

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

Sung on Monday Evening

# Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday

Sung on Monday Evening

## The Royal Office

*The priest, in epitrachelion, opens the curtain; the holy doors remain closed.  
Taking the censer in his right hand, he begins:*

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

**Reader:** Amen.

Glory to thee, our 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. **(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.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

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 trouble; the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; remember all thy sacrifices, and make acceptable thy whole-burnt offering. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfill all thy counsel. We will rejoice in thy salvation, and triumph in the name of the Lord our God; the Lord perform all thy petitions. Now know I, that the Lord hath saved his Christ; he will hear him from his holy heaven; the salvation of his right hand cometh with sovereignty. Some put their trust in char- iots, and some in horses, but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God. They are overthrown, and fallen, but we are risen, and stand upright. O Lord, save the king, and hear us in the day when we call upon thee.

### *Psalm 20*

O Lord, the King shall be glad in thy strength, and in thy salvation shall he greatly rejoice. Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not denied him the requests of his lips. For

thou hast gone before him with the blessings of goodness; thou hast set a crown of precious stone upon his head. He asked like of thee, and thou gavest him a long life, even for ever and ever. Great is his glory in thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt thou lay upon him. For thou shalt give him everlasting felicity; thou shalt make him glad with the joy of thy countenance, because the King putteth his trust in the Lord, and in the mercy of the Most Highest he shall not be provoked. Let all thine enemies feel thy hand; let thy right hand find out them that hate thee. For thou shalt make them like a fiery oven in time of thy presence; the Lord shall trouble them in his displeasure, and the fire shall consume them. Their fruit shalt thou root out of the earth, and their seed from among the children of men. For they intended mischief against thee, and imagined such counsels as they are not able to perform. For thou shalt make them to turn their back; among them that are thy remnant thou shalt prepare their face. Rise up, O Lord, by thy power; we will chant and sing of thy power.

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

**Reader:** Amen.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of thy cross, preserve thy habitation.

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

As thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by thy name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, thy weapon of peace.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O awesome Protectress who cannot be put to shame, despise not our prayers, O good and all-hymned Theotokos; confirm the habitation of the Orthodox; save those whom thou hast directed to rule over us and grant us victory which is from Heaven, for thou hast given birth to God and alone are blessed.

*Then the priest (not the deacon), standing before the holy table, says this litany:*

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

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

**Priest:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan N., and for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N.R.

**Priest:** Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces. R.

**Priest:** Again we pray for our brethren and for all Christians. R.

**Priest:** For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**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.

*We read the Six Psalms with all heed and the fear of God, as if conversing with Christ our God invisibly.*

*After three Psalms, the priest goes out to stand before the holy doors and, with head un-covered, reads the morning prayers.*

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

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

### ***Psalm 3***

Lord, why are they increased that trouble me? Many are they that rise against me. Many one there be that say of 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 did call upon the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord will sustain me. I will not be afraid for ten thousands of the people that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God, for thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemy; thou hast broken the teeth of sinners. Salvation is of the Lord, and thy blessing is upon thy people.

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord will sustain me.

### *Psalm 37*

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy wrath: for thine arrows are stuck fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. There is no health in my flesh, because of thy displeasure; neither is there any rest in my bones, by reason of my sin. For my wickednesses are gone over my head; like a sore burden have they become too heavy for me. My wounds stink, and are corrupt, because of my foolishness. I am brought into great torment and misery; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with sores, and there is no healing in my flesh. I was bitter, and utterly humbled; I roared for the very groaning of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee, and my lamentation is not hid from thee. My heart is troubled; my strength hath failed me, and the light of mine eyes, even that is gone from me. My friends and my neighbors came right up to me and confronted me, while my kinsmen stood afar off, and they that sought my soul clamored for it; and they that wished me evil spake vanity, and imagined deceit all the day long. But I was like a deaf man, and heard not, and as one that is dumb, who doth not open his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs. For in thee, O Lord, have I put my trust; thou wilt hear me, O Lord my God. For I said, Let never mine enemies triumph over me; for when my foot slipped, they boasted against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my pain is ever before me. For I will confess my wickedness, and be sorry for my sin. But mine enemies live, and are stronger than I, and they are become many that hate me wrongfully. They also that reward me evil for good have slandered me, because I follow the thing that good is. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not far from me. Attend unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not far from me. Attend unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

