

Holy Wednesday Bridegroom Matins
***Matins of Holy Wednesday are sung on
Great and Holy Tuesday evening.***

The priest, standing before the Royal Doors, makes three metanoias and says in an audible voice:

DEACON: Bless, Master.

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

PEOPLE: 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 Good One.

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

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 daily¹ bread. And forgive us our

¹Or, "living."

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.²

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

PEOPLE:Amen. Lord have mercy. *(12 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. *(low bow)*

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.” *(low bow)*

And Reader the following Psalms:

Psalm 20 (19)

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

²Or the evil one.

May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you
support from Zion;
May he remember all your offerings, and enrich your burnt
sacrifices.
May he grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill
all your plans.
We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God
we will boast!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.
Now I know that the Lord has saved his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven, with mighty
salvation by his right hand.
Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses;
but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.
They have collapsed and fallen; but we have risen and stand
upright.
Save the king, O Lord, and answer us when we call.

Psalm 21 (20)

In thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord; and in thy
salvation how greatly he exults!
Thou hast given him his heart's desire,
and hast not withheld the request of his lips.

For thou hast met him with the blessings of goodness;
thou hast set a crown of precious stones on his head.
He asked thee for life, and thou gavest it to him;
length of days forever and ever.
His glory is great through thy salvation;
glory and majesty thou hast placed upon him.
For thou bestowest on him blessings forever;
thou makest him exceedingly glad with thine appearance.
For the king trusts in the Lord,
and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be
moved.
Let thine hand find all thine enemies;
let thy right hand find those who hate thee.
Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine
appearance;
the Lord shall afflict them in his wrath, and the fire shall
consume them.
Their offspring thou shalt destroy from the earth,
and their descendants from among mankind.
For they intended evil against thee;
they devised a plot which they are not able to perform.
Therefore thou wilt make them turn their backs;
thou wilt make ready thine arrows on thy string toward their
faces.

Be exalted, O Lord, in thine own strength!
we will sing and praise thy power.

The priest takes up the censer and does the great censuring.

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on
us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

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 daily³ 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.⁴

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Troparia

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, granting them victory over all adversaries, and by thy Cross protect thy community.

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

O Christ our God, uplifted on the Cross by thine own will, bestow thy mercy upon the new people of thy name; and in thy might make glad the Orthodox, granting to them victory over all adversaries. May they have as an ally thine invincible weapon of peace.

³Or, "living".

⁴Or the evil one.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

O eminent and victorious champion, O good and all-praised Theotokos, do not overlook our supplications. Strengthen the community of the Orthodox; save those called to govern; and grant them victory from heaven; for thou, O only blessed one, gavest birth to God.

Litany

The priest, standing before the Holy table, censes one side on every petition while intoning the following petitions:

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

PRIEST: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

PEOPLE:Amen. Father, bless in the name of the Lord.

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

PEOPLE:Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men (*Three times*).⁵

O Lord open thou my lips, and my mouth will declare thy praise (*Two times*).

Psalm 3

O Lord, how they have increased who afflict me!
many are rising against me;
many are saying concerning my soul,
there is no salvation for him from his God.

⁵Or “Those whom he favors”.

But thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory,
and the lifter up of my head.

I cried unto the Lord with my voice,
and he heard me from his holy mountain.

I laid down and slept,

I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.

I will not be afraid of tens of thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.

Rise up, O Lord!

Deliver me, O my God!

For thou hast struck all who are my enemies without cause,
thou hast broken the teeth of the wicked.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord;
thy blessing is upon thy people.

I laid down and slept,

I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.

Psalm 38(37)

O Lord, do not rebuke me in thine anger,
or discipline me in thy wrath.

For thine arrows have pierced me,
and thine hand hast pressed down upon me.

There is no health in my flesh,
because of thine anger.

There is no peace in my bones
because of my sins.
For my iniquities are piled over my head;
a burden too heavy for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness;
I have been wretched and bowed down continually;
all day I went around mourning,
for my soul was filled with delusion.
There is no health in my flesh,
I have been utterly afflicted and brought down.
I have roared because of the tumult of my heart.

