

HOLY MONDAY EVENING

BRIDEGROOM MATINS FOR HOLY TUESDAY



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

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

**HOLY MONDAY EVENING
BRIDEGROOM MATINS FOR HOLY TUESDAY**

(The Faithful Stand)

Priest

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

Choir

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; 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 has given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. For Thou meets him with goodly blessings; Thou sets 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 bestows upon him. Yea, Thou make him most blessed for ever; Thou make 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 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 smites all my enemies on the cheek, Thou breaks 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 Thy 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, of 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 has 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 has 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 Thy 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 remembers no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand. Thou has put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou overwhelms me with all Thy waves. Thou has caused my companions to shun me; Thou has made me a thing of horror 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. Does Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the 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 does Thou cast me off? Why does 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 has 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 Thy 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 has 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 judgement with Thy servant. In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness! Enter not into

judgement 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*)

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, that he will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, 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)

Choir

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 intercessions of the forerunner, save us.

Behold, the Bridegroom ... through the intercessions of (*patron of the church*), O Savior save us.

Behold, the Bridegroom ... through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior save us.

Deacon

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

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us save us, have mercy upon 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 sit.)

THE KATHISMATA *(Tone 4)*

Chanter

Brethern, let us love the Bridegroom, and carefully keep our lamps aflame with virtues and the true Faith; that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be ready to enter with him to the marriage feast; for the Bridegroom, as God, bestows a gift on all, the incorruptible crown.

With great envy, the priests and scribes called together a lawless council against Thee, O Savior, moving Judas to betrayal. Therefore he went forth shamelessly and spoke against Thee to the lawless people: saying, "What will you give me that I may deliver him into your hands?" O Lord, save our souls from this condemnation.

(Tone 8)

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

Judas loves money with his mind, and moved with hostility against the Master, deliberates and mediates betrayal; he falls from the light and receives the darkness; Judas agrees to the terms, and sells Him, who is Priceless. Therefore, he, most miserable of men, finds hanging and a terrible death the reward of his deeds. O Christ our God, redeem us from his lot, granting remission of sins to those who desire to celebrate Thy most immaculate Passion.

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 listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be to all!

Choir

And to your spirit!

Priest

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

Choir

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Priest

Let us attend!

Gospel According to St. Matthew
(Chapter 22:15 – 23:39)

At that time, the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle Jesus in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, And to God the things that are God's." When they heard it,

they marveled; and they left him and went away.

That same day Sadducees, who say that there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother must marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died, having no children left his wife to his brother. So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, therefore, to which of the seven will she be wife? For they all had her."

But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels of God in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?' God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question, to test him "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till

I make thine enemies thy footstool'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the chief seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called, 'Rabbi, Rabbi' by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you devour widow's houses and for pretense you make long prayers; therefore, you will receive the greater condemnation. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If any one swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he

is guilty.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If any one swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is guilty.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that has made the gift sacred? So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside may also be clean.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore, I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of

whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from town to town, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’”

Choir

Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

(The Faithful sit)

Psalm 51 (50)

People or 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 mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sins did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth: the unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast 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 hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it Thee: Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a broken and contrite 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 shalt 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, have mercy upon 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 merciful God and love mankind, and unto Thee do 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

Kontakion

Reader

Having realized, O my soul, the hour of reckoning, and having feared the cutting down of the fig tree; work therefore most diligently O wretched soul with the talent which has been given you, both watch and pray; grant that we remain not outside the Bridal Chamber of Christ.

Oikos

Why art you heedless, O my miserable soul? Why do you inopportunistly imagine vain cares? Why do you occupy yourself with that which passes away? The last hour is at hand, and we shall shortly be parted from earthly things. Therefore, gaining time, rouse yourself and cry: I have sinned against Thee, my Savior; smite me not as the unfruitful fig tree, but as the merciful Christ; have compassion on me, for I cry out in fear; grant that we remain not outside the Bridal Chamber of Christ.

The Synaxarion

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Ten Virgins, which Jesus spoke along with others as he was coming to the Passion. It teaches us not to rest as though safe in virginity, but to guard it whenever possible, and not to desist from any virtues and good deeds, especially deeds of mercy, which make the lamp of virginity shine brilliantly. It teaches us also to be ready for

our end, not knowing when our hour is coming, as the wise virgins were ready to meet the Bride, lest death overtake us and close the door of the heavenly chamber in our face, and we hear the terrible judgment which the foolish virgins heard, "Truly, truly, I know you not." (Matthew 25:1-13).

Therefore, O Christ the Bridegroom, number us with the wise virgins and have mercy upon us. Amen.

Ode 8 Heirmos *(Tone 2)*

Choir

The three holy children would not obey the decree of the tyrant and even when cast into the furnace they confessed God and sang "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord."

Troparia

Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.

Let us cast aside all idleness, and with flaming lamps let us meet Christ, the immortal Bridegroom, crying: "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord."

We glorify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May the oil of fellowship in the vessels of our soul be sufficient, so that, not spending the time of rewards in buying more, we may sing: "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord."

