

The Order of the Sixth Hour

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

or, if no priest is present:

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

Response:

Psalm tone

A - men.

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

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us,
cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O *gracious* One.

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.

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

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

Psalm 53



O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause.

O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of *my* mouth.
For proud men risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard *for* God.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds *my* life.
Let the evil recoil upon my foes;
you who are faithful, *destroy* them.

I shall sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it *is* good:
for you have rescued me from all distress
and my eyes have seen the downfall of *my* foes.

Psalm 54

O God, listen to my prayer,
do not hide from my pleading,
attend to me and reply;
with my cares, I *cannot* rest.

I tremble at the shouts of the foe,
at the cries of the wicked;
for they bring down evil upon me.
They assail me *with* fury.

My heart is stricken within me,
death's terror is on me,
trembling and fear fall upon me
and horror *overwhelms* me.

O that I had wings like a dove
to fly away and be at rest.
So I would escape far away
and take refuge in *the* desert.

I would hasten to find a shelter
from the raging wind,
from the destructive storm, O Lord,
and from their plotting tongues.

For I can see nothing
but violence and strife in the city.
Night and day they patrol
high on the city walls.

It is full of wickedness and evil;
it is full of sin.
Its streets are never free
from tyranny and *deceit*.

If this had been done by an enemy
I could bear his taunts.
If a rival had risen against me,
I could hide *from* him.

But it is you, my own companion, my intimate friend!
(How close was the friendship between us.)
We talked together in harmony
in the house *of* God.

May death fall suddenly upon them!
Let them go to the grave;
for wickedness dwells in their homes
and deep in *their* hearts.

As for me, I shall cry to God
and the Lord will save me.
Evening, morning and at noon
I shall cry and *lament*.

He will deliver my soul in peace
in the attack against me;
for those who fight me are many,
but he hears *my* voice.

God will hear and will humble them,
the eternal judge;
for they will not amend their ways.
They have no fear *of* God.

The traitor has turned against his friends;
he has broken *his* word.

His speech is softer than butter,
but war is in *his* heart,

His words are smoother than oil,
but they are *naked* swords.

Entrust your cares to the Lord
and he will support you.
He will never allow
the just man *to* stumble.

But you, O God, will bring them down
to the pit of death.
Deceitful and bloodthirsty men
shall not live half their days.
O Lord, I shall trust *in* you.

Psalm 90

The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
abides in the shadow of the God *of* heaven.
He says to the Lord: “You are my Protector, my Refuge,
and my God in whom *I* trust.”

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to *destroy* you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will *find* refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies *by* day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste *at* noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at *your* right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler *and* shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are *repaid*,
you who have said: “Lord, my refuge!”
and have made the Most High *your* dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where *you* dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all *your* ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against *a* stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and *the* dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect you for he knows *my* name.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you,"
I will save him in distress and give *him* glory.

With length of days I will content him;
I shall let you see my *saving* power.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, *O* God! (*reverence*)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, *O* God! (*reverence*)

The third time, with melody:

Reverence



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


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

Then the troparia of the sixth hour are sung, according to the typikon. On an ordinary weekday, the order is: Glory; the troparion of the patron of the church; Now and ever; and the theotokion, Since we have no one in whom we can confide, chanted to the tone of the preceding troparion.



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

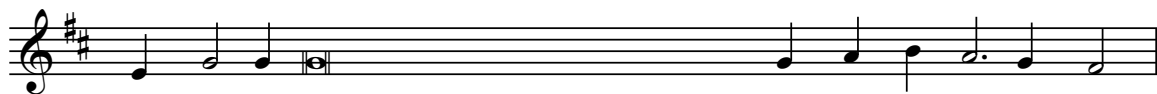
Troparion of John the Baptist - Tone 4



Proph-et and fore-run-ner of the com-ing of Christ, al-though we honor you with



love, we can-not give you wor-thy praise. Through your glo-ri-ous and ho-ly birth,



your moth-er was freed from barrenness and your fa-ther from the loss of speech,

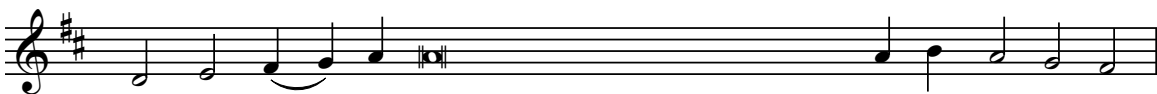


and the incarnation of the Son of God is pro-claimed to the world.



