

April 10

Sixth Week of Great Lent;

**Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompeius,
Maximos, Macarios, Africanus and Their Companions**

(5th Class)

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

Stichera for the Fast (Tone 5)

8. I am rich in passions. I am clothed in garments of hypocrisy. I display great arrogance in all my acts. I despise my spirit lying before the gates of repentance. There is no limit to my lack of love. I am sick from inattention and thirst for blessings. But make me, O Lord, like Lazarus, who was poor in sin, lest I receive no answer when I pray for the finger to be dipped in the water to relieve my burning tongue. Make me dwell in the bosom of the patriarch Abraham, O Lover of mankind!
7. In your unshakable resolve, you never denied Christ, O holy martyrs, as you endured the most terrible torments. You triumphed over the arrogance of the tyrants and kept the faith, whole and entire, as you passed from earth to Heaven. By the confidence you have in the presence of God, pray that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.
6. As You walked in the flesh, O Jesus, in the land beyond the Jordan, You said to those with You: "Lazarus, our friend, is already dead and has been laid in the tomb. But I rejoice for you, friends, for you will learn that I know all things and am inseparable from God, even though by nature I appear as a man. Therefore, let us go and give life to Lazarus, so that Death may recognize this victory and the perfect consummation I shall bring about by granting to the world great mercy!"

5. Let us, O faithful, imitate Martha and Mary, and offer virtuous deeds as ambassadors before the Lord, that when He comes, He may raise up our spirits which now lie dead and miserable in the tomb. Possessing now no living force, they have no sense of what they are neglecting and in no way are aware of the awesomeness of God. Behold, O Lord, as once You pitied Your friend Lazarus, and raised him by Your awesome power, now give life to all and grant us Your great mercy!

(Tone 6)

4. For two days Lazarus has been in the tomb and sees those dead from all generations. He beholds strange and awesome things and a countless multitude held within the powers of Death. Looking at his tomb, his relatives weep bitterly; but Christ is on His way to give life to His friend and to consummate His plan for all mankind. Blessed are You, O Savior: have mercy on us!

For the Martyrs (Tone 4)

3. A multitude of torments were bravely endured by this multitude of martyrs of many names. With joy they went to the one, true God, whom we adore, there to rejoice with the hosts of bodiless angels, since they overcame the serpent and his hordes by their resoluteness and by the grace of the Spirit.
2. With hymns, let the sublime Terence and the wondrous Pompeius be glorified, the renowned Macarios and Maximos, the divine Africanus, and with them the whole band of holy martyrs who have won the Kingdom on high by their blood and are filled with eternal glory.
1. Neither hunger nor peril, neither life nor death could separate you from the love of your Creator, O wondrous martyrs. Thus you have inherited the kingdom of heaven, inexhaustible honor and endless joy. On our

behalf entreat the Giver of all good things for mercy and the remission of our sins.

- 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

I pray and entreat you, the fountain of holiness, the golden Ark shining with the radiance of the Spirit, O Lady, send your pure light upon my soul, enslaved by the passions; deliver me from the bitter tyranny of the demons; and by your prayers, give me the way to salvation.

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

PROKIMENON [Ps 115] (Tone 4)

I will be pleasing to the Lord in the land of the living.

- v. I am glad, for the Lord will hear my plea, for He has inclined His ear to me.

1.) Genesis 43:26 - 45:16

When Joseph came home, they presented him with the gifts they had brought inside, while they bowed down before him to the ground. After inquiring how they were, he asked them, "And how is your aged father, of whom you spoke? Is he still in good health?" "Your servant our father is thriving and still in good health," they said, as they bowed respectfully. When Joseph's eye fell on his full brother Benjamin, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you told me?" Then he said to him, "May God be gracious to you, my boy!" With that, Joseph had to hurry out, for he was so overcome with affection for his brother that he was on the verge of tears. He went into a private room and wept there. After washing his face, he reappeared and, now in control of himself, gave the order, "Serve the meal."

It was served separately to him, to the brothers, and to the Egyptians who partook of his board. (Egyptians may not

eat with Hebrews; that is abhorrent to them.) When they were seated by his directions according to their age, from the oldest to the youngest, they looked at one another in amazement. And as portions were brought to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as large as anyone else's. So they drank freely and made merry with him. Then Joseph gave his head steward these instructions: "Fill the men's bags with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his bag. In the mouth of the youngest one's bag put also my silver goblet, together with the money for his rations." The steward carried out Joseph's instructions. At daybreak the men and their donkeys were sent off. They had not gone far out of the city when Joseph said to his head steward: "Go at once after the men! When you overtake them, say to them, 'Why did you repay good with evil? Why did you steal the silver goblet from me? It is the very one from which my master drinks and which he uses for divination. What you have done is wrong.'" When the steward overtook them and repeated these words to them, they remonstrated with him: "How can my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money that we found in the mouths of our bags. Why, then, would we steal silver or gold from your master's house? If any of your servants is found to have the goblet, he shall die, and as for the rest of us, we shall become my lord's slaves." But he replied, "Even though it ought to be as you propose, only the one who is found to have it shall become my slave, and the rest of you shall be exonerated." Then each of them eagerly lowered his bag to the ground and opened it. And when a search was made, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest, the goblet turned up in Benjamin's bag. At this, they tore their clothes. Then, when each man had reloaded his donkey, they returned to the city. As Judah and his brothers reentered Joseph's house, he was

