

MATINS  
OF GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY

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

*Reader:* Amen. Glory to thee, O God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: Come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake. Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

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

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

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

*Reader:* Amen. In the name of the Lord, Master, bless.

*Priest:* Glory to the holy, con-substantial, life-creating, and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards man (3x).

O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise (2x).

## THE SIX PSALMS

### PSALM 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; thy blessing be upon thy people!

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

### PSALM 38

O Lord, rebuke me not in thy anger, nor chasten me in thy wrath! For thy arrows have sunk into me, and thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thy indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the

tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to thee, my sighing is not hidden from thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is thou, O Lord my God, who wilt answer. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

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

### PSALM 63

O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory. Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee. So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips, when I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night; for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me

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

of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

### PSALM 88

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thy ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and thou dost overwhelm me with all thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to thee. Dost thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise thee? Is thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are thy wonders known in the darkness, or thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to thee; in the morning my prayer comes before thee. O Lord, why dost thou cast me off? Why dost thou hide thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before thee. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thy ear to my cry!

### PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all

your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

In all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

### PSALM 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant; for no man living is righteous before thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that thou hast done; I muse on what thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to thee; my soul thirsts for thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of thy steadfast love, for in thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies!

I have fled to thee for refuge! Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God! Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path! For thy name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In thy righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am thy servant.

In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant. In thy faithfulness answer me, in thy righteousness! Enter not into judgment with thy servant.

Let thy good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

## THE GREAT LITANY

*Priest:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir: R:* Lord, have mercy.

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. *R*

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

For our Metropolitan [name]; for our Archbishop (Bishop) [name]; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For this country, its president, for all those incivil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. *R*

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

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

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace. *R*

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Amen.

## THE ALLELUIAS

*Priest:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. In the night, my soul rises early for thee, O God, for Thy commandments are a light on the earth.

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Priest:* Learn righteousness, all you inhabitants of the earth.

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Priest:* Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people.

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Priest:* Bring more evils on them, O Lord, bring more evils on those who are glorious on the earth.

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## THE TROPARION

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 weighted down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself crying: Holy, holy, holy, art Thou, 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 ...

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

Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight ...

### GOSPEL READING

*Priest:* That we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

*Choir:* Lord have mercy. (3x)

*Priest:* Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel! Peace, be unto all!

*Choir:* And to your spirit.

*Priest:* The reading is from the Holy Gospel, according to St. John.

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

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*(John 12:17-50)* At that time, the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see that you can do nothing; look, the world has gone after him." Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus.



And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him. "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? `Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify thy name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show by what death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said this, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him; it was that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe. For Isaiah again said, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they should see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and turn for me to heal them." Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And he who sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If any one hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent

me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has bidden me."

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

## PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy 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 ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on thy altar.

*Priest:* O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies; through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of

the honorablebodiless powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious, Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our Fathers among the Saints, Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons and Cyprian of Carthage; of our Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas of Myra and Lycia, Wonderworker and patron of this holy house, Leo and Gregory of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, and the holy Confessor Patrick of Ireland; of the Holy Methodius and Cyril, teachers of the Slavs, of the holy Prince Vladimir, the blessed Princess Olga, Nina, Enlightener of Georgia, and Nicholas, equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Japan; of our Fathers among the saints, the hierarchs of all Rus, Peter, Alexis, Kyprian Jonah and Philip, Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America, and Tikhon the Confessor; of our Fathers among the Saints, Clement of Okhrid, Sava of Serbia and Euthymius of Trnovo; of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious martyrs, the great martyr and healer, Panteleimon, the great martyrs Demetrios, George, Katherine and Barbara; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, Anthony and Theodosius and the other Wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev, Sergius of Radonezh, Seraphim of Sarov, Makarios of Corinth, Nektarios of Aegina, Nikodemos and Silouan of the Holy Mountain, and Cosmas the Aitolian; of our venerable Father Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska and All- America; of our Fathers among the saints Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn, and John, the Wonderworker and Bishop of San Francisco; of our righteous Fathers Alexis of Minneapolis and Wilkes-Barre, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy, John and Alexander, Missionariesto America and Hieromartyrs under the Bolshevik yoke; of the first martyrs in North America, our Father Juvenaly and Peter of Alaska; of Nicholas, Bishop of Zicha, and our Righteous Father John of Kronstadt; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, hear us sinners, who pray to Thee, and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (12x)

*Priest:* Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Thine only-begotten Son with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life

creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## THE CANON

### ODE 3 (TONE 2)

*Irmos:* Thou hast established me on the rock of faith. Thou hast opened wide my mouth against my enemies. For my spirit rejoices in singing: None is holy but our God, and none is righteous but Thee, O Lord.

