

# HOLY AND GREAT FRIDAY

## SERVICE OF THE ROYAL HOURS

### FIRST HOUR

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

**Reader:** Amen.

**Priest:** Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

**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 unto 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 unto 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 unto 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, our God.

#### Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord, understand my cry. Attend to the voice of my supplication, my King and my God; for to you I shall pray, O Lord. In the morning you will hear my voice. In the morning I shall stand before you, and you will watch over me; because you are not a God who wants iniquity. The evildoer will not dwell with you, nor will the lawless remain before your eyes. You have hated all those who work iniquity; you will destroy all those who speak lies. The Lord abhors a man of bloodshed and deceit. But I in the abundance of your mercy shall enter your house, I shall worship towards your holy temple in fear of you. Guide me, Lord, in your

righteousness because of my enemies, direct my way before you. Because there is no truth in their mouths; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open tomb, they deceive with their tongues. Judge them, O God. Let them fall through their counsels; according to the multitude of their impieties cast them out, for they have embittered you, O Lord. And may all those who hope in you be glad; they will rejoice for ever, and you will dwell among them, and all those who love your name will boast in you. Because you will bless the righteous; you have crowned him, O Lord, with your good pleasure.

### **Psalm 2 A Psalm of David.**

Why were the nations insolent and why did the peoples meditate vain things? The kings of the earth stood up and the rulers were assembled together against the Lord and against his Christ. 'Let us break through their bonds and cast away their yoke from us.' He that dwells in heaven will laugh them to scorn and the Lord will mock them. Then he will speak to them in his anger and panic them in his fury. But I was established as king by him, on Sion his holy mountain announcing the Lord's decree: The Lord said to me: 'You are my Son. Today I have begotten you. Ask me, and I shall give you nations as your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as your possession. You will shepherd them with an iron rod; like a potter's vessels you will smash them.' And now, kings, understand; be corrected, all who judge the earth. Serve the Lord in fear and rejoice in him with trembling. Accept correction, lest the Lord be angry, and you perish from the right way whenever his fury is suddenly kindled. Blessed are all who have put their trust in him.

### **Psalm 21 To the end, concerning help at dawn. a Psalm of David.**

O God, my God, attend to me; why have you abandoned me? Far from salvation are the words of my offences. My God, I shall cry by day, and you will not hear; and by night, and it shall be no folly for me. But you, the praise of Israel, dwell in the Holy Place. Our fathers hoped in you, they hoped and you delivered them. They cried to you and they were saved, they hoped in you and they were not shamed. But I am a worm and not a man, the scorn of men and the outcast of the people. All who saw me jeered at me, they spoke with their lips, they wagged their heads. 'He hoped in the Lord, let him deliver him, let him save him, for he wants him'. For you are the one who drew me from the womb, my hope from my mother's breasts; on you I have been cast since the womb. From my mother's womb you are my God, do not abandon me. For trouble is near, for there is no one to help me. Many bullocks have surrounded me, fat bulls have assailed me. They opened their mouths against me, like a lion ravening and roaring. I have been poured out like water, and all my bones have been scattered, my heart has become like wax melting inside me. My strength has dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue has stuck to my throat, and you have led me down into the dust of death, For many dogs have surrounded me, an assembly of evil doers has assailed me. They have dug my hands and my feet; all my bones have been numbered; they have observed me and gazed at me. They have parted my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing . But you, Lord, do not keep your help far from me, be attentive to my defence. Deliver my soul from the sword and my only one from the hand of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth and my lowliness from the horns of unicorns. I shall declare your name to my brethren, I shall hymn you in the midst of the Church. Those who fear the Lord, praise him, all the seed of Jacob glorify him. Let all the seed of Israel fear him. For he has not spurned nor slighted the pauper's supplication, nor has he turned his face from me; and he

heard me when I called upon him. From you is my praise; in the great Church I shall confess you; I shall pay my vows before those who fear you. The poor will eat and be filled, those who seek the Lord will praise him; their hearts will live for ever. All the ends of the earth will remember and turn back to the Lord and all the families of the nations will worship before him. For the kingdom is the Lord's and he is master of the nations. All the fat ones of the earth have eaten and worshipped; all those who go down into the earth will fall down before him. And my soul lives for him, and my seed will serve him. The coming generation will be proclaimed to the Lord, and they will proclaim his justice to a people yet to be born, whom the Lord has made.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God! (x3)

Lord have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 1**

When you were crucified, O Christ, the tyranny of the enemy was destroyed, his power trampled underfoot; for it was not an Angel, not a human, but you, the Lord himself, who saved us. Glory to you!

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Theotokion.

What shall we call you, O Full of grace? Heaven? For you made the Sun of righteousness to dawn. Paradise? For you made the flower of incorruption blossom. Virgin? For you remained incorrupt. Pure Mother? For you held in your holy embrace a Son who is the God of all. Implore Him that our souls may be saved.

*And we sing at once the following idiomels in **Tone 8**:*

Today the veil of the Temple is rent, as a reproof against the transgressors; and the sun hides its own rays, as it sees the Master crucified. (*Twice, without a verse*)

**Verse:** Why were the nations insolent and why did the peoples meditate vain things?

You were led like a sheep to the slaughter, Christ King, and as an innocent lamb you were nailed to the Cross by lawless men for our sins, O Lover of mankind.

**Verse:** The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were assembled together against the Lord and against his Christ.

You were led like a sheep to the slaughter, Christ King, and as an innocent lamb you were nailed to the Cross by lawless men for our sins, O Lover of mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **Same Tone.**

Allowing the lawless to arrest you, Lord, you cried out, 'Though you strike the shepherd and scatter the twelve sheep, my disciples, I could call to my side more than twelve legions of Angels; but I forbear, that the hidden and secret things, which I revealed to you through my Prophets, may be fulfilled.' Lord, glory to you!

