



ST BASIL THE GREAT
ORTHODOX CHURCH



**THE GREAT AND
HOLY THURSDAY MATINS
WEDNESDAY EVENING BRIDEGROOM
READER'S SERVICE**

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Oh Lord Jesus Christ, Have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life - come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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

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

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy names sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

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

Choir: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

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 Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over

all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

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

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

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gave birth to God, and alone are blessed.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 3

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

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 mocking, 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 craftiness 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

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 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.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 87

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

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

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 fulfilleth 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, long-suffering 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

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.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon (Priest): Alleluia, in the eighth Tone:

Out of the night my spirit waketh at dawn unto Thee, O God, for Thy commandments are light upon the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Learn righteousness, ye that dwell upon the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Zeal shall lay hold upon an uninstructed people.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Add more evils upon them, O Lord; add more evils upon them that are glorious upon the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE TROPARION (TONE VIII)

Behold the Bridegroom cometh in the middle of the night; and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom He shall find in slothfulness. Beware, then, O my soul, and be not overcome by sleep, lest thou be given over to death and shut out from the Kingdom. But rise up and cry aloud: Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O God: through the Theotokos have mercy upon us. (Thrice)

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

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Leader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (22:1-39).

At that time, the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Jesus, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." So they said to Him, "Where will Thou that we prepare?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave

it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing. Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One Who serves. But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with Thee, both to prison and to death." Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing." Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and

likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough." Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; According to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out mine iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done evil in Thy sight. That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was shaped in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made clear to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones which Thou hast broken shall rejoice. Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and steady me with a guiding spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and the impious shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy

righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

For hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it Thee; Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit; a contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good will unto Zion, that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

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

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE CANON OF GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY
IN TONE SIX

ODE I

Irmos: The Red Sea was parted by a blow from the staff of Moses; the deep with its waves grew dry. It served as a path to the unarmed people of Israel, but to the Egyptians in full armor it proved a grave. A hymn of praise was sung, well-pleasing to God: Christ our God is greatly glorified.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Cause of all and Bestower of life, the infinite Wisdom of God has built His house from a pure Mother who has not known man. For, clothing Himself in a bodily temple, Christ our God is greatly glorified.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Instructing His friends in the Mysteries, the true Wisdom of God prepares a table that gives food to the soul, and He mingles for the faithful the cup of the wine of life eternal. Let us approach with reverence and cry aloud: Christ our God is greatly glorified.

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

Ye faithful, let us all give ear to the exalted preaching of the uncreated and consubstantial Wisdom of God, for He cries aloud: O taste and see that I am good! O sing: Christ our God is greatly glorified.

ODE III

Irmos: O God the Lord and Creator of all, Thou art become poor, uniting a created nature to Thyself, while remaining free from passion. Since Thou art the Passover, Thou hast offered Thyself to those for whose sake Thou wast soon to die; and Thou hast cried: Eat My Body, and ye shall be firmly established in the faith.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Filling Thy cup of salvation with joy, O loving Lord, Thou hast made Thy disciples drink from it. For Thou offerest Thyself in sacrifice, crying: Drink My Blood, and ye shall be firmly established in the faith.

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

How foolish is the traitor in your midst! In Thy forbearance Thou hast said to Thy disciples. He will not know or understand these things. But abide in Me, and ye shall be firmly established in the faith.

MESODION KATHISMATA (Plain Reading)

He Who made the lakes and springs and seas, wishing to teach us the surpassing value of humility, girded Himself with a towel and washed the feet of the disciples, humbling Himself in the abundance of His great compassion and raising us from the depths of wickedness, for He alone loves mankind.

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

Humbling Thyself in Thy compassion, Thou hast washed the feet of Thy disciples, teaching them to take the path which, as God, Thou hast followed. And Peter, who at first refused to be washed, yielded then to the divine command, and earnestly entreated Thee that we may be granted Thy Great Mercy.

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

Eating, O Master, with Thy disciples, Thou hast mystically revealed Thy holy death, which delivers us from corruption, who honor Thy sacred Passion.

