

APRIL 4

Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

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!

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

Tone 4 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Prodigal,

I recklessly squandered my Father's riches.

Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.

In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,
stripped of all divine grace.

But now I have returned and cry to You,

the compassionate and merciful Father://

"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

- v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*
v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 4 *(for the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,
living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,
perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,
whose fold no wolf can enter; //
pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Joseph)* *(Having placed all their hope)*

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,
rays of light from the spiritual Sun:
entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of
passions!
Pray that we may see the day of salvation!
By your prayers and intercessions,
may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,
so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you, //
who save the world by your wise preaching.

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

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.
I recklessly squandered the riches that You gave me.
Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.
Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.
I have sinned, and yet I know Your goodness.
Receive me as one of Your hired servants, O compassionate Christ, //
by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved You!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Theodore) (At the right hand of the Savior)*

O Apostles of the Savior,
lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,
like the heavens you tell the glory of God,
adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.
Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,
that He may accept our prayers as incense,
and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!
As we venerate Your Cross, O Savior,//
send down on us great mercy in Your love for mankind!

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

Tone 2 *(from the Menaion, for Ven. Joseph) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

You followed in the footsteps of the Word of God,
Who created all from nothingness,
shaking away, as He commanded, love of worldly things
together with love of all passions.
You took up the Cross on your shoulders
and were crucified to the world.
Therefore, O Father, shining forth with virtues through godly works,//
you received an eternal inheritance.

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

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

You were revealed to be a mystical trumpet,
calling all on high with spiritual hymns.
You were a divinely-sounded harp, praising the armies of God,
glorifying all the saints and proclaiming their victories.
You drew a depth of words from the fountain of salvation,//
enriching the house of God.

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Crucified with love, you were shown to be a treasury of virtues.
Aflame with love and chanting sacred hymns,
you sought all those who were well-pleasing to God
through their faith and repentance.
By these you were yourself a participant in the divine image,//
and were revealed as a partaker of sweetness.

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

Tone 2 *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O Mary Theotokos,
Temple which cannot be destroyed;
Holy Temple, indeed, as the Prophet cries://
“Holy is Your Temple, wonderful in righteousness!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

I will trust in the mercy of God / for ever and ever. *(Ps. 51:8b)*

*V. Why do you boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the godly?
(Ps. 51:1)*

Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

When the Lord turns back / the captivity of His people. [/ let Jacob rejoice and let Israel be glad.] *(Ps. 13:8b)*

V. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps. 13:1)

Reading from Proverbs (9:12-18)

(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.