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Allowing the lawless to arrest you, Lord, you cried out, 'Though you strike the shepherd and scatter the twelve sheep, my disciples, I could call to my side more than twelve legions of Angels; but I forbear, that the hidden and secret things, which I revealed to you through my Prophets, may be fulfilled.' Lord, glory to you!

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone. [Psalm 40] He gathered iniquity to himself; / he went out and spoke in the same manner.

**People:** He gathered iniquity to himself; / he went out and spoke in the same manner.

**Reader:** Blessed is one who considers the poor and needy; the Lord will deliver in an evil day.

**People:** He gathered iniquity to himself; / he went out and spoke in the same manner.

**Reader:** He gathered iniquity to himself;

**People:** he went out and spoke in the same manner.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zacharias [11:10-13]

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

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: I shall take my beautiful staff and I shall throw it away, to annul my covenant that I had made with all the peoples. And it shall be annulled on that day, and the Chananites, the sheep that will be guarded for me, will know that it is the word of the Lord. And I shall say to them, 'If it seems right to you, weigh out and give me my wages; but if not, keep them.' So they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, 'Cast it into the furnace, and see if it is proved metal, in the same way that I was proved by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the furnace into the house of the Lord, as the Lord had commanded me.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Galatians. [6:14-18]

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

**Reader:** Brethren, may I never boast of anything except the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule - peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

**After the reading from the Apostle:**

**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 is from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us attend! [27:1-56]

**Priest:** At that time, when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And having bound him, they led him away and handed him over to Pontius Pilate the governor. Judas, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, repented and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' And flinging down the pieces of silver in the temple he went away and hanged himself. But the chief priests picked up the pieces of silver and said, 'It is not permitted to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.' So they conferred together and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. And so that field has been called *Field of Blood* until today. Then what had been said by the prophet Jeremy was fulfilled, when he said, And the took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one who was prized, whom they prized from the children of Israel, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord had commanded me. But Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned him saying, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus said to him, 'You say so.' And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders he made no answer. Then Pilate says to him, 'Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?' But he did not answer him with a single word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. They had at the time a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled Pilate said to them, 'Whom do wish me to release to you? Barabbas or Jesus called Christ?' For he knew that they had handed him over through envy. But while he was seated on the tribunal, his wife sent to him saying, 'Have nothing to do with that just man. For I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.' But the chief priests and elders had persuaded the crowds that they should ask for Barabbas. Pilate says to them, 'So what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?' They say to him, 'Let him be crucified!' The governor said, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted even louder, saying, 'Let him be crucified!' So Pilate, seeing that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead, took water and washed his hands in full view of the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just man. You look to it.' And the whole people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them, but Jesus he had scourged

and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort round him. They stripped him and dressed him in a scarlet cloak, and having woven a crown of thorns, they placed it on his head and a reed in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him and took the reed and struck it on his head. And when they had mocked him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him. As they went out they found a Cyrenian named Simon; they forced him to carry his cross. At that time, when the soldiers had reached a place called Golgotha, which means place of a Skull, they gave him vinegar to drink mixed with gall. And when he had tasted it he would not drink. But when they had crucified him they divided up his garments, casting lots. And they sat there and watched him. And they placed over his head his written accusation: This is Jesus the king of the Jews. Then they crucified with him two thieves, one on his right and one on his left. While the passers by blasphemed him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself. If you are Son of God, come down from the cross.' Likewise the chief priests mocked him along with the scribes and elders and Pharisees, saying, 'He saved others. He cannot save himself. If he is the king of Israel, let him now come down from the cross and we will believe in him. He trusted in God, let him now deliver him, if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the son of God.' And the thieves who were crucified with him reviled him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. But around the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama savachthani?' That is, 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?' Some of those who stood there when they heard this said, 'This one is calling on Elias.' And immediately one of them ran and taking a sponge filled it with vinegar and putting it on a reed gave him to drink. But the rest said, 'Stop, let us see if Elias is coming to help him,' But Jesus, having once more cried out with a loud voice, gave up the spirit. And behold, the veil of the Temple was rent in two, from the top to the bottom, and the earth was shaken and the rocks were rent, and the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints that slept were raised, and coming out of their graves after his rising they entered the Holy City and appeared to many. But the centurion and those with him, when they saw the earthquake and all that happened, were greatly afraid and said, 'Truly this was a son of God.' And there were many women there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalen and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (End)

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

**At once the Reader says:**

Direct my steps according to your word, and let no iniquity lord it over me. Deliver me from the slander of men, and I shall keep your commandments. Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your statutes. Let my mouth be filled with your praise, O Lord, that I may hymn your glory, all day long your splendour.

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 unto 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. (*thrice*)

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

**Reader:** Amen.

### **Kontakion.**

Come, let us all sing the praise of him who was crucified for us; for Mary looked upon him on the Tree and said: 'Though you endure the Cross, yet you are my Son and my God'.

**Then:** Lord, have mercy. (x40)

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the blessings to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x3). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

**Priest:** God have pity on us and bless us, shine the light of his Face upon us and be merciful to us.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **And the Superior says the following prayer:**

Christ, the true light, coming into the world, who enlighten and hallow everyone, the light of your Face be signed upon us, that in it we see the unapproachable light of your Glory; and

direct our steps to the doing of your commandments; at the intercessions of your all-most pure Mother and of all your Saints. Amen.

**Reader:** To you my Champion and Commander I your city saved from disasters dedicate, O Mother of God, hymns of victory and thanksgiving; but as you have unassailable might from every kind of danger now deliver me, that I may cry to you: Hail, Bride without bridegroom!

