

"Lord I Call..." – Tone 3

Reader: In the Third 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 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 Sixth Tone, if You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones,

has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth.

He, Who in wisdom established the heavens,

has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;

for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for

us, even His Mother.

O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless, //

O Lord, glory to You!

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.*

This is the day of the Lord!

Rejoice, O peoples,

for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life, has come forth from the womb!

The gate that faces the East is born

and awaits the entry of the Great Priest.

She alone admits Christ into the world//

for the salvation of our souls.

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

Although by God's will other barren women

have brought forth famous offspring,

yet, of all those children Mary shines brightest, as is fitting to God.

For she herself was born wondrously of a barren mother,

and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,

in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed.

She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God,

Who passed through this gate yet kept it closed,

and, having ordered all things in His own wisdom, //

has wrought salvation for all mankind.

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

Today the gates of barrenness are opened,

and the virgin gate of God comes forth.

Today grace begins to bear its first fruit,

revealing to the world the Mother of God.

Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens//

for the salvation of our souls.

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

Today is the prelude of universal joy;

today breezes blow that herald salvation,

and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled;

for the barren woman is revealed as the mother

of her who remained a virgin

after giving birth to the Creator.

From her the One Who is God by nature

takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own;

and works salvation through the flesh for those who have gone astray.//

He is Christ, the Lover of mankind and the Redeemer of our souls.

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

Today the barren Anna gives birth to the handmaid of God, who was chosen from all generations to become the abode of the King and Creator of all, Christ our God in fulfillment of the divine plan.

Through her we earth-born have been fashioned anew// and restored from corruption to life eternal.

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

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones, has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth. He, Who in wisdom established the heavens, has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind; for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us, even His Mother.

O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless,//

O Lord, glory to You!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Gladsome Light ... (p. 16) *Kontakion 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.//

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!

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

Come, all you faithful, let us run to the Virgin!
For, behold, today she is born, who was foreordained before the womb,
as the Mother of our God,
the treasure of virginity, the rod of Aaron that budded, springing from the
root of Jesse,
the preaching of the Prophets, the offspring of the righteous Joachim
and Anna.

She is born and with her the world is renewed.
She comes from the womb and the Church is adorned in her majesty.
She is the holy temple, the vessel of the Godhead,
the virgin instrument and bridal chamber of the King,
in which has come to pass the strange mystery of the union of the
natures that came together in Christ.//

As we worship Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

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

(Troparion for the Nativity – Tone 4)

Your nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,

has shone from you, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing.//

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Then, the dismissal (p. 26)
