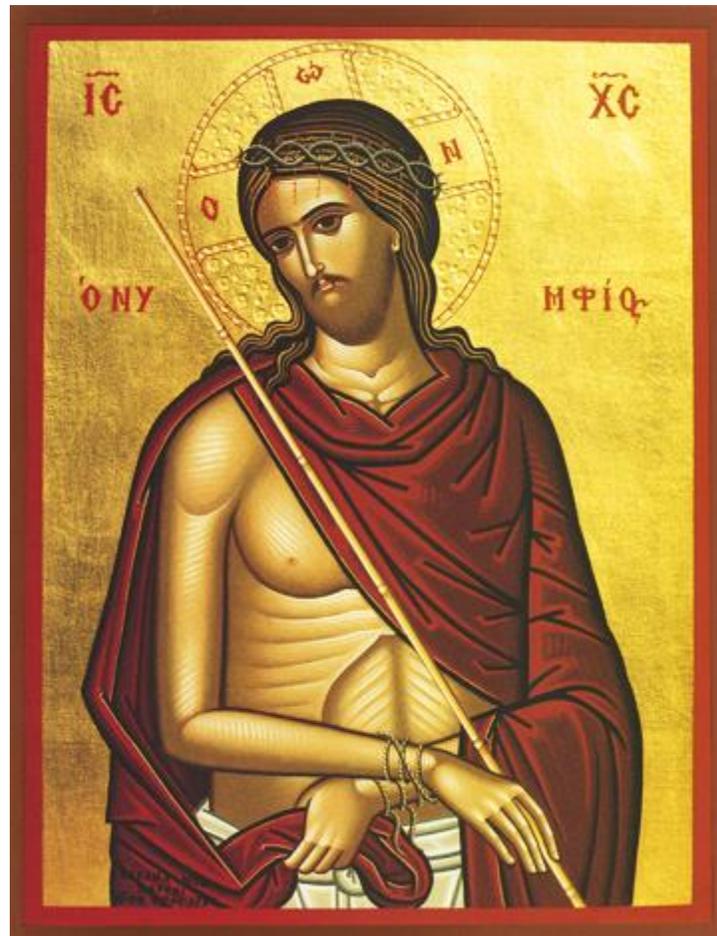




ST BASIL THE GREAT
ORTHODOX CHURCH



**THE GREAT AND HOLY
MONDAY MATINS
SUNDAY 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. (twelve times)

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

Reader: 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 fulleth 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:

Verse: 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.

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

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: Zeal shall lay hold upon an un instructed people.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Then the Choir sings the Troparion in 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.

SESSIONAL HYMN IN TONE I

On this day the Holy Passion shineth forth upon the world as a light most perfect; for Christ in His goodness hasteneth to His sufferings. He who holdeth all things in the palm of His hand hath consented to be hung upon the Tree, that He may save mankind.

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

On this day the Holy Passion shineth forth upon the world as a light most perfect; for Christ in His goodness hasteneth to His sufferings. He who holdeth all things in the palm of His hand hath consented to be hung upon the Tree, that He may save mankind.

Sessional hymn in Tone I

O Judge invisible, how art Thou seen in the flesh, drawing near to be slain by lawless men?, condemning by Thy Passion our own condemnation? Therefore with one accord, O Word, we send up praise, majesty and glory to Thy power.

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

O Judge invisible, how art Thou seen in the flesh, drawing near to be slain by lawless men?, condemning by Thy Passion our own condemnation? Therefore with one accord, O Word, we send up praise, majesty and glory to Thy power.

Sessional hymn in Tone VIII

The first-fruits of the Lord's Passion fill this present day with light. Come then, all ye who love to celebrate the feasts, and let us welcome it with hymns. For the Creator draweth near to

take up the Cross; He is questioned, beaten, and brought to Pilate for judgment, after which a servant struck Him on the face, and all this He hath endured that He may save mankind. Wherefore let us cry aloud to Him: O Christ God the Lover of mankind, grant remission of sins unto those who venerate in faith Thy Holy Passion.

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

The first-fruits of the Lord's Passion fill this present day with light. Come then, all ye who love to celebrate the feasts, and let us welcome it with hymns. For the Creator draweth near to take up the Cross; He is questioned, beaten, and brought to Pilate for judgment, after which a servant struck Him on the face, and all this He hath endured that He may save mankind. Wherefore let us cry aloud to Him: O Christ God the Lover of mankind, grant remission of sins unto those who venerate in faith Thy Holy Passion.

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 ST. MATHEW (21: 18-43)**

At that time, Jesus returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw

it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things. But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. Hear another parable: There was a certain

householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

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 built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation 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 TRI-ODE CANON, IN TONE II

ODE I

Irmos: Let us sing unto the Lord, Who by His divine command dried up the billowing and impassable sea, and through it led the Israelite people on foot: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

Ineffable is the condescension of the Word of God, for Christ himself is both God and man; as God he hid not this condescension, when He appeared unto His disciples in the form of a servant: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

I who am rich in Godhead have come to minister to Adam who hath grown poor. I who fashioned him have of Mine own will put on his form. I who am impassable in My divinity have come to lay down My life as a ransom for him.

