

Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy

PRIEST: O heavenly King...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Vespers begins as usual. After "O Joyful Light," the people sit for the readings from the Old Testament.

"Come Let Us Worship..."

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.
He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. /
You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest
creep about.

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the
sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

Man goes out to his work / and to his labor until the evening. / O Lord,
how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.

The earth is full of Your possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are
innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have
made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them
their food in due season.

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with
good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they
die and return to their dust.

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of
the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord
rejoice in His works.

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while
I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in
the Lord.

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless
the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O
Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them
all.

READER: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches
of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

“O Lord, I Cry...” – Tone 6

Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)

O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear, give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord

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

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o'er the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.

Psalm 142 (LXX 141)

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.

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

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they are stronger than I."

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name.

The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.

Psalm 130 (LXX 129)

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

(Tone 2)

In haste the council of the Jews assemble, to deliver the Fashioner and Creator of all to Pilate. O transgressors, O unbelievers! For they make ready to surrender to judgment Him Who comes to judge the living and the dead; they prepare the

Passion of Him Who heals the passions. Great is Your mercy, O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

In haste the council of the Jews assemble, to deliver the Fashioner and Creator of all to Pilate. O transgressors, O unbelievers! For they make ready to surrender to judgment Him Who comes to judge the living and the dead; they prepare the Passion of Him Who heals the passions. Great is Your mercy, O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

Judas the transgressor at the supper dipped his hand into the dish with You, O Lord, yet sinfully he reached out his hands to receive the money. He reckoned up the value of the oil of myrrh, and yet was not afraid to sell You Who are above all price. He stretched out his feet to be washed, yet deceitfully he kissed the Master and betrayed Him to the breakers of the law. Cast out of the company of the apostles, he threw away the thirty pieces of silver, and did not see Your Resurrection on the third day. Through this Your Resurrection have mercy on us.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Judas, the deceitful traitor, with a deceitful kiss betrayed the Lord and Savior; he sold the Master of all as a slave to the transgressors: the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father went as a sheep to the slaughter: for He alone is rich in mercy.

Psalm 117 (LXX 116)

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

Judas, servant and deceiver, disciple and traitor, friend and false accuser, was revealed by his deeds. For he followed the Master, yet inwardly he plotted to betray Him. He said in himself: 'I shall deliver Him up and gain the money that is promised.' He desired the oil of myrrh to be sold and Jesus to be taken by deceit. He gave a kiss and handed over Christ; and the Lord went as a sheep to the slaughter, for He alone is compassionate and loves mankind.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

The Lamb Whom Isaiah proclaimed goes of His own will to the slaughter. He gives His back to scourging, and His cheeks to blows, and turns not away His face from the shame of their spittings; He is condemned to a disgraceful death. Though sinless, He accepts all these things willingly, that He may grant to all men resurrection from the dead.

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

Truly Judas: Tone 6

Truly Judas is descended from those vipers who ate manna in the wilderness, yet murmured against Him Who nourished them. For while the food was still in their mouths, those ungrateful men reviled God. So too this godless man, while still bearing in his mouth the heavenly Bread, contrived the betrayal of the Savior. What greedy purpose! What inhuman insolence! He sells Him Who nourished him. He delivers to death the Master Whom he loved. Truly this lawless man is their son. With them will he inherit perdition. Spare our souls of such inhumanity, O only Lord of boundless mercy.

The Prayer before the Entrance

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord Who love mankind. Direct our prayer before You as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

“O Joyful Light”

PEOPLE: O joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For it is right at all times to worship You with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life. Therefore all the world glorifies You.

Holy Thursday Prokeimenon: Tone 1 (Psalm 140 – LXX 139)

Deliver me, O Lord, from deceitful men, from deceitful men.

Verse: Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their hearts.

First Old Testament Reading

Exodus 19:10-19

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.” So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.” Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

Holy Thursday Prokeimenon: Tone 7 (Psalm 59 – LXX 58)

Deliver me from my enemies, O God. Save me from those who rise against me.

Verse: Deliver me from them that work iniquity, and save me from bloodthirsty men.

Second Old Testament Reading

Job 38:1-21; 42:1-5

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? “Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; when I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; when I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!’ “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is

broken. “Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this. “Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, that you may take it to its territory, that you may know the paths to its home? Do you know it, because you were born then, or because the number of your days is great? Then Job answered the LORD and said: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.

