

(Tuesday Evening)

Bridegroom Matins/Orthros

Of Great & Holy Wednesday



The Parable of the Bridegroom

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Prayer to the Holy Spirit

PRIEST: Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Thine 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER/PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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 and fall down before 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.

The Royal Psalms

Psalm 20 (LXX 19)

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you; may He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion; may He remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifice. May He grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill all your purpose. We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the Lord fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright. Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call.

Psalm 21 (LXX 20)

The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. He asked life from You, and You gave it to him—length of days forever and ever. His glory is great in Your salvation; honor and majesty you have placed upon him. For You have made him most blessed forever. For You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved. Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your

right hand will find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; the Lord shall swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them. Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, and their descendants from among the sons of men. For they intended evil against You; they devised a plot which they are not able to perform. Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces. Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.

Troparion and Kontakion of the Cross and Theotokion

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting to Your people victory over all adversaries, and by Your Cross preserving Your habitation.

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

O Lord, Who of Your own good will were lifted up on the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Your generous gifts on the new nation which is called by Your name; make glad in Your might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Your aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O fearsome Champion, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

Litany and Blessing

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., and all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER/PEOPLE: Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. (2x)

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

Psalm 38 (LXX 37)

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

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

Psalm 63 (LXX 62)

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Psalm 88 (LXX 87)

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? But to You I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; they engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, and my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry.

Psalm 103 (LXX 102)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are but dust. As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, You His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 143 (LXX 142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

O Lord, give ear to my supplications and do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (2x)

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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 You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the First Morning Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Alleluia (Tone 8)

READER: My spirit seeks You early in the morning, O God, for Your commandments are a light upon the earth.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: Learn righteousness, you who dwell upon the earth.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: The wrath of God shall fall upon a disobedient people, and fire shall now devour the enemy.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

READER: Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorious on earth.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Troparion - "Behold the Bridegroom..."

PEOPLE/CHOIR: Behold, the bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is the one whom He shall find in slothfulness. Beware, then, O my soul, and be not overcome by sleep, lest you be given over to death and shut out from Kingdom. But return to soberness and cry aloud: Holy, holy, holy are You, O God:

(First ending) By the power of the Cross, have mercy on us.

(Second ending) Through the prayers of (*patron of the Church*) the holy apostle and evangelist John, have mercy on us.

(Third ending) Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For Yours is the majesty, and Yours 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Holy Wednesday Kathisma Hymns

(Tone 3)

READER: The harlot drew near You, Who love mankind, and poured out on Your feet the oil of myrrh with her tears; and at Your command she was delivered from the foul smell of her evil deeds. But the ungrateful disciple, though he breathed Your grace, rejected it and defiled himself in filth, selling You from love of money. Glory to Your compassion, O Christ.

(Tone 4)

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

Deceitful Judas, in his love for money, pondered cunningly how he might betray You, O Lord, the Treasury of Life. Therefore in drunken folly he hurried to the Jews and said to the transgressors: "What will you give me and I will deliver Him to you to be crucified?"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 1)

To You the harlot cried lamenting, O merciful Lord; ardently she wiped Your pure feet with the hair of her head, and from the depth of her heart she groaned, "Cast me not from You, neither abhor me, O my God, but receive me in repentance and save me, for You alone love mankind."

Gospel Reading - John 12:17-50

DEACON: That we may be counted worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

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

PEOPLE: Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

DEACON: Let us attend.

PRIEST: *(The priest reads the Gospel from the Holy Doors.)*

Psalm 51 (LXX 50)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Matins Canon: Ode 1 (Tone 2)

Irmos: On the rock of faith You have established me, and You have opened wide my mouth against my enemies. For my spirit has rejoiced to sing: None is holy as our God and none is righteous except You, O Lord.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

In vain the Sanhedrin of the transgressors gathers together with an evil purpose, to pronounce sentence of condemnation upon You, O Christ our Deliverer, to Whom we sing: You are our God and none is holy except You, O Lord.

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

The wicked assembly of the transgressors, with souls full of hatred for God, considers how to kill as a malefactor the righteous Christ, to Whom we sing: You are our God and there is none holy except You, O Lord.

