Songs for the Great Fast and Holy Week

Traditional Spiritual Songs
In English and Slavonic

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
2019
The tradition set of “Lenten hymns” sung in the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Catholic Church is a mixed set of hymns of repentance, hymns for particular days (such as Palm Sunday), and hymns of the Passion of Christ. In the past, hymns of the Passion predominated, since they accompanied devotions such as the Way of Cross which were imported from the Latin tradition.

With the rediscovery of a more authentic Byzantine tradition for the forty-day Great Fast, it seems an appropriate time to consider which of these songs are more fitting for singing during the Fast itself – namely, those focusing on conversion, repentance, and trust in God – and which might more worthily sung in connection with the services of Great and Holy Week.

At the same time, we are taking this opportunity to correct typographical errors, bad accents, and phrasing which is unnecessarily different from the original Slavonic hymns, many of which are sung in our church to this day.

This collection is part of the Hymnal Project of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. For more information:

https://mci.archpitt.org/songs/Hymnal_project.html

How you can help:

1. Please send any corrections or suggestions to mci@archpitt.org.

2. We are particularly looking for assistance in preparing literal translations of some of the Slavonic hymns in this collection, as well as single translations of additional verses which have not yet made their way into English. If you would like to help with this error, please write to mci@archpitt.org.

3. Try singing the hymns in this collection, and let us know how they work, and what improvements might be made.

May God richly bless your Fast!

Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski
Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
## Traditional Spiritual Songs
### for the Great Fast and Holy Week

#### Hymns for the Great Fast

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Pronunciation of Slavonic

The Church Slavonic texts in the following pages are presented in a variation of the Latin alphabet used with English, rather than in the original Cyrillic alphabet. Certain additional symbols are added to indicate the correct pronunciation. The system used here is one commonly employed in our prayer books.

In Church Slavonic, each letter has a uniform sound in whatever word it is found.

The following letters vary in pronunciation from their equivalent in the English language:

VOWELS

A as in fAther (approx.)
E as in bEt
I as in bIt
O as in mOre
U as in mOOn
Y as in bUt

CONSONANTS

C as ts in wits
Č as ch in Church
CH as ch in loch
D’ as di in radiant
J as y in yet
L’ as lli in brilliant

Ň as ni in union
R is always trilled
Š as sh in show
T’ as ti in celestial
V’ as vi in Savior
Ž as s in pleasure

Note: d’, l’, ň, t’, and v’ indicate that the given consonant is followed by the sound as “y” as in yellow, as shown in the examples above. (D’ and T’ are sometimes written Đ and Ţ.)

Accented vowels are marked in order to assist in pronunciation, but may not be strongly accented when sung.

When in doubt, use the locally accepted pronunciation of Church Slavonic.
Have mercy on me, O my God
(Selected verses from Psalm 50)

Have mer - cy on me, O my God, in your great good - ness,
In the great - ness of your mer - cy, blot out my of - fense.

for it is your kind - ness and great mer - cy that for - gives.
Wash a - way my sins com - plete - ly, cleanse me of my sin.

For I acknowledge my offense,
my sin is before me.* (see music below)
Against you I sinned and have done evil in your sight.

Cleanse me of my sins with hyssop
that I may be made pure.
Wash me and I shall be whiter than new-fallen snow.

Let me hear the sounds of gladness;
then shall my bones rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins,
brolt out all my guild.

Give me a clean heart, O my God;
renew my spirit.*
Cast me not out from your presence,
fill me with your life.

Free me from blood guilt, O my God;
you are my saving God.
Then shall my tongue speak out in joy of your justice great.

O Lord, open my mouth and lips;
your praise I shall proclaim.*
A heart contrite with humbleness
you will not reject.

