

Matins of Great and Holy Tuesday
(Served Monday evening)
{‘Bridegroom’ Matins}



‘THE BRIDEGROOM’ - “BEHOLD THE MAN” (JOHN 19:5)

'BRIDEGROOM' MATINS OF GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY
(Celebrated in anticipation on the Eve)

Deacon: Bless Master.

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

Choir: Amen.

{During the Trisagion Prayers the Priest censens the Sanctuary, Iconostasis and People}

Reader1: Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere, and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity; and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O Most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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 are 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.

Reader1: Amen. In the name of the Lord, Master bless.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity; always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader1: Amen. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men. (3x)
O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (2x)

{As the first half of the Hexapsalm is read, the chief celebrant recites the first half of the Morning Prayers of Light in front of the Altar Table. The people may sit.}

Hexapsalm

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 awake 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 dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people! I lie down and sleep; I awake again, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 37/38

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 wilt 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! Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 62/63

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. (3x)

Reader1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Reader2: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

{As the second half of the Hexapsalm is read, the chief celebrant recites the second half of the Morning Prayers of Light in front of the Royal Doors.}

Psalm 87/88

O Lord God of my salvation, 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! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol (*SHAY-ōl*). 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 lies 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 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 the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders 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 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 God of my salvation, 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 102/103

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 all 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 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!

Psalm 142/143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Thy faithfulness, answer me; in Thy righteousness, enter not into judgment 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. (2x) 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. (3x)

Great Litany {Stand}

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 welfare 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 enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For His Beatitude our Metropolitan *N*, and for His [Grace/Eminence] our [Arch-] Bishop *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 this country, for 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; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most-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 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.

God is the Lord/Alleluia

Deacon: Alleluia in the 8th Tone: In the night my soul rises early for Thee, O God; for Thy commandments are a light on the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Learn righteousness you inhabitants of the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon: Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon the glorious ones of the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight,
and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching;
and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless.

Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep,
lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom.
But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, art Thou, O our God.
Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us!"

Reader1: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight ...

Reader1: *Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight ...

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 4* (* pointed in Obikhod Troparion Tones)

Choir: Let us love the Bridegroom, O brothers!
Let us keep our lamps aflame with virtues and true faith,
so that we, like the wise virgins of the Lord,
may be ready to enter with Him into the marriage feast!//
For the Bridegroom, as God, grants unto all an incorruptible crown.

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 4

Choir: In envy, the priests and scribes
cunningly gathered a council against Thee, O Savior,
moving Judas to betrayal.
He shamelessly went forth and spoke against Thee,
saying to a transgressing people:
"What will you give me if I deliver Him into your hands?"//
From his condemnation save our souls, O Lord.

Kathisma Hymn - Tone 8

Choir: Judas loves money with his mind.
The impious one moves against the Master.
He wills and plans the betrayal.
Receiving darkness, he falls from the light.
He agrees to the price and sells the Priceless One.
As payment for his deeds the wretch gains hanging and a terrible death.
From his lot deliver us, O Christ God,
granting remission of sins to those who celebrate Thine immaculate Passion with
love!"

The Gospel

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: 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 Hero'di-ans, 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 He 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. The same day Sad'ducees came to Him, who say that there is no resurrection; and they 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, and 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 angels 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'? He is not 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 He had silenced the Sad'ducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test Him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ And He 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, inspired by the Spirit, calls Him Lord, saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till I put Thy enemies under Thy feet'? 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 the 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 best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called '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. "But 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. ¹⁵Woe 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 bound by his oath.' 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 bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and he who swears by the temple, 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 also may 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 Zechari'ah the son of Barachi'ah, 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.

