

The Third Sunday in Lent

The Introit *Oculi mei, Psalm 25:14,15/1 [4,19,20]*

TONE IV



Antiphon: My eyes are ever looking to the Lord, *
for God shall pluck my feet out of the net;
turn to me and have pity on me, *
for I am left alone, and in misery.

Psalm To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;↓
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

[Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, *
for my hope has been in you.

Protect my life and deliver me; *
let me not be put to shame,
for I have trusted in you.]

Gloria Patri. Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son,↓
and to the Holy Spirit, *
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever,
for all ages of ages. A-men **Antiphon**

In the 4th to the 6th Centuries there began on this Sunday the “scrutinia” or examination of the candidates for Baptism and Chrismation at the Great Vigil of Pascha.

So the prayers and lessons tell of the struggle between the kingdoms of light and darkness and our confidence in the Lord God Almighty .

The Kyrie or Litany

The Collect:

Almighty God, hear the prayers of the humble and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to protect us; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen.*

The First Reading Ezekiel 33: 10-20

Now you, O man, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? And you, O man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity —

they shall surely live, they shall not die. None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live. Yet your people say, "The way of the Lord is not just," when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it. And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is not just." O house of Israel, I will judge all of you according to your ways!

Silence

The Gradual *Exsurge Domine, Psalm 9: 19, 3*



Rise up, O LORD, let not the ungodly have the upper hand; *
let them be judged before you.

When my enemies are driven back, *
they will stumble and perish at your presence.

The Epistle: *Ephesians 5: 1-9*

Brethren: Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient.

Therefore do not be associated with them. For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Silence

Deacon: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

People: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

TRACT Psalm 123, Ad te levavi oculos meos, Vs 1-4 TONE IV



To you I lift up my eyes, *

to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *

and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *

until he show us his mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *

for we have had more than enough of contempt,

People: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

The Gospel: Luke 11:14-28

At that time...Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? — for

you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first." While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

The Nicene Creed

Offertory: **Justitiæ Domini, Psalm 19:8-11**

STONE III



The statutes of the Lord are just, *
and rejoice the heart;
God's judgments are sweeter far than honey, ↓
than honey in the comb; *
by them also is your servant enlightened.

The Prayer over the gifts:

O Lord, we pray that this offering cleanse us of our sins and sanctify the bodies and minds of your servants so we may fittingly celebrate these Holy Mysteries; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen.*

Preface of The Holy Cross:

It is truly right and just, proper and helpful to salvation, that we, always and everywhere give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God:

Who accomplished the salvation of mankind upon the wood of the Cross, that from where death had its origin, there might life rise again, and that he who had prevailed by a tree might also be conquered by a tree: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through whom the angels praise your majesty, the Powers tremble, and Dominions worship in awe, the heavens and the armies of angels in unison with the blessed Seraphim, extol it with exceeding joy.

We ask that you grant our voices to be joined with theirs, while in humble praise we sing:

The Third Sunday in Lent before the Pax Domini

Priest: May Almighty God mercifully accept the sacrifices of your self-denial, and make you worthy to receive His blessing.

People: Amen.

Priest: May He strengthen your minds through the grace of self-discipline against every human weakness; may He teach you to walk in the path of His commandments, and fulfill in you the virtue of charity; that you may be able in all things to please Him.

People: Amen.

Priest: That, as you keep this present Lent with all devotion, so you may come, in purity of heart, to the joys of Pascha.

People: Amen.

Priest: May the Lord God Almighty, Whose glorious Kingdom endures for ever, be pleased to bestow these blessings upon you; and...

Priest: The ✠ Peace of The Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Communion: *Passer invenit sibi domum Psalm 84: 2-3*

TONE III



The sparrow has found her a house↓
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

The Postcommunion Collect:

O Almighty God, we humbly pray that we who have been granted a share in these Holy Mysteries, may be freed from all guilt and danger; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen.*

Last night in the Eastern Church began the veneration of the cross. During Vespers a procession with the cross took place. We now focus on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as we advance toward Holy Week. If there are Eastern Christians in your congregation you may wish to sing the Troparion below and make the traditional prostration three times.



Be - fore Your Cross we bow down and wor - ship O Mas - ter,
 and Your Ho - ly Re-sur-rec - tion, we glo - ri - fy

Then the priest concludes with this prayer:

Through the power of Your Cross, O Christ our God, preserve us also from the temptations of the Evil One. And make us worthy to venerate Your divine Passion and life-bearing Resurrection, having radiantly traversed the great length of the Fast, and have mercy on us, as You are good and love mankind. Amen.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Orthodox Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God for all ages of ages. *Amen*