

Bridegroom Matins (Reader's Service)

(Great and Holy Monday)

Pp: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Pp: 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, 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 to the 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.

Pp: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen. Lord have mercy. (12x)

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

Come, let us worship God our King! (*metania*)

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 19

May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble; may the Name of the God of Jacob shield you. May He send you His help from the holy place, and support you from Zion. May He remember your every sacrifice, and accept with favor your whole burnt offering. May the Lord give you your heart's desire, and fulfill your every purpose. We shall rejoice in your salvation, and be magnified in the Name of the Lord our God. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the Lord has saved His Christ. He will hear Him from His holy heaven; in mighty acts is the salvation of His right hand. Some put their trust in

chariots and some in horses, but we will call on the Name of the Lord our God. They were fettered and fell, but we have risen and been set upright. Lord, save the king, and hear us on the day we call upon You.

Psalm 20

The king will rejoice in Your power, O Lord, he will exult exceedingly in Your salvation. You gave him his heart's desire; You did not deny him the request of his lips. For You came to meet him with blessings of goodness; You placed a crown of precious stones upon his head. He asked You for life, and You gave him length of days to the ages of ages. Great is his glory because of Your salvation; You will place on him glory and majesty. For You will make him most blessed for ever, and make him glad with the joy of Your countenance. For the king puts his hope in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High he will not be shaken. May Your hand light upon all Your enemies, and Your right hand find out all who hate You. You will make them like a blazing oven at the time of Your presence. The Lord will confound them in His wrath and fire will devour them. You will destroy their offspring from the earth, and their seed from among the children of humankind. Because they intended evils against You, and devised plans by which they can in no way succeed. For You will put them to flight; among Your remnants You will prepare their presence. Be exalted, Lord, in Your power; we will sing and praise Your mighty acts.

Pp: 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, 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 to the 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.

Pp: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Tropar (Tone 1)

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the Orthodox Christians, over their adversaries. And by the virtue of Your Cross, preserve Your habitation.

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

Kondak (Tone 4)

As You were voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name. Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, granting them victory over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Bohorodychnyi (Tone 6)

Steadfast Champion who cannot be put to confusion, All-Holy Birthgiver-of-God: do not despise our prayers. Make firm the lives of Christians and save our God-loving people, granting them victory from heaven. For you gave birth to God, Only Blessed Lady.

Pp: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

The Six Psalms

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom He favors. (x3)

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. (x2)

Psalm 3

Lord, why have those who afflict me been multiplied? Many rise against me. Many say to my soul, "There is no salvation for him in his God." But You, Lord, are my helper, my glory, and the One Who lifts up my head. With my voice, I cried to the Lord, and He heard me from His holy mountain. I lay down and slept; I wake, for the Lord upholds me. I will not be afraid of tens of thousands of people who surround me. Arise, Lord, save me, my God; because You have struck all who are vainly my foes. You have smashed the teeth of sinners. Salvation is the Lord's, and Your blessing is upon Your people.

Psalm 37

Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chastise me in Your wrath. For Your arrows have been stuck fast in me, and You have laid a heavy hand upon me. There is no healing in my flesh on account of Your wrath, nor peace in my bones on account of my sins. My iniquities flooded over my head; like a heavy burden they weighed heavily upon me. My wounds stank and festered on account of my foolishness. I was wretched and utterly

bowed down; I went about mourning all day long. For my loins were filled with fever, and there is no health in my flesh. I was maltreated and humiliated exceedingly; I howled from the groaning of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning was not hidden from You. My heart was troubled, my strength failed me; and even the light of my eyes had gone from me. My friends and my neighbors drew near and stood against me, and those nearest me stood far away. Those who sought my life used force, and those who sought evils for me spoke vanities, and meditated trickeries all day long. But I, like a deaf man, heard nothing; like one who is dumb, who does not open his mouth. So I became like one who cannot hear, and in whose mouth there are no rebukes. For in You, Lord, I have hoped; You will answer me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let my foes never exult over me. When my foot slipped they crowed over me. For I am ready for blows and my pain is with me continually. For I will declare my iniquity and be troubled at my sin. But my enemies are lively and have prevailed over me, and those who hate me unjustly have been multiplied. Those who repay me with evils in place of good have slandered me, since I pursued goodness. Do not forsake me, Lord; my God, do not go far from me. Hasten to help me, Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

