

February 29

**Third Week of Great Lent;
Commemoration of Our Venerable Father
Cassian the Roman
(5th Class)**

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

Stichera for the Fast (Tone 4)

10. Like the prodigal, I squandered the riches which the Father gave me. Now I am destitute and dwell in the land of the wicked. In my folly, I have become like the senseless beasts, stripped of all the grace of God. But turning back, I cry aloud to you, the compassionate and merciful Father: "I have sinned, O God! Receive me as a penitent and have mercy on me."
9. Like the prodigal... (*Repeat*)
8. O holy martyrs, you were living sacrifices, spiritual holocausts, victims pleasing to the Lord, sheep who know their divine Master and are known by Him whose fold is inaccessible to the ravaging wolves. Intercede with the Good Shepherd that we, too, may be nourished with you beside the still waters.

(Tone 6)

7. O Apostles who have seen God, rays of light from the spiritual Sun, pray that light may be granted to our souls. Deliver us from the gloomy darkness of the passions. Ask that we may behold the day of salvation. By your prayers and intercession, cleanse our hearts which the evil one has wounded. Saved by faith, may



we ever honor you who brought the world salvation by your preaching of the truth.

6. Like the Prodigal Son, I have wandered into a distant evil land. I have wasted the wealth which You gave me, O compassionate Father, in an evil life. I hunger now for the good that I have lost. I am clothed in the shame of my transgressions, for I have been stripped of the grace of God. I cry aloud to you: I have sinned, yet I know of Your loving kindness. O Christ, in Your mercy accept me as one of Your hired servants, through the prayers of the Apostles who love You.
5. O Apostles of the Savior, you are the lights of the universe, benefactors and saviors. You proclaim the glory of God like the heavens. You are adorned with the stars of your miracles and wonderful healings. Intercede fervently for us before the Lord that our prayers may be accepted as a pleasing fragrance. Grant that with love we may be worthy to venerate the life-giving Cross and to gaze on it with reverence. As we worship Your Cross, O Savior, send down Your mercy upon us, O Lover of Mankind.

For Cassian (Tone 2)

4. Having led the life of the angels on earth, O blessed one, you were joined to the bodiless choirs in Heaven. Taking up your cross, O venerable father, you followed after the God of all. Because you mortified the deadly passions by the hardships of abstinence, you became a pure vessel, a chalice filled by the Holy Spirit. Wherefore, we sing to you: intercede for all those who acclaim you, O Cassian.
3. Having led the life... *(Repeat)*

2. Ceaselessly united to God through fasting and vigils, O blessed one, you dominated all sensuality. Continually enlightened by means of your profound prayer, you poured forth streams of teachings which refresh the hearts of believers: for you made known the mystery of salvation. Wherefore, we sing to you, O divinely-minded father: intercede for all those who acclaim you, O Cassian!
1. Enlightened by the supreme Light in your wise soul, you made it shine forth radiantly in your teachings, which have illumined a whole multitude of monks, delivering them from the darkness of the passions. Thus we celebrate your holy memory at all times, glorifying the God of Glory, the Lord, who glorified you because of the struggles you endured and the victory you won over the cunning serpent.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

All my hope I place in you, O Theotokos: keep me under the wings of your protection.

Entrance with the censer. "O Joyful Light..."

PROKIMENON [Ps 51] (*Tone 4*)

But I always trusted in God's mercy from age to age.

- v. Why do you flaunt your sin, O mighty one? All day long, your tongue has plotted iniquity.

1.) *Genesis 7:6-9*

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters came upon the earth. Together with his sons, his wife,



and his sons' wives, Noah went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of the clean animals and the unclean, of the birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two by two, male and female entered the ark with Noah, just as the LORD had commanded him.

PROKIMENON [Ps 52] (*Tone 4*)

When the Lord ends Israel's captivity, Jacob shall exult and Israel be glad.

v. The fool said in his heart: "There is no God!"

2.) *Proverbs 9:12-18*

My son, if you are wise, it is to your own advantage; and if you are arrogant, you alone shall bear it. The one who relies upon liars is a shepherd of the winds, pursuing birds in full flight. He forsakes the ways of his own vineyard and gets lost in the pathways of his vine-dressers. He walks through a wilderness without water, he travels through a land condemned to drought and his hands harvest nothing but fruitless things. The woman Folly is fickle, she is inane, and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house upon a seat on the city heights, calling to passers-by as they go on their straight way: "Let whoever is simple turn in here, or who lacks understanding; for to him I say, Stolen water is sweet, and bread gotten secretly is pleasing!" Little does he know that mighty men die by her, that in the depths of the nether world are her guests! Thus hasten away, do not stay with her nor cast your eyes upon her. Although you pass by another's water, you shall abstain from it, Stay away from the waters of a stranger, and do not drink from its source. In this way your days will be multiplied and the years of your life increased.