

**ON HOLY AND GREAT THURSDAY
VESPERS and LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

Deacon: Bless, Master.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader: 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.

Psalm 103

To David, over the composition of the world.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Lord my God, you magnified yourself greatly.

² You clothed yourself with confession and majesty, wrapping yourself with light as with a garment.

³ Stretching out the heaven like a skin, you who cover its upper chambers with waters.

⁴ The one who sets clouds as his mount, who walks on the wings of the winds.

⁵ Who makes his angels spirits and his liturgizers a flame of fire.

⁶ Who founds the earth on its steadfastness; it will not slant to the age of age.

⁷ The deep, like a garment, is his clothing; waters will stand above the mountains.

⁸ At your rebuke they will flee; at the voice of your thunder they will frighten.

⁹ The mountains go up and the plains go down to the place which you founded them.

¹⁰ You set a boundary which they will not pass, nor will they return to cover the earth.

¹¹ The one who sends out springs into the valleys; waters will run between the mountains.

¹² They will give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys will receive for their thirst.

¹³ Upon them the birds of the air will make their dwelling, and in the midst of the rocks they will give sound.

¹⁴ Watering the mountains from his upper chambers, the earth will fatten from the fruit of your works.

¹⁵ The one who causes grass to spring up for the herds, and green herb for the service of mankind.

¹⁶ To bring forth food out of the earth, and wine gladdens the heart of man.

¹⁷ To make the face cheerful with oil, and bread strengthens the heart of man.

¹⁸ The trees of the plain will be fattened, the cedars of Lebanon which you planted.

¹⁹ There the sparrows will nest, the dwelling of the heron leads them.

²⁰ The high mountain – for the deer; rock – refuge for hares.

²¹ He made the moon for seasons, the sun knew its setting.

²² You set darkness and night came to be, in it all the beasts of the forest will pass through.

²³ Young lions – roaring to seize and to seek their food from God.

²⁴ The sun dawned and they gathered together, and they will lie down in their dens.

²⁵ Man will go out to his work, and to his laboring until evening.

²⁶ How your works, O Lord, have been magnified. In Wisdom you made them all, and the earth was filled with your creation.

²⁷ This sea, great and wide; there – creeping things without number, living creatures, small and great.

²⁸ There ships go through, this dragon which you fashioned to play with him.

²⁹ All look to you to give them their food in good time; when you give them, they will gather.

³⁰ When you open your hand, all will be filled with kindness. But when you turn away your Face, they will be troubled.

³¹ You will take away their spirit, and they will vanish and will return to their dust.

³² You will send forth your Spirit, and they will be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.

³³ Let the glory of the Lord endure to the ages. The Lord will rejoice at his works.

³⁴ Who looks upon the earth and makes it tremble, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³⁵ I will sing to the Lord in my life, I will chant to my God while I live.

³⁶ May my recount be pleasing to him, and I myself will rejoice in the Lord.

³⁷ O that sinners vanish from the earth, and the lawless, so that they are not.

³⁸ Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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

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

LITANY OF PEACE

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: 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 those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city, monastery, 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 other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For to you is 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.

Choir: Amen.

We begin Lord, I have cried in Tone 2 and we insert the Stichera from Matins, doubling them.

Psalm 140 Tone 2

Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;
hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I have cried to you, hear me.
Attend to the voice of my supplication
when I cry to you. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise straight like incense before you,
The lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
Hear me, O Lord.

³Set a guard, O Lord, upon my mouth and a guarding door about my lips.

⁴Let not my heart incline to words of evilness, of contriving excuses in sins.

⁵With the men who work lawlessness, and I will not, will not join with their elect.

⁶A righteous one will chastise me in mercy and will reprove me, but let not the oil of a sinner anoint my head.

⁷For still my prayer is also in their pleasures, their judges were swallowed up near a rock.

⁸ They will hear my words, for they became pleasing; as a clod of earth is broken asunder upon the ground, their bones were scattered near hell.

⁹ For my eyes, O Lord, Lord, are toward you. I have hoped in you, do not take away my soul.

¹⁰ Keep me from the snare which they put together for me, and from the traps of those who work lawlessness.

¹¹ The sinners will fall into their net. As for me, I am in solitude until I pass away.

Psalm 141

Of understanding to David, when he was in the cave praying.

With my voice I have cried to the Lord, with my voice I implored the Lord.

² I will pour out my supplication before him, I will declare my affliction before him.

³ When my spirit vanished from within me, and you yourself knew my paths.

⁴ In this way which I walked they hid a snare for me.

