

BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS

Of Great & Holy Thursday

Sung on Wednesday Evening by Anticipation

PREPARATION

The priest vests in exorasson and epitachelion. Standing before the holy table facing east, the priest makes three metanias, saying each time:

Priest: O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner, and have mercy on me.

THE BLESSING

The priest opens the curtains and holy doors, then blessing himself, he says in a loud voice:

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

Reader: Amen.

Priest: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art in all places and fillest all things; Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both 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 thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

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

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy, (3 times)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. (metania)

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. (metania)

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God. (metania)

THE ROYAL PSALMS

The priest then takes up the small hand censer and does the great censuring. The reader intones the following two psalms.

Psalm 19

May the Lord hear thee in the day of tribulation: may the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee. May he send thee help from the sanctuary: and defend thee out of Sion. May he be mindful of all thy sacrifices: and may thy whole burnt offering be made fat. May he give thee according to thine own heart; and confirm all thy counsels. We will rejoice in thy salvation; and in the Name of our God we shall be exalted. The Lord fulfill all thy petitions: now have I known that the Lord hath saved his anointed. He will hear him from his holy heaven: the salvation of his right hand is in powers. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God. They are bound, and have fallen, but we are risen, and are set upright. O Lord, save the king: and hear us in the day that we shall call upon thee.

Psalm 20

In thy strength, O Lord, the king shall joy; and in thy salvation he shall rejoice exceedingly. Thou hast given him his hearts desire: and hast not withheld from him the will of his lips. For thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness: thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. He asked life of thee: and thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever. His glory is great in thy salvation: glory and great beauty shalt thou lay upon him. For thou shalt give him to be a blessing for ever and ever: thou shalt make him joyful in gladness with thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord: and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved. Let thy right hand be found by all thy enemies: let thy right hand find out all them that hate thee. Thou shalt make them as an oven of fire, in the time of thy anger: the Lord shall trouble them in his wrath, and fire shall devour them. Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth: and their seed from among the children of men. For they have intended evils against thee: they have devised counsels which they have not been able to establish. For thou shalt make them turn their back: in thy remnants thou shalt prepare their face. Be thou exalted, O Lord, in thy own strength: we will sing and praise thy power.

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

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

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 thy Names sake.

Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

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

Reader: Amen.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance, granting to thy people victory over all adversaries, and by thy Cross, preserving thine estate.

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

Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by thy Name; make glad in thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Champion dread, who canst not 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 thou art she who gavest birth to God and alone art blessed.

THE EKTENIA

The priest, standing before the holy table facing east, censes and intones the petitions of the following ektenia.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

Standing at the south side of the holy table and censing, the priest says:

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

Standing at the east side of the holy table and censing, the priest says:

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan, N., (our Bishop,N.) and all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

Standing at the north side of the holy table, the priest censens the holy table and then the prothesis while he says:

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

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Standing before the holy table facing east, the priest makes the sign of the cross over the gospel book with the censer, saying:

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

Choir: Amen.

The priest gives away the censer.

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

O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise, (twice)

THE SIX PSALMS

The reader continues by reading the Six Psalms, while the priest says the twelve Orthros prayers.

The twelve orthros prayers

(1.) We give thanks unto thee, O Lord our God, who hast raised us up from our beds and hast put into our mouths a word of praise, that we may worship and call upon thy holy name. And we entreat thee, by thy mercies which thou hast exercised always in our life, send down now also thine aid upon those who stand before the face of thy holy glory and await the rich mercy which is from thee. And grant that they may always, with fear and love, adore thee, praise thee, hymn thee and worship thine inexpressible goodness. For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(2.) Out of the night our spirit awaketh at dawn unto thee, O our God; for thy commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach us to perfect righteousness and holiness in thy fear; for we glorify thee, our God, who dost truly exist. Incline thine ear, and hear us, and be mindful, O Lord, of the names of all those who are with us and pray with us, and save them by thy might. Bless thy people, and sanctify thine inheritance. Give peace to thy world, to thy churches, to the priests, to all civil authorities and all thy people. For blessed and glorified is thine all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(3.) Out of the night our spirit awaketh at dawn unto thee, O God; for thy commandments are a light. Teach us thy righteousness, thy commandments and thy statutes, O God. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, lest at any time we sleep unto death in sins. Dispel all darkness from our hearts. Graciously give unto us the Sun of righteousness, and by thy Holy Spirit preserve our life unassailed. Guide our steps into the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day

with joy, that we may raise our morning prayers unto thee. For thine is the might, and 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. Amen.

