

Great and Holy Thursday – Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Vespers begins as usual.

Psalm 104 is read.

1st Kathisma (Blessed is the Man) is not sung.

“Lord, I Call” *Tone 2*

The assembly of the Jews gathers together
To deliver to Pilate the Maker and Creator of all.
What lawlessness! What faithlessness!
The Judge of the living and the dead, they prepare for judgement.
The Healer of suffering, they prepare for sufferings.
How great is Your mercy ///
O long-suffering Lord, Glory to You!

The assembly of the Jews gathers together...

The transgressor Judas, O Lord,
Dipped His hand in the plate with You at supper.
But now he unlawfully stretches forth his hand for silver.
He calculated the price of the woman's myrrh,
Yet he does not shudder in selling You, the priceless One.
He let the Master wash his feet,
Yet he deceitfully kisses Him in betrayal to lawless men.
Cast out from the ranks of the apostles.
He casts away the thirty pieces of silver,
Not seeing the resurrection on the third day. ///
By it, have mercy on us!

The transgressor Judas, O Lord...

Judas, the treacherous deceiver,
With a deceitful kiss betrayed the Lord and Saviour.
He sold the Master as a slave to lawless men.
And the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father,
The only greatly merciful One, ///
Was led as a sheep to the slaughter.

Judas, the treacherous deceiver...

Servant and deceiver,
Disciple and betrayer, friend and devil.
Judas has been revealed by his deeds.
While following the Master, He plotted His betrayal:
“Have the myrrh sold.”
And by deceit to have Jesus seized,
He gave the kiss and gave up the Christ
But like a sheep led to the slaughter ///
So went the only compassionate lover of mankind.

Servant and deceiver...

The Lamb Whom Isaiah proclaimed
Goes willingly to the slaughter,
He gives His back to scourging, His cheeks to buffeting.
He does not turn His face from the shame of spitting.
He is condemned to a shameful death.
He Who is sinless willingly submits to all ///
To grant to all resurrection from the dead.

The Lamb Whom Isaiah proclaimed...

Glory... Now and Ever...

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 Saviour.
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 he will inherit perdition.
Spare our souls of such inhumanity, ///
O only Lord of boundless mercy.