⁵ I looked to the right and I saw, and there was not one who knows me.

⁶ Escape utterly perished from me, and there is not one who seeks out my soul.

⁷ I have cried to you, O Lord. I said, You yourself are my hope, my portion in the land of the living.

⁸ Attend to my supplication, for I was greatly humbled.

⁹ Deliver me from the ones who pursue me closely, for they prevailed over me.

10. Bring my soul out of prison, that it may confess to your name.

Tone 2. The Sanhedrin of the Jews now hurries together

that it may hand over to Pilate

the Creator and Fashioner of all things.

Oh, the transgressors! Oh, the faithless!

Because they are making ready for judgement

the One who is coming to judge the living and the dead;

they are preparing for the passion

the One who cures the passions.//

Long-suffering Lord, great is your mercy. Glory to you!

9. The righteous will await me with endurance, until you repay me.

The Sanhedrin of the Jews now hurries together

that it may hand over to Pilate

the Creator and Fashioner of all things.

Oh, the transgressors! Oh, the faithless!

Because they are making ready for judgement

the One who is coming to judge the living and the dead;

they are preparing for the passion

the One who cures the passions.//

Long-suffering Lord, great is your mercy. Glory to you!

8. Out of depths I have cried for you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice. *By Monk John. Same Tone.*

Judas the transgressor, O Lord,
having dipped his hand with you in the dish at the supper,
stretched out his hands to take the silver pieces;
and having reckoned up the price of the myrrh,
he did not flinch from selling you, who are beyond price;
the one who stretched out his feet to be washed,
deceitfully kissed the Master to betray him to the transgressors;
cast from the choir of Apostles,
and having cast down the thirty silver pieces,
he did not see your Resurrection on the third day.//
Through it have mercy on us.

7. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. *By Monk John. Same Tone.*

Judas the transgressor, O Lord,
having dipped his hand with you in the dish at the supper,
stretched out his hands to take the silver pieces;
and having reckoned up the price of the myrrh,
he did not flinch from selling you, who are beyond price;
the one who stretched out his feet to be washed,
deceitfully kissed the Master to betray him to the transgressors;
cast from the choir of Apostles,
and having cast down the thirty silver pieces,
he did not see your Resurrection on the third day.//
Through it have mercy on us.

6. If you watch closely for iniquities, O Lord, Lord, who will endure? For forgiveness is with you. *By Monk John. Same Tone.*

Judas the deceitful traitor
handed over the Saviour and Lord with a deceitful kiss;
he sold to the transgressors like a slave the Master of all things;
and like a sheep to the slaughter,//
so the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, followed.

5. For your name's sake I have awaited you, O Lord, with endurance; my soul has awaited your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord. *By Monk John. Same Tone.*

Judas the deceitful traitor
handed over the Saviour and Lord with a deceitful kiss;
he sold to the transgressors like a slave the Master of all things;
and like a sheep to the slaughter,//
so the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, followed.

4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.

By Monk John. Same Tone.

Judas the slave and deceiver, the disciple and plotter,
the friend and accuser, was revealed by his deeds;
for he followed the Teacher and inwardly he plotted the betrayal;
he said to himself, 'I shall hand him over and gain the money that has been contracted';
he wanted the myrrh to be sold and Jesus to be taken by guile;
he gave a kiss; he handed over Christ;
and like a sheep to the slaughter so he followed, //
the only compassionate lover of humankind.

3. Because with the Lord there is mercy, and with him abundant redemption; and he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. By Monk John. Same Tone.

Judas the slave and deceiver, the disciple and plotter,
the friend and accuser, was revealed by his deeds;
for he followed the Teacher and inwardly he plotted the betrayal;
he said to himself, 'I shall hand him over and gain the money that has been contracted';
he wanted the myrrh to be sold and Jesus to be taken by guile;
he gave a kiss; he handed over Christ;
and like a sheep to the slaughter so he followed, //
the only compassionate lover of humankind.

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations, praise him, all the peoples.

The Lamb which Isaiah proclaimed
is coming willingly to the slaughter,
and gives his back to scourges, his cheeks to blows;
he did not turn away his face from the shame of spittings;
he is being condemned to a disgraceful death;
the Sinless accepts all things willingly, //
that he may grant to all the resurrection from the dead.

1. For his mercy prevailed over us, and the truth of the Lord remains to the age.

The Lamb which Isaiah proclaimed
is coming willingly to the slaughter,
and gives his back to scourges, his cheeks to blows;
he did not turn away his face from the shame of spittings;
he is being condemned to a disgraceful death;
the Sinless accepts all things willingly, //
that he may grant to all the resurrection from the dead.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Tone 6.

