

February, 2016

Sunday, February 28

3rd Sunday of Lent (Mid-Lent)

Veneration of the Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Ascetical Companion of Procopius (716-40).

Tone 7. Matins Gospel VII.

Note: Either during the Matins or prior to the Divine Liturgy, the decorated Cross is placed on the tetrapod for veneration (cf. *Dolnytsky, Typikon*, pp. 121-122, 362-364).

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Dark vestments. Resurrection Tropar (Tone 7); Tropar of the 3rd Sunday; Glory/Now: Kondak of the 3rd Sunday. "To Your Cross, O Master", replaces the Trice-holy Hymn.

Prokimen, Alleluia Verses and Communion Hymn of the 3rd Sunday.

Scripture readings for the 3rd Sunday of Lent:

Epistle: Hebrews §311 [4:14-5:6].

Gospel: Mark §37 [8:34-9:1].

Monday, February 29

Our Venerable Father Cassian (430-35)

March 2016

Tuesday, March 1

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eudocia (98-117).

Wednesday, March 2

Mid-Lent

The Holy Priest-Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrenia (c. 321). Dark vestments.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Readings for the 4th Wednesday of Lent:

Genesis 9:18-10:1; Proverbs 12:23-13:9.

Thursday, March 3

The Holy Martyrs Eutropius and His Companions Cleonicus and Basiliscus (286-305).

Friday, March 4

Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan (475).

Dark vestments.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Scripture readings for the 4th Friday of Lent:

Genesis 12:1-7; Proverbs 14:14-26.

Saturday, March 5

4th Saturday of Lent – An All Souls Saturday

The Holy Martyr Conon (249-51).

Dark vestments. Service for the 4th Saturday, including Typical Antiphons.

Scripture readings for the 4th Saturday:

Epistle: Hebrew §313 [6:9-12].

Gospel: Mark §31 [7:31-37].

Note: *Panakhyda* with general commemoration of the deceased is celebrated following the Ambon Prayer, beginning with the Tropar *So duchy pravednykh*. Following the "Ameri" of the Exclamation, the celebrant returns to the ambo from which he imparts the Final Blessing and the Dismissal proper to the Divine Liturgy. Close with *Vichnaya Pam'yat*.

Sunday, March 6 4th Sunday of Great Lent

Commemoration of Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus).

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Ammorium (848).

Tone 8. Matins Gospel VIII.

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Bright vestments. Resurrection Tropar (Tone 8); Tropar of the 4th Sunday; Glory/Now: Kondak of the 4th Sunday; Prokimen, Alleluia Verses of Tone 8 and of the 4th Sunday. Immos, "In You, O Full of Grace..." Communion Hymn of Tone 8 and of the 4th Sunday.

Scripture readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent:

Epistle: Hebrew §314 [6:13-20].

Gospel: Mark §40 [9:17-31].

In the evening: Lenten Vespers.

Monday, March 7

The Holy Priest-Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and Others (284-305). Passing into Eternal Life (1935) of Blessed Leonid Feodorov, Exarch of the Russian Catholic Church, and Martyr.

Tuesday, March 8

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (c. 845).

Wednesday, March 9

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (321-23).

Dark vestments.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

Scripture readings for the 5th Wednesday of Lent:

Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9.

Epistle: Hebrews §331 [12:1-10].

Gospel: Matthew §80 [20:1-16].

Thursday, March 10

The Holy Martyr Condratus and Those with Him (249-51).

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.

Friday, March 11

Our Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (638).

Dark vestments. **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.**

Scripture readings for the 5th Friday of Lent:

Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5.

Saturday, March 12

5th Saturday of Lent – Saturday

of the Akathist Hymn

Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophanes of Sigriana (817);

Our Holy Father Gregory of the Dialogist, Pope of Rome.

Blue vestments.

Service and Scripture readings for the 5th Saturday (Akathist Saturday):

Epistle: Hebrew §322 [9:24-28].

Gospel: Mark §35 [8:27-31].

Note: The prescribed Matins Office may be omitted and the Akathist sung by itself, in which case it is celebrated in an epitrahil and phelon at the altar with the holy doors open.

Sunday, March 13 5th Sunday of Lent

Commemoration of Our Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt.

The Transfer of the Relics of Our Holy Father Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople (847).

Tone 1. Matins Gospel IX.

Bright vestments. **Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.** Resurrection Tropar (Tone 1); Tropar of the 5th Sunday; Glory/Now: Kondak of the 5th Sunday; Prokimen of Tone 1 and of the 5th Sunday. Alleluia verses of Tone 1. Immos, "In You, O Full of Grace..." Communion hymn of Tone 1 and of the 5th Sunday.

Scripture readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent:

Epistle: Hebrew §321 [9:11-14].

Gospel: Mark §47 [10:32-45].

In the evening: Lenten Vespers.

Monday, March 14

Our Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia (547).

Tuesday, March 15

The Holy Martyr Agapius and the Six Martyrs with Him (284-305).

Wednesday, March 16

The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas (284-305).