O God, my God, I watch for You at dawn; my soul has thirsted for You, my flesh pines for You like a desert, untrodden and waterless. Thus I appeared before You in the holy place, to see Your power and Your glory. For Your mercy is better than life; my lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live, and in Your Name I will lift up my hands. May my soul be filled as with marrow and fatness; my mouth will praise You with joyful lips. When I remembered You upon my bed, every dawn I meditated upon You. For you became my helper, and in the shelter of Your wings I shall rejoice. My soul clings to You; and Your right hand upholds me. But those who vainly sought my life will go down to the deepest parts of the earth, they will be delivered to the power of the sword, they will be portions for foxes. But the king will rejoice in God, and all who swear by Him will be praised; for the mouths of those who speak iniquities have been stopped. On You I meditate throughout the night, for You have been my help; in the shadow of Your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to You, our God. (3x)

Lord have mercy. (3x) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 87

Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried by day, and by night also before You. Let my prayer come into Your presence, and turn Your ear to my supplication. For my soul was filled with evils, and my life drew near to Hell. I was reckoned among those that go down to the Pit; I became as one that has no help, free among the dead. Like the slain that sleep in the tomb, whom You remember no more; and they were cut off from Your power. They placed me in the lowest Pit; in darkness and in the shadow of death. Your wrath lay heavy upon me, I am drowned beneath Your waves. You put my friends far from me, and made

me an abomination to them. Imprisoned, I cannot escape; my eyes grew weak because of my beggary. I cried to You, Lord, all the day; I stretched out my hands towards You. Will You work wonders for the dead; or will physicians raise them up again to praise You? Will any declare Your mercy in the tomb, or Your truth in the place of destruction? Will Your wonders be known in the dark, or Your justice in a land that has been forgotten? But to You, Lord, I have cried, and in the morning my prayer will come before You. Why have You rejected my soul, Lord; why do You turn away Your face from me? I am poor and in toils since my youth; exalted, I was humbled and brought to despair. Your fierce anger overwhelmed me, and Your terrors appalled me. They surrounded me like water all day long; they closed in upon me from every side. Friend and neighbor You have put far from me, and my one companion is darkness. Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried by day; and by night also before You. Let my prayer come into Your presence, hear my cry.

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 none of His benefits. He forgives all your iniquities; He heals all your diseases; He redeems your life from corruption and crowns you with mercy and compassion; He satisfies your desire with good things; your youth will be renewed like an eagle's. The Lord performs deeds of mercy and judgment for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His wishes to the children of Israel. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy. He will not always be wrathful, nor will He be enraged for ever. He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities, nor rewarded us according to our sins. For, like the height of heaven above the earth, the Lord has made his mercy prevail over those that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He taken our sins from us. As a father takes pity on his children the Lord has taken pity on those who fear Him. For He knows of what we are made; has remembered that we are but dust. As for man, his days are but as grass, he will blossom like a flower of the field; for when a wind has passed over it, it will be no more and will know its place no longer. But the mercy of the Lord is for ever and ever upon those who fear Him; and His justice upon their children's children, upon those who keep His covenant and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has prepared His throne in heaven and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, all you His Angels, powerful in strength, who perform His word, and listen to the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all you His Powers, His Ministers who do His will. Bless the Lord, all you His works. In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 142

Lord, hear my prayer: in Your truth give ear to my supplication, and in Your justice hear me. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant: for in Your sight no one living can be justified. For the enemy pursued my soul, humbled my life to the ground. Made me dwell in darkness, like those for ever dead. My spirit grew despondent within me and my heart within me was troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Your works: I made the works of Your hands my meditation. I stretched out my hands towards You: my soul thirsted for You like a waterless land. Hear me swiftly, O Lord, my spirit has failed. Do not turn Your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Make me hear of Your mercy in the morning, for I have hoped in You. Make known to me the way

in which I should walk, for to You I have lifted up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, Lord: I have run to You for shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Your good Spirit will guide me in an upright land. For Your Name's sake, O Lord, You will give me life. In Your justice, You will bring my soul out of trouble, in Your mercy slay my enemies, and destroy all those that afflict my soul, for I am Your servant. In Your justice hear me, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (x2) May Your Good Spirit lead me in the land of righteousness.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to You, our God. (3x)

Pp: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (Tone 8)

Vs1: My spirit seeks You early in the nightwatches, for Your commandments are a light on the earth.

