

# MATINS OF THE BRIDEGROOM

## SERVED ON PALM SUNDAY EVENING

*After the Dismissal of the Midnight Office the Priest, having made the customary metania to the Superior, or to his stall, enters the sanctuary and makes three bows before the holy Table. He puts on the Epitrachelion and, standing in front of the holy Table, intones:*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

**Priest:** Glory to you....Heavenly King...

*The Priest blesses the incense and begins to cense with the katzion the sanctuary and the whole church as usual.*

**Reader:** Holy God. Holy Mighty. Holy Immortal. Have mercy on us. (x3)

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

All-Holy Trinity: Have mercy on us. Lord: Cleanse our sins. Master: Pardon our transgressions. Holy One: watch over and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the 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.

**Priest:** For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x12). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Come let us worship, and fall down before the king, our God.

Come let us worship, and fall down before Christ the king, our God.

Come let us worship, and fall down before Christ himself, the king and our God.

*With three metanias. Then the following two Psalms.*

### **Psalm 19**

*To completion, a psalm to David.*

The Lord hear you in the day of affliction, the name of the God of Jacob shield you.

<sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the holy place, and from Sion take hold of you.

<sup>3</sup> May he remember your every sacrifice, and your whole burnt offering let him fatten.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord give you according to your heart, and fulfill your every counsel.

<sup>5</sup> We will rejoice upon your salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God we will be magnified.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord fulfill all your requests, now I know that the Lord has saved his christ.

<sup>7</sup> He will hear him from his holy heaven, in powerful deeds the salvation of his right hand.

<sup>8</sup> These on chariots, and these on horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.

<sup>9</sup> They were shackled and fell, but we have risen and have been set upright.

<sup>10</sup> Lord, save the king and hear us, on whichever day we call upon you.

### **Psalm 20**

*A psalm to David.*

O Lord, in your power the king will be gladdened, and in your salvation will rejoice greatly.

<sup>2</sup> His heart's desire you gave him, and of the will of his lips you did not deprive him.

<sup>3</sup> For you came before him with blessings of kindness, you set upon his head a crown of precious stone.

<sup>4</sup> Life he asked of you, and you gave him length of days to age of age.

<sup>5</sup> Great is his glory in your salvation, glory and majesty you will place upon him.

<sup>6</sup> For you will give him blessing to age of age, and will gladden him in delight with your Face.

<sup>7</sup> For the king hopes in the Lord, and in the mercy of the Most High he will not, will not be moved.

<sup>8</sup> May your hand be found by all your enemies, and may your right hand find all who hate you.

<sup>9</sup> For you will set them like a fiery kiln, at the time of your Face.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord in his wrath will confound them, and fire will devour them.

<sup>11</sup> Their offspring you will destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men.

<sup>12</sup> For they inclined toward you bad things, and plotted counsels by which they are not, are not able to stand.

<sup>13</sup> For you will put them to turn their back, in your remnants you will prepare their face.

<sup>14</sup> Be lifted up, O Lord, in your power, we will sing and praise your powerful deeds.

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

Holy God. Holy Mighty. Holy Immortal. Have mercy on us. (x3)

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

All-Holy Trinity: Have mercy on us. Lord: Cleanse our sins. Master: Pardon our transgressions. Holy One: watch over and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the 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.

**Priest:** For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

*The priest must take care that he is standing beneath the Polyeleos to say this conclusion. He then enters the sanctuary, censes the altar then puts away the censer and takes his stand in front of the Holy Table.*

*And the following Troparia:*

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance, bestowing victories to your people against barbarians and guarding by your cross your citizenry.

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

Lifted up on the Cross willingly, Christ God, give your pities to the new citizenry of your name, gladden our rulers by your power, granting them victories against the adversaries; may they have your alliance, a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. *Theotokion.*

Champion fearful and unashamed, do not overlook our supplications, O good one, all-hymned Birthgiver of God; establish the citizenry of the right-glorifying, save the ones whom you have called to rule, and from heaven grant them the victory, for you gave birth to God, only blessed one.

**Deacon/Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Reader:** Lord have mercy (x3).

**Deacon/Priest:** Again we pray for the civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its armed forces.

**Reader:** Lord have mercy (x3).

**Priest:** For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless!

*Making the sign of the cross over the altar with the censer the priest says:*

**Priest:** Glory to the holy and consubstantial and life-creating and undivided Trinity, always now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

## THE SIX PSALMS

*During the first three psalms the priest takes the SKOUFIA OFF and reads the first six prayers of the light from before the holy table. And we begin the Six Psalms, listening with complete silence and compunction. The designated reader, with devotion and fear of God says:*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, Good Will among men. (3x)

Lord, you will open my lips and my mouth will proclaim your praise. (2x)

### Psalm 3

*A psalm to David, when he escaped from the face of Abesalom his son.*

Lord, why did the one who afflict me multiply? Many rise up upon me.

