

**5th Week of Great Lent: Thursday of the Great Canon
Vespers on Wednesday Evening - with Presanctified Liturgy**

After the Proemial Psalm (Psalm 103), and the Great Litany, instead of the Eighteenth Kathisma of the Psalter, we read the Seventh Kathisma.

On "Lord I have cried", we sing the beginning verses in Tone 8:

Choir: Lord I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me.* Harken unto me, O Lord.* Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me;* attend unto the voice of my supplication,* when I cry unto Thee.* Harken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth* as incense before Thee,* the lifting up of my hands* as an evening sacrifice.* Harken unto me, O Lord.

Reader: Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.

For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling blocks of them that work iniquity.

(Here we begin inserting the stichera after each Psalm verse.)

(30) Reader: The sinners shall fall into their own net;

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'II-chant melody' and the bottom staff is labeled 'I-descant'. Both staves are in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and single notes. The lyrics are: 'I am a-lone un-til I pass by.' The text is aligned with the notes on the staff.

In my wretchedness, I have fallen among the thieves of my own thoughts. /
 My mind has been despoiled, and cruelly have I been beaten; /
 all my soul is wounded, and stripped of the virtues /
 I lie naked upon the highway of life. /
 Seeing me in bitter pain and thinking that my wounds could not be healed, /
 the priest neglected me and would not look at me. /
 Unable to endure my soul-destroying agony, /
 the Levite when he saw me passed by on the other side. /
 But Thou, O Christ my God, /
 wast pleased to come, not from Samaria, /
 but incarnate from Mary: //
 in Thy love for mankind, grant me healing and pour upon me Thy great mercy.

(29) Reader: With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'II-chant melody' and the bottom staff is labeled 'I-descant'. Both staves are in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and single notes. The lyrics are: 'Have I made sup - pli - ca - - - - - tion.' The text is aligned with the notes on the staff.

Repeat above: "In my wretchedness..."

(28) *Reader:* I will pour out before Him my supplication,

Mine af - flic - tion be - fore — Him will — I de - clare.

The musical score consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The text is written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

If there be any virtues and if there be any praise, /
 rightly are these things ascribed to the saints. /
 They bowed their necks beneath the sword, for Thy sake /
 Who hast bowed the heavens and come down. /
 They shed their blood for Thee, /
 Who hast emptied Thyself and taken the form of a servant; /
 they humbled themselves even unto death, /
 following the example of Thy poverty. /
 At their prayers have mercy upon us, O God, //
 according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies.

(27) *Reader:* When my spirit was fainting within me,

Then — Thou — knew — — — — — est my paths.

O Lord, Thou hast made Thy holy disciples /
 into living heavens /
 at their intercessions deliver me from the evils of the earth, /
 and through abstinence lift up my thoughts /
 to the understanding of Thy Passion: //
 for Thou art merciful and lovest mankind.

(26) *Reader:* In this way wherein I have walked

They — hid — — — — — for — — — — — me a snare.

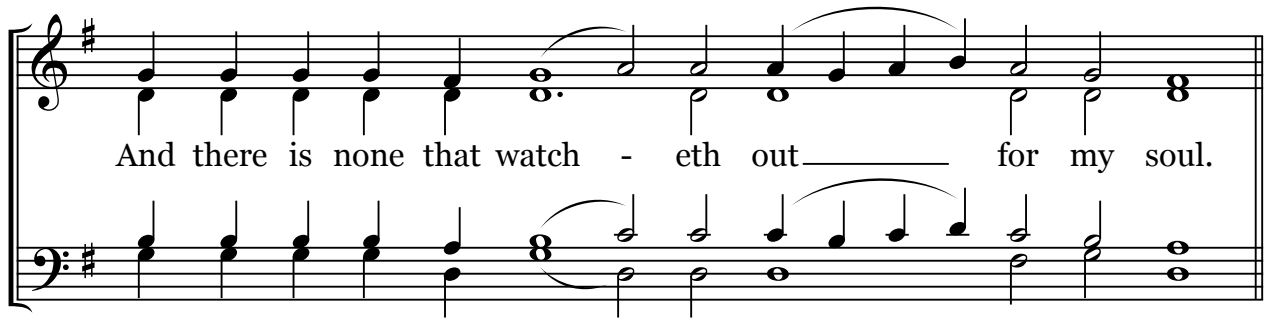
The season of the Fast helps all of us /
 to perform the works of God. /
 Let us weep, then, with our whole heart and cry to the Saviour: /
 Through Thy disciples, O Lord of many mercies, //
 save us who with reverent fear
 sing the praises of Thy great love for mankind.

