

HOLY TUESDAY EVENING

BRIDEGROOM MATINS FOR HOLY WEDNESDAY



**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

10620 RIVER ROAD | POTOMAC, MD 20854 | (301) 765-3400

**HOLY TUESDAY EVENING
BRIDEGROOM MATINS FOR HOLY WEDNESDAY**

(The Faithful Stand)

Priest

+ Blessed is our God always; now and ever,
and unto ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

Priest

+ Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of
truth, who art in all places and fillest all
things, the Treasury of good things and Giver
of life:

+ Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from
every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

People

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal:
have mercy on us. *(Thrice)*

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages
of ages. Amen.

+ All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord,
cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our
iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our
infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord
have mercy.

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages
of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be
Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be
done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread; and forgive us our

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Priest

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto
ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

Lord have mercy. *(Twelve Times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of
ages. Amen.

+ O come, let us worship and fall down
before God our King.

+ O come, let us worship and fall down
before Christ, our King and our God.

+ O come, let us worship and fall down
before Christ himself, our King and our God.

*(The Priest censes while the Psalm is being
chanted)*

Psalm 20 (19)

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary,
and give you support from Zion! May he
remember all your offerings, and regard with
favor your burnt sacrifices! May he grant
you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your
plans! May we shout for joy over your
victory, and in the name of our God set up
our banners! May the Lord fulfill all your
petitions! Now I know that the Lord will help

his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand. Some boast of chariots, and some of horses; but we boast of the name of the Lord our God. They will collapse and fall; but we shall rise and stand upright. Give victory to the king, O Lord; answer us when we call.

Psalm 21 (20)

In thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord; and in thy help how greatly he exults! Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. For thou meetest him with goodly blessings; thou set a crown of fine gold upon his head. He asked life of thee; thou gave it to him, length of days for ever and ever. His glory is great through thy help; splendor and majesty thou bestow upon him. Yea, thou makest him most blessed for ever; thou makest him glad with the joy of thy presence. For the king trusts in the Lord; and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved. Your hands will find out all your enemies; your right hand will find out those who hate you. You will make them as a blazing oven when you appear. The Lord will swallow them up in his wrath; and fire will consume them. You will destroy their offspring from the earth, and their children from among the sons of men. If they plan evil against you, if they devise mischief, they will not succeed. For you will put them to flight; you will aim at their faces with your bows. Be exalted, O Lord, in thy strength! We will sing and praise thy power.

People

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Chanter

Amen.

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance, grant victory to Thy People over their adversaries, and by Thy Cross preserve Thy habitation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Do thou, who of thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by thy Name; make glad in thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gave birth to God, and alone art Blessed.

Deacon

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee: hear us and have mercy.

Choir

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Again we pray for our Archbishop (N.) and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Priest

For thou art a merciful God and loves mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest

Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

Reader

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. *(Thrice)*

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. *(Twice)*

(The faithful may sit)

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For thou smitest all my enemies on the cheek, thou breakest the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; thy blessing be upon thy people!

I lie down and sleep; I wake again for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 38 (37)

O Lord, rebuke me not in thy anger, nor chasten me in thy wrath! For thine arrows have sunk into me, and thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My

wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to thee, my sighing is not hidden from thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes - it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is thou, O Lord my God, who shall answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.

Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! (*Twice*)

Psalm 63 (62)

O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory. Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee. So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips, when I think of thee upon my bed, and

meditate on thee in the watches of the night; for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate on thee in the watches of the night; for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to thee, O God. (*Thrice*)

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 88 (87)

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thine ear to my cry! My soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lays heavy upon me, and thou dost overwhelm me with all thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; thou hast made me a thing of horror

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to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to thee. Dost thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise thee? Is thy steadfast love declared in thy grave, or thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are thy works known in the darkness, or thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to thee; in the morning my prayer comes before thee. O Lord, why dost thou cast me off? Why dost thou hide thy face from me? Afflicted and close to my death from my youth up, I suffer thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thine ear to my cry.

Psalm 103 (102)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for those who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from

the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to his children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In all places of his dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 143 (142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgement with thy servant; for no man living is righteous before thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that thou hast done; I muse on what thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to thee; my soul thirsts for thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of thy steadfast love, for in thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I

have fled to thee for refuge! Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God! Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path! For thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am thy servant.

In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant. In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant. Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For the peace of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For this holy House and for those who with faith, reverence and the fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For our Archbishop (N.), for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us and have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest

For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

(Tone 8)

Chanter

My spirit seeks thee early in the nightwatches, for thy commandments are a light on the earth.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Learn righteousness, you that dwell upon the earth.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Zeal shall seize upon an untaught people, and now, fire shall devour the adversaries.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorious upon the earth.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

(Tone 8)

Choir

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh in the midst of the night and blessed is the servant who is watching, and unworthy is he who is heedless. Behold therefore, O my soul, beware lest thou be borne down with sleep, lest thou be given up to death, lest thou be shut from the Kingdom. Wherefore rouse thyself and cry: Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O God. Through the power of Thy Cross, O Savior save us.

