

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

AT THE VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

GREAT LITANY

(The choir and people respond with "Lord have mercy" after each petition intoned by the deacon.)

LORD I CALL UPON YOU

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!

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.

- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Stichera on the Resurrection in TONE ONE

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord.
 Grant us remission of sins,
 for You alone have manifested
 the Resurrection to the world!

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Encircle Zion and surround her, O people,
 Give glory in her to the One who rose from the dead!
 For He is our God.
 He has delivered us from our transgressions!

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Come, O people,
 let us hymn and fall down before Christ.
 Let us glorify his Resurrection from the dead!
 For he is our God.
 He has delivered the world from the enemy's deceit!

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

We have been freed from sufferings
 By your suffering, O Christ.
 We have been delivered from corruption
 by your Resurrection.
 O Lord, glory to You!

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

Stichera for Holy Saturday in TONE EIGHT

Today, Hades cries out groaning:
"I should not have accepted
the man born of Mary.
He came and destroyed my power.
He shattered the gates of brass.
As God He raised the souls I held captive."
Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Today Hades cries out groaning:
"My dominion has been shattered.
I received a dead man as one of the dead
but I could not prevail against Him.
I had ruled the dead from all ages.
Behold, He raises all, and I perish."
Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Today, Hades cries out groaning:
"My power has been trampled down.
The shepherd is crucified and Adam is raised.
I have been robbed of those I ruled.
Those whom I swallowed in my strength,
I have given up.
He who was crucified has emptied the tombs.
The power of death has been vanquished."
Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord!

Doxasticon in TONE SIX

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

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day when he said:
"God blessed the seventh day!"
This is the blessed Sabbath!
This is the day of rest,
on which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works.
By suffering death to fulfill the plan of salvation
He kept the Sabbath in the flesh.
By returning again to what He was,
He has granted us eternal life through his Resurrection,
For He alone is good, and the lover of mankind.

Theotokion in TONE ONE

Let us praise the Virgin Mary,
the Gate of Heaven, the glory of all the world!
The song of angels, the beauty of the faithful!
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed to be the heaven,
the temple of the Godhead,
She destroyed the wall of enmity,
She commenced the peace and opened the
kingdom,
She is our anchor of faith,
And our defender is the Lord whom she bore!
Courage, courage, O people of God!
For Christ will defeat His enemies
for He is all-powerful!

The Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom

Joyful Light

Joyful light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in heaven, the Holy, the Blessed Jesus Christ; Now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we praise God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Fitting it is at all times to worship You with voices of praise, Son of God, and Giver of Life. Therefore all the world glorifies Thee.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

First Reading

Deacon: Wisdom
Reader: The Reading is from the Book of Jonah
Deacon: Let us attend!

The Book of Jonah

Second Reading

Deacon: Wisdom
Reader: The Reading is from the Book of Exodus
Deacon: Let us attend!

The Reading from Exodus (13:20-14:31)

Chanter: *Then Moses and the children of Israel
sang this song to the Lord:*

Refrain:



(And the people continue to sing the refrain as the chanter intones the verses.)

The Song of Moses

Chanter:

Pharoah's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;
His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.
The depths have covered them;
They sank to the bottom like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power;
Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces,
And in the greatness of Your excellence, You have overthrown those who rose against You;
You sent forth Your wrath, which consumed them like stubble.

And with the blast of Your nostrils,
The waters were gathered together;
The floods stood upright like a heap,
and the depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said: I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil;
My desire shall be satisfied on them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them;
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful
in praises, working wonders?
You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

In your mercy, You have led forth the people whom
You have redeemed;
You have guided them in Your strength to Your holy abode.

Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed;
The mighty men of Moab, trembling will take hold of them;
all the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

Fear and dread will fall on them;
by the greatness of Your arm, they will be as still as a stone,
till Your people pass over, O Lord,
Till the people pass over whom You have purchased.

You will bring them in, and plant them on the
mountain of Your inheritance,
In the place, O Lord, which You have made
for Your own dwelling,
The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.
The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

For when the horses of Pharaoh, with his chariots and horsemen went into the sea,
The Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them,
But the children of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, for He has been greatly glorified.

