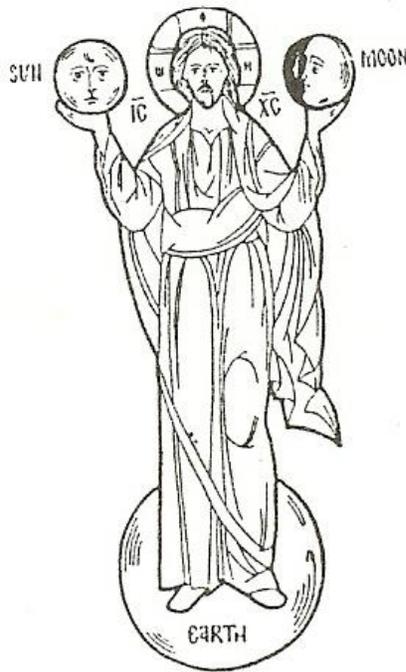


WEDNESDAY BRIDEGROOM MATINS

Served in anticipation on Holy Tuesday Evening
abridged for parish use



The faithful stand

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen.

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.

PEOPLE: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fills 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, and Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the

power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. (...)

The faithful may sit

READER: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (2x)
O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

PSALM 3

Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me. Many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But You, O Lord are a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cry to the Lord, and He answers me out of His holy hill.

I lie down and sleep; I awake again; for the Lord sustained me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people: who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord; deliver me, O my God! Strike all mine enemies upon the cheek; You break the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord: Your Blessing is upon Your people: I lie down and sleep; I wake again; for the Lord sustained me. (...)

PSALM 63 (64)

O God, You are my God; I seek You: my soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips shall

praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Your Name.

My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fat; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips: when I think of You on my bed, and meditate upon You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings will I rejoice. My soul follows after You: Your right hand upholds me.

But those that seek to destroy my soul shall go down into the lower depths of the earth. They shall be given over to the power of the sword: they shall be a prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all that swears by Him shall glory: but the mouths of liars will be stopped.

I meditate upon You in the watches of the night: for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings will I rejoice. My soul clings to You: Your right hand upholds me. (...)

PSALM 143 (142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications: in Your faithfulness, and in Your righteousness, answer me. Enter not into judgment with Your servant: for no man living is righteous before You. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me to sit in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit faint within me; my heart is appalled.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done: I muse on the work of Your hands. I stretch forth my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You, as a parched land.

Hear me speedily, O Lord! My spirit fails!

Hide not Your face from me, lest I be like those that go down into the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for I trust in You: Teach me the way in which I should go; for to You do I lift up my soul.

Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to You for refuge! Teach me to do Your will: for You are my God. Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path.

For Your Name's sake, O Lord preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring me out of trouble! And Your steadfast love cut off mine enemies, and destroy all my adversaries: for I am thy servant.

In Your faithfulness, answer me: and in Your righteousness enter not into judgment with Your servant. Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (3x)

The faithful stand.

PRIEST/DEACON & CHOIR: THE GREAT LITANY

PRIEST: For unto You is due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST/DEACON: Alleluia.

(1.) In the night my soul rises early for Thee, O God, for Thy commandments are a light on the

earth.

CHOIR/CANTOR: (refrain after each verse) Alleluia (3x)

2. Learn righteousness, you inhabitants of the earth. ®

3. Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people. ®

4. Bring more evil upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorified on the earth. ®

TROPARION

CHOIR/CANTOR: (slowly, reverently):

Behold, The Bridegroom comes at midnight/
And blessed is the servant whom He shall find
watching; /

and again , unworthy is the servant whom He
shall find heedless. /

Beware, therefore, O my soul, /

Do not be weighed down with sleep, /

Lest you be given up to death, and lest you be
shut out of the Kingdom. /

But rouse yourself, /

crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, art Thou, O our God. /

Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

(...)

PRIEST/DEACON: That we may be accounted
worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to
the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord have mercy (3x)

PRIEST/DEACON: Wisdom! Let us be attentive,
let us listen to the Holy Gospel!

PRIEST: Peace be unto all!

CHOIR: And to your spirit!

PRIEST: The reading is from the Holy Gospel

according to Saint John.