O Lord, all my longing is before thee;
my sighing is not hidden from thee.
My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
and the light of my eyes has gone from me.
My friends and neighbors drew near and stand against me,
but my relatives stand far off.
Those who seek my spirit pressed hard on me,
those who seek to hurt me spoke of ruin,
and meditated treachery all day long.

But I was like the deaf, who do not hear;

I was like the mute, who cannot speak.
Truly, I was like one who does not hear,
and in whose mouth is no retort.

For in thee, O Lord, I trusted;
it is thou, O Lord my God, who wilt hear me.
For I said, "Do not let my enemies rejoice over me."
For when my feet slipped, they boasted against me.

For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.
I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
But my enemies are mighty
and are stronger than I,
and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.
Those who render evil for good slandered me,
because I followed after righteousness.

Forsake me not, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord;

O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Psalm 63(62)

O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee,
my soul thirsts for thee;
my flesh also longs for thee,
as in a dry and trackless land,
where there is no water.

Thus I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary,
beholding thy power and glory.

Because thy mercy is better than life,
my lips will praise thee.

Thus I will bless thee as long as I live;
in thy name I will lift up my hands.

Let my soul be filled with fat and abundance,
and my joyful lips will praise thy name.

When I was thinking of thee in my bed,
I meditated on thee in the watches of the night:
for thou hast been my help,
and in the shelter of thy wings I rejoice.

My soul clung to thee;
thy right hand upheld me.

And those who sought my soul in vain
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 exult,
for the mouths of those who speak lies shall be stopped.
I meditated on thee in the watches of the night:
for thou hast been my help,
and in the shelter of thy wings I rejoice.
My soul clung to thee;
thy right hand upheld 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. (low bow)

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy,

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

Psalm 88 <87>

O Lord, God of my salvation,

I have cried out day and night before thee;
let my prayer come before thee;
incline thine ear to my supplication.
For my soul is full of trouble,
and my life draws near to Hades.
I have been counted among those who
go down to the pit;
I became like those who have no help,
adrift among the dead,
like the wounded ones, cast out,
who sleep in the tombs,
like those whom thou rememberest no more,
for they were cut off from thy hand.
Thou hast put me in the depths of the pit,
in the dark regions, and in the shadow of death.
Thy wrath has lain heavily upon me,
and thou hast overwhelmed me with
all thine anger.

Thou hast removed my companions far from me;
they have made me an abomination to themselves,
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
my eyes grew dim through misery.
Every day I call on thee, O Lord;
I spread out my hands to thee.

Dost thou work wonders for the dead?
Or do the physicians raise them to praise thee?
Is thy mercy declared in the grave,
or thy truth in Hades?
Are thy wonders known in the darkness,
or thy righteousness in the land of
forgetfulness?

But I cry out to thee, O Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before thee.
O Lord, why dost thou cast me off?
Why dost thou hide thy face from me?
I am in misery and trouble from my youth up,
I have been exalted and brought low,
I am driven to despair.
Thy wrath has overwhelmed me;
thy terrors have frightened me,
they surrounded me like a flood all day long;
they have closed in upon me, and cut off all assistance.
Thou hast removed friends and acquaintances far from me
because of my wretchedness.

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I have cried out day and night before thee;
let my prayer come before thee;

incline thine ear to my supplication.

Psalm 103 <102>

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits--
who forgives all your iniquities,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from corruption,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,
who satisfies your desire with good,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works mercy 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,
forbearing and very merciful.
He will not keep his anger forever,
nor will he forever be wrathful.

He does not deal with us
according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his mercy 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 has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

As for people, their days are like grass;
they flourish 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 mercy of the Lord is from everlasting
to everlasting on 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 prepared his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Bless the Lord, all his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his voice.
Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers who 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 (142)

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 one living is righteous before thee.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those
who have been long dead.
Therefore, my spirit was grieved within me;
my heart within me was troubled.
I remembered the days of old,
I meditated on all thy deeds,
I meditated on the works of thy hands.
I stretched out my hands to thee;
my soul thirsts for thee like a dry land.

Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit has failed.
Hide not thy face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear of thy mercy in the morning,
for in thee I have put my hope.
Teach me the way I should go,
for to thee have I lifted up my soul.

Save 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 your good Spirit lead me in a straight path.

For thy name's sake, O Lord,
give life to me.
In thy righteousness,
bring my soul out of affliction.
In thy mercy, destroy my enemies;
and bring to naught all my adversaries;
for I am thy servant.

Answer me in thy righteousness.

Enter not into judgment with thy servant (*Twice*).

Let thy good Spirit lead me in a straight 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. (*low bow*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. (*low bow*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to thee, O God. (*low bow*)

Our God and our Hope, Glory to thee.

While the preceding six psalms are being read, the priest says the following twelve morning prayers. The first three are said before the Altar, and the remaining nine are said standing before the icon of Christ.

1.

We give thanks to thee, O Lord our God, who raised us from our beds, and put a word of praise in our mouths,⁶ so that we may worship and call on thy holy name.⁷ We implore thy

⁶(Ps.40<39>:3).

⁷(Ps.80<78>:18).

mercies, which thou hast given always for our life. Send thy help⁸ upon us and all who stand before the face of thy holy glory, eagerly waiting the rich mercy, which is from thee. Grant that we, in awe and love, may always worship thee, praise thee, sing hymns to thee, and fall down before thine indescribable 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.

Our soul yearns for thee, O our God, in the night;⁹ for thy commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach us to fulfill righteousness and holiness in thy fear; for we glorify thee, our God, HE WHO IS. Incline thine ear, and hear us, and remember, O Lord, by name those who are present with us and those who 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 to all thy people. For blessed and glorified is thy most 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.

⁸(Ps.20<19>:2).

⁹(Is.26:9).

3.

Our soul yearns for thee, O our God, in the night;¹⁰ for thy commandments are a light upon the earth. Teach me, O God, thy righteousness, thy commandments, and thy statutes;¹¹ or I will sleep the sleep of death¹² in sins. Drive away all darkness from our hearts; and grant us the sun of righteousness; and by the seal of thy Holy Spirit, preserve our life unaffected. Guide our steps in the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day with rejoicing, that we may send up our morning prayers to thee; for thine is the majesty, the kingdom, 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, our God, holy and incomprehensible, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness";¹³ who gave us rest through the sleep of the night and raised us up to glorify and implore thy goodness: as we now ask thy tender loving-kindness, receive us who fall down before thee and give thanks to thee to the utmost of our power. Grant us all our petitions which

¹⁰(Is.26:9).

¹¹(Ps.119<118>:135).

¹²(Ps.13<12>:3).

¹³(2 Cor. 4:6).

lead us to salvation. Appoint us to be children of light and of the day,¹⁴ and heirs of thine everlasting good things. Remember, O Lord, according to thine abundant mercy,¹⁵ all thy people who are present with us and who pray with us, and all our brethren who are on land, on sea, and in the air, and in every place of thy mastery, who implore thy love for mankind and thy help; and grant thy great mercy to all, that being preserved in safety in body and soul, we may with boldness glorify thy marvelous 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, ever-flowing fountain, O wonder-working, omnipotent and almighty holy Father: we all fall before thee; and we pray to thee, calling upon thy mercies and thy compassion to aid and help our affliction. Remember, O Lord, thy suppliants; receive our morning prayers as incense before thee; consider not anyone of us to be without worth; but preserve us all with thy compassion. Remember, O Lord, those who watch over thy flock and sing to thy glory and to the glory of thine only-begotten Son and thy Holy Spirit. Be their helper and protector. Receive their

¹⁴(I Thess. 5:5)

¹⁵(Ps.69<68>:16).