Katavasia: On the rock of faith You have established me, and You have opened wide my mouth against my enemies. For my spirit has rejoiced to sing: None is holy as our God and none is righteous except You, O Lord.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For You are a good God Who love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 4)

READER: I have transgressed more than the harlot, O loving Lord, yet never have I offered You my flowing tears. But in silence I fall down before You and with love I kiss Your most pure feet, beseeching You as Master to grant me remission of sins; and I cry to You, O Savior: Deliver me from the filth of my works.

Ikos

READER: The woman who was once a prodigal suddenly became chaste, and hating the works of shameful sin and the pleasures of the body she thought upon her deep disgrace and the torment to which harlots and prodigals shall be condemned. Of them I am the first and I am afraid, yet senselessly I continue in my evil ways. But the woman who was a harlot, filled with fear, made haste and came crying to the Deliverer: "O merciful Lord Who love mankind, deliver me from the filth of my works."

Synaxarion

READER: The more accurate and exacting of the commentators on the four Gospels say that two women anointed the Lord, one long before His Passion, and one a few days before. One of these was a harlot, while the other was a chaste, virtuous woman. On this day the Church commemorates this act of piety and righteousness which proceeded from the harlot, contrasting it with the treachery of Judas and his Betrayal of Christ. Both of these acts fell on Wednesday, corresponding to the twenty-first of March, two days before the Mosaic Passover, as it appears from the course of the account of Saint Matthew the Evangelist.

The above mentioned harlot anointed the head and feet of Jesus with spikenard, and wiped them with the hair of her head. The precious ointment was worth three hundred dinars, (the equivalent of nearly a year's wages). When the

disciples saw this they stumbled, especially Judas, the money-lover, and were angry because of the wasting of such an amount of ointment. Jesus rebuked them, lest the woman be embarrassed. Judas was furious, and went to the high priests, where they were gathered in the house of Caiaphas, taking counsel against Jesus, and agreed with them to deliver the Master for thirty pieces of silver. From that time Judas sought an opportunity to deliver Him. (*Matthew 26:2-16*) Because of this the fast of Wednesday was instituted from the days of the apostolic age itself.

Therefore You, O Christ our God, Who were anointed tangibly with myrrh, set us free by Your manifold sufferings and have mercy on us, for You alone are compassionate and holy. Amen.

Matins Canon - Ode 8 (Tone 2)

Irmos: The command of the tyrant prevailed, and the furnace was heated sevenfold. Yet the flames did not burn the Children, who had trampled underfoot the decree of the king, but they cried aloud: "O all you works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The woman poured precious oil of myrrh upon Your awesome and royal head, O Christ our God, and she laid hold of Your pure feet with her polluted hands and cried aloud: "O all you works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Guilty of sin, she washed with tears the feet of her Creator and wiped them with her hair; and so she received forgiveness for all that she had done in life, and she cried aloud: "O all you works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

We bless the Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the saving love of God and the fountain of her tears, the grateful woman was ransomed from her sins; washed clean by her confession, she was not ashamed but cried aloud: "O all you works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

Katavasia: The command of the tyrant prevailed, and the furnace was heated sevenfold. Yet the flames did not burn the Children, who had trampled underfoot the decree of the king, but they cried aloud: "O all you works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

At the conclusion of the 8th ode the deacon with the censer stands in the holy doors, facing the Icon of the Theotokos, and says:

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

While the choir chants the 9th ode, the deacon does a great censuring of the church.

Matins Canon - Ode 9 (Tone 2)

Irmos: With pure souls and unpolluted lips, come and let us magnify the undefiled and most holy Mother of Emmanuel, and through her let us bring our prayer to the Child Whom she bore: Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Ungrateful and envious in his wickedness, wretched Judas calculates the value of the gift worthy of God, by which the woman gained release from the debt of her sins, and he bargains in the grace of divine love. Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

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

Unrelenting in blind greed, how have you forgotten what Christ taught you, that your soul is more in value than the whole world! For in despair, O traitor, you have hanged yourself. Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

Katavasia: With pure souls and unpolluted lips, come and let us magnify the undefiled and most holy Mother of Emmanuel, and through her let us bring our prayer to the Child Whom she bore: Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Eleventh Morning Prayer

PRIEST: For all the powers of heaven praise You, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Exapostilarion Photogikon / Hymn of Light

(Tone 3, special melody)

READER: I see Your bridal chamber adorned, O my Savior, 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. (3x)

The Praises

Psalm 148

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word.

Mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl;

Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; both young men and maidens; old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.

And He has exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints — of the children of Israel, a people near to Him.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise His name with the dance; let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.

Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron,

To execute on them the written judgment — this honor have all His saints.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

(Tone 1)

READER: O Son of the Virgin, the harlot knew You to be God and she prayed to You lamenting, for she had committed sins worthy of tears. "Loose me from my debt," she cried, "as I loosen my hair." Show love to her who loves You, though rightly she deserves Your hatred, and with the publicans I shall proclaim You, O benefactor Who love mankind.

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp!

READER: The harlot mingled precious oil of myrrh with her tears and poured it on Your most pure feet, as she kissed them; and straightway You have proclaimed her justified. To us also grant forgiveness, O Lord Who have suffered for our sake, and save us.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

READER: While the sinful woman brought oil of myrrh, the disciple came to an agreement with the transgressors. She rejoiced to pour out what was very precious, he made haste to sell the One Who is above all price. She acknowledged Christ as Lord, he severed himself from the Master. She was set free, but Judas became the slave of the enemy. Grievous was his lack of love! Great was her repentance! Grant such repentance also unto me, O Savior Who have suffered for our sake, and save us.

Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

READER: O misery of Judas! He saw the harlot kiss Your feet, and deceitfully he plotted to betray You with a kiss. She loosed her hair and he was bound a prisoner by fury, bearing in place of myrrh the stink of evil: for envy knows not how to choose its own advantage. O misery of Judas! From this deliver our souls, O God.

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

(Tone 2)

READER: The sinful woman hastened to buy precious oil of myrrh, with which to anoint the Benefactor, and she cried aloud to the merchant: "Give me oil of myrrh that I may anoint Him Who has cleansed me from all my sins."

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

(Tone 6)

READER: Drowning in sin, she found in You a haven of salvation, and pouring out the oil of myrrh with her tears, she cried to You: "Lo, You are He Who accept the repentance of the sinful. O Master save me from the waves of sin in Your great mercy."

“Yours is the glory...”

READER: Yours is the glory, O Lord our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Little Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: “Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.”

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; despise not the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs 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 to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love toward mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O holy Lord, Who dwell on high and regard the humble of heart and with Your all-seeing eye behold all creation, to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat You, O Holy of holies: Stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in anything we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive us, inasmuch as You are a good God, and love mankind; granting us Your earthly and heavenly good things.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Aposticha and "It is a good thing..."

Aposticha are read or sung with verses from Psalm 90 (LXX 89), concluding with "It is a good thing..." (Tone 6)

Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee, and the sinful woman draws near and falls down at His feet, crying: "Behold me sunk in sin, filled with despair by reason of my deeds, yet not rejected by Your love. Grant me, Lord, remission of my sins and save me."

Verse: Satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days! (Psalm 90:14 (LXX 89:14))

The harlot spread out her hair before You, O Master, while Judas stretched out his hands to the transgressors: she, to receive forgiveness; and he, to receive money. Therefore we cry aloud to You Who were sold and have set us free: O Lord, glory to You.

Verse: Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, the years in which we have seen evil. Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. (Psalm 90 (LXX 89):15-16)

Evil-smelling and defiled, the woman drew near to You, shedding tears upon Your feet, O Savior, and proclaiming Your Passion. "How can I look upon You, O Master? Yet You have come to save the harlot. I am dead: raise me from the depths, as You have raised Lazarus on the fourth day from the tomb. Accept me in my wretchedness, O Lord, and save me.

Verse: And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands. (Verse 17)

Full of despair on account of her life, her evil ways well-known, she came to You, bearing oil of myrrh, and cried aloud: "Harlot though I am, cast me not out, O Son of the Virgin; despise not my tears, O Joy of the angels; but receive me in repentance, O Lord, and in Your great mercy reject me not, a sinner."

(Tone 8)

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

The following verse may be sung – for the words see end of Vespers: “The Hymn of Kassiani.”

The woman who had fallen into many sins, perceiving Your divinity, O Lord, fulfilled the part of a myrrh-bearer; and with lamentations she brought sweet-smelling oil of myrrh to You before Your burial. “Woe is me,” she said, “for night surrounds me, dark and moonless, and stings my lustful passion with the love of sin. Accept the fountain of my tears, O You Who draw down from the clouds the waters of the sea. Incline to the groanings of my heart, O You Who in Your ineffable self-emptying have bowed down the heavens. I shall kiss Your most pure feet and wipe them with the hairs of my head, those feet Whose sound Eve heard at dusk in Paradise, and hid herself for fear. Who can search out the multitude of my sins and the abyss of Your judgments, O Savior of my soul? Despise me not, Your handmaiden, for You have mercy without measure.”