*We read* **CATECHESIS 73**

**On the Saving Passion of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ  
by our Venerable Father Theodore the Studite.**

Brethren and Fathers, while the sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ when they are recalled are always able to pierce the soul, they do so especially in these present days, on which each of them reached its end. What then are they? The murderous council against him, the arrest, his being led away to death, his arraignment before Pilate's tribunal, the interrogation, the scourging, the blows, the spittings, the insults, the mockeries, the ascent of the Cross, the nailing of his hands and feet, the tasting of gall, the piercing of his side and all the other things which blazed forth with them, which the world cannot contain, nor can anyone worthily proclaim, not human tongue, nor even all the tongues of angels together. For let us consider, brethren, this great and ineffable mystery. The Lord *who reveals the counsels of hearts* and knows every human desire is the one who is taken before a council of death; the Lord *who bears all things by the word of his power* is the one who is handed over to sinners; the Lord *who binds the water in the clouds* and sows in the earth in due season and uniformly is the one who is led away prisoner; the Lord *who measures the heavens with the span of his hand and the earth in a handful and weighed all the mountains in the balance* is the one who is struck by the hand of a servant; the Lord who adorned the boundaries of the earth with flowers is the one who is dishonourably crowned with thorns; the Lord who planted the tree of life in Paradise is the one who is hanged upon an accursed tree. O great and more than natural sights! The sun saw them and faded, the moon saw them and was darkened, the earth perceived them was shaken, the rocks perceived them and were rent, all creation was turned back at the outrages done to the Master. The lifeless elements which have no senses, as if endowed with life and sensation from fear of the Lord and from the spectacle of what is seen, were amazed and altered; and do we, who have been honoured with reason, for whose sake Christ died, remain untouched and unweeping in these days? How could we be less rational than things which have no reason, more unfeeling than the stones? In no way, my brothers, in no way. Let us rather be amazed in a manner worthy of God, by being changed with a fair change; let us draw down tears, sacrifice the passions, changing insults for insults and exchanging wounds for wounds, the one through obedience, the other through unflinching confession. Do we not see the burning incitements of divine love? Who ever dwelt in prison for a friend? Who accepted slaughter for their beloved? But our good God not only did the one and both of them, but accepted ten thousand sufferings for the sake of us, the condemned. Fittingly then the blessed Apostle, when he thought on these things and became powerfully aware of the love of God, said *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rules nor powers, neither present nor future, neither height nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* For such was the love God had for us *that he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might not perish, as it is written, but have eternal life.* As an exchange for this love, the saints, when they had nothing to offer, offered their own bodies and blood by asceticism and struggle, singing with blessed David the

song: *What return may we make to the Lord for all that he has given to us?* Let us also, brethren, cry out these words each day, as we serve him with an unceasing attitude of love, striving again and again for what is better, so that we may become heirs with the saints of the eternal blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and might with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.

## THIRD HOUR

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

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

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

### Psalm 34

Lord, judge those that wrong me, make war on those who war against me. Take up weapon and shield and arise to my help. Draw the sword and block the way of those who persecute me; say to my soul: I am your salvation. Let those who seek my life be put to shame and turned back, let those who devise evils against me be routed and put utterly to shame. Let them be like dust before the wind, with the Angel of the Lord afflicting them. Let their way become dark and slippery, with the Angel of the Lord pursuing them. Because they hid for me a snare of destruction; without cause they reviled my soul. Let a snare which they do not know come upon them, and let the trap which they hid seize them, and let them fall into the very same snare. But my soul will rejoice in the Lord, it will delight in his salvation. All my bones will say: Lord, who is like you? Who deliver the poor from those who are stronger, and the poor and needy from those that despoil them. Unjust witnesses arose and asked me things of which I knew nothing. They repaid me evils for good, and bereavement for my soul. But I, when they troubled me, put on sackcloth and humbled my soul with fasting, and my prayer shall return to my own bosom. I acted pleasantly towards them, as to our neighbour or brother; as one mourning and downcast I humbled myself. Yet they rejoiced against me and scourges were assembled, assembled against me, and I knew it not. They were scattered, but felt no compunction. They put me to the test, they reviled me utterly, they gnashed their teeth against me. Lord, when will you look upon me? Deliver my life from their malice, my only life from lions. I will give you thanks in a great congregation, among a numerous people I will praise you. Do not let those who are hostile to me without cause rejoice against me; those who hate me for nothing and who wink with their eyes. Because they spoke things of peace to me, but imagined trickeries in anger. And they opened wide their mouths against me; they said: Fine, fine, our eyes have seen. You have seen, Lord, do not keep silent; Lord, do not withdraw from me. Rise, Lord, and attend to my judgement; my God and my Lord to my cause. Judge me, O God, according to your righteousness, O Lord my God; and do not let them rejoice over me. Let them not say in their hearts: Fine, fine it is to our soul; nor let them say: We have swallowed him down. Let those who rejoice at my afflictions be put to shame and turned back together; let those who speak proud words against me be clothed in shame and confusion. Let those who wish my righteousness rejoice and be glad, and let those who wish the peace of his servant ever say: The Lord be magnified. And my tongue will meditate on your justice; all day long on your praise.

