Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Chant Tone 4
Special melody: Thou who wast called from on high
Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

December 20th

1) Thou who wast worthily sur-named The God-bearer,
when the Master, in His mercy, took thee in His arms
and manifestly showed unto thee the lofty doctrines
of the most high and sublime philosophy,
then didst thou receive that beaming splendor in thyself,
whose rivers, thou, like a sponge, didst draw deeply within thee
from the abyss of divine enlightenment.

Hence, blest Ignatius, when He called to thee,
 thou didst follow the footsteps of Christ our God.

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Do thou therefore entreat Him
to enlighten and to save our souls.

2) Thou who with holy and perfect love wast wounded,
when that burning love inflamed thy great and ardent soul
and pressed thee forward, to go thy way unto the Master,

O sacred Father, Ignatius graced of God,
then didst thou cry out those celebrated words of thine:

I am the wheat of my Fashioner, and must be fully
ground up and milled by the teeth of savage beasts,
that I may thus appear as most pure bread in the presence of Jesus the Word, our God.

Do therefore entreat Him to enlighten and to save our souls.

3) With Christ wast thou crucified, O blest Ignatius,

when thou didst cry out those famous words inspired of God:

My Love is crucified, wherefore I make haste with ardor that I might also share in His sufferings.

Then, O sacred teacher, like the sun that issueth out of the East to the farthest West, thou wentest forward,
filling with light every place that thou didst pass;

and thou wast made fair with the diadem of the Kingdom when offered up unto Christ.

Do thou therefore entreat Him to enlighten and to save our souls.