6th Week of Great Lent
Vespers on Wednesday Evening - with Presanctified Liturgy

On "Lord I have cried", ten stichera are sung, 
the first six being from the Triodion, beginning in Tone 5.

(10) Reader: Bring my soul out of prison

I am rich in the passions /
and clothed in the deceitful robe of hypocrisy, /
and I rejoice in the sins of self-indulgence. /
There is no limit to my lack of love. /
I neglect my spiritual understanding, that lies at the gate of repentance, /
starved of all good things, sick through want of care. /
O Lord, make me like Lazarus poor in sin, /
that I be not tormented in the flame that never shall be quenched, /
and pray in vain for a finger to be dipped in water and laid upon my tongue. //
But in Thy love for mankind make me dwell with the Patriarch Abraham.

(9) Reader: The righteous shall wait patiently for me

Repeat: "I am rich in passions..."
(8) Reader: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;

Your souls, O holy martyrs, were filled with an insatiable love;
not denying Christ ye endured great sufferings and torment,
and ye cast down the tyrant's pride.
Ye kept the faith unaltered and unharmed,
and now ye have gone to dwell in heaven.
Since ye have boldness before Christ,
pray that peace be given to the world, and to our souls great mercy.
(7) Reader: In the same tone*, Let Thine ears be attentive

When Thou wast journeying in the flesh, O Jesus, / on the other side of the Jordan, / Thou hast said to Thy companions: / "My friend Lazarus is already dead, / and now has been committed to the tomb. / And so for your sakes I rejoice, my friends, / for by this ye shall learn that I know all things, / since I am God, inseparable from the Father, / though in my visible appearance I am man. / Let us go, then, to bring him back to life, / that death may feel the defeat and utter destruction that I bring upon it, // bestowing my great mercy upon the world.

* These 2 stichera were originally appointed in the Special Melody "Rejoice..."
O ye faithful, let us follow the example of Martha and Mary, / 
and as intercessors let us send to the Lord our acts of righteousness, / 
that He may come to raise up from the dead our spiritual understanding, / 
which lies insensible within the tomb of negligence, / 
lacking all feeling of the fear of God / 
and having no vital energy. / 
So let us cry: As once by Thy dread authority, / 
O merciful Lord, Thou hast raised up Thy friend Lazarus, / 
so now give life to all of us, // 
and grant us Thy great mercy.
Reader: In the 6th Tone*, For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,

Lazarus has now been two days in the tomb, / and he sees the dead from all the ages. / There he beholds strange sights of terror, / a multitude that none can number, the prisoners of hell. / His sisters bitterly lament, looking upon his tomb. / But Christ comes to bring His friend to life, / that a single hymn of praise may be offered up with one accord by all: // Blessed art Thou, O Saviour, have mercy on us.

*Originally appointed in the Special Melody "O Lord, thou hast come to the tomb..."