

Matins of Great and Holy Wednesday

(Reader's service - for use when there is no priest)

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, 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. **(x3)**

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

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. **(x3)**

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Lord, have mercy. **(x12)**

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

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. **(x3)**

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.
(x2)

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

Reader: O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God.

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 out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

Psalm 37

Reader: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me.

My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart.

O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate.

But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God.

For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin.

But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

Reader: O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory.

For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee.

If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*x3*)

Lord, have mercy. (*x3*)

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

Psalm 87

Reader: O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee.
Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.
For filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto hades hath drawn nigh.

I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man
without help, free among the dead. Like the bodies of the slain that sleep in
the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy
hand.

They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death.
Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou
brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have
made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and
have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty.

I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my
hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall
physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall
any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction?
Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness
in that land that is forgotten?

But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my
prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and
turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my
youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress.

Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me.
They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me
about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and
mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee.
Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

Psalm 102

Reader: 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 that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfillleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's.

The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us.

For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof.

But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all.

Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 142

Reader: O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled.

I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land.

Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Reader: Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. **(x2)**

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. **(x3)**

Lord. have mercy. **(x12)**

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

Alleluia

Reader: Alleluia, in the 8th Tone: Out of the night my soul rises early to Thee, O God, for Thy commandments are light upon the earth.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Learn righteousness, ye that dwell upon the earth.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Jealously shall grasp an untaught people.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Behold the Bridegroom

People: (*Tone 8*) Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom! But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy, holy, holy, 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

(Repeat 'Behold the Bridegroom...')

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

(Repeat 'Behold the Bridegroom...')

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*x3*)

Kathisma Hymns

First Kathisma Hymn

People: *(Tone 3)* The harlot came to Thee, O Lover of mankind, pouring myrrh and tears on Thy feet. At Thy command she was delivered from the stench of her evil deeds, but Thy graceless Disciple, though breathing Thy grace, rejected it and wallowed in filth, selling Thee in his love of money. Glory, O Christ, to Thy compassion!

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

Second Kathisma Hymn

People: *(Tone 4)* Deceitful Judas, burning with love of money, deceitfully plotted to betray Thee, O Lord, the treasury of life. He drunkenly runs to the Jews and says to those transgressors: "What will ye give me, and I shall deliver Him to you, that He may be crucified?"

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

Third Kathisma Hymn

People: *(Tone 1)* In tears the harlot cried out, O compassionate One, as she fervently wiped Thy most pure feet with the hair of her head, and she groaned from the depths of her soul: "Cast me not away, neither abhor me, O my God, but receive me in my repentance and save me, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind!"

The Gospel Reading

Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

People: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader: *[Read John 12:17-50. Tonsured readers or subdeacons may chant the Gospel; others should read using a normal speaking voice.]*

At that time, the people therefore that was with Jesus when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.

These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

People: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Psalm 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

Reader: Lord. have mercy. (*x12*)

The Canon

Ode 3

People: (*Irmos, Tone 2*) 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 Thou, 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 Thou, O Lord.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the 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 Thou, O Lord.”

Kontakion

People: (*Tone 4*) 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

Reader: (*Tone 4*) The woman who was once a profligate suddenly is wise. She hates her shameful deeds and carnal pleasures, remembering the magnitude of her shame and 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 to cry: “In Thy compassion and love for mankind, deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds!”

Ode 8

People: (*Irmos, Tone 2*) 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 Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord. Both 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 cries out: "Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

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

Ode 9

People: (*Irmos, Tone 2*) 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 ye give me if I betray to you Christ Whom ye 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, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O blind and greedy avarice! Hast thou forgotten what thou wast taught, that the whole world is not worth thy soul? Yet thou, O traitor, didst despair of thy life, and made a noose and hanged thyself. But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us!

Exapostilarion

People: (*Tone 8*) 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

(Repeat 'Thy bridal chamber...')

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

(Repeat 'Thy bridal chamber...')

The Praises

Reader: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. To Thee is due praise, O God. Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God. Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him all ye stars and light. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created. He established them forever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses. Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which per-form His word. The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars. The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds. Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the earth. Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone. His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people. This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him. For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation. The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands. To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples. To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron.

To do among them the judgment that is written, this glory shall be to all His saints.

Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

People: *(Tone 1)* 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 lovest mankind."

Reader: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise him with the psaltery and harp.

People: *(Tone 1)* 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 Lord, Who didst suffered for our sakes, forgive us also and save us!

Reader: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and flute.

People: *(Tone 1)* 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 repentance to us also and save us!

Reader: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.

People: (*Tone 1*) 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 it, O God!

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

People: (*Tone 2*) 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!"

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

People: (*Tone 6*) The woman who was engulfed in sin found in 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!"

The Lesser Doxology

Reader: 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 O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever.

Lord, thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. I said: O 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. For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the works of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Lord. have mercy. (*x12*)

Aposticha

People: (*Tone 6*) 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!”

Reader: We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants, and upon Thy works, and do Thou guide their sons.

People: (*Tone 6*) 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”

Reader: And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hand do Thou guide aright upon us, yea, the work of our hands do Thou guide aright.

People: (*Tone 6*) 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!

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

People: (*Tone 6*) Despairing for her life, and despaired of for 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!”

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

Hymn of Cassiane

People: (*Tone 7*) 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, 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 footsteps 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!”

Reader: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High, to proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.
(twice)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(x3)*

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord. have mercy. *(x3)*

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

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

Standing in the temple of thy glory, we seem to stand in heaven; O Theotokos, gate of heaven, open the door of thy mercy.

Lord. have mercy. *(x3)*

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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

O Heavenly King, strengthen Orthodox Christians, establish the Faith, subdue the nations, give peace to the world, keep well this habitation; settle our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and receive us in penitence and confession, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Prayer of St. Ephraim

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

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

O God, cleanse Thou me a sinner. (***x12, with bow after each***)

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

Dismissal

People: 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. (***x3***)

O Lord, bless!

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure mother; by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; and by the holy bodiless powers of heaven; of our Holy, Venerable and Godbearing Fathers; and of all Thy saints, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.