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

As many as have received the talent from God, increase accordingly the grace given by Christ, singing: "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord."

Katavasia

We praise, we bless and worship the Lord.

The three holy children would not obey the

decree of the tyrant, and even when cast into the furnace they confessed God and sang: "Bless the Lord, all works of the Lord."

(The faithful stand)

Deacon

The Theotokos and the Mother of Light, let us honor and magnify in song.

(The Deacon censures the incons and the people.)

Ode 9 Heirmos *(Tone 2)*

Choir

We praise you, O most Holy Virgin, who in your womb contained the uncontainable God, and brought joy to the world.

Troparia

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

The Lord said to the Disciples, "Watch, for you know not the hour when the Lord shall come and shall repay each one."

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

At thy dread second coming, O Master, overlook the multitude of my sins and number me with the sheep on Thy right hand.

Katavasia

We praise you, O most Holy Virign, who in your womb contained the uncontainable God, and brought joy to the world.

Deacon

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

Choir

Lord have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us, have mercy upon 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.

Exapostelation (Tone 3)**Choir**

Verily I behold Thy Bridal Chamber adorned, and I possess no robe to enter thereinto; Delight Thou in the robe of my soul. O Thou who granteth light, and save me. (*thrice*).

The Ainoi / The Praises (Tone 1)**Choir**

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 sit)

Idiomela Hymns (Tone 1)**Reader**

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

Chanter

How can I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Thy saints? For should I dare come into the bridal hall, my garments will betray me, for it is not a wedding garment; the angels will cast me out in chains. O Lord, cleanse the impurity of my soul, and by thy mercy save me.

(Tone 2)

Reader

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

Chanter

O Christ the Bridegroom, I have permitted my soul to slumber in laziness. I do not possess a lamp aflame with virtue, and like the foolish virgins, I wander aimlessly when it is the time for work. But do not close thy compassionate heart against me, O Master. But rouse me to shake off my heavy sleep, and bring me in with the wise virgins to Thy bridal hall, where there is the song of those who feast and unceasingly cry, "O Lord, glory to Thee."

(Tone 4)

Reader

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

Chanter

Since you, O my soul, have heard the condemnation of him who hid his talent, do not hide likewise the Word of God. Proclaim his wonders, that increasing the gift of grace, you may enter into the joy of your Lord.

(The faithful stand)

THE LESSER DOXOLOGY

(to be read, not sung)

Reader or People

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 to 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 sins 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 put our hope in thee.

+ Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

+ Blessed art Thou, O Master: make me to understand thy commandments.

+ Blessed 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.

LITANY OF FERVANT SUPPLICATION

(The faithful sit)

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 evening 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 judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask.

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 a good God and love 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 faithful stand)

Priest

Peace be to all.

Choir

And to Thy Spirit.

Deacon

Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir

To Thee O Lord.

Priest

O holy Lord, who dwells on high and looks upon the humble, and who with Thine all-seeing eye looks down upon all creation: unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray Thee, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou are good and loves mankind, granting us Thy good things in this world and the world to come. 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**

Come, you faithful, let us work zealously for the Master; for he distributes his wealth to his servants. Let each of us according to his ability, increase our talent of grace. Let one be adorned in wisdom through good works; let another celebrate a service of splendor; let another faithfully communicate the word to the ignorant; let another distribute his wealth to the poor. Thus, we increase what has been entrusted to us, and as faithful stewards of the grace given, we may be accounted worthy of our Master's favor. Make us worthy, O Christ our God, in thy love for mankind.

Reader

Early have we been filled with Thy loving kindness, O Lord, and we exalted and rejoiced in all our days. Let us rejoice for all the days that Thou has humbled us, and have seen affliction and look upon Thy creations and lead their children.

Chanter

When Thou, O Jesus, shall come in glory with the heavenly hosts, and shall sit upon the throne of Thy Judgment, O Good Shepherd, do not turn me away. For you know the ways of righteousness, and those on the left have gone astray. Do not destroy me with the goats, though I am coarse with sin, but number me with the sheep on Thy right hand, and by Thy mercy save me.

Reader

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

Chanter

O Bridegroom, thou art more beautiful than all the sons of men, and have called us to the spiritual festival of Thy bridal chamber. Strip me of the ugly garment of my sins as I participate in thy Passion. Adorn me with a robe of glory, which will proclaim me a radiant guest of the glorious beauty of Thy Kingdom, O merciful Lord.

(Tone 7)

Reader

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

Chanter

Behold O my soul, the Master has entrusted you with a talent. Receive the favor with fear. Lend to him who gave to the poor., and acquire for yourself your Lord as your Friend, so that, when he comes in glory, you may

stand at his right hand and hear his blessed voice, "Enter, my servant, into the joy of your Lord." O my Savior, though I have gone astray, deem me worthy of this, through Thy great 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)*

You know that this is the last hour, O wretched soul, and fear the cutting of the fig tree. Work diligently, therefore, with the talent given to you. Keep watch and pray: Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ

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.

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 chasity, 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 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.

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. The icon remains in its place until after the services for Holy Wednesday.)

