

# **Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Wednesday**

Sung on Tuesday Evening

As Served at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Revised Great Lent 2025

## The Royal Beginning

*The priest, in epitrachelion, opens the curtain; the holy doors remain closed.*

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

*And the priest (not the deacon) performs a Great Censing.*

**Reader:** Amen.

Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present 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. *(thrice)*

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. *(thrice)*

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 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.

Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

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

O Come, let us worship 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 19

The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Zion let Him help thee. Let Him remember every sacrifice of thine, and thy whole-burnt offering let Him fatten. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfill all thy purposes. We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God shall we be magnified. The Lord fulfill all thy requests. Now have I known that the Lord hath saved His anointed one; He will hearken unto him out of His holy heaven; in mighty deeds is the salvation of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God. They have been fettered and have fallen, but we are risen and are set upright. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

## Psalm 20

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the requests of his lips. Thou wentest before him with the blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stone. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages. Great is his glory in Thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt Thou lay upon him. For Thou shalt give him blessing for ever and ever, Thou shalt gladden him in joy with Thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High shall he not be shaken. Let Thy hand be found on all Thine enemies; let Thy right hand find all that hate Thee. For Thou wilt make them as an oven of fire in the time of Thy presence; the Lord in His wrath will trouble them sorely and fire shall devour them. Their fruit wilt Thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men. For they have intended evil against Thee, they have devised counsels which they shall not be able to establish. For Thou shalt make them turn their backs; among those that are Thy remnant, Thou shalt make ready their countenance. Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we will sing and chant of Thy mighty acts.

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

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

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

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. *(thrice)*

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 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.

**Choir:** Amen. In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

*And the priest takes the censer and makes the sign of the Cross before the holy table, saying:*

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

**Choir:** Amen.

### *The Six Psalms*

**Reader:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. *(thrice)*

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. *(twice)*

#### **Psalm 3**

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

#### **Psalm 37**

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I

have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

### **Psalm 62**

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord. have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

### **Psalm 87**

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication. For filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead. Like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

### ***Psalm 102***

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth

judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

### *Psalm 142*

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. *(twice)*

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. Thrice, with the sign of the Cross and a bow each time.

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

### Great Litany

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

**Choir:** R. Lord, have mercy. *(And so after each of the following petitions.)*

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

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. R.

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

For our metropolitan N., for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N., for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For this country, its President [*or the title of the highest civil authority*], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. R.

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

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

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. R.

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. R.

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

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**Deacon:** In the eighth tone: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. In the night my soul rises early for thee, O God, for thy commandments are a light on the earth.

**Choir:** R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (*And so after each of the following verses.*)

V. Learn righteousness, ye that dwell upon the earth. R.

V. Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people. R.

V. Bring evils upon them, O Lord; brings evils upon those who are glorious on the earth. R.

### ***Eighth Tone***

**Choir:** 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.

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

**Choir:** Behold, the Bridegroom comes...

## Psalter Readings

**Reader:** Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

### First reading from the Psalter

#### After the Psalter Reading

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

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

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

#### Sessional Hymn

**Choir: (Third Tone)** The harlot came to Thee, O Lover of mankind, pouring myrrh and tears on Thy feet. At Thy command she was delivered from the stench of her evil deeds, but Thy graceless disciple, though breathing Thy grace, rejected it and wallowed in filth, selling Thee in his love of money. Glory, O Christ, to Thy compassion!

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

**Choir:** The harlot came to Thee...

**Reader:** Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

## Second reading from the Psalter

### After the Psalter Reading

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

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

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

### Sessional Hymn

**Choir: (Fourth Tone)** Deceitful Judas, burning with love of money, deceitfully plotted to betray Thee, O Lord, the treasury of life. He drunkenly runs to the Jews and says to those transgressors: "What will you give me, and I shall deliver Him to you, that He may be crucified?"

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

Choir: Deceitful Judas...

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

## Third reading from the Psalter

### After the Psalter Reading

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

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

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

## Sessional Hymn

**Choir: (First Tone)** In tears the harlot cried out, O compassionate One. as she fervently wiped Thy most pure feet with the hair of her head, and she groaned from the depths of her soul: "Cast me not away, neither abhor me, O my God, but receive me in my repentance and save me, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind."

