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READER'S ORTHROS
Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Monday
(Served by anticipation in the evening of Palm Sunday)

THE OPENING

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

Trisagion

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 One, 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 the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

The Royal Psalms

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

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

Reader: O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. (*Metania*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. (*Metania*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God. (*Metania*)

PSALM 19

Reader: The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Sion let Him help thee. Let Him remember every sacrifice of thine, and thy whole-burnt offering let Him fatten. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfil all thy purposes. We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God shall we be magnified. The Lord fulfil all thy requests. Now have

I know that the Lord hath saved His anointed one; He will hearken unto him out of His holy heaven; in mighty deeds is the salvation of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God. They have been fettered and have fallen, but we are risen and are set upright. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

PSALM 20

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the requests of his lips. Thou wentest before him with the blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stone. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages. Great is his glory in Thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt Thou lay upon him. For Thou shalt give him blessing for ever and ever, Thou shalt gladden him in joy with Thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High shall he not be shaken. Let Thy hand be found on all Thine enemies; let Thy right hand find all that hate Thee. For Thou wilt make them as an oven of fire in the time of Thy presence; the Lord in His wrath will trouble them sorely and fire shall devour them. Their fruit wilt Thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men. For they have intended evil against Thee, they have devised counsels which they shall not be able to establish. For Thou shalt make them turn their backs; among those that are Thy remnant, Thou shalt make ready their countenance. Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we will sing and chant of Thy mighty acts.

Trisagion

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 One, 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 the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Orthros Troparia

Reader: O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance. Grant victory to Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by thy cross preserve 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 fearsome champion, 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 all to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God and alone art blessed.

EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*9 times*)

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

Choir: Amen.

The Six Psalms

Reader: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace good will among men. (*thrice*)

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare 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 mockings, 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 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 I 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 of 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.

Stasis

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; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PSALM 87

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 with-out 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 hands. 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, in 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 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 com-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 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 re-member 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 words, 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 out 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. Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

Stasis

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 God our Hope, O Lord, glory to Thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

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

Choir: Amen.

ALLELUIA & TRIADIKA¹ IN TONE 8

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: Out of the night my spirit waketh at dawn unto Thee, O God, for Thy commandments are a 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 of an uninstructed people, and now fire shall devour the adversaries.

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.

TROPARION OF THE BRIDEGROOM² IN TONE 8

Behold the Bridegroom cometh at midnight, and blessed is he, whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware therefore O my soul, lest thou be weighed down with sleep, and thou be given over unto death and shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse thyself, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God, through the intercessions of the heavenly hosts, have mercy on us.

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

Behold the Bridegroom cometh at midnight, and blessed is he, whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware therefore O my soul, lest thou be weighed down with sleep, and thou be given over unto death and shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse thyself, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God, through the intercessions of the Holy Myrrhberar and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene, have mercy on us.

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

Behold the Bridegroom cometh at midnight, and blessed is he, whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware therefore O my soul, lest thou be weighed down with sleep, and thou be given over unto death and shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse thyself, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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

Choir: Amen.

¹ In a more complete setting (e.g. when served with a Priest), a procession with the icon of Christ the Bridegroom (Nymphios) takes place at this point.

² This Troparion is sung 3 times, with different endings (shown underlined).

KATHISMATA

In tone 1

Verily, on this very day shall be revealed to the world the solemn Passion as a saving light; for of his own goodness Christ shall come to suffer. And he who holdeth everything in the hollow of his hand condescendeth to be suspended on a tree to save mankind.

Same tone

O thou unseen Judge, how wast thou seen in the flesh, and how earnest thou to be slain in the body by breakers of the law, who by thy Passion judge our case? Wherefore, we address unto thee magnification and praise, O Word, and in unison we offer glory to thy power.

In tone 8

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

Verily, this present day ushers in with splendor the Passion of the Lord. Come, therefore, O ye lovers of the feast, let us welcome it with songs; for the Creator cometh to accept crucifixion, examination, and lashes, and to be condemned by Pilate, smitten on his face by a servant, and to bear all things to save mankind. Wherefore, do we cry out unto him; O Christ our God, who lovest mankind, grant forgiveness of sins to them who in faith do worship thy pure Passion.

THE GOSPEL

All: Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

Reader: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (21:18-43).

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

Reader (in normal voice): At that time, Jesus was returning to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside he went to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and never doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

"Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it."

