BRIDEGROOM MATINS:

THE MORNING SERVICE
FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS
OF GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, PA
Foreword

"On the days following His entry to Jerusalem, Christ spoke to His disciples in particular about the signs that will precede the Last Day (Matthew 24 and 25); and so this forms the theme of the first part of Holy Week...The eschatological challenge of the first three days of Holy Week is summed up in the Troparion and the Exapostilarion [i.e., the Hymn of Light], both of which are repeated three times to a slow and solemn melody. The Troparion is based on the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13); the Exapostilarion, on the parable of the man cast out from the feast because he had no wedding garment (Matthew 22:11-13). Here, presented in especially urgent terms, is the call that we have heard on many occasions in Lent: the End is near at hand; be watchful; repent while there is still time.

Each of the three days has its own particular theme:

(1) On Monday we commemorate the Patriarch Joseph, whose innocent sufferings (Genesis 37; 39-40) prefigure the Passion of Christ. Also we commemorate the barren fig tree cursed by our Lord (Matthew 21:18-20)—a symbol of the judgement that will befall those who show no fruits of repentance.

(2) On Tuesday, the liturgical texts refer chiefly to the parable of the Ten Virgins, which forms the general theme of the three days. They refer also to the parable of the Talents which comes immediately after it (Matthew 25:14-30). Both these are interpreted as parables of judgement.

(3) On Wednesday we commemorate the woman that was a sinner, who anointed Christ's feet as He sat in the house of Simon. In the hymnography of the day, the account in Matthew 26:6-13 is combined with that in Luke 7:36-50 (cf. also John 12: 1-8). A second theme is the agreement made by Judas with the Jewish authorities; the repentance of the sinful harlot is contrasted with the tragic fall of the chosen disciple. The Triodion makes it clear that Judas perished, not simply because he betrayed his Master, but because, having fallen into the sin of betrayal, he then refused to believe in the possibility of forgiveness...If we deplore the actions of Judas, we do so not with vindictive self-righteousness but conscious always of our own guilt: "Deliver our souls, O Lord, from the condemnation that was his."

The Bridegroom Services are rich in the ancient znamennyi chants of our church. The samopodoben melodies for the Bridegroom Troparion and the Hymn of Light are transcribed from the "Tserkovnoje Prostopinije" of Bokshaj and Malinich. The podobens for the Sessional Hymns and Kontakia are transcribed from Galician sources (Polotniuk and Fedoriw). The canon irmosi are transcribed by Jeffrey Mierzejewski from Theodore Ratsin's "Prostopinije" (1925).
Bridegroom Matins

The priest, vested in dark epitrachilion, makes a full incensation of the Church. The deacon precedes him with the candle. After the incensation, the priest stands before the Royal Doors, holding the censer. The deacon stands to his right and says:

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

While making the sign of the cross with the censer, the priest says:

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - - - men.

Three times:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

Twice:

O Lord, you shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

The Lector, holding a candle and standing in the middle of the church, reads Psalm 3. During this Psalm, the priest says the Prayers of Light of Matins in front of the Royal Doors. The deacon returns to the altar.

Psalm 3

How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!

How many are saying about me:
"There is no help for him in God."
But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord.
He answers from his holy mountain.

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
you who strike my foes on the mouth,
you who break the teeth of the wicked!

O Lord of salvation,
bless your people!

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever and forever. Amen.

*And then three times, with a bow each time:*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

*The third time is sung to the Lenten Melody.*

```
Al - leluia! Alleluia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!
```

*The deacon comes to the Ambon to say the Litany of Peace. He and the priest bow to
each other, and the priest returns to the altar. If there is no deacon, the priest says this
litany before the Royal Doors, remaining outside the altar.*
Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 1. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: 2. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our bishop, (Name), whom God loves, for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)
To you, O Lord.

For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: We thank you, Lord, our God, for you have wakened us from our sleep, and have filled our lips with praise that we might worship you and call upon your holy name. We beg of your compassion that you have always shown towards us, hear us now and send help to those who stand before your holy glory, awaiting your abundant mercy. O Lord, grant that those who serve you in fear and love may praise your ineffable goodness.