(4.) O Master God, holy and unsearchable, who didst command the light to shine forth from the darkness, who hast refreshed us by the slumber of the night and hast raised us up to glorify and supplicate thy goodness: Being implored of thine own tender loving-kindness, receive us also now who worship thee and render thanks unto thee according to the measure of our strength; and grant us all our petitions which are unto salvation. Make us sons of the light and of the day and heirs of thine everlasting good things. Be mindful, O Lord, in the multitude of thy mercies, of all thy people here present with us and who pray with us and all our brethren on land, on the sea, in the air and in every place of thy dominion, who are in need of thy love for mankind and of thy help, and grant unto all thy great mercy, that being preserved in safety of soul and body, we may with boldness magnify thy wondrous and blessed name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(5.) O Treasury of good things, Fountain eternal, O holy Father who workest wonders, all-powerful and almighty: We worship thee and pray thee, calling thy mercies and thy compassions to the aid and defense of our lowliness. Be mindful of thy servants, O Lord; receive the morning prayers of us all as incense before thee; and let none of us be found reprobate, but encompass us with thy compassions. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who watch and sing to the glory of thine only-begotten Son, who is our God, and thy Holy Spirit. Be thou their Helper and their Support. Receive thou their supplications upon thy most heavenly and ideal altar. For thou art our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(6.) We give thanks unto thee, O Lord God of our salvation; for thou doest all things which are for the welfare of our souls, that we may ever look upward unto thee, the Saviour and Benefactor of our souls. For thou hast refreshed us in that part of the night which is past and hast raised us up from our beds and hast led us to stand here in worship of thy precious name. Wherefore we entreat thee, O Lord, give us grace and power, that we may be vouchsafed with understanding to sing praise unto thee and to pray without ceasing, in fear and trembling working out our own salvation, through the help of thy Christ. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who cry aloud unto thee in the night; hearken unto them, and have mercy, and crush under their feet invisible and warring enemies. For thou art the King of peace and the Saviour of our souls, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(7.) O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast raised us up from our beds and hast gathered us together at this hour of prayer: Grant us grace in the opening of our mouth, and receive our thanksgivings as we have power to make them, and instruct us in thy statutes. For we know not how to pray as we ought unless thou, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit, dost guide us. Wherefore, we beseech thee: Forgive, remit, pardon whatsoever sins we may have committed

unto this present hour, whether by word or deed or thought, whether voluntarily or involuntarily; for if thou wilt be extreme to mark iniquity, O Lord, Lord, who shall stand? For with thee is redemption. For thou only art holy, a mighty Helper and the Defender of our life, and our song shall ever be of thee. Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(8.) O Lord our God, who hast banished from us the sluggishness of sleep and hast called us together by a holy bidding, that in the night also we may lift up our hands and confess thy righteous judgments: Receive our prayers, petitions, confessions and nocturnal adoration and grant unto us, O God, faith unashamed, hope unwavering, love unfeigned. Bless our comings and our goings, our deeds and works and words and thoughts. And grant that we may come to the beginning of this day praising, singing and blessing the goodness of thine ineffable beneficence. For blessed is thine all-holy name, and glorified is thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(9.) Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of thy gospel teachings; implant in us also the fear of thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto thee. For thou art our Sanctification and Illumination, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(10.) O Lord our God, who hast granted unto men pardon through repentance and hast set for us the repentance of the prophet David as an example of the acknowledgement of sin and of confession which is unto forgiveness: Do thou thyself, O Master, have mercy on us according to thy great mercy, notwithstanding the manifold and great iniquities into which we have fallen; and according to the multitude of thy compassions, blot out our transgressions. Against thee have we sinned, O Lord, thou who knowest the hidden and secret things in the heart of men and who alone hast power to forgive sins; and as thou hast created a clean heart within us and established us with thy governing Spirit and made known unto us the joy of thy salvation, cast us not away from thy presence. But inasmuch as thou art good and lovest mankind, graciously vouchsafe that even until our uttermost breath, we may offer unto thee the sacrifice of righteousness and an oblation upon thy holy altar. Through the mercy and compassions and love for mankind of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(11.) O God, our God, who hast brought into being by thy will all the powers endowed with speech and reason, we pray thee and supplicate thee: Receive our praise, which together with all thy creatures we offer according to our strength, and reward us with the rich gifts of thy goodness. For unto thee every knee doth bow, whether in heaven or on earth or in the regions under the earth, and every breath and created being doth sing thine ineffable glory, for thou only art the true and most merciful God. For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee they

