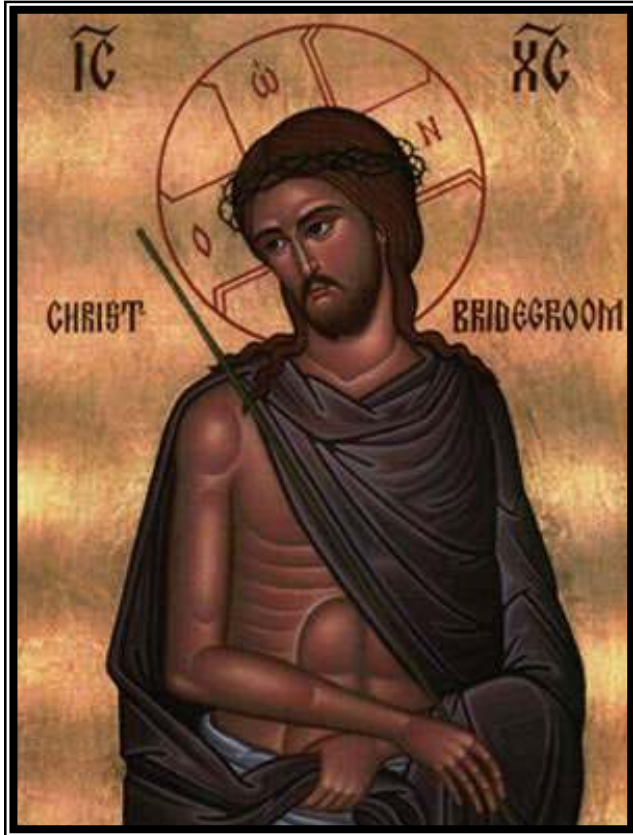


The First Service of the Bridegroom



Palm Sunday Evening

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen.

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

O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are ever present, and filling all things, the Treasure of all Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, and cleanse us from every blemish, and save our souls O Blessed One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 Times)

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, pardon our sins, Master, forgive our iniquities; O Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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 to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those, who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Yours 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 to the Ages of Ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12 Times)

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

O come let us worship and bow down to our King and God.

O come let us worship and bow down to Christ, our King and God.

O come let us worship and bow down to Christ Himself, or King and God.

PSALM 19 (20)

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you; May he send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion, may He remember all your offerings and accept your burnt offerings. May He grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill all your purpose.

We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the Lord fulfill all our petitions! Now I know that the Lord saves all his anointed; He will answer him from His Holy Heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stand upright. Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call.

PSALM 20 (21)

The King shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. He asked life from You: and You gave it to him—length of days forever and ever. His glory is great in Your salvation; honor and majesty You have placed upon him. For You made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved. Your hand will find all Your enemies;

Your right hand will find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven, in the time of Your anger; the Lord shall swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them. Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, and their descendants from among the sons of men. For they intended evil against You; they devised a plot which they are not able to perform. Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces. Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.

Holy God, Holy MIghty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 Times)

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

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, pardon our sins, Master, forgive our iniquities; O Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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 to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those, who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Yours 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 to the Ages of Ages.

Reader: Amen.

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the Faithful against the adversaries, and protect Your nation by Your Cross.

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

O Christ our God, Who was of Your own will lifted up on the Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new commonwealth, named after You; and in Your power gladden our faithful Leaders, granting them victories against the adversaries. May they have Your alliance, as a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy.

Now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen

O awesome and ever-present protection, All-lauded Theotokos, of Your goodness overlook not our supplications; edify the community of the Orthodox; save those, whom You have called to govern, and grant them victory from Heaven, for you did give birth to God, the only blessed one.

(The choir responds to every Petition with, "Lord, have mercy.")

Deacon or Priest:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy;
we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray for the devout and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop Gerasimos, and for all our
Brotherhood in Christ.

Priest: For You are a Merciful and Loving God, and to You we as-
cribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Chanter: Amen. In the Name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving, and undivided
Trinity always, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Reader: Amen.

The SIX PSALMS

Reader: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will to
all people. (3 Times)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your
praise. (2 Times)

PSALM 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who
rise up against me. Many are they who say to me, "There is no help
for him in God." But you, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the
One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He
heard me from His Holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord
sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have
set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my
God! For you have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have
broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your
blessing is upon your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your wrath, nor chasten me not in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness.

I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my signing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth there is no response.

For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me". For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully, have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

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

PSALM 62 (63)

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power

and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.

Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember you on my bed I meditate on You in the night-watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

I meditate on you in the night-watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. 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 to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

PSALM 87 (88)

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You;

Incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down into the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all your waves. You have put away all my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away because of affliction.

Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will you work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or your faithfulness in a place of destruction? Shall your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the forgotten land? But to You I have cried out, O Lord and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, and my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry.

PSALM 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His Holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction. Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies. Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed, like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

For as the Heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field so he flourishes; For the wind passes over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is everlasting to everlasting

on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.

The Lord has established His throne in Heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all You His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, in all places of His dominion!

PSALM 142 (143)

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness; answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the works of Your hands I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land.

Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O Lord from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am your servant.

In your righteousness, O Lord, answer me. And enter not into judgment with your servant. (2 Times).

Your spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3 Times)

Our hope O Lord, glory to You.

(The Choir responds to the Petitions with "Lord, have mercy").

Deacon:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our Archbishop Gerasimos, the honorable Presbytery of the Diaconate in Christ, for all the Clergy and the Laity, let us pray to the Lord.

For the President of our Country, for those in Civil authority, for our Armed Forces, and for all the American Nation, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

For those at sea, for those who travel by land or air, for the sick and the suffering, for captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos, and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ, our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You, all glory, honor and worship is befitting; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

4th PLAGAL TONE

Chanter: 1. from the early night-watch my spirit seeks You, O Lord,
for Your commandments are a light on the earth.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

2. Learn righteousness, you who dwell upon the earth.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

3. Zeal shall seize an untaught people, and now fire shall
consume the adversaries.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

4. Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils up-
on those who are glorious on earth.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

4th Plagal Tone.

Behold the Bridegroom comes in the midst of the night; and blessed is the servant, who He shall find vigilant; and unworthy is he, whom he shall find heedless. Beware, therefore O my soul, that you will not overcome by sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out from the Kingdom. Wherefore rouse yourself, crying out: *“Holy, Holy, Holy are You, Our God,* through the protection of the Heavenly Hosts save us.”* (3 times, at 3rd chanting, substitute with *“...through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.”*)

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

Chanter: Lord have mercy.

Deacon or Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the Kingdom and power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

(The Faithful sit)

Chanter:

The sublime Holy Passion on this day, dawns on the world as a light of salvation; for Christ, of his goodness, draws near to His sufferings. He who holds all things in His Hand, condescends to be raised up on the Cross, that He may save mankind.

O Invisible Judge, how is it that You have been seen in the flesh, and have come to be slain by lawless men? By Your Passion You condemned the judgment against us. Therefore, with one voice we offer in consonance praise, greatness and glory to Your Authority, O Word of God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and to the Ages of Ages Amen.

This day radiates with the first fruits of the Passion of the Lord. Come, therefore, O feast-loving friends, let us meet and greet it with hymns; for the Creator comes, condescending to the Cross; to questioning and to lashings, judged by Pilate. Also smitten on the head by a servant, He endures all to save mankind. For this, let us cry aloud: "O Merciful Christ our God, grant remission of sins to those, who worship in faith Your Holy Passion."

(The Faithful stand)

Deacon or Priest: Let us supplicate the Lord our God, that we may be deemed worth to hear the Holy Gospel.

Choir: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Deacon or Priest: Wisdom! Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

THE GOSPEL

Priest: The Lesson is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Let us be attentive.

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, he came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and he said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave you this authority?" But Jesus answered and said to them, "I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will you by what authority I do these things: the baptism of John – where was it from? From Heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From Heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

"But what do you think? A man had two sons and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that the

tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.”

“For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.”

Hear another parable: “There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when the vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read the scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”

Choir: Glory to you O Lord, glory to You.

(The Faithful sit)

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, 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 always before me. Against You, You only have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight, that you may be found just when you speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face away from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. These, O God, you will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then you shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering; and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bullocks on Your altar.

THE CANON

Chanter: Let us sing to the Lord, Who by His Divine command dried up the impassable and raging sea, and led the people of Israel to pass through on foot; for gloriously He has been glorified.

THE TROPARIA

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
The ineffable condescension of the Word of God, is Christ Himself, both God and Man; counting not His Godhead a thing to be seized, He showed this to His Disciples by taking on the form of a servant; for gloriously He has been glorified.

Now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.
I have come to minister to the impoverished Adam, whose form I fashioned, and now willingly have assumed the same. I, the passionless Godhead, lay down My life for his ransom.

THE KATAVASIA

Let us sing to the Lord, Who by His Divine command dried up the impassable and raging sea, and led the people of Israel to pass through on foot; for gloriously He has been glorified.

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

Chanter: Lord have mercy.

Deacon or Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are a Good and Loving God, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE KONTAKION

Reader:

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his noble son was seated in a chariot and honored as a king; for when he refused to be enslaved by the fascinations of the Egyptian woman, he was in turn glorified by Him, Who beholds the hearts of men, and bestows and incorruptible crown.