Pp: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Vs2: Learn righteousness, you that dwell upon the earth.

Pp: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Vs3: Zeal shall seize upon an untaught people, and now fire shall devour the adversaries.

Pp: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Vs4: Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorious upon the earth.

(Tone 8)

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself crying: Holy, holy, holy are You, O our God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

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

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself crying: Holy, holy, holy are You, O our God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

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Pp: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Kathisma

(Tone 1)

The sublime sufferings, on this day, shine upon the world as a light of salvation, for Christ, of His goodness, draws near to His sufferings. He Who holds all things in His grasp, consents to be hung upon the Tree, that He may save mankind.

O Unseen Judge, how have You shown Yourself in the flesh, and how have You come to be slain by lawless men, thus, through Your suffering condemning our condemnation. Wherefore we ascribe praise and dominion and glory; and these with one voice we offer to Your Power, O You that are the Word.

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

(Tone 8)

This day illuminates the beginnings of the sufferings of the Lord. Come, therefore, O friends, let us meet together with hymns; for the Creator comes, humbling Himself to the Cross, to trial and to blows and to the judgment of Pilate. Moreover, smitten on the head by a servant, He submits to all things that He may save mankind. Wherefore, let us cry: O Merciful Christ our God, grant forgiveness of sins to those who worship in faith Your

Holy Passion.

Pp: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Pp: Glory to You, our Lord, glory to You.

Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: "The baptism of John -- where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' "But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. "Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him."

“Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. "Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. "And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. "Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other

vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

Pp: Glory to You, our Lord, glory to You.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great loving-kindness and in Your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is continually before me. Against You alone I have sinned and done evil before You, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless in Your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth into iniquity, and in sins did my mother conceive me. Behold, You love truth in the inner being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. You will make me hear joy and gladness and my afflicted bones shall rejoice. Turn Your face away from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall joyfully declare Your deliverance. Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. For You have no delight in sacrifice, if I would give burned offerings, You would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Lord, do good to Zion in Your good pleasure and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then shall You be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer calves upon Your altar.

The Canon (Tone 2)

Ode 1

Let us sing to the Lord, Who by His divine command dried up the pathless, raging sea, and through it guided the people of Israel to march on foot, for He has been greatly glorified.

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

The ineffable condescension of God's Word, Christ Himself, being both God and man, and not considering His being God as something to be grasped, showed this to His disciples by being formed as a slave; for He has been greatly glorified.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

I Myself, rich in Godhead, have come to serve Adam who has become poor, whose form I, the Creator, have willingly put on, and to lay down My life as a ransom for his, I Who am impassible in my Godhead.

Let us sing to the Lord, Who by His divine command dried up the pathless, raging sea, and through it guided the people of Israel to march on foot, for He has been greatly glorified.

Pp: Lord, have mercy. (12x) Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Kondak

(Tone 8)

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, yet the noble one was seated in a chariot, honored like a king; for as he had not been slave to the pleasures of the Egyptian woman, he was glorified in return by the One Who sees the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.

Ikos

(to be spoken, not chanted)

Let us now add a lament to his lament and let us shed tears, with Jacob weeping for the revered and temperate Joseph, who though enslaved in body, guarded his soul unenslaved, and became lord of all Egypt; for God grants to His servants an incorruptible crown.

The Synaxarion

(to be spoken, not chanted)

On Holy and Great Monday we commemorate the blessed Joseph the All-comely and also the withered fig tree.

Inasmuch as the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ has its beginning on this day, and as Joseph is regarded as an image of Christ from former times, he is thus set forth here.

Joseph was the son of the Patriarch Jacob, born to him by Rachel. Being envied by his brethren on account of certain of his dreams, he was first concealed in a dug-out pit, and his father was tricked by a bloody garment and the deceit of his children into thinking that he had been devoured by some beast. Joseph was then sold to some Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver; they, in turn, sold him to Potiphar, captain of the eunuchs of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. His wife was enraged by the young man's chastity, because not wishing to commit sin, he fled from her, leaving behind his garment. She slandered him to his master, and he was put into bonds in a harsh prison. Afterwards, he was released because of his ability to interpret certain dreams; he was brought before the king and

appointed governor of the whole land of Egypt. Later, he was made known to his brethren through his distribution of grain. Having spent the whole of his life well, he died in Egypt, recognized as being great in his chastity and kindness toward others. He is, moreover, a prefiguring of Christ. Christ was also envied by His own people, the Jews: He was sold by a disciple for thirty pieces of silver and was imprisoned in the dark and gloomy pit of the grave, whence He broke out by His own power, triumphing over Egypt, that is, over every sin.