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

(12.) We praise thee, we hymn thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thee, O God of our fathers, that thou hast brought us in safety through the shades of night and hast shown unto us once again the light of day. And we entreat of thy goodness: Be gracious unto our sins, and receive our prayer in thy great tenderness. For we flee unto thee, the merciful and almighty God. Illumine our hearts with the true Sun of thy righteousness; enlighten our mind and guard all our senses, that walking uprightly as in the day, in the way of thy commandments, we may attain unto life eternal, for with thee is the fountain of life, and may graciously be vouchsafed to come unto the enjoyment of the light unapproachable. For thou art our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 3

LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side. Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

Psalm 37

LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down on me. Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart. All my longings lie open before you, Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away. Those who want to kill me set their traps, those who would harm me talk of my ruin; all day long they scheme and lie. I am like the deaf, who cannot hear, like the mute, who cannot speak; I have become like one who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply. LORD, I wait for you; you will answer, Lord my God. For I said, "Do not let them gloat or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip." For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. Many have become my enemies without cause; those who hate me without reason are numerous. Those who repay my good with evil lodge accusations against me, though I seek only to do what is good.

LORD, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God. Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.

Lord, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God. Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Savior.

Psalm 62

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. Those who want to kill me will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God will glory in him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.”

I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

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

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

Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

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

Psalm 87

LORD, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you. May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry. I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death. I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like one without strength. I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care. You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves. You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you. Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do their spirits rise up and praise you? Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? But I cry to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me? From my youth I have suffered and been close to death; I have borne your terrors and am in despair.

Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me. You have taken from me friend and neighbor—

LORD, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you. May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

Psalm 102

“Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for 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 has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’S love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children— with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.”

In all places of his dominion: praise the Lord, my soul.

Psalm 142

LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead. So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed. I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land. Answer me quickly, LORD; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit. Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. Rescue me from my enemies, LORD, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. For your name’s sake, LORD, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. In your unfailing love, silence my enemies; destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

LORD, hear my prayer and do not bring your servant into judgment

LORD, hear my prayer and do not bring your servant into judgment

May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

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

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

O Lord our Hope, glory to thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE

When the reader has completed the Six Psalms, the deacon intones the petitions of the litany of peace.

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

The choir responds Lord, have mercy to each petition.

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

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

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

For our father and Metropolitan, N., (our Bishop, N.,) for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister of Canada, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honour, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

ALLELUIA VERSES

Tone 8.

My spirit seeks thee early in the nightwatches, for thy commandments are a light on the earth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Learn righteousness, ye that dwell upon the earth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

TROPARION

When the glorious Disciples were enlightened at the washing of the feet before
the supper,

then the impious Judas was darkened, ailing with avarice,
and to the lawless judges he betrays Thee, the Righteous Judge.

Behold, O lover of money, this man who because of money hanged himself!

Flee from the greedy soul which dared such things against the Master!

O Lord, Who art good towards all men, glory to Thee!

THE LITTLE LITANY

The deacon then intones the little litany.

