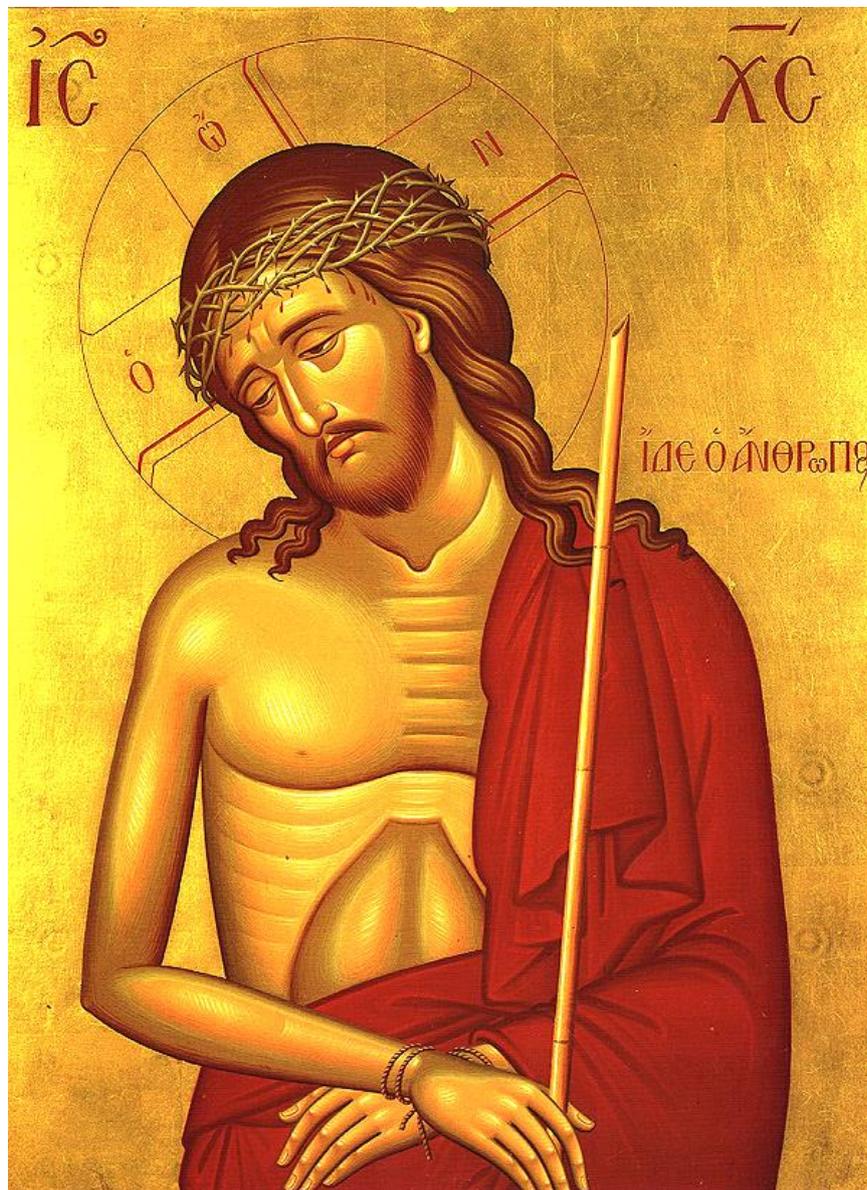


The First Service of Bridegroom

Palm Sunday Evening



The First Service of Bridegroom – Palm Sunday Evening

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The First Service of Bridegroom

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

O Heavenly King, Comforter and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of Blessings and the Giver of Life: come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain and save our souls, O Gracious One.

People: 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 forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit 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 forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (x12)

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

O come let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King, our Lord, and our God.

Psalm 19

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; May the Name of the God of Jacob defend you; May He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion; May He remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifice. May He grant you according to your heart's desire and fulfil all your purpose. We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the Name of our God we will set up our banners! May the Lord fulfil all your petitions.

Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy Heaven With the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the Name of the Lord our God. They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.

O Lord, save the king: and answer us in the day that we shall call on You.

Psalm 20

The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. He asked life from You, and You gave it to him Length of days forever and ever. His glory is great in Your salvation; Honour and majesty You have placed upon him. For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. For the king trusts in the Lord, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.

Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them. Their offspring You shall destroy from the Earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men. For they intended evil against You; They devised a plot which they are not able to perform. Therefore, You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces. Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.

The Trisagion Prayers

People: 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 forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit 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 forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Troparion of the Holy Cross

O Lord save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to Your people over their adversaries, and by virtue of Your Cross preserve Your habitation.

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

Kontakion of the Holy Cross

O Christ our God, Who of Your own good will was lifted up on the Cross, bestow Your bounties upon the new nation which is called by Your Name. Make glad in Your might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Your aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

Kontakion to the Theotokos

O fearsome champion, who cannot be put to confusion despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos, Mother of God. Establish the way of the Orthodox, save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from Heaven, for you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

The Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Priest: Again, we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan (Name), and all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Priest: **For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: **Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards all people. (x3)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. (x2)

Six Psalms

Psalm 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, “There is no help for him in God.” But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, And

He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

Psalm 37

O Lord do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus, I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those

also who render evil for good, They are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 62

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So, I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus, I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your Name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the Earth. They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadows of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God! (x3)

Lord have mercy. (x3)

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

Psalm 87

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; My eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

But to You I have cried out, O Lord, And in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry.

Psalm 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His Holy Name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the Heavens are high above the Earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has established His throne in Heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, In all places of His dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! In all places of His dominion.

Psalm 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore, my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; In You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your Name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies and destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.

O Lord Give ear to my supplications: Do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (x2)

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God! (x3)

O our God and our hope, glory to You.

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace, from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our Father and Metropolitan (*Name*), for the venerable Priesthood, for the Diaconate in Christ, for all the Clergy, monks, nuns, and all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who govern this country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this blessed city, for every monastery, city, town and village, and for the faithful, who dwell in them; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For favourable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who travel by sea, by land and by air, for the sick and suffering; for those in captivity; and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and adoration to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Alleluia Verses (Tone 8)

From the early night watch my spirit keeps vigil for You, O God, for Your commandments are a light on the Earth.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Learn righteousness, you that dwell upon the Earth.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Envy shall seize upon an untaught people, and now, fire shall consume the adversaries.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are vainglorious on Earth.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Troparion of the Bridegroom (Tone 8)

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is that servant whom He shall find watching; and again unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, lest you be borne down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be

shut out from the Kingdom. But rather rouse yourself and cry: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O our God; by the protection of the Bodiless Hosts, have mercy on us.

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

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is that servant whom He shall find watching; and again unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, lest you be borne down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out from the Kingdom. But rather rouse yourself and cry: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O our God; through all Your Saints, have mercy on us.

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

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is that servant whom He shall find watching; and again unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, lest you be borne down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out from the Kingdom. But rather rouse yourself and cry: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O our God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: **For Yours is the might, and Yours 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.**

People: Amen.

Kathismata (Tone 1)

The sublime Holy Passion on this day, dawns on the world as a light of salvation; for Christ, of His goodness, draws near to His sufferings. He Who holds all things in His Hand, condescends to be raised up on the Cross, that He may save mankind.

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

O Invisible Judge, how is it that You have been seen in the flesh, and have come to be slain by lawless men? By Your Passion You condemned the judgment against us. Therefore, with one voice we offer in consonance praise, greatness and glory to Your Authority, O Word of God.

Tone 8

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

This day radiates with the first fruits of the Passion of the Lord. Come, therefore, O feast loving friends, let us meet and greet it with hymns; for the Creator comes, condescending to the Cross; to questioning

and to lashings, judged by Pilate. Also smitten on the head by a servant, He endures all to save mankind. For this, let us cry aloud: "O Merciful Christ our God, grant remission of sins to those who worship in faith Your Holy Passion."

Matins Gospel

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

People: Lord have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend and hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. (Chapter 21:18-43)

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: Let us attend.

Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be

cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John where was it from? From Heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From Heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So

they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected, Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvellous in our eyes'? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Psalm 50

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and

uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

The Canon

First Ode (Tone 2)

Heirmos

Let us sing to the Lord, Who by His Divine command dried up the impassable and raging sea, and led the people of Israel to pass through on foot; for gloriously He has been glorified.

Glory to You, Our God, glory to You.

The ineffable condescension of the Word of God, is Christ Himself, both God and Man; counting not His Godhead a thing to be seized, He showed this to His Disciples by taking on the form of a servant; for gloriously He has been glorified.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

I have come to minister to the impoverished Adam, whose form I fashioned, and now willingly have assumed the same. I, the passionless Godhead, lay down My life for his ransom.