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

PRIEST: Therefore the people, who were with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"

Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save Me from this hour"? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die.



The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them."

These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

The faithful may sit.

PSALM 50 (51)

READER: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy: according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned and done evil in Thy sight: that

Thou may be justified in Thy sentence, and blameless in Thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity: and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward being: therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness: let the bones which Thou hast broken, rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways: and sinners will return to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy deliverance.

O Lord, open Thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice: were I to give a burnt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit: a humble and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering, and whole burnt offerings: then shall they offer bulls upon Thy altar.

The faithful stand.

PRIEST/DEACON: (PRAYER OF INTERCESSION)

CHOIR: Lord have mercy. (12x)

PRIEST: Through the mercy, and compassion, and love for mankind of Thine only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-Holy, Good, and Life-Creating Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen. (...)

The faithful may sit.

THE CANON

CHOIR/CANTOR: Thou hast established me on the rock of faith./

Thou hast opened wide my mouth against my enemies,/

for my spirit rejoices in singing:/

"None is holy but our God//

And none is righteous but Thee, O Lord."

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: The assembly of lawless men gathers together for empty discussion and with evil intent, to pronounce sentence upon Thee, O Christ the Deliverer. But we sing to Thee: Thou art our God, and none is holy but Thee, O Lord. (...)

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

READER: The fearful council of lawless men, with souls full of hatred toward God, intends to

kill the righteous Christ as an evil doer. But we sing to Thee: "Thou art our God, and none is Holy, but Thee, O Lord." (...)

KONTAKION

CHOIR/CANTOR: Though I have
transgressed more than the harlot, O Good
One,/

I have not offered Thee a flood of tears,/
but praying in silence, I fall down before Thee./
With love I embrace Thy most pure feet./
As Master, grant me remission of sins,/ when I
cry to Thee, O Savior://

"Deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds."

READER: The woman who was once a
profligate, suddenly is wise. She hates her
shameful deeds and carnal pleasures,
remembering the magnitude of her shame, and
the verdict of condemnation which awaits
profligates and harlots. Of these, I am indeed
the first, and though in terror, I foolishly remain
in my evil ways. But the harlot, though in
terror, hastens to the Deliverer to cry: "In Thy
compassion and love for mankind, deliver me
from the filth of my evil deeds."

CHOIR/CANTOR: The command of the tyrant
prevailed;/

the furnace was heated seven-fold./
But the youths were not burned in it./
Trampling on the king's decree, they sang:/
"Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord!//
Sing, and exalt Him throughout all ages." (...)

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to
Thee.

READER: The woman who was guilty of an abundance of sins, washed Thy feet with the abundance of her tears, and wiped them with her hair. Therefore she was not deprived of absolution for the many sins of her life, but cried: " Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Sing, and exalt Him throughout all ages! (...)

The faithful stand

PEOPLE: Let us bless the Lord: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR/CANTOR: With pure souls and
blameless lips,
come let us magnify the all pure and spotless
Mother of Emmanuel/
Through her let us offer prayers to Him who
was born of her://
"Spare our souls, O Christ, our God, and save
us."

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to
Thee.

READER: Judas proved himself both ignorant and evil. He sold the divine gift, through Whom our debt of sin is loosed. This miserable man sold the grace of God's love. But spare our souls, O Christ, our God, and save us! (...)

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

READER: O blind, and greedy avarice! Have you forgotten what you were taught, that the whole world is not worth your soul? Yet you, O traitor, despaired of your life, and made a noose and hanged yourself. But spare our souls, O Christ, our God, and save us!

PRIEST/DEACON & CHOIR: LITTLE LITANY

PRIEST: For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee we ascribe glory - to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

The faithful are to kneel.

EXAPOSTEILARION

CHOIR/CANTOR:(SLOWLY/REVERENTLY)

I see Thy Bridal Chamber adorned, O my Savior/

and I have no wedding garment that I might enter./

O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul//

and save me. (...)

The faithful may sit.

PRAISES

Selections from psalms 148-150

READER: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord./ Praise the Lord from the heavens./ Praise him in the highest,/ to thee O God is due our song./(...)