ODE IV

Irmos: Foreseeing Thy secret mystery, O Christ, the Prophet cried: Thou hast manifested the mighty power of Thy love, O merciful Father; for in Thy goodness Thou hast sent Thine only-begotten Son to the world as atonement.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Going to Thy Passion that frees from passion all the posterity of Adam, Thou hast said, O Christ, to Thy friends: I have desired to eat this Passover with you; for the Father has sent Me,

His only-begotten Son, to the world as atonement.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Partaking from the cup, O Lord Immortal, Thou hast cried to the disciples: In this present life I will no more drink with you from the fruit of the vine. For the Father has sent Me, His only-begotten Son, to the world as atonement.

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

In My Kingdom, Thou hast said, O Christ, to Thy friends, I shall drink a new drink beyond your understanding; I shall be with you as God among gods. For the Father has sent Me, His only-begotten Son, to the world as atonement.

ODE V

Irmos: United by the bond of love, and offering themselves to Christ the Lord, the apostles were washed clean; and, with feet made beautiful, they preached to all the Gospel of peace.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

The Wisdom of God that restrains the untamed fury of the waters that are above the firmament, that sets a bridle on the deep and keeps back the seas, now pours water into a basin; and the Master washes the feet of His servants.

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

The Master shows to His disciples an example of humility; He Who wraps the heavens in clouds girds Himself with a towel; and He in Whose hand is the life of all things kneels down to wash the feet of His servants.

ODE VI

Irmos: The uttermost depths of sin have compassed me about; and no longer able to endure its stormy waves, as Jonah I cry out to Thee, O Master: Lead me up from corruption.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

O disciples, ye call Me Lord and Master, and so I am, Thou hast cried, O Savior. Follow then the example that ye have seen in Me.

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

He who is free from defilement needs no washing of the feet. Now ye are clean, My disciples, but not all of you. For one of you inclines to wild folly in his heart.

ODE VII

Irmos: In Babylon the Children did not fear the fiery furnace; but cast into the midst of the flames they were refreshed with dew and sang: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

With head bowed, Judas plotted evil, seeking opportunity to deliver for condemnation the Judge Who is Lord of all and God of our fathers.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Among you there is one that shall betray Me, Christ cried to His friends; and they forgetting their gladness, were seized with grief and anguish, saying: Who shall this be? Tell us, O God of our fathers.

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

He that dares to dip his hand with Me in the dish; and it had been good for that man if he

had never passed through the gates of life. So did Christ, the God of our fathers, speak of the one who should betray Him.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Accepting danger for the sake of their fathers' laws, the blessed Children in Babylon scorned the foolish order of the King. Standing together in the fire which burnt them not, they sang a song fitting for God almighty: O ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Blessed guests in Zion, faithful companions of the Word, the apostles followed the Shepherd like sheep. Firmly united to Christ and feeding upon the divine Word, they cried in thanksgiving: O ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Iniquitous Iscariot, forgetful of the law of friendship, hastened to the betrayal on the feet which Thou hadst washed. Eating Thy Bread, the divine Body, he lifted up his heel against Thee; for he knew not how to cry: O ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lacking all conscience, he received the Body that delivers men from sin and the divine Blood that was shed for the world. He was not ashamed to drink what he had sold for money; he felt no anger against sin; for he knew not how to cry: O ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

*We praise, we bless, and we worship the
Lord.*

ODE IX

Irmos: Come, ye faithful, let us raise our minds on high and enjoy the Master's hospitality and the table of immortal life in the upper room; and let us hear the exalted teaching of the Word whom we magnify.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Go, said the Word to the disciples, and prepare the Passover for those whom I call to share in the Mystery; with the unleavened bread of the word of truth prepare the Passover in the upper room where the mind is established, and magnify the strength of grace.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Before the ages the Father begat Me, who am Wisdom and Creator, and He established Me as the beginning of His ways. He appointed Me to perform the works which now are mystically accomplished. For though I am by nature the uncreated Word, I make My own the speech and qualities of the manhood that I have assumed.

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

Since I am man not merely in appearance but in reality, the human nature united to Me is made godlike through the exchange of attributes. Know Me, then, as one single Christ, Who saves those among whom I have been born and whose nature I have taken.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY (PLAIN READING)

Taking the bread into his hands, the betrayer stretched them forth secretly and receiveth the price of Him that, with His Own hands, fashioned man. And Judas, the servant and deceiver, remained incorrigible.

