

Lazarus Saturday

The Sixth Saturday of Great Lent

(Final Day of the Great Fast)

LENTEN VESPERS

Tonight we use the Friday evening Lenten format. Follow your Daily Vespers booklet until the Ecumenic Prayer, after which, the remainder of the service will be provided further below.

Stichera for Lazarus (Tone 6)

6. O Lord, in Your desire to see the tomb of Lazarus - for You were soon to be dwelling in a tomb by Your own free will - You asked: "Where have you laid him?" When You learned what You already knew, You called out to him whom You loved: "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had no breath listened to the One who gave him breath, to You, the Savior of our souls!
5. O Lord, in Your desire... *(Repeat)*
4. O Lord, You came to the tomb of Lazarus who was dead for four days; and at the tomb of Your friend, You shed tears. You raised up the man who was four days dead, O Wheat of Life. Thus, Death was bound by Your voice, and the funeral shrouds were loosened by Your hands. Then the group of Your disciples was filled with joy, and their voices rose in adoration: "Blessed are You, O Savior! Have mercy on us!"
3. O Lord, Your voice destroyed the kingdom of Death, and Your powerful word raised up from the grave him who had been dead for four days. Thus Lazarus became the prelude of salvation and rebirth for all. O Master, King of all, all things are possible for You: grant Your servants forgiveness and Your great mercy.

2. O Lord, in Your desire to assure Your disciples about Your Resurrection from the dead, You came to the tomb of Lazarus. When You called him forth by name, Hades was despoiled and gave up the one who had been dead for four days; and he called out to You: "Blessed Lord, glory to You!"
1. O Lord, taking Your disciples, You came to Bethany to awaken Lazarus. Weeping for him in accordance with the law of human nature, as God You raised him who had been dead for four days. He cried out to You, the Savior: "Blessed Lord, glory to You!"
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

You came to the grave of Lazarus, O our Savior, and You called him and raised the dead man as if he had been asleep. He shook off corruption by the Spirit of incorruption and, still wrapped in the burial shroud, came forth at Your word. All is possible to You, O merciful Master! All things serve You! All things obey You! O our Savior, glory to You!

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

As we complete these forty days of profit to our souls, let us exclaim: "Rejoice, O Bethany, birthplace of Lazarus. And you, his sisters, Mary and Martha, rejoice as well! For tomorrow, Christ will come and give life to your dead brother by a word. Bitter and insatiable Death will hear His voice; and trembling with fear and groaning bitterly, it will release Lazarus still wrapped in his shroud. The Hebrews, astonished at this miracle, come to meet Him, carrying branches and palms. And the children will rejoice to see the One on whom their fathers look with hate. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

"O Joyful Light..."

PROKIMENON [Ps 123] (*Tone 6*)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and earth.

v. Had not the Lord been with us, let Israel now say.

1.) *Genesis 49:33 - 50:26*

When Jacob had finished giving his instructions to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and was taken to his kindred. Joseph threw himself on his father's face and wept over him as he kissed him. Then he ordered the physicians in his service to embalm his father. When they embalmed Israel, they spent forty days at it, for that is the full period of embalming; and the Egyptians mourned him for seventy days. When that period of mourning was over, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh's courtiers. "Please do me this favor," he said, "and convey to Pharaoh this request of mine. Since my father, at the point of death, made me promise on oath to bury him in the tomb that he had prepared for himself in the land of Canaan, may I go up there to bury my father and then come back?" Pharaoh replied, "Go and bury your father, as he made you promise on oath." So Joseph left to bury his father; and with him went all of Pharaoh's officials who were senior members of his court and all the other dignitaries of Egypt, as well as Joseph's whole household, his brothers, and his father's household; only their children and their flocks and herds were left in the region of Goshen. Chariots, too, and charioteers went up with him; it was a very large retinue. When they arrived at Goren-ha-atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they held there a very great and solemn memorial service; and Joseph observed seven days of mourning for his father. When the Canaanites who inhabited the land saw the mourning at Goren-ha-atad, they said, "This is a solemn funeral the Egyptians are having." That is why the place was named

Abel-mizraim. It is beyond the Jordan. Thus Jacob's sons did for him as he had instructed them. They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, facing on Mamre, the field that Abraham had bought for a burial ground from Ephron the Hittite. After Joseph had buried his father he returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all who had gone up with him for the burial of his father. Now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful and thought, "Suppose Joseph has been nursing a grudge against us and now plans to pay us back in full for all the wrong we did him!" So they approached Joseph and said: "Before your father died, he gave us these instructions: 'You shall say to Joseph, Jacob begs you to forgive the criminal wrongdoing of your brothers, who treated you so cruelly.' Please, therefore, forgive the crime that we, the servants of your father's God, committed." When they spoke these words to him, Joseph broke into tears. Then his brothers proceeded to fling themselves down before him and said, "Let us be your slaves!" But Joseph replied to them: "Have no fear. Can I take the place of God? Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve his present end, the survival of many people. Therefore have no fear. I will provide for you and for your children." By thus speaking kindly to them, he reassured them. Joseph remained in Egypt, together with his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years. He saw Ephraim's children to the third generation, and the children of Manasseh's son Machir were also born on Joseph's knees. Joseph said to his brothers: "I am about to die. God will surely take care of you and lead you out of this land to the land that he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Then, putting the sons of Israel under oath, he continued, "When God thus takes care of you, you must bring my bones up with you from this place." Joseph died at the age of a

hundred and ten. He was embalmed and laid to rest in a coffin in Egypt.