In His might He conquered it, and He reigns over all the world. In His love for mankind He redeemed us by a distribution of grain, inasmuch as He gave Himself up for us, and He feeds us with Heavenly Bread, His own Life-bearing Flesh. For this reason, Joseph the All-comely is brought to mind at this time. He is also commemorated on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ.

At the same time, we also commemorate the withered fig tree, because the divine Evangelists Matthew and Mark tell of it after their accounts of the palm branches. One says, "Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry" (Mark 11:12); while the other says, "Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, 'Let no fruit grow on you ever again.' Immediately the fig tree withered away" (Matt. 21:18-19). The fig tree, then, is the Jewish synagogue, in which the Savior did not find the necessary fruits of obedience to God and faith in Him, but only the leafy shade of the Law; He took away even this, leaving it completely bare. But if anyone should ask, "Why did an inanimate tree wither and fall under a curse when it had committed no sin to make it wither?" It was because some people, seeing that Christ went about doing good to all, never causing real suffering for anyone, imagined that He had only the power to do good and not to do harm. The Master, who loves mankind, did not wish to demonstrate His power on a man and commit such a deed. To convince an ungrateful people, however, that He also possessed the might to impose punishment, but not wishing to use that power in His goodness, He inflicted such punishment upon inanimate and insensible nature.

There is also another mysterious explanation, which has come down to us from the wise elders. As St. Isidore of Pelusium says, "This was the tree of the transgression of God's commandment, whose leaves the transgressors also used to cover themselves. Because it did not suffer at that time, Christ, in His love for man, cursed it, so that it would no longer bear the fruit that was the occasion of sin."

It is also quite clear that sin is likened unto the fig, inasmuch as it possesses the "delight" of sensual pleasure, the "stickiness" of sin itself and the "hardness and sharpness" of a guilty conscience.

The Fathers, moreover, put the story of the fig tree here to arouse compunction and in relation to the story of St. Joseph, since he is a prefiguring of Christ.

The fig tree is also every soul which is devoid of all spiritual fruit. In the morning, that

is, after this present life, if the Lord finds no refreshment in such a soul, He withers it with a curse and hands it over to the everlasting fire. It remains standing as a dried-up post, striking fear into those who do not produce the fitting fruit of the virtues.

Through the prayers of St. Joseph the All-comely, O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Ode 8
(Tone 2)

The unwearied fire, fed with unlimited fuel, shuddered at the bodies of the shining youths, like their souls undefiled; while as the ever-living flame withered away, an everlasting hymn was sung: All you His works, praise the Lord and highly exalt Him to all the ages.

We glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“Then all will know that you are My disciples, if you keep My commandments”, says the Savior to His friends, as He goes to His Passion. “Be at peace with one another and with all; think humble thoughts and so be exalted; and, acknowledging Me as Lord, praise and highly exalt Me to all the ages.”

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Let might over your fellows be for you the opposite of the order of the nations; their self-chosen will is not My lot, but tyranny. The one among you then who wishes to be leader of the rest, let him be the last of all; and acknowledging Me as Lord, praise and highly exalt Me to all the ages.

We praise, we bless and worship the Lord.

The unwearied fire, fed with unlimited fuel, shuddered at the bodies of the shining youths, like their souls undefiled; while as the ever-living flame withered away, an everlasting hymn was sung: All you His works, praise the Lord and highly exalt Him to all the ages.

Ode 9
(Tone 2)

Christ, our Fashioner, You magnified the Birthgiver-of-God who gave You birth, from whom You put on a body with passions like ours, the atonement of our faults of ignorance; as we call her blessed, all we generations magnify You.

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

Wisdom of all, You said to Your Apostles, “casting off every stain of passion, take up a

prudent intent, worthy of the divine Kingdom. By this you will be glorified, shining more brilliantly than the sun.”

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

You said, Lord, to Your own disciples, “looking to Me alone, do not have lofty thoughts, but live with humble. Drink the very cup which I drink, and you shall be glorified in My Father’s Kingdom.”

Christ, our Fashioner, You magnified the Birthgiver-of-God who gave You birth, from whom You put on a body with passions like ours, the atonement of our faults of ignorance; as we call her blessed, all we generations magnify You.