<sup>2</sup> Many tell my soul, There is not salvation for him in his God.

<sup>3</sup> But you, O Lord, are the one who takes hold of me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

<sup>4</sup> With my voice I cried to the Lord, and he heard me from his holy mountain.

<sup>5</sup> And I lay down and fell asleep, I was awakened, that the Lord will take hold of me.

<sup>6</sup> I will not be frightened by tens of thousands of people who round about set up together upon me.

<sup>7</sup> Rise, O God, save me, my God, for you struck all those who are at enmity with me for nothing, the teeth of sinners you shattered.

<sup>8</sup> Salvation is the Lord's, and your blessing upon your people.

## **Psalm 37**

*A psalm to David, for remembrance concerning the Sabbath.*

Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, nor chastise me in your wrath.

<sup>2</sup> For your arrows stuck fast in me, and you laid your hand hard upon me.

<sup>3</sup> There is not healing in my flesh from the Face of your wrath, there is not peace in my bones from the face of my sins.

<sup>4</sup> For my iniquities rose over my head, like a heavy burden they weighed upon me.

<sup>5</sup> My bruises stank and rotted, from the face of my mindlessness.

<sup>6</sup> I was wretched and was bent down utterly, all the day I walked about glooming.

<sup>7</sup> For my loins were filled with mockings, and there is not healing in my flesh.

<sup>8</sup> I was distressed and was humbled greatly, I howled from the groaning of my heart.

<sup>9</sup> Lord, in front of you – all my desire, and my groaning from you was not hidden.

<sup>10</sup> My heart was troubled, my strength forsook me, and the light of my eyes, it too is not with me.

<sup>11</sup> My friends and my neighbors drew near in front of me and stood, and those nearest me stood from afar off.

<sup>12</sup> The ones who seek my soul used force, and the ones who seek bad things for me spoke vanities, and were thoughtful of deceits all the day.

<sup>13</sup> But as for me I, like someone deaf, did not hear, and, like someone mute who does not open his mouth.

<sup>14</sup> And I became like the one who does not hear, and who does not have reproofs in his mouth.

<sup>15</sup> For in you, O Lord, I have hoped; you will hear, O Lord my God.

<sup>16</sup> For I said, Only let not my enemies be joyful over me. And when my feet faltered, they spoke boastfully over me.

<sup>17</sup> For I am prepared for whippings, and my pain is always before me.

<sup>18</sup> For I will proclaim my iniquity, and will worry about my sin.

<sup>19</sup> But my enemies live and prevailed over me, and the ones who hate me unjustly multiplied.

<sup>20</sup> The ones who repay me bad things for good accused me, since I closely pursued goodness.

<sup>21</sup> Do not forsake me, O Lord. My God, do not keep away from me. Attend to my help, Lord of my salvation.

## **Psalm 62**

*A psalm to David, when he was in the wilderness of Judea.*

O God, my God, at dawn I keep vigil for you. My soul has thirsted for you, how often my flesh – for you in a desert land, untrodden, and waterless.

<sup>2</sup> Thus I appeared to you in the holy place, to see your Power and your Glory.

<sup>3</sup> For your mercy – better than lives, my lips will praise you.

<sup>4</sup> Thus I will bless you in my life, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

<sup>5</sup> That my soul be filled with marrow and fatness, my mouth will praise you with lips of rejoicing.

<sup>6</sup> If I remembered you upon my bed, at dawn I was thoughtful of you.

<sup>7</sup> For you became my helper, and in the shelter of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup> My soul cleaved to you, and your right hand took hold of me.

<sup>9</sup> But in vain they sought my soul, they will go into the deepest parts of the earth, will be delivered into the hands of the sword, and will be portions for foxes.

<sup>10</sup> But the king will be gladdened in God, everyone who swears in him will be praised, for the mouth of those who speak unrighteous things has been muzzled.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (x3)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

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

*When the people finish the third psalm and say "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. . ." the priest exits the sanctuary and reads the remaining prayers of the light from before the icon of Christ.*

### **Psalm 87**

*An ode of psalm to the sons of Kore, to completion, over Maeleth, that a word be answered. Of understanding to Aitham the Israelite.*

Lord God of my salvation, I have cried by day and at night in front of you.

<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer come in front of you, incline your ear to my supplication.

<sup>3</sup> For my soul was filled with bad things, and my life drew near to hell.

<sup>4</sup> I was counted with the ones who go down to the pit, I became like a helpless man, free within the dead.

<sup>5</sup> Like ones slain who sleep in a tomb, whom you no longer remembered, and they were driven away from your hand.

<sup>6</sup> They put me in the lowest pit, in dark places and in shadow of death.

<sup>7</sup> Your anger was laid hard upon me, and you brought all your risings upon me.

<sup>8</sup> You took the ones who know me far off from me, and they made me an abomination to themselves.