For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Alleluia and Troparion

"Alleluia" is sung in the tone of the Troparion that follows it. The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses. If there is no deacon, the priest remains at the Royal Doors and chants the verses.

Deacon, then All:

Tone 8 podoben: Se zenich hrjade

Verse: My spirit yearns for you in the night,
yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for you. Repeat Alleluia.

Verse: When your judgment dawns upon the earth,
the world's inhabitants learn justice. Repeat Alleluia.

Verse: Let them be shamed when they see your zeal for your people,
let the fire prepared for your enemies consume them. Repeat Alleluia.

Verse: You have increased the nation, O Lord,
increased the nation to your own glory. Repeat Alleluia.

Troparion

Be-hold, the Bride-groom is coming in the mid-dle of the night.

Bless-ed is the serv-ant he shall find a-wake.
But the one he shall find neglectful will not be worthy of him.

Be ware, therefore, O my soul! Do not fall into a deep slumber, lest you be delivered to death and the door of the Kingdom be closed to you.

Watch instead and cry out: Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O God.

Through the intercession of the Theoto-kos, have mercy on us.

Cantor: Glory…

All repeat "Behold, the Bridegroom is coming…"

Cantor: Now and ever…

All repeat "Behold, the Bridegroom is coming…"

The Sessional Hymns of the day are now sung.

Monday, page 26
Tuesday, page 40
Wednesday, Page 52
Deacon:    That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

Response:

Deacon:    Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest:     Peace be to all!

Response:

Priest:     A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist (Name).

Response:

Gospel:     (Monday) Matthew 21: 18 - 43  
            (Tuesday) Matthew 22: 15 - 23: 29  
            (Wednesday) John 12: 17-50

Response:

After reading the Gospel, the priest closes the Gospel Book, kisses it, and takes it to the center of the church to set upon the tetrapod. The Gospel Book remains on the tetrapod until the Lesser Doxology.
Psalm 50

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.

2. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

3. My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me.

4. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

5. That you may be justified when you give sentence and be without reproach when you judge.

6. O see, in guilt I was born, a sinner was I conceived.

7. Indeed, you love truth in the heart; then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

8. O purify me, then I shall be clean; O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

9. Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, that the bones you have
crushed may thrill. 10. From my sins turn away your face and blot out all my guilt.

11. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me,

12. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. 13. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me, 14. That I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. 15. O rescue me, God, my helper, and my tongue shall ring out your goodness. 16. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

17. For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would refuse, 18. My sacrifice, a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.
Then the deacon, before the Icon of our Lord, says:

Deacon:  Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.
O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath. Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Priest: O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath. Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - - - - men.

The priest and deacon enter the altar.

The Canon for the day is now sung.

Monday, page 29    Tuesday, page 42    Wednesday, page 54

At the end of the Eighth Ode, the priest (or deacon) comes with the censer before the icon of the Theotokos on the icon screen. Incensing her icon, he intones:

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns.

Then he incenses the whole Church as usual, beginning with the Holy Table.
At the end of the Ninth Ode, the deacon says the Small Litany at the Ambon.
If there is no deacon, the priest says this litany before the Royal Doors.

Small Litany

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

Response:

1. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon:  Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:

2. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response:

To you, O Lord.

Priest:  O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under your will, we pray and beg you: accept these hymns of praise which we offer to you according to our ability together with all your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of your goodness, for before you all beings in the heavens, or on earth and under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives praise to your glory beyond reach, for you are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Hymn of Light

I see your bridal chamber completely engulfed with light,

O my Savior, and I do not have a wedding garment to enter

and enjoy your brightness; fill the garment of my soul with light

and save me, O Lord. Sung three times

The Psalms of Praise

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all his angels.
Praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord.
He commanded: they were made.

He fixed them for ever,
gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,

fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey his word;

all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,

beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing;

all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers,

young men and maidens,
old men together with children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord *
for he alone is exalted.

The splendor of his name *
reaches beyond heaven and earth.

He exalts the strength of his people. *
He is the praise of all his saints,

of the sons of Israel, *
of the people to whom he comes close.