### *Psalm 62*

O God, my God, early will I seek thee. My soul hath thirsted for thee, and how my flesh also hath longed after thee in a barren and empty land where no water is. Thus have I looked for thee in the sanctuary, that I might behold thy power and thy glory. For thy mercy is better than life itself; my lips shall praise thee. I will bless thee in my life on this manner: I will lift up my hands in thy name. For my soul shall be satisfied, even as it were with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips. If I remembered thee

upon my bed, in the morning I would take comfort in thee, because thou hast been my helper, and in the shelter of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath hanged upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden me. These also that in vain seek my soul shall go under the earth. They shall be given over to the hand of the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. But the King shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall be commended, for the mouth of them that speak lies hath been stopped.

In the morning I would take comfort in thee, because thou hast been my helper, and in the shelter of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath hanged upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden me.

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

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

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

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

### ***Psalm 87***

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried, and by night before thee. O let my prayer come in before thee; incline thine ear unto my calling. For my soul is full of trouble, and my life hath drawn nigh unto hell. I have been counted as one of them that go down into the pit; I have become even as a man without help, free among the dead; like the wounded sleeping in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more, and which have been cast away from thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in the darkness and shadow of death. Upon me hath thine anger fixed itself, and all thy waves hast thou aimed at me. Thou hast put away mine acquaintances far from me, they have made me to be an abomination unto them; I was betrayed, and did not go forth.

Mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I called upon thee, O Lord, all day; I stretched forth my hands unto thee. Shalt thou indeed work wonders with the dead? Or shall

physicians revive them, and they shall praise thee? Shall any in the grave declare thy mercy and thy truth in perdition? Shall thy wondrous works be known in the dark, and thy righteousness in the Land of Oblivion? But unto thee have I cried, O Lord, and in the morning shall my prayer come before thee. Lord, why abhorrest thou my soul? Why turnest thou thy face from me? I am poor, and in hardship from my youth; having risen up, I have humbled myself and become utterly worn down. Thy wrathful displeasure goeth over me; thy terrors have undone me. They came round about me like water; all day they compassed me about together. Friend and neighbor hast thou put away from me, and mine acquaintances, because of sufferings.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried, and by night before thee. O let my prayer come in before thee; incline thine ear unto my calling.

### *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 his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities, and healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from corruption, and crowneth thee with mercy and compassion; who satisfieth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed like the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and judgment for all them that are wronged. He made known his ways unto Moses, his will unto the children of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering, and of great kindness. He will not always be chiding, neither keepeth he his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses. For as high as the heaven is in comparison of the earth, so great is the Lord's mercy also toward them that fear him. As wide as the east is from the west, so far hath he set our iniquity from us. Like as a father pitieth his own children, even so hath the Lord been merciful unto them that fear him. For he knoweth whereof we are made; he remembereth that we are but dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; for he flourisheth as a flower of the field. For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone; and it shall no more know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness upon sons of sons for such as keep his covenant, and remember his commandments to do them. The Lord hath prepared his throne in heaven, and his kingdom ruleth over all. O bless the Lord, all ye his angels, ye that excel in strength, ye that fulfill his commandment, to hearken unto the voice of his words. O bless the Lord, all ye his hosts, ye servants of his that do his will.

O bless the Lord, all ye works of his, 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, consider my supplication in thy truth; hearken unto me in thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with thy servant, for before thee shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath laid me in the darkness, as those that have been long dead, and my spirit is despondent within me, and my heart within me is vexed. I remembered the days of old; I mused upon all thy works; I exercised myself in the works of thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto thee; my soul gasped unto thee as a thirsty land. Hear me soon, O Lord, for my spirit faltereth; turn not thy face from me, or I shall be like unto them that go down into the pit. O let me hear thy mercy in the morning, for in thee have I trusted; tell me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me from mine enemies, O Lord, for I have fled unto thee. Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me into the land of righteousness. For thy name's sake, O Lord, quicken me by thy truth; thou shalt bring my soul out of trouble. And of thy mercy thou shalt slay mine enemies, and destroy all them that vex my soul, for I am thy servant.

