

Presanctified Liturgy of Holy Wednesday

Vespers of Holy Thursday

PRIEST

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

READER

Amen.

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

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Him, Christ our King and God.

Psalm 103 (104).

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly; You clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain; You are He who covers His upper chambers with water, who makes the clouds His means of approach, who walks on the wings of the winds, who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire. He established the earth on its stable foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of ages. The deep like a garment is His covering; the waters shall stand upon the mountains; at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The mountains rise up,

and the plains sink down to the place You founded for them. You set a boundary they shall not pass over; neither shall they return to cover the earth. You are He who sends springs into the valley; the waters shall pass between the mountains; they shall give drink to all the wild animals of the field; the wild asses shall quench their thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside them; they shall sing from the midst of the rocks. You are He who waters the mountains from His higher places; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are He who causes grass to grow for the cattle, and the green plant for the service of man, to bring forth bread from the earth; and wine gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit, the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted; there the sparrows shall make their nests; the house of the heron takes the lead among them. The high mountains are for the deer; the cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night, wherein all the wild animals of the forest will prowl about; the young lions roar and snatch their prey, and seek their food from God. The sun arises, and they are gathered together; and they shall be put to bed in their dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your creation. There is this great

and spacious sea: the creeping things are there without number; the living things are there, both small and great; there the ships pass through; there is this dragon You formed to play therein. All things wait upon You, that You may give them food in due season. When You give it to them, they shall gather it; when You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

PRAYER OF THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Compassionate and merciful, longsuffering and very merciful Lord, hear our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Give us a favorable sign. Guide us in Your path that we may walk in Your truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy name, for You are great and work wonders. Only You are God, O Lord, and there is none

like You among the gods. You are great in mercy and gracious in strength and in aiding, exhorting, and saving all those who place their hope in Your holy name.

PRIEST

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. *(Amen.)*

READER

First Stanza
Psalm 119 (120).

To the Lord in my affliction I cried out, and He heard me. O Lord, deliver my soul from unjust lips and from a deceitful tongue. What should be given You, and what added to You, against a deceitful tongue? The arrows of the Mighty One are sharpened with hot coals from the desert. Woe is me! My sojourning was prolonged; I dwelt with the tents of Kedar. My soul sojourned a long time as a resident alien. With those who hate peace, I was peaceful; when I spoke to them, they made war against me without cause. [SAAS]

Psalm 120 (121).

I lifted my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Let not your foot be moved; neither let Him who keeps you slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord shall keep you; the Lord is your shelter at your right hand. The sun shall not burn you by day

nor the moon by night. The Lord shall keep you from all evil; the Lord shall keep your soul. The Lord shall keep your coming in and your going out from this present time and unto the ages.

[SAAS]

Psalm 121 (122).

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Our feet stand in your courts, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city whose compactness is complete. There the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord, a testimony to Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For thrones sat there for judgment, thrones over the house of David. Ask now for things regarding the peace of Jerusalem, and there is prosperity for those who love you; let there now be peace in your power and prosperity in your citadels. For the sake of my brothers and my neighbors, I indeed spoke peace concerning you; for the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I sought good things for you. [SAAS]

Psalm 122 (123).

I lift my eyes to You, who dwell in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the maidservant look to the hands of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God until He shall have compassion on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we are greatly filled with contempt; our soul is greatly

filled with it. We are a disgrace to those who prosper, and a contempt to the arrogant. [SAAS]

Psalm 123 (124).

"If the Lord had not been with us," let Israel now say, "If the Lord had not been with us, when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their anger raged against us, then the water would have drowned us; our soul would have passed through a torrent, then our soul would have passed through a water that is overwhelming." Blessed is the Lord, who did not give us as prey to their teeth. Our soul was delivered like a sparrow from the snare of the hunters; the snare was broken, and we were delivered. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

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

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

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

PRAYER OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

O Lord, do not rebuke us in Your anger, nor chastise us in Your wrath, but deal with us according to Your forbearance, physician and healer of our souls. Lead us to Your haven. Open the eyes of our hearts with the knowledge of Your truth, and grant that the remainder of this day and the remainder of our lives may be peaceful and sinless, by the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints.