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The assembly of lawless men gathers together for empty discussion and with evil intent, to pronounce sentence upon Thee, O Christ the Deliverer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord.

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

The fearful council of lawless men, with souls full of hatred toward God, intends to kill the righteous Christ as an evildoer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord.

### KONTAKION (TONE 4)

*Choir:* Though I have transgressed more than the harlot, O Good One, I have not offered Thee a flood of tears, but praying in silence I fall down before Thee. With love I embrace Thy most pure feet. As Master, grant me remission of sins, when I cry to Thee, O Savior: deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

### IKOS (TONE 4)

*Reader:* The woman who was once a profligate suddenly is wise. She hates her shameful deeds and carnal pleasures, remembering the magnitude of her shame the verdict of condemnation which awaits profligates and harlots. Of these, I am indeed the first, and though in terror, I foolishly remain in my evil ways. But the harlot, though in terror, hastens to the Deliverer and cry In Thy compassion and love for mankind, deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.

## ODE 8 (TONE 2)

*Irmos:* The command of the tyrant prevailed; the furnace was heated seven-fold. But the youths were not burned in it. Trampling on the king's decree, they sang: praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The woman poured precious myrrh upon Thy kingly, divine and awesome head, O Christ. She grasped Thy most pure feet with her impure hands and cried: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

The woman who was guilty of an abundance of sins, washed Thy feet with the abundance of her tears and wiped them with her hair. Therefore she was not deprived of absolution for the many sins of her life, but cried: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

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

A sacred rite of redemption, wrought of saving compassion and a flood of tears, is administered to the right-minded woman. Washed in this fountain by her confession, she is not ashamed, but cried out: Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt

Him throughout all ages!

*Choir:* We praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

## ODE 9 (TONE 2)

*Irmos:* With pure souls and blameless lips, come, let us magnify the all-pure and spotless Mother of Emmanuel. Through her, let us offer prayers to Him who was born of her: spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

*Reader:* *Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Envious Judas proved himself both ignorant and evil. He sold the divine gift through whom our debt of sin is loosed. This miserable man sold the grace of God's love. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Judas went to the lawless rulers and said: "What will you give me if I betray to you Christ whom you seek?" From intimate companionship with Christ, Judas is drawn away by gold. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

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

O blind and greedy avarice! Have you forgotten what you were taught, that the whole world is not worth your soul? Yet you, O traitor, despaired of your life, and made a noose and hanged yourself. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

## LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* *℞:* Lord have mercy.

*Priest:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us O God, by Thy grace. *℞*

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos, and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Amen.

### EXAPOSTILARION

Thy bridal chamber I see adorned, O my Savior, and I have no wedding garment that I may enter. O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul, and save me.

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

Thy bridal chamber ...

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

Thy bridal chamber ...

### THE PRAISES (PSALM 148, 149, 150)

*Reader:* Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host! Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created. And He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song. His praise in the assembly of the faithful! Let Israel be glad in his Maker, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with timbrel and lyre! For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to wreak vengeance on the nations and chastisement on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written! This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary, praise Him in His mighty firmament!  
Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.*

A harlot recognized Thee as God, O Son of the Virgin With tears equal to her past deeds, she besought Thee weeping; "Loose my debt as I have loosed my hair. Love the woman who, though justly hated loves Thee Then with the publicans will I proclaim Thee O benefactor, Who loves mankind"

*Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp.*

The harlot mingled precious myrrh with her tears. She poured it on Thy most pure feet and kissed them. At once Thou didst justify her. O Thou who didst suffer for our sakes Forgive us also and save us.

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!*



As the sinful woman was bringing her offering of myrrh The disciple was scheming with lawless men She rejoiced in pouring out her precious gift He hastened to sell the priceless One. She recognized the master, but Judas parted from Him. She was set free, but Judas was enslaved to the Enemy. How terrible his slothfulness! How great her repentance! O Savior who didst suffer for our sakes, Grant us also repentance and save us!

*Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

Oh, the wretchedness of Judas, He saw the harlot kiss the footsteps of Christ, But deceitfully he contemplated the kiss of betrayal. She loosed her hair while he bound himself with wrath. He offered the stench of wickedness instead of myrrh, For envy cannot distinguish value Oh, the wretchedness of Judas// Deliver our souls from this, O God.