Pp: Lord have mercy. (12x) Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Exapostilarion

(Tone 3)

Your bridal chamber, O my Savior, I see all adorned, but I have no garment so that I may enter it. Make bright the mantle of my soul, O Giver of light, and save me!

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

Your bridal chamber, O my Savior, I see all adorned, but I have no garment so that I may enter it. Make bright the mantle of my soul, O Giver of light, and save me!

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Your bridal chamber, O my Savior, I see all adorned, but I have no garment so that I may enter it. Make bright the mantle of my soul, O Giver of light, and save me!

The Praises

(Tone 1)

Vs: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. To You, O God, is due our song.

Vs: Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His Powers. To You, O God, is due our song.

Vs: Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the greatness of His majesty.

As the Lord was coming to His voluntary Passion, He said to His Apostles on the road, “see, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be betrayed, as it is written of Him”. Come then, let us too, with minds made pure, journey with Him, and let us be crucified with Him, and for His sake become dead to the pleasures of life, that we may live with Him and hear Him as He cries, “I am no longer going up to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God. And I shall raise you up with Me to the Jerusalem above, in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Vs: Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him upon the strings and pipe. Believers, having reached the saving Passion of Christ our God, let us glorify His ineffable forbearance; so that in His compassion He may, with Himself, also raise us up, who have been slain by sin, as He is good and loves mankind.

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

Lord, as You were coming to Your Passion, You strengthened Your disciples, taking them aside and saying, “how have you not remembered My words, which I spoke to you of old, ‘Is it not written no prophet may be killed but in Jerusalem’? Now the moment has come of which I spoke to you. For see, I am being handed over to be mocked by the hands of sinners, who, when they have nailed Me to a cross and handed Me over for burial, will reckon Me a loathsome corpse. Nevertheless, take courage, for on the third day I arise, for the joy of believers and eternal life.”

Lesser Doxology

(to be spoken, not sung)

Pp: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace among those whom He favors. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father Who takes away the sins of the world have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, accept our prayer. You sit on the Right Hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are Holy, You alone are Lord Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will give thanks to You and praise Your Name forever and ever. Count us worthy, O Lord, of passing this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers; may Your Name be praised and glorified forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, for we have placed our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your Commandments. (3x)
Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise 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 to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Pp: Lord have mercy. (12x) Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Apostikha

(Tone 5)

O Lord, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, not understanding the ineffable mystery of Your dispensation, asked You to grant her own children the honor of a temporary kingdom; but instead of this You promised Your friends that they would drink cup of death; a cup which You said You would drink before them, a cleansing from sins. And so we cry to You: O Salvation of our souls, glory to You!

Vs: We were filled in the morning with Your mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad, for all the days You have afflicted us, for the years we have suffered adversity. Look upon Your servants and Your works, and guide their children.

O Lord, instructing Your own disciples to think thoughts of perfection, You said, "Do not be like the nations, so as to rule over the least strong. It shall not be so with you, My disciples, because My wish is to be poor. The first among you, then, let him be the servant of all; the ruler as the ruled, the leader as the last. For I have come to serve Adam who became poor, and to give My life as a ransom for many, those who cry to Me: Glory to You!"

Vs: And may the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us. Direct the work of our hands, O direct the work of our hands.

(Tone 8)

Fearing the punishment of the withered fig tree, because of its lack of fruit, brethren, let us offer fruits worthy of repentance to Christ, Who grants us His great mercy.

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

The serpent, having found in the Egyptian woman a second Eve, hastened by flatteries to trip up Joseph; but he, abandoning his tunic, fled from sin, and though naked was not ashamed, like the first formed before his disobedience. At his entreaties, O Christ, have mercy on us.

Pp: 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, 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 to the 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.

P: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Pp: Amen.

Kondak

(to be spoken, not sung)

Standing in the temple of your glory, we think we stand in heaven, O Birthgiver-of-God. O gate of heaven, open to us the door of your mercy.

Pp: Lord have mercy. (40x)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Birthgiver-of-God, we magnify you.

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

The Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

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

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

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

Then twelve metanias are made, saying each time:

O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner.

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

Pp: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the
ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May Christ our true God, Who willingly came to Your Passion for our salvation,
through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-praised
Apostles, of (*Saint after whom the church is named, and of the day*), of the holy and
righteous forbears of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and
save us, for He is good, and the Lover of all mankind.

Pp: Amen.