PRIEST

For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. *(Amen.)*

READER

Second Stanza

Psalm 124 (125).

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion; he who dwells in Jerusalem shall be unshaken forever. The mountains surround her, and the Lord surrounds His people from

this present time and unto the ages. The Lord will not permit the rod of sinners to be upon the inheritance of the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands in lawlessness. Do good, O Lord, to the good, and to the upright in heart; but those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord shall lead away with the workers of lawlessness. Peace be upon Israel. [SAAS]

Psalm 125 (126).

When the Lord returned the captives of Zion, we became like those who are comforted. Then our mouth was filled with joy, and our tongue with exceeding joy. Then they shall say among the Gentiles, "The Lord did great things with them." The Lord has done great things with us; we were glad. Return, O Lord, our captivity like streams in the south. Those who sow with tears shall reap with exceeding joy. They went forth and wept, carrying their seeds with them; but they shall return with exceeding joy, carrying their sheaves. [SAAS]

Psalm 126 (127).

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain; unless the Lord guard the city, those who guard it stay awake in vain. It is in vain for you to rise early, to awaken from your rest, you who eat the bread of grief, when He gives His beloved ones sleep. Behold, children are the Lord's inheritance; the fruit of the womb His reward. Like arrows in the hand of a mighty one, so are the children of those who were outcasts. Blessed is the man

who shall fulfill his desire with them; they shall not be ashamed, when they speak to their enemies at the gate. [SAAS]

Psalm 127 (128).

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways. You shall eat the fruits of your labor; you are blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a vine, prospering on the sides of your house; your children like newly planted olive trees around your table. Behold, so shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life; may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

[SAAS]

Psalm 128 (129).

"Many times they warred against me from my youth," let Israel now say; "Many times they warred against me from my youth, yet they did not overcome me. The sinners schemed behind my back; they prolonged their lawlessness." The righteous Lord cut in pieces the necks of sinners. Let all who hate Zion be shamed and turned back. Let them become like grass on the housetops, which withers before it is plucked up; like grass with which the reaper does not fill his hand, nor the gatherer of sheaves, his bosom; neither do those who pass by say to them, "The Lord's blessing be upon you; in the Lord's name, we bless you." [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

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

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

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST (in a low voice)

PRAYER OF THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O Lord, our God, be mindful of us Your sinful and useless servants as we call upon Your holy name. Let us not be shamed for expecting Your mercy, but grant us, O Lord, all our petitions which lead to salvation. Make us

worthy to love and fear You with all our heart,
and to do Your will in all things.

PRIEST

For you are a good and loving God, and
to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the
ages of ages. (*Amen.*)

READER

Third Stanza
Psalm 129 (130).

Out of the depths I have cried to You,
O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice; let Your ears
be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
If You, O Lord, should mark transgression,
O Lord, who would stand? For there is
forgiveness with You. Because of Your law, O
Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your
word. My soul hopes in the Lord, from the
morning watch until night; from the morning
watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.
For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him
is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem
Israel from all his transgressions. [SAAS]

Psalm 130 (131).

O Lord, my heart is not exalted, neither are
my eyes raised up; neither am I carried along
in great things, nor in things too marvelous for
me. If I were not humble-minded, but exalted
my soul, like a child weaned from his mother,
so You would reward my soul. Let Israel hope
in the Lord from this present time and unto the
ages. [SAAS]

Psalm 131 (132).