PEOPLE: Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

READER: A harlot recognized Thee as God, O son of the virgin./ With tears equal to her past deeds, she besought Thee weeping:/ "Loose my trespasses, as I have loosed my hair./ Love the woman who, though justly hated, loves Thee./ Then with the Publicans will I proclaim Thee, // O Benefactor who lovest mankind."

PEOPLE: Praise Him with trumpet sound, praise Him with lute and harp. Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! (...)

READER: O the wretchedness of Judas! He saw the harlot kiss the footsteps of Christ, but deceitfully he contemplated the kiss of betrayal. She loosed her hair, while he bound himself with wrath. He offered the stench of wickedness, instead of myrrh, for envy cannot distinguish value. O the wretchedness of Judas! Deliver our souls from this, O God."

The faithful stand.

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

READER: The sinful woman ran to buy the precious myrrh with which to anoint her Savior. She cried out to the merchant: "Give me myrrh, that I may anoint Him, Who has cleansed all my sins." (...)

THE LESSER DOXOLOGY
two readers, alternately

- Glory to Thee who has shown us the light. Glory to God on high, and on earth peace, and goodwill to man.
- We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- Lord, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world have mercy on us, Thou that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
- Thou that sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
- For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.
- Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name 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 for ever. 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. (3x)
- Thy mercy O Lord, endureth forever: O despise not the work of Thy hands.
- To Thee belongs worship, to Thee belongs praise, To Thee belongs glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST/DEACON & CHOIR: LITANY OF MATINS

PRIEST: For Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to your spirit.

PRIEST/DEACON: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Holy Lord, who dwells on high, and looks upon the humble; and who, with Thine all-seeing eye, looks down upon all creation: unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we pray Thee, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling place, and Bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly, or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as Thou art good and lovest mankind. Grant us Thy good things in this world, and beyond this world. For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

APOSTICHA

CHOIR/CANTOR: The harlot spread out her
hair to Thee, O Master,
Judas spread out his hand to lawless men:/
She in order to receive forgiveness;/
He in order to receive some silver./
We cry to Thee, Who wast sold for us, and yet

didst set us free//
"O Lord, glory to Thee." (...)

The faithful stand.

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

The Hymn of St. Cassia

CHOIR/CANTOR: The woman had fallen into
many sins, O Lord,/
yet when she perceived Thy divinity,/
she joined the ranks of the myrrh-bearing
women./

In tears, she brought Thee myrrh before Thy
burial./

She cried, "Woe is me!"/
For I live in the night of
licentiousness,/
shrouded in the dark and
moonless love of sin./
But accept the fountain of
my tears,/

O Thou who didst gather the
waters of the sea into the
clouds./

Bow down Thine ear to the
sighing of my heart,/

O thou who didst bow the heavens in Thine
ineffable condescension./

Once Eve heard Thy footstep in paradise in the
cool of the day,/

and in fear she ran and hid herself./

But now I will tenderly embrace those pure feet/

and wipe them with the hair of my head./



Who can measure the multitude of my sins,
or the depth of Thy judgments, O Savior of
my soul?//
Do not despise Thy servant in Thine
immeasurable mercy."

READER: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most-high; to
declare Thy steadfast love in the morning and
Thy truth by night.

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy
Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of
ages. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever and
unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. Standing in the temple of Thy glory, we think that we are in heaven, O Theotokos, Gate of Heaven, open to us the gates of your mercy.

Lord have mercy (...12x)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God, the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify you!
In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless.

PRIEST: Christ, our God, the existing One is Blessed: always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. O Heavenly King, strengthen the Orthodox Christians, confirm the Faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters in the tabernacles of the Just, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for Thou art good, and lovest mankind.

PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM

At each break in the prayer (+), and at the end (+), all make a full prostration.

PRIEST/DEACON & PEOPLE:

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. (+) (...)

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O Christ: our God and
our hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, Bless.

PRIEST: May He who for our sakes, and for our
salvation, is going to His voluntary Passion:
Christ, our true God, through the intercessions
of His all-pure and all-blameless Holy Mother,
and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and
save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

CHOIR: AMEN.

Compiled and edited by
The Archpriest Sergei and Prifteresha Elisabeth
Bouteneff
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