supplications upon thy celestial and spiritual altar; for thou art our God, and unto thee we give 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 dost all things for the benefit of our souls, so that we may ever look up to thee, the Savior and Benefactor of our souls; for thou gavest us rest in the night just passed, and raised us from our beds, and enabled us to stand and to fall down before thy most holy name. Wherefore, we entreat thee, O Lord, give us grace and power, so that we may in full awareness be made worthy to sing praises to thee and to pray without ceasing, working out our salvation in fear and trembling, by the help of thy Christ. Remember, O Lord, those who cry out to thee in the night. Hear them, and have mercy, and crush under their feet the invisible and hostile enemies. For thou art the King of Peace, and Savior of our souls, and unto thee we give 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, thou 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 mouths; and receive our thanksgiving, offered to the utmost of our ability; and teach us thy statutes, for we do not know how to pray as we ought¹⁶ unless thou guidest us, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit. Wherefore, we entreat thee: Remit, forgive, pardon all the sins we may have committed to this present hour by word or deed or thought, voluntary or involuntary: for if thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, who could stand?¹⁷ For from thee is redemption, and thou only art holy and mighty and the helper and protector of our life. Our praise is continually of thee.¹⁸ Blessed and glorified be the supreme 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, thou hast driven away from us the indolence of sleep and hast assembled us together by a holy calling, so that in the night also we may lift up our hands and give thanks for thy righteous ordinances.¹⁹ Receive our prayers,

¹⁶(Ro.8:26).

¹⁷(Ps. 130 <129>:3).

¹⁸(Ps 71<70>6).

¹⁹(119<118>:160).

petitions, praises, and night-time worship. And grant us, O Lord, a confident faith that cannot be put to shame, firm hope and sincere love. Bless our going out and our coming in,²⁰ our deeds, words and thoughts. Grant us that we may come to the beginning of the day, praising, singing hymns, and blessing the goodness of thine inexpressible kindness; for blessed be thy most holy name, and glorified be thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

9.

O Master, lover of mankind, shine within our hearts the pure light of thy divine knowledge; and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend²¹ the message of thy Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for thy blessed commandments, so that having conquered²² sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual way of life, both thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to thee.²³ For thou art our sanctification, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

²⁰Ps.121<120>:8).

²¹(Eph.1:18).

²²(Ps. 91<90>:13).

²³(1 John 3:22).

10.

O Lord our God, thou hast given us forgiveness through repentance and hast shown the repentance of the prophet David as a pattern of the acknowledgment of sin and of confession that leads to forgiveness. Have mercy, O Master, according to thy great mercy, on us who are falling into many and great sins.²⁴ According to thine abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.²⁵ Against thee have we sinned, O Lord, who knows the hidden and secret things in the human heart and has authority to forgive sins.²⁶ Thou hast created a clean heart in me and established a yearning spirit within me and made known the joy of thy salvation. Cast me not away from thy presence.²⁷ But as thou art good and the lover of mankind, take delight that, until our uttermost breath, we may offer unto thee the sacrifice of righteousness, and an oblation upon thine altar. Through the mercy and compassion 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.

²⁴(Ps.51<50>:1).

²⁵(Ps. 51<50:1).

²⁶(Mt. 9:6).

²⁷(Ps 51<50>10-12).

11.

God, our God, thou hast brought into existence by thine own will the powers endowed with reason and intelligence. We pray thee and we supplicate thee: Receive our glorification, offered together with all thy creatures, according to the utmost of our power. Reward us with the rich gifts of thy goodness; for unto thee every knee bows, whether in heaven, or on earth, or in the underworld, and every human spirit and creature sings hymns to thine inexpressible glory; for thou alone art the true and most merciful God. For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee they give 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 sing unto thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thee, O God of our fathers; for thou hast made the shades of night to pass away and hast shown us once more the light of the day. And we entreat thy goodness: be gracious to our sins, and receive our prayer in thy great tenderness. For we flee unto thee, the merciful and almighty God. Shine within our hearts the true sun of thy righteousness. Enlighten our minds. And guard all our senses

that, walking decently as in the day in the way of thy commandments, we may reach the eternal life--for thou art the fountain of life--and we may be accounted worthy to enjoy thine unapproachable light.²⁸ For thou art our God, and unto thee we give 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 Peace

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

²⁸(1 Tim 6:16).