Psalm 50/51 {Sitting permitted}

Reader1: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy steadfast love; according to Thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in Thy sight, so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Thy deliverance. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

Deacon: O God, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassion. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians and send down upon us thy rich mercies, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our Fathers among the Saints, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons and Cyprian of Carthage; of our Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker, Leo and Gregory of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, and the holy confessor, Patrick of Ireland; of the holy Methodius and Cyril, the Teachers of the Slavs, of Saint Prince Vladimir, the blessed Princess Olga, Nicholas, equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Japan, and Innocent, the Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America; of our Fathers among the Saints, the Metropolitans of Moscow, Peter, Alexis, Cyprian, Jonah and Philip; of our Fathers among the Saints: Clement of Ohrid, Sava of Serbia and Euthymius of Trnovo; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs, the great-martyr and healer, Panteleimon, the great-martyrs, Demetrius, Catherine and Barbara; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, Anthony and Theodosius and the other Wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev, Sergius of Rodonezh, Seraphim of Sarov, Marcarius of Corinth, Nectarios of Aegina, Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain and Cosmas the Aitolian; of our venerable Father

Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska and All-America; of Saint(s) _____ (of the day); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, hear us sinners who pray unto Thee, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Priest: Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Thine only-begotten Son with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Kanon – Tone 2 {Sitting permitted}

Kontakion – Tone 2 {Stand}

Choir: 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 cry://
“Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ!”.

Ikos

Reader1: Why are you idle, my wretched soul? What useless cares cause you to be lost in dreams? Why busy yourself with things that pass away? The last hour is at hand, and we shall be parted from all earthly things. Therefore, while there is time, rouse yourself and cry: “I have sinned before Thee, O my Savior! Do not cut me off like the barren fig tree! In Thy compassion, O Christ, take pity on me who call out in fear:

Choir: ‘Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ!’

Ode 8 {Sitting permitted, except during the Censing}

Choir: [Irmos] The three Holy Youths would not obey the decree of the Tyrant. When cast into the furnace they confessed and sang:
“Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord,

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: Let us cast aside all idleness, and with shining lamps and hymns meet Christ, the Immortal Bridegroom, singing: “Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!”

Reader2: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader1: May we together have enough oil in the vessels of our souls, so that, not wasting the time of rewards in buying more, we may sing: “Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!”

Reader2: Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader1: May all who have received a talent from God, now, with the help of Christ, increase according to the grace given by Him and sing: “Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord.”

Choir: *We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.*

Ode 9

Choir: [Irmos] In your womb you contained God Who cannot be contained. You conceived the Joy of the world.

We praise you, O most-holy Virgin.

Reader1: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Reader2: The Good One said to His Disciples: "Watch, for you know not the hour in which the Lord will come to repay each man."

Reader1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader2: At Thy dread Second Coming, O Master, number me with the sheep at Thy right hand, overlooking my many transgressions!" (*The Ode 9 Irmos is repeated as the Katavasia*)

Little Litany

Deacon: Again and again in peace, let us pray to 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: Commemorating our most-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 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.

Exaposteilarion {Kneel during this hymn}

Choir: Thy bridal chamber, I see adorned, O my Savior,
and I have no wedding garment that I may enter,
O Giver of Light, enlighten
the vesture of my soul and save me.

Reader2: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

Choir: Thy bridal chamber, I see adorned, O my Savior ...

Reader2: *Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Choir: Thy bridal chamber, I see adorned, O my Savior ...

The Praises {Sitting permitted}

Reader1: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His Angels; praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! Praise Him, you highest heavens; and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created; He established them for ever and ever; He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost; stormy wind fulfilling His command! Mountains and all hills; fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens

together; old men and children! Let them praise the name of the Lord; for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and Heaven. He has raised up a horn for His people; praise for all His Saints; for the people of Israel who are near to Him, praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; His praise in the assembly of the faithful! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise His name with dancing; making melody to Him with timbrel and lyre! For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands; to wreak vengeance on the nations and chastisement on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the judgment written! This is glory for all His faithful ones. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Reader1: *In the 1st Tone: Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness! Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!*

Choir: How shall I, the unworthy one,
appear in the splendor of Thy saints?
For if I dare enter Thy bridal chamber with them,
my garments will betray me:
they are unfit for a wedding.
The Angels will cast me out in chains.
Cleanse the filth of my soul, O Lord, //
and save me in Thy love for mankind."