THE OIKOS

Let us now add our lamentation, and let us shed our tears with those of Jacob, bewailing Joseph, his memorable and wise son. For Joseph, though enslaved in body, preserved his soul in freedom, becoming lord over all Egypt. For God grants His servants an incorruptible crown.

THE SYNAXARION

On Holy and Great Monday, we commemorate the blessed and noble Joseph; also the cursing and withering of the fruitless fig tree.

The wise Joseph showed himself a just ruler and a provider of grain. What an abundance of blessings!

The synagogue of the Hebrews is compared by Christ to the fig tree, devoid of spiritual fruits, and HE withers it with a curse. Let us flee from a similar fate.

Through the intercessions of the noble Joseph, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Chanter: The sweeping fire fed with endless fuel, withdrew in fear before the spotless souls and bodies of the Holy Children; and as the ceaseless flame diminished, the singing of an everlasting hymn was chanted: "Praise the Lord all His works and exalt Him to all ages."

The Troparia

We praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord.

Approaching His Passion, the Saviour said to His friends: "all shall know that you are My Disciples, if you keep My commandments. Be at peace with one another, and with all; thinking humbly, you will be exalted; and knowing Me as Lord, sing praises and exalt unto all Ages."

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

Let the power of your fellow men be different from the dominion of the Gentiles; their selfish will is not my lot but a tyranny. He then, who would be first among you, let him be the last of all; and knowing me as Lord, sing praises and exalt unto all Ages.

THE KATAVASIA

We praise, we bless and worship the Lord.

The sweeping fire fed with endless fuel, withdrew in fear before the spotless souls and bodies of the Holy Children; and as the unceasing flame diminished, an everlasting hymn was chanted: : “Praise the Lord all His works and exalt Him to all ages.”

(The Faithful stand)

Deacon or Priest:

The Theotokos and Mother of the Light, honoring with hymns, we magnify.

Chanter: You, O Christ, have magnified the Theotokos who bore You, and from whom You, our Creator, did put on a Body with passions like our own, thus setting us free from our ignorances. Calling her blessed, we in all generations, magnify you.

THE TROPARIA

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

You the Wisdom of all, declared to Your Disciples: “Cast away the impurity of human passions, and obtain a wise understanding, worthy of the Divine Kingdom; in which you shall be glorious, and shine more brightly than the sun.”

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

“Looking unto Me,” said the Lord to His Disciples, “be not high-minded, but condescend to men of humility; My cup which I drink, drink of it, that you may be glorious with Me in the Kingdom of the Father.”

THE KATAVASIA

You, O Christ, have magnified the Theotokos, who bore You; and from whom You, our Creator, did put on a Body with Passions like our own, thus setting us free from our ignorances. Calling her blessed, we, in all generations, magnify You.

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

Chanter: Lord have mercy.

Deacon or Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us O God, by Your Grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For all the Powers of Heaven praise You, and to You they ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EXAPOSTELARION

Chanter: I see Your Bridal Chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment, that I may enter therein; O Giver of Light, make radiant the vesture of my soul, and save me. (3 times)

THE PRAISES

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the Heavens; praise Him in the heights. To You, O God, praise is befitting.

Praise Him, all His Angels; praise Him all His hosts. To You, O God, praise is befitting.

(The Faithful sit)

IDIOMELA HYMNS

Praise him for His sovereignty, praise Him according to the fullness of His Majesty.

As the Lord was going to His voluntary passion, He was saying to his Apostles on the way: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man shall be delivered up, as it is written of Him." Come therefore and let us accompany Him, with purified minds, and let us be crucified with Him, and for His sake mortify the pleasures of this life, that we may also live with Him, and hear Him declaring: "No longer do I go to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but I go to My Father, and you Father; to My God and your God. And I will raise you up with Me to the upper Jerusalem, in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Praise him with cymbals and chorus; praise Him with strings and pipe. We the faithful, having come to the saving Passion of Christ our god, let us glorify His ineffable forbearance; that through His compassion, He may also raise us up, who are deadened by sin, for He is good and loves mankind.

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

When You, O Lord, were coming to Your Passion, You gave courage to Your own Disciples, taking them aside and saying: "How have you forgotten My words, which I spoke to you of old, as it is written, that no Prophet will be put to death, except in Jerusalem? Now, therefore, the time has come of which I told you; for behold, I am betrayed to be mocked at the hands of sinners, and they will fix Me to the Cross, delivering Me up for burial and account Me as a corpse. But, take courage, for on the third day, I shall rise, bringing joy and life eternal to the faithful."