Dark vestments. **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.**

Scripture readings for the 6th Wednesday of Lent:

Genesis: 43:25-45:16; Proverbs 21:23-22:24.

Thursday, March 17

Our Venerable Father Alexis, Man of God.

Friday, March 18

Our Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (386).

Dark vestments. **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.**

Scripture readings for the 6th Friday of Lent:

Genesis: 49:33-50:26; Proverbs 31:8-31.

Saturday, March 19 Saturday before Palm Sunday –

Lazarus Saturday

The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (253-60).

Bright vestments. Service, including proper Immos of Lazarus Saturday.

The Trice-holy Hymn is replaced by "All you who have been baptized."

Scripture readings for the Lazarus Saturday:

Epistle: Hebrew §Mid-333 [12:28-13:8].

Gospel: John §39 [11:1-45].

In the evening: Vespers with Litija.

Sunday, March 20 Palm Sunday – the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

Our Venerable Fathers Martyred by the Saracens at the Monastery of St. Sabbas (580-97).

Note: From today until Thomas Sunday only service from the *Triodion* may be taken; services from Meneon are to be omitted (cf. *Dolnytsky Typikon* p. 373). Memorial services for the deceased (except for funerals) are forbidden in church. Funerals on Great Monday through Great Wednesday may be celebrated in church using the Service of Burial of the Deceased as prescribed by the *Trebnyk*. Bodies of the deceased may never be brought into church from Great Thursday through Easter Sunday. In the latter case, funerals must take place at the funeral home chapels.

Bright vestments. Resurrection service is omitted.

Festal Gospel at Matins: Matthew §83 [21:1-11, 15-17].

Note: Willow branches may be blessed at the Matins, before the Divine Liturgy, or after the Ambo Prayer of the Liturgy.

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. Service and Reading for Palm/Willow Sunday, including proper antiphons, introit and immos.

Epistle: Philippians §247 [4:4-9].

Gospel: John §41 [12:1-18].

Note: Willows may be distributed at Matins or before the Liturgy (the custom in Ukraine is for the faithful to hold a willow during the Liturgy). Following the Liturgy, anointing with the holy oil (*myrovannia*) of the faithful and distribution of *blessed prosfora*.

Monday, March 21 Holy Monday

Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania (813-20).

Dark vestments. Vespers with the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. Entrance with the Gospel. Readings for Monday of the Passion Week:

Exodus 1:1-20; Job 1:1-12.

After "Let my prayer rise..." , reading of the Gospel – Matthew §98 [24:3-35].

Tuesday, March 22 Holy Tuesday

Commemoration of Our Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt

Dark vestments. Vespers with the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. Entrance with the Gospel. Readings for Tuesday of the Passion Week:

Exodus 2:5-10; Job 1:13-22.

After "Let my prayer rise..." , reading of the Gospel – Matthew §102 [24:36-26:2].

Wednesday, March 23 Holy Wednesday

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and His Disciples, Martyred with Him (270-75).

Dark vestments. Vespers with the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts. Entrance with the Gospel. Readings for Wednesday of the Passion Week:

Exodus 2:11-22; Job 2:1-10.

After "Let my prayer rise..." , reading of the Gospel – Matthew §108 [26:6-16].

Thursday, March 24 Holy Thursday

Our Venerable Father Zachary; Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia.

Bright vestments. Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. Proper Cherubikon and Communion Hymn.

Note: This is Vesper-Liturgy and properly should be celebrated in the afternoon or early evening. *Dolnytskyj's Typik*, referencing the Synod of Lviv, reminds us that only one Liturgy is permitted in each church today; also, recited Liturgies are forbidden (p. 385). Concelebrating by the clergy of a parish or institution is proper, as the Sacrament of the Priesthood was instituted today.

Readings for the Great Holy Thursday: Exodus 19:10-19; Job 38:1-23; 42:1-5; Isaiah 50:4-11.

Note: Small litany with the Trisagion, and, from that point, the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at which we take everything of Great Thursday Liturgy only, including proper *Cherubikon* (sung also instead of "That we may receive..." , the Communion hymn and "May our mouths be filled...") and Immos.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians §149 [11:23-32].

Gospel: Matthew §107 [26:2-20]; John §Mid-44 [13:3-17]; Matthew §Mid-108 [26:21-39]; Luke §Mid-109 [22:43-45]; Matthew §Mid-108 [26:40-27:2].

Later in the evening: Anticipated matins of the Great Friday (Passion Gospels/Strasty).

At the Service of the Lord's Passion: Dark Vestments. Twelve Gospel readings: John §46 [13:31-18:1]; John §58 [18:1-28]; Matthew §109 [26:57-75]; John §59 [18:28-19:16]; Matthew §111 [27:3-32]; Mark §67 [15:16-32]; Matthew §113 [27:33-54]; Luke §111 [23:32-49]; John §61 [19:25-37]; Mark §69 [15:43-47]; John §62 [19:38-42]; Matthew §114 [27:62-66].

Note: By custom, vestments of all colors are worn for the reading of the twelve Gospels, starting and ending with the dark color.