Behold, the Bridegroom ...through the intercessions of St. (patron saint of the church), have mercy on us.

Behold, the Bridegroom ...through the intercessions of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

Deacon

Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us and have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest

For thine is the majesty, and thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

(The faithful it)

THE KATHISMATA *(Tone 3)*

Chanter

The Harlot came to Thee, O merciful Master. and poured out myrrh on thy feet with her tears, and she was redeemed from the offences of her sins at thy command. But thy graceless disciple, while breathing thy grace, rejected it and becoming involved in a morass of crime, he sells Thee in his love of money. O Christ, glory to thy compassion.

(Tone 4)

The deceitful Judas, burning with the love of money, deceitfully set out to betray Thee, O Lord, the Treasure of Life. In his violence, he goes to the transgressors and says to them:

“What will you give me, and I will deliver Him to you, that He may be crucified?”

(Tone 1)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Harlot, in her grief, called upon Thee, O Lord of compassion, and fervently dried thy sacred feet with her hair, and from the depths of her soul she cried out: “Do not cast me away, nor destroy me, O my God, but receive me in my repentance and save me, for Thou alone are the Lover of mankind.

THE GOSPEL READING

Priest

That we may be accounted worthy of listening to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Priest

Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Choir

And to your spirit!

Priest

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Choir

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Priest

Let us attend!

Gospel According to St. John
(Chapter 12:17-50)

In those days, the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. The Pharisees then said to one another "You see that you can do nothing; look, the world has gone after him."

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father glorify thy Name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I shall glorify it again." The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show by what death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?" Jesus

said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; for he who walks in darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him. It was that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Therefore, they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and turn for me to heal them." Isaiah said this because he saw God's glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me. And he who sees me, sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has bidden me."

Choir

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

PSALM 51 (50)**Reader**

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy great mercy: according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out mine iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity; and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil in thy sight: that thou might be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was shapen in iniquity: and in sin did my mother conceive me. For behold, thou hast loved truth: the unclear and hidden things of thy wisdom, thou has made clear to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: the bones which thou hast broken shall rejoice. Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and steady me with a guiding spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways: and the impious shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For had thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it: thou delights not in burnt offerings. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a contrite and humble heart, O God, thou will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in thy good will unto Zion: that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up. Then shall thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offerings: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Deacon

Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us and have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest

For Thou art a good God who loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

THE CANON**Ode 3 Heirmos (Tone 2)****Choir**

Thou has established me on the rock of faith. Thou has opened wide my mouth against my enemies, for my spirit rejoices in singing: "There is none holy but our God, and none is righteous but Thee, O Lord."

Troparia

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Sanhedrin of lawless men is assembled with its fruitless discussions and perverse purpose to declare Thee condemned, O Christ; Thee to whom we sing, "Thou art our God, and there is none holy but Thee, O Lord."

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

The arbitrary council of lawless men deliberates, as one that fights against God, intending to kill the righteous Christ as an evildoer. But we sing to Thee, "Thou art our God, and there is none holy but Thee, O Lord.

Katavasia

Thou has established me on the rock of faith. Thou has opened wide my mouth against my enemies, for my spirit rejoices in singing: "There is none holy but our God, and none is righteous but Thee, O Lord."

Deacon

Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us and have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady,

Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest

For all the Powers of Heaven praise Thee, and to Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

Kontakion

Reader

Though I have transgressed more than the harlot, O Good One, I have not offered Thee a flood of tears, but in silence I pray and bow down before Thee. With love I embrace thy most pure feet. As Master grant me remission of sins when I cry to Thee, O Savior: Deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

Oikos

The woman who was once a prodigal showed herself suddenly wise, and she hated her shameful deeds and carnal pleasures; she reflected on the magnitude of her shame and the judgment of condemnation which awaits prodigals and harlots. Of these, I am indeed the first, and though in terror I foolishly remain in my evil ways. But the harlot, though in terror, at once hastened and cried to the Redeemer: in thy compassion and love for mankind, deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

The Synaxarion

The more accurate and exacting of the commentators on the four Gospels say that two women anointed the Lord, one long

before his Passion, and one a few days before. One of these was a harlot, while the other was a chaste, virtuous woman. On this day the Church commemorates this act of piety and righteousness which proceeded from the harlot, contrasting it with the treachery of Judas and his betrayal of Christ. Both of these acts fell on Wednesday, corresponding to the twenty-first of March, two days before the Mosaic Passover, as it appears from the course of the account of St. Matthew the Evangelist.