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

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins. 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. 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 builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The Three Canticle Canon, in tone 2

ODE 1

Heirmos: Let us praise the Lord, by whose divine command the raging and uncharted sea was dried up, and who led the children of Israel through it, for in glory he hath been glorified.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
Truly the ineffable condescension of the Word of God, even Christ, who is himself God and Man, was not accounted robbery, for he is God and taking the likeness of a servant, as he revealed to his disciples; for in glory he hath been glorified.

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

Yea, I the Creator, rich in Godhead, came myself to serve poor Adam, whose likeness I took willingly, and to give myself as a redemption for him, for I am without suffering as to my Godhead.

(Katavasia)

Let us praise the Lord, by whose divine command the raging and uncharted sea was dried up, and who led the children of Israel through it, for in glory he hath been glorified.

LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION & OIKOS

(Plain reading)

Kontakion

Jacob wailed the loss of Joseph while that brave youth was sitting in a chariot like an honored king; for at that time, not having enslaved himself to the pleasures of Egypt, he was glorified instead by God, who looketh into the hearts of men, and who granteth them incorruptible crowns.

Oikos

Let us add wailing to wailing, shedding tears, and mourning with Jacob for chaste Joseph of perpetual memory, "who was enslaved in the flesh. But his soul he preserved free, and he was lord over all Egypt; for God granteth his servants incorruptible crowns.

THE SYNAXARION

On this day begins the anniversary of the holy Passion of the Saviour, he of whom Joseph of exceeding beauty is taken as the earliest symbol; for this Joseph was the eleventh of the sons of Jacob, and because his father loved him exceedingly, his brothers envied him and threw him into a pit. Then they took him out and sold him to strangers, who sold him in Egypt, He was slandered for his chastity, and was thrown into prison. But finally he was taken out of prison, and he attained a high rank, and received honors worthy of kings, becoming governor of the whole of Egypt, whose people he supported. Thus he symbolized in himself the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and his consequent great glory. *(Genesis 40; 41)*

To the remembrance of Joseph is added the story of the fig tree which the Lord cursed on this day (corresponding at that time to the nineteenth of the month of March) because of its barrenness, so that it dried up. The fig tree was a symbol of the Council of the Jews which did not show the necessary fruits of virtue and righteousness, so that Christ stripped it of every spiritual grace. *(Matthew 21:18-20)*

Wherefore, by the intercessions of the all-comely Joseph, O Christ, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Continuation of the Three Canticle Canon, in tone 2

ODE 8

Heirmos: Verily, the fire was fed with measureless matter and did flee with trembling from the agreement of the pure youths and from their bodies, which were free of corruption. And when its ever rising flames had subsided, they shouted, crying, Praise the Lord, all his works; exalt him more and more unto the ages.

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

As the Saviour went unto his Passion, he said to his beloved; If ye keep my commandments then all will know that ye are my disciples. Be at peace one with another and with all, and be of humble mind that ye may be exalted. Know that I am the Lord, and praise and exalt me more and more unto the ages.

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

Let your order be contrary to the order of the Gentiles, who practice lordship over their own kind; for such are not of mine, and their absolute purpose is to gain rulership. Wherefore, whosoever desires among you to be first, let him be last of all and know that I am the Lord, and praise and exalt me more and more unto the ages.

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

(Katavasia)

Verily, the fire was fed with measureless matter and did flee with trembling from the agreement of the pure youths and from their bodies, which were free of corruption. And when its ever rising flames had subsided, they shouted, crying, Praise the Lord, all his works; exalt him more and more unto the ages.

ODE 9

Leader: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light, let us honor and magnify in song.

Heirmos: O Christ our Creator, thou hast magnified thy mother, the Theotokos, from whom thou didst put on the body, like unto ours in the Passion, and delivered us from our ignorance. Wherefore, we bless her through all generations, and thee we magnify.

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

O Wisdom of all, thou didst declare unto thy disciples, sayings Put away all the filth of passion, and take unto yourselves a steadfast mind, worthy of the kingdom divine wherein ye shall be glorified and shall shine more brightly than the sun.

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

Thus, O Lord, thou didst say to thy disciples: Look unto me, and be not exalted in your own minds, but die with the humble. Drink the cup that I drink; for ye shall be glorified with me in the kingdom of my Father.

(Katavasia)

O Christ our Creator, thou hast magnified thy mother, the Theotokos, from whom thou didst put on the body, like unto ours in the Passion, and delivered us from our ignorance. Wherefore, we bless her through all generations, and thee we magnify.

LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

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

Choir: Amen.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION

Tone 3 (special melody)

I behold thy bridal chamber richly adorned, O my Saviour; but I have no wedding garment to worthily enter. Make radiant the garment of my soul, O Giver of Light, and save me. *(thrice)*

THE PRAISES

In tone 1

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.