(25) *Reader:* I looked upon my right hand and beheld,

The musical score consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The text 'And there was none that did know me.' is written below the treble staff. The melody is a simple, slow-moving line with a long note on 'me.' The bass line provides a simple accompaniment with chords and single notes.

O ye apostles, worthy of all praise, /
intercessors for the world, /
physicians of the sick, guardians of health, /
as we pass through the time of the Fast, /
protect us on our right hand and our left: /
by God's grace may we remain at peace with one another; /
preserve our mind untroubled by the passions, /
that all of us may sing a hymn of praise //
to the risen and triumphant Christ.

(24) *Reader: In the 4th Tone, Flight hath failed me,*



And there is none that watch - eth out for my soul.

I have wasted all my life /
 with harlots and publicans: /
how shall I repent, even in my old age /
 of the sins I have committed? /
Maker of all things and Healer of the sick, //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(23) *Reader: I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope,*



My portion art Thou in the land of the living.

I am weighed down with the burden of my negligence /
 and wallow in filth; /
 I am pierced by the arrow of the devil /
 and have defiled my nature that is according to Thine image. /
 O Thou Who dost convert the negligent and deliver the sinful, //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(22) *Reader: Attend unto my supplication,*

I have become a stumbling-block to men; /
 born of earth, I have cultivated earthly things. /
 At Thy commandment I was joined in marriage, /
 but I have transgressed Thine ordinance and defiled my bed. /
 O Thou who hast formed me from the earth, despise not Thy creature;
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(21) *Reader: Deliver me from them that persecute me,*

Taking thought for my flesh, /
 I have become the murderer of my soul,
 I have been made the plaything of the devils /
 and a slave of sinful pleasures. /
 In Thy compassion spare me, for Thou dost put to flight the demons. //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(20) *Reader:* Bring my soul out of prison,

That I may _____ con - fess _____ Thy name.

More than all men have I willfully sinned, /
 and so I am forsaken and left helpless. /
 As the adversary of my soul, I have the carnal thoughts that darken me. /
 O Light of those in darkness, /
 Guide of all that go astray, //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(19) *Reader:* The righteous shall wait patiently for me

Un - til Thou shalt re - ward _____ me.

My soul shall live and praise Thee, said the Prophet. /
 Seek me, Thy lost sheep, and number me in Thy flock. /
 Grant me time for repentance, /
 that with cries of sorrow /
 I may call upon Thee:
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(18) *Reader:* Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;

I have sinned, O Christ my God, /
 I have sinned, rejecting Thy commandments. /
 Be merciful to me, O Benefactor; /
 that, escaping from the darkness, /
 I may see with my inner eyes, and cry to Thee in fear: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(17) *Reader:* Let Thine ears be attentive

Wild beasts encompass me: /
 O snatch me from them, Master; /
 for it is Thy will that all men should be saved /
 and come to knowledge of the truth. /
 As Creator, save them all, and with them save me. //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(16) *Reader:* If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?

For with Thee there is for - give - - - - - ness.

O my Benefactor, my Deliverer and Saviour, /
 be Thou my healing. /
 Cast me not away: look upon me as I lie in my transgressions, /
 and raise me up by Thine almighty power; /
 and I will confess my deeds and cry to Thee:
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(15) *Reader:* For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord;
 my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,

My___ soul___ hath hoped_____ in the Lord.

Like the foolish servant, I have hidden the talent that was given to me /
 and buried it in the ground; /
 I have been condemned as useless, /
 and I no longer dare to ask Thee for forgiveness. /
 But in Thy forbearance take pity on me, that I too may cry to Thee: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(14) *Reader:* From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

Let — Is - ra - el hope — in the Lord.

When the woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Thy garment, /
 Thou hast dried up the source of her sufferings. /
 If I too approach Thee with unwavering faith, /
 I will receive forgiveness of my sins. /
 Accept me as Thou hast accepted her and heal me from my pain. //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(13) *Reader:* For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;

And He shall redeem Israel out of all his in - iq - - - ui-ties.

O Lord Who hast created heaven and earth by Thy word, /
 Thou shalt sit upon the throne, /
 and we shall all stand in Thy presence /
 and confess to Thee our sins. /
 Ere that day comes, accept me in repentance: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(12) *Reader:* O praise the Lord, all ye nations;

Praise Him all ——— ye peo - - - - - ples.

Look upon me with a compassionate eye /

and be merciful to me, O only Saviour. /

Grant to my poor and wretched soul /

springs of healing water. /

Wash me clean from the filth of my actions, that I may sing: //

before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(11) *Reader:* For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us,

And the truth of the Lord a - bi - deth for ev - - - - - er.