The above mentioned harlot anointed the head and feet of Jesus with spieknard, and wiped them with the hair of her head. The precious ointment was worth three hundred dinars, or about fifteen pieces of Venetian gold. When the Disciples saw this they stumbled, especially Judas, the money lover, and were angry because of the wasting of such an amount of ointment. Jesus rebuked them, lest the woman be embarrassed. Judas was wroth, and went to the high priests, where they were gathered in the house of Caiaphas, taknig counsel against Jesus, and agreed with them to deliver the Master for thirt pieces of silver. From that time Judas sought an opportunity to deliver Him. (Matt 26:2-16) Because of this, the fast of Wednesday was instituted from the days of the apostolic age itself.

Wherefore, O Christ our God, anointed with the supersensuous ointment, deliver us from suffering, and have mercy on us.

Ode 8 Heirmos (*Tone 6*)

Choir

When the words of the tyrant prevailed, then the furnace was heated seven times more. But the children were not burned in it, though they scorned the decree of the king as they sang: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages."

Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.

The woman poured precious myrrh upon thy kingly, divine and awesome head, O Christ. She grasped thy most pure feet with her impure hands, and cried, "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages."

Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A sacred rite of redemption, wrought of saving compassion and a flood of tears, is administered to the right-minded woman. Washed in this fountain by her confession, she is not ashamed, but cried out: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages!"

We praise, we bless and worship the Lord.

Katavasia

When the words of the tyrant prevailed, then the furnace was heated seven times more. But the children were not burned in it, though they scorned the decree of the king as they sang: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages."

(The faithful stand)

Deacon

The Theotokos and the Mother of Light, let us honor and magnify in song. (The Deacon censes the Icons and the Congregation)

Ode 9 Heirmos (*Tone 2*)

Choir

Come, let us magnify with pure souls and blameless lips the undefiled and most holy Mother of Emmanuel, offering through her intercession to Him who was born of her: "Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us."

Troparia

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Envious Judas proved himself both ignorant and evil. He sold the divine gift through whom our debt of sin is loosed. This miserable man sold the grace of God's love. But spare our souls, O Christ our God and save us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Judas went to the lawless rulers and said, "What will you give me if I betray to you Christ whom you seek?" From intimate companionship with Christ, Judas is drawn away by gold. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

O blind and greedy avarice! Have you forgotten what you were taught, that the whole world is not worth your soul? Yet you, O traitor, despaired of your life, and made a noose and hanged yourself. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

Katavasia

Come, let us magnify with pure souls and blameless lips the undefiled and most holy Mother of Emmanuel, offering through her intercession to Him who was born of her: "Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us."

Deacon

Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us and have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest

For all the Powers of Heaven praise Thee, and to Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

Exapostelation (Tone 3)

Choir

Verily I behold Thy Bridal Chamber adorned, and I possess no robe to enter there into: Delight Thou in the robe of my soul, O Thou who granteth light, and save me.

Verily I behold ..

Verily I behold...

The Ainoi / The Praises (Tone 1) (Psalms 148 - 150)

Chanter

Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. O Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Praise him, all his angels; praise him all his hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

(The faithful may sit)

Idiomela Hymns *(Tone 1)*

Reader

Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to His excellent greatness.

Chanter

A harlot recognized Thee as God, O Son of the virgin. With tears equal to her past deeds, she besought Thee weeping: "Loose my debt as I have loosed my hair. Love the woman who, though justly hated loves Thee. The with the Publicans will I proclaim Thee, O Benefactor who loves mankind."

Reader

Praise Him with trumpet sound, praise Him with lute and harp.

Chanter

The harlot mingled precious myrrh with her tears. She poured it on Thy most pure feet and kissed them. At once Thou did justify her. O thou, who suffered for our sakes, forgive us also and save us.

Reader

Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe.

Chanter

As the sinful woman was bringing her offering of myrrh, the disciple was scheming with lawless men. She rejoiced in pouring out her precious gift; he hastened to sell the precious one. She recognized the Master, but Judas parted from Him. She was set free, but Judas was enslaved to the enemy. How terrible is his slothfulness! How great is her repentance! O Savior, who suffered for our sakes, grant us also repentance, and save us.

Reader

Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Chanter

Oh, the wretchedness of Judas! He saw the harlot kiss the footsteps of Christ, but deceitfully he contemplated the kiss of betrayal. She loosed her hair while he bound himself with wrath. He offered the stench of wickedness instead of myrrh, for envy cannot disguise value. O misery of Judas! Deliver our souls from this, O God.

(Tone 2)

Reader

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Chanter

The sinful woman ran to buy the precious myrrh with which to anoint our Savior. She cried to the merchant: "Give me myrrh, that I may anoint Him who has cleansed all my sins."