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

Thy good Spirit shall lead me into the land of righteousness.

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)**

*When the reader has finished the Six Psalms, the deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon serving) says the Great Litany:*

## 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 seasonable 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.

*And the deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon serving), still before the holy doors:*

**Deacon:** In the eighth tone: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. 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.)

**Deacon:** V. Learn righteousness, you that live on 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.

*And the deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon serving) returns to the altar by the south door.*

### ***Eighth Tone***

**Choir:** Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom he shall find in slothfulness. Beware, then, O my soul, and be not overcome by sleep, lest thou be given over to death

and shut out from the Kingdom. But return to soberness and cry aloud: Holy, holy, holy art thou, O God: through the Theotokos have mercy upon us. **(twice)**

**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...

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

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

*And the reader now reads the 9th Kathisma from the Psalter. When finished:*

**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)**

### *Kathisma Hymn, Fourth Tone*

**Choir:** Brethren, let us love the Bridegroom and prepare our lamps with care, shining with the virtues and right faith; that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be ready to enter with Him into the wedding feast. For God the Bridegroom grants to all the crown incorruptible.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Brethren, let us love the Bridegroom...

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

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

*And the reader now reads the **10th Kathisma**. When finished:*

**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)**

### ***Kathisma Hymn, Fourth Tone***

**Choir:** The priests and scribes with wicked envy gathered a lawless council against thee, and persuaded Judas to betray thee. Shamelessly he went and spoke against thee to the transgressing people: “What will ye give me, and I will betray him into your hands?” Deliver our souls, O Lord, from the condemnation that was his.

Glory... now and ever... The priests and scribes... Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

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

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

*And the reader now reads the **11th Kathisma**. When finished:*

**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)**

## *Kathisma Hymn, Eighth Tone*

**Choir:** Impious Judas with avaricious thoughts plots against the Master, and ponders how he will betray him. He falls away from the light and accepts the darkness; he agrees upon the payment and sells him that is above all price; and as the reward for his actions, in his misery he receives a hangman's noose and death in agony. O Christ our God, deliver us from such a fate as his, and grant remission of sins to those who celebrate with love thy most pure Passion.

Glory... now and ever... Impious Judas...

During the second singing of the kathisma hymn, the priest puts on the phelonion and opens the holy doors in preparation for the reading of the Gospel, which is read at the holy altar.

**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. Stand upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

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

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

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

*Matthew 22:15–23:39, Pericopes 90–96*

**Priest:** At that time, the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 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 you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

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

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

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How

is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’”? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they clove the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These

you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and pall uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

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

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

*The holy doors are now closed and the phelonion is removed. The priest exits the altar by the north door and stands before the holy doors.*

## *Psalm 50*

**Reader:** Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness, and according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my fault, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in wickedness, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou revealed unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall become whiter than snow. Thou shalt give joy and gladness to my hearing; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice. Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make 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. O give me the comfort of thy salvation, and stablish me with thy governing Spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, and the ungodly shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; but thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifice unto God is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humble heart God shall not despise. O Lord, be favorable in thy good will unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded up. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

*Standing before the holy doors and facing the icon of Christ, the priest reads this prayer:*

**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 priest reenters the altar by the south door, as the deacon comes out for the Little Litany (if no deacon is serving, the priest remains before the holy doors).*

### **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 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.

**Choir:** Amen.

*The deacon (or priest) reenters the altar.*

## *Kontakion, Second Tone*

Think, wretched soul, upon the hour of the end; recall with fear how the fig tree was cut down. Work diligently with the talent that is given to thee; be vigilant and cry aloud: May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ!

## *Ikos*

Why art thou slothful, O my wretched soul? Why dost thou waste thy days in thinking of unprofitable cares? Why art thou busy with the things that pass away? The last hour is at hand and we shall soon be parted from all that is here. While there is still time, return to soberness and cry: I have sinned against thee, O my Savior, do not cut me down like the unfruitful fig tree; but, O Christ, in thy compassion take pity on me as I call on thee in fear: May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ!