Katavasia

Let us sing to the Lord, Who by His Divine command dried up the impassable and raging sea and led the people of Israel to pass through on foot; for gloriously He has been glorified.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For You are our God and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kontakion

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his noble son was seated in a chariot and honoured as a king; for when he refused to be enslaved by the fascinations of the Egyptian woman, he was in turn glorified by Him, Who beholds the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.

Oikos

Let us now add our lamentation, and let us shed our tears with those of Jacob, bewailing Joseph, his memorable and wise son. For Joseph, though enslaved in body, preserved his soul in freedom, becoming lord over all Egypt. For God grants His servants an incorruptible crown.

Synaxarion

Holy and Great Monday begins the anniversary of the holy Passion of the Saviour, He of whom Joseph of exceeding beauty is taken as the earliest symbol; for this Joseph was the eleventh of the sons of Jacob, and because his father loved him exceedingly, his brothers envied him and threw him into a pit. Then they took him out and sold him to strangers, who sold him in Egypt. He was slandered for his chastity, and was thrown into prison. But finally he was taken out of prison, and he attained a high rank, and received honours worthy of kings, becoming governor of the whole of Egypt, whose people he supported. Thus he symbolised in himself the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and his consequent great glory.

To the remembrance of Joseph is added the story of the fig tree which the Lord cursed on this day (corresponding at that time to the nineteenth of the month of March) because of its barrenness, so that it dried up. The fig tree was a symbol of the Council of the Jews

which did not show the necessary fruits of virtue and righteousness, so that Christ stripped it of every spiritual grace.

Wherefore, O Bridegroom Christ, hear the intercessions of the noble Joseph, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

The Canon (continued)

Eighth Ode (Tone 2)

Heirmos

The sweeping fire fed with endless fuel, withdrew in fear before the spotless souls and bodies of the Holy Children; and as the ceaseless flame diminished, the singing of an everlasting hymn was chanted: "Praise the Lord all His works, and exalt Him to all ages."

Glory to You, Our God, glory to You.

Approaching His Passion, the Saviour said to His friends: "All shall know that you are My Disciples, if you keep My commandments. Be at peace with one another, and with all; thinking humbly, you will be exalted; and knowing Me as Lord, sing praises and exaltations to all ages."

We bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

"Let the power of your fellow men be different from the dominion of the Gentiles; their selfish will is not My lot, but a tyranny. He then, who would be first among you, let him be the last of all; and knowing Me as Lord, sing praises and exaltations to all ages."

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Katavasia

The sweeping fire fed with endless fuel, withdrew in fear before the spotless souls and bodies of the Holy Children; and as the ceaseless flame diminished, the singing of an everlasting hymn was chanted: "Praise the Lord all His works, and exalt Him to all ages."

Priest: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify in Hymn.

Nineth Ode (Tone 2)

Heirmos

You, O Christ, have magnified the Theotokos who bore You; and from whom You, our Creator, did put on a body with passions like our own, thus setting us free from our ignorance's. Calling her blessed, we, in all generations, magnify You.

Glory to You, Our God, glory to You.

You, the Wisdom of all, declared to Your Disciples: "Cast away the impurity of human passions, and obtain a wise understanding, worthy of the Divine Kingdom; in which you shall be glorious, and shine more brightly than the Sun."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

"Looking to Me," said the Lord to His Disciples, "be not high-minded, but condescend to men of humility; My cup which I drink, drink of it, that you may be glorious with Me in the Kingdom of the Father."

Katavasia

You, O Christ, have magnified the Theotokos who bore You; and from whom You, our Creator, did put on a body with passions like our own, thus setting us free from our ignorance's. Calling her blessed, we, in all generations, magnify You.

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For all the Powers of Heaven praise You, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Exapostilaria (Tone 3)

I see Your Bridal Chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment, that I may enter there within; make the robe of my soul to shine, O Giver of Light and save me. **(x3)**

The Praises (Tone 1)

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights. To You is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. To You is due praise, O God.

Tone 1

Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes.