<sup>9</sup> I was handed over and I did not come out, my eyes weakened from poverty.

<sup>10</sup> I cried to you, O Lord, all the day, I stretched out my hands toward you.

<sup>11</sup> Surely you will not work wonders for the dead? Or will physicians raise up again, and will confess to you?

<sup>12</sup> Surely someone will not describe your mercy in the tomb, and your truth in destruction?

<sup>13</sup> Surely your wonders will not be known in the dark, or your righteousness in a forgotten land?

- 14 But I, O Lord, I cried to you, and in the morning my prayer will be before you.  
15 What for, O Lord, did you drive away my soul, what for do you turn your Face from me?  
16 Poor am I and in toils from my youth; and lifted up, I was humbled and brought to despair.  
17 Over me your wraths spread out, and your terrors troubled me.  
18 They encircled me like water, all the day they surrounded me altogether.  
19 You took far off from me friend and neighbor, and the ones who know me because of my misery.

## **Psalm 102**

*To David.*

- Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all which are within me – his holy name.  
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his repayments.  
3 Who is much-forgiving to all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.  
4 Who redeems your life from rotting, who crowns you with mercy and pitie.  
5 Who fills your desire with good things, your youth will be renewed like an eagle's.  
6 The Lord who makes mercies, and judgment to all who are wronged.  
7 He made known his ways to Moses, to the sons of Israel his wills.  
8 The Lord – pitying and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy. He will not be wrathful utterly, nor will he be enraged to the age.  
9 Not according to our iniquities has he done to us, nor according to our sins has he repaid us.  
10 For according to the height of heaven from the earth, has the Lord strengthened his mercy over the ones who fear him.  
11 As far as the east is from the west, so far off has he taken our iniquities from us.  
12 As a father pities his sons, has the Lord pitied the ones who fear him; for he knew our fashioning, has remembered that we are dust.  
13 The human – his days like grass; like a flower of the field, so he will blossom.  
14 For a wind has passed through it and it will not be, and it will no longer know its place.  
15 But the mercy of the Lord – from the age, and until the age over the ones who fear him.  
16 And his righteousness over sons of sons, over the ones who keep his testament, and remember his commandments to do them.  
17 The Lord in heaven has prepared his throne and his kingdom has dominion over all.  
18 Bless the Lord, all his angels, powerful in strength, who do his word, in order to hear the voice of his words.  
19 Bless the Lord, all his powers, his liturgizers who do his will.  
20 Bless the Lord, all his works, in every place of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

## **Psalm 142**

*A psalm to David, when Abesalom, his son, was pursuing him.*

Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in your truth, hear me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> And do not enter into judgment with your servant, for everyone living will not be righteous before you.

<sup>3</sup> For the enemy closely pursued my soul, to the ground he humbled my life.

<sup>4</sup> He made me sit in dark places like the dead of the age, and my spirit became despondent in me, and my heart was troubled within me.

<sup>5</sup> I have remembered days of old, I have been thoughtful of all your works, I was thoughtful of the makings of your hands.

<sup>6</sup> I stretched out my hands toward you, my soul – like waterless land, to you.

<sup>7</sup> Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has vanished.

<sup>8</sup> Do not turn your Face from me, and I will be like the ones who go down into the pit.

<sup>9</sup> Make your mercy heard to me in the morning, for I have hoped in you.

<sup>10</sup> Lord, make known to me the way in which I will walk, for I have lifted up my soul toward you.

<sup>11</sup> Take me away from my enemies, O Lord, for I have run to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you, you are my God.

<sup>12</sup> Your good Spirit will guide me in a straight land; for your name's sake, O Lord, you will make me live.

<sup>13</sup> In your righteousness you will lead my soul out of affliction, and in your mercy you will destroy my enemies.

<sup>14</sup> And you will lay waste to all who afflict my soul, for I, I am your servant.

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

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

*When the psalms are finished, the priest puts the SKOUFIA ON and, if there is a deacon, enters the sanctuary while the deacon says the litany from before the holy doors. If there is no deacon, the priest himself says the great litany from before the holy doors.*

### LITANY OF PEACE

**Deacon/Priest:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. (*and after each petition*)

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.



For our archbishop and father \_\_\_\_\_, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every monastery, city, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by land, sea, and air, the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

**Reader:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** For to you are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

*The priest censes the icon of the Bridegroom in the altar during the singing of the Alleluia. Verses from Isaias 26.*

**Deacon/Priest:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Out of night my spirit keeps vigil for you at dawn, O God, for your commands are light upon the earth.

**Reader:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Deacon/Priest:** Learn righteousness, you who dwell upon the earth.

**Reader:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Deacon/Priest:** Zeal will seize an unchastised people, and now fire will consume the adversaries.

**Reader:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Deacon/Priest:** Set bad things before them, O Lord, set bad things before them, the glorious ones of the earth.