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: 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.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: 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, 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.

*They chant Alleluia (3 times) in the eighth Tone:
Eighth Tone*

CHOIR: 1. My soul yearns for thee in the night, for thy commandments are a light in the earth²⁹.

Alleluia *(3 times)*

2. Learn righteousness, O inhabitants of the earth³⁰.

Alleluia *(3 times)*

3. Thy zeal will take hold of the ignorant people, and fire will consume thine adversaries³¹.

Alleluia *(3 times)*

²⁹(Is. 26:9).

³⁰(Is. 26:9).

³¹(Is. 26:11).

4. Increase thy punishment upon them, increase thy punishment upon the glorious ones of the earth³².

Alleluia (*3 times*)

Tone Eight

³²(Is. 26:15).

Behold the bridegroom comes at midnight: blessed is the servant whom he shall find awake³³. But he whom he shall find neglectful is verily unworthy. Beware, therefore, O my soul, that you do not fall into a deep slumber and be delivered to death and locked out of the kingdom. Watch instead and cry aloud: Holy, holy, holy art thou, O God, through the power of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross³⁴, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin

³³(Is. 26:15).

³⁴During the second chanting of the hymn we sing *“through the intercessions of all thy saints have mercy on us.”* And during the third chanting we sing: *“through the intercessions of the THEOTOKOS have mercy on us.”*

Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Sessional Hymn, Third Tone

The harlot approached thee, O Lover of mankind, pouring out on thy feet costly perfume mixed with tears; and at thy command she was redeemed from the stench of her sins. But the ungrateful disciple, though he was touched by thy grace, rejected it and defiled himself with mire, selling thee for love of money. O Christ, glory to thy tender mercy.

Tone Four

Deceitful Judas, in his love for money, contrived a deceptive plan to betray thee, O Lord, Treasury of life. Given to strong drink, he ran to the Jews and said to the transgressors of the

law: What will you give me, if I betray him to you to be crucified?

Tone Eight

O Merciful One, to thee the harlot cried out wailing; she wiped ardently thy pure feet with her hair, deeply sighing: O my God Cast me not from thee and despise me not, but receive me in repentance and save me, for thou alone art the lover of mankind.

The Gospel

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

PEOPLE: Lord, Have mercy (*Thrice*).

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy Spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

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

DEACON: Let us attend.

John 12:17-50

At that time, the crowd that had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus out of his 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 there were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came 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 anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there my servant be also. If anyone 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 came to this hour. Father, glorify thy name." Then

a voice came from heaven, I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” The crowd standing by heard it 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 forever; and 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 understand 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 anyone 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 that as 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; but the Father who sent me has given me a 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."

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

Psalm 51<50>

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to thy great mercy,
according to the multitude of thy compassions,
blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in thy sight,
so that thou art justified in thy sentences,
and prevailest when thou passest judgment.

For indeed, I was conceived in iniquities,
and in sins did my mother conceive me.

For behold: thou lovest truth,
thou hast made known to me the secret
and hidden things of thy wisdom.

Sprinkle me with hyssop,
and I shall be clean,
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness,
then the afflicted bones shall rejoice.

Turn away thy face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and put a right Spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thine Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,
and uphold me with a directing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors thy ways,
and sinners will return to thee.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God of my salvation,
and my tongue will joyfully
sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips;
and my mouth will declare thy praise;
for if thou hadst delight in sacrifice,
I would have given it;
but thou wouldst not be pleased by burnt offering.
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite
heart,
O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure to Zion,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;
then thou wilt delight in a sacrifice of righteousness,
in offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then they will offer bulls upon thine altar.