Psalm 149

Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people. He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, shout with joy and take their rest.

Let the praise of God be on their lips and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations and punishment on all the peoples;

to bind their kings in chains and their nobles in fetters of iron;

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained: this honor is for all his faithful.

Praise God in his holy place, praise him in his mighty heavens. Psalm 150

For 4 stichera: Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.

For 3 stichera: O praise him with sound of trumpet, praise him with lute and harp.

For 2 stichera: Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

For 1 sticheron: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals. Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

The Stichera for the day are found on the following pages:

   Monday, page 34   Tuesday, page 46   Wednesday, page 60
The Priest stands before the Royal doors and says:

**Priest:** To you all glory is due, O Lord our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Glory to you who show us the light!

**The Lesser Doxology**

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify, we thank you for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, Father Almighty; *
Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and you, Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, *
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

You take away the sins of the world, *
hear our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, 
have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy, you alone are the Lord, Jesus Christ, 
to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

I will bless you day after day, 
and praise your name for ever.

O Lord, you have been our refuge 
from one generation to the next.

I said: Lord, have mercy on me, 
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.
O Lord, I have fled to you,
    teach me to do your will, for you, O Lord, are my God.

In you is the source of life
    and in your light we see light,

Extend your mercy,
    to those who know you.

Make us worthy, O Lord,
    to be kept sinless this morning.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
    and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Amen.

May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
    because we have placed our hope in you.

✦ Blessed are you, O Lord,
    teach me your commandments.

✦ Blessed are you, O Master,
    make me understand your commandments.

✦ Blessed are you, O Holy One,
    enlighten me with your commandments.

O Lord, your mercy is for ever;
    despise not the work of your hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a hymn;
    to you is glory due.

✦ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
    now and ever and forever. Amen.

The deacon says the following litany at the ambon. If there is no deacon, the priest says this litany at the Holy Doors.
Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

Response: 1. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: 2. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 3. Grant this, O Lord.

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

Response: 4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)
Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgement seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

The priest, standing before the Royal Doors, says:

Priest: We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Prayer over Bowed Heads

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.
Deacon:  Bow your heads to the Lord.

Response:  To you, O Lord.

Priest:  Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good God who loves mankind and gives us earthly and heavenly gifts. For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:  Amen.

The priest and deacon enter the altar.

The Apostichera for the day are now sung.

Monday, page 37       Tuesday, page 48       Wednesday, page 63

Then, to the Lenten Tone:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
   to make music to your name, O Most High,
   to proclaim your love in the morning *
   and your truth in the watches of the night. (twice)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
   have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
   now and ever and forever. Amen.
Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions, *  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *  
now and ever and forever. 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 evil.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Dismissal

All: As we stand in the temple of your glory, *  
we consider ourselves standing in heaven.

O Theotokos, heavenly Gate, *  
Open to us the doors of your mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(sung four times)

Give the blessing.

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Priest: King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world and safeguard this city (or this holy monastery), grant those who have gone before us a dwelling place among the righteous, accept us in repentance and confession for you are good and love us all.

Response: Amen.

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

22
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

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

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

Response: 

Prayer of St. Ephrem

All: Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. (Prostration)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. (Prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen. (Prostration)

Then, with a simple bow, the following is repeated four times:
O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
O Lord, forgive me, for I have sinned without number.

Once more, the Prayer of St. Ephrem is recited, without the usual prostrations. One prostration is made at the conclusion of the prayer.
Priest: Glory to you, O Christ, our God, our hope; glory to you!

Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Monday:
Priest: May Christ our true God, who went voluntarily to his Passion for our salvation, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, incorporeal powers; through the prayers of holy (patron of the church), and of holy (the saint of the day), and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Tuesday:
May Christ our true God, who went voluntarily to his Passion for our salvation, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and Baptist John; of holy (patron of the church), and of holy (the saint of the day), and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Wednesday:
May Christ our true God, who went voluntarily to his Passion for our salvation, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; through the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the prayers of holy (patron of the church), and of holy (the saint of the day), and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.
Having suffered (Preterpivyj)

Having suffered the passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Preterpivyj za nas strasti, Isus Christe, Syn Božij,

po miluj, po miluj, po miluj nas.
To-day the holy Passion rises like a light of salvation upon the world; for Christ, who loves us, is going to his suffering, and he who holds the universe in his hand is willingly nailed to the Cross for the salvation of the human race.

