

HOLY AND GREAT TUESDAY

(served on Monday night)

MATTINS

After the Six Psalms and the Great Litany we sing Alleluia in TONE EIGHT, slowly and solemnly, with the appointed verses, and then the troparion:

TONE EIGHT

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom He shall find in slothfulness. Beware, then, O my soul, and be not overcome by sleep, lest thou be given over to death and shut out from the Kingdom. But return to soberness and cry aloud: Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O God: through the Theotokos have mercy upon us (three times).

After the first reading from the Psalter, the sessional hymn:

TONE FOUR

Brethren, let us love the Bridegroom and prepare our lamps with care, shining with the virtues and right faith; that, like the wise virgins of the Lord, we may be ready to enter with Him into the wedding feast. For God the Bridegroom grants to all the crown incorruptible.¹

* Glory be to the Father. . . . Both now

Repeat.

After the second reading from the Psalter, the sessional hymn:

TONE FOUR

The priests and scribes with wicked envy gathered a lawless council against Thee, and persuaded Judas to betray Thee. Shamelessly he went and spoke against Thee to the transgressing people:

¹ Matt. 25: 1-13.

'What will ye give me, and I will betray Him into your hands?' Deliver our souls, O Lord, from the condemnation that was his.² Glory be to the Father Both now

Repeat.

Both now

After the third reading from the Psalter, the sessional hymn:

TONE EIGHT

Impious Judas with avaricious thoughts plots against the Master, and ponders how he will betray Him. He falls away from the light and accepts the darkness; he agrees upon the payment and sells Him that is above all price; and as the reward for his actions, in his misery he receives a hangman's noose and death in agony. O Christ our God, deliver us from such a fate as his, and grant remission of sins to those who celebrate with love Thy most pure Passion.³

Glory be to the Father Both now

Repeat.

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-23: 39.

Psalms 50.

The priest: O Lord, save Thy people. . . .

LHM x 12

The Small Litany, and then the kontakion:

4 x 3

TONE TWO

Sing

Think, wretched soul, upon the hour of the end; recall with fear how the fig tree was cut down. Work diligently with the talent that is given to thee; be vigilant and cry aloud. May we not be left outside the bridal chamber of Christ!⁴

Ikos Read

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

² Matt. 26: 3, 14-15.

³ Matt. 26: 15-16; 27: 5, 9; John 13: 30.

⁴ Matt. 21: 19; Luke 13: 7; Matt. 25: 14-28; 25: 10.

We use the two-canticle Canon by St. Kosmas. In each canticle the irmos is sung twice, and then the troparia are repeated four or six times so as to make up the number twelve. The irmos is sung at the end of each canticle as *katavasia*. Before the troparia we say Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

TONE TWO

CANTICLE EIGHT

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

Let us cast aside slothfulness and go to meet Christ, the immortal Bridegroom, with brightly shining lamps and with hymns, crying: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord. *we bless F, son, and H.S.*

May there be sufficient oil of fellowship in the vessels of our soul, and then we shall not lose our reward because we have gone to buy oil; and let us sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.⁵

Both now Ye have all received equal grace from God; cause your talent to increase, with the help of Christ who gave it you, and sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.⁶

We praise, bless *and* worship the Lord, *praising and supremely exalting him unto all ages.*
we, we *+ Katavasia*

CANTICLE NINE

We do not sing the Magnificat and Greater in honour than the cherubim. . . .

(Irmos) Thou hast enclosed within thy womb the God whom nothing can enclose, and thou hast brought joy into the world. We sing thy praises, O most holy Virgin.

'Watch', Thou hast said to Thy disciples, O loving Saviour. 'For ye know not in what hour the Lord shall come to reward every man.'⁷

At Thy fearful second coming, O Master, number me with the sheep at Thy right hand, overlooking the multitude of my sins.⁸

⁵ Matt. 25: 1-10.

⁶ Matt. 25: 14-28.

⁷ Matt. 24: 42.

⁸ Matt. 25: 33.

Katavasia
Lenten Litany

Exapostilarion:

TONE THREE

I see Thy bridal chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment that I may enter there. Make the robe of my soul to shine, O Giver of Light, and save me (*three times*).