Third Ode, Irmos, Second Tone

Thou hast established me on the rock of faith, and thou hast opened wide my mouth against my enemies. For my spirit has rejoiced to sing: None is holy as our Lord, none is righteous besides thee.

Troparia

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

In vain the council of the transgressors of the law gathers together, to pronounce maliciously the sentence of condemnation upon thee, O Christ our deliverer, to whom we sing: Thou art our God, and thou alone art holy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The terrible council of the transgressors of the law, with their souls fighting against God, conspires to kill as a criminal the

Righteous Christ, to who we sing: Thou art our God, and thou alone art holy.

Katavasia

Thou hast established me on the rock of faith, and thou hast opened wide my mouth against my enemies. For my spirit has rejoiced to sing: None is holy as our Lord, none is righteous besides thee.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: 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.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For thou art the king of glory, O Christ our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR/

PEOPLE:Amen

The Kontakion

O Good One, I have acted lawlessly more than the harlot, yet never have I offered thee a flow of tears, but in silence I fall down before thee, kissing with longing thy pure feet, asking thee as a Master to grant me forgiveness of my sins, and I cry to thee, O Savior: deliver me from the mire of my deeds.

The Oikos

The prodigal woman suddenly appeared chaste, despising the works of shameful sin, and the lust of the body, reflecting upon her great disgrace, and the condemnation of punishment, that harlots and prodigals will endure. Of them I am the first and I am dismayed, but foolishly I persist in my evil habits. But the woman who was a prostitute, filled with fear, and ran crying to the redeemer: O Lover of mankind and merciful one, deliver me from the mire of my deeds.

The Synaxarion

On Holy and Great Wednesday our holy Fathers have decreed the commemoration of the anointing of the Lord with perfume by the woman who was a prostitute, as this took place shortly before the Passion of the Savior.

The woman pouring out perfume on the body of Christ anticipated the myrrh and aloes of Nicodemus.

Anointed with spiritual ointment, O Christ our God, deliver us from the overflowing passions and have mercy on us, for thou art alone good and lovest mankind. Amen.

Eighth Ode-irmos, Second Tone

When the command of the tyrant prevailed, the furnace was heated sevenfold at one time. But the young men trampled the decree of the king were not even burned, but cried aloud: "O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt him to all ages"³⁵.

Troparia

O Christ, the woman poured precious perfume upon thy royal, divine and awesome head. She touched thy pure feet

³⁵(Da. 3:52).

with her impure hands and cried aloud: “O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt him to all ages”³⁶.

We glorify the Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

³⁶-(Da. 3:52).

Guilty of sins, she washed with tears the feet of her Creator, and wiped them with her hair. Wherefore, she received deliverance from all the sins she had committed in her life, and she cried aloud: “O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt him to all ages”³⁷.

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

The redemption of the grateful woman was accomplished sacrificially through the saving affection of God and the fountain of tears. Being washed clean by her confession, she was not ashamed, but cried aloud: “O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt him to all ages”³⁸.

Katavasia

We praise, we bless and worship the Lord.

When the command of the tyrant prevailed, the furnace was heated sevenfold at one time. But the young men trampled the decree of the king were not even burned, but cried aloud: “O all works of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt him to all ages”³⁹.

³⁷(Da. 3:52).

³⁸(Da. 3:52).

³⁹(Da. 3:52).

The Deacon stands in the Holy door facing the icon of the Theotokos and says:

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

The Deacon censens the sanctuary and the people in the usual manner, while People chant the following:

Ninth Ode-irmos, Second Tone

Come let us magnify with pure souls and undefiled lips the spotless and most holy Mother of Immanuel, offering through her our prayer to the Child she bore. O Christ our God, spare our souls and save us.

Judas shows himself ungrateful, envious and contentious: making a bargain about the gift of God, by which the woman gained release from her sins. He traded in the grace of divine love dishonestly: O Christ our God, spare our souls and save us.