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

Now and ever and for ever. Amen.

All repeat "Today the holy Passion..."

Your incarnation reveals you to our eyes, O Judge invisible,
and you allow yourself to be condemned to death by the lawless ones.  

By your passion, you condemn our own condemnation, and we all praise you with one voice: O Word of God, glory and honor to your power.

Cantor

Glo • ry to the Fa • ther and to the Son and to the Ho • ly Spir • it.

Now and ev • er and for • ev • er. A • men.

All repeat "Your incarnation…"

Sessional Hymn 3

The coming day shines brightly with the beginning of the Passion of the Lord. Come let us celebrate this mystery;
let us go to meet him with our hymns. For the Creator draws near to endure the Cross; led before Pilate, he submits to the questions, the whipping and the judgment; struck by a servant, he endures all to save the human race. Therefore, we cry out to him: O Christ our God, the Lover of all of us, grant the forgiveness of their sins to those who venerate your holy Passion with faith.

Cantor: (recto tono) Glory...now and ever...

All repeat "The coming day shines brightly..."

The service continues on page 7.
In his ineffable condescension, the Word of God revealed to his disciples who he is: He is both divine and human, and he takes the form of a servant without clinging to his divinity; for he is clothed with glory.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it; now and ev - er

While Jacob wept over the loss of his son, Joseph, wearing a king's attire, nobly rode in a chariot. He refused to be enslaved by the pleasures of Egypt. Therefore, God who knows the secrets of the human heart and distributes incorruptible crowns, covered him with glory.

Ikos: Let us mingle our tears with those of Jacob, sharing his compassion for the chaste Joseph, who is worthy to be remembered forever. Although he was enslaved in body, he was able to preserve his soul in complete freedom; for God crowns his servants and covers them with glory.

Ode 8
Irmos
The sevenfold fire which was unceasingly fed, recoiled
While going to his Passion, the Lord said to those whom he loved: Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you keep my commandments; be at peace among yourselves and with all others; be humble in your thoughts and you shall be exalted; praise your Lord and exalt him above all forever.
Among you, power must be just the opposite as it is with the Gentiles; I do not leave you a legacy of vanity as do the tyrants. If any among you wish to be first, they must show themselves to be the last of all; praise your Lord and exalt him above all forever.

Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns.

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns.

Then he incenses the whole Church as usual, beginning with the Holy Table.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is not sung.

Ode 9
Irmos

Through you, O Christ, the Theotokos who bore you was exalted; you have become flesh in her womb.
to suffer for us, O our Creator; and you have wiped away, wiped away our sins.

And we, who from age to age call her blessed, now exalt you.

Refrain

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

You said to your apostles, O Lord and Wisdom of the universe: Turn away from the defilement of the passions, that you may receive the perfect knowledge of the kingdom of God; in this you shall be glorified, and you shall shine brighter than the sun.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and forever. Amen.

You said to your disciples, O Lord: Take your example from me; do not have haughty thoughts, but follow the path of humility; the cup from which I shall drink, you shall drink, that you may be glorified with me in the kingdom of heaven.

Katavasia: Repeat Irmos from above.

The service continues with the Small Litany on page 12.
Go-ing free-ly to his Pas-sion, the Lord said to his dis-ci-ples a-long the way:

Be-hold, we are going up to Je-ru-sa-lem, and the Son of Man shall be delivered up as it is writ-ten. Come, let us purify our thoughts that we may go with him; let us be cru-ci-fied with him; in him we shall die to the pleas-ures of this life, that we may live with him and hear him say to us: I am no long-er going to the earthly Jerusa-lem to suf-fer,

but I am going to my Father and your Fa-ther, to my God and your God;

you shall go with me to the heaven-ly Je-ru-sa-lém in the king-dom of...
O praise him with sound of trumpet;
praise him with lute and harp. *Repeat "Going freely to his Passion..."

Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

*O faithful, let us hasten to the saving Passion of Christ our God;
let us glorify his long-suffering which is beyond expression,
that he may save us from sin and death, and that he may also raise us
in his goodness and love for all of us.*

O praise him with sound of trumpet;
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord. *Repeat "O faithful, let us hasten..."

*Glory...now and ever...*

When you were going to your Passion, O Lord, you confirmed the faith of your
disciples by taking them aside and saying: How can you forget the words I have spoken to you? The Scriptures say that all the prophets die only in Jerusalem!

Now the time of which I have spoken to you has arrived; behold, I shall be delivered into the hands of sinners; they shall mock me and nail me to the Cross; and after burying me, they shall number me among the dead.

Take courage, however, for I shall rise on the third day, to bring joy and eternal life to all the faithful.

The service continues on page 16.
Not understanding the depth of the ineffable mystery of your plan of salvation, the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to you, O Lord; she asked you to grant them the places of honor in a temporal kingdom; but in place of those honors, you proclaimed to your friends that they would drink from the cup of death, the same cup from which you first shall drink to cleanse us of our sins. Therefore, we cry out to you: O Savior of our souls, glory to you!

Cantor: In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. Show forth your work to your servants, let your glory shine on their children.

Aposticha

Tone 5
When you taught your disciples to seek that which is higher, you said to them, O Lord: Do not imitate the pagans by lording it over those who are weak; it shall not be that way with you. For I have chosen to be poor; the first among you shall become the servant of the rest; the one who commands shall be as the one who obeys; the most noble shall be as the lowest. For I myself have come to serve the poverty of Adam and to give my life as a ransom for the many who now sing: O Lord, glory to you!

Cantor: Let the favor of the Lord be upon us; give success to the work of our hands! Give success to the work of our hands.
O faithful let us fear the punishment of the fig tree which was dried up for not having borne any fruit; let us offer worthy fruits of repentance to Christ, who grants us his great mercy.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

The Serpent thought he found a second Eve in the Egyptian woman, who tried to make Joseph succumb to her words of flattery. But he avoided sinning; he left his garment behind, but was not ashamed of his nudity, as were our first parents after their disobedience.

Through his pray'rs, O Christ, have mercy on us.

The service continues on page 20
Matins Propers for Great and Holy Tuesday

Sessional Hymn 1

Tone 4 podoben: Voznesisija

O faithful, let us be on fire with love for the Bridegroom, and with lamps burning,

let us go out to meet him. May the light of our virtues shine brightly,

and may our faith be radiant. With the wise Virgins, let us prepare to enter the

banquet hall of the Lord; for the divine Spouse offers us all the

crown of immortality.

Cantor

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

and forever. Amen.

All repeat"O faithful..."
The priests, the scribes and the council of the impious have gathered against you, O God our Savior; through jealousy they persuaded Judas to betray you; he was not ashamed to go out and speak against you, saying to the lawless ones: What will you give me if I hand him over to you? O Lord, spare our souls from such a condemnation.

Cantor

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

All repeat "The priests, the scribes..."

Impelled by his burning love of money, the impious Judas ponders...
and plots the betrayal of his Master. He falls from light into darkness; he sells the One who is beyond all price; and for the price of his betrayal, the miserable one meets death through hanging.

Spare us this same destiny, O Christ our God, and grant the forgiveness of sins to those who, with love, praise your holy Passion.

Cantor: (recto tono) Glory...now and ever...

All repeat "Impelled by his burning love of money..."

The service continues on page 7.

Canon

Kontakion

O wretched soul, think of your last hours. Be dismayed at the rebuking of the fig tree. Act and double the talent given you with
a loving purpose. Be watchful and cry out:

Grant that we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ.

Ikos O my poor soul, why are you listless and concerned with vain cares? Why do you think about those things which only pass away? Behold, the final hour is here, and we must separate ourselves from the things of this life. Wake up while there is still time, and cry to the Lord: I have sinned against you; do not uproot me as the sterile fig tree. In your mercy, spare me, O Lord, and behold my fear.