Reader1: *In the 2nd Tone: Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

Choir: **(Tone 2)** O Christ the Bridegroom,
my soul has slumbered in laziness.
I have no lamp aflame with virtues.
Like the foolish virgins, I wander aimlessly when it is time for work.
But do not close Thy compassionate heart to me, O Master!
Rouse me, shake off my heavy sleep!
Lead me with the wise virgins into the bridal chamber,
that I may hear the pure voice of those that feast and cry unceasingly: //
"O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader1: *In the 4th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Choir: **(Tone 4)** You have heard the condemnation, O soul,
of the man who hid his talent.
But do not hide the Word of God!
Proclaim His wonders,
that, increasing the gift of grace, //
you may enter into the joy of your Lord!"

Reader1: To Thee O Lord our God, belongs glory, and to Thee 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.

Great Doxology {Stand}

Reader2: Glory to Thee, Who hast shone us the light! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will toward 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 the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and Thou, O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy; Thou alone 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. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, have I fled to Thee; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the Fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. Continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on 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; do not despise 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.

Morning Litany

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 it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, 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 it, 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 of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most-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 lovest 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.

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 we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, granting unto us Thy earthly and heavenly good things. For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, 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.

Aposticha - Tone 6

Choir: Come, O faithful,
 let us work zealously for the Master,
 for He distributes wealth to His servants!
 Let each of us, according to his ability,
 increase his talent of grace:
 let one be adorned in wisdom through good works;
 let another celebrate a service in splendor!
 The one distributes his wealth to the poor;
 the other communicates the Word to those untaught.
 Thus we shall increase what has been entrusted to us,
 and, as faithful stewards of grace,
 we shall be accounted worthy of the Master's joy.
 Make us worthy of this, O Christ our God, //
 in Thy love for mankind!"

Reader1: *Satisfy us in the morning with Thy steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days! Make us glad as many days as Thou hast afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil! Let Thy work be manifest to Thy servants, and Thy glorious power to their children!*

Choir: When Thou shalt come in glory, O Jesus,
with the Angelic Hosts,
and shall sit upon the Throne for judgment,
do not drive me away, O Good Shepherd!
For Thou knowest the paths on Thy right hand,
but those on Thy left hand lead 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 save me in Thy love for mankind!

Reader1: *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands; yea, establish the work of our hands! (Ps 90/91:17)*

Choir: Thou art more beautiful than all men, O Bridegroom!
Thou hast invited us
to the spiritual banquet of Thy bridal chamber.
Strip me of the ugly garment of my sins,
as I participate in Thy Passion!
Adorn me in the glorious robe of Thy beauty //
that proclaims me a guest in Thy Kingdom, O merciful Lord.

Reader1: *In the 7th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Choir: **(Tone 7)** Behold, the Master has entrusted you with the talent, O my soul!
Receive the gift with fear!
Repay the One Who gave by giving to the poor,
and gain the 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!”
Though I have gone astray, make me worthy of this, O Savior, //
through Thy great mercy!

Reader2: *{Stand}* It is good to give thanks to the Lord; to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High; to declare Thy mercy in the morning and Thy Truth by night.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal; have mercy on us. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: 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.

Reader1: Amen. Standing in the temple of your glory we think that we are in Heaven, O
Theotokos – Gate of Heaven; open to us the gate of your mercy.

Lord have mercy (40x)

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; without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we
magnify you. In the name of the Lord, bless Master (Father).

Priest: Christ our God, the only truly-existing One is blessed always, now and ever and unto
ages of ages.

Reader1: O heavenly King: establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the
heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed ancestors and brethren in the
mansions of the Righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good
and the Lover of mankind.

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

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

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 sins and not to judge my brothers, for
blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (*Prostration*)

O God cleanse me a sinner. (12x, with bows)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power
and idle talk. Give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy
servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my
brothers, 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 (3x). Master, bless.

Priest: May He Who is going to His voluntary Passion for us and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most-pure Mother, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.