## **Eighth Ode**

### *Irmos, Second Tone*

**Choir:** The three holy children were not obedient to the decree of the tyrant; but when cast into the furnace they confessed God, singing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

*The following troparia may be read by one or two readers. In each ode the troparia are repeated so as to make up the number twelve. The irmos is sung also as the katavasia.*

**Reader:** R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Let us cast aside slothfulness and go to meet Christ, the immortal Bridegroom, with brightly shining lamps and with hymns, crying: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord. R.

May there be sufficient oil of fellowship in the vessels of our soul, and then we shall not lose our reward because we have gone to buy oil; and let us sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord. R.

Ye have all received equal grace from God; cause your talent to increase, with the help of Christ who gave it you, and sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord. R.

*Before the penultimate troparion, the refrain is:*

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

*Before the last troparion, the refrain is:*

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

*Then follows the katavasia, sung by the choir:*

### ***Katavasia, Second Tone***

**Choir:** We praise, bless, and worship the Word, singing and exalting him throughout all ages. The three holy children were not obedient to the decree of the tyrant; but when cast into the furnace they confessed God, singing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

### **Ninth Ode**

#### ***Irmos, Second Tone***

**Choir:** Thou hast enclosed within thy womb the God whom nothing can enclose, and thou hast brought joy into the world. We sing thy praises, O most holy Virgin.

**Reader:** R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

“Watch,” thou hast said to thy disciples, O loving Savior. “For ye know not in what hour the Lord shall come to reward every man.” R.

At thy fearful second coming, O Master, number me with the sheep at thy right hand, overlooking the multitude of my sins. R.

*Before the penultimate troparion, the refrain is:*

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

*Before the last troparion, the refrain is:*

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

*Then follows the katavasia, sung by the choir:*

***Katavasia, Second Tone***

**Choir:** Thou hast enclosed within thy womb the God whom nothing can enclose, and thou hast brought joy into the world. We sing thy praises, O most holy Virgin.

The deacon, standing before the holy doors, now says the Little Litany (or, if no deacon is serving, the priest, remaining before the holy table, says the Little Litany).

**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, Third Tone***

I see thy bridal chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment that I may enter there. Make the robe of my soul to shine, O Giver of Light, and save me. **(twice)**

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

**Choir:** I see thy bridal chamber...

### **The Praises**

#### *Psalm 148*

**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, sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars and light. Praise him, ye heaven 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 hath established them for ever, and 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 deeps; fire and hail, snow and ice, the stormy wind, fulfilling his word; mountains and all hills, fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle, creeping things and feathered fowls; kings of the earth and all people, princes and all judges of the world; young men and maidens, old men and children; let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted; his praise is above heaven and earth. And he shall exalt the horn of his people; this is a song for all his saints, for the children of Israel, for the people that draw nigh unto him.

#### *Psalm 149*

O sing unto the Lord a new song; his praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in her Maker, and let the children of Zion exult in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praises unto him with timbrel and psaltery. For the Lord hath pleasure in his people; and shall lift up the meek unto salvation. The saints shall boast in glory, and they will rejoice upon their beds. Let the exultations of God be in their throats, and sharp two-edged swords in their hands, to do vengeance among the heathen, and rebuke among the peoples; to bind their kings in chains, and their nobles with manacles of iron. To do among them the judgment written. This glory shall be to all his saints.

#### *Psalm 150*

O praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in the firmament of his power.

In the first tone: Praise him for his mighty acts, praise him according to the multitude of his greatness.

### *First Tone*

**Choir:** Into the splendour of thy saints how shall I enter? For I am unworthy, and if I dare to come into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and I shall be cast out by the angels, bound hand and foot. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth from my soul and save me in thy love for mankind.

**Reader:** Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him upon the psaltery and harp.

**Choir:** Into the splendor...

**Reader:** In the second tone. Praise him with the timbrel and dance, praise him upon the strings and pipe.

### *Second Tone*

**Choir:** I slumber in slothfulness of soul, O Christ the Bridegroom; I have no lamp that burns with virtue, and like the foolish virgins I go wandering when it is time to act. Close not thy compassionate heart against me, Master, but dispel dark sleep from me and rouse me up; and lead me with the wise virgins into thy bridal chamber, where those who feast sing with pure voice unceasingly: O Lord, glory to thee.