Grant that we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ.

Ode 8
Irmos

For having scorned the order of the tyrant, the three noble Youths were thrown into the furnace, but they sang, they sang and gave glory to God:

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.
Let us cast slothfulness far away from us; let us carry our bright lamps and go to meet Christ, the immortal Spouse whom we praise: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

May our souls be abundantly filled with the oil of charity, so that we do not have to go and buy it, instead of welcoming the Bridegroom and singing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Since God has given you equal grace and strength, multiply your talent with the help of Christ, to whom we sing: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns.
Your womb was able to contain the infinite God, and you gave birth to the Joy of the universe; we praise you, O Virgin Theotokos.

Refrain

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

You said to your disciples, O God most good: Be vigilant, for you do not know the time of the coming of the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and forever. Amen.

At your awesome and second coming, O Master, place me at your right side with your sheep, and do not consider the multitude of my sins.

Katavasia: Repeat Irmos from above.

The service continues with the Small Litany on page 12.
How shall I enter the splendor of your saints, because of my unworthiness?

If I dare to enter your bridal chamber, my garment shall give me away;

for I do not have a wedding garment, and the angels shall cast me out.

Purify my soul, O Lord, and in your goodness save me.

O praise him with sound of trumpet; praise him with lute and harp. Repeat "How shall I enter..."

My slothful soul has fallen into sleep, O Christ my Spouse, and I do not have a lamp shining with the fire of virtues. I have become like the foolish virgins; for instead of laboring, I have wasted my time. Do not close off
your love and your heart to me, O Master; but dispel my dark slumber;
a - waken me that, with the wise virgins, I may enter your palace.

There the choir of the just shall resound as they sing to you: O Lord,

glory to you.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord. Repeat "O faithful, let us hasten..."

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

You have heard of the condemnation of the one who hid the talent;

O my soul, do not hide the word of God. Proclaim his wonders and increase

his gifts, that you may enter into the joy of your Lord.

The service continues on page 16.
Come, O faithful, let us zealously labor for the Lord; for he entrusts his riches to his servants; let each multiply the talent of grace.

Let one gain wisdom by doing good; let another serve with splendor; let the faithful share their faith with the unenlightened; let others share their goods with the poor. Thus we shall multiply the treasure that has been entrusted to us, and we shall be the faithful stewards of grace, and we shall be worthy of the joy of the Lord. Grant this to us, O Christ our God, in your goodness toward all of us.

Cantor: In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. Show forth your work to your servants, let your glory shine on their children.
When you shall come in glory with the pow'rs of heav-en, to be seated on the
throne of judg-ment, O Je-sus, do not cast me far away from you,
O Good Shep-herd. On your right are the paths that lead to you,
and on your left are those who turn a-way from you. Do not make me per-ish
with the goats, e-ven though I have been dis-fig-ured by sin. But place me on your
right with your sheep, and in your love for us all, save me.

Cantor:    Let the favor of the Lord be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands!
Give success to the work of our hands.

O Bride-groom, whose grace surpasses all hu-man beau-ty, you invite us to the
spiritual feast in your pal-ace. Strip me of the coarse gar-ment of my sin,
and make me a partaker of your Passion. Clothe me in the glorious adornment of your beauty. In your mercy, accept me as a luminous guest at the banquet in your kingdom.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

Be-hold, the Lord entrusts to you his tal-ent; ac-cept this gift with fear,

O my soul. Mul-ti-ply it for the One who grant-ed it to you,

share it with the poor and you shall have the Lord as your friend. Then you shall be at his right when he comes in glo-ry, and you shall hear his bless-ed voice

say to you: You are in-deed my serv-ant; en-ter in-to the joy of your
Even though I have gone a stray, O Lord, make me worthy of this joy.
The harlot drew near to you, O God of goodness, to pour upon your feet the precious ointment along with her tears; at your command, she was delivered from the scourge of evil; but the ungrateful disciple who was filled with your grace turned away from you and sank into the mire by betraying you through his greed.

Glory to your infinite mercy, O Christ.

Cantor:  
(recto tono) Glory...now and ever...