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

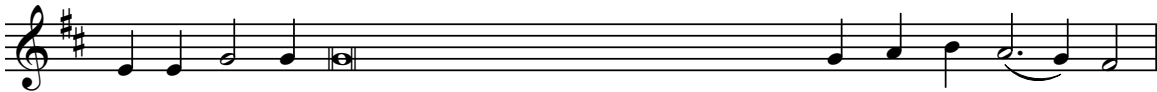
Theotokion of the Sixth Hour - *Tone 4*



Since we have no one in whom we can confide because of our man - y sins,



O Vir-gin Theoto-kos, in-ter-cede for us with the One who was born of you,



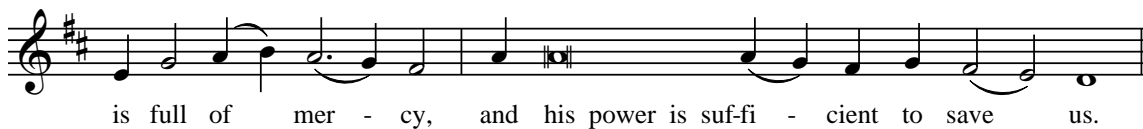
for a moth-er's prayer is a powerful means for obtaining the Mas-ter's fa - vor.



You are most wor-thy of ven-er - a - tion, so do not turn away from the plead-ing



of us sin - ners; for the One who willed to suffer in the flesh for our sake



All: Let your bounties, O Lord, come down upon us in haste,
for our need has become great *indeed*.

Help us, O God our Savior
for the glory of *your* name.

Save us, O Master, and forgive us our sins
for the sake of *your* name.

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.

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

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

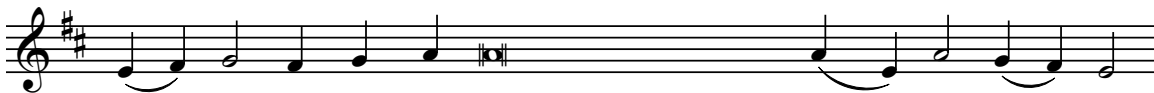
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us *from* evil.

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

Response: 
A - men.

Then the kontakion is sung, according to the typikon. On an ordinary weekday, the kontakion is that of the patron of the church.


Kontakion of John the Baptist - Tone 3




To - day, she who once was barren gives birth to Christ's fore - run - ner.



He him-self is the ful-fill-ment of all proph-e - cy; for in the Jor-dan,

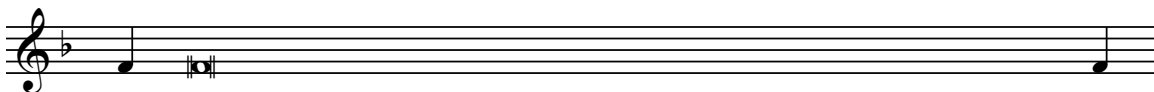


he im-posed his hand up-on the Word of God whom the proph-ets have fore-told

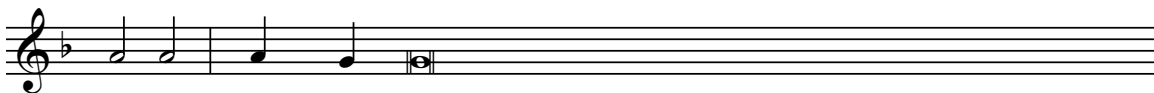


and was shown to be his proph-et, her-ald, and fore - run - - - ner.


Four times:



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



mer-cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



Lord, have mer - cy.

**Priest or
Leader:**

O Christ our God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come. At this very hour, O Lord, receive our supplications and direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set right our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response:



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

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,
Father, give *the* blessing.

**Priest or
Leader:**

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

Response:



The Third Hour ends here if it is being led by someone other than a priest.

Priest: O God, Lord of Powers and Maker of the whole creation, through your compassion beyond our understanding, you sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race. Through his cross he cancelled the debt of our sins and triumphed over the powers and masters of darkness. Now accept from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and petition, and preserve us from any deadly fall in the darkness and against every visible and invisible enemy who may seek our harm. Pierce our bodies with fear of you, and let not our souls fall into evil words or thoughts, but, instead, wound them with longing for you so that, looking upon you at all times and guided by the light that emanates from you, we may contemplate the unapproachable eternal light. May we ever address our thanksgiving and worship to you, O eternal Father, and to your only begotten Son, and to your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ 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.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us
through the prayers of his most pure Mother,
and of the venerable and God-bearing fathers,
and of the holy (Name), whose feast we keep this day,
and of all the saints;
for he is good and he loves us all.

Response: 
A - - - - - men.