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

**Choir:** In tears the harlot cried out...

## The Gospel

**Deacon:** And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** The reading from the holy Gospel according to John the Theologian.

**Choir:** Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

### *John 12:17–50, §41ctr-44*

**Priest:** At that time, the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him." Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

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

**Choir:** Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

## Psalm 50

**Reader:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

**Priest:** O God, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Visit thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious, and right victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of saint N. [of the temple], of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all thy saints, we beseech thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who make our supplications unto thee, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

**Priest:** Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of thine Only-begotten Son with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **The 3-Ode Canon**

#### **Third Ode**

**Choir: Irmos (Second Tone)** Thou hast established me on the rock of faith. Thou hast opened wide my mouth against my enemies, for my spirit rejoices in singing: "None is holy but our God, and none is righteous but Thee, O Lord!"

**Verse:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** The assembly of lawless men gathers together for empty discussion and with evil intent, to pronounce sentence upon Thee, O Christ the Deliverer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord.

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

**Reader:** The fearful council of lawless men, with souls full of hatred toward God, intends to kill the righteous Christ as an evildoer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord.

#### **Katavasia**

**Choir: Katavasia (Second Tone)** ) Thou hast established me on the rock of faith. Thou hast opened wide my mouth against my enemies, for my spirit rejoices in singing: "None is holy but our God, and none is righteous but Thee, O Lord!"

#### **Little Litany**

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

**Choir:** R. Lord, have mercy. (*And so after each of the following petitions.*)

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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 the King of Peace and the Savior of our souls, and to 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.

### **Kontakion**

**Choir: (Fourth Tone)** Though I have transgressed more than the harlot, O Good One, I have not offered Thee a flood of tears, but praying in silence I fall down before Thee. With love I embrace Thy most pure feet. As Master, grant me remission of sins, when I cry to Thee, O Savior: Deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

### **Ikos**

**Reader:** The woman who was once a profligate suddenly is wise. She hates her shameful deeds and carnal pleasures, remembering the magnitude of her shame and the verdict of condemnation which awaits profligates and harlots. Of these, I am indeed the first, and though in terror, I foolishly remain in my evil ways. But the harlot, though in terror, hastens to the Deliverer to cry: In Thy compassion and love for mankind, deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

### **Eighth Ode**

**Choir: Irmos (Second Tone)** The command of the tyrant prevailed; the furnace was heated seven-fold. But the youths were not burned in it. Trampling on the king's decree, they sang: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages."

**Verse:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

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

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

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

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

### **Katavasia**

**Choir: Katavasia (Second Tone)** The command of the tyrant prevailed; the furnace was heated seven-fold. But the youths were not burned in it. Trampling on the king's decree, they sang: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages."

### **Ninth Ode**

**Choir: Irmos (Second Tone)** With pure souls and blameless lips, come, let us magnify the all pure and spotless Mother of Emmanuel. Through her let us offer prayers to Him who was born of her: "Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us."

**Verse:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

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

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

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

### **Katavasia**

**Choir: Katavasia (Second Tone)** The command of the tyrant prevailed; the furnace was heated seven-fold. But the youths were not burned in it. Trampling on the king's decree, they sang: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages."

### **Little Litany**

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

**Choir:** R. Lord, have mercy. (And so after each of the following petitions.)

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

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 send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## Exapostilarion

**Choir: (Third Tone)** 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.

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

**Choir:** Thy bridal chamber...

## The Praises

**Reader:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts! Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him all ye stars and light. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created. He established them for ever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses. Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word. The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars. The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds. Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the earth. Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone. His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people. This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him. Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him. For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation. The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands. To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples. To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron. To do among them the judgment that is written, this glory shall be to all His saints. Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

**Choir: (First Tone)** A harlot recognized Thee as God, O Son of the virgin. With tears equal to her past deeds, she besought Thee weeping: "Loose my debt as I have loosed my

hair. Love the woman who, though justly hated, loves Thee. Then with the Publicans will I proclaim Thee, O Benefactor who lovest mankind."

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Verse:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

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

**Verse:** now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir: (Sixth Tone)** The woman who was engulfed in sin found Thee a haven of salvation. She poured out myrrh with her tears and cried to Thee: "Behold the One who brings repentance to sinners! Rescue me from the tempest of sin, O Master, through Thy great mercy."