Remember David, O Lord, and all his
meekness, how he swore to the Lord, how he
vowed to the God of Jacob, "I shall not enter
my dwelling, I shall not recline on my bed, I
shall not close my eyes in sleep nor my eyelids
for dozing, nor give any rest to my temples,
until I find a place for the Lord, a tabernacle
for the God of Jacob." Behold, we heard of
it in Ephrathah; we found it in the plains of
the wood; let us enter into His tabernacles;
let us worship at the place where His feet
stood. Arise, O Lord, into Your rest, You and
the ark of Your holiness; Your priests shall
clothe themselves in righteousness; Your saints
shall greatly rejoice. For Your servant David's
sake, do not turn away from the face of Your
anointed. The Lord swore to David this truth,
and He shall not reject it, "I shall set upon your
throne one from the fruit of your loins. If your
sons keep My covenant and these testimonies
I shall teach them, then their sons shall sit
upon your throne forever." For the Lord has
chosen Zion; He chose her for His dwelling:
"This is My place of rest unto ages of ages; here
I shall dwell, for I have chosen her. Blessing,
I shall bless her provision; I shall satisfy her
poor with bread; and I shall clothe her priests
with salvation, and her saints shall rejoice
exceedingly with great joy; there I shall cause to
spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a
lamp for my anointed; his enemies I shall clothe

with shame; upon him shall My sanctification flourish." [SAAS]

Psalm 132 (133).

Behold now, what is so good or so pleasant as for brothers to dwell together in unity? It is like fragrant oil running down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down upon the border of his garment; it is like the dew of Hermon, running down upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing and life forever. [SAAS]

Psalm 133 (134).

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. In the nights, lift up your hands to the holy of holies and bless the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion, He who made heaven and earth. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

You who are praised with incessant hymns and ceaseless doxologies by the heavenly Powers, fill our mouth with Your praise, so that we may exalt Your holy name. Grant us a share and a part with all those who fear You in truth and keep Your commandments, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and all Your saints.

PRIEST

For You are our God, the God of mercy and salvation, and to You do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *(Amen.)*

CHOIR

Mode 1.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.

The righteous man shall correct me with mercy, and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant. As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone, until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope, my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

From Triodion - - -

Idiomelon 1. Mode 1.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your name, O Lord. [SAAS]

When the harlot became aware that You, the Son of the Virgin, were God, she began to weep as one who had done things deserving tears, and imploring You she said, "Undo my debt, I pray You, as I undo my braids. Love me who am kissing You, though rightly I am hated; and alongside the publicans I will proclaim You, Benefactor who loves humanity." [SD]

Idiomelon 2. Mode 1.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward me. [SAAS]

The harlot mingled the very costly fragrant oil with her tears, and she poured it out on Your immaculate feet and kissed them profusely. You immediately justified her. To us, also, grant forgiveness, O Lord who suffered for us, and save us. [SD]

Idiomelon 3. Mode 1.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. [SAAS]

When the sinful woman offered the fragrant oil, then the disciple made his agreement with the transgressors of the Law. She rejoiced in pouring out the costly oil, and he lost no time in selling off the priceless One. She acknowledged the Master, and he was becoming estranged from the Master. She was emancipated, while Judas became a slave of the enemy. How dreadful was his rashness! How great was her repentance! Grant me this repentance, O Savior who suffered for us, and save us. [SD]

Idiomelon 4. Mode 1.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. [SAAS]

Oh, the wretchedness of Judas! He watched as the harlot was kissing Your feet, all the while with guile thinking about the kiss of betrayal. As she untied her braided hair, he was knotted up in anger, bringing rancid

wickedness instead of fragrant oil. For envy does not know where there is profit. Oh, the wretchedness of Judas! From this deliver our souls, O God. [SD]

Idiomelon 5. Mode 2.

If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness with You. [SAAS]

The sinful woman ran to purchase ointment, costly ointment, to anoint her Benefactor; and to the perfumer she cried out, "Give me the ointment, so that I in turn may anoint the One who wiped away all my sins." [SD]

Idiomelon 6. Mode pl. 2.

Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in the Lord. [SAAS]

She who was submerged in sin found in You a harbor of salvation. She poured out the fragrant oil along with her tears, and she cried out to You, "Behold, the One who has authority to forgive sins! Behold, the One who waits for the repentance of sinners!" O Master, I implore You, save me from the tempest of sin, in Your great mercy. [SD]

Idiomelon 7. Mode pl. 2.

