

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

Reader: In the Third Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me. Let my prayer arise
Hear me, O Lord. in Your sight as incense,
Lord, I call upon You, hear me. and let the lifting up of my hands
Receive the voice of my prayer, be an evening sacrifice.
when I call upon You. Hear me, O Lord.
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!

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of men, being saved by faith,//
always offers You a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.//
All creation, praising You, always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection.//
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

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

John is born, ending Zachariah's silence.
The father cannot keep silent, when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.
When at first he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,
but now John has been born to free his father:
the one who heard the good news,
and from whom was born the voice of the Word, //
the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.

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.

Today the voice of the Word is born,
releasing Zachariah's silence,
revealing the harvest of the Church, loosing the bonds of barrenness.
The candlestick of the Light is drawing near.
The ray of the Sun proclaims His coming//

for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

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

Tone 4

(by Anatolius)

The messenger of God's Word comes forth from the womb:
the greatest among those born of women;
the most high of the Prophets.

Wonderful events precede the divine mystery:
a seedless conception; a marvelous birth!//

Glory to You, Who have worked miracles for our salvation!

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

(by Andrew of Crete)

Today the great Forerunner comes from the barren womb of Elizabeth;
the great Prophet of Prophets, whom none surpass in greatness.

The radiant candlestick of the Light; the voice of the Word,
the friend of the Bridegroom, preparing the Lord's chosen people
by purifying them with water before the coming of the Spirit.

He is Zachariah's offspring,

the child of the wilderness, the preacher of repentance, and the cleanser of
sins.

He announced the Resurrection even to those in hell,//
and he always prays for our souls.

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

Today the Prophet and Forerunner appears from the womb:

John, the Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When he saw the Queen come to the handmaid,
bearing in her womb the timeless God,//

he leaped in his mother's womb and sang for joy.

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

Most glorious wonder!

Zachariah asked the Angel of the Word:

"How can Elizabeth conceive and bear a son?

I am an old man; my wife is advanced in years."

For his unbelief, he was condemned to silence,
but today he beholds the birth and resumes his speech,
entering into joy and crying out:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for He has visited and redeemed His people,//

granting to the world great mercy!"

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

Today, like a shining star, the lamp of the Light,
heralds the coming of the Word of God;

today Zachariah's silence is loosed,
for the father cannot remain silent at the nativity of the Forerunner//
who will proclaim the world's deliverance with great boldness!

In the Third Tone, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

How can we not wonder
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him to save the souls, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,
of those who confess you in the Orthodox manner //
to be the Theotokos.

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Gladsome Light ... (p. 16) Prokeimenon of the Day, Three Readings

Aposticha – Tone 3

The sun was darkened by your Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of mankind!

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

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.

Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
"Almighty Lord, glory to You!"

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

You are the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.
Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.
By descending to Hades! and rising on the third day,//
You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

You endured death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of man from death.
You rose from the dead on the third day,
raising with Yourself those who knew You as God//
and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

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

Today the voice of Isaiah the Prophet is fulfilled
in the birth of John, the greatest of Prophets.
He said: "Behold, I will send my Angel before Your face, to prepare Your Way!"

Now the warrior of the heavenly King has come.
He truly will prepare the way for our God.
He is a man by nature, but an Angel in manner of life.
He embraced purity and chastity forever.
Now they are his by nature.
Let us all the faithful greet him, crying://
“Pray for us, that our souls may be saved!”

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

O Unwedded Virgin,
who ineffably conceived God in the flesh.
O Mother of God most high,
accept the cries of your servants, O blameless one!
Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//
Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

St. Symeon's Prayer (p.25)

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

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

Troparion for the Nativity of the Forerunner – Tone 4

Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,
although we cannot praise you worthily,
we honor you in love at your nativity,
for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness,//
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

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

Resurrection Dismissal Theotokion – Tone 4

The mystery of all eternity,
unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//
saving our souls from death.

Then, the dismissal (p. 26)
