

Pearls from The Lenten Triodion: Sixth Week of Great Lent

Monday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent:

“As we set out upon the sixth week of the Fast, let us sing to Christ a hymn in preparation for the Feast of Palms. He comes for our sake seated on the foal of an ass, that as King he may subdue the wild and unruly nations to His Father. Let us all make ready for Him branches of virtues, that with rejoicing we may see His resurrection.”

“Through abstinence let us put to death the passions and through godlike actions let us bring to life the spirit, that with pure minds we may see the holy Passion of Christ.”

“Let us observe with gladness the Fast that kills our passions; let us steadfastly devote ourselves to prayer; let us weep and mourn and lament with all our heart, that when we depart hence, we may go to dwell with Abraham.”

Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent:

“Once in Babylon fasting made the Children stronger than the fire. Be not fainthearted, O my soul, but follow their example, and thou shalt quench the fire on sensual pleasure with the dew of the Spirit.”

“Tasting once from the bitter fruit, the first-formed man was banished in grief from Paradise, and harnessed to the yoke of death. Fast, O my soul; flee from his example; flee from the pleasures of eating, for they are sorrowful.”

Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent:

“With our souls cleansed and illumined by fasting, let us make haste to meet Christ as He comes incarnate to Jerusalem.”

“With fasting as his protection, Daniel stopped the mouths of wild beasts. Follow his example, O my soul, and with the aid of the Cross drive off the serpent who goes about roaring like a lion, seeking to devour every soul.”

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent:

“O Compassionate Lord, at the full completion of the Fast fill our hearts and minds with joy, through the prayers of Thine apostles who loved Thee with sincerity, O Savior of our souls.”

“Come, brethren, and before the end with pure hearts let us all draw near to the compassionate God. Casting aside the cares of this life, let us take thought for our souls. Through abstinence let us reject with loathing the pleasures of food, and let us busy ourselves with acts of compassion; for in this way, as it is written, some have entertained angels unaware. By providing for the needy, let us feed Him who has fed us with His own flesh. Let us clothe ourselves in Him who clothes Himself in light as in a garment. So, at the intercessions of the most pure Theotokos and Virgin Mother, we shall receive forgiveness of our sins, and with compunction cry to Him: O Lord deliver us from the condemnation of those on Thy left hand, and make us worthy to stand on Thy right, for Thou art merciful and lovest mankind.”

Friday of the Sixth Week of Great Lent (last day of Lent):

“Having completed the forty days that bring profit to our soul, we beseech Thee in Thy love for man: Grant us also to behold the Holy Week of Thy Passion, that in it we may glorify Thy mighty acts and Thine ineffable dispensation for our sakes, signing with one mind: O Lord, glory to Thee.”

“Having completed the forty days that bring forth profit to our soul, let us cry: Rejoice, city of Bethany, home of Lazarus. Rejoice, Martha and Mary, his sisters. Tomorrow Christ will come, by His word to bring your dead brother to life. Hearing His voice, bitter hell that is never satisfied will tremble and groan aloud, and it will release Lazarus bound in his grave-clothes. Amazed by this miracle, a multitude of Jews will come to meet Him with palms and branches; though their fathers look on Him with malicious envy, yet shall the children praise Him, saying: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel.”