## **Psalm 108**

Do not be silent, O God of my praise. For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues. They beset me with words of hate, and attack me without cause. In return for my love they accuse me, even while I make prayer for them. So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love. They say, 'Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser stand on his right. When he is tried, let him be found guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin. May his days be few; may another seize his position. May his children be orphans, and his wife a widow. May his children wander about and beg; may they be driven out of the ruins they inhabit. May the creditor seize all that he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil. May there be no one to do him a kindness, nor anyone to pity his orphaned children. May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation. May the iniquity of his father be remembered before the Lord, and do not let the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the Lord continually, and may his memory be cut off from the earth. For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the broken-hearted to their death. He loved to curse; let curses come on him. He did not like blessing; may it be far from him. He clothed himself with cursing as his coat, may it soak into his body like water, like oil into his bones. May it be like a garment that he wraps around himself, like a belt that he wears every day.' May that be the reward of my accusers from the Lord, of those who speak evil against my life. But you, O Lord my Lord, act on my behalf for your name's sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is pierced within me. I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust. My knees are weak through fasting; my body has become gaunt. I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads. Help me, O Lord my God! Save me according to your steadfast love. Let them know that this is your hand; you, O Lord, have done it. Let them curse, but you will bless. Let my assailants be put to shame; may your servant be glad. May my accusers be clothed with dishonour; may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a mantle. With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD; I will praise him in the midst of the throng. For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save them from those who would condemn them to death.

## **Psalm 50**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy, and according to the magnitude of your compassions blot out my transgression.

More thoroughly wash me from my lawlessness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I do know my lawlessness, and my sin is ever before me.

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.

For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me.

For, behold, you have loved truth, the unseen and hidden things of your wisdom you have shown me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be cleansed; you will wash me and I will be made whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.

Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit in my inward parts.

Do not cast me away from your Face, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me back the joy of your Salvation, and make me steadfast with a governing Spirit.

I will teach the lawless your ways, and the ungodly will turn around to you.

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will rejoice in your righteousness. Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

For if you had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not be well-pleased in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit; a shattered and humbled heart God will not despise.

Do good, Lord, to Sion in your good pleasure and the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt!

Then you will be well-pleased in sacrifice of righteousness, offering and whole-burnt offerings.

Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God! (x3)

Lord have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 6**

Lord, the Jews condemned you, the life of all, to death; those who by a staff crossed the Red Sea on foot nailed you to a cross, and those who sucked honey from a rock offered you gall. But you endured willingly, that you might free us from the slavery of the foe. Christ God, glory to you!

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Theotokion.

Mother of God, you are the true vine, who gave bud to the fruit of life; we implore you, Sovereign Lady, intercede together with the Apostles and all the Saints that you have mercy on our souls.

*After which we sing the following Idiomels in Tone 8:*

Through fear of the Jews Peter, your friend and neighbour, denied you, Lord; and in bitter grief he cried out: Do not pass by my tears in silence, compassionate Master; for I said I would keep faith, but have not kept it. Accept our repentance too, and have mercy on us. (*Twice, without a verse*)

**Verse:** Give ear to my words, O Lord; understand my cry.

Before your precious Cross as the soldiers mocked you, Lord, the spiritual hosts were struck with amazement. For you were wreathed with a crown of outrage, you who painted the earth with flowers; and you wore a cloak of mockery, you who wrap the firmament in clouds; by such a dispensation was your compassion made known, O Christ, and your great mercy. Glory to you!

**Verse:** Attend to the voice of my prayer, my King and my God.

Before your precious Cross as the soldiers mocked you, Lord, the spiritual hosts were struck with amazement. For you were wreathed with a crown of outrage, you who painted the earth with flowers; and you wore a cloak of mockery, you who wrap the firmament in clouds; by such

a dispensation was your compassion made known, O Christ, and your great mercy. Glory to you!

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

As you were dragged to the Cross, Lord, you cried out thus: For what work do you wish to crucify me, O Jews? Because I braced the paralytic? Because I raised the dead from sleep? I healed the woman with an issue of blood, I took pity on the woman of Canaan. For what work do you wish to slay me, O Jews? But, transgressors, you will see Christ whom now you pierce.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

As you were dragged to the Cross, Lord, you cried out thus: For what work do you wish to crucify me, O Jews? Because I braced the paralytic? Because I raised the dead from sleep? I healed the woman with an issue of blood, I took pity on the woman of Canaan. For what work do you wish to slay me, O Jews? But, transgressors, you will see Christ whom now you pierce.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone. [Psalm 37] For I am ready for scourges; / and my pain is with me continually.

**People:** For I am ready for scourges; / and my pain is with me continually.

**Reader:** O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; nor chasten me in your wrath.

**People:** For I am ready for scourges; / and my pain is with me continually.

**Reader:** For I am ready for scourges;

**People:** / and my pain is with me continually.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias.[50:4-11]

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

**Reader:** The Lord God has given me the tongue of instruction, that I may know when to speak a word. Very early in the morning he has given me, given me an ear to hear; and the instruction of the Lord, of the Lord opens my ear, and I do not disobey, I do not dispute. I gave my back to scourges, and my cheeks to blows; I did not turn my face from the shame of spitting. The Lord God became my helper; therefore I was not ashamed, but I set my face like solid rock, and I knew that I would not be put to shame; he who justifies me is near. Who will contend with me? Let him stand up against me at the same time; who will contend with me? Let him draw near me. See, the Lord, the Lord will help me; who will injure me? All of you will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat you up. Who among you fears the Lord? Let him obey the voice of his servant; you that walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and place your reliance on God? See, all of you burn like fire, make the flame grow strong. Walk in the light of your fire, and in the flame that you have kindled! For my sake this happened to you: you shall lie down in sorrow.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Romans. [5:6-10]

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

**Reader:** Brethren, while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

**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 is from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us attend! [15:16-32]

**Priest:** At that time, the soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard, that is the praetorium, and summoned the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and having plaited a crown of thorns placed it on him, and they began to salute him and say, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they kept striking his head with a reed and spitting on him, and they bowed the knee and did him homage. And when they had mocked him they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes and led him out to crucify him. And they forced Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they bring him to a place Golgotha, which means place of a skull. And they gave him wine drugged with myrrh to drink. It was the third hour and they crucified him. And the inscription of his charge ran, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two thieves, one on the right and one on the left. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, He was counted among transgressors. And the passers by blasphemed him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself and come down from the cross.' Likewise the chief priests also mocked him among themselves with the scribes and said, 'He saved others. He cannot save himself. Let Christ the king of Israel now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe in him.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. At the ninth hour Jesus

cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elias.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with vinegar, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see if Elias is coming to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he cried out in this way and he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was Son of God!' There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him when he was in Galilee and minister to him; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

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

Blessed is the Lord God, blessed is the Lord day by day; may the God of our salvation give us prosperity.