T.1 Lauds. We sing four stichera:

TONE ONE

Into the splendour of Thy saints how shall I enter? For I am unworthy, and if I dare to come into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and I shall be cast out by the angels, bound hand and foot. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth from my soul, and save me in Thy love for mankind (*twice*).⁹ *X.2*

TONE TWO

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

T.4 Glory be to the Father. . . . Both now *T.4*

TONE FOUR

O my soul, thou hast heard the condemnation of him who hid his talent; hide not the word of God. Proclaim His wonders, increase the gifts of grace entrusted to thee, and thou shall enter into the joy of thy Lord.¹⁰

Aposticha:

TONE SIX

Come, ye faithful, and let us serve the Master eagerly, for He gives riches to His servants. Each of us according to the measure that we have received, let us increase the talent of grace. Let one gain wisdom through good deeds, let another celebrate the Liturgy with beauty, let another share his faith by preaching to the uninstructed;

⁹ Matt. 22: 11-13.

¹⁰ Matt. 25: 14-28.

let another give his wealth to the poor. So shall we increase what is entrusted to us, and as faithful stewards of His grace we shall be counted worthy of the Master's joy. Bestow this joy upon us, Christ our God, in Thy love for mankind.

Ψ. We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy. . . .

When Thou shalt come, O Jesus, in glory with the angelic hosts and shalt sit upon the throne of judgement, do not send me from Thy presence, O good Shepherd, Thou dost accept those who stand upon the right, but those upon the left have turned away from Thee. Destroy me not with the goats, though I am hardened in sin, but number me with the sheep on Thy right hand, and save me in Thy love for mankind.¹¹

Ψ. And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us. . . .

O Bridegroom, surpassing all in beauty, Thou hast called us to the spiritual feast of Thy bridal chamber. Strip from me the disfigurement of sin, through participation in Thy sufferings; clothe me in the glorious robe of Thy beauty, and in Thy compassion, make me feast with joy at Thy Kingdom.¹²

17 Glory be to the Father . . . Both now. . . . 17

TONE SEVEN

Behold, my soul, the Master entrusts thee with a talent. Receive His gift with fear; make it gain interest for Him; distribute to the needy, and make the Lord thy friend. So shalt thou stand on His right hand when He comes in glory, and thou shalt hear His blessed words: 'Enter, servant, into the joy of thy Lord.' I have gone astray, O Saviour, but in Thy great mercy count me worthy of this joy.¹³ And the rest of Mattins, as yesterday.

At the Hours we read the appointed portions of the Psalter and of the Gospel.

¹¹ Matt. 25: 31-46.

¹² Matt. 22: 9-11.

¹³ Matt. 25: 14-28.

SIXTH HOUR

Troparion of the Prophecy:

TONE ONE

To those who sin beyond measure, give plenteous forgiveness, O Saviour. At the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother, grant us uncondemned to venerate Thy holy Resurrection, for Thou alone art rich in mercy.

Glory be to the Father . . . Both now. . . .

Repeat.

Prokimenon (Psalm 129): TONE SIX

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

Ψ. Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord.

Lesson: Ezekiel 1: 21-8.

Prokimenon (Psalm 130): TONE FOUR

Let Israel hope in the Lord, from henceforth and for evermore.

Ψ. Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor are mine eyes lofty.

And the rest of the Sixth Hour as on Great Monday.

VESPERS

To Lord, I have cried, ten stichera are sung, from Lauds and the Aposticha at Mattins (see pp. 527-8):

Into the splendour of Thy saints. . . (twice).

I slumber in slothfulness of soul. . . (twice).

O my soul, thou hast heard the condemnation of him who hid his talent. . . (twice).

Come, ye faithful, and let us serve the Master eagerly. . . (twice).

When Thou shalt come, O Jesus, in glory. . . .

O Bridegroom, surpassing all in beauty. . . .

Glory be to the Father. . . Both now. . . .

Behold, my soul, the Master entrusts thee with a talent. . . .

Entrance with the Gospel, O joyful Light. . . .