Kontakion in Tone VIII

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but he was valorously seated in a chariot and honored as a king. For he was not enslaved to the pleasures of Egypt, but was glorified by God who seeth the hearts of all, and bestoweth upon them an incorruptible crown.

Ikos: Let us now add our lamentation to the lamentation of Jacob, and let us weep with him for his ever-memorable and chaste son Joseph, who was enslaved in body but kept his soul free from bondage, and became lord over all Egypt. For God doth grant unto his servants an incorruptible crown.

SYNAXARION READING

Verses to Joseph the All-Comely: The chaste Joseph proved to be a just ruler And a provider of corn; O abundance of good things.

Verses to the withered fig tree:

Christ likeneth the synagogue of the Hebrews To a fig tree devoid of spiritual fruits and withered it with a curse; let us avoid its fate.

On this day the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ begins; and first of all, Joseph the All-Comely is interpreted as a type of Christ. Joseph was the eleventh son of the Patriarch Jacob, born to him of Rachel. Envied by his brothers on account of certain dreams that he had, he was first cast into a pit. Jacob was deceived by his other sons into believing, on the basis of a bloodstained robe, that Joseph had been devoured by a wild beast. Joseph was then sold to some Ishmaelite travellers for thirty pieces of silver. The Ishmaelites in turn sold him to Potiphar, the chief eunuch of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. When Potiphar's wife conceived a mad desire for the young man's chaste comeliness, he, not wishing to commit the iniquitous act that she proposed, left his clothing behind and fled. She slandered Joseph to her husband, who had him fettered and imprisoned. Joseph was later set free after explaining certain of Pharaoh's dreams. On being presented to the king, he was appointed Lord of all Egypt. While providing his brothers with corn during a great famine, he once again made himself known to them. After living the whole of his life in virtue, he reposed in Egypt, being highly esteemed for his chastity, in addition to his other virtues. Joseph the All-Comely is an icon of Christ, since Christ, too, was envied by the Jews, His own people, was sold by one of His Disciples for thirty pieces of silver, and was enclosed in the dark and gloomy pit of the tomb. Breaking forth thence by His sovereign will, He reigns over Egypt—that is, He is victorious over all sin by His Divine power—and rules over the entire world. In His love for mankind, He redeems us through the mystical

provision of corn, in that He offers Himself as a sacrifice for our sake, nourishing us with the heavenly Bread of His life-giving Flesh. Such is the proper interpretation of Joseph the All-Comely. On this day, we also commemorate the fig tree that was withered. For the Divine Evangelists, namely Saints Matthew and Mark, after the narrative concerning the Palms, add the following story. According to Saint Mark: "And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: and seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever" (Mark 11:12-14). According to Saint Matthew: "In the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away" (Matthew 21:18-19). Now, the fig tree is the Synagogue of the Jews, on which the Savior did not find the appropriate fruit, but only the darkness of the Law. Taking even this away from it, He rendered it completely fallow. If one were to ask why the inanimate tree became dry when it received the curse, not having sinned in any way, let him learn that the Jews, seeing Christ always doing good to all men and not causing anyone even the slightest distress, supposed that He had the power only to do good, and not to chastise. In His love for mankind, the Master did not wish to show that He had the ability to act thus towards any man. Therefore, in order to convince the ungrateful people that He had sufficient power to chastise, but in His goodness did not wish to chastise them, He inflicted a punishment on inanimate and insentient

nature. There is, at the same time, an apocryphal account that has come down to us from wise Elders, as Saint Isidore of Pelousion says: that the tree which caused the transgression of Adam and Eve was this fig tree, the leaves whereof the transgressors used to cover themselves. Hence, since it had not suffered this fate originally, it was withered by Christ in His love for mankind, lest it any longer bear fruit that would be the cause of sin. That sin is likened to the fig tree is quite clear; for the fig has the sweetness of pleasure, but the adhesiveness of sin, and it subsequently stings the conscience by its harshness. The Fathers placed the story of the fig tree here in order to arouse us to compunction, and the commemoration of Joseph because he is a type of Christ. The fig tree is every soul that is devoid of all spiritual fruit. The Lord, not finding any refreshment on it in the morning, that is, during the present life, withers it through a curse and consigns it to the eternal fire. It stands as a withered reminder, inspiring fear in those who do not bring forth the appropriate fruit of virtue.

*By the intercessions of Joseph the All-Comely,
O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.*

ODE VIII

Irmos: *The relentless fire, fed with endless fuel, drew back in fear before the pious Children, pure in body and in soul; and as the flame waned in strength, they sang an everlasting song: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.*

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

'All men shall know that ye are My disciples, if ye keep My commandments', saith the Savior to His friends, as He went to His Passion. 'Be at

peace one with another and with all men; think humbly of yourselves and ye shall be exalted; acknowledge Me as Lord, and praise and supremely exalt Me throughout all ages’.

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the Lord!

