

March 9, 2012
Friday of the Third Week of the Great Fast
Holy Martyr Codratus and Companions

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

AT PSALM 140

In Tone 7

10.

Like the prodigal, I have turned away from Your grace;
I have wasted the riches of Your goodness, O Lord.
I now run to You and cry out:
I have sinned , O Lord, have mercy on me.

9.

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In Tone 5

8.

You were not concerned about all these earthly matters,
and you courageously braved the tortures.
You did not sin against hope,
having confidence in God's love for humankind;
thus you were made heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven,
O most praise-worthy martyrs.
Ask for peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

7.

Putting on the shield of faith
and fortifying themselves with the symbol of the Cross,
Your saints, O Lord, bravely went of their own accord to torture.
They defeated the craft and insolence of the devil.
By their supplications, O all-powerful God,
send peace to the world and great mercy to our souls

6.

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs,
that we may be delivered from our iniquities;
for the grace to pray for us is given to you.

5.

With your souls filled with unquenchable love,
you endured the most terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ;
and you laid low the impudence of the torturers.
You kept the faith unwavering and unharmed,
and have gone to dwell in heaven.
Therefore, having the boldness to approach the Lord,
beg Him to grant us His great mercy.

In Tone 1

4.

Let us in faith raise a magnificent song as is fitting
to the all-praised Codratus and the great Cyprian,
with the two named Dionysius and Anectus,
together with Crescens and the glorious Paul!
They are divinely crowned athletes of the Lord
and our most fervent intercessors!

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2.

Today another choir of holy martyrs appears: victorious and triumphant!
A brilliant assembly of divine passion-bearers,
a steadfast regiment, a chosen army!
Codratus is its captain.
He is revealed as an all-glorious conqueror!

1.

All-praised Codratus, with your cutting words
you slashed through the twisted webs of the philosophers' wisdom like fog!
You taught in faith and suffered in patience for Christ.
Well-adorned in both teaching and suffering,
you have been crowned with the passion bearers!

In Tone 5, Glory...

I recall the prophet crying out:

I am ashes and dust.

And again, I looked into the graves and saw bones laid bare and I said:

Which is king or soldier, rich or poor, righteous or sinner?

But, with the just, give rest, O Lord, to Your departed servants,
since You are the Lover of humankind.

Now...

A symbol of the undefiled Virgin and bride was revealed in the Red Sea.

There, Moses divided the waters;

here, Gabriel is the messenger of the miracle.

There, the Israelites crossed the deep and their feet were not even wet;

here, the Virgin gives birth to Christ without human seed.

There, the sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel;

here the immaculate remained incorrupt after giving birth to Emmanuel.

Therefore, O Immortal God, who appeared in the flesh as true Man, have mercy on us!

PROKEIMENON I, TONE 4

Give us Your help against the foe,* for human help is vain.

verse: O God, You have rejected us and broken us. You have been angry; come back to us.

READING I (Genesis 8:4-21)

The ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

PROKEIMENON II, TONE 6

O God, hear my cry!* Listen to my prayer!

verse: So I will always praise Your name; day after day I will fulfill my vows.

READING II (Proverbs 10:31-11:12)

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,
But the perverse tongue will be cut out.
The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,
But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.
Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD,
But a just weight is His delight.
When pride comes, then comes shame;
But with the humble is wisdom.
The integrity of the upright will guide them,
But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.
Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,
But righteousness delivers from death.
The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright,
But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.
The righteousness of the upright will deliver them,
But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.
When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish,
And the hope of the unjust perishes.
The righteous is delivered from trouble,
And it comes to the wicked instead.
The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbour,
But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.
When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices;
And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.
By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted,
But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.
He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbour,
But a man of understanding holds his peace.

PROKEIMENON, TONE 5

You, O Lord, will guard us, and will keep us, from this generation, and for ever.

verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man,

EPISTLE (Hebrews 12:1-10)

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? - "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

ALLELUIA, TONE 4

verse: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

verse: For You, O God, have tested us, and You have tried us by fire a silver is tested.

GOSPEL (Matthew 20:1-16)

The Lord said: The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too." And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.