(Tone 6)

Reader

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter

The woman who was engulfed in sin found Thee as a haven of salvation. She poured out myrrh with her tears and cried to Thee: "Behold the One who brings repentance to sinners! Through thy great mercy rescue me from the tempest of sin, O Master.

(The faithful stand)

THE LESSER DOXOLOGY

(to be read, not sung)

Reader

To Thee, O Lord our God, belongs glory, and to Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to God on high, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God and Father almighty: O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified be thy Name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in thee. +ÿBlessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. +ÿBlessed art Thou, O Master: make me to understand thy commandments. +ÿBlessed art Thou, O Holy One: enlighten me with thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endures forever: O despise not the works of thy hands. To Thee belongs worship, to Thee belongs praise, to Thee belongs glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon

Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defense before the dread Judgement Seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

To thee, O Lord.

Priest

For Thou art the God of mercies and of bounties, and of love toward mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

Priest

Peace be with you all.

Choir

And with thy spirit.

Deacon

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest

O Holy Lord, Who dwells on high, and regards the humble of heart, and with Thine all-seeing eye beholds all Creation, unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat Thee: Stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy Holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and loves mankind; vouchsafing unto us thy earthly and heavenly good things.

For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

(The faithful sit)

APOSTICHA

(Tone 6)

Chanter

Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee. A sinful woman crawls to his feet and cries: "Look at me, I am engulfed in sin and in despair because of my evil deeds. But in thy goodness, do not despise me. Grant me forgiveness of my evil deeds, O Lord, and save me."

Reader

Early have we been filled with Thy loving kindness, O Lord, and we exalted and rejoiced in all our days.

Chanter

The harlot spread out her hair to Thee, O Master; Judas spread out his hands to lawless men: she in order to receive forgiveness, he

to receive silver. We cry to Thee, who was sold for us and yet set us free: "O Lord, glory to Thee!"

Reader

Let us rejoice in return for the days when Thou afflicted us, the years when we saw evil.

Chanter

A sinful and impure woman drew near to Thee, O Savior, pouring out her tears on thy feet, proclaiming thy passion. "How can I gaze on Thee, O Master? Yet, Thou indeed hast come to save the harlot. Raise me from the depths for I am dead in sin, as Thou raised Lazarus from the tomb after four days. Accept me in my misery, O Lord, and save me.

Reader

And let the splendor of the Lord our God be upon us; and direct for us the works of our hands, even the work of our hands do Thou direct.

Chanter

She who was in despair because of her life gained knowledge by bringing myrrh, and drawing near to Thee she cried: "Thou who was born of a Virgin, though I am a harlot, do not cast me aside. O joy of the angels, do not despise my tears. As Thou did not reject me as a sinner, accept me now as a penitent in thy great mercy.

The Hymn of Cassiani (Tone 8)

Reader

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter

The woman had fallen into many sins, O Lord, yet when she perceived thy divinity, she took upon herself the duty of a myrrh-

bearer, and makes ready the myrrh of mourning before thy burial. She cried " Woe is me! For I live in the night of sinful desires, shrouded in the dark and moonless love of sin. But accept the fountain of my tears, O Thou who gathered the waters of the sea into clouds. Bow down thine ear to the sighing of my heart, O Thou who bowed the heavens in thine ineffable condescension. One Eve heard thy footstep in paradise in the cool of the day, and in fear she ran and hid herself. But now I will tenderly embrace those pure feet and wipe them with the hair of my head. Who can measure the multitude of my sins, or the depth of thy judgments, O Savior of my soul? Do not despise thy servant in thy boundless mercy."

(The faithful stand)

Priest

It is a good thing to confess unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O Most High. To proclaim Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy Truth by night.

People

+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(Thrice)*

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

+ All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

KONTAKION *(to be read)*

Though I have transgressed more than the harlot, O Good One, I have not offered Thee a flood of tears, but in silence I pray and bow down before Thee. With love I embrace thy most pure feet. As Master grant me remission of sins when I cry to Thee, O Savior: Deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

Lord have mercy. *(Twelve Times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, Thou who without stain barest God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless.

Priest

Christ, our God, the Existing One, is blessed always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

Amen.

Priest

O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, pacify the nations, give peace to the world, protect the welfare of this city, place our departed fathers and brethren in the dwellings of the just, and of Thy goodness and mercy receive us also with our penitence and Thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. *(prostration)*

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to thy servant. *(prostration)*

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother; for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. *(prostration)*

DISMISSAL

Priest

Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Father bless.

Priest

May He who is going to his voluntary Passion for our salvation, Christ, our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable and bodiless Powers of heaven; at the

supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Fore-runner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of St. (N., patron saint of the church); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of (N., the saint of the day) whose memory we celebrate today; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loves mankind.

Priest

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir

Amen.

(The faithful proceed in line to reverence the icon of the Christ.)