All repeat "The harlot drew near to you..."

Sessional Hymn 2

Driven by his love of money, Judas the traitor cunningly planned to
sell you, O Lord, the Treasure of life; in his frenzy,

he hastened to the impious ones and said: what will you give me,

if I will deliver him to you to be crucified?

Cantor

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

and forever. Amen.

All repeat "Driven by his love of money..."

Sessional Hymn 3

With her sighs, the sinful woman cried out to you, O God of goodness,

and as she fervently dried your most pure feet with her hair,

she said from the depths of her heart: Do not scorn me, my God,
nor cast me far from you; but accept my repentance
and in your goodness, save me.

Cantor

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

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

All repeat "With her sighs..."

The service continues on page 7.

Canon

Ode 3
Irmos

You have established me on the rock of faith; you have made me
victorious before my enemies; and my spirit
exults with joy and sings: No one is holy as you,
Refrain

Glo - ry to you, our God, glo - ry to you.

The assembly of the impious ones gathers in vain to deceitfully condemn you, the Redeemer whom we praise, O Christ; you are our God; no one is holy as you, O Lord.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it; now and ev - er


In their revolt against God, the evil council of the impious ones seeks to find a way to do away with you as an intruder, O Christ, the only just One, to whom we sing: You are our God; no one is holy as you, O Lord.

Katavasia: Repeat Irmos from above.

Kontakion

Tone 4 podoben: Voznesisija

O gra - cious God, I sinned more than the A - dult - er - ess and yet nev - er of - fered re-fresh-ing tear-drops. In si - lent pray'r, I now pros-trate my-self, kiss-ing with love
your immaculate feet in order to receive from you, O Master, the forgiveness of my sins. I cry out to you: O Savior, deliver me from the murk of my evil deeds.

Iкос The woman, who was once lost, now suddenly appears to be virtuous; hating her sinful deeds and the pleasures of the flesh, she thinks about shame and judgment, and the punishment that awaits the corrupt. I tremble, for I am the first among sinners; in my madness, I continue in my sinful ways; but the sinful woman also trembles and hastens to her Redeemer, crying out to him:

O Savior, deliver me from the murk of my evil deeds.

Οδη 8 Ιρμος

At the command of the tyrant, the furnace was fired seven times hotter than usual; but the Youths scorned the impious order,
Refrain

The woman poured out the precious perfume over the head of her Master and her God; and with her impure hands, she grasped your most pure feet, O Christ, and sang: Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Lord.

Bathing the feet of the Creator with her tears, the sinful woman dried them with her hair; through this, she received the forgiveness of all the sins of her life, and she sang: Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all forever.

Now and ever and ever. Amen.
The mystery of forgiveness is fulfilled for the woman who was converted by the mercy of the Savior; she was bathed in the fountain of her tears, and she was no longer ashamed, but cried out in joy: Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all forever.

Katavasia: Repeat Irmos from above.

At the end of the Eighth Ode, the priest (or deacon) comes with the censer before the icon of the Theotokos on the icon screen. Incensing her icon, he intones:

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns.

Then he incenses the whole Church as usual, beginning with the Holy Table.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is not sung.

Ode 9
Irmos

Come, let us purify our hearts and our lips that we may extol the holy mother of Emmanuel, the most pure Virgin.
Refrain

Glo-ry to you, our God, glo-ry to you.

Full of jealousy, the wretched Judas reckons the price of the ointment worthy of God, of this precious vessel offered for sin, and from whom forgiveness flows forth; he makes a business of grace and divine love. O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Refrain

Going out to find the leaders of the godless ones, Judas asks: What will you give me, if I will hand Christ over to you, the One whom you seek. He traded your friendship for money; O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it; now and ev-er


Blinded by his love of money, he lost all sense of mercy; the traitor forgets that the entire universe is not worth the loss of his soul, as you have taught. Therefore he goes out in desperation and hangs himself. O Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Katavasia: Repeat Irmos from above.