* my sin is be - fore me.
re - new my spi - rit.
your praise I shall pro - claim.
At the most holy cross
Krestu Tvojemu

1. At the most holy cross of our Savior,
we bow in honor and sing our praise;
now and forever we bow our head.

2. At the most holy cross of our Savior,
we praise your suffering and all your torments,
In your great mercy you poured out your life,
for it was by them you saved us all.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Krestu Tvojemu
At the most holy cross

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
Beneath your compassion (A)

Pod tvoju milost’

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Virgin

Theotokos. Despise not our pray'rs, our pray'rs in our need,

but deliver us from dangers, for you alone are pure, for you

alone are pure, for you alone are pure and blessed.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional liturgical hymn
English translation: Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission
Pod tvoju milost’ (A)
Beneath your compassion

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional liturgical hymn
Beneath your cross I stand
Pod krest’ Tvoj staju

1. Beneath your cross I stand; O Savior, hear my request. Turn me from all sin; let me feel your cross. You paid for my sins; you paid for my faults. You redeemed mankind lost. Your cross be my strength to repent.

2. For me you suffered shame; for me you suffered request. Let your seven words, spoken from your morse. Here, let me pray and rest.

3. From you I'll never turn; for me your last breath spent. Let your seven words, spoken from your morse. Here, let me pray and rest.
Pod krest’ Tvoj staju
Beneath your cross I stand

GREAT FAST

1. Pod krest’ Tvoj sta - ju, Spa - si - te - l’u moj mi - lyj,
2. Za me - ne ter - piš Ty, za me - ne Ty roz - prjal - sja
3. I - su - se Ty moj! Tvo - ji Bez-mir - ňi mu - ki,

i mo - l’u Te - be O daj že me - ni
za hr’i - chi moj - i, pro - vi - nu mo - ju,
sil’ ňi - še od slov, vzy - va - juť me - ne,

Za hr’i - chi žal’ šći - rij.
U - bi - ti Ty dal - sja.
Do žal po - ku - ti.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
Come now all you faithful
Prijd’ite voschvalim

GREAT FAST

1. Come now all you faithful, look up on the cross;
2. On that holy evening, Jesus prayed for us,
3. All that He would suffer was to ransom us;

For our Savior died there to save all the lost.
Knowing that the morrow would bring Him the cross.
For the price of our fall was to be the cross.

Mary stands there weeping, heart so pierced with sorrow,
Judas would betray Him for the coins of silver,
Now we must remember: Only Christ could save us;

Shedding tears so bitter, mourning her Son.
And be lost forever, lost forever.
No one else could suffer all that He would.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Prijd’ite voschvalim
Come now all you faithful

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
Do not forsake us
Ne opuskaj nas

Refrain

Do not forsake us, do not forsake us, O Lord,

O Lord, do not forsake us.

1. You did promise at the supper you would
2. Let your kindly light be in us, shining

never leave us orphans; for within your heart like the sun above us; let your light of love

you know we have need of you in our life. shine down from the Cross for ever more.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Ne opuskaj nas
Do not forsake us

**Refrain**

Ne o-puskaj nas, ne o-puskaj nas, Bože,

Bože, ne o-puskaj nas.

1. Ty skazal-se pred vi-kami; ne lišu vas siro-
2. O stanj Ty, Slad-čaj-ščij z na-mi, pro-svi-ti Serd-ca lu-

ta-mi, Tvo-je serd-ce zna-jet v ne-bi

ta-mi, soln-ce sv-ti nam o-pi-ki

o na-šij kaž-dij po-tre-bi.
Ty na zem-li i na v’i-ki.

Melody and Slavonic traditional
Having suffered

Preterpivyj

Having suffered the passion for us, Jesus Christ,

Son of God, have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: unknown
Preterpivyj
Having suffered

GREAT FAST

Pre-ter-pi-vyj za nas stras-ti, I-su-se Chri-ste,

Sy-ne Bo-žij, po-mi-luj, po-mi-luj, po-mi-luj nas.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
1. The people in great throngs had gathered
2. That day the streets were filled with people;
3. Christ entered in this holy city,
4. Come forth and greet the King of Glory.

He humbly comes into our midst today.

They called him King and cried Hosanna,
They waved him high and cried Hosanna,
We know that now their cries Hosanna,
Proclaim him King and cry Hosanna;

O Son of David, King of Israel,
O Son of David, King of Israel,
would change to Crucify, a way with him,
announce his kingdom which is here to stay;

O Son of David, King of Israel.
O Son of David, King of Israel.
would change to Crucify, a way with him.
announce his kingdom which is here to stay.

