

# Vespers sung on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 6**

[Music on website]

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 6 (For the Resurrection)**

[Music on website]

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,  
since Thou art free among the dead,  
Thou didst ascend the Cross  
raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.//  
Drawing life from Thy light, O almighty Saviour, have mercy on us!

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

Today Christ tramples on death,  
for He is risen as He said!  
Let us all sing this song,  
for He has granted joy to the world:  
O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//  
O Saviour almighty, have mercy on us!

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

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?  
In heaven Thou dwellest!  
In hell Thou didst trample on death!  
In the depths of the sea?  
Even there is Thy hand, O Master!  
To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray://  
O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

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

In Thy Cross, we glory, O Christ.  
We sing and glorify Thy Resurrection.  
For Thou art our God,//  
and we know no other than Thee.

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

We will always bless the Lord  
by singing of His Resurrection!  
For He endured the Cross, //  
trampling down death by death.

*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.*

Glory to Thy might, O Lord,  
for Thou didst overthrow the prince of death,  
by Thy Cross renewing us, //  
granting us life and incorruption.

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

**Tone 1** *(From the Lenten Triodion)*

[Music on website]

Rich and fertile was the earth allotted to us,  
but all we planted were the seeds of sin.  
We reaped the sheaves of evil with the sickle of laziness;  
we failed to place them on the threshing floor of repentance.  
Now we beg Thee, O Lord, eternal Master of the harvest:  
"May Thy love become the breeze to winnow the straw of our worthless deeds! //  
Make us like the precious wheat to be stored in heaven, and save us all!"

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

*Repeat:* Rich and fertile ...

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

Brothers, our purpose is to know the power of God's goodness.  
For when the Prodigal Son abandoned his sin,  
he hastened to the refuge of his father.  
That good man embraced him and welcomed him;  
he killed the fatted calf and celebrated with heavenly joy.  
Let us learn from this example  
to offer thanks to the Father, Who loves all men, //  
and to the glorious Victim, the Saviour of our souls!

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

*Repeat:* Brothers, our purpose ...

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

**Tone 2** *(Lord I call Doxastikon from the Lenten Triodion)*

What great blessings have I forsaken, wretch that I am?  
From what kingdom have I miserably fallen?  
I have squandered the riches that were given me;  
I have transgressed the commandments.  
Woe to me when I shall be condemned to eternal fire!  
Cry out to Christ, O my soul, before the end draws nigh: //  
"Receive me as the Prodigal, O God, and have mercy on me!"

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

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

[Music on website]

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.

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**APOSTICHA****Tone 6** (*For the Resurrection*)

[Music on website]

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,  
the Angels in heaven sing!  
Enable us on earth //  
to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

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

Destroying the gates of hell,  
breaking the chains of death,  
Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God! //  
O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

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

Desiring to return us to Paradise,  
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.  
The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,  
“Woe to us, O Saviour!  
How dost Thou deign to descend to death?  
What place can hold Thy life bearing body?  
Come to us as Thou didst promise!  
Take away our wailing and tears!”  
Then the Angel appeared to them:  
“Stop your lamentations!  
Go, proclaim to the Apostles:  
“The Lord is risen, //  
granting us purification and great mercy!”

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

Having been crucified as Thou didst will,  
by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ,  
rising on the third day as God in glory, //  
granting the world unending life and great mercy!

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

**Tone 6** (*Aposticha Doxastikon from the Lenten Triodion*)

[Music on website]

I, a wretched man, hide my face in shame:  
I have squandered the riches my Father gave to me;  
I went to live with senseless beasts;  
I sought their food and hungered, for I had not enough to eat.  
I will arise, I will return to my compassionate Father;  
He will accept my tears, as I kneel before Him, crying: //  
“In Thy tender love for all men, receive me as one of Thy servants and save me!”

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

**Tone 6** (*Theotokion*)

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,  
was born of thee, O most pure Virgin.  
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.  
Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God!  
Rejoice, O celestial Joy!  
Rejoice, O Lady://  
the protection, intercession and salvation of our souls!

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**TROPARIA**

**Tone 6**

**Troparion of the Resurrection**

[Music on website / Green Book page 12]

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave,  
seeking Thy most pure body.  
Thou didst capture hell  
not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.//  
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

Thou who didst call thy mother blessed  
Camest of thine own will to the Passion.  
For having shone on the cross,  
Desiring to recall Adam,  
Thou didst say to the angels:  
“Rejoice with me, for the lost coin has been found.”  
O thou who hast wisely ordered all things,  
O our God, glory to thee.

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