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. [SAAS]

Today, Christ is at the house of the Pharisee. A sinful woman approaches and

grovels at His feet, and she cries to Him, "See me, a woman submersed in sin. I have given up in despair because of what I have done. And yet Your goodness does not abhor me. Grant me forgiveness for my wicked deeds, O Lord, and save me." [SD]

Idiomelon 8. Mode pl. 2.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions. [SAAS]

The harlot let out her hair for You the Master; Judas put out his hand to the transgressors of the Law. She, in order to receive forgiveness, and he to receive the silver. And so we cry out to You who were sold and who set us free: O Lord, glory to You! [SD]

Idiomelon 9. Mode pl. 2.

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples. [SAAS]

A woman, reeking and defiled, approached You, O Savior. She drenched Your feet with her tears, and thus announced Your Passion. "How can I look at You the Master? For You have come to save a harlot. Dead that I am, raise me up from the depths, You who raised Lazarus from the tomb after four days. Accept me, wretch that I am, O Lord, and save me." [SD]

Idiomelon 10. Mode pl. 2.

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [SAAS]

That woman, who was spurned because of her way of life, for which she had earned ill repute as a harlot, came to You with the fragrant oil in hand, and she cried out, "Please, do not throw me out for being a harlot, O Savior, born of the Virgin. Please, do not dismiss my tears and weeping, O Master, the joy of the Angels. You did not reject me when I was sinning, so now accept me as I am repenting, O Lord, because of Your great mercy." [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Triodion - - -

Mode pl. 4.

Lord, when the woman who had fallen into many sins perceived Your divinity, she assumed the role of a myrrh-bearing woman, and lamenting brought fragrant oils to anoint You before Your burial. "Woe is me," she says. "Night for me is a frenzy without restraint, very dark and moonless, a sinful love-affair. Accept the fountains of my tears, You who draw out from the clouds the water of the sea. Take pity on me, and incline to the sighing of my heart, You who bowed the heavens by Your ineffable self-emptying. I shall cover Your unstained feet with kisses, and wipe them dry again with the locks of my hair; those feet, whose sound at twilight in Paradise echoed in Eve's ears, and she hid in fear. Who can reckon the multitude of my sins, or fathom the depths of

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Your judgments, O my life-saving Savior? Do not despise me, Your servant, since without measure is Your mercy." [SD]

DEACON

(in a low voice)

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Prayer of the Entrance

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise, bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord, our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise.

READER

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; * and therefore the world glorifies You.

The Readings

PRIEST

The evening...

From Triodion - - -

READER

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 135 (136).

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

Give thanks to the God of gods. [SAAS]

The reading is from the book of Exodus.

PRIEST

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

2:11-22; 18:4

Thus it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and saw their burdens. He also saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren of the sons of Israel. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the second day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you hitting your neighbor?" He replied, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses was alarmed and said, "Surely this thing is known." Thus when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, who fed the sheep of their father Jethro; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood

up and helped them, and watered their flock. When they came to Reuel their father, he said to them, "How is it you came so soon today?" They replied, "An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; and he also drew enough water for us and watered our sheep." So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." Then Moses dwelt with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. So the woman conceived and bore Moses a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." She again conceived and bore a second son, and he called his name Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father is my help, and He rescued me from the hand of Pharaoh"). [SAAS]

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 137 (138).

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with all my heart. [SAAS]

(sung)

Command!

PRIEST

Wisdom. Arise. The light of Christ shines upon all.

READER

The reading is from the book of Job.