PRIEST: It is a good thing to confess to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High, to declare Your mercy in the morning and Your truth by night.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Thine 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 4)

READER: I have transgressed more than the harlot, O loving Lord, yet never have I offered You my flowing tears. But in silence I fall down before You and with love I kiss Your most pure feet, beseeching You as Master to grant

me remission of sins; and I cry to You, O Savior: Deliver me from the filth of my works.

Forty-fold “Lord, have mercy”

READER/PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(40x)*

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

“O heavenly King, support the faithful...”

READER/PEOPLE: O heavenly King, support the faithful; confirm the faith; guide the nations; give peace to the world; and preserve well this holy church and this city. Grant rest to our departed fathers and brethren in the dwelling-place of the righteous. Receive us in repentance and confession, for You are a good and merciful God and love mankind.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

PRIEST/PEOPLE: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. *(prostration)*

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant. *(prostration)*

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. *(prostration)*

Then bow twelve times, saying each time:

O God, be gracious to me, a sinner.

The prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian is then said once more, with only one prostration at the end.

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant. O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. *(prostration)*

The Blessing and Dismissal

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who is going to His voluntary passion for our salvation*, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother, by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross, of (N., *patron of the church*), 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.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Hymn of St. Kassiani from the 9th Century

The woman had fallen into many sins, O Lord,

yet when she perceived Your divinity,

she joined the ranks of the Myrrhbearing Women.

In tears she brought You myrrh before Your 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 You Who gathered the waters of the sea into clouds.

Bow down Your ear to the sighing of my heart,

O You Who bowed the heavens in Your ineffable condescension.

Once Eve heard Your 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 Your judgments, O Savior of my soul?

Do not despise Your servant in Your immeasurable mercy.

History of the Hymn of Kassiani (Cassiane)

from Orthodox Wiki

The Hymn of Kassiani, also known as the *Hymn of the Fallen Woman*, is a Penitential Hymn written in the 9th Century. It is based on the Gospel reading for Holy Wednesday morning (Matthew 26:6-16), which speaks of a sinful woman who anoints Jesus' feet with costly ointment (distinguished from a similar incident with a different woman, St. Mary Magdalene). This hymn is chanted only once a year and considered a musical high-point of the Holy Week, at the Matins and Presanctified Liturgy of Holy Wednesday.

One story, about the origin of the hymn, holds that the Abbess Kassiani spent the afternoon in the garden composing this hymn. As she finished writing that verse which says, "I shall kiss Thine immaculate feet, and wipe them again with the tresses of my head," she was informed that Emperor Theophilos had arrived at the convent. She did not wish to see him, and in her haste to conceal herself, left behind the scroll and pen. Theophilos, having entered the garden, found her half-completed poem, and added the phrase, "those feet at whose sound Eve hid herself for fear when she heard Thee walking in Paradise in the afternoon." After he departed, Kassiani came out from hiding. When she took up her composition, she beheld the phrase written in his handwriting. She retained it and went on to complete the poem.

Saint Kassiani lived during the 9th Century. She is commemorated on September 7.



Recessionals

Troparion: Tone 8 (Kievan)

Be-hold the Bride - groom comes in the mid - dle of the night; and
6 blessed is the ser-vant whom He shall find watch - ing, but un-worthy is the
10 one whom He shall find in sloth-ful - ness. Be - ware, then O my soul, and
15 be not ov-er-come by sleep, lest you be giv-en o - ver to death
22 and shut out from the King - - - dom. But re-turn to sober-ness and
28 cry a - loud: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly are You, O God.
33 Through the intercessions of the The-o-to - kos, have mer - cy on us."

Exapostilarion / Hymn of Light: Tone 3 (Byzantine)

I see Your bri-dal cham - ber a - dorned, O my Sa - vior,
6 and I have no wed-ding gar - ment that I may en - ter there.
11 Make the robe of my soul to shine, O Giv-er of Light, and
15 1. save me. 2. save me.