

## Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Tuesday

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

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to thee, O God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the 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.

**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 the evil one.

**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. In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

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

**Reader:** Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace, goodwill towards man (3x).

O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth  
shall show forth Thy praise (2x).

### **The Six Morning Psalms (*Three are taken*)**

#### **Psalm 88**

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! For 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 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.

### **Psalm 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 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.

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.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

## **The Great Litany**

**Priest:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

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

For His Beatitude our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_ ; for His Eminence (Grace) our Archbishop (Bishop) \_\_\_\_\_ ; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For this country, its president, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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



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

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

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.

**All:** 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.

**All:** Amen.

## The Alleluias

**Priest:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. In the night, my soul  
rises early for thee, O God, for Thy  
commandments are a light on the earth.

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Priest:** Learn righteousness, all you inhabitants of the earth.

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Priest:** Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people.

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Priest:** Bring more evils on them, O Lord, bring more evils on those who are glorious on the earth.

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **The Troparion**

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 weighted 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.

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

Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight ...

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

Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight ...

*(If included, the Kathismata are now chanted.)*

### **Gospel Reading**

**Priest:** That we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. (3x)

**Priest:** Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace, be unto 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!

*(Matthew 22:15 – 23:39)* At that time, the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle Jesus in his talk. <sup>16</sup>

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. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> When they heard it, they marveled; and they left him and went away.

<sup>23</sup> The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, <sup>24</sup> saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother must marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother. <sup>26</sup> So too the second and third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> After them all, the woman died. <sup>28</sup> In the resurrection, therefore, to which of the seven will she be wife? For they all had her."

<sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, <sup>32</sup> '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." <sup>33</sup> And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." <sup>41</sup>

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup> saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The

son of David." <sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup> 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet'? <sup>45</sup> If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

<sup>1</sup> Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; <sup>3</sup> so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. <sup>4</sup> They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. <sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, <sup>6</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup> and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. <sup>8</sup> But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. <sup>9</sup> And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; <sup>12</sup> whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

<sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> "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.' <sup>17</sup> You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? <sup>18</sup> 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.' <sup>19</sup> You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? <sup>20</sup> So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; <sup>21</sup> and he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; <sup>22</sup> and he who

swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

<sup>23</sup> "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. <sup>24</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

<sup>25</sup> "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. <sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee! first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

<sup>27</sup> "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. <sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

<sup>29</sup> "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup> 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.' <sup>31</sup> Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. <sup>33</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? <sup>34</sup> 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, <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation.

<sup>37</sup> "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! <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. <sup>39</sup> 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 51

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 bloodguiltiness, 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.

**Priest:** O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world in 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, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our Fathers among the Saints, Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons and Cyprian of Carthage; of our Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas of Myra and Lycia, Wonderworker and patron of this holy house, Leo and Gregory of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, and the holy Confessor Patrick of Ireland; of the Holy Methodius and Cyril, teachers of the Slavs, of the holy Prince Vladimir, the blessed Princess Olga, Nina, Enlightener of Georgia, and Nicholas, equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Japan; of our Fathers among the saints, the hierarchs of all Rus, Peter, Alexis, Kyprian Jonah and Philip, Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America, and Tikhon the Confessor; of our Fathers among the Saints, Clement of Okhrid, Sava of Serbia and Euthymius of Trnovo; of

the holy, glorious, and right-victorious martyrs, the great martyr and healer, Panteleimon, the great martyrs Demetrios, George, Katherine and Barbara; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, Anthony and Theodosius and the other Wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev, Sergius of Radonezh, Seraphim of Sarov, Makarios of Corinth, Nektarios of Aegina, Nikodemos and Silouan of the Holy Mountain, and Cosmas the Aitolian; of our venerable Father Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska and All-America; of our Fathers among the saints Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn, and John, the Wonderworker and Bishop of San Francisco; of our righteous Fathers Alexis of Minneapolis and Wilkes-Barre, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy, John and Alexander, Missionaries to America and Hieromartyrs under the Bolshevik yoke; of the first martyrs in North America, our Father Juvenaly and Peter of Alaska; of Nicholas, Bishop of Zicha, and our Righteous Father John of Kronstadt; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, hear us sinners, who pray to 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 Canon

### Kontakion (Tone 2)

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

### Ikos (Tone 2)

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 yet 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 with fear // Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ"

## Ode 8 (Tone 2)

**Irmos:** The three holy youths / would not obey the decree of the tyrant. / When cast into the furnace they sang: // Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!"

**Reader:** Glory to Thee, our God glory to Thee! 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."

**Reader:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee! 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.”

**Reader:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee! 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.”

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

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

**Katavasia:** The three holy youths ...

## Ode 9 (Tone 2)

**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!



**Reader:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee! The Good One said to His disciples: “Watch, for you know not the hour in which the Lord will come to repay each man.”

**Reader:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee! At Thy dread second coming, O Master, number me with the sheep at Thy right hand, overlooking my many transgressions.

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

**Katavasia:** In your womb ...

### Little Litany

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

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us O God, by Thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** 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.

### Exapostilarion

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.

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

Thy bridal chamber ...

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Thy bridal chamber ...

### **The Praises (Psalm 148, 149, 150)**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host! 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. And He established them forever 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.

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!

*Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.*

*(Tone 1)*

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.

*Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp.*

**(Repeat: “How shall I, the unworthy one...”)**

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance: praise Him with strings and pipe!*

*(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 Thy bridal  
chamber.

That I may hear the pure voice of those that feast  
and cry unceasingly//

“O Lord, glory to Thee!”

