**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 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 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 Your name’s sake have I waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Putting on the shield of faith

and strengthening themselves with the sign of the Cross,

Your 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, you did not fail in your blessed hopes,

but were heirs of the heavenly Kingdom.

Since now you 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, you denied the world from your youth.

You were joyful with true faith and love

as you followed the crucified Christ.

You mortified your flesh

through many tasks of obedience

and received richly the gift of healing:

You alleviated various illnesses

and drove out evil spirits,//

O greatly admirable Benedict.

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

You were the adornment of monastics, O Benedict,

assembling a countless multitude to hymn the Lord.

You guided to heaven

the steps of all who rightly followed your divine teachings

and imitated your virtuous life, O Father.

With them, we fittingly honor you,//

rejoicing in your dormition.

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

You called down rain from the skies, O Father,

by your divine prayers, like Elijah of old.

You caused a vessel to pour forth with oil, O venerable one;

you raised the dead and worked many other miracles

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

Therefore with love we celebrate your 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 Your servants with the righteous,//

since You 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 appeared as Man,//

O Lord, have mercy on us!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

Let Your mercy and Your 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 Your mercy visit my soul,

and take away the burden of my sins,//

O only 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: “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)*

You accepted the patient endurance of the holy martyrs;

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

and, by their supplications, grant us Your 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,

you 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 Your servants, O Lord, since You are good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but You,//

Who give 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 you 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,

you have boldness before the Savior.

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

that He may save our souls!”

**Tone 2 Troparion**

Remember Your servants, O Lord, since You are good,

and forgive the sins they have committed in life!

For none is sinless but You,//

Who give 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 Your 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 you as a wall and a haven

and an intercessor well-pleasing to God, Whom you have borne,//

O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful.

 **Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Be glad in the Lord / and rejoice, O you 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 You have 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 You have 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)