The devil has prepared his weapons /

and hastens to ensnare my humble soul; /

and he has made me, O merciful Lord, /

a stranger to the light of the knowledge of Thy countenance. /

But Thou art mighty in strength: O snatch me from his snares. //

before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(10) Reader: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven. Behold as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God,

I am utterly enslaved by the passions, /
 I have forsaken the Law and the Holy Scriptures. /
Heal me in every part, O loving Benefactor, /
 Who for my sake hast become as I am. /
 Turn me back, O merciful Destroyer of the passions. //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(9) Reader: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper,

The harlot washed Thy pure and precious feet with her tears, /
 and she urges all men to approach Thee /
 and receive remission of their sins. /
 Unto me also grant her faith, O Saviour, /
 that I may cry to Thee: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(8)

Musical score for item (8) in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on G4 and moving up stepwise to D5, then down to G4. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee." The word "glo" is followed by four dashes, indicating a long note. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Cleanse the filth from my soul, /
 O Thou Who for my sake was made poor /
 and hast become a young child according to the flesh. /
 I am weak and broken, O Christ: /
 send down upon me a drop of Thy mercy; /
 wash the dirt away and heal me from my sickness. //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(7)

Musical score for item (7) in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on G4 and moving up stepwise to D5, then down to G4. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee." The word "glo" is followed by four dashes, indicating a long note. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Strengthen my soul, O Master, /
 that it may run to Thee and ever serve Thee; /
 for Thou art my guardian and protection, /
 my defence and succour. /
 Enable me, O Word of God, to cry to Thee with boldness: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(6)

Musical score for item (6) in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee." The word "Glo" is on the first note, "ry" on the second, "to" on the third, "Thee," on the fourth, "our" on the fifth, "God," on the sixth, "glo" on the seventh, "ry" on the eighth, and "to Thee." on the ninth and tenth notes. There are four measures of rest (indicated by a large '8' in a circle) after "Thee," "God," "ry", and "Thee." in the melody. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

Be Thou our rampart that cannot be overthrown, /
 O Saviour Jesus, our merciful God; /
 for we have fallen into deceitful ways and actions. /
 O Benefactor, raise up Thy creature, /
 and in Thy compassion reconcile us to Thyself. //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(5)

Musical score for item (5) in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee." The word "Glo" is on the first note, "ry" on the second, "to" on the third, "Thee," on the fourth, "our" on the fifth, "God," on the sixth, "glo" on the seventh, "ry" on the eighth, and "to Thee." on the ninth and tenth notes. There are four measures of rest (indicated by a large '8' in a circle) after "Thee," "God," "ry", and "Thee." in the melody. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

I am become the Prodigal Son, /
 and having wasted my riches I perish now from hunger. /
 Beneath Thy protection I seek refuge, O loving Father: /
 accept me as Thou hast accepted him. /
 Make me a sharer at Thy table, that I may cry to Thee: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(4)

Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee.

Out of envy the author of evil /
drove the first-created man from Paradise. /
But the thief who cried upon the Cross 'Remember me', /
regained paradise once more. /
With faith and fear I also cry to Thee, 'Remember me'. //
before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(3)

Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee.

Stretch out Thine hand to me, O God, /
as Thou hast to Peter, and raise me from the deep; /
grant me grace and mercy, /
at the supplications of Thine all-pure Mother
who gave birth to Thee without seed, /
and at the prayers of all Thy saints. //
before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(2)

Glo - ry to Thee, our God, glo - - - - ry to Thee.

O Lamb who takest away my sin, /
 accept me as each day I sing to Thee. /
 Into Thy hands I commend myself entirely, soul and body, /
 and as my bounden duty /
 night and day I cry to Thee: /
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

(1) *Reader: Glory, in the same tone.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - - - rit.

Ineffable is Thy compassion, /
 O long-suffering Lord, supreme in love! /
 Sinless Thou art and merciful: /
 cast me not away from Thy presence, /
 that with thanksgiving and rejoicing I may cry to Thee: //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

Reader: Both now, in the same tone.

Both now and ever, and unto the a - ges of a - - - ges. A-men.

The musical score consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass staff. The text is written below the treble staff, with hyphens under the words 'ages' and 'ages' to indicate long notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

O condescension past all speech! /
 O strange and wondrous birth! /
 How does the Virgin carry Thee as a child in her arms, /
 for Thou art her Creator and her God! /
 O Benefactor Who hast consented to take flesh from her, //
 before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

Then, the Entrance, with "O Joyous Light..."

Triodion text: "The Lenten Triodion", translated by Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos,
 Monastery of the Veil of our Lady, reprinted by St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 2002.

Psalms text: "The Unabbreviated Horologion", R-monk Laurence, Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville.