

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

Reader: In the Fifth 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!*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,

You have put the devil to shame.

By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify You, O only begotten One.

v. (9) *The righteous will surround me; for You will 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 Hades 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!"

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

Oh, 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,

Delivered from error by His compassion.//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

We offer You our evening worship,

O never setting Light,

Who came in these last days to the world in the flesh;

Who even descended to Hades to dispel its darkness.

And Who have revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//

Glory to You, O Lord and Giver of light!

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) In the Same Tone, 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 for ever.

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.

In the Same Tone, 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 ... (p. 16) Prokeimenon of the Day, Three Readings

Aposticha – Tone 5

We magnify You in songs of praise,
O incarnate Christ and Savior.
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,
as the Lord and Lover of man,
You overthrew the gates of Hades,//
and arose 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,
You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.
By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.
You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,
and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God.//
Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

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

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

For our sake, You accepted 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!

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.

Be glad, and rejoice, O Bethlehem, land of Judah,
for our Lord has come from you!

Hearken, O mountains and hills, and lands around Judea://

for Christ, the Lover of mankind, is coming to save those whom He created!

St. Symeon's Prayer (p. 25)

(Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 5)

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,

(Troparion for the Fathers – 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 for 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.

Then, the dismissal (p. 26)
