

**Vespers sung on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**  
**Third Saturday of Great Lent ♦ Saturday of Souls ♦ Holy Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra**

*We follow the Order for Lenten Daily Vespers on Fridays of Great Lent*

**“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!

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

**Tone 5 (For the Martyrs, 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 odours 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.

*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.*

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!

*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!

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

**Tone 4 (From the Menaion, for the Holy Hieromartyr Basil)**

Adorned with the garment of the priesthood,

thou didst serve God like an angel, O Basil of great renown,

offering sacrifice to Him, Who appeared in the flesh for our salvation.

Therefore thou wast sacrificed like a perfect lamb,

[becoming a pure offering.

becoming a pure offering.  
Now thou hast offered thyself upon the altar of heaven.  
Therefore, with our voices we call thee blessed,  
and in gladness and joy we cry out to thee://  
“Pray without ceasing that our souls may be saved!”

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

Thou wast flayed by a most unrighteous judge, O glorious one,  
enduring bodily pains, and looking forward to a painless end,  
and to the honours prepared for those who suffer.  
Tempered like steel in the fire,  
thou didst become a well-forged sword of heaven,  
cutting down the hosts of the enemy, O blessed one.  
Therefore, every nation of believers rejoices and honours thee today,//  
O courageous-minded athlete, truly glorious Basil.

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

Thou wast bound and adorned with wounds,  
going from city to city,  
binding the tyrant and rightly guiding the steps of thy feet.  
When thou hadst just entered the city of Caesarea,  
there thou didst receive thy blessed end.  
Thou wast crowned and ascended at once to the city of heaven.  
Now thou standest before God the King.//  
Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

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

#### **Tone 5 (For the Departed)**

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!

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*We follow the order set out in the Order for Lenten Daily Vespers on Fridays of Great Lent.  
There is no Entrance. The Priest does not sing “Wisdom! Stand upright!”  
Properly, O Gladsome Light is chanted, rather than sung.  
We follow the usual Parish practice of singing O Gladsome Light, as usual.*

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## PROKEIMENA AND OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**Priest:** Let us attend! Peace be to all!

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

**Reader:** O grant us Thy help against the enemy, for vain is the help of men!

**Choir:** O grant us Thy help against the enemy, for vain is the help of men!

**Reader:** O God, Thou hast rejected us, and hast broken our defences.

**Choir:** O grant us Thy help against the enemy, for vain is the help of men!

**Reader:** O grant us Thy help against the enemy

**Choir:** for vain is the help of men!

**Reader:** The Reading from the Book of Genesis.

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** The ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and brought her to himself in the ark. Then he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and again sent out the dove; however, she did not return to him any more. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. Now in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. Then the Lord God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and their wives with you. Also, bring out with you every living thing of all flesh: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, so they may abound on the earth, and increase and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. Every animal, every bird, and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, according to their kind, went out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to God, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered whole burnt offerings on the altar. So the Lord God smelled a sweet fragrance.

[Genesis 8:4-21a]

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone.

**Reader:** Hear my cry, O Lord, listen to my prayer!

**Choir:** Hear my cry, O Lord, listen to my prayer!

**Reader:** From the ends of the earth I call to Thee.

**Choir:** Hear my cry, O Lord, listen to my prayer!

**Reader:** Hear my cry, O Lord

**Choir:** listen to my prayer!

**Reader:** The Reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** The mouth of a righteous man distils wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. The lips of righteous men distil grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonour, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. When a

righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet. [10:31-11:12]

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*We follow the order set out in the Order for Lenten Daily Vespers on Fridays of Great Lent, continuing from "Vouchsafe, O Lord ..."*

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## APOSTICHA

### **Tone 7 (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. Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven! Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us.*

*Repeat:* Like the Prodigal ...

*V. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filed with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.*

### **Tone 7 (For the Martyrs)**

Despising all earthly things, O holy martyrs,  
and bravely proclaiming Christ in the arena,  
you received from Him the just reward  
for all your sufferings;  
and now, since you 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)**

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!

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## TROPARIA

### **Troparion of Memorial Saturday in Tone 8**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Thou only Creator Who, with wisdom profound, mercifully orderest all things,  
and givest unto all that which is useful.  
Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants who have fallen asleep;//  
for they have placed their trust in Thee, our Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

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

### **Theotokion of Memorial Saturday in Tone 8**

[Music on website / Sheet]

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.

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