**MARCH 21**

**Saturday of the Third Week of Great Lent**

**Vespers alone (sung on Friday)**

**St. James the Confessor, Bishop of Catania**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 7**

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

Walking in the steps of Christ’s sufferings,

the whole company of martyrs resolutely approached their many struggles,

and proclaimed Him as God before the ungodly torturers and lawless kings;

and they endured many torments

in the hope of obtaining the glories of heaven.

Seeing them now, they rejoice,

and with all the choirs of the bodiless hosts,//

they stand in the presence of the Lord.

*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.*

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, did not deny Thee,

nor did they turn from Thy commandments.//

By their intercessions have mercy on us!

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

Thy victorious Martyrs, when they contended on this earth,

endured great torments;

but now they dwell in heaven and have received a perfect crown,//

that they may offer intercession for 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.*

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

Thou didst desire the glory that is eternal and does not pass away,

scorning the glory that is transitory and perishing.

Thou didst take up thy cross and follow after the crucified One,

subjecting thy flesh to ascetic struggles.//

Therefore, O James, we celebrate thy memory.

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

Thou wast crucified to the world and to the passions,

preserving thy soul undefiled and pure,

untainted by low things, O Father James.

Thus thou didst soar to the heavens with mystical visions.

There thou settest forth thy life as a true friend of Christ,//

O ever-memorable one and a most faithful saint.

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

O ever-memorable one,

thou wast revealed to be innocent, guileless, and merciful,

filled with brotherly love, humility, meekness and charity.

Thou wast adorned with compassion,

gifted with patience, faith and hope.

Thou wast enriched with prayer.//

In holiness, thou wast illumined by the brightness of God.

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

**Tone 6** *(for the departed, by John of Damascus)*

Thy creating command was my origin and my foundation.

For Thou didst will to fashion me as a living creature

from natures visible and invisible:

Thou madest my body from the earth

and gavest me a soul by Thy divine and life-creating breath.

Therefore, O Savior, grant rest to Thy servants in the land of the living,//

in the mansions of the righteous!

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

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

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from thee 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!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

O grant us Thy help against the enemy, / for vain is the help of men! *(Ps 59/60:13)*

*v: O God, Thou hast rejected us, and hast broken our defenses. (Ps 59/60:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (8:4-21)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Hear my cry, O Lord, / listen to my prayer! (Ps 60/61:1)

 *v: From the end of the earth I call to Thee. (Ps 60/61:2)*

**Reading from Proverbs (10:31-11:12)**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 7 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Prodigal, I have turned away from Thy grace.

I have spent the riches of Thy goodness, O Lord.

I now run to Thee, crying, O tender-hearted One://

I have sinned, O God, have mercy on me!

*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: “Like the Prodigal…”)

*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 7** *(to the Martyrs)*

Despising all earthly things, O holy martyrs,

and bravely proclaiming Christ in the arena,

ye received from Him the just reward

for all your sufferings;

and now, since ye have boldness to approach Him,

we beseech you to entreat Him as Almighty God//

to preserve the souls of us who take refuge in you.

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

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

 **Tone 7** *(Theotokion) (from the Octoechos)*

Thou, who alone didst receive Him Who cannot be contained,

and gavest birth to God the Word incarnate,//

pray that our souls may be saved!

**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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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 10:32-38

 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 2:14-17

 John 5:24-30 *(Departed)*

 **Communion Hymns**

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye 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 St. James the Confessor 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)