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

ALL: FOR GLORIOUSLY HAS HE BEEN GLORIFIED!

Third Reading

Deacon: Wisdom
Reader: The Reading is from the Book of Daniel
Deacon: Let us attend!

The reading from Daniel (3:1-56 and the Song of the Three Youths - verses 57-66)

Chanter: Praise the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all
the ages!

(And the people continue to sing the refrain as the chanter intones the verses.)

PRAISE THE LORD SING AND EX -

ALT HIM THROUGH OUT ALL THE A - GES.

Chanter:

Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord!
 Bless the Lord, you heavens!
 Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord!
 Bless the Lord, you waters above the heavens!

Bless the Lord, all His hosts!
 Bless the Lord, Sun and moon!
 Bless the Lord, stars of heaven!
 Bless the Lord, rain and dew!

Bless the Lord, you winds!
 Bless the Lord, fire and heat!
 Bless the Lord, winter and summer!
 Bless the Lord, frost and cold!

Bless the Lord, nights and days!
 Bless the Lord, light and darkness!
 Bless the Lord, ice and snow!
 Bless the Lord, lightening and clouds!

Let the earth bless the Lord!
 Bless the Lord, mountains and hills!
 Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth!
 Bless the Lord, you springs!

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers!
 Bless the Lord, you whales and water creatures!
 Bless the Lord, all birds of the air!
 Bless the Lord, all beasts and cattle!

Bless the Lord, children and men!
Bless the Lord, O Israel!
Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord!
Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord!

Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous!
Bless the Lord, all who are holy and humble of heart!
Bless the lord, Hananiah, Azariah, and Miashael!
Bless the Lord, you prophets, apostles, and martyrs of the Lord!

We bless the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
We praise, bless and worship the Lord,
singing and exalting Him throughout all the ages!

All: PRAISE THE LORD! SING AND EXALT HIM
THROUGHOUT ALL THE AGES!

Baptisms/Chrismations, if there are to be any, take place here.

ANTI-TRISAGION

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Prokimenon (Tone 5)

Let all the earth worship You/ and sing unto Your name!

Vs. 1: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; Sing the
glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.

Vs. 2: Come and see the works of God, Who is
awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.

Vs. 3: Bless our God, O peoples, and sound His
praise abroad.

The Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3-11

Brethren: All who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a Resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Instead of Alleluia we sing:
Arise, O God, judge the earth!
For to You belong all the nations!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "A -- rise, O God, judge the earth, for to You be -- long all the na -- tions!". The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with clear note values and rests.

(We repeat the refrain after each verse, as the priest scatters bay leaves, as a sign of Christ's victory.)

Chanter:

- God arises in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.
- How long will you judge unjustly, and sow partiality to the wicked?
- Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy.
- Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.
- They neither know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- I said, "You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High, but you shall die like men, and fall like any prince.

Chanter: Arise, O God, judge the earth!

All: **For to you belong all the nations!**

THE GOSPEL READING

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to Thy spirit.

Deacon: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Matthew 28:1-20

After the sabbath toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. Lo I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. As they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guards went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a great sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen.

In place of the cherubic hymn we sing:

Let all mortal flesh keep silent, and with fear and trembling stand, pondering nothing earthly minded. For the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords comes to be sacrificed and given as food for the faithful!

Following the Great Entrance we sing:

Before him go the ranks of angels, with the principalities and powers, the many-eyed cherubim, and the six-winged seraphim veiling their faces, singing the hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

[We resume the regular Liturgy of St. Basil from this point forward, on page 13 of the Liturgy booklet, with the following changes:]

In place of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following Hymn to the Mother of God (Megalyrnarion):

9th Ode of the Matins Canon:

Do not lament me, O Mother, seeing me in the tomb,
The Son conceived in the womb without seed!
For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God! I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith
and in love!

The Communion Hymn

The Lord awoke as from sleep, and arose saving us!