PRIEST

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

2:1-15

Then again as it so happened another day, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to the devil, "Where did you come from?" Then the devil said before the Lord, "I came here from walking around under heaven and going about all the earth." Then the Lord said to the devil, "Have you considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: an innocent, true, blameless, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing? Moreover he still holds fast to his integrity, though you told me to destroy his possessions without cause." Then the devil answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin. Whatever a man has he will pay in full for his life. Yet truly, stretch out Your hand and touch his bones and his flesh, and see if he will bless You to Your face." So the Lord said to the devil, "Behold, I give him over to you; only spare his life." Thus the devil went out from the Lord and struck Job with malignant sores from head to foot. So he took a potsherd to scrape away the discharge and sat on a dunghill outside the city. When a period of time passed, his wife said to him, "How long will you hold out, saying, 'Behold, I will wait a little longer, looking for the hope of my salvation'? Listen, your memory

is wiped out from the earth: your sons and daughters, the pangs and pains of my womb, which I suffered in vain and with hardships. You yourself are sitting down, spending the nights in the open air among the rottenness of worms; and I go about as a wanderer and a handmaid from place to place and from house to house, waiting for the setting of the sun, so as to rest from my labors and pains that now beset me. But say a word against the Lord and die!" Then Job looked at her and said, "You have spoken as one of the foolish women speaks. If we accepted good things from the Lord's hand, shall we not endure evil things?" In all these things that happened to him, Job did not sin with his lips against God. [SAAS]

PRIEST

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. [SAAS]

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You.

[SAAS]

CHOIR

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

PRIEST

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips. [SAAS]

CHOIR

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

PRIEST

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins. [SAAS]

CHOIR

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

PRIEST

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense.

CHOIR

The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. [SAAS]

The Gospel

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

Presanctified Liturgy of Holy Wednesday

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

PRIEST

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

DEACON

26:6-16

When Jesus was at Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment and she poured it on his head, as he sat at table. But when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for a large sum, and given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. [RSV]

PRIEST

Peace be with you.

CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants, and have mercy on us in accordance with the

abundance of Your mercy, and send down
Your compassion upon us and upon all Your
people who await Your great and rich mercy.

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves
mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Catechumens, pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Let us, the faithful, pray for the
catechumens.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the Lord will have mercy on them.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will teach them the word of truth.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will reveal to them the gospel of
righteousness.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will unite them to His holy,
catholic, and apostolic Church.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Save them, have mercy on them, help
them, and protect them, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Catechumens, bow your heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

PRAYER OF THE CATECHUMENS

O God, our God, creator and maker of
all, You wish all to be saved and to come to
the knowledge of the truth. Look upon your
servants, the catechumens, and free them from
the old error and the devices of the adversary,
and call them to life eternal, illumining their
souls and bodies, and numbering them among
Your rational flock over whom Your holy name
is invoked.

PRIEST

So that with us they also may glorify
Your most honorable and majestic name, of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Those who are catechumens, depart,
catechumens depart. All who are ready for
illumination come forward. Pray all of you who
are preparing for illumination. Let us pray to
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Let us the faithful pray to the Lord for
our brethren who are preparing for holy
illumination and for their salvation.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the Lord our God establish and
strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He illumine them with the light of knowledge and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He may make them worthy in due time of the baptism of regeneration, the remissions of sins, and the robe of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He may regenerate them with water and the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He may grant them the perfection of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He may number them among His holy and chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Save them, have mercy on them, help them, and protect them, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Those who are preparing for illumination, bow Your heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

**PRAYER FOR THOSE PREPARING
FOR ILLUMINATION**

Master, shine Your face on those who are preparing for holy illumination, who strongly desire to shake off the defilement of sin. Clear their mind. Confirm them in faith. Strengthen them in hope. Perfect them in love. Make them

precious members of Your Christ who gave himself as ransom for our souls.

PRIEST

For You are our illumination and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

All who are ready for illumination depart. You who are ready for illumination, depart. All those who are catechumens, depart. Let none of the catechumens remain. Again and again, in peace, let all of us, the faithful, pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace. Wisdom.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

FIRST PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

O God, great and praiseworthy, who through the life-giving death of Your Christ brought us from corruption to incorruption. Set free all our senses from deadly passions, setting over them as a good guide the understanding that is within us. Let our eyes abstain from evil sights; our hearing from idle talk; and our tongue cleansed from unsuitable speech. Purify our lips that sing Your praises, O Lord. Let our hands abstain from evil acts and produce only works that are pleasing to You, safeguarding by Your grace all our limbs and mind.