**Reader:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The priest exits the altar with the icon as at an entrance, led by the censer. After placing the icon on the stand in the middle of the church, he censes three times around the stand, venerates the icon of the Bridegroom, and then censes it continuously until the singing is ended.*

*Then the following Troparion is sung solemnly 3 times.*

**Tone 8** Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is that servant whom he finds watching; but unworthy is the one whom he finds slothful. Take care then, my soul, not to be overcome with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out of the kingdom; but rouse yourself and cry: Holy, holy, holy are you, O God; through the protection of Bodiless Powers, have mercy on us.

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

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is that servant whom he finds watching; but unworthy is the one whom he finds slothful. Take care then, my soul, not to be overcome with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out of the kingdom; but rouse yourself and cry: Holy, holy, holy are you, O God; through the prayers of the Archbishop Nicholas, have mercy on us.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is that servant whom he finds watching; but unworthy is the one whom he finds slothful. Take care then, my soul, not to be overcome with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out of the kingdom; but rouse yourself and cry: Holy, holy, holy are you, O God; through the Mother of God, have mercy on us.

*[Then we recite Kathisma 4 [Psalms 24-31] of the Psalter. After the Psalter the following Kathisma:]*

### **READ. Tone 1. The soldiers watching**

The present day makes the holy sufferings dawn for the world like saving lights; for Christ in his goodness is hastening to suffer; he who holds the universe in the hollow of his hand accepts to be hung upon a Tree to save humankind.

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

The present day makes the holy sufferings dawn for the world like saving lights; for Christ in his goodness is hastening to suffer; he who holds the universe in the hollow of his hand accepts to be hung upon a Tree to save humankind.

*[Then Kathisma 5 [Psalms 32-36] of the Psalter is read, and after it the following Kathisma to the same melody.]*

**READ. Tone 1. The soldiers watching**

Invisible Judge, how have you been made visible in flesh and are coming to be slain by lawless men, so condemning our condemnation by your passion. Therefore with one accord, O Word, we offer praise, majesty and glory to your authority.

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

Invisible Judge, how have you been made visible in flesh and are coming to be slain by lawless men, so condemning our condemnation by your passion. Therefore with one accord, O Word, we offer praise, majesty and glory to your authority.

*Then Kathisma 6 [Psalms 37-45] of the Psalter is read, and after it the following Kathisma: The priest puts on the phelonion.*

**READ. Tone 8. The Wisdom and Word.**

The present day is resplendent with the first fruits of the Lord's sufferings. Come then, lovers of feasts, let us meet it with songs; for the Creator is coming to accept Cross, afflictions and scourges, as he is judged by Pilate; therefore too, struck on the face by a slave, he endures all that he may save humankind. And so let us cry aloud to him: Lover of humankind, Christ our God, grant forgiveness of offences to those who with faith worship your most pure sufferings.

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

The present day is resplendent with the first fruits of the Lord's sufferings. Come then, lovers of feasts, let us meet it with songs; for the Creator is coming to accept Cross, afflictions and scourges, as he is judged by Pilate; therefore too, struck on the face by a slave, he endures all that he may save humankind. And so let us cry aloud to him: Lover of humankind, Christ God, grant forgiveness of offences to those who with faith worship your most pure sufferings.

*The priest opens the holy doors.*

*[The Russian Typikon prescribes three readings, one after each Kathisma, from St John Chrysostom's commentary on St Matthew's Gospel, without specifying the references precisely. We give a hyperlink to the homily on the Gospel which follows, Homily [67](#) and [68](#)]*

**Deacon/Priest:** And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom! Upright, let us hear the holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace to all.

**Reader:** And to your Spirit.

**Priest:** The reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. [21:18-43]

**Reader:** Glory to you, Lord, glory to you!

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us attend.

**Priest:** At that time, as Jesus was going back to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it, and found nothing on it, but only leaves. And he said to it, 'May fruit no longer come from you for ever.' And at once the fig tree was withered. When they saw it, the disciples marvelled and said, 'How was the fig tree withered at once?' But Jesus answered and said to them, 'Amen, I say to you, if you have faith and do not hesitate, not only will you do this to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and cast into the sea', it will be done. And everything you ask for in prayer with faith you will receive.' And when he came to the temple precinct the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'I shall also ask you one question, and if you answer me, I shall also tell you by what authority I do these things. John's baptism, where was it from, from heaven or from humans?' They discussed this among themselves and said, 'If we say 'from heaven', he will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?'. But if we same 'from humans', we are afraid of the crowd, for all hold John to be a prophet.' So they answered Jesus and said, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Nor shall I tell you by what authority I do these things. What is your opinion? A man had two sons, and he approached the first and said to him, 'My son, go and work in my vineyard today'. He answered, 'I do not wish to'. But later he changed his mind and went. And he approached the second and said the same to him. But he answered, 'Yes, sir'. And he did not go. Which of the two did the will father's