**Reader:** Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals, praise him upon the cymbals of jubilation. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

**Choir:** I slumber in slothfulness...

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

## *Fourth Tone*

**Choir:** O my soul, thou hast heard the condemnation of him who hid his talent: hide not the word of God. Proclaim his wonders, increase the gifts of grace entrusted to thee, and thou shalt enter into the joy of thy Lord.

**Priest:** 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.

**Reader:** Amen.

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

*Towards the end of the Doxology, the deacon (or priest, if no deacon is serving) comes out to stand before the holy doors.*

**Reader:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to 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, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God 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 give thanks to thee and praise thy name forever; yea, for ever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, Lord, be merciful to me and heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee. Lord, I have fled unto thee; teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. For with thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light. O continue thy mercy upon them that know thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, that we may be kept this day without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord 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 statutes. Blessed art thou,

O Holy One: enlighten me with thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever; despise not the works of thy hands. To thee is due praise; to thee is due a song; to thee is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### The Morning Litany

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

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

**Deacon:** 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. 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 a good God and lovest mankind, 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.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

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

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

**Priest:** O holy Lord who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart, and with thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation: unto thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat 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, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, granting us thine earthly and heavenly good things.

For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O 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.

**Choir:** Amen.

*The deacon (or priest, if no deacon is serving) returns to the altar.*

**Aposticha**  
*Sixth Tone*

**Choir:** Come, ye faithful, and let us serve the Master eagerly, for he gives riches to his servants. Each of us according to the measure that we have received, let us increase the talent of grace. Let one gain wisdom through good deeds; let another celebrate the Liturgy with beauty; let another share his faith by preaching to the uninstructed; let another give his wealth to the poor. So shall we increase what is entrusted to us, and as faithful stewards of his grace we shall be counted worthy of the Master's joy. Bestow this joy upon us, Christ our God, in thy love for mankind.

**Reader:** We were satisfied with thy mercy in the morning, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad; we were glad all our days; for the days wherein thou didst humble us, the years wherein we saw adversity. And look upon thy servants, and upon thy works, and guide their children.

**Choir:** When thou shalt come, O Jesus, in glory with the angelic hosts and shalt sit upon the throne of judgement, do not send me from thy presence, O good Shepherd. Thou dost accept those who stand upon the right, but those upon the left have turned away from thee. Destroy me not with the goats, though I am hardened in sin, but number me with the sheep on thy right hand, and save me in thy love for mankind.

**Reader:** And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, prosper thou our handy-work.

**Choir:** O Bridegroom, surpassing all in beauty, thou hast called us to the spiritual feast of thy bridal chamber. Strip from me the disfigurement of sin, through participation in thy sufferings; clothe me in the glorious robe of thy beauty, and in thy compassion make me feast with joy at thy kingdom.

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

**Choir:** Behold, my soul, the Master entrusts thee with a talent. Receive his gift with fear; make it gain interest for him; distribute to the needy, and make the Lord thy friend. So shalt

thou stand on his right hand when he comes in glory, and thou shalt hear his blessed words: "Enter, servant, into the joy of thy Lord." I have gone astray, O Savior, but in thy great mercy count me worthy of this joy.

**Reader:** It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing unto thy name, O Most High; to tell of thy mercy in the morning, and of thy truth every night. **(twice)**

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.

*The priest exits the altar by the north door and stands before the holy doors.*

**Reader:** Amen. O heavenly King, uphold our rulers, strengthen the Faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world. Protect this city [or village, or holy monastery], 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, give me not a 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 judge my brother: for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen. **(prostration)**

*And we make twelve bows from the waist, quietly saying O God, cleanse me a sinner each time.*

**Priest:** O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a 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 judge my brother: for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen. **(prostration)**

*The priest reenters the altar by the south door. The curtain is closed and the deacon receives a blessing to remove his vestments.*

**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 for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.