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

Going to the law-transgressing rulers, Judas said: "What will you give me, if I deliver to you Christ whom you seek?" Thus in exchange for silver he rejects Christ's friendship. O Christ our God, spare our souls and save us.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O blind and implacable avarice! How have you forgotten what Christ taught you, that the soul is more valuable than the world! For in despair, O betrayer, you have hanged thyself. O Christ our God, spare our souls and save us.

Katavasia

Come let us magnify with pure souls and undefiled lips the spotless and most holy Mother of Immanuel, offering through her our prayer to the Child she bore. O Christ our God, spare our souls and save us.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: 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.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee they give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR/

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Exapostelaron, Third Tone

I behold thy bridal chamber adorned, O my Savior; but I have no wedding garment to enter it. Make radiant the robe of my soul, O Giver of light, and save me. *(Three times)*.

The Praises (Ainoi), First Tone

Let every thing that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights! To thee, O God, is due our song.

Praise him all his angels; praise him all his hosts! To thee, O God, is due our song.

(The congregation is seated)

The Idiomela hymns are sung along with the following verses:

First Tone

Verse: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

O Son of the Virgin, the prostitute recognized thee to be God, and she entreated thee lamenting, for she had committed sins worthy of tears. She cried: “loose me from my debt, even as I unloose my braids. Show thy love to her who loves thee, though she be justly despised. I will proclaim thee among the tax-collectors, O Benefactor, lover of mankind.

Verse: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

The prostitute blended precious perfume with tears. She poured it upon thy most pure feet as she kissed them, and thou at once hast proclaimed her righteous. Grant us forgiveness, O Savior, who suffered for us; and save us.

Verse: Praise him with tambourine and dance; Praise him with strings and pipe!

As the sinful woman was offering myrrh, the disciple was making terms with the transgressors of the Law. She rejoiced in pouring out what was precious, but he attempted to sell him who is priceless. She acknowledged the Lord, but he separated himself from the Master. She was set free, but Judas became the slave of the enemy. How terrible is the indolence! How great is the repentance! Grant me this also, O Savior who suffered for us, and save us.

Verse: Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with clashing cymbals! let every thing that has breath praise the Lord!

O misery of Judas! When he saw the harlot kissing thy feet, he was deceitfully thinking of how he would betray thee with a kiss. She loosed the braids of her hair, but he was full of rage, bearing in place of perfume the stench of evil; for envy does not know how to care for its own good. O misery of Judas! From this deliver our souls, O God.

Tone Two

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

The sinful woman ran to the perfume-market to buy ointment with which to anoint the Benefactor. And to the perfumer she cried aloud: Give me ointment to anoint he who has wiped out all my sins.

Tone Six

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Drowning in sin, she found thee a haven of salvation, and pouring out all her ointment with tears she cried to thee: Behold the one who leads the sinful into repentance. O Master, in thy great mercy, deliver me from the tempest of sin.

The Little Doxology

To thee belongs glory, O Lord our God, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, 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, who takes away the sins of the world⁴⁰, have mercy on us--Thou who takest away the sin of the world.

Receive our prayer, thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy upon us.

For thou alone art Holy, thou alone art the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name forever and ever.

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.

O Lord, unto thee have I fled for refuge: Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God.

⁴⁰(Jn 1:29).

For thou art the source of life, and in thy light shall we see light.

O Continue thy mercy to those who know thee⁴¹.

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

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever, Amen.

O Lord, let thy mercy be on us, even 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 statutes.

Blessed art thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with thy statutes.

⁴¹(Ps.36<35>:10).

Thy Mercy, O Lord, endures forever:⁴² Forsake not the works of thy hands⁴³.

To thee belongs praise, to thee belongs song,⁴⁴ 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.

The Litany of Supplication

DEACON: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

⁴²(Ps.107;106:1).

⁴³(Ps.138;137:8).

⁴⁴(Ps.65;65:1).

