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READER'S ORTHROS

***Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Tuesday***

(Served by anticipation in the evening of Holy Monday)

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 & TRIADIKA 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 BRIDEGROOM<sup>1</sup> 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 Forerunner, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> This Troparion is sung 3 times, with different endings (shown underlined).

## KATHISMATA

*In tone 4*

Let us admire and love the Bridegroom, O brethren, making ready our lamps that they may shine forth with virtues and the Orthodox Faith; that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be prepared to enter with him to the marriage feast; for the Bridegroom, being God, granteth to all an incorruptible crown.

*Same tone*

The priests and scribes, O Christ, through great envy, brought against thee a council deviating from the law, moving Judas to the betrayal. Wherefore he went out with audacity and spake unto those law transgressing people, saying, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him into your hands? Wherefore, O Lord, save our souls from his condemnation.

*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.

That evil adversary Judas was moved by a silver loving mind. He planned, by conspiracy, the betrayal of the Master and fell from the Light, accepting darkness. And having bargained for the sale, he sold the Priceless One. Wherefore, that wretched man found hanging and horrible death a reward of his deed. Save us, therefore, O Christ, from his company, and grant forgiveness of sins to those who eagerly celebrate thy pure Passion.

### THE GOSPEL

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

*Reader: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (22:15-46; 23:1-39).*

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

*Reader (in normal voice):* At that time, the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. Tell us, then, what do you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Render, therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. " When they heard it, they marveled; and they left him and went away.

The same day the Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother must marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother. So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, therefore, to which of the seven will she be wife? For they all had her."

But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?' He is not God of the dead, but of the living. " And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying: "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet?' If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men, but you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of Gehenna as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If any one swears by the temple, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If any one swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee! first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like white-washed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,

saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to Gehenna? Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Zacharias the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*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.

#### KONTAKION & OIKOS

*(Plain reading)*

*Kontakion*

O wretched soul, think of thy last hours. Be dismayed at the rebuking of the fig tree. Act, and double the talent given to thee with a fatigue-loving purpose. Awake, watching and crying out, lest thou remain outside the chamber of Christ.

*Oikos*

O wretched soul, why art thou indifferent, and why dost thou vainly imagine unavailing ventures? Why dost thou direct thine energies to things passing? For it is the last hour; and we are about to be separated from what is here. Wherefore, while you still have time, listen and cry, "I have

sinned, O Christ my Saviour; despise me not like the barren fig tree." But since Thou art compassionate, have mercy on me, who cry to Thee in fear, lest I remain outside the chamber of Christ.

## THE SYNAXARION

On this day we make remembrance of the Parable of the Ten Virgins which Jesus spake along with others as he was coming to the Passion. It teaches us not to rest as though safe in virginity, but to guard it whenever possible, and not to desist from any virtues and good deeds, especially deeds of mercy, which make the lamp of virginity shine brilliantly. It teaches us also to be ready for our end, not knowing when our hour is coming, as the wise virgins were ready to meet the bride, lest death overtake us and close the door of the heavenly chamber in our face, and we hear the terrible judgment which the foolish virgins heard, "Verily, verily, I know you not." (Matthew 25:1-13)

Wherefore, O Christ the Bridegroom, number us with the wise virgins and have mercy upon us. Amen.

### *The Two Canticle Canon, in tone 2*

#### ODE 8

*Heirmos:* Verily, the three upright youths yielded not to the command of the usurper when they were thrown in the furnace, but confessed God, singing, Bless the Lord, all his works.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.<sup>2</sup>

Let us cast indifference away from us, and with sparkling lamps and songs of praise let us welcome Christ the Bridegroom who dieth not, crying, Bless the Lord, all his works.

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

Let there be sufficient of the oil of mercy in our vessels, lest we make time of receiving prizes a time of bargaining; and let us sing, Bless the Lord, all his works.

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

O ye who have received the talent from God, double it with the help of Christ, who granteth equal grace, as ye sing, Bless the Lord, all his works.

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

#### *(Katavasia)*

Verily, the three upright youths yielded not to the command of the usurper when they were thrown in the furnace, but confessed God, singing, Bless the Lord, all his works.

#### ODE 9

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

*Heirmos:* O All-Holy Virgin, who didst contain in thy womb the uncontainable God, and bore joy to the world, thee do we praise.

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

Thou didst say to thy Disciples, O Good One, Watch; for ye know not the hour in which the Lord cometh to reward everyone.

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

In thine awesome Second Coming, O Master, establish me on thy right hand with the sheep, overlooking the multitude of my sins.

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<sup>2</sup> The Antiochian Holy Week book has this refrain missing.

*(Katavasia)*

O All-Holy Virgin, who didst contain in thy womb the uncontainable God, and bore joy to the world, thee do we praise.

### 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. How shall I, the unworthy one, enter into the splendor of thy saints, for if by chance I shall dare to enter with him into the chamber, my raiment will reproach me, for they are not garments for a wedding, and I shall be thrown down and bound up by the angels. Make clean, O Lord, therefore, the stain of my soul and grant me salvation, for thou only art the lover of mankind.

*In tone 2*

*Verse:* Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs. O Christ the Bridegroom, I who did sleep neglectfully and, like the foolish virgins, did procrastinate at the time of labor, was not in possession of a lamp of virtues. In spite of this, O Master, close not against me the wings of thy compassion. O drive away from me dark sleep, waken me and bring me into thy chamber with the wise virgins, where is the song of the undented and pure feasters and of those who cry ceaselessly: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

*In tone 4*

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

Having heard of the judgment of him who buried the talent, O my soul, hide thou not the Word of God, but proclaim his wonders that thou may increase the gift twofold and enter into the joy of thy Lord.

### 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 6*

Come, ye believers, let us work diligently for the Master; for he distributes wealth unto his servants. Let each of us according to his ability, increase the gift of grace twofold. Let one be adorned with wisdom according to good deeds, another accomplish a service with splendor; let one preach to the unenlightened in word and faith, another distribute treasure unto the poor; for thus shall we increase the loan twofold, as faithful agents of the grace, and be worthy of the joy of the Master. Wherefore, O Christ our God, prepare us for this, since thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

*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.

When thou comest in glory with the angelic hosts, O Jesus, and sittest on the throne of judgment, separate me not from the ways of thy right hand; for thou knowest that the ways of the left are crooked. And destroy me not among the goats, a hardened sinner, but number me with the sheep on thy right hand and save me; for thou art the Lover of mankind.

*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.

O Bridegroom, brilliant in thy beauty above all mankind, who didst call us to the spiritual banquet of thy chamber, cast away from me the likeness of the rags of iniquity, by participation in thy Passion and adorn me with the robe of thy beauty, and distinguish me as a brilliant guest in thy kingdom, for thou only art compassionate.

*In tone 7*

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

Behold, the Master entrusteth thee with the gift of a talent, O my soul. Wherefore, receive thou the gift with fear. Lend to the giver and render consolation to the poor. Obtain the Lord as a friend that thou may stand on his right hand when he comes in glory, and that thou may hear that most blessed voice: Enter, thou, O servant, into the joy of thy Lord. Prepare me, a prodigal, for this, O Savior, for the multitude of thy mercies.

*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)*

O wretched soul, think of thy last hours. Be dismayed at the rebuking of the fig tree. Act, and double the talent given to thee with a fatigue-loving purpose. Awake, watching and crying out, lest thou remain outside the chamber of Christ.

*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*)

*Then<sup>3</sup> 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*)

## 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; at the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; 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.

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