As the Lord was going to His voluntary Passion, He was saying to His Apostles on the way: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man shall be delivered up, as it is written of Him." Come therefore, and let us accompany Him, with purified minds, and let us be crucified with Him, and for His sake mortify the pleasures of this life, that we may also live with Him, and hear Him declaring: "No longer do I go to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but I go to My Father, and your Father; to My God and your God. And I will raise you up with Me to the upper Jerusalem, in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Tone 5

Praise Him with loud cymbals, praise Him with high sounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

O believers, having come to the saving Passion of Christ our God, let us glorify His ineffable forbearance; that through His compassion He may also raise us up, who are dead in sin, for He is good and loves mankind.

Tone 5

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

When You, O Lord, were coming to Your Passion, You gave courage to Your own Disciples, taking them aside and saying: "How have you forgotten My words, which I spoke to you of old, as it is written, that no Prophet will be put to death, except in Jerusalem? Now, therefore, the time has come of which I told you; for behold, I am betrayed to be mocked at the hands of sinners, and they will fix Me to the Cross, delivering Me up for burial, and account Me as a corpse. But, take courage, for on the third day, I shall rise, bringing joy and life eternal to the faithful."

Little Doxology

Priest: To You, Lord our God, belongs glory, and to You we send up glory: To the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord, King, Heavenly God the Father Almighty; O Lord the only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us, You that take away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, You that sit at the right hand of the Father; and have mercy on us.

For You alone are Holy, You alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your Name forever and unto the ages of ages.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, to You have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For in You is the fountain of Life, in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have hoped in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever: Despise not the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Litany of Supplication

Priest: Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defence before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For You are a God of mercies and of bounties and loving toward mankind, and to you we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Holy Lord, Who dwells on high and regards the humble of heart and with Your all-seeing eye does behold all creation, to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat You:

O Holy of holies, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your Holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if indeed we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as You are a good God and love mankind, vouchsafing to us Your Earthly and Heavenly good things.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Aposticha

Tone 5

The mother of the sons of Zebedee, O Lord, not being equal to the mystery of Your ineffable dispensation, begged You to grant her two sons the honours of a temporal kingdom. But instead, You did promise your beloved that they should drink the cup of death, the cup which You did say would drink before them for the purification of all sins. Wherefore, we cry unto You, O salvation of our souls, glory be to You.

We were filled in the morning with Your mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein You have humbled us, For the years wherein we have seen evil. And look upon Your servants and upon Your works, and do You guide their sons.

You taught Your disciples, O Lord, to think on that which is more perfect and told them not to imitate the Gentiles and lordship over the lowly, saying: “Let it not be so among you, my disciples; for I have become poor of my own will. And the first among you, let him be the

servant of all; and the ruler, as the one who is ruled; and the foremost, let him be the last; for I have come to serve the poor Adam and to give myself as a redemption for the many who cry Glory be to You”.

Tone 8

And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, prosper the work of our hands; Yes, prosper the work of our hands.

Let us, O brethren, be feared at the rebuking of the fig tree which dried up for the lack of fruit. Let us offer fruits worthy of repentance to Christ Who grant us the great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. (tone 8)

The serpent finding the Egyptian woman as a second Eve, hastened through words of flattery to cause the downfall of Joseph; but he leaving his garment, fled from sin; felt unashamed, even though naked, like the first created before the disobedience. By his intercessions, O Christ, have mercy on us.

Priest: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

The Trisagion Prayers

People: 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 forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit 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 forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kontakion

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his noble son was seated in a chariot and honoured as a king; for when he refused to be enslaved by the fascinations of the Egyptian woman, he was in turn glorified by Him, Who beholds the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.

Lord have mercy. (x40)

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

More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare, more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos: you do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, Father give the blessing.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: O Heavenly King, support the faithful; confirm the faith; guide the nations; give peace to the world; and preserve well this holy church and this city. Grant repose to our departed fathers and brethren in the dwelling-place of the righteous. Receive us in repentance and confession, for You are a good and merciful God and love mankind.

People: Amen.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim The Syrian

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

But bestow upon me, Your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love. (*Full Prostration*)

Yes, my Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and faults and not to judge my brother or sister; for You are blessed to ages of ages. Amen. (*Full Prostration*)

The Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Lord have mercy. (x3)

In the name of the Lord, Father give the blessing.

Priest: May He Who is going to His voluntary passion for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; at the supplications of the honourable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of Saint (*Name*), the patron(s) of this Church, 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.

Priest: **Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.**

People: Amen.

The First Service of Bridegroom – Palm Sunday Evening



Saints Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church