PROKIMENON [Ps 124] (*Tone 4*)

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like the mountain of Sion.

v. They cannot be moved; they will stand forever.

2.) *Proverbs 31:8 - 13*

My son, open your mouth to the word of God in order to discern all things rightly. Open your mouth, decree what is just, defend the needy and the poor! Who shall find a worthy wife? Her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household and appoints tasks to her servants. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Her husband has no fears for his household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her husband clothes of double texture; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them to the Canaanites, and stocks the Phoenicians with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have

excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her husband be praised at the city gates.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 8*)

1. Count us worthy of beholding the week of Your Passion, O Lover of Mankind, for we have completed the forty days of the Fast for the profit of our souls. Let us glorify Your mighty deeds, Your ineffable dispensation for our sake, singing with one mind: "O Lord, glory to You!"

All: To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses: thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.

2. Count us worth... (*Repeat*)

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.

3. O martyrs of the Lord, intercede with God on behalf of our souls, and ask that in His great goodness He grant us the forgiveness of our countless sins.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

Count us worthy of beholding the week of Your Passion, O Lover of Mankind, for we have completed the forty days of the Fast for the profit of our souls. Let us glorify Your mighty deeds, Your ineffable dispensation for our sake, singing with one mind: "O Lord, glory to You!"

TROPARION OF LAZARUS (Tone 1) [3 times]

O Christ God, when You raised Lazarus from the dead before the time of Your Passion, You confirmed the future resurrection of all. We too, like the children of old, carry before You the symbols of victory and cry out to You, O Conqueror of death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

After the Ecumenic Prayer, the service continues as follows:

PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM

The priest, having removed his epitrachelion, recites the Prayer of St. Ephrem in a low voice. Making a prostration, he begins:

O Lord, Master of my life, grant that I may not be infected with the spirit of slothfulness and inquisitiveness, with the spirit of ambition and vain talking.

He rises, then making another prostration:

Grant instead to me your servant the spirit of purity and humility, the spirit of patience and neighborly love.

He rises, then making a third prostration:

O Lord and King, bestow upon me the grace of being aware of my sins and of not thinking evil of those of my brethren.

And he continues aloud:

For You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

The priest puts on his epitrachelion.

All-Holy Trinity, one-natured Might, invisible Kingdom, Cause of all good things: be pleased with me, a sinner. Strengthen my heart, grant understanding to it, cleanse it of all impurity, enlighten my intelligence that I may glorify, praise and adore You, proclaiming unceasingly: "One is Holy, One is Lord: Jesus Christ in the glory of God the Father. Amen."

Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever! *(three times with a metany each time)*

- ~ Glory to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
~ now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 33

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be constantly in my mouth.
My soul shall glory in the Lord:
let the meek hear and rejoice.

Magnify the Lord with me
and let us exalt His name together.
I sought the Lord and He heard me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Approach the Lord and be enlightened,
and your face shall never be shamed.
This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him
and delivered him from all his afflictions.

The angel of the Lord will set up camp
around those who fear the Lord, and save them.
Taste and see how good the Lord is:
blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

Fear the Lord, all you His saints,
for there is no privation for those who fear Him.
The rich have become poor and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord shall not want any good.

Come, children, hear me:
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is the man who desires life,
who loves to see good days?

Keep your mouth from evil
and your lips from deceitful speech;
Turn away from evil and do good,
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the just
and His ears are open to their pleas;
The face of the Lord is against evildoers
to erase their memory from the earth.

The just cried out, and the Lord heard them,
and He delivered them from all their trials.
The Lord is close to men of contrite heart
and He will save the humble in spirit.

Many are the trials of the just,
but out of them all, the Lord will save them.

He keeps watch over all their bones:
not a single one of them shall be broken,

The death of the sinners is wretched;
those who hate what is right will be condemned.

The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants,
and none of those who hope in Him will go astray.

P: Wisdom!

All: A blessing!

Turning to the icon of Christ and, making the sign of the Cross:

P: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed at all times,
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

The ecclesiarch answers:

Amen. Make firm, O Christ God, the holy Orthodox Faith in
this holy church for ever and ever. Amen.

Turning toward the icon of the Theotokos and, making the sign of the Cross:

P: O all-holy Theotokos, save us!

The second in rank answers:

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious
beyond compare than the seraphim, who without stain bore
God the Word: you are truly Theotokos, you do we exalt!

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May Christ our true God through the prayers of His spotless and all-pure Mother, of His glorious Apostles who are worthy of all praise, and through the intercession of the honorable and bodiless powers of heaven, and through the intercession of St. *N.*, patron of this holy church (*or* monastery) and of St. *N.*, whose memory we celebrate today, and of the holy and just ancestors of Christ, Joachim and Ann, and of all the saints, may this same Christ have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.

P: Through the prayer of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

All come forward to receive the priest's blessing, the deacon approaching after any other priests who may be present.