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

The sinful woman ran to buy the precious myrrh With which to anoint her Savior She cried to the merchant “Give me myrrh! That I may anoint Him who has cleansed all my sins.”

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

The woman who was engulfed in sin Found Thee a haven of salvation. She poured out myrrh with her tears and cried to Thee “Behold the one who brings repentance to sinners! Rescue me from the tempest of sin, O Master Through Thy great mercy.”

To Thee, O Lord our God, belongs glory, and to Thee do we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## LESSER DOXOLOGY

*Reader:* Glory to Thee who hast show us the light!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards 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, who 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, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone art Lord. Thou only, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee and praise Thy name forever. Yea, O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, to Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who 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 is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongs worship. To Thee belongs praise. To Thee belongs glory. To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## LITANY OF MATINS

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

*Choir:* **R:** Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace. **R**

*Choir:* **R:** Grant this, O Lord.

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

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 that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord. *℞*

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, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord. *℞*

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art a good God and the Lover of mankind, and to 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.

*Priest:* Peace, be unto all.

*Choir:* And to your spirit.

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

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Holy Lord, who dwells on high and regards the humble of heart, and who with Thine all-seeing eye beholds all creation: to Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body and we entreat Thee: Stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling-place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntary or involuntary, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and the lover of mankind, vouchsafing to us Thy earthly and heavenly good things.

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

*Reader:* Amen.

## APOSTICHA

Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee. A sinful woman crawls to His feet and cries “Look at me who am engulfed in sin, In despair because of my evil deeds. But in Thy goodness do not despise me. Grant me forgiveness of my evil deeds O Lord// And save me!”

*Satisfy us in the morning with Thy steadfast love that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad as many days as Thou hast afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. Let Thy work be manifest to Thy servants, and Thy glorious power to their children.*

The harlot spread out her hair to Thee, O Master Judas spread out his hands to lawless men: She in order to receive forgiveness He in order to receive some silver We cry to Thee who wast sold for us and yet didst set us free “O Lord, Glory to Thee!”

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.*

The corrupt and filthy woman Drew near to Thee, O Savior She poured out her tears on Thy feet And thus announced Thy Passion “How can I gaze on Thee, O Master? Yet Thou didst come to save the harlot Raise me from the depths, for I am dead in sin As Thou didst raise Lazarus from the tomb after four days Accept me in my misery O Lord And save me”

*I will thank Thee, O Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all Thy wondrous works.*

Despairing for her life and in despair because of her deeds The woman came bearing myrrh to Thee and cried “O Son of the Virgin Though I am a harlot, do not cast me aside. O Joy of the Angels, Do not despise my tears. As Thou didst not reject me as a sinner Accept me now as a penitent in Thy great mercy.

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

*Hymn of Cassia*

The woman had fallen into many sins O Lord Yet when she perceived Thy divinity  
She joined the ranks of the myrrh-bearing women In tears she brought Thee myrrh  
before Thy burial She cried, "Woe is me," For I live in the night of licentiousness.  
Shrouded in the dark and moonless love of sin But accept the fountain of my tears.  
O Thou who didst gather the waters of the sea into clouds Bow down Thine ear to the  
sighing of my heart O Thou who didst bow the heavens in Thine ineffable  
condescension Once Eve heard Thy footstep in Paradise in the cool of the day  
And in fear she ran and hid herself But now I will tenderly embrace those pure feet And  
wipe them with the hair of my head. Who can measure the multitude of my sins  
Or the depth of Thy judgments O Savior of my soul? Do not despise Thy servant in  
Thine immeasurable  
mercy."

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most-high; to  
declare Thy steadfast love in the morning, and Thy truth by night.

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

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon  
our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

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

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

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

*Reader:* Amen. Standing in the temple of your glory, we think that we are in heaven, O Theotokos, Gate of heaven. Open to us the gates of your mercy.

Lord have mercy. *(3x)*

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify you! In the name of the Lord, Master, bless!

*Priest:* Christ, Our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen. O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

## PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM

*Priest:* O Lord and Master of my life! Give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. *(Prostration)*

But give, rather, a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

*(Prostration)*

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. *(Prostration)*

*(12 metanias while saying "O God, cleanse me a sinner." Then, the Prayer of St Ephraim is said in full, with a single prostration at the end.)*

## DISMISSAL

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

*Choir:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Father bless!

*Priest:* May the Lord who is going to His voluntary passion on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

## THE END OF MATINS