

# Vespers sung on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 Fifth Sunday of Great Lent ♦ Our Holy Mother, Saint Mary of Egypt

**“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!

*Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 5 (For the Resurrection)**

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,  
Thou hast put the devil to shame.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin  
and saved us from the gates of death.//  
We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

*The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter  
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.  
The princes of hell were frightened by this,  
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.  
Christ the King of glory had entered,  
saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//  
And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

O great wonder!  
The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man  
and rose again immortal.  
Come, O sons of nations,  
let us worship Him,  
for delivered from error by His compassion,//  
we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

We offer Thee our evening worship,  
O never-setting Light,  
Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;  
Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness.  
Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//  
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

We glorify the Leader of our salvation;  
by His Resurrection from the dead,  
the world was saved from deceit.  
The assembly of Angels rejoices  
as the deceit of demons is overthrown.//  
Fallen Adam rises as the devil falls.

*For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones:  
"Hide the rising of Christ, take money and say:  
"The body was stolen from the tomb while we were asleep."  
But who has heard of a body being stolen,  
a body embalmed and naked,  
with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb?  
Do not be deceived, O Jews,  
study the words of the Prophets and understand://  
Christ is the Redeemer of the world and all powerful!

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 6** *(For Saint Mary of Egypt, from the Lenten Triodion)*

Thou wast standing before the doors of the Church,  
polluted with evil and unable to enter.  
Accused by thine own conscience, O wise one of God,  
thou wast converted to a better way of life.  
Looking upon the icon of the blessed Mother of God,  
thou didst condemn all thy past sins, O Mother Mary,//  
and didst go to bow before the precious Cross.

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Repeat:** Thou wast standing before the doors ...

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Having worshipped at the holy places with great joy,  
thou didst receive saving grace for thy journey of virtue.  
Thou didst set out in haste to follow the narrow path,  
crossing the river Jordan,  
and going to live where the Baptist had dwelt.  
Through self-denial thou didst tame the savagery of the passions,  
and through violence thou didst break the rebellion of thy flesh,//  
taking the Kingdom of God by force.

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

Thou didst live alone in the wilderness,  
and as thou didst erase the images of sin from thy soul,  
God marked it with the imprint of holiness.  
Filled with the spirit, O Blessed Mother,  
thou didst walk on the surface of the waters;  
by thy prayers thou didst ascend from earth to heaven.  
Since thou standest before Christ, O glorious Mary,//  
entreat Him with boldness to save our souls!

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

**Tone 4** *(For Saint Mary of Egypt, from the Lenten Triodion)*

The power of Thy Cross has worked a wonder, O Christ.  
Through it a harlot became a champion of the ascetic life.  
She cast aside her weakness and bravely fought the devil,  
and having won the prize of victory, //  
she ceaselessly prays for our souls.

*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!

---

**APOSTICHA**

**Tone 5** *(For the Resurrection)*

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,  
O incarnate Christ and Saviour.  
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
as the Lord and Lover of man,  
Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, //  
and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,  
Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.  
By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality.  
Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,  
and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God. //  
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

*V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.  
Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.  
Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us.  
Grant us purification of sins,  
who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day!  
Make us worthy of Paradise //  
and save us, O Lover of man!

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh,  
to rise from the dead on the third day.  
Heal us from our earthly passions,  
and restore us from our evil transgressions; //  
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

**Tone 2** *(For Saint Mary of Egypt, from the Lenten Triodion)*

With the sword of abstinence,  
thou didst cut down the corrupt desires of thy soul and the passions of thy flesh.  
With the silence of the wilderness thou didst strangle thy sinful words and thoughts.  
Thou didst water the desert with the streams of thy tears,  
and madest the fruits of repentance to grow for us.//  
We celebrate thy memory, O holy one.

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

**Tone 2** *(Aposticha Theotokion)*

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!  
Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,  
who carried in her arms her Creator?  
This birth is the will of God!  
Since thou didst carry Him as an infant in thine arms, O most pure one,  
and since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him,  
do not cease praying for us who honour thee,//  
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

---

**TROPARIA**

**Tone 5**

**Troparion of the Resurrection** [Music on website / Green Book page 10]

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

**Tone 8**

**Troparion of Saint Mary of Egypt** [Music on website / Green Book page 35]

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother,  
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.  
By so doing, thou hast taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;  
but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal.//  
Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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

**Tone 8**

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin  
and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death,  
and as God revealed the resurrection:  
disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand.  
Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One;  
accept the Theotokos who gave Thee birth and prayeth for us;  
and save Thy despairing people, O our Saviour!