

Bridegroom Matins (Reader's Service)

(Great and Holy Tuesday)

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, 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, 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 4)

Brethren, let us love the Bridegroom, and carefully keep our torches aflame with virtues and the true Faith, that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be ready to enter with Him to the marriage feast, for the Bridegroom, as God, bestows a gift on all, the incorruptible crown.

The priests and scribes, O Savior, calling together a lawless council against You, with great envy, moved Judas into betrayal. Wherefore he went forth shamelessly and spoke against You to the lawless people; what will you give me, he said, that I may deliver Him into your hands? O Lord, save our souls from this condemnation.

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)

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 Who 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 Your most pure Passion.

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

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

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her."

Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 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 then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: "The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"'? If David then calls Him "Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men.

They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, "Rabbi, Rabbi." But you, do not be called "Rabbi"; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides, who say, "Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it." Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, "Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it." Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, "If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets." "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!"

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.

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 2)

Think, miserable soul, on the hour of the end, and made fearful by the cutting down of the fig tree, work with love of toil at the talent given you, as you watch and cry: May we not be left outside Christ's bridal chamber!

Ikos

(to be spoken, not chanted)

Why are you slothful, my wretched soul? Why dwell unseasonably on senseless cares? Why busy yourself with what is passing? The last hour is at hand, and we shall soon be parted from what is here. While you still have time, come to your senses and cry out, 'I

have sinned against You, my Savior; do not cut me off like the unfruitful fig tree, but as You are compassionate, O Christ, take pity on a soul that cries out in fear: May we not be left outside Christ's bridal chamber!'

Synaxarion

(to be spoken, not chanted)

On holy and great Tuesday we commemorate the parable of the ten virgins from the sacred Gospel. But, O Bridegroom Christ, number us with the prudent virgins, range us with the chosen flock and have mercy on us. Amen

The Canon (Ode 8)

(Tone 2)

The three holy Youths, did not obey the tyrant's decree and cast into the furnace confessed God, as they sang: You works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Let us cast sloth far from us, and with shining lamps let us meet Christ the immortal Bridegroom with hymns, as we cry: Bless the Lord his works.

We glorify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May the oil of fellowship in the vessels of our soul be sufficient, that not having spent the moment of the prize in commerce we may sing: You works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

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

You that have all received the talent, grace of equal power from God, increase it with the help of Christ who gave it, as you sing: You works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

We praise, bless and worship the Lord.

The three holy Youths, did not obey the tyrant's decree and, cast into the furnace, they confessed God as they sang: You works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

(Ode 9)

All-holy Virgin, who contained in your womb the uncontainable God and bore joy for the world, we sing your praise.'

We glorify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

O Good One, you said to your disciples, 'Watch! For at the hour you do not know, the Lord will come to reward each one'.

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

At your dread second coming, Master, range me with the sheep on your right hand, overlooking the multitude of my offences.

We praise, bless and worship the Lord.

All-holy Virgin, who contained in your womb the uncontainable God and bore joy for the world, we sing your praise.

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.

How shall I, the unworthy one, enter among the splendors of Your saints? For if I dare to enter the bridal chamber with them, my tunic accuses me, because it is not a wedding garment, and I shall be cast out bound by the angels. Lord, cleanse the filth of my soul,

and save me, as You love mankind.

Vs: Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him upon the strings and pipe.

(Tone 2)

Slumbering in slothfulness of soul, O Bridegroom Christ, I have not obtained a lamp burning with virtues, and I have become like the foolish maidens, wandering about at the moment for action. Do not shut Your compassionate heart against me, O Master, but shake off my dark sleep, rouse me, and bring me, with the prudent virgins, into Your bridal chamber, where there is the sound of those who feast and who cry unceasingly, 'Lord, glory to You!'

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

(Tone 4)

O my soul, having heard the condemnation of the one who hid his talent, do not hide God's word. Proclaim His wonders, that multiplying the gift of grace you may enter the joy of your Lord.

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 6)

Come, you faithful, let us work eagerly for the Master; for He gives His servants wealth. Let each of us, according to their measure, multiply the talent of grace; let one bring wisdom through good deeds; another perform the ministry of splendor; let a believer share the word with the uninitiated; and another distribute his wealth to the poor. So let us make the loan increase, and, as faithful stewards of grace, become worthy of the Master's joy. Make us worthy of this joy, Christ our God, as You love mankind.

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.

When You come in glory with the angelic Powers and take Your seat, O Jesus, on the throne of judgment, do not separate me from You, good Shepherd; for You know the right hand ways, while those on the left are twisted. So do not destroy me, hardened in sin, with the goats, but, numbering me with the sheep on the right, save me, as You love mankind.

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.

O Bridegroom, lovelier in beauty beyond all mankind, Who have invited us to the spiritual banquet of Your bridal chamber, by participation in Your sufferings strip my ill-clad form of faults, and adorning me with the robe of glory of Your beauty, show me to be a radiant guest of Your Kingdom, as You are compassionate.

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

(Tone 7)

See, O my soul, the Master entrusts you with a talent. Accept it with fear; gain interest for the Giver by distributing it to beggars, and gain the Lord as friend, so that you may stand on His right hand when He comes in glory, and hear His blessed voice, 'Enter, my servant, into the joy of your Lord'. Make me, who has gone astray, worthy of this, O Savior, because of Your great mercy.

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.

Kondak

(to be spoken, not sung)

Think, miserable soul, on the hour of the end, and made fearful by the cutting down of the fig tree, work with love of toil at the talent given you, as you watch and cry: May we not be left outside Christ's bridal chamber!

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.