers the poor. (Ps 40/41:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (6:20-7:1)**

**Aposticha**

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

Now is the acceptable time,

now is the day of salvation!

In the abundance of Thy mercy visit my soul,

and take away the burden of my sins,//

O only Lover of mankind!

*v: To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou who art 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: “Now is the acceptable time…”)

*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 4** *(to the Martyrs)*

Thou didst accept the patient endurance of the holy martyrs;

accept also our hymns of praise, O Lover of mankind,//

and, by their supplications, grant us Thy 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 4** *(Theotokion)*

O inextinguishable candle,

O righteous throne, O most pure Lady,//

pray for the salvation of our souls!

**Tone 2 Troparion**

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets,

Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones,

who completed well the fight and kept the faith,

ye have boldness before the Savior.

We pray: “Intercede for us with Him, as He is good,//

that He may save our souls!”

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

**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember Thy servants, O Lord, since Thou art good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but Thee,//

Who givest rest to the departed.

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

**Tone 2 Theotokion**

O holy Mother of the ineffable Light,//

we honor and magnify thee with angelic hymns.

 ***(at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning)***

**Tone 2 Troparion**

O Apostles, Martyrs, and Prophets,

Hierarchs, Holy Monks, and Righteous Ones,

who completed well the fight and kept the faith,

ye have boldness before the Savior.

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**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember Thy servants, O Lord, since Thou art good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but Thee,//

Who givest rest to the departed.

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

**Tone 8** **Kontakion**

With the saints give rest, O Christ,

to the souls of Thy servants,

where there is neither sickness nor sorrow, and no more sighing,//

but life everlasting!

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

**Tone 8 Theotokion**

We have thee as a wall and a haven

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, Whom thou hast borne,//

O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

 **Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

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

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

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon**

Their souls shall dwell / with the blessed. *(Ps 24/25:13)*

**Epistle**

 Hebrews 3:12-16

 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 *(Departed)*

**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 6**

*v: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. (Ps 64/65:4; 101/102:12)*

**Gospel**

 Mark 1:35-44

 John 5:24-30 *(Departed)*

 **Communion Hymns**

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

Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Their memory is from generation to generation.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 for Ven. Benedict of Nursia from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CPhillip%5CDocuments%5C5.%20OCA%20Chancery%5C1.%20Department%20of%20Liturgical%20Music%5CNew%20Packets%20beginning%2002-2020%5C2020-03%20Services%5Cwww.oca.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)