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

The people respond Lord, have mercy to each petition.

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

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos
and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our
life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thine is the majesty, and thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest puts on the phelonion now.

KATHISMATA

The Lord, who made the lakes, and the springs and the oceans, instructing us in finest humility, girded himself with a towel and then He washed the Disciples' feet. He was humble thus, in His surpassing compassion, and He lifted us up from the pit of perdition, for He alone loves mankind.

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

You were humble in Your great compassion, and You washed the feet of Your Disciples, and by this You set them straight on the course of God. Although refusing initially to be washed, Peter submits and obeys the divine command, and is washed by You. And now he entreats You earnestly, * beseeching that You grant us Your great mercy.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Master, as You ate a meal with Your Disciples, You informed them mystically of Your all-holy sacrifice, by which You saved us from corruption. We duly honor Your venerable suffering.

THE ORTHROS GOSPEL

The deacon faces the people, lifts his orarion, and says:

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy (thrice)

Deacon: Wisdom. Attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

The priest turns to face the people and blesses them, saying:

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (22:1–39)

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

The priest reads the gospel from the holy doors.

“Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

“Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!”

They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they answered.

He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That's enough!" he replied.

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him."

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

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy great mercy: according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out mine iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was shapen in iniquity: and in sins did my mother conceive me. For behold, thou hast loved truth: the unclear and hidden things of thy wisdom thou hast made clear to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: the bones which thou hast broken shall rejoice. Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and steady me with a guiding spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways: and the impious shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For hadst thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it thee: thou delightest not in burnt offerings. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a contrite and humble heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good, O Lord, in thy good will unto Zion: that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offerings: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

THE CANON

1st Ode, Tone 2

Heirmos.

The Red Sea was cut by a rod that was cut, and the undulating deep went dry; the same became passable for those who were unarmed, and a tomb for those in full armor. The former sang an ode that was pleasing to God: "He is Christ our God, and He is greatly glorified."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The infinite Wisdom of God, which is the cause of all and the provider of life, has built himself a house, from a pure mother who knew no man; for He put on the temple of His body. He is Christ our God, and He is greatly glorified.

Glory ...

Initiating His friends into mysteries, the very Wisdom of God sets a soul-sustaining table, and mixes the wine of immortality in His chalice, for those who believe. Let us religiously draw near and call out: "He is Christ our God, and He is greatly glorified."

Both now...

Let us listen, all we who believe, as the uncreated and innate Wisdom of God is calling from the highest point in town. For He is shouting, "Taste and see that I am good, and knowing this call out: 'He is Christ our God, and He is greatly glorified.'"

Katavasia.

The Red Sea was cut by a rod that was cut, and the undulating deep went dry; the same became passable for those who were unarmed, and a tomb for those in full armor. The former sang an ode that was pleasing to God: "He is Christ our God, and He is greatly glorified."

THE LITTLE LITANY

The deacon, at his place on the solea, intones the little litany.

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

The choir responds Lord, have mercy to each petition.

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

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thou art the King of peace and the Saviour of our souls, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION

Receiving the bread in his hands, the betrayer in secret extends those very hands receiving * from the priests the price of Him* who had fashioned mankind with His own hands. * And he remained incorrigible, Judas the slave and the knave.

Oikos.

As we all draw near with fear to the mystic table, let us receive the Bread with pure souls, remaining beside the Master, that we may see how He washes the feet of the Disciples and dries them with the towel. And let us do as we have seen, being subject to one another and washing one

another's feet; for Christ himself has ordered this, as He declared it before to His disciples. But one did not listen, Judas the slave and the knave.

SYNAXARION OF GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY

On holy and great Thursday the godly Fathers, who have arranged all things well, received from the divine Apostles and the sacred Gospels and in turn handed down to us, that today we should celebrate four things: the sacred Washing of Feet, the Mystical Supper (that is, the tradition of what we know as the awesome Mysteries of Holy Communion), the High Priestly Prayer, and finally the Betrayal itself.

In the evening God washed the feet of the Disciples; His own foot once walked before dusk in Eden.