Judas is truly of the brood of vipers
who ate the Manna in the desert and murmured against their Nourisher;
for while the food was still in their mouths the ungrateful ones spoke against God;
and he, the impious, while bearing in his mouth the heavenly Bread,
devised betrayal against the Saviour.
O insatiable intent, and inhuman daring!
He sold the one who nourished him
and handed over to death the Master whom he kissed;
truly the transgressor is their son, and with them he has inherited destruction.
But, Lord, spare our souls from such inhumanity, //
who alone are boundless in long-suffering.

After the completion of the Verses, the Entrance with the Holy Gospel.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom. Upright!

Reader: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed -
Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! For meet it is at all times to worship you with
voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of Life, therefore all the world glorifies you!

Deacon/Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace to all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom.

Reader 1: The prokeimenon in the first tone [Ps. 139:1-2]: Take me away, O Lord, from
an evil man, / from an unrighteous man deliver me.

Reader 2: Take me away, O Lord, from an evil man, / from an unrighteous man deliver me.

Reader 1: Whoever thought unrighteousness in heart, all the day arrayed wars.

Reader 2: Take me away, O Lord, from an evil man, / from an unrighteous man deliver me.

Reader 1: Take me away, O Lord, from an evil man,

Reader 2: from an unrighteous man deliver me.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Exodus. [19:10-19]

Deacon/Priest: Let us attend.

Reader 1: The Lord said to Moses: Go down, solemnly charge the people and purify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them stand ready on the third day; for on the third day the Lord will come down onto mount Sinai before all the people. And you shall separate the round about, saying: Watch yourselves not to ascend the mountain and to touch any of it; anyone who touches the mountain will die the death. A hand shall not touch it; for with stones he shall be stoned, or with a arrow he shall shot down; whether beast or human, he shall not live. But when the sounds and the trumpets and the cloud depart from the mountain, they shall ascend the mountain. Moses came down from the mountain to the people and hallowed them, and they washed their garments. And he said to the people: Get ready for three days, do not approach a woman. It came to pass on the third day, when it was towards dawn, and there were sounds and lightnings and a dark cloud on mount Sinai, the sound of the trumpet echoed loudly; and all the people in the camp trembled. And Moses led the people to the meeting with God outside the camp, and they took their stand beneath the mountain. The whole of mount Sinai smoked because God had come down upon it in fire, and the smoke went up like the steam from a furnace; and all the people was greatly amazed; and the sounds of the trumpet increased, growing louder and louder. Moses spoke, while God answered him with a sound.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 2: The prokeimenon in the seventh tone [Ps. 58] Take me away from my enemies, O Lord, / and from the ones who rise up upon me redeem me.

Reader 1: Take me away from my enemies, O Lord, / and from the ones who rise up upon me redeem me.

Reader 2: Deliver me from the ones who work lawlessness, and from men of bloods save me.

Reader 1: Take me away from my enemies, O Lord, / and from the ones who rise up upon me redeem me.

Reader 2: Take me away from my enemies, O Lord,

Reader 1: and from the ones who rise up upon me redeem me.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 2: The reading is from Job. [38:1-23; 42:1-5]

Deacon/Priest: Let us attend!

Reader 2: The Lord said to Job out of whirlwind and clouds: Who is this that hides counsel from me, keeping words in the heart, while he thinks to hide them from me? Gird your loins like a man, while I shall question you; but you answer me! Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you possess understanding. Who laid its measures, if you know? Or who drew out a line upon it? On what are its rings fixed? Who is the one who placed a cornerstone upon it? When the stars came into being, all my angels praised me with a loud voice; I fenced the sea with gates, when it was being delivered, coming out of its mother's womb; I placed a cloud for it as clothing, I swaddled it in mist; I placed limits for it, placing bars and gates round it. I said to it: As far as this you shall go, and you shall not go further, but your waves shall break in yourself. Or did I order the morning light in your time? the morning star to see its place, to lay hold on the wings of the earth, to shake off the ungodly from it? Or have you taken earth <and> clay and fashioned a living and speaking being, have you placed him on the earth? Have you taken light from the ungodly, and smashed the arm of the proud? Have you come to the source of the sea, trodden in the steps of the abyss? Do the gates of death open to you in fear, when they saw you did Hell's gate-keepers tremble? Have you been instructed in the breadth of it <the earth> beneath heaven? Tell me, how great is it? In what land does the light pitch camp? What is the place of darkness? If you could bring me to its bounds, if you knew its paths, would you know it because you had been born then, because the number of your years is great? Job answered the Lord and said: I know that you can do all things, while nothing is impossible for you. For who is he that hides counsel from you? Being sparing of words and thinks to hide them from you? Who will declare to me what I did not know, great and wonderful things what I did not understand? Hear me, Lord, and I shall speak; I shall ask you, but do you teach me; I have heard of your report by ear before, but now my eye has seen you.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 3: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaias. [50:4-11]

Deacon/Priest: Let us attend.