Verse: Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. At the time when the Lord was coming to his voluntary Passion, he said to his disciples on the way: Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man shall be delivered even as it was written. Wherefore, let us, O brethren, walk along with him with consciences free from stain and be crucified with him, and with him let us kill the pleasures of life, that we may live with him, and that we may hear him say, I am not ascending to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but to my Father and your Father, to my God, and your God, that I may draw you with me unto the Jerusalem above in the kingdom of heaven.

In tone 5

Verse: Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs. O believers, having arrived at the saving Passion of Christ, let us praise his ineffable long-suffering, that by his compassion may he raise us who are dead in sin; for he is good and the Lover of Mankind.

In tone 5

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. When thou wast going to thy Passion, thou didst take thy disciples aside assuring them, saying unto diem: How can it: be that ye do not recall the words that I spake to you before; [that no prophet is killed except in Jerusalem, as it is written? And now the time hath come concerning which I told you; for behold, I shall be delivered unto ridicule at the hands of sinners, who shall nail me upon the Cross, deliver me to the tomb, and account me dead and abandoned. But be of good cheer; for I will rise on the third day, for the joy of the faithful and their eternal life.

THE LESSER DOXOLOGY

Leader: To Thee belongeth glory, O Lord 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. Amen.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We hymn thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks unto thee for thy great glory. O Lord, King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world. Receive our prayer, thou that 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 night will I bless thee, and I will praise thy name forever; yea, forever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, 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 mercy unto them that know thee. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen.

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master: make me to understand thy commandments. Blessed art thou, O Holy One: enlighten me with thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands.

To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

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

THE APOSTICHA

In tone 5

The mother of the sons of Zebedee, O Lord, not being equal to the mystery of thine ineffable dispensation, begged thee to grant her two sons the honors of a temporal kingdom. But instead, thou didst promise thy beloved that they should drink the cup of death, the cup which thou didst say thou wouldst drink before them for the purification of all sins. Wherefore, we cry unto thee, O salvation of our souls, glory be to thee.

Verse: 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 hast humbled us, for the years wherein we have seen evil. And look upon thy servants, and upon thy works, and do thou guide their sons.

Thou didst teach thy disciples, O Lord, to think on that which is more perfect and didst tell them not to imitate the Gentiles in lordship over the lowly, saying: Let it not be so among you, my disciples; for I have become poor of my own will. And the first among you, let him be the servant of all; and the ruler, as the one who is ruled; and the foremost, let him be the last; for I have come to serve poor Adam and to give myself as a redemption for the many who cry, glory be to thee.

In tone 8

Verse: And let the brightness of the Lord our God be on us: prosper thou the work of our hands, O prosper thou our handiwork.

Let us, O brethren, be awed at the rebuking of the fig tree which dried up for the lack of fruit. Let us offer fruits worthy of repentance to Christ who granteth us the great mercy.

Same tone

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

The temptor verily found the Egyptian Eve a second time, and hastened to trip up Joseph with words of flattery. But he left his robe and ran away from sin, being not ashamed of his nakedness, as the first creatures before their disobedience. Wherefore, by his intercessions, 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.

Trisagion

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 One, 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 the evil one.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Kontakion (Plain reading)

Jacob wailed the loss of Joseph while that brave youth was sitting in a chariot like an honored king; for at that time, not having enslaved himself to the pleasures of Egypt, he was glorified instead by God, who looketh into the hearts of men, and who granteth them incorruptible crowns.

Reader: 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 more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

Reader: Amen. O heavenly King, support our believing kings; confirm their faith; guide the nations; give peace to the world and preserve well this holy church. Grant repose to our departed fathers and brothers, in the dwelling-places of the righteous. Receive us in repentance and confession, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN

All: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, 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 sins and not to judge my brother, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)

Then³ twelve reverences (with the sign of the Cross). With each one we say:

O God, be gracious unto me a sinner.

Then the entire prayer without a break:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, 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 sins and not to judge my brother, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)

³ The Antiochian "Holy Week and Pascha" book omits the 12 metanias and the repetition of the entire St. Ephrem's Prayer.

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, who art going to Thy voluntary passion for the sake of our salvation, through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; of the holy Myrrh-bearer and equal-to-the-apostles, Mary Magdalene, protector of our community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

The faithful now venerate the icon of the Bridegroom, while the Troparion and/or the Ex-apostelarian of the Bridegroom is chanted by the choir. Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

All: Amen.