

## "Lord I Call..." (Tone 4)

*Reader:* In the Fourth Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

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!

*Reader: (Reads text from service book)*

v. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,

by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;

by it You have renewed the corrupted nature of mankind, O almighty One.

By it You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//

for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

v. (9) *The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,

by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.

By descending to hell, O almighty God,

You broke the bonds of death.

Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://

"Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!"

v. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,

and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.

You delivered the human race from corruption,//

granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

v. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

Come, O people,

let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day!

By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.

By it, we have received life and incorruption.

Save us by Your Resurrection!//

Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to You!

v. (6) *In the Sixth Tone, If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

The never-setting Sun presses forward to rise,

enlightening all things under heaven.

Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;

let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spirit!

Let us beseech Him in His compassion,

that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,

He may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in Eden,//

into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

v. (5) *For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the Cherubim,

goes to dwell in a womb without blemish.

The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;  
He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Judah.  
A cave becomes the palace of the King of all;  
the throne of fire is replaced by a manger,  
where the Virgin Mary lays Him as a babe,  
for He comes to restore the first-created man, //  
as He is well pleased so to do.

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

O Word of God without beginning,  
the Virgin lays You in a manger of dumb beasts.  
You choose to begin Your life in the flesh  
in a manner beyond understanding.  
You have come to loose me from the fetters of evil  
with which the envious serpent bound me.  
O Lover of mankind, You are wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
tearing to pieces the bonds of my countless sins.  
Therefore I joyfully praise and worship your holy birth, //  
for You came to set me free.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

The memory of the Ancestors has been manifested to the ends of the world,  
truly filling it with light  
and making known the dawning of grace.  
For Christ shined forth from afar, brighter than the sun,  
the leading rank of stars shining with Him;  
and the divine-human birth was revealed to take place in Bethlehem.  
Therefore with faith let us all gather at this birth, //  
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre-festal praise!

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

Adorned with the glory of divine communion, Adam rejoices today,  
as he is the foundation and the support of the wise Ancestors.  
With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;  
Seth dances, and with him Noah;  
the all-praiseworthy Patriarch Abraham sings;  
Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.  
Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers of Christ, //  
we pray for the salvation of our souls.

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

The three Youths, wise in God,  
who shone with joy in the furnace,  
proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;  
For just as the Lord sent down a precious dew,  
He preserved from the flame her who gave birth;  
He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with divine gifts.  
Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, rejoiced and was glad,  
for having foreseen the Stone from the Unquarried Mountain, //  
he now prays with boldness in behalf of our souls.

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

Daniel, the man of desires, beheld You, O Lord,  
the Stone cut without human hands from the Mountain.  
Thus, he foretold that You would take flesh without seed,  
O Word of God, born of the Virgin,//  
the changeless God and Savior of our souls!

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

O cave, make ready, for the Ewe Lamb comes, bearing Christ in her womb!  
O manger, receive Him Who by a word has released the dwellers of earth from  
lawlessness!

Shepherds, abiding in the fields, bear witness to the fearful wonder!  
You magi from Persia, offer to the King gold, myrrh and frankincense,  
for the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother!  
And she, bending over Him as a handmaiden,  
worshipped Him as He lay in her arms, saying to Him:

“How were You sown as seed in me?

How have You grown within me,//  
my Deliverer and my God?”

*Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!*

*Choir: O Gladsome Light ...*

*Prokeimenon of the Day, Three Readings*

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#### **Aposticha – Tone 4**

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,  
You have annulled our ancestral curse.  
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,  
granting incorruption to the human race.//  
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

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

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,  
You shook all of creation.  
By being laid in the tomb You have raised those who dwelt in the tombs,  
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//  
Therefore in songs we glorify Your rising on the third day.

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

The lawless people, O Christ,  
handed You over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,  
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.  
But voluntarily You endured burial,  
rising by Your own power on the third day as God,//  
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

*v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!*

With tears the women reached Your tomb,  
searching for You, but not finding You.  
They wept with wailing and lamented:  
“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,  
how were You stolen?  
What place can hold Your life-bearing body?”

An Angel replied to them:

“Do not weep but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,//  
granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

*In the Second Tone, Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

Rejoice, honored Prophets

who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,

and were revealed as firm and unshaken pillars of faith!

They became indeed the mediators of Christ's new covenant.

Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heaven,//

intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

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

The time of our salvation draws near.

Prepare, O cave!

The Virgin draws near to bear the Christ.

Rejoice, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

for our Lord has come from you!

All you lands, know the coming of Christ

Who comes as the Lover of mankind//

to save mankind whom He has made!

*St. Simeon's Prayer*

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*Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4*

When the women Disciples of the Lord

learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse

and elatedly told the Apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ God is risen,//

granting the world great mercy!”

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

*Troparion of the Forefathers – Tone 2*

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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

*Troparion of the Forefeast – Tone 4*

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!

Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the  
cave!

Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;

if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.