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 unto 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 unto 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 unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **Kontakion.**

Come, let us all sing the praise of him who was crucified for us; for Mary looked upon him on the Tree and said: 'Though you endure the Cross, yet you are my Son and my God'.

**Then:** Lord, have mercy. (x40)

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the blessings to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify

our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x3). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

**Priest:** God have pity on us and bless us, shine the light of his Face upon us and be merciful to us. **Reader:** Amen.

**And the Superior says the following Prayer of St Mardarios**

God and Master, Father almighty, Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, one godhead, one power, have mercy on me the sinner; and by the judgements which you know, save me your unworthy servant; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

## SIXTH HOUR

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 fall down and worship before Christ himself, the King, our God.

### **Psalm 53**

O God, save me by your name, and you will judge me by your power. O God, hear my prayer, give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen up against me, and mighty ones have sought my soul, and have not put God before them. For see, God will help me, and the Lord is the protector of my soul. He will turn evils upon my foes, in your truth wipe them out. Willingly I shall sacrifice to you, I shall give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good. For you have delivered me from every tribulation, and my eye has looked down on my foes.

### **Psalm 139**

Deliver me, O Lord, from evildoers; protect me from those who are violent, who plan evil things in their minds and stir up wars continually. They make their tongue sharp as a snake's, and under their lips is the venom of vipers. Guard me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from the violent who have planned my downfall. The arrogant have hidden a trap for me, and with cords they have spread a net, along the road they have set snares for me. I say to the Lord, 'You are my God; give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my supplications.' O Lord, my Lord, my strong deliverer, you have covered my head in the day of battle. Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of the wicked; do not further their evil plot. Those who surround me lift up their heads; let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them! Let burning coals fall on them! Let them be flung into pits, no more to rise! Do not let the slanderer be established in the land; let evil speedily hunt down the violent! I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall live in your presence.

## Psalm 90

One who dwells in the help of the Most High will live under the protection of the of the God of heaven; will say to the Lord: you are my protector and my refuge, my God, and I shall hope in him. For he will deliver you from the snare of hunters, and from the word which troubles. He will overshadow you with his wings, and beneath his feathers you will hope; his truth will encircle you with a shield. You will not be afraid of terror by night, of the arrow that flies by day; of the thing that prowls in the darkness, of mishap and the noonday devil. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right, but it will not come near you. But with your eyes you will observe, and see the reward of sinners. For you, Lord, are my hope: you have made the Most High your refuge. Evils will not approach you, nor a scourge draw near your dwelling. Because he has given orders to his Angels about you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You will walk on asp and basilisk, and trample down lion and dragon. Because he hoped in me, I shall deliver him; I shall shelter him, because he knew my name. He will cry to me, and I shall hear him, I am with him in trouble; I shall rescue him and glorify him. I shall fill him with length of days, and show him my salvation.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God! (x3)

Lord have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 2**

You have worked salvation in the midst of the earth, Christ our God. You stretched out your most pure hands on the Cross, gathering together all the nations, as they cry: Lord, glory to you!

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Theotokion.

Because we have no boldness because of our many sins, entreat the One born of you, O Virgin Mother of God; for a Mother's plea has great force for the kindness of the Master. Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-holy, for you is merciful, and able to save, you who even accepted to suffer for us.

*After which we sing the following Idiomels in Tone 8.*

Thus says the Lord to the Jews, 'My people, what have I done to you? Or in what have I wearied you? I gave light to your blind, I cleansed your lepers, I set upright a man lying on a bed. My people, what have I done to you, and how have you repaid me? Instead of the manna gall; instead of the water vinegar; instead of loving me, you have nailed me to a cross. I can endure no longer; I will call my nations, and they will glorify me, with the Father and the Spirit; and I shall grant them eternal life. (*twice, without a verse*)

**Verse:** They gave me gall for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Lawgivers of Israel, Jews and Pharisees, the choir of the Apostles cries out to you, 'See a Temple, which you have destroyed! See a Lamb, whom you have crucified! You handed him over to a

tomb, but by his own authority he has risen. Do not be deceived, O Jews, for it is he who saved you in the sea, and fed you in the desert; he is the life and the light and the peace of the world.

**Verse:** Save me, O God; for the waters have come in, even as far as my soul.

Lawgivers of Israel, Jews and Pharisees, the choir of the Apostles cries out to you: See a Temple, which you have destroyed; see a Lamb, whom you have crucified. You handed him over to a tomb, but by his own authority he has risen. Do not be deceived, O Jews, for it is he who saved you in the sea, and fed you in the desert; he is the life and the light and the peace of the world.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **Tone 5.**

Come, Christ-bearing peoples, let us see what Judas the betrayer has plotted with the lawless priests against our Saviour. Today they have found the immortal Word guilty of death, and having betrayed him to Pilate, crucified him on the place of the Skull. And as he suffered all this our Saviour cried out and said, 'Forgive them this sin, Father, that the nations may know my Resurrection from the dead'.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, Christ-bearing peoples, let us see what Judas the betrayer has plotted with the lawless priests against our Saviour. Today they have found the immortal Word guilty of death, and having betrayed him to Pilate, crucified him on the place of the Skull. And as he suffered all this our Saviour cried out and said, 'Forgive them this sin, Father, that the nations may know my Resurrection from the dead'.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone. [Psalm 8] Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is your name / in all the earth!