will?' They said to him, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Amen, I say to you. The publicans and harlots are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God. For John came to you in the way of justice, and you did not believe him. But the publicans and harlots believed him. But even when you saw, you did not later change your minds and believe him. Hear this parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a hedge round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower. Then he let it out to tenant farmers and went abroad. When the time of the vintage drew near, he sent his slaves to the farmers to collect his produce. But the farmers seized his slaves and one they flogged, one they killed and one they stoned. Once again he sent other slaves, more than at first, and they treated them the same way. Afterwards he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son'. But when the farmers saw the son they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and obtain his inheritance'. And they took him and cast him outside the vineyard and killed him. So when the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?' They said to him, 'He will bring those evil men to an evil end. And he will hire out the vineyard to other farmers, who will return his produce to him at the proper times.' Jesus said to them, 'Did you never read in the scriptures, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce its fruits'.

**Reader:** Glory to you, Lord, glory to you!

*And at once:*

### **Psalm 50**

*To completion, a psalm to David when Nathan the prophet came to him, at the time when he went in to Virsavee, the woman of Ourias.*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy, and according to the fullness of your compassions blot out my transgression.

<sup>2</sup> More thoroughly wash me from my lawlessness, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I do know my lawlessness, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you only I have sinned and have done the evil before you, so that you are righteous in your words and conquer in your judging.

<sup>5</sup> For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me.

<sup>6</sup> For, behold, you have loved truth, the unseen and hidden things of your wisdom you have shown me.

<sup>7</sup> You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be cleansed; you will wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> You will make me hear joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit in my inward parts.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your Face, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Give me back the joy of your salvation, and make me steadfast with a governing Spirit.

<sup>13</sup> I will teach the lawless your ways, and the impious will turn around to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will rejoice in your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup> For if you had willed a sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not well-will whole burnt offerings.

<sup>17</sup> A sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit; a shattered and humbled heart God will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good, Lord, to Sion in your good pleasure and the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt.

<sup>19</sup> Then you will well-will sacrifice of righteousness, offering and whole burnt offerings.

<sup>20</sup> Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

*The priest closes the holy doors.*

*We begin the Canon by St Kosmas, of which the Acrostic is:  
On Monday*

*In each Ode the Irmos is sung twice, and the troparia are repeated to make 12. The Irmos is repeated as Katavasia.*

**READ. Ode 1. Tone 2. Irmos.**

‘Let us sing to the Lord, who by his divine command dried up the pathless, raging sea, and through it guided the people of Israel to march on foot, for he has been greatly glorified.’

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

Ineffable the condescension of God’s Word, for Christ himself, being both God and man, and not considering his being God as something to be grasped, showed this to his disciples by being formed as a slave; for he has been greatly glorified.

**Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Myself rich in godhead, I have come to serve Adam who has become poor, whose form I, the Creator, have willingly put on, and to lay down my life as a ransom for his, I who am impassible in my godhead.

**Katavasia**

Let us sing to the Lord, who by his divine command dried up the pathless, raging sea, and through it guided the people of Israel to march on foot, for he has been greatly glorified.

## LITTLE LITANY

**Deacon/Priest:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

**Reader:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest:** for you are the king of peace and the savior of our souls, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### *After the small litany the Kontakion*

**Tone 8** Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, yet the noble one was seated in a chariot, honoured like a king; for as he had not been slave to the pleasures of the Egyptian woman, he was glorified in return by the one who sees the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.

### **READ. The Ikos**

Let us now add a lament to his lament and let us shed tears, with Jacob weeping for the revered and temperate Joseph, who though enslaved in body, guarded his soul unenslaved, and became lord of all Egypt; for God grants to his servants an incorruptible crown.

### **READ:**

On holy and great Monday we commemorate the blessed and most virtuous Joseph, and the fig tree which was cursed by the Lord and withered.

Verses on the most virtuous Joseph.  
Chaste Joseph a just ruler was revealed,  
And furnisher of corn: O wealth of virtues!

Others on the withered fig-tree.  
A fig tree to the Hebrews' congregation  
Devoid of spiritual fruits Christ here compares,  
And cursing withers: let us flee its passion.

On Holy and Great Monday we commemorate the blessed Joseph the All-comely and also the withered fig tree. Inasmuch as the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ has its beginning on this day, and as Joseph is regarded as an image of Christ from former times, he is thus set forth here.

