



Triodion starts today

“Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, “Have mercy on us, for through You alone are we reconciled.” (Kontakion)

A time to say YES!

Christ is among us!

Recently I read a very moving account of a young woman making her monastic profession. She described how in that moment she felt her whole being, body, soul, mind, every part of who she was, wanting so much to say YES! YES! YES! to God! Do you ever feel that way?

Our hearts and souls and bodies are made to say this YES! No “buts” or “maybe later” or “what about this or that” BUT it's hard to imagine how this could look like sometimes.

That is why the church gives us the time of the Triodion. This is the time of grace where we can say YES! YES! YES! to our Lord.

To make our daily life fit around the schedules of the church services and prayer, to make what we eat an act of obedience and a door to mercy towards others. We normally try to "fit" the life of the church into our busy schedule. Now, at the start of the Triodion, is the time to experience a new freedom from these necessities (even good ones) that tend to dominate our life.

The start of the Triodion (TODAY!) is the grace-filled time to finally pay attention and respond to this deep desire and defining need in each of us.

To say YES! YES! YES! to GOD, our one LOVE with our all our time, all our mind, and all our resources!

A joy-filled Triodion!

pRoberto

“The Lord said this parable: two men went up into the temple to pray ...” (Luke 18:10-14)

The longing desire is our inheritance from the Lord,
... to pray is our longing desire,
That makes every poor man rich and every rich man poor,
That brings innocence to the sinner and makes the “righteous one” heavy with guilt.

The longing desire that opens with healing a contrite heart and brings the one who is lost within communion,

The longing desire that brings us into a level place, from the depths of our being a cry is about to be heard,

The longing desire that brings peace to those who are persecuted and takes it away from the oppressors,

The longing desire that loves the honesty of heart while it greatly despises the falsehood,

The longing desire that makes the truth beautiful and saves beauty unharmed by any lies,

The longing desire that opens the heart of one who suffers with hope and asks for a blessing in the abundance of life.

The longing desire that gives a voice to those who are silenced and a place to dwell to the silent Word,

The longing desire that reconciles the multitude of people and finds forgiveness in any weary soul,

The longing desire that gives shelter to the homeless and bread to those who are hungry,

Who finds a soul who cares when all the others are petrified at heart.

The longing desire who shares with the thirsty in the communion of the cup,

That makes a sinner be a friend to a holy man, and the one who is forsaken a son to the Father

A word given to us this week comes from a young brother who's been living within the community for more than a year now. One of the changes he noticed within himself, was a new sensitivity to things that he thought were not good for him to do. Before he did not experience this inner pain. Now he does. We see this same sensitivity in the prayer of the tax collector.

It is the prayer of a person who is hurting. During our reflection on Friday, Eliana said it reminded her of the good thief on the cross, who suffered because of his sins and yet he prayed to God to remember him in his kingdom. Just like the good thief, our young brother wants to move also. He is intrigued by this sensitivity, and he takes it seriously. This sensitivity came to our brother after serving for a year those who are hurting on the cross. Like the good thief, he's been close to Christ who suffers in those who are afflicted.

Being by the cross of others makes us sensitive to our own sins. The longing desire to pray asks for a heart that is sensitive to her own sins. Because it harmed others, the heart desires with love to encounter their holiness within the kingdom of heaven. The prayer of a heart which is sensitive to its own sins is asking God to act. To make a change. To bring him from one place to another. To the place where the brother is wounded, to the place where healing can be touched and witnessed. The publican asks God to bring him into the mercy seat. Because now he is ready. He is ready to bless and not curse. He is ready to share and not steal away. He is ready to protect the innocents and not harm their purity of heart anymore. The longing desire of man gifted by God is asking for a change, for a transformation, for a transfiguration, despite the evidence of his own sins.

Triduum starts today. We discover today our longing desire as a gifted basket of flowers that asks for water, for a sensitive heart, so that they may grow and share their beauty. We are ready today to ask God to act within our sinful heart in order for her to become a hospitable place to the silent word and to the stranger.



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor" under
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