PRIEST

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace. Wisdom.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

SECOND PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Holy and exceedingly good Master, we beseech You who are rich in mercy: be gracious with us sinners, and make us worthy of receiving Your only-begotten Son and our God, the King of glory. For behold, His most-pure body and life-giving blood, entering at this hour, are to be placed on this mystical Table, invisibly escorted by a multitude of unseen heavenly hosts. Grant that we may blamelessly partake of them, so that having been illumined by them, we may become children of the light and of the day.

PRIEST

Through the gift of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

CHERUBIC HYMN

Now the powers of heaven are invisibly worshipping with us. For behold, the King of glory enters in. **[HC]**

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

CHOIR

Behold, a mystical and perfect sacrifice is coming forth. Let us come forward with faith and desire that we may become partakers of eternal life. Alleluia. **[HC]**

DEACON

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the precious and presanctified gifts here presented, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That our God Who loves mankind, having accepted them at His holy and celestial and mystical altar as an offering of spiritual fragrance, may in return send down upon us the divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

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

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

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

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

Having asked for the unity of the faith and for the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

O God of ineffable and unseen mysteries with whom are the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, You have revealed to us the service of this liturgy and by Your great compassion have ordained that we sinners should offer to You gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the transgressions of the people. You, O invisible King, whose works are great and wondrous, glorious, marvelous, and without number, look upon us who draw near to Your holy Altar as the throne of the Cherubim upon which rests Your only begotten Son and our God through the awesome mysteries offered here. And when you have freed us and Your faithful people from all impurities, sanctify our souls and bodies with a sanctification not to be taken away, so that with clear conscience, a presence without shame, and enlightened heart, we may participate in these divine sacraments. Through them we are given life that we may be united to Your Christ, our true God, who said: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him, so that with Your Word, O Lord, abiding in us and walking among us, we may become temples of Your all holy and worshipful Spirit, having been freed from every diabolical device working by deeds or words or thoughts. Thus, shall we obtain the blessing You have promised us, together with all Your saints, who from all ages have pleased You.

PRIEST

And grant us, Master, with boldness and without condemnation, to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father, and to say:

PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 evil.

PRIEST

For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

O God, who only are good and compassionate, who dwell on high and who look upon the lowly, look with a compassionate eye upon all Your people, and watch over them. Make us all worthy to partake of these

Your life giving mysteries without blame, for it is before You that we have bowed our heads in the hope of your abundant mercy.

PRIEST

Through the grace, compassion, and love for mankind of Your only begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Hearken, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from Your holy dwelling place and from the throne of glory of Your Kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are enthroned with the Father on high and are present among us invisibly here. And with Your mighty hand, grant Communion of Your most pure Body and precious Blood to us, and through us to all the people.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

PRIEST

The holy presanctified gifts for the holy people of God.

CHOIR

One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. [GOA]

PEOPLE

Prayers of Holy Communion

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy, without condemnation, to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the remission of sins and for eternal life. Amen.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth of my soul, and save me, as You are the one Who loves mankind. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul, and save me.

Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

CHOIR

Communion Hymn.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Alleluia. [SAAS]

DEACON

With the fear of God, faith, and love, draw near.

The servant of God (Name) partakes of the Body and Blood of Christ for the remission of sins and life eternal.

CHOIR

Hymns During Holy Communion

PRIEST

Save, O God, Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

CHOIR

After Communion

Mode pl. 4.

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Taste the Bread of heaven and the Cup of Life, and see that the Lord is good. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. [HC]

DEACON (*in a low voice*)

Exalt, Master.

Presanctified Liturgy of Holy Wednesday

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let Your glory be over all the earth.

Blessed is our God.

PRIEST

Always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Arise! Having partaken of the divine, holy, pure, immortal, heavenly, life-creating, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks to the Lord.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Having prayed for a perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless evening, let us commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

We thank You, O God, Savior of us all, for all the good things you have given us, and for the communion of Your holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. And we pray to You, loving Master: Protect us under the covering of Your wings and grant that we may worthily partake of your blessings to the end of our days, for the

illumination of our soul and body to inherit the kingdom of heaven.