**People:** Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is your name / in all the earth!

**Reader: Verse:** For your majesty is raised high above the heavens.

**People:** Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is your name / in all the earth!

**Reader:** Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is your name

**People:** in all the earth!

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias.[52:13-53:12]

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

**Reader:** Thus says the Lord: See, my servant will understand; he shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly. Just as there many will be astonished at you, so your appearance will be without glory from men, and your glory from the sons of men. So many nations will marvel at him; kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them about him they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have

heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? We brought a report as of a child before him, as a root out of dry ground; he had no form or glory, and we saw him, and he had neither form nor beauty. But his form was without honour and inferior to the children of men. He was a man in suffering and acquainted with bearing weakness, because his face has been away, he was dishonoured and not esteemed. He bears our sins and is in pain for us. We reckoned him to be in toil and in affliction and trouble. But he was wounded for our sins and crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment of our peace, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; Every one has gone astray in their own way, and the Lord handed him over for our sins. And he, because of his affliction, does not open his mouth; like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation his judgement was taken away; who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken away from the earth; because of the iniquities of my people he was led to death. And I will give the evil for his burial and the rich for his death, because he practised no iniquity, nor was there guile in his mouth. And the Lord wishes to cleanse him of his blow. If you give an offering for sin, your soul will seed a long-lived descendance. And the Lord wishes to take away from the toil of his soul, to show him light and to fashion him with understanding, to justify the just one, who serves many well, and he will bear their sins. Therefore he will inherit many and divide the spoils of the strong. Because his soul was handed over to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and was handed over because of their iniquities. Rejoice, barren one who do not give birth, break out and cry, you who are not in labour, for the children of the desolate are more than those of her that has a husband.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Hebrews. [2:11-18]

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

**Reader:** Brethren, the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from One. For this reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brethren, in the midst of the church I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear he did not take upon himself the nature angels, but he took on that of the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brethren in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things of God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. For because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**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 is from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us attend! [23:32-49]

**Priest:** At that time two others, who were criminals, were led out with Jesus to be put to death with him. And when they had come to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. But Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And dividing his garments they cast lots. And the people stood by watching. While with them the rulers too scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ, the chosen one of God.' And the soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar and saying, 'If you the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Now there was also an inscription over him written in Greek, Roman and Hebrew letters, 'This is the king of the Jews.' One of the evil-doers who were hanged there with him blasphemed him, saying, 'If you are the Christ, save yourself and us.' But the other answering rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, for you are under the same sentence of condemnation? But we indeed justly, for we are being paid fittingly for what we did; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said to Jesus, 'Remember me, Lord, when you come in your kingdom.' And Jesus said to him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' Now it was about the sixth hour and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, and the sun's light disappeared and the veil of the Temple was rent down the middle. And Jesus having cried out with a loud voice said, 'Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.' And when he had said this he breathed his last. But the centurion on seeing what had happened glorified God and said, 'Indeed this was a just man.' And all the crowds who had gathered for the spectacle returned home beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances stood at a distance and the women who had followed him from Galilee watching these things.

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

Let your mercies, O Lord, come quickly to our aid, for we are utterly poor; help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name. O Lord, deliver us, and have mercy on our sins, for your name's sake.

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 unto 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 unto 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 unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **Kontakion.**

Come, let us all sing the praise of him who was crucified for us; for Mary looked upon him on the Tree and said: 'Though you endure the Cross, yet you are my Son and my God'.

**Then** Lord, have mercy (x40)

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the blessings to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x3). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

**Priest:** God have pity on us and bless us, shine the light of his Face upon us and be merciful to us.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **And the Superior says the following prayer:**

#### **Prayer of Saint Basil the Great**

O God and Lord of powers, and Maker of all creation, who through the compassion of your incomprehensible mercy sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and through his precious Cross tore up the record of our sins, and by it triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness; do you yourself, O Master who loves mankind, accept also our supplications of thanksgiving and entreaty; and deliver us from destroying and dark transgression, and from all our foes, visible and invisible, who seek to

harm us. Nail down our flesh through fear of you, and do not let our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but wound our souls with longing for you; that ever gazing upon you and guided by the light that comes from you, seeing you the unapproachable and everlasting light, we may give thanks to you, the Father without beginning, with your only-begotten Son and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**According to the Typica of the Holy Mountain the Reader at once adds:**

It is truly right to call you blessed, who gave birth to God, ever-blessed and most pure, and Mother of our God. 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, bless, Father.

## NINTH HOUR

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, our God.

### Psalm 68

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; many are those who would destroy me, my enemies who accuse me falsely. What I did not steal must I now restore? O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me, O Lord God of hosts; do not let those who seek you be dishonoured because of me, O God of Israel. It is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children. It is zeal for your house that has consumed me; the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. When I humbled my soul with fasting, they insulted me for doing so. When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them. I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me. But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. With your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the Pit close its mouth over me. Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress: make haste to answer me. Draw near to me, redeem me, set me free because of my enemies. You know the insults I receive, and my shame and dishonour; my foes are all known to you. Insults have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Let their table be a trap for them, a snare for their allies. Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually. Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them. May their camp be a desolation; let no one live in their tents. For they persecute those whom you have struck down,

and those whom you have wounded, they attack still more. Add guilt to their guilt; may they have no acquittal from you. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous. But I am lowly and in pain; let your salvation, O God, protect me. I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. For the Lord hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds. Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Juda; and his servants shall live there and possess it; the children of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall live in it.