The service continues with the Small Litany on page 12.
In you, born of the Virgin, the harlot recognized her God; ashamed of her sinful deeds, she sighed and wept, and said: O Lord, loosen my debt to you as I unloosen my hair. Grant your love to the one who loves you, despite all my unworthiness; and I shall exalt your love for all, harlots and publicans alike, O our Benefactor and Lover of us all.

Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet; praise him with lute and harp.

The harlot mixed her tears with the precious perfume, as she poured them over your most pure feet, which she covered with kisses; thus you
showed her to be justified. O Lord, who suffered for us,
grant us your forgiveness and save us.

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance,
(on 2) praise him with strings and pipes.

While the sinful woman was offering you her ointment, your disciple
conspired against you. She rejoiced to pour out the most precious perfume,
while he hastened to sell the One who is beyond price. As she came to
recognize her Lord, the disciple separated himself; she was set
free, while Judas became enslaved to the Enemy. She was ennobled through
repentance, while he was disgraced by his vile actions. O Savior,
who suffered for us, grant us your forgiveness and save us.
O the misery of Judas! He saw the sinful woman kiss the feet of the Lord, and he shamefully thought of his kiss of betrayal. While she loosened her hair, he let himself be bound up by passion; instead of the fragrance of myrrh, he bore the odor of his perverse and evil ways; for jealousy does not know how to seek what is good. O Lord, keep our souls from falling like him.

Cantor: Glory...

The sinful woman hastened to buy the perfume of great price, to anoint her benefactor with it. To the seller of perfume, she said: Give me the myrrh that I might anoint the One who washed me of all my sins.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals. Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Cantor: (on 1)
Drown-ing in the a-byss of sin, the harlot found in you a harbor of sal-va-tion;
and, pour-ing out myrrh with her tears, she said: O Lord, you can for-give sins,

and you await the repent-ance of sin-ners; be-hold me, O Master, for I am
sink-ing in the storm of sins; in your great good-ness, save me.

The service continues on page 16.

Aposticha

To-day Christ comes to the house of the Phar-i-see, and the sinful wom-an falls
at his feet; she bows be-fore him and says: Be-hold, I am drowning in the
a-byss of sin; I have lost all hope be-cause of my deeds; in your good-ness do
not turn a-way from me; grant me for-give-ness, O Lord, and save me.
The harlot loosened her hair for you, O Lord, while Judas reached out his hand to the godless ones. One acted to receive your forgiveness, the other to gain money. Therefore, we cry out to you:

O Lord, sold for our deliverance, glory to you.

Cantor:
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.
Show forth your work to your servants,
let your glory shine on their children.

Filled with the odor of sin, the woman drew near to you; she poured out tears over your feet and proclaimed your Passion, o God our Savior:

O Master, how shall I dare to raise my eyes to you, for you have come to save the fallen? You raised Lazarus from the tomb; lift me also from the
a-byss of death. O Lord, accept me in my mis-er-y and save me.

Cantor: Let the favor of the Lord be upon us; give success to the work of our hands! Give success to the work of our hands.

She who was re-ject-ed be-cause of her life, and accepted be-cause of her con-ver-sion, came to you, be-ar-ing myrrh, and say-ing:

Do not cast me out, for I am a wretch-ed one, O Son of the Vir-gin; do not despise my tears, O Joy of the an-gels; but re-ceive me in re-pent-ance, and in your good-ness, ac-cept me a sin-ful one.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

O Lord, the woman who had fallen in-to a mul-ti-tude of sins, rec-og-nized your di-vin-i-ty and joined the ranks of the myrrh-bear-ers; be-fore your burial,
she offers you myrrh with her tears: Alas, she says, the stinging night of
pleasure seizes me; the dark and moonless love of sin grasps me;
accept my copious weeping and the stream of my tears, for you make the waters
fall from the clouds into the sea. Incline your ear to the cry of my heart,
for you incline the heavens in inefable conception. Allow me to
kiss your most pure feet, drying them with the locks of my hair; for these
are the feet that Eve heard in Paradise, and trembling at their approach,
she hid herself. O Lord, who can search out the number of my sins?

Who shall search the depth of your judgments, O God our Redeemer and the
Savior of our souls? In your infinite love, do not despise your servant.

The service continues on page 20