Double Supper: it has the Law's Pascha, The new Pascha also, the Lord's Blood and Body. You pray: the terrors, the blood on Your forehead, As though You were begging to be spared from dying. O Christ, by this You deceive the deceiver.

Why swords and clubs, O deceivers of the people? He is willing to die for the world's redemption. By Your ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

THE CANON, CONTINUED

8th Ode. Tone 2.

Heirmos.

Braving all danger for their ancestral Laws, the blessed young men in Babylon spat disdainfully upon the king's unreasonable decree; and being joined to the fire, by which they were not consumed, they sang a hymn worthy of God the Ruler: "Sing a hymn to the Lord, all you works, and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Having devoted themselves to the Word in Zion, the Apostles and blessed banqueters followed close upon the Shepherd like sheep; and being joined to Christ, from whom they were separated not, they were fed the word of God and gratefully cried out: "Sing a hymn to the Lord, all you works, and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages."

We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we sing a hymn to Him and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Having willfully forgotten the law of friendship, the infamous Iscariot, whose feet You had just washed, prepared to betray You. And eating Your bread, Your divine body, he lifted up his heel against You, O Christ, and knew not to cry out: "Sing a hymn to the Lord, all you works, and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages."

Glory ... Both now ...

He took in his right hand the holy Body, the remedy for sin, and the divine Blood that was being poured out for the world, he who was devoid of conscience. And he was not ashamed to drink what he had sold for a price. He abhorred not the evil and knew not to cry out: "Sing a hymn to the Lord, all you works, and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages."

Katavasia.

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord. Braving all danger for their ancestral Laws, the blessed young men in Babylon spat disdainfully upon the king's unreasonable decree; and being joined to the fire, by which they were not consumed, they sang a hymn worthy of God the Ruler: "Sing a hymn to the Lord, all you works, and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages."

THE NINTH ODE

At the conclusion of the 8th ode, the deacon stands in the holy doors, faces the congregation or the icon of the Theotokos on the iconostasis, lifts his orarion and says:

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

While the choir chants the ninth ode, the deacon asks the blessing of the priest upon the incense and does the great censuring — exiting the sanctuary through the north door and entering through the south door.

Come, believers, let us enjoy the Master's hospitality and immortal table, in the upper room, that is, in elevated minds. And learning a sublime word from the Word, we magnify Him.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The Logos said to His Disciples, "Go prepare the Passover meal for you, whom I initiate into the mysteries, in the upper room, where the mind is established, with the unleavened word of truth; and magnify the staff of grace."

Glory ...

Before the ages, the Father begets me, creative wisdom. He created me, the beginning of His ways, for the works that now are being mystically accomplished. I say this, for though I am the Logos and by nature uncreated, I appropriate the speech of the humanity that I assumed.

Both now.

As I am human in essence, and not in mere appearance, so the nature united to me is divine, by way of exchange. Therefore recognize me to be one single Christ, preserving the properties of and in which natures I consist.

Come, believers, let us enjoy the Master's hospitality and immortal table, in the upper room, that is, in elevated minds. And learning a sublime word from the Word, we magnify Him.

THE LITTLE LITANY

The deacon, at his place on the solea, intones the little litany.

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

The choir responds Lord, have mercy to each petition.

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

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

EXAPOSTEILARION

(Tone 3; special melody)

I behold Thy bridal chamber richly adorned, O my Saviour; but I have no wedding garment to worthily enter. Make radiant the garment of my soul, O Giver of Light, and save me. (thrice)

PRAISES Tone 2

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God.

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.

So, the council of the Jews gathers and agrees to deliver up to Pilate the Creator and Maker of all. Oh, lawless men! Oh, faithless men! They arraign for trial the One who is coming to judge the living and the dead. They prepare for Passion the One who cures the passions. O longsuffering Lord, great is Your mercy. Glory to You!

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre.