PRIEST

For You are our sanctification and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Let us go forth in peace.

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Almighty Master, You created the universe in wisdom. By Your ineffable forethought and great goodness, You led us to these sacred days for cleansing of souls and bodies, for subduing passions, and for hope of resurrection. For forty days, You shaped the tablets written with godlike characters for Your servant Moses. Grant also to us, good lord, to fight the good fight, to finish the course of the fast, to keep the faith whole, to shatter the heads of unseen dragons, and to show ourselves victorious over sin, and to arrive blamelessly, without condemnation, to worship also Your holy resurrection. For blessed and glorified is Your honored and magnificent name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this present time and unto the ages. (3)

PRIEST (*in a low voice*)

O Lord our God, You have led us to these sacred days and made us partakers of Your awesome mysteries. Unite us with Your reasonable flock, and make us inheritors of Your kingdom, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(*Lord, have mercy.*)

PRIEST

May the blessing and the mercy of the Lord come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(*Amen.*)

Glory to You, O Christ God, our hope.
Glory to You.

May He who is coming to His voluntary Passion for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (*local patron saint*); of the holy and righteous

ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

READER

Psalms 33 (34).

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul shall be praised in the Lord; let the gentle hear, and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord, and He heard me; and He delivered me from all my sojourning.

Come to Him, and be enlightened, and your face shall never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him from all his afflictions.

The Angel of the Lord shall encamp around those who fear Him, and He will deliver them.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

Fear the Lord, you His saints, for there is no want for those who fear Him.

The wealthy have become poor and gone hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.

Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Psalm 144 (145)

Who is the man who desires life, who
loves to see good days?

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips
from speaking deceit.

Shun evil and do good; seek peace and
pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the
righteous, and His ears are open to their
supplications.

The Lord's face is against those who do
evil, so as to destroy their remembrance from
the earth.

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard
them; and He delivered them from all their
afflictions.

The Lord is near those who are
brokenhearted, and He will save the humble in
spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but He will deliver them from them all.

The Lord shall guard all their bones; not
one of them shall be broken.

The death of sinners is evil, and those who
hate the righteous shall go wrong.

The Lord will redeem the souls of His
servants, and all who hope in Him shall not go
wrong. [GOA, SAAS]

I shall exalt You, my God and my King,
and I shall bless Your name forever and unto
ages of ages.

Every day I shall bless you and praise
Your name forever and unto ages of ages.

Great is the Lord and exceedingly
praiseworthy, and His greatness has no limit.

Generation and generation shall praise
Your works, and they shall declare Your power.

They shall speak of the magnificence of the
glory of Your holiness, and they shall describe
Your wonders.

They shall also speak of the power of
Your awesome deeds and describe Your great
majesty.

They shall overflow with the memory of
Your rich goodness, and shall greatly rejoice in
Your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
longsuffering and abundant in mercy.

The Lord is good to all, and His mercies
are upon all His works.

O Lord, let all Your works praise You and
Your holy ones bless You.

They shall tell of Your kingdom's glory,
and they shall speak of Your power.

That all the sons of men may know
Your power and the glory of Your kingdom's
magnificence.

Your kingdom is a kingdom of all the
ages, and Your dominion is from generation to
generation.

The Lord is faithful in His words and holy
in all His works.

The Lord supports all who stumble and
restores all who are broken down.

All eyes hope in You, and You give them
their food in due season.

You open Your hand and fill every living
thing with Your pleasure.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways and
holy in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to
all who call upon Him in truth.

He shall do the will of those who fear Him,
and He shall hear their supplications and save
them.

The Lord keeps all who love Him, but all
the sinners He shall utterly destroy.

My mouth shall speak the Lord's praise,
and let all flesh bless His holy name forever
and unto ages of ages. [SAAS]

PRIEST

Through the prayers of our holy fathers,
Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us
[and save us].

(Amen.)