

Bridegroom Matins

The priest, vested in epitrachelion, opens the curtain, takes the censer and begins:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

*While the following prayers are being read, the priest censers the altar,
the sanctuary, and the people.*

Reader: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere and fill all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
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Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, wash away our sins, O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit 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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. In the name of Lord, bless, Master.

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

Reader: Amen.

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

3x

O Lord, open my lips and mouth shall show forth Your praise. 2x

Matins Psalms

(read from the centre of the church with a candle)

Reader:

Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For You strike all my enemies on the cheek, You break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be upon Your people!

Psalm 38

O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath! For Your arrows have sunk into me, and Your hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my soul is filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to You, my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes -- it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life press hard on me; those who

seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man who does not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But in You, O Lord, have I hoped; You, O Lord my God, Who will listen. For I pray, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. But my enemies live and are mightier than I, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Psalm 63

O God, You are my God, I seek You, my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Your name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises You with joyful lips, when I think of You upon my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night; for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by Him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped. I meditate on You in the watches of the night, for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! 3x

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 unto ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm 88

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before You. Let my prayer come before You, incline Your ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom You remember no more, for they are cut off from Your hand. You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You overwhelm me with all Your waves. You have caused my companions to shun me; You have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon You, O Lord; I spread out my hands to You. Do You work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise You? Is Your steadfast love declared in the grave, or Your faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Your wonders known in the darkness, or Your saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to You; in the morning my prayer comes before You. O Lord, why do You cast me off? Why do You hide Your face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Your terrors; I am helpless. Your wrath has swept over me; Your dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. You have caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness. O Lord, my God, I call for help by day, I cry out in the night before You. Let my prayer come before You, incline Your ear to my cry!

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger for ever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he

flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will! Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness! Enter not into judgement with Your servant; for no man living is righteous before You. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that You have done; I muse on what Your hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies! I have fled to You for refuge! Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path! For Your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring me out of trouble! And in Your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Your servant. In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness! Enter not into judgement with Your servant. Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! 3x

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 unto ages of ages. Amen

The Great Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy. (*Lenten melody*)

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan_____, and for His Grace our Bishop_____, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the government of our country, for all civil authorities and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our 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.

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

People: Amen.