### **Psalm 69**

O God, come to my help; Lord, hasten to help me. Let those who seek my soul be shamed and confounded. Let those who wish me evil be turned back and put to shame. Let those who say to me: 'Fine, fine!' be turned back immediately, ashamed. Let all who seek you, O God, be glad and rejoice in you. Let all who love your salvation ever say: 'The Lord be magnified.' But I am poor and needy; help me, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

### **Psalm 85**

Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my soul, for I am holy; O my God, save your servant who hopes in you. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I shall cry to you all the day; give joy to the soul of your servant, for I have lifted up my soul to you. For you, O Lord, are good and gentle, and full of mercy to all who call on you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplication. In the day of my trouble I called to you, for you heard me. There is none like you among the gods, O Lord; none whose works are as yours. All the nations whom you made will come and worship before you, O Lord, and call upon your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Guide me, O Lord, in your way, and I shall walk in your truth; make my heart glad to fear your name. I shall give you thanks, O Lord, my God, with my whole heart; and I shall glorify your name for ever. For your mercy is great towards me, and you have delivered my soul from the lowest hell. O God, the lawless rose up against me, and an assembly of mighty ones sought my soul, and did not set you before them. And you, Lord, are pitying and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy and true. Look on me and have mercy on me; give your might to your servant and save the son of your maidservant. Make with me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed; for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

*And again:*

Make with me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed; for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God! (x3)

Lord have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 8**

The Thief, seeing the Prince of life hanging on the Cross, said: If he who is crucified with us was not God incarnate, the sun would not have hidden its rays, nor would the shaken earth be quaking. But you who bear all things, remember me, Lord, in your kingdom.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Theotokion.

O Good One, who was born of a Virgin for our sakes and endured crucifixion; who despoiled death by death and as God revealed resurrection, do not despise those whom you fashioned with your own hand; show your love for mankind, O Merciful, accept the Mother of God who bore you, as she intercedes for us, and save, O Saviour, a people in despair.

#### Idiomels. **Tone 7**

A strange wonder it was to see the Maker of heaven and earth hanging on a cross; the sun darkened, the day changed again into night and the earth giving back the bodies of the dead from their tombs; with them we worship you. Save us. (*Twice, without a verse*)

**Verse:** They parted my garments among them, and cast lots for my clothing.

**Tone 2** When the transgressors saw you, the Lord of glory, nailed to the Cross, you cried out to them, 'How have I grieved you? In what have I angered you? Before me, who delivered you from affliction? And now how do you repay me? With evils for blessings: instead of a pillar of fire, you have nailed me to a cross; instead of a cloud, you have dug me a tomb; instead of the manna, you have offered me gall; instead of water, you have given me vinegar to drink. From now on I shall call the nations, and they will glorify me with the Father and the holy Spirit'.

**Verse:** They gave me gall for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

When the transgressors saw you, the Lord of glory, nailed to the Cross, you cried out to them, 'How have I grieved you? In what have I angered you? Before me, who delivered you from affliction? And now how do you repay me? With evils for blessings: instead of a pillar of fire, you have nailed me to a cross; instead of a cloud, you have dug me a tomb; instead of the manna, you have offered me gall; instead of water, you have given me vinegar to drink. From now on I shall call the nations, and they will glorify me with the Father and the holy Spirit.

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

To-day he is hung upon a tree, he who hung the earth upon the waters (x3).

He is arrayed in a crown of thorns, he who is the King of the Angels. He is wrapped in mocking purple, he who wraps the heaven in clouds. He receives a blow on the face, he who freed Adam in Jordan. He is transfixed with nails, the Bridegroom of the Church. He is pierced by a lance, the Son of the Virgin.

We worship your Sufferings, O Christ (x3).

Show us also your glorious Resurrection.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone. [Psalm 13] The fool has said in his heart: / 'There is no God'.

**People:** The fool has said in his heart: / 'There is no God'.

**Reader:** There is none who does good; no, not one.

**People:** The fool has said in his heart: / 'There is no God'.

**Reader:** The fool has said in his heart:

**People:** 'There is no God'.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremias. [11:18-12:5a.9b-11a.14-15]

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

**Reader:** Lord, make me know, and I shall know; then I saw their practices. But I, like an innocent lamb led to be sacrificed, did not know; against me they devised an evil thought, saying: Come, and let us cast wood into his bread and let us wipe him out of the land of the living, and let his name be remembered no more. Lord, you judge justly, you try reins and hearts, may I see vengeance upon them from you, because I have revealed to you my justification. Therefore thus says the Lord to the men of Anathoth who seek for my life and who say: Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, otherwise you will die at our hands. See, I shall visit them; their youths will die by the sword, their sons and daughters will perish by hunger, and there will not be a remnant of them; because I shall bring evils upon the inhabitants of Anathoth, in the year of their visitation. [12:1] You are just, Lord, so I shall make my defence to you, moreover I shall speak of judgements to you: why does the way of the ungodly go well? Those who set breaches of faith at nothing have prospered, you planted them and they have taken root; they begot children and produced fruit; you are near to their mouth and far from their reins. And you, Lord, know me, you have tried my heart before you; purify them for the day of their slaughter. How long will the land grieve and the grass of the field be dried from the wickedness of its inhabitants? Animals and birds have vanished, because they <the inhabitants> said: God will not see our ways. Your feet run and make you faint. Assemble all the beasts of the field and let them come and eat it. Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard, they have defiled my portion, they have made my desired portion a trackless desert, it has been made into utter destruction. Because thus says the Lord of all the evil neighbours who touch my inheritance, which I have apportioned to my people Israel: See, I shall drag them from their land and I shall cast Juda out of their midst. And it shall be that after I have cast them out, I shall turn back and have mercy on them, and I shall make them dwell, each in his inheritance and each in his land.