Joseph was the son of the Patriarch Jacob, born to him by Rachel. Being envied by his brethren on account of certain of his dreams, he was first concealed in a dug-out pit, and his father was tricked by a bloody garment and the deceit of his children into thinking that he had been devoured by some beast. Joseph was then sold to some Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver; they, in turn, sold him to Potiphar, captain of the eunuchs of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. His wife was enraged by the young man's chastity, because not wishing to commit sin, he fled from her, leaving behind his garment. She slandered him to his master, and he was put into bonds in a harsh prison. Afterwards, he was released because of his ability to interpret certain dreams; he was brought before the king and appointed governor of the whole land of Egypt. Later, he was made known to his brethren through his distribution of grain. Having spent the whole of his life well, he died in Egypt, recognized as being great in his chastity and kindness toward others. He is, moreover, a prefiguring of Christ. Christ was also envied by His own people, the Jews: He was sold by a disciple for thirty pieces of silver and was imprisoned in the dark and gloomy pit of the grave, whence He broke out by His own power, triumphing over Egypt, that is, over every sin. In His might He conquered it, and He reigns over all the world. In His love for mankind He redeemed us by a distribution of grain, inasmuch as He gave Himself up for us, and He feeds us with Heavenly Bread, His own Life-bearing Flesh. For this reason, Joseph the All-comely is brought to mind at this time. He is also commemorated on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ.

At the same time, we also commemorate the withered fig tree, because the divine Evangelists Matthew and Mark tell of it after their accounts of the palm branches. One says, "Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry" (Mark 11:12); while the other says, "Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, 'Let no fruit grow on you ever again.' Immediately the fig tree withered away" (Matt. 21:18-19). The fig tree, then, is the Jewish synagogue, in which the Savior did not find the necessary fruits of obedience to God and faith in Him, but only the leafy shade of the Law; He took away even this, leaving it completely bare. But if anyone should ask, "Why did an inanimate tree wither and fall under a curse when it had committed no sin to make it wither?" It was because some people, seeing that Christ went about doing good to all, never causing real suffering for anyone, imagined that He had only the power to do good and not to do harm. The Master, who loves mankind, did not wish to demonstrate His power on a man and commit such a deed. To convince an



ungrateful people, however, that He also possessed the might to impose punishment, but not wishing to use that power in His goodness, He inflicted such punishment upon inanimate and insensible nature.

There is also another mysterious explanation, which has come down to us from the wise elders. As St. Isidore of Pelusium says, "This was the tree of the transgression of God's commandment, whose leaves, the transgressors, also used to cover themselves. Because it did not suffer at that time, Christ, in His love for man, cursed it, so that it would no longer bear the fruit that was the occasion of sin."

It is also quite clear that sin is likened unto the fig, inasmuch as it possesses the "delight" of sensual pleasure, the "stickiness" of sin itself and the "hardness and sharpness" of a guilty conscience.

The Fathers, moreover, put the story of the fig tree here to arouse compunction and in relation to the story of St. Joseph, since he is a prefiguring of Christ.

The fig tree is also every soul which is devoid of all spiritual fruit. In the morning, that is, after this present life, if the Lord finds no refreshment in such a soul, He withers it with a curse and hands it over to the everlasting fire. It remains standing as a dried-up post, striking fear into those who do not produce the fitting fruit of the virtues.

At the prayers of the all-virtuous Joseph, Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

#### **READ. Ode 8. The Irmos.**

'The unwearied fire, fed with unlimited fuel, shuddered at the bodies of the shining youths, like their souls undefiled; while as the ever-living flame withered away, an everlasting hymn was sung: All you his works, praise the Lord and highly exalt him to all the ages.'

#### **We praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Lord.**

'Then all will know that you are my disciples, if you keep my commandments', says the Saviour to his friends, as he goes to his passion. 'Be at peace with one another and with all; think humble thoughts and so be exalted; and, acknowledging me as Lord, praise and highly exalt me to all the ages'.

#### **Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

'Let might over your fellows be for you the opposite of the order of the nations; their self-chosen will is not my lot, but tyranny. The one among you then who wishes to be leader of the rest, let him be the last of all; and acknowledging me as Lord, praise and highly exalt me to all the ages'.

**Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him to all ages.**

**Katavasia** The unwearied fire, fed with unlimited fuel, shuddered at the bodies of the shining youths, like their souls undefiled; while as the ever-living flame withered away, an everlasting hymn was sung: All you his works, praise the Lord and highly exalt him to all the ages.

*The Magnificat is not sung, but instead the 9th Ode. The priest censes the icon of the Mother of God ninefold, and then the whole church.*

**Priest:** The Birthgiver of God and the Mother of Light, let us magnify in song.

### **Ode 9. The Irmos.**

‘Christ, our Fashioner, you magnified the Mother of God who gave you birth, from whom you put on a body with passions like ours, the atonement of our faults of ignorance; as we call her blessed, all we generations magnify you.’

### **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

Wisdom of all, you said to your Apostles, ‘Casting off every stain of passion, take up a prudent intent, worthy of the divine kingdom. By this you will be glorified, shining more brilliantly than the sun’.

**Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

You said, Lord, to your own disciples, ‘Looking to me alone, do not have lofty thoughts, but live with humble. Drink the very cup which I drink, and you shall be glorified in my Father’s kingdom’.