Source: Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate
English by Cantor George Sabol
Rejoice today
Radujsja zilo

1. Rejoice today with all your heart, O daughter Zion.
2. Hosanna in the highest, He who comes is blessed:

Here is your King coming to you, as He sits upon a colt.
Entering Jerusalem, the Redeemer of the world.

Zechariah prophesies, Zephaniah joins with him
Now we sing in glorious praise, and proclaim his holy Name,

to proclaim the Master, the Master.
“Hosanna in the highest,” forever.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Cantors Nicholas Kalvin, Michael Zaretsky, Jerry Jumba, and Fr Alexis Mihalik, alt.
Radujsja zilo
Rejoice today

1. Radujsja zilo, čisti Siionja,
2. Osan na vo vys nich blaho sloven hr’ady!

se Car tvoj voz siddyj voz siddyj na os l’a
Spaiste l’u svita v Jerusalim prisedyj.

Zachrija vopijet, Sofo nija s nim zovet
My T’a budem voschvala ti, imja Tvoje proslavla ti:

Vladyci, Vladyci.
“O-san na vo vysh nich”, na viki.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
1. Christ our King who reigns with justice,
2. In the garden when you prayed for help,
3. While you prayed there in the garden,

Lord of all, now and forevermore!
You knew they would come to seize you soon,
Bloody sweat you poured out for our sake.

Yet you suffered; for they jeered you and mocked You;
Then came Judas whom you loved like all the others,
Though the angels tried to comfort You with the cup,

For your throne they gave You the cross.
And he gave you the kiss of doom.
Just the cup of death you soon would know.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Christe Carju spravedlivyj
Christ Our King Who Reigns With Justice

HOLY WEEK

1. Christe Carju spravedlivyj
2. Kol' molisja v Verethoveny
3. Na molitvy Ty umlyval

Bože dolhotepelivyj.
Zna juščij o zlobnoj zrad'i.
I krova vyj pot izlival.

Ne razkažeserdecervino,
Čto učenik Tvoj lukavij
O Ty prijal čusustrasti,

Jak to Titerpivbezmirno.
Pred Tебe citulovalyj.
Choťílsichhrišnikovspasti.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
Earth and heaven mourn
Nebo, zeml’a sotvoriňňa

1. Earth and heaven mourn their Maker as he suffers crucifixion.
2. O most holy Virgin Mother, by the cross you suffer sorrow.

Amid thunder and the lightning they rain tears for
It is our sins the he dies for, causing tears and

their Creator as he hangs there.
Lamentations for your dying Son.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Nebo, zeml’a sotvoriňňa
Earth and heaven mourn

HOLY WEEK


Nad I-su-som za-ry-da-ti, sle-za-mi sja
Ma-ti Bo-ža-ja Je-di-na, pre-či-ni-sja

ob-my-va-ti ža-loss-no.
Ty u Syn-a ža-na-mi.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
In Gethsemane’s darkness
Jehda na smert’ hotovilsja

HOLY WEEK

1. In Geth-sem-’ne's darkness Jesus prayed for us
2. Angels came to serve our Lord the help He sought:
3. On the mor-row you must bear the cross in pain.

When he asked God for the strength to bear the cross.
Strength to suffer, from the chalice which they brought.
Slow-ly from your bloody wounds all life will wane.

The sword of sorrow, fore-told long ago,

Your mother's heart will know.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Jehda na smert’ hotovilsja
In Gethsemane’s darkness

Vo Za - hra - di Get - se - man - skoj, I - su - se.
Ca - šu stra - sti Ti pri - no - šal, I - su - se.
Ra - ne - mo - mu ne - sti da - li, I - su - se.

D’i - va Pre - či - sta, Ma - ti bo - lez - na
Za - lost - no pla - ka - la.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
Now do I go to the Cross
Idu nyñi ko krestu

HOLY WEEK

1. Now do I go to the cross; nowhere else
2. Darkness has come over the earth, seeing its Lord

shall I find you, Jesus Lord, peace of my soul.
suffering such pain; all of nature weeps for Christ.