**Deacon/Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Hebrews. [10:19-31]

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

**Reader:** Brethren, since we have confidence to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we wilfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgement, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has violated the law of Moses dies without mercy 'on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by those who have spurned the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know the one who said, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.' And again, 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**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 is from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

**Deacon/Priest:** Let us attend! [19:23-37]

**Priest:** At that time, there stood by the Cross of Jesus his mother and his mother's sister, Mary wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalen. And Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside him, says to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son.' Then he says to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all things had been accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled says, 'I thirst.' Now there was a vessel there full of vinegar; so having filled a sponge with vinegar and put in on a branch of hyssop they held it to his mouth. So when Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished', and bowing his head he gave up the spirit. The Jews then, so that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, since it was Friday, the day of Preparation (for that Sabbath was a solemn day), asked Pilate that they might break their legs and that they might be removed. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and second who were crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus as they saw that he was already dead they did not break his legs, but one of the soldiers with a lance pierced his side, and at

once there came out blood and water. And he saw it has borne witness, and his witness is true. And he knows that he speaks the truth, so that you too may believe. For these things happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Not a bone of him will be broken. And again another Scripture says, They will look an the one they have pierced.

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

For your holy name's sake do not finally reject us, do not annul your covenant, do not take your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, your beloved, and for the sake of Isaac, your servant, and Israel, your holy one.

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 unto 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 unto 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 unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **Kontakion.**

Come, let us all sing the praise of him who was crucified for us; for Mary looked upon him on the Tree and said: 'Though you endure the Cross, yet you are my Son and my God'.

**Then** Lord, have mercy (x40)

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the blessings to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy (x3). Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,

and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

**Priest:** God have pity on us and bless us, shine the light of his Face upon us and be merciful to us.

**Reader:** Amen.

**And the Superior says the following prayer:  
Prayer of Saint Basil the Great**

Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, who have long endured our transgressions, and brought us to this hour in which hanging on the life-giving tree you showed the good Thief the way into Paradise and destroyed death by death, have mercy also on us sinners and your unworthy servants. For we have sinned and trespassed and are not worthy to raise our eyes and look on the height of heaven; because we have abandoned the way of your justice and walked in the will of our hearts. But we implore your unbounded goodness: spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of your mercy, and save us for your holy name's sake, for our days have been wasted in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of our opponent, forgive us our sins, slay our carnal will, that we, having put off the old man, may put on the new, and live for you, our Master and benefactor; and that thus following your precepts we may reach eternal rest, where those who rejoice have their dwelling. For you are the true joy and gladness of those who love you, Christ our God, and to you we give glory, together with your Father who has no beginning, and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and to ages of ages. Amen.

## TYPIKA

In your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

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

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

Remember us, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.

Remember us, O Master, when you come in your kingdom.

Remember us, O Holy One, when you come in your kingdom.

The heavenly choir hymns you and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

**Verse:** Come to him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir hymns you and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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

The choir of holy Angels and Archangels with all the heavenly Powers hymns you and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day he rose according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Maker of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

### **Then**

Remit, forgive, pardon, O God, our offences, willing and unwilling, in deed and in word, in knowledge and in ignorance, of the day and of the night, in mind and in thought; pardon them all, as you are good and love mankind.

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 unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **Kontakion**

Come, let us all sing the praise of him who was crucified for us; for Mary looked upon him on the Tree and said: 'Though you endure the Cross, yet you are my Son and my God'.

**Then:** Lord, have mercy. (x40).

All-holy Trinity, consubstantial Might, indivisible Kingship, Cause of all blessings, be favourable even to me the sinner; strengthen and give understanding to my heart and rid me of every defilement; enlighten my mind, that I may ever glorify, praise, worship and say: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Reader:** It is truly right to call you blessed, who gave birth to God, ever-blessed and most pure, and Mother of our God. 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!

Blessed be the name of "Lord", from this time forth and for evermore.

Blessed be the name of "Lord", from this time forth and for evermore.

Blessed be the name of "Lord", from this time forth and for evermore.

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

### **Psalm 33**

I will bless the Lord continually: his praise shall always be in my mouth. Let my soul boast of the Lord: the humble shall hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me: let us exalt his name together. For I sought the Lord and he heard me: and he freed me from all my troubles. Come to him and be enlightened: and your faces shall not be ashamed. Here is a poor man who cried, and the Lord heard him: and saved him from all his troubles. The angel of the Lord will encamp round those who fear him: and deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blest the man who hopes in him! Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones: for those who fear him never lack. The rich became poor and went hungry: but those who seek the Lord lack nothing good. Come, my children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is there who wants life: loves time to enjoy good things? Keep your tongue from evil: and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good: seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the just: and his ears towards their cry. The Lord sets his face against wrongdoers: to root out their memory from the earth. The just cried and the Lord hears them: and freed them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to those who are broken-hearted: and will save the humble in spirit. The troubles of the just are many: but the Lord will deliver them from them all. The Lord guards all their bones: not one of them will be broken. The death of sinners is evil: and those who hate the just man will be go astray. The Lord will deliver the souls of his servants: and none who hope in him will go astray.

**Reader:** It is truly right to call you blessed, who gave birth to God, ever-blessed and most pure, and Mother of our God. 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!

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

**Priest:** He who suffered spittings and whippings and beatings and crucifixion and death for the salvation of the world, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, through the intercessions of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, [of Saint N. (to whom the Church is dedicated), of Saint N., whose memory we keep today,] and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

**People:** Amen.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ God, have mercy upon us.

**People:** Amen.

*Translation taken from Archimandrite Ephrem Lash and Ieratikon: Volume I (Cherubim Press).*