‘Let your rule over others be different from that of the Gentiles: it is not my will that their tyranny and self-willed ways be followed. He therefore who would be the first among you, let him be as the last, and acknowledge Me as the Lord, and praise and supremely exalt Me throughout all ages’.

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

‘Let your rule over others be different from that of the Gentiles: it is not my will that their tyranny and self-willed ways be followed. He therefore who would be the first among you, let him be as the last, and acknowledge Me as the Lord, and praise and supremely exalt Me throughout all ages’.

We praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and exalting him throughout all ages!

Katavasia: The relentless fire, fed with endless fuel, drew back in fear before the pious Children, pure in body and in soul; and as the flame waned in strength, they sang an everlasting song: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

ODE IX

Irmos: Thou hast magnified, O Christ, the Theotokos who bore Thee: from her, O our Creator, hast Thou taken a body of like passions to our own, and released us from

all our transgressions. Wherefore with all generations we call her blessed and Thee do we magnify.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

‘Cast ye away all the impurity of the passions and thereby gain a wise understanding, worthy of God’s Kingdom’, didst Thou say unto Thine apostles, O Wisdom of all; ‘and ye shall be glorified, and shine forth more brightly than the sun’.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee

‘Look upon Me as your example,’ didst Thou say unto Thy disciples, O Lord, ‘think not highly but be content with what is humble, and drink ye of the cup that I drink of, that ye be glorified with Me in the Kingdom of the Father.’

Katavasia: Thou hast magnified, O Christ, the Theotokos who bore Thee: from her, O our Creator, hast Thou taken a body of like passions to our own, and released us from all our transgressions. Wherefore with all generations we call her blessed and Thee do we magnify.

Prostration to the ground.

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

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

**the 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 ONE

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.

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

For Lauds Tone One

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

As the Lord Went to His voluntary Passion, He spake unto His apostles on the way saying: 'Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man shall be betrayed, as it is written of Him.' Purified in mind let us also journey with Him, that we may be crucified with Him and for His sake die to the pleasures of this life, that we may also live with Him and hear Him say: 'No longer do I ascend to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but I ascend to My Father and your Father, and to my God and your God; and I shall raise you up together, even to the Jerusalem on high, in the Kingdom of heaven'

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

As the Lord Went to His voluntary Passion, He spake unto His apostles on the way saying: 'Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man shall be betrayed, as it is written of Him.' Purified in mind let us also journey with Him, that we may be crucified with Him and for His sake die to the pleasures of this life, that we may also live with Him and hear Him say: 'No longer do I ascend to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but I ascend to My Father and your Father, and to my God and your God; and I shall raise you up together, even to the Jerusalem on high, in the Kingdom of heaven'

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

Tone V: O faithful we have come to the saving Passion of Christ God: let us glorify His ineffable longsuffering, that in His compassionate mercy He may also raise up us who have been slain by sin, for He is exceedingly good and the Lover of mankind.

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

O faithful we have come to the saving Passion of Christ God: let us glorify His ineffable longsuffering, that in His compassionate mercy He may also raise up us who have been slain by sin, for He is exceedingly good and the Lover of mankind.

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

O Lord, coming to Thy Passion, Thou didst strengthen Thy disciples, taking them aside and saying unto them: 'How is it that ye have forgotten that which I told you beforehand? That in accordance with the Scriptures, it cannot be that a prophet should perish save in Jerusalem. Now is the time at hand, of which I spake unto you: for see, I am betrayed into the hands of sinners who shall mock Me and nail Me upon the Cross and deliver Me up for burial, and with loathing, look upon Me as a man dead. Yet be of good cheer: for on the third day I shall arise, bringing unto the faithful joy and life eternal.'

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.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

At the Aposticha in Tone V:

○ Lord, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, not understanding the hidden mystery of Thy plan, asked of Thee to grant the honor of a temporal kingdom to her sons. But instead of this Thou didst promise unto Thy friends that they would drink of the cup of death; and that before them, this cup would be partaken of by Thee, to cleanse mankind from their sins. Wherefore we cry aloud to Thee: O salvation of our souls, glory be to Thee.

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.

○ Lord, teaching Thy disciples to think the most perfect thoughts, Thou didst say unto

them: 'Be ye not like the Gentiles, who exercise authority over those who are weak. But it shall not be so among you, O My disciples, for of mine own will I am a pauper. Let him, then, who is first among you be the servant of all. Let him who ruleth be as one ruled, and let the first be as the last.

For I Myself have come to minister to Adam in his poverty, and to give my soul as a ransom for many who cry aloud to Me: Glory be to Thee.'

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 works of our hands do Thou guide aright.

Tone VIII: Let us fear the punishment of the fig tree, which withered because it was unfruitful, O brethren; let us bring fruits worthy of repentance unto Christ, Who granteth us His great mercy.

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

in Tone VIII:

A second Eve didst the serpent find in the words of the Egyptian woman, who with flattery sought to lead Joseph to succumb to sin. But, leaving his garment behind him, Joseph, like the first created man before his disobedience, fled naked yet not ashamed. By his prayers, O Christ, have mercy on us.

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.

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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (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 (on Friday evenings, the prayer of St. Ephraim is not said):

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..

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.