There shall I find the Mother of God, Sor-row and pain
There alone stands the Mother of God, left to shed tears

piercing her heart. Sor-row now is all I feel.
all by herself, full of sor-row by the Cross.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Idu nyňi ko krestu
Now do I go to the cross

1. I - du ny - ňi ko kres - tu, bo in - de T’a ne naj - du,
2. Soln - ce sja za - tem - ni - lo, zri - ti muk ne - cho - t’i - lo,

Spo - kov serd - cu mo - je - mu. Tam naj - du t’a, Bo - ža Ma - ti,
zem - l’a pla - čet nad Chri - stom. A Ty Ma - ti za - smu - čen - na,

Hor’ - ko v sle - zach za pla - ka - ti. Du - ša mo - ja smut - na jest’.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
1. O my God, you are so merciful;

2. All the crowd cried: “Crucify him,

You are the Way and the true Life.
and let his blood be upon us.”

Christ is our Savior, hanging on the cross
Pilate passed his judgment, and gave him to the crowd.

for all us sinners, to ease our suffering.
He who was no sinner was given to sinners.
O Bože Moj milostivoj
O my God, you are so merciful

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
1. So boundless is her sorrow, her eyes no longer can shed tears, 
as her Son hangs upon the cross.

2. O who would not share her sorrow, her pain and bitter tears, 
when they see her beneath his cross.

With a broken heart she stands there all alone.

Now we know the price of his redeeming grace,

Now the prophecy is fulfilled that a sword would paid to free us from the power of the sins we

pierce her heart.

all commit.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Stala Mati zarmuščenna
So boundless is her sorrow

1. Sta-la Ma-ti zar-mu-ščen-na, pod krest-om i raz-
   ža-lenn-a, koh-da ter-pil Chris-tos Spas.
   ža-lo-stivo bo-lest-no-je, dvo-o-stryj meč pro-
   ra-zil.

2. O kto ne-bu-det pla-ka-ti, vi-d’i Ma-ter tu
   sto-ja-ti bo-lest-nu-ju um-l’i-tu.
   ža-lo-stivo bo-lest-no-je, dvo-o-stryj meč pro-
   sa-ho.

Serd-ce jej zar-mu-ščen-no-je
Pro hr’ich ro-da-is-bran-na-ho

Pro hr’ich ro-da-is-bran-na-ho

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
The grieving mother
Stradal’na Mati

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. Alexis Mihalik and Cantor Jerry Jumba, alt.
Stradal’na Mati
The grieving mother

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
1. The sentence is passed upon Christ.
2. The cross is placed on your shoulder,

Pilate gives his word of judgment.
And in pain you were forced to bear it.

The cross, the cross for the Lamb so innocent.
The nails, the lance, the wine with gall were prepared.

O Lord, O Lord, no one tries to save you from death.
O Lord, O Lord, your hands and feet were nailed for us.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Uže dekret
The sentence is passed

1. U-že de-kret pod-pi-su-jet, Pi-lat su-di-ja ska-zu-jet:
2. O-ru-di-je zho-to-va-no, Krest’i hvoz-dy po-ko-van-no.

Lan-cuch, lan-cuch, Na-ši-ju i-kla-da-juť,

Te-be, Te-be, Tvor-ca ne-pre-min-na.
Chri-sta, Chri-sta, Ka-tam v ru-ki da-juť.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
We venerate, O Christ our God
Poklañajusja, moj Christe

1. We venerate, O Christ our God, the wounds of the nails in both your hands; for they are most holy and life-giving wounds that shed your blood. O my God, accept our prayer with your hands that give us life.

2. We venerate, O Christ our God, the wounds of the nails in both your feet. Let us follow in your footsteps pierced your side. From that wound there flowed both water and your blood upon the earth. O my God, accept our prayer; place our feet on the right path.

3. We venerate, O Christ our God, the wound of the lance that pierced your side. From that wound there flowed both water and your blood upon the earth. O my God, accept our prayer; let your blood cleanse all our sins.

Melody and Slavonic text: Fr. I Dutsko
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic
Poklaňajusja, moj Christe
We venerate, O Christ our God

HOLY WEEK

Melody and Slavonic text: Fr. I Dutsko

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj na ruci Tvojej pravoj.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, od l’ivoj sochrani (2).

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj na nozi Tvojej pravoj.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, putem pravdyj mja vedi (2).

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj na nozi Tvojej l’ivoj.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, od hrichna mja odverni (2).

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj v serdci Tvojem i rebi.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, i na viki mja l’ubi (2).

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