Third Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4-11

“The LORD GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The LORD GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. “For the LORD GOD will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the LORD GOD will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up. “Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God. Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

The Liturgy of St. Basil begins with the Prayer before the Trisagion.

The Trisagion Prayers

Prokeimenon: Tone 7 (Psalm 2)

The rulers took counsel against the Lord and His Anointed.

Verse: Why do the nations rage, and the people imagine vain things?

The Epistle Reading – 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Brethren, for I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

The Alleluia before the Gospel - Psalm 41 (LXX 40)

Verse: Blessed is he who consider the poor and needy.

Verse: My enemies spoke evil of Me: When shall He die, and His name perish?

Verse: He who ate My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.

Gospel Readings

**Matthew 26:2-20 John 13:3-17 Matthew 26:21-39;
Luke 22:43-45 Matthew 26:40-27:2**

In place of the Cherubic, Communion and Post-Communion Hymns we sing:

Receive Me Today, O Son of God

Receive me today, O Son of God, as partaker of Your mystical Supper.
For I will not speak, for I will not speak of Your Mystery to Your enemies,
neither will I give You a kiss as did Judas. But like the thief will I confess
You. Remember me, O Lord, remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom.
Alleluia (3x)

Magnification Hymn

All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace, the angelic hosts and the race
of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom
God was incarnate and became a little Child, even our God Who is before all
the ages, for He made your womb a throne and your body He made more
spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace!
Glory to you!

The Dismissal

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who showed us the most excellent way of humility when He washed His disciples' feet and condescended even to the Cross and burial because of His exceeding goodness*, through the intercessions...

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Troparion: Tone 8 (Kievan)

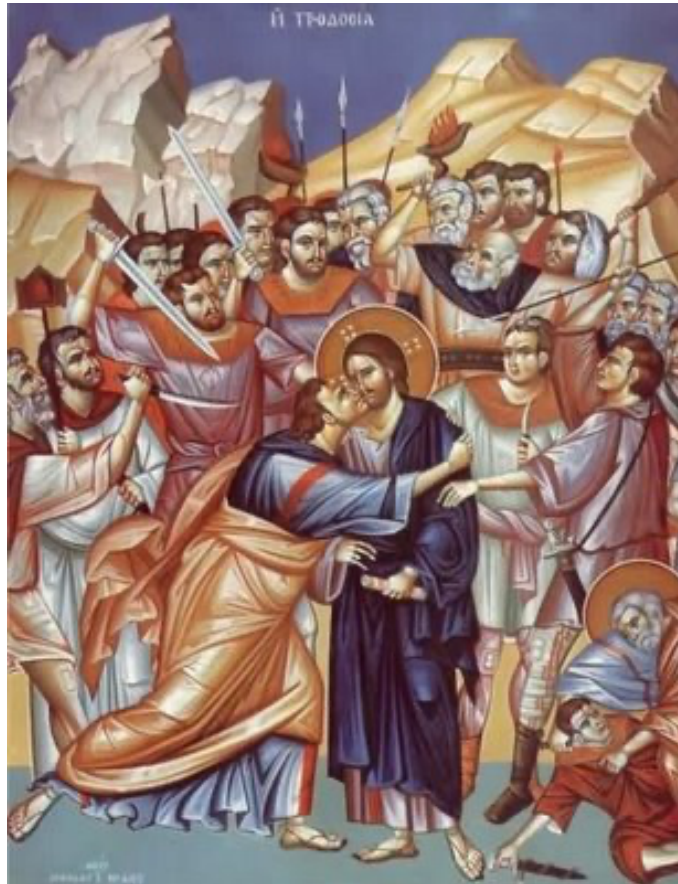
The glorious disciples were illumined at the washing of the feet, but ungodly Judas was darkened by the disease of greed, and he delivered You, the righteous Judge, to lawless judges. See, O lover of money, how for money's sake he hanged himself. Flee from the greed which made him do such things against his Master. O Lord Who love mankind, glory to You!

Kontakion: Tone 2 (Special Melody)

The traitor takes the Bread in his hands, but stretches them out secretly to receive the price of Him Who fashioned man with His own hands. For Judas, slave and deceiver, still repented not.



The Mystical Supper



The Betrayal of Judas



The Denial of Peter