Reader 3: The Lord gives me a tongue of instruction to know when it is right to say a word; he has set me early, early, he has given me a ear for hearing; and the instruction of the Lord, the Lord, opens my ears, while I neither disobey nor gainsay. I gave my back to the scourges, my cheeks to blows, my face I did not turn away from the shame of spittings; and the Lord, the Lord became my helper, therefore I was not turned back, but set my face as a firm rock and I knew that I would in no way be shamed, because he who justifies me is near. Who the one who contends with me? Let him stand up with me together. Who is the one who contends with me? Let him come near me. See, the Lord, the Lord, will help me; who will do me wrong? See, you

will all grow old as a garment, and as a moth he devours you. Who among you fears the Lord? Let him obey the voice of his servant. You who walk in darkness and in whom there is no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. See, all of you, kindle a fire and make a flame strong; walk in the light of your fire, and in the flame which you have set burning; through me all these things have befallen you; in grief you will sleep.

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.

Deacon/Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: for you are holy, our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever. . .

Deacon/Priest: . . . and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. (sings the Trisagion)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

Amen. Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the seventh Tone [Ps. 2:2] The rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his christ.

Chanter: The rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his christ.

Reader: What for did nations rage, and were peoples thoughtful of empty things?

Chanter: The rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his christ.

Reader: The rulers were gathered together

People: against the Lord and against his christ.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from the first epistle of the holy apostle Paul to the Corinthians. [11:23-32]

Deacon/Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, I have received from the Lord what I have also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night he was handed over took bread and having given thanks broke it and said: Take, eat; this is my body broken for you; do this in memory of me. Likewise the cup also after supper, saying: This cup is the new testament in my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in memory of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes. So that whoever eats this bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the Lord's body and blood. Let each one then test himself, and so let him eat of this bread and drink of the cup; for one who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgement to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. Because of this many among you are weak and sick and some have fallen asleep. But if we discerned ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are being disciplined by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Priest: Peace to you.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Reader: Alleluia in the 6th Tone.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader: Happy the one who understands the poor and the needy, on an evil day the Lord will deliver him. (*Psalms 40:1*)

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader: My enemies said bad things to me. When will he die, and his name perish? (*Psalms 40:5*)

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reader: For also the man of your peace, in whom I hoped, who ate my breads, magnified deception against me. (*Psalms 40:10*)

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom. Upright. Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

Reader: And to your Spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Deacon/Priest: Let us attend.

[**The gospel is read:** Matt. 26:2-20, John 13:3-17, Matt. 26:21-39, Luke 22:43-44, Matt. 26:40-75. 27:1-5]

After the reading:

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

The Liturgy of St Basil the Great continues on page 20 in the pew book.

Instead of “Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim...” we sing the following:

Of your mystical supper, Son of God, receive me today as communicant, for I will not speak of the mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess !you: Remember me, Lord, in your kingdom!

Instead of “That we may welcome...” we sing:

Of your mystical supper, Son of God, receive me today as communicant, for I will not speak of the mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess !you: Remember me, Lord, in your kingdom!

Instead of “It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos...” we sing:

Come, O faithful! Let us enjoy the Master’s hospitality, the Banquet of Immortality! In the upper chamber with uplifted minds, let us receive the exalted words of the Word Whom we magnify!

Communion Hymn:

Of your mystical supper, Son of God, receive me today as communicant, for I will not speak of the mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess !you: Remember me, Lord, in your kingdom!

This is said many times at the Communion, while the people receive the holy and immaculate Mysteries.

Instead of “We have seen the true Light...” and instead of “Let our mouths be filled...” we sing:

Of your mystical supper, Son of God, receive me today as communicant, for I will not speak of the mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess !you: Remember me, Lord, in your kingdom!

*Psalms from The Orthodox Psalter (Cherubim Press, 2023), Ieratikon Vol 2 (Cherubim Press, 2022).
Other texts translation taken from Archimandrite Ephrem Lash with some modifications.*