(The Faithful stand)

THE DOXOLOGY

Reader: To You, all glory is befitting, O Lord our god and to you we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people. We praise You, we bless You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, Heavenly God, Father Almighty, Lord, Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God, the Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; You, Who takes away the sins of the world. Accept our prayer, You Who are seated on the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us. For You alone are Holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God, the Father. Amen. Each day I shall bless You, and praise Your Name, forever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Lord You have been our refuge from one generation to another. I said: "Lord have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." Lord, to You I have fled; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. For with You is the source of life, and in Your Light we shall see light. Extend Your mercy to those, who know You. Grant, O Lord, that we may be kept this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, and Your Name is praised and glorious unto all Ages. Lord, let Your mercy come upon us, as we have hoped in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master, grant me understanding of Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy O Lord, endures forever; overlook not the works of your own Hands. To You, all praise, worship and glory is befitting; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

Deacon or Priest: Let us complete our morning supplication to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon or Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us O God by Your Grace.

(Respond to entreaties with "Grant this, O Lord.")

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

For an Angel of peace, a faithful Guide, a Guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and transgressions,

let us ask of the Lord.

For things that are good and profitable unto our souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remainder of our lives in peace and penitence, let us ask of the Lord.

That the end of our lives may be Christian, without pain, blameless and peaceful, and for a good account at the awesome Judgment-seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are a God of mercy, compassion and love, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon or Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You O Lord.

Priest: For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us, our God, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE APOSTICHA

Chanter: The ineffable mystery of Your dispensation, O Lord, was incomprehensible to the mother of the children of Zebedee, asking of You, that the honor of a temporal kingdom be granted to her sons; but instead of this, You promised to Your friends, that they would drink the cup of death. You did say that You, Yourself would drink this cup before them, as expiation for sins. Wherefore we cry out to You: "O salvation of our souls, glory to You."

In the morning we have been filled with Your mercy, O Lord; we rejoiced and were glad in all our days. Let us rejoice for all the days that You have humbled us; the years we have seen afflictions. Look upon Your servants and all Yours, and guide their children.

Lord, when You were instructing Your own Disciples to think perfect thoughts, You told them not to be like the Gentiles, exercising authority over the weakest. You said: "It shall not be so with you, My Disciples, for I am of my own will, poor. Therefore he, who would be first among you let him be the servant of all; the one who rules, as the one being ruled; and the one who is preferred as the least of all. For I have come to serve the impoverished Adam, and to give My life as a ransom for the many, who cry out to Me: "Glory to You."

May the splendor of the Lord our god be upon us; and may He direct for us the works of our hands; even the work of our hands may He direct.

Fearing a similar sentence to that of the fruitless fig tree, brethren, let us bring forth fruits worthy of repentance to Christ, Who bestows on us the Great Mercy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and to the Ages of Ages Amen.

The serpent finding the Egyptian woman as a second Eve, hastened through words of flattery to cause the downfall of Joseph; but he leaving his garment, fled from sin; and being naked, felt unashamed, even

as the first-created before the disobedience. By his intercessions, O Christ, have mercy on us.

(The Faithful stand)

Priest: It is good to confess to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. To proclaim Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth at night.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and to the Ages of Ages Amen.

All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord pardon our sins; Master, forgive our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your 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; both now and ever and to the Ages of Ages Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Yours 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 to the Ages of Ages.

Reader: Amen.

THE KONTAKION

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his noble son was seated on a chariot and honored as a king; for when he refused to be enslaved by the fascinations of the Egyptian woman, he was glorified by Him, Who beholds the hearts of men, and bestows and incorruptible crown.

Lord have mercy (12 times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and to the Ages of Ages Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more gloriously than the Seraphim; who incorruptibly did bear God the Word, verily the Theotokos, you, we magnify.

In the Name of the Lord, Father give the blessing.

Priest: Wisdom! The One, who is blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir: Amen.

PRAYER

Priest: O Heavenly King, strengthen our faithful Leaders; edify the Faith, pacify the Nations, grant peace to the world; protect this Holy Church and City; place our departed Parents and Brethren in the dwellings of the just; and in Your goodness and mercy receive us also in repentance and confession as a Good and Loving Lord.

Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, deliver me from the spirit of indolence, meddling, vain ambition and idle talk.

Grant to me Your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience and love.

Yea, Lord and King; grant me, that I may see my own faults, and to not judge my brother, for You are blessed to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to You, O God, our hope, glory to You.

May Christ, our true God, the Lord, Who willingly came to the Passion for our salvation, through the intercessions of His most pure and Holy Mother; the power of the precious and Life-giving Cross; ;the protection of the honored Bodiless Powers in Heaven; the supplications of the honored, glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; the Holy, glorious and All-laudable Apostles; the Holy glorious, and victorious Martyrs; our Saintly and God-bearing Fathers; the Holy, righteous and noble Joseph, whom we commemorate, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a Good and Loving and Merciful God.

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

Chanter: Amen.