Friday, March 25 Holy Friday

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

Today is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Note: Today is a day of fasting and strict abstinence: meat and dairy products are forbidden.

Before noon: Royal Hours.

In the afternoon: Vespers with the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. At Vespers: *At Lord I have cried...*, 10 Sticheras: 6 from the Triod and 4 from the Annunciation; Glory: of Triod; Now: of the Annunciation. Entrance with the Gospel. The OT readings from the Triod. Prokimen of the Triod and of the Annunciation. Small litany. Trisagion. Continue with the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

At the Liturgy: Prokimen and Alleluia verses of the Annunciation and of the Triod. Proper Imos. Communion Hymn of the Annunciation. After the Ambo Prayer the Placement of the Holy Shroud and a proper dismissal commemorating the Feast. Conclude with the veneration, *the Noble Joseph* (3).

Scripture Readings of the Annunciation:

Epistle: Hebrew §306 [2:11-18].

Gospel: Luke §3 [1:24-38].

And of Holy Friday:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians §125 [1:18-31; 2:1-2];

Gospel: Matthew §110 [27:1-38]; Luke §Mid-111 [23:39-43]; Matthew §Mid-113 [27:39-54]; John §Mid-61 [19:31-37]. Matthew §Mid-113 [27:55-61].

In the evening: Anticipated Matins of the Holy and Great Saturday: Jerusalem Matins.

Saturday, March 26 Holy Saturday

Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

Dark vestments, however, we change to bright vestments at the epistle of the Vesper-Liturgy.

Note: Today we abstain from meat.

In the afternoon or early evening Vesper-Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

At Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil:

Readings: Genesis 1:1-13; Isaiah 60:1-16; Exodus 12:1-11; Jonah (whole book); Joshua 5:10-15; Exodus 13:20-15:19 and Troparion (Tone 5) with verses; Zephaniah 3:8-35; 3 Kings 17:8-24; Isaiah 61:10-62:5; Genesis 22:1-18; Isaiah 61:1-9; 4 Kings 4:8-37; Isaiah 63:11-64:5; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 3:1-56 and verses with a refrain.

Small litany with the *Trisagion*, and, from that point, the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at which we take everything of Great Saturday Liturgy only, including proper *Cherubikon* and *Imos*. Instead of Alleluia – special verses, during the singing of which the priest changes from dark to bright (silver white) vestments.

Instead of *Trisagion* – “*All you who have been baptized.*”

Scripture readings for the Great Saturday:

Epistle: Romans §91 [6:3-11].

Gospel: Matthew §115 [28:1-20].

Note: After the Ambo Prayer blessing of the prosfora, without the vigil *litija* (*Dolnytskyj's Typik*, p. 403). The blessing of Easter foods may be anticipated today, although, properly, it is done following Resurrection Matins on Easter.

Before midnight or early Easter Sunday Morning: Midnight Office (*Nadhrobnoe*), removal of the Holy Shroud to the altar. (The *Typik* prescribes dark vestments for this service, but if it is held immediately before Paschal Matins, bright vestments may be worn, especially since they have already been worn earlier in the day at the Vesper-Liturgy).

Sunday, March 27

THE GLORIOUS AND HOLY SUNDAY OF THE RESSURECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Our Holy Mother Matrona of Thessalonica.

Note: There is no fasting this week. Bright vestments are worn throughout the Pentecostal season.

At Paschal Matins: Procession around the church; chanting of Paschal Troparion with verses and everything else as in Horologion. Priests are in full vestments.

Note: The Holy Doors as well as the side doors of the Iconostasis are left open throughout Bright Week.

At the Liturgy: Festal Service for Pascha, including proper Antiphons, Entrance Hymn and *Imos*. Instead of *Trisagion* – “*All those who have been baptized...*”

Gospel is read in various languages. Paschal Dismissal with the Cross.

After the Ambo Prayer: Blessing of the Artos.

Scripture readings for the Holy and Great Easter Sunday:

Epistle: Acts §1 [1:1-8].

Gospel: John §1 [1:1-17].

Note: Dismissal with the Cross is also taken throughout Bright Week, and (only after the Liturgy) on all Sundays until the Apodosis of Pascha, on Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost, and on the Apodosis itself. It may also be taken whenever people are present in church in large numbers.

The Paschal Order:

The Tropar of Easter, *Christ is Risen...* is sung thrice following the opening exclamation of the priest and following each service; this Troparion is also sung in place of the following: “*Blessed is He...*”, “*We have seen the true Light...*”, “*May our mouths be filled...*” (thrice), “*Blessed be the name of the Lord...*” (thrice), and, before the Dismissal, instead of “*Glory be to the Father...*” Instead of “*It is truly right*” – *Imos* of Pascha (except on Mid-Pentecost and its apodosis). First and Third Antiphons of Sunday; final Kondak of Easter (except in the Thomas Week); in place of the *Holy God: All you who have been baptized.*

Note: Today the priest blesses Paschal foods (after Matins or following the Liturgy). However, this blessing is not performed in church.