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: For thou art the God of mercy and compassions and love toward mankind, and unto thee we give glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

DEACON: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of Heads

PRIEST: O holy One who dwellest on high and regardest the humble 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 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 lover of mankind, vouchsafing unto us thy earthly and heavenly good things.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

(The congregation is seated)

The Aposticha (Idiomela), Tone Six

Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee, and a sinful woman approaches him, falling down at his feet and crying out: "Look at me, I am plunged into sin, I am filled with despair because of my sins, yet I am not rejected by thy goodness." O Lord, Grant me forgiveness of sins and save me.

Verse: Thou hast satisfied us in the morning with thy mercy, and we have rejoiced and were glad all our days.

The prostitute spread out her hair before thee, O Master, while Judas spread out his hands to the transgressors of the Law; she to receive forgiveness, he to receive the silver. Wherefore, we cry aloud to thee who wast sold and hast set us free: O Lord, glory to thee.

Verse: Make us glad as many days as thou hast afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. Look upon thy servants and upon thy works, and guide their children⁴⁵.

An evil-smelling and muddy woman approached thee shedding tears at thy feet, O Savior, and foretelling thy Passion. "O Master, how can I look straight at thee? Yet thou thyself didst come to save the prostitute. I am dead: As thou hast raised Lazarus after four days from the tomb, raise me from the depths of death. Accept me, O Lord, wretched as I am, and save me.

⁴⁵(Ps.90<89>:14-16).

Verse: Let the splendor of the Lord our God be upon us, and guide the works of our hands. O guide the works of our hands⁴⁶.

She who was desperate because of her life and was well known for her way of life came to thee carrying myrrh and crying: “O Son of the Virgin, cast me not away, though I am a prostitute. O joy of the angels, despise not my tears, but receive me in repentance, and in thy great mercy reject me not a sinner.”

Hymn of Kassiani the Nun, Tone Eight

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

O Lord, the woman who had fallen into many sins perceived thy divinity and received the rank of the ointment-bearing women; and with mourning she brought myrrh to thee before thy burial. She said: “Woe is me, for I am surrounded with a gloomy and moonless night, full of lustful passion. Accept the fountains of my tears, for thou gatherest into clouds the water of the sea. Incline to the groaning of my heart, for in thine inexpressible self-abasement thou hast bowed the heavens. I will kiss thy most pure feet and wipe

⁴⁶(Ps.90<89>:17).

them with the locks of my hair, those feet whose sound Eve heard at dusk in Paradise, and hid herself in fear. Who can search out the multitude of my sins and the depth of thy judgments, O Savior of my soul? In thy boundless mercy despise me not, thy handmaid.”

PRIEST: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O Most High; to declare thy mercy in the morning, and thy truthfulness by night⁴⁷.

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

⁴⁷(Ps 91<90>:1-2).

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

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 daily⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Kontakion

O Good One, I have acted lawlessly more than the harlot, yet
never have I offered thee a flow of tears, but in silence I fall
down before thee, kissing with longing thy pure feet, asking
thee as a Master to grant me forgiveness of my sins, and I cry
to thee, O Savior: deliver me from the mire of my deeds.

⁴⁸Or, “living”.

⁴⁹Or the evil one.

Lord, have mercy (*12 times*).

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious
beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without
corruption,⁵⁰ gavest birth to God the Word, and art Truly
Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Father, bless, in the Name of the Lord.

PRIEST: Blessed is HE WHO IS, Christ our God, always now and
ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: O heavenly king, strengthen all faithful rulers, make
firm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world,
rightly preserve the Holy Church and this city, grant rest to
our departed parents and brethren in the dwelling places of
the just, and receive us with our repentance and
thanksgiving; for thou art good and the lover of mankind.

⁵⁰Or remaining virgin...etc.,

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

PRIEST: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the Spirit of sloth, curiosity⁵¹, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give to me thy servant the spirit of chastity⁵², humility, patience and love. (*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*)

⁵¹Or, faint heartedness.

⁵²Or whole-mindedness.

The Dismissal

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

READER: 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 (*three times*). Father bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, who willingly came to his passion for our salvation, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of saint (*N*) patron Saint of this Church and all the saints: have mercy on us and save us forasmuch as he is good, and the lover of mankind.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.