### **Katavasia**

Christ, our Fashioner, you magnified the Mother of God who gave you birth, from whom you put on a body with passions like ours, the atonement of our faults of ignorance; as we call her blessed, all we generations magnify you.

### **LITTLE LITANY**

**Deacon/Priest:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

**Reader:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest:** for all the powers of heaven praise you and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

*After the small litany, the Exapostilarion sung slowly and solemnly:  
Tone 3. Model Melody.*

Your bridal chamber, O my Saviour, I see all adorned, but I have no garment so that I may enter it. Make bright the mantle of my soul, O Giver of light, and save me! (x3)

*At Lauds we insert 4 Idiomel Stichera, doubling them.  
Tone 1*

**READ. Psalm 148**      **Reader 1 takes odd numbered verses, Reader 2 takes even.**

*Allilulia. Of Aggaios and Zacharias.*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the highest.

<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his powers.

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all the stars and the light.

<sup>4</sup>Praise him, heavens of the heavens, and water above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for himself spoke and they were made, he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup>He made them stand to the age, and to the age of age; he set a precept, and it will not pass away.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth, dragons and all deeps.

<sup>8</sup>Fire, hail, snow, ice, and wind of tempest, which do his word.

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit-bearing trees and all cedars.

<sup>10</sup>Beasts and all herds, creeping things and winged birds.

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, rulers and all judges of the earth.

<sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens, old with the young, let them praise the name of the Lord, for the name of him alone has been lifted up.

<sup>13</sup> The confession of him is upon earth and heaven, and he will lift up the horn of his people.

<sup>14</sup> A hymn to all his venerable ones, to the sons of Israel, to a people which draws near him.

### **Psalm 149**

*Allilulia.*

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in a church of the venerable ones.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be gladdened in him who made him, and the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name in dance, let them chant his praise with timbrel and harp.

<sup>4</sup> For the Lord is well-pleased in his people, he will lift up the meek in salvation.

<sup>5</sup> Venerable ones will boast in glory, and will rejoice in their beds.

<sup>6</sup> The liftings-up of God in their throat, and two-edged swords in their hands.

<sup>7</sup> To make vengeance within the nations, punishments within the peoples.

<sup>8</sup> To bind their kings in shackles, and their nobles in wrist-chains of iron.

<sup>9</sup> To make in them a written judgment, this glory will be to all his venerable ones.

### **Psalm 150**

*Allilulia.*

<sup>1</sup> Praise God in his holies, praise him in the firmness of his power.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his powerful acts, praise him according to the magnitude of his majesty.

## By Monk Kosmas. Tone 1

**READ ALL STICHERA.** As the Lord was coming to his voluntary passion, he said to his Apostles on the road, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be betrayed, as it is written of him'. Come then, let us too, with minds made pure, journey with him, and let us be crucified with him, and for his sake become dead to the pleasures of life, that we may live with him and hear him as he cries, 'I am no longer going up to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God. And I shall raise you up with me to the Jerusalem above, in the kingdom of heaven'.

**<sup>3</sup>Praise him in sound of trumpet, praise him with harp and lute.**

As the Lord was coming to his voluntary passion, he said to his Apostles on the road, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be betrayed, as it is written of him'. Come then, let us too, with minds made pure, journey with him, and let us be crucified with him, and for his sake become dead to the pleasures of life, that we may live with him and hear him as he cries, 'I am no longer going up to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God. And I shall raise you up with me to the Jerusalem above, in the kingdom of heaven'.

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him in timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipe. *By the same. Tone 5***

Believers, having reached the saving passion of Christ our God, let us glorify his ineffable forbearance; so that in his compassion he may, with himself, also raise us up, who have been slain by sin, as he is good and loves humankind.

**<sup>5</sup>Praise him with tuneful cymbals, praise him with cymbals of great shout. Let every breath praise the Lord.**

Believers, having reached the saving passion of Christ our God, let us glorify his ineffable forbearance; so that in his compassion he may, with himself, also raise us up, who have been slain by sin, as he is good and loves humankind.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. *By the same. Tone 5***

Lord, as you were coming to your passion, you strengthened your disciples, taking them aside and saying, 'How have you not remembered my words, which I spoke to you of old, 'Is it not written no prophet may be killed but in Jerusalem'? Now the moment has come of which I spoke to you. For see, I am being handed over to be mocked by the hands of sinners, who, when they have nailed me to a cross and handed me over for burial, will reckon me a loathsome corpse. Nevertheless, take courage, for on the third day I arise, for the joy of believers and eternal life'.

*Then the Reader says:*

To you is due glory, Lord our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amin.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, Good Will among men.

We hymn you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great Glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father all-ruling; Lord Son only-begotten, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

Lord God, the lamb of God, the Son of the Father, who take up the sin of the world, have mercy on us, you who take up the sins of the world.

Receive our supplication, you who sit at the right of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amin.