OIKOS: Let us all draw near in fear to the mystical table, and with pure souls let us receive the Bread; let us remain at the Master's side, that we may see how He washes the feet of the disciples and wipes them with a towel; and let us do as we have seen, subjecting ourselves to each other and washing one another's feet. For, such is the commandment that Christ Himself gave to His disciples; but Judas, the servant and deceiver, remained incorrigible.

THE SYNAXARION (PLAIN READING)

On Holy and Great Thursday, the Divine Fathers, who ordered all things aright, in succession to the Divine Apostles and the Sacred Gospels, have handed down to us the tradition of celebrating four events: the sacred Foot-washing, the Mystical Supper (that is, the bestowal of the dread Mysteries), the Transcendent Prayer, and the Betrayal itself.

Verses to the Foot-washing

God, Whose feet trod in Eden long ago in the afternoon,

Washeth the feet of His Disciples in the evening.

Verses to the Mystical Supper

Twofold is the Supper: for it is the Passover of the Law

And the New Pascha, the Blood and Body of the Master.

Verses to the Transcendent Prayer

In Thy Prayer, O Christ, Thou didst show fear,
And let great drops of blood fall from Thy face,
Ostensibly avoiding death, but thereby
deceiving the Enemy.

Verses to the Betrayal

What need have ye of swords and staves, O
deceivers of the people,

To put to death Him Who is zealous to redeem
the world?

On the evening of this day, which was the eve of
the feast of unleavened bread (that is, the
Passover), our Redeemer supped with His
twelve disciples in the city. He blessed the bread
and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the
Divine Eucharist. He washed the feet of the
disciples as an example of humility. He said
openly that one of them was about to betray
Him, and He pointed out the betrayer by
revealing that it was he “that dipped his hand
with Me in the dish.” And after Judas had
straightway gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples
His final and sublime instructions, which are
contained in the first Gospel Reading of the
Holy Passion (John 13:31-18:1). After this the
God-man went forth to the Mount of Olives,
and there He began to be sorrowful and in
anguish. He went off alone, and bending the
knees He prayed fervently. From His great
anguish, His sweat became as it were great
drops of blood falling to the ground. As soon as
He had completed that anguished prayer, lo,
Judas came with a multitude of soldiers and a
great crowd; on greeting the Teacher guilefully
with a kiss, he betrayed Him.

***By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our
God, have mercy on us. Amen.***

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy
Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy
upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE EXAPOSTELARION (SVETILEN)

Sung slowly with compunction, in Tone III:

Thy bridal chamber do I see all-adorned, O my
Savior, yet I have no wedding garment that I
may enter therein. Make the robe of my soul to
shine forth, O Giver of Light, and save me.
(Thrice)

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE TWO

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise
the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens:
praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is
due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye
Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our
song.

For Great and Holy Thursday in Tone Two

*Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the
firmament of His power. Praise Him for His
mighty acts: praise Him according to His
excellent greatness.*

The Council of the Jews cometh together to
deliver to Pilate the Author and Creator of all.
Woe to their iniquity and infidelity. For Him
that cometh to judge the living and the dead
they prepare for judgment; the Healer of
sufferings they make ready for suffering.
Wherefore, O long-suffering Lord, great is Thy
mercy; glory to Thee.

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

The law-transgressing Judas, O Lord, who dipped his hand with Thee in the plate at supper, hath put forth his hands with iniquity to take silver; and he who calculated the price of the spice did not shrink from selling Thee, O priceless One. And he who put forth his feet for the Master to wash deceitfully kissed Him to deliver Him to the law-breakers. Verily, he hath been cast away with his thirty pieces of silver without beholding Thy third-day Resurrection, through which have mercy on us.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

Judas, the traitor, being deceitful, betrayed the Savior Lord with a lying kiss; and he sold the Master of all like a slave to the transgressors of the law. But the Lamb of God followed like a sheep to the slaughter, Who is the only Son of the most merciful Father.

Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Judas, that deceitful and cunning slave, assassinator of the righteous One, hath been revealed through his works; for he followed the Master, and concealed within himself the betrayal. He would say to himself: I will surrender this One and gain the accumulated wealth. He sought to sell the spice and maliciously hold Jesus. He offered a kiss and surrendered Christ Who, like a sheep, followed to slaughter, Who is alone compassionate and the Lover of mankind.

THE DOXASTICON FOR GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY IN TONE TWO

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

Verily, the Lamb Whom Isaiah preached cometh to voluntary slaughter, offering His back to scourges, and His cheeks to be slapped. Even His face He turned not from the shame of spitting, as He was condemned to die a horrible death. Yea, and the sinless One endures all willingly that He may grant to all resurrection from the dead.

+ To Thee belongeth glory, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

+ Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; 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 unto Thee for Thy great glory.

+ O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

+ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.

+ Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

+ For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

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

+ Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.

+ Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.

+ Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)

+ Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

+ Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.

+ For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.

+ O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.

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

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

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

+ Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

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

Today the evil Sanhedrin has assembled against Christ and devised vain things against Him, plotting to deliver Him, though innocent, to Pilate to be put to death. Today Judas places round his neck the noose of money, and deprives himself of life both temporal and divine. Today Caiaphas prophesies against his will, saying: "It is expedient that one man should perish for the people." He came to suffer for our sins that He might set us free from the bondage of the enemy: for He is good and loves mankind.

He who ate My bread hath lifted up his heel against Me.

Today Judas lays aside his outward pretence of love for the poor, and openly displays his greed for money. No longer does he take thought for the needy. He offers now for sale, not the oil of myrrh brought by the sinful woman, but the Myrrh from Heaven, and he takes the pieces of silver. He runs to the Jews and says to the transgressors: "What will ye give me if I deliver Him up to you?" O avarice of the traitor! He reckons the sale profitable, and, agreeing with the wishes of the purchasers, he concludes the transaction. He does not dispute about the price but sells the Lord like a runaway slave; for it is the custom of thieves to throw away what is precious. So the disciple cast that which is holy to the dogs, and the madness of avarice fills him with fury against his own Master. Let us flee from such folly, and cry: O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee.

He gathered iniquity unto himself; he went forth and spake in a like manner.

Deceitful are thy ways, lawless Judas. Sick with the love of money, thou hast come to hate mankind. If thou lovest riches, why become a

**THE APOSTICHA FOR GREAT AND
HOLY THURSDAY (TONE EIGHT)**

disciple of Him Who teaches poverty? But if thy love is for Him, why sell the Lord that is above all price and hand Him over to be murdered? Tremble, O sun; groan, earth, and quaking cry aloud: O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee.

They spoke lawless words against Me.

O ye faithful, let none who is uninstructed in the Mystery draw near to the table of the Lord's Supper; let none approach deceitfully as Judas; for he received his portion, yet he betrayed the Bread. In outward appearance he was a disciple, yet in reality he was present as a murderer. He rejoiced with the Jews, though he sat at supper with the apostles. He kissed in hatred, and with his kiss he sold the God and Savior of our souls, who has redeemed us from the curse.

DOXASTICA FOR GREAT AND

HOLY THURSDAY (TONE EIGHT)

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

Deceitful are thy ways, lawless Judas. Sick with the love of money, thou hast come to hate mankind. If thou lovest riches, why become a disciple of Him Who teaches poverty? But if thy love is for Him, why sell the Lord that is above all price and hand Him over to be murdered? Tremble, O sun; groan, earth, and quaking cry aloud: O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee.

In Tone Five

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

Instructing Thy disciples in the Mystery, O Lord, Thou hast taught them saying: "My

friends, take care that fear does not separate you from Me. For, though I suffer, yet it is for the sake of the world. Do not be scandalized because of me; for I have come not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give My life as a ransom for the world. If then ye are My friends, ye will do as I do. He who will be first, let him be the last; let the master be as the servant. Abide in Me, that ye may bear fruit: for I am the Vine of Life."

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.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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

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

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy names sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

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

Reader: 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.

And then the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

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

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

Then twelve reverences. With each one we say: O God, cleanse me a sinner.

Then, the entire prayer without a break:

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 transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the

Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, Lord bless.

Reader: Amen. O Heavenly King, strengthen Orthodox Christians, establish the Faith, subdue the nations, give peace to the world, keep well this city (or habitation, or town); 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.

Leader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.