Judas, the transgressor of the Law, who at the supper dipped his hand in the dish with You, O Lord, lawlessly extended his hands to take the pieces of silver. He who calculated the price of the fragrant oil was not afraid to sell You, the priceless One. He who offered his feet for You, the Master, to wash them kissed You deceitfully in order to betray You to the lawless. Thrown out of the company of Apostles, and having thrown down the thirty pieces of silver, he did not see Your Resurrection on the third day; through which, have mercy on us.

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute.

Judas, the deceitful betrayer, betrayed the Lord and Savior with a deceitful kiss. He sold the Master of all to the transgressors of the Law, as though He were but a slave. But the Lamb of God followed, like a sheep to the slaughter, as the Son of the Father, the only very merciful Lord.

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Judas, the servant and defrauder, the disciple and betrayer, the friend and detractor, was proven by his deeds. He followed the Teacher, and privately he plotted the betrayal. He said to himself, "Once I betray Him, the collection money will be mine." He had wanted the costly ointment to be sold, and he plotted that Jesus be arrested through a ploy. He gave Him a kiss and gave up the Christ, who followed like a sheep to the slaughter, as the only compassionate Lord who loves humanity.

Glory ... Both now ...

He, whom Isaiah proclaimed to be the Lamb, comes to His voluntary slaughter. He gives His back to whips and His cheeks to blows. He turns not away His face from the shame of spitting. He is sentenced to a shameful death. The sinless One willingly accepts it all, so that He might grant to all the resurrection from the dead.

THE LITTLE DOXOLOGY

Reader: Thine is the glory, O Lord our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us. For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless thee, and I will praise thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Lord, be merciful unto me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee. Lord, I have fled unto thee: teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light. O continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be thy Name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope in thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master, make me to understand thy commandments. Blessed art thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever; O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Standing at his place before the holy doors, the deacon intones the petitions of the litany of supplication.

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

The choir responds Lord, have mercy to the first two petitions.

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

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

The choir responds Grant this, O Lord to this and the remaining petitions.

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

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

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

208 Great and Holy Week

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

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thou art the God of mercies and of bounties, and of love toward mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest turns to the west and blesses the people with his right hand, saying:

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Bowing to the icon of Christ, the deacon says:

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF THE HEADS

Facing east and bowing low before the holy table, the priest says:

Priest: O holy Lord, who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart, and with thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation, unto thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat thee: O Holy of holies, stretch forth thine invisible hand from thy Wednesday Bridegroom Orthros 209

holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if in aught we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, vouchsafing unto us thy earthly and heavenly good things.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE APOSTICHA

Today the evil assembly gathers against the Christ and devises false charges against Him, to deliver the Innocent One over to Pilate to die. Today Judas sets up for himself the gallows of wealth, abandoning both earthly and heavenly life. Today Caiaphas prophesies unwittingly, saying: "It is expedient that one man should die for the people." For truly Christ came to suffer for our sins, to free us from bondage to the enemy, for He is good and loves mankind.

v: He who ate of My bread has lifted his heel against Me. (Ps 40/41:9b)

Today Judas abandons all pretense of love for the poor. Not caring for them, he assumes the very shape of greed. Instead of selling the sinful woman's myrrh, He sells the Anointed One of God and steals the proceeds. He runs to the lawless Jews and asks: "What will ye give me if I betray Him to you?" Cursed be the traitor's love of silver! He lowers the price and bargains like a trader. He sells Jesus like a runaway slave, not asking much, For thieves never regard the value

of precious things. Now the disciple casts holy things to the dogs. Maddened with avarice, he howls against the Master. Let us flee from his example and cry: O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!

v: When he goes out, he tells it abroad. (Ps 40/41:6b)

Thy life, O lawless Judas, is filled with deceit. Sick with avarice, thou didst gain the contempt of all men. If thou didst desire wealth, why didst thou follow Him Who taught poverty? If thou didst love the priceless One, why didst thou sell Him? Why didst thou hand Him over to be murdered? Shudder, O sun! O earth, lament and cry with fear: “O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!”

v: He utters lawless words against Me. (Ps 40/41:8)

Let no one be ignorant of the Lord’s supper, O believers. Let no one approach the banquet with deceit like Judas, for he received a morsel, yet abandoned the Bread of Life. He looked like a disciple, but in fact he was a murderer. He lived with the Apostles, but he rejoiced with the Jews. With hatred he kissed, and with a kiss he sold God, Who had redeemed us from the curse, the Savior of our souls.