Every day I will bless you, and I will praise your name to the age, and to the age of age.

Count us worthy, Lord, to be kept in this day without sin.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified your name to the ages. Amin.

Lord, your mercy be upon us, as we have hoped in you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your precepts.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your precepts.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your precepts.

Lord, you have become a refuge to us in generation and generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned to you.

Lord, I fled to you, teach me that I do your will, for you are my God.

For from you is the spring of life, in your Light we will see light.

Stretch out your mercy to the ones who know you.

**LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us complete our morning supplication to the Lord.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by your grace.

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon/Priest:** The whole day perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**Reader:** Grant it, O Lord. **(and after the next petitions)**

An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

**Reader:** To you, O Lord

**Priest:** For you are a God of mercy, compassions, and love for mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **BOWING OF HEADS**

**Priest:** Peace to all.

**Reader:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**Reader:** To you, O Lord.

**Priest:** Holy Lord, who dwell on high and regard the lowly and with your all-seeing eye watch over all creation, to you we have bent the neck of our soul and body, and we implore you, Holy of holies: stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all, and, whether we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive as a good God who loves mankind, granting us your earthly and heavenly good things, for yours it is to have mercy and to save us, our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

*After the Litany and the Prayer at the Bowing down of heads, the priest enters the altar and the Reader reads the Aposticha:*

**READ. By Monk Kosmas. Tone 5**

O Lord, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, not understanding the ineffable mystery of your dispensation, asked you to grant her own children the honour of a temporary kingdom; but instead of this you promised your friends that they would drink the cup of death; a cup which you said you would drink before them, a cleansing from sins. And so we cry to you: O Salvation of our souls, glory to you!

**Verse 1. In the morning we have been filled with your mercy, O Lord, and we have rejoiced, and have been gladdened in all our days. Let us be gladdened for the days when you humbled us, for the years in which we saw bad things. And look upon your servants and upon your works, and guide your sons. (Psalm 89:16-18)**

*By the Same.*

O Lord, instructing your own disciples to think thoughts of perfection, you said, 'Do not to be like the nations, so as to rule over the least strong. It shall not be so with you, my disciples, because my wish is to be poor. The first among you, then, let him be the servant of all; the ruler as the ruled, the leader as the last. For I have come to serve Adam who became poor, and to give my life as a ransom for many, for those who cry to me: Glory to you!'

**Verse 2. And be the brightness of the Lord our God upon us, and make straight the works of our hands upon us, and make straight the work of our hands. (Psalm 89:19)**

Fearing the punishment of the withered fig tree, because of its lack of fruit, brethren, let us offer fruits worthy of repentance to Christ, who grants us his great mercy.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. By the same. Tone 8.**

The serpent, having found in the Egyptian woman a second Eve, hastened by flatteries to trip up Joseph; but he, abandoning his tunic, fled from sin, and though naked was not ashamed, like the first formed before his disobedience. At his entreaties, O Christ, have mercy on us.

*Then the Superior says:*

It is good to confess to the Lord, and to chant to your name, O Most High. So that to proclaim your mercy in the morning and your truth through the night. (Psalm 91:2)

**Reader:** Holy God. Holy Mighty. Holy Immortal. Have mercy on us. (x3)



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

All-Holy Trinity: Have mercy on us. Lord: Cleanse our sins. Master: Pardon our transgressions. Holy One: watch over and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the 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.

**Priest:** For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

*After the Our Father, we say the following Apolytikion:*

Standing in the temple of your glory, we think we stand in heaven, O Mother of God. O gate of heaven, open to us the door of your mercy.

*[The modern Greek books replace this with the Kontakion of the day: Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, and the noble one was seated in a chariot, honoured like a king; for as he had not been slave to the pleasures of the Egyptian woman, he was glorified in return by the one who sees the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.]*

*Then, the priest exits the altar and stands before the holy doors.*

Lord have mercy (x40).

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

**Priest:** Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

**The Superior:** Heavenly King, make firm our rulers, establish the faith, calm the nations, make the universe peaceful, keep well this holy church, assign our fathers and brothers who have gone before us to the tents of the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession, as one who is good and loves mankind.

*Then the prayer of St Ephrem with 4 full and 12 small metanias*

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. **(Prostration)**

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to your servant. **(Prostration)**

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed are you, to the ages of ages. **(Prostration)**

*We then make 12 small metanias saying*

God, cleanse me, the sinner.

*then one further great metania as we repeat the prayer entirely.*

### **The Apolysis**

**Priest:** Glory to you, Christ God, our hope, glory to you!

**Reader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (x3) Father, bless!

**Priest:** He who is coming to his voluntary passion for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy mother; of the holy and all-laudable apostles; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Ioakeim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

**Reader:** Amen.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ God, have mercy on us.

**Reader:** Amen.

*Translations taken from Archimandrite Ephrem Lash and Ieratikon, Volume I (Cherubim Press).*