still there; so they flung themselves on the ground before him. "How could you do such a thing?" Joseph asked them. "You should have known that such a man as I could discover by divination what happened." Judah replied: "What can we say to my lord? How can we plead or how try to prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. Here we are, then, the slaves of my lord—the rest of us no less than the one in whose possession the goblet was found." "Far be it from me to act thus!" said Joseph. "Only the one in whose possession the goblet was found shall become my slave; the rest of you may go back safe and sound to your father." Judah then stepped up to him and said: "I beg you, my lord, let your servant speak earnestly to my lord, and do not become angry with your servant, for you are the equal of Pharaoh. My lord asked your servants, 'Have you a father, or another brother?' So we said to my lord, 'We have an aged father, and a young brother, the child of his old age. This one's full brother is dead, and since he is the only one by that mother who is left, his father dotes on him.' Then you told your servants, 'Bring him down to me that my eyes may look on him.' We replied to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father; his father would die if he were to leave him.' But you told your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes back with you, you shall not come into my presence again.' When we returned to your servant our father, we reported to him the words of my lord. "Later, our father told us to come back and buy some food for the family. So we reminded him, 'We cannot go down there; only if our youngest brother is with us can we go, for we may not see the man if our youngest brother is not with us.' Then your servant our father said to us, 'As you know, my wife bore me two sons. One of them, however, disappeared, and I had to conclude that he must have been torn to pieces by wild beasts; I have not seen him since. If you now take this one away from me too, and some disaster befalls him, you will send my white

head down to the nether world in grief." "If then the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father, whose very life is bound up with his, he will die as soon as he sees that the boy is missing. And your servants will thus send the white head of our father down to the nether world in grief. Besides, I, your servant, got the boy from his father by going surety for him, saying, 'If I fail to bring him back to you, father, you can hold it against me forever.' Let me, your servant, therefore, remain in place of the boy as the slave of my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. How could I go back to my father if the boy were not with me? I could not bear to see the anguish that would overcome my father." Joseph could no longer control himself in the presence of all his attendants, so he cried out, "Have everyone withdraw from me!" Thus no one else was about when he made himself known to his brothers. But his sobs were so loud that the Egyptians heard him, and so the news reached Pharaoh's palace. "I am Joseph," he said to his brothers. "Is my father still in good health?" But his brothers could give him no answer, so dumbfounded were they at him. "Come closer to me," he told his brothers. When they had done so, he said: "I am your brother Joseph, whom you once sold into Egypt. But now do not be distressed, and do not reproach yourselves for having sold me here. It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you. For two years now the famine has been in the land, and for five more years tillage will yield no harvest. God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. So it was not really you but God who had me come here; and he has made of me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. "Hurry back, then, to my father and tell him: 'Thus says your son Joseph: God has made me lord of all Egypt; come to me without delay. You will settle in the region of Goshen, where

you will be near me—you and your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything that you own. Since five years of famine still lie ahead, I will provide for you there, so that you and your family and all that are yours may not suffer want.' Surely, you can see for yourselves, and Benjamin can see for himself, that it is I, Joseph, who am speaking to you. Tell my father all about my high position in Egypt and what you have seen. But hurry and bring my father down here." Thereupon he flung himself on the neck of his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin wept in his arms. Joseph then kissed all his brothers, crying over each of them; and only then were his brothers able to talk with him. When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and his courtiers were pleased.

PROKIMENON [Ps 115] (*Tone 4*)

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

v. I believed wherefore I have spoken, but I was direly afflicted.

2.) *Proverbs 21:23 - 22:4*

He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from trouble. Arrogant is the name for the man of overbearing pride who acts with scornful effrontery. The sluggard's propensity slays him, for his hands refuse to work. The evil are consumed with avarice all the day, but the just man gives unsparingly. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, the more so when they offer it with a bad intention. The false witness will perish, but he who listens will finally have his say. The wicked man is brazen-faced, but the upright man pays heed to his ways. There is no wisdom, no understanding, no counsel, against the LORD. The horse is equipped for the day of battle, but victory is the LORD'S. A good name is more desirable than

great riches, and high esteem, than gold and silver. Rich and poor have a common bond: the LORD is the maker of them all. The shrewd man perceives evil and hides, while simpletons continue on and suffer the penalty. The reward of humility and fear of the LORD is riches, honor and life.