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

Thy life, O lawless Judas, is filled with deceit. Sick with avarice, thou didst gain the contempt of all men. If thou didst desire wealth, why didst thou follow Him Who taught poverty? If thou didst love the priceless One, why didst thou sell Him? Why didst thou hand Him over to be murdered? Shudder, O sun! O earth, lament and cry with fear: “O long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!”

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

Instructing Thy Disciples in the mystery, O Lord, Thou didst say to them: “My beloved, see that no fear separates you from Me! Though I suffer, it is for the sake of the world. Let me not be a cause of scandal to you! I came, not to be served, but to serve; to give Myself for the redemption of the world. If ye are my friends, then imitate Me! Let the first among you be the last! Let the master be like the servant! Abide in me and bear fruit, for I am the vine of life!”

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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

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

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 thy Name’s sake. Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

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

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

Choir: Amen.

When the glorious Disciples were enlightened at the washing of the feet before the supper, then the impious Judas was darkened, ailing with avarice, and to the lawless judges he betrays Thee, the Righteous Judge. Behold, O lover of money, this man who because of money hanged himself! Flee from the greedy soul which dared such things against the Master! O Lord, Who art good towards all men, glory to Thee!

O Lord, Who for the sake of mankind wast beaten but not moved to anger, set our lives free from corruption and save us!

[Prokeimenon Tone 1](#)

Let the nations understand / that Thy Name is the Lord! (*Ps 82/83:18*)

v: O God, who is like unto Thee? (Ps 82/83:1)

Deacon: Wisdom

Reader. The reading is from Jeremiah (11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-45)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus sayeth the Lord:

Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying,

Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.” But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Therefore this is what the LORD says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, “Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD or you will die by our hands”— therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine. Not even a remnant will be left to them, because I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of their punishment.”

You are always righteous, LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts. Yet you know me, LORD; you see me and test my

thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter! How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover, the people are saying, “He will not see what happens to us.”

If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan? Has not my inheritance become to me like a speckled bird of prey that other birds of prey surround and attack? Go and gather all the wild beasts; bring them to devour. Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard and trample down my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland. It will be made a wasteland, parched and desolate before me; the whole land will be laid waste because there is no one who cares.

This is what the LORD says: “As for all my wicked neighbors who seize the inheritance I gave my people Israel, I will uproot them from their lands and I will uproot the people of Judah from among them. But after I uproot them, I will again have compassion and will bring each of them back to their own inheritance and their own country. And if they learn well the ways of my people and swear by my name, saying, ‘As surely as the LORD lives’—even as they once taught my people to swear by Baal—then they will be established among my people. But if any nation does not listen, I will completely uproot and destroy it,” declares the LORD.”

Kontakion Tone 2

With his hands the betrayer receives the bread. With his hands he secretly receives the silver, the price of Him Who fashioned man with His hands; so the servant and deceiver Judas remains depraved.

Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

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.

Reader: Amen.

O Heavenly King, strengthen our civil authorities, establish the Faith, pacify the nations, give peace to the world, protect this city, place our departed fathers and brethren in the dwellings of the just, and of thy goodness and mercy, receive us also who come to thee with penitence and thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

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

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

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (prostration)

PRAYERS BEFORE THE HOLY DOORS

The priest, standing in the holy doors, bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

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

Lord, have mercy, (thrice)

Father, bless.

THE LITTLE DISMISSAL

Standing in the holy doors, facing the people, the priest says the little dismissal.

Priest: May He who is going to his voluntary passion for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; of N. (patron saint 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 forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

Then facing the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, the priest says:

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

Choir: Amen.

The people come forward to venerate the icon of the Bridegroom (Nymphios).