

MATINS - GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY

Opening Blessing

Six Psalms

Psalms 3, 37, 62 / Psalms 87, 102, 142

Alleluia with Verses

Troparion, Tone 8

Behold! / The Bridegroom comes at midnight,* and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching.* Unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless.* Beware, then, / O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep,* lest you be given up to death and lest you be shut out of the kingdom.* But rouse yourself / crying: holy, holy, holy are You, O God!* Through the Mother of God have mercy on us. (3)

Psalter Reading I – Psalms 11, 12

Sessional Hymn I, Tone 4

Brethren, let us love the Bridegroom* and prepare our lamps with care,* shining with the virtues and right faith;* that, like the wise virgins of the Lord,* we may be ready to enter with Him into the wedding feast.* For God the Bridegroom* grants to all the crown incorruptible.

Glory be... Now... Brethren, let us love the Bridegroom... (repeat)

Psalter Reading II – Psalms 13, 14

Sessional Hymn II, Tone 4

The priests and scribes with wicked envy* gathered a lawless council against You,* and persuaded Judas to betray You.* Shamelessly he went and spoke against You to the transgressing people:* “What will you give me, and I will betray Him into your hands?” Deliver our souls, O Lord,* from the condemnation that was his.

Glory be... Now... The priests and scribes... (repeat)

Psalter Reading II – Psalms 15, 16

Sessional Hymn III, Tone 8

Impious Judas with avaricious thoughts* plots against the Master,* and ponders how he will betray Him.* He falls away from the light and accepts the darkness;* he agrees upon the payment and sells Him that is above all price;* and as the reward for his actions,* in his misery he receives a hangman’s noose and death in agony.* O Christ our God, deliver us from such a fate as his,* and grant remission of sins* to those who celebrate with love Your most pure Passion.

Glory be... Now... Impious Judas with avaricious thoughts... (repeat). Then return to booklet, page 27, for the Gospel Reading.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15 – 23:39

Psalms 50 (Page 29)

Lytia Prayer (Page 31)

CANON

Small Litany (Page 33)

Kontakion, Tone 2

Think, wretched soul, upon the hour of the end;* recall with fear how the fig tree was cut down.* Work diligently with the talent that is given to you;* be vigilant and cry aloud:* May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ!

Ikos

Why are you slothful, O my wretched soul? Why do you waste your days in thinking of unprofitable cares? Why are you busy with the things that pass away? The last hour is at hand and we shall soon be parted from all that is here. While there is still time, return to soberness and cry: I have sinned against You, O my Saviour, do not cut me down like the unfruitful fig tree; but, O Christ, in Your compassion take pity on me as I call on You in fear: May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ!

Ode 8

Irmos: The three holy Children were not obedient* to the decree of the tyrant;* but when cast into the furnace they confessed God, singing:* O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Let us cast aside slothfulness and go to meet Christ, the immortal Bridegroom, with brightly shining lamps and with hymns, crying: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

May there be sufficient oil of fellowship in the vessels of our souls, and then we shall not lose our reward because we have gone to buy oil; and let us sing: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

We praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him above all for ever.

You have all received equal grace from God; cause your talent to increase, with the help of Christ who gave it to you, and sing: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Katavasia: The three holy Children were not obedient* to the decree of the tyrant;* but when cast into the furnace they confessed God, singing:* O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

The Magnificat is not sung

Ode 9

Priest: In hymns let us extol the Theotokos and the Mother of the Light!

Irmos: You enclosed within your womb* the God whom nothing can enclose,* and you brought joy into the world.* We sing your praises, O most holy Virgin.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

“Watch,” You said to Your disciples, O loving Saviour. “For you know not in what hour the Lord shall come to reward every man.”

Glory be... Now...

At your fearful second coming, O Master, number me with the sheep at Your right hand, overlooking the multitude of my sins.

Katavasia: You enclosed within your womb* the God whom nothing can enclose,* and you brought joy into the world.* We sing your praises, O most holy Virgin.

Then, continue with the Hymn of Light:

Hymn of Light

Your bridal chamber I see adorned, O my Saviour,* and I have no wedding garment that I may enter,* O Giver of Light enlighten* the vesture of my soul, and save me. (3)

After the Hymn of Light, “The Praises” on page 35.

Morning Praises

At Psalm 150

2. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and pipes!*

Tone 1: How shall I enter into the splendour of Your saints? For I am unworthy,* and if I dare to come into the bridal chamber,* my clothing will accuse me,* since it is not a wedding garment,* and I shall be cast out by the angels,* bound hand and foot.* Cleanse, O Lord, the filth from my soul* and save me in Your love for mankind.

1. Praise Him with resounding cymbals, praise him with loud clashing of cymbals! Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Tone 2: I slumber in slothfulness of soul, O Christ the Bridegroom,* I have no lamp that burns with virtue,* and like the foolish virgins I go wandering when it is time to act.* Close not Your compassionate heart against me,* Master, but dispel dark sleep from me and rouse me up;* and lead me with the wise virgins into Your bridal chamber,* where those who feast sing with pure voice unceasingly:** O Lord, glory to You.

Glory be... Now... Tone 4: O my soul, you have heard the condemnation of him who hid his talent:* Hide not the word of God.* Proclaim His wonders, increase the gift of grace entrusted to you,* and you shall enter into the joy of your Lord.

Return to page 39 in the booklets.

Small Doxology

Litany of Supplication

Aposticha

Tone 6: Come, O faithful, and let us serve the Master eagerly, for He gives riches to His servants.* Let us increase the talent of grace,* each of us according to the measure that we have received.* Let one gain wisdom through good deeds;* let another celebrate the Liturgy with beauty;* let another share his faith by reaching to the uninstructed;* let another give his wealth to the poor.* So shall we increase what is entrusted to us,* and as faithful stewards of his grace we shall be counted worthy of the Master’s joy.* Bestow this joy upon us, Christ our God,* in Your love for mankind.

In the morning we were filled with Your mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced, and were glad. Let us rejoice in all our days — for the days You humbled us, for the years we saw evil. And look upon Your servants, and upon Your works; and guide their sons.*

Tone 6: When You come, O Jesus, in glory with the angelic hosts* and sit upon the throne of judgment,* do not send me from Your presence, O good Shepherd.* You accept those who stand upon the right,* but those upon the left have turned away from You.* Destroy me not with the goats,* though I am hardened in sin,* but number me with the sheep on Your right hand,* and save me in Your love for mankind.

And let the splendour of the Lord our God be upon us and give success to the work of our hands, give success to the work of our hands.*

Tone 6: O Bridegroom, surpassing all in beauty,* You have called us to the spiritual feast of Your bridal chamber.* Strip from me the disfigurement of sin,* through participation in Your sufferings;* clothe me in the glorious robe of Your beauty,* and in Your compassion make me feast with joy at Your kingdom.

Glory be... Now...

Tone 7: Behold, my soul, the Master entrusts you with a talent.* Receive His gift with fear;* make it gain interest for Him;* distribute to the needy,* and make the Lord your friend.* So shall you stand on His right hand when He comes in glory,* and you shall hear His blessed words:* “Enter, servant, into the joy of your Lord.” I have gone astray, O Saviour, but in Your great mercy count me worthy of this joy.

Concluding Prayers

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