**Reader:** To thee is due glory, O Lord our God, and unto 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.

## Small Doxology

**Priest:** Glory to thee who hast shown us the light.

**Reader:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that 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 only art holy; Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. O Lord, unto 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 them that 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 unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the works of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

## The Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy

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

**Choir: R.** Grant it, O Lord. *(And so after each of the following petitions.)*

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

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

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

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

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. **R.**

**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 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 unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

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

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

### **The Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads**

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

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

**Choir:** Amen.

### Aposticha

**Choir: (Sixth Tone)** Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee. A sinful woman crawls to His feet and cries: "Look at me who am engulfed in sin, in despair because of my evil deeds. But in Thy goodness do not despise me. Grant me forgiveness of my evil deeds, O Lord, and save me.

**Verse:** 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:** The harlot spread out her hair to Thee, O Master; Judas spread out his hands to lawless men: she in order to receive forgiveness; he in order to receive some silver. We cry to Thee, who wast sold for us and yet didst set us free: "O Lord, Glory to Thee!"

**Verse:** 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.

**Choir:** The corrupt and filthy woman drew near to Thee, O Savior. She poured out her tears on Thy feet and thus announced Thy passion. "How can I gaze on Thee, O Master? Yet Thou didst come to save the harlot. Raise me from the depths, for I am dead in sin, as Thou didst raise Lazarus from the tomb after four days. Accept me in my misery, O Lord, and save me."

**Verse:** I will thank Thee, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all Thy wondrous works.

**Choir:** Despairing for her life, and despaired of for her deeds, the woman came bearing myrrh to Thee and cried: "O Son of the virgin, though I am a harlot, do not cast me aside. O Joy of the angels, do not despise my tears. As Thou didst not reject me as a sinner, accept me now as a penitent, in Thy great mercy.

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

**Hymn of Kassiani, the Nun**

**Choir, or Soloist:**

Translation #1	Translation #2
<p>The woman had fallen into many sins, Lord, yet when she perceived Thy divinity, she joined the ranks of the myrrh-bearing women. In tears she brought Thee myrrh before Thy burial. She cried, "Woe is me! For I live in the night of licentiousness, shrouded in the dark and moonless love of sin. But accept the fountain of my tears, O Thou who didst gather the waters of the sea into clouds. Bow down Thine ear to the sighing of my heart, O Thou who didst bow the heavens in Thine ineffable condescension. Once Eve heard Thy footstep in paradise in the cool of the day, and in fear she ran and hid herself. But now I will tenderly embrace those pure feet and wipe them with the hair of my head. Who can measure the multitude of my sins, or the depth of Thy judgments, O Savior of my soul? Do not despise Thy servant in Thine immeasurable mercy."</p>	<p>The woman who had fallen into many sins, having perceived Thy divinity, received the rank of ointment-bearer, offering Thee spices before Thy burial, wailing and crying: Woe is me; for the love of adultery and sin hath given me a dark and lightless night. Accept the fountains of my tears, O Thou who drawest the waters of the sea by the clouds. Incline Thou to the sighing of my heart, O Thou who didst bend the heavens by Thine inapprehensible condescension. I will kiss Thy pure feet and I will wipe them with my tresses. I will kiss Thy feet whose tread, when it fell on the ears of Eve in Paradise, dismayed her so that she hid herself because of fear. Who then shall examine the multitude of my sins and depth of Thy judgments. Wherefore, O my Savior, and the Deliverer of my soul, turn not away from Thy handmaiden, O Thou of countless mercy.</p>

**Reader:** 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.

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

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

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. (*thrice*)

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 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 thy glory, we think ourselves in heaven, O Theotokos. Thou who art the gate of heaven, do thou open unto us the door of thy mercy.

Lord, have mercy. (**forty times**)

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

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless.

**Priest:** Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. O heavenly King, uphold our rulers, strengthen the Faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world. Protect this city, grant to our departed fathers and brethren that they may dwell with the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession: for thou art good and lovest mankind.

### **The Prayer of St. Ephrem**

**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 a 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 condemn my brother: for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen. (**prostration**)

O God, cleanse me a sinner (**twelve**)

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to condemn my brother: for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen. **(prostration)**

### **The 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. **(thrice)**

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.