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

**(Repeat: “O Christ the Bridegroom...”)**

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

**(Tone 4)**

You have heard the condemnation, O soul.

Of the man who hid his talent.

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.

*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.*

## **Lesser Doxology**

**Reader:** Glory to Thee who hast show us the light!  
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace, good will towards 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 the Holy Spirit. O Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takest  
away the sin 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 Lord.  
Thou only, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee and praise Thy name forever. Yea, O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

Lord, to Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O 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.

### Litany of Matins

**Priest:** Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Grant it, O Lord.

**Priest:**

- An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.
- Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

- All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.
- That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.
- A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.
- 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 the Lover of mankind, 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. Amen.

**Priest:** Peace, be unto all.

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

**Priest:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** O Holy Lord, who dwells on high and regards the humble of heart, and who with Thine all-seeing eye beholds all creation: to 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 voluntary or involuntary, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and the lover of mankind, vouchsafing to us Thy earthly and heavenly good things.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, 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.

## **Aposticha**

*(Tone 6)*

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.

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

**(Tone 6)**

When Thou shalt come in glory, O Jesus  
With the Angelic Hosts.  
And shalt 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.

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish  
Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our  
hands, establish Thou it.*

**(Tone 6)**

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.

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

**(Tone 7)**

Behold, the Master has entrusted you with a talent,  
O my soul

Receive the gift of 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.

**Reader:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing  
    praises to Thy name, O Most-high; to declare  
    Thy steadfast love 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 the evil one.

**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. Standing in the temple of your glory, we think that we are in heaven, O Theotokos, Gate of heaven. Open to us the gates of your mercy.

Lord have mercy (x3).

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, Father bless!

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

**Reader:** Amen. O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.



## Prayer of St. Ephraim

**Priest:** 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. (*Prostration*)

*(12 metanias while saying "O God, cleanse me a sinner." Then, the Prayer of St Ephraim is said in full, with a single prostration at the end.)*

## 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 the Lord who is going to His voluntary passion on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; 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.

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## The First Hour

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**Reader:** Come, let us worship 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!

### Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O LORD; give heed to my groaning. Hearken to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to Thee do I pray. O Lord, in the

morning thou dost hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for Thee, and watch. For Thou art not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not sojourn with Thee. The boastful may not stand before Thine eyes; Thou hate all evildoers. Thou destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors bloodthirsty and deceitful men.

But I through the abundance of Thy steadfast love will enter Thy house, I will worship toward Thy holy temple in the fear of Thee. Lead me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness because of my enemies; make Thy way straight before me. For there is no truth in their mouth; their heart is destruction, their throat is an open sepulcher, they flatter with their tongue. Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of their many transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against Thee. But let all who take refuge in Thee rejoice, let them ever sing for joy; and do Thou defend them, that those who love Thy name may exult in Thee. For Thou dost bless the righteous, O Lord; Thou covers him with favor as with a shield.

## Psalm 90

LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Thou turn man back to the dust, and says, "Turn back, O children of men!" For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Thou sweep men away; they are like a dream, like grass which is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by Thine anger; by Thy wrath we are overwhelmed. Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days pass away under Thy wrath, our years come to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of Thine anger, and Thy wrath according to the fear of Thee? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on Thy servants!

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 has 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. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

### **Psalm 101**

I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to Thee, O Lord, I will sing. I will give heed to the way that is blameless. Oh when will Thou come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is base. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cleave to me. Perverseness of heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil. Him who slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. The man of haughty looks and arrogant heart I will not endure.

I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that

is blameless shall minister to me. No man who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no man who utters lies shall continue in my presence. Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the Lord.

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. (x3)

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

### **Troparion (Tone 6)**

**Priest:** Hearken to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.

**Choir:** Hearken to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.

**Priest:** Give ear to my words. O Lord, give heed to my groaning.

**Choir:** Hearken...

**Priest:** For to Thee do I pray.

**Choir:** Hearken...

**Priest:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Reader:** Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
What shall we call you, O full of grace?  
Heaven, for from you shone forth the sun of righteousness; paradise, for you have budded forth the flower of immortality; Virgin, for you have remained undefiled; Pure Mother, for you have held in your arms the Son, who is God of all. Beseech Him to save our souls.

Order my steps in Thy word, and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me. Deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men, and so shall I keep Thy commandments. Show the light of Thy countenance upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing of Thy glory and honor all the day long.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! (x3)

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. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy (x3)

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 the evil one.



**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.

### **Kontakion (Tone 2)**

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

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy (12x)

Thou who at every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified; O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; who loves the just and shows mercy to those who are hardened with sins, who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come; O Lord, in this hour receive our supplication, and direct our lives according to Thy commandments.

Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil and distress. Surround us with Thy holy angels that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x3)

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, Father bless.

**Priest:** God be bountiful unto us, and bless us, and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

**Reader:** Amen.

### Prayer of St. Ephraim

**Priest:** 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. (*Prostration*)

*(12 metanias while saying "O God, cleanse me a sinner." Then, the Prayer of St Ephraim is said in full, with a single prostration at the end.)*

**Reader:** O Christ, the True Light, who enlightens and sanctifies every man who comes into the world, let the light of Thy countenance shine upon us, that in it we may behold the unapproachable light; and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Thy commandments;

through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother,  
and of all Thy saints. Amen.

### **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 the Lord who is going to His voluntary  
passion on behalf of us men and for our  
salvation, Christ our true God, through the  
prayers of His most pure Mother; 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! Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy!