



ST BASIL THE GREAT
ORTHODOX CHURCH



THE GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY MATINS
MONDAY 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 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:

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 uninstructed 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. *(twelve 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 IV:

Let us love the Bridegroom, O brethren, and prepare our lamps, shining with the virtues and a right faith; that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be ready to enter with Him into the wedding feast. For as God He granteth unto all the Bridegroom's gift; an incorruptible crown.

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

Let us love the Bridegroom, O brethren, and prepare our lamps, shining with the virtues and a right faith; that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be ready to enter with Him into the wedding feast. For as God He granteth unto all the Bridegroom's gift; an incorruptible crown.

SESSIONAL HYMN IN TONE IV:

With envy, the priests and scribes wickedly gathered a lawless council against Thee, O Savior, and inspired Judas to betray Thee. Wherefore he shamelessly left, having spoken against Thee to the transgressing people, saying: 'What will ye give me, and I will betray Him into your hands?' Do Thou O Lord deliver our souls, from the condemnation that was his.

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

With envy, the priests and scribes wickedly gathered a lawless council against Thee, O

Savior, and inspired Judas to betray Thee. Wherefore he shamelessly left, having spoken against Thee to the transgressing people, saying: 'What will ye give me, and I will betray Him into your hands?' Do Thou O Lord deliver our souls, from the condemnation that was his.

SESSIONAL HYMN IN TONE VIII:

Judas, with avaricious thoughts, schemeth as an enemy against the Master, pondering how he will betray Him; and falling away from the light he accepteth the darkness; agreeing upon a price, he selleth Him that is above all price; and as the reward for his actions, in his wretchedness he hath received a hangman's noose and an agonizing death. O Christ God, deliver us from such a fate, and grant the forgiveness of sins unto those who with love celebrate Thy most pure 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.

THEN FOLLOWS THE GOSPEL READING:

Leader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according **TO ST. MATHEW (22:15 - 23:39)**

At that time: the Pharisees, took counsel how they might entangle Jesus in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to

give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way. The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine. But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love

thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions. Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour

widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but

within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

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 KONTAKION OF THE DAY, IN TONE II:

Think, O soul, upon the hour of thine end; and recall with fear how the fig tree was hewn down. Work diligently, O wretched one, with the talent that hath been granted thee; be vigilant and cry aloud: May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ.

Ikos: Why art thou melancholic, O my wretched soul? Why dost thou waste thy days consumed by unprofitable cares? Why art thou cumbered about much with things fleeting? The very last hour approacheth and we shall soon be parted from this vale of tears. While time doth remain, return to soberness and cry: I have sinned against Thee, O my Savior, cut me not down like the unfruitful fig tree; but since Thou art compassionate and exceedingly good, O Christ, be merciful to me who in Fear calleth upon Thee: May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ!

SYNAXARION READING

Verse: Holy and Great Tuesday bringeth us ten Virgins.

Verse: Who win a victory from the impartial Master.

On Holy and Great Tuesday, we commemorate the parable of the ten virgins, because the Lord related this parable to His disciples as He was going toward Jerusalem to His Holy Passion. He told the parable of the ten virgins to call attention to almsgiving, at the same time teaching that every man must be ready before the end comes. He had spoken many times to them about chastity. Virginité is held in great honor, because it is indeed a great thing. Yet, lest anyone, while practicing this one virtue, neglect the others, and particularly love, by

which the lamp of virginity is given light, he will be put to shame by the Lord. The Holy Gospel introduces this parable, calling five of the virgins wise, because they represent readiness to practice both love and virginity, and five of them foolish because, though they had virginity, they did not have love commensurate with it. They are foolish, therefore, because they practiced a great virtue yet neglected one that is easier and were reckoned as being no better than harlots; the latter were defeated by bodily pleasures, whereas the former, by possessions. As the night of the present life was going by, all the virgins fell asleep, that is, they died, for death is called a sleep. While they were sleeping, a cry rang out in the middle of the night, "Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him!" (Matt. 25:6). Those who had their oil ready and lamps trimmed went inside to the Bridegroom when the doors were opened. Earlier, the others, who had insufficient oil after their sleep, had asked the first for oil. The wise virgins wished to give them some, but could not. Before they went inside, they replied, "No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves" (Matt. 25:9). While they went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding, and the door was shut (See Matt. 25:10). The foolish virgins knocked on the doors and called out, "Lord, Lord, open to us" (Matt. 25:11). But the Lord Himself uttered the terrible reply: "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you" (Matt. 25:12). For how can you see the Bridegroom if you lack the dowry of mercy? On account of this depiction, the parable of the ten virgins was given its place here by our God-bearing Fathers to teach us always to be watchful and ready to meet the true Bridegroom with good works, especially almsgiving, because

the day and hour of the end are unknown to us. Therefore, it is made quite clear that after death, correction of mistakes and wicked acts shall be impossible, a teaching which is also found in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar. (See Luke 16:19-31) In the same way, we are taught by the All-comely Joseph to practice chastity and by the fig tree to produce spiritual fruit at all times. He who practices one virtue - and a great one indeed - but neglects the others, especially love, does not enter into eternal life with Christ but is turned back and is put to shame. There is nothing sadder and more shameful than to see virginity set at naught by possessions.

O Christ our Bridegroom, unite us with the wise virgins and join us to Thy chosen flock, and have mercy on us and save us.

Amen.

THE CANON (TONE II)

ODE VIII

Irmos: The three holy children were not obedient to the decree of the tyrant; and cast into the furnace they confessed God, singing: O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee;

Let us cast far from us slothfulness, and with brightly shining lamps meet Christ the immortal Bridegroom with hymns, crying: 'O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord'.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee;

May there be a sufficiency of the oil of fellowship in the vessels of our soul, that we need not purchase any at the time of the reward, as we sing: 'O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord'.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee;

Ye have all received an equal talent of grace from God; cultivate it, with the help of Christ who hath given it unto you, and sing: 'O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord'.

Katavasia: The three holy children were not obedient to the decree of the tyrant; and cast into the furnace they confessed God, singing: O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

ODE IX:

Irmos: Thou didst contain within thy Womb the God whom nothing can contain, and hast brought forth joy to the world, wherefore we sing thy praises, O Virgin Theotokos.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee;

'Watch', didst Thou say unto Thy disciples, O good One. 'For ye know not what hour the Lord shall come to give every man his due reward.'

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee;

At Thy fearful second coming, O Master, number me with the sheep on Thy right hand, overlooking the multitude of my sins.

Katavasia: Thou didst contain within thy Womb the God whom nothing can contain, and hast brought forth joy to the world, wherefore we sing thy praises, O Virgin Theotokos.

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) (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.

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

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

Into the splendor of Thy saints how shall I who am unworthy enter? For if I dare to draw nigh unto the bridal chamber, my vesture betrayeth me, for it is not a Wedding garment; and I shall be bound and cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth from my soul and save me as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

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

Into the splendor of Thy saints how shall I who am unworthy enter? For if I dare to draw nigh unto the bridal chamber, my vesture betrayeth me, for it is not a Wedding garment; and I shall be bound and cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth from my soul and save me as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

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

Tone II: I slumber in slothfulness of soul, O Bridegroom Christ I have not a lamp aflame

with the virtues, and like the foolish virgins I have wandered off when it hath been time for action. Close not the depths of thy compassion against me, O Master, but dispel the darkness of sleep from me, and awaken me, and lead me with the wise virgins into Thy bridal chamber, where those who unceasingly keep festival, sing with pure voices: O Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

Tone II: I slumber in slothfulness of soul, O Bridegroom Christ I have not a lamp aflame with the virtues, and like the foolish virgins I have wandered off when it hath been time for action. Close not the depths of thy compassion against me, O Master, but dispel the darkness of sleep from me, and awaken me, and lead me with the wise virgins into Thy bridal chamber, where those who unceasingly keep festival, sing with pure voices: O Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

Thou hast heard the condemnation of him who hid his talent, O soul, hide not the word of God, rather, proclaim His wonders, that the gifts of grace entrusted to thee may multiply, and thou shalt enter into the joy of thy Lord.

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.

THE APOSTICHA (TONE VI)

Come, ye faithful, and let us eagerly serve the Master, for He giveth riches unto His servants. To each according to the measure received, let him increase his talent of grace. Let one gain wisdom through good deeds; let another liturgize with beauty; let another share with preaching the mysteries to the unlearned faithful; let another distribute his wealth to the poor. Thus let us multiply that which hath been entrusted to us, that as faithful stewards of His grace we may be deemed worthy of the Master's joy. O Christ God, bestow this joy upon us, as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

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.

When Thou shalt come, O Jesus, in glory with the angelic hosts and shalt sit upon the throne of judgment, cast me not away from Thy

presence, O good Shepherd. For thou dost accept those who stand on the right, but reject those on the left, who have turned away from Thee. Destroy me not with the goats, though I am deadened in sin, but number me with the sheep on Thy right hand, and save me insofar as Thou art the Lover of mankind.

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.

O Bridegroom, surpassing all mankind in comeliness, Thou hast called us to the spiritual feast of Thy bridal chamber. Through participation in Thy sufferings; take from me the disfigurement of sin, and clothe me in the glorious robe of Thy comeliness, and insofar as Thou art compassionate grant me to feast with Thee in Thy Kingdom.

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

Behold O my soul the Master hath entrusted thee with a talent. Receive the gift with fear; that it gain interest for Him Who hath given it to Thee; distribute to the needy, and make thyself a friend of the Lord, and thus shalt thou stand on His right hand when He cometh in glory, thou shalt hear His blessed words: 'Enter, my faithful servant, into the joy of thy Lord.' of this O Savior do Thou deem me worthy, who have gone astray for the sake of Thine exceedingly great mercy.

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

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 (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..

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.