

## Changeable portions for Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday

(After the “Alleluia” verses)

### Troparion

*Tone 8*

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight,  
and blessed is the servant whom He shall find  
watching;  
and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find  
heedless.  
Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down  
with sleep,  
lest you be given up to death and lest you be shut out  
of the Kingdom.  
But rouse yourself crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, are You, O  
our God!  
Through the Theotokos have mercy on us!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit,

*Reader:* ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Tone 3*

*People:* The harlot came to You, O Lover of mankind,  
pouring myrrh and tears on Your feet.  
At Your command she was delivered from the stench of  
her evil deeds,  
but Your graceless disciple, though breathing Your  
grace,  
rejected it and wallowed in filth,  
selling You in his love of money.  
Glory, O Christ, to Your compassion!

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit,

*Tone 4*

*People:* Deceitful Judas,  
burning with love of money,  
deceitfully plotted to betray You,  
O Lord, the treasury of life.  
He drunkenly runs to the Jews  
and says to those transgressors:  
“What will you give me, and I shall deliver Him to you,  
that He may be crucified?”

*Reader:* ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Tone 1*

*People:* In tears the harlot cried out, O compassionate One,  
as she fervently wiped Your most pure feet with the hair  
of her head,  
and she groaned from the depths of her soul:  
“Cast me not away, neither abhor me, O my God,  
but receive me in my repentance and save me,  
for You alone are the Lover of mankind.”

**The Gospel**

*Sr. Rdr.:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint  
John. (Jn. 12:17-50)

*The appointed Gospel lesson is read in a normal voice by the  
**Senior Reader.***

In those days, the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!” Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the

feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die. The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. But although He had done so many signs before them, they

did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

*People:* Lord have mercy (3x).

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

(Go to **Psalm 50**, and then after Psalm 50 go to the following)

## **THE CANON – Ode I**

*Irmos:* You have established me on the rock of faith.  
You have opened wide my mouth against my enemies,  
for my spirit rejoices in singing:  
“None is holy but our God, and none is righteous but  
You, O Lord!”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

The assembly of lawless men gathers together for  
empty discussion and with evil intent,  
to pronounce sentence upon You, O Christ the  
Deliverer.

But we sing to You:

“You are our God, and none is holy but You, O Lord.”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

The fearful council of lawless men,  
with souls full of hatred toward God,  
intends to kill the righteous Christ as an evildoer.

But we sing to You:

“You are our God, and none is holy but You, O Lord.”

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

## **Kontakion**

Though I have transgressed more than the harlot, O  
Good One,

I have not offered You a flood of tears,  
but praying in silence I fall down before You.

With love I embrace Your most pure feet.

As Master, grant me remission of sins,  
when I cry to You, O Savior:

“Deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.”

## Ikos

The woman who was once depraved suddenly is wise.  
She hates her shameful deeds and carnal pleasures,  
remembering the magnitude of her shame  
and the verdict of condemnation which awaits  
profligates and harlots.

Of these, I am indeed the first,  
and though in terror, I foolishly remain in my evil ways.  
But the harlot, though in terror, hastens to the Deliverer  
to cry:

“In Your compassion and love for mankind,  
deliver me from the filth of my evil deeds.”

## Ode VIII

*Irmos:* The command of the tyrant prevailed:  
the furnace was heated sevenfold.  
But the youths were not burned in it.  
Trampling on the king’s decree, they sang:  
“Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord,  
sing and exalt Him throughout all ages.”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

The woman poured precious myrrh upon Your kingly,  
divine and awesome head, O Christ.  
She grasped Your most pure feet with her impure  
hands and cried:

“Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord!  
Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

The woman who was guilty of an abundance of sins,  
washed Your feet with the abundance of her tears  
and wiped them with her hair.

Therefore, she was not deprived of absolution  
for the many sins of her life, but cried:  
“Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord!  
Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

A sacred rite of redemption,  
wrought of saving compassion and a flood of tears,  
is administered to the right-minded woman.  
Washed in this fountain by her confession,  
she is not ashamed, but cried out:  
“Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord!  
Sing and exalt Him throughout all ages!”

*Refrain:* Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord,  
singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

### **Ode IX**

*Irmos:* With pure souls and blameless lips,  
come, let us magnify the all pure and spotless Mother  
of Emmanuel.  
Through her let us offer prayers to Him Who was born  
of her:  
“Spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.”

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Envious Judas proved himself both ignorant and evil.  
He sold the divine gift through Whom our debt of sin is loosed.

This miserable man sold the grace of God's love.  
But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Judas went to the lawless rulers and said:  
"What will you give me if I betray to you Christ whom you seek?"

From intimate companionship with Christ,  
Judas is drawn away by gold.  
But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

*Refrain:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

O blind and greedy avarice!  
Have you forgotten what you were taught,  
that the whole world is not worth your soul?  
Yet you, O traitor, despaired of your life,  
and made a noose and hanged yourself.  
But spare our souls, O Christ our God, and save us.

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

Go to **The Exapostilarion**, and then after the first few verses of the Psalm 150 in "The Praises")

*Tone 1*

A harlot recognized you as God, O Son of the virgin.  
With tears equal to her past deeds, she besought You  
weeping:

loose my debt as I have loosed my hair.  
Love the woman who, though justly hated, loves You.  
Then with the publicans will I proclaim You,  
O Benefactor and Lover of mankind.

*Reader:* Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,  
praise Him with psaltery and harp.

The harlot mingled precious myrrh with her tears.  
She poured it on Your most pure feet and kissed them.  
At once You justified her.  
You suffered for our sakes:  
forgive us also, and save us.

*Reader:* Praise Him with drum and dancing,  
praise Him with strings and bells.

As the sinful woman was bringing her offering of myrrh,  
the disciple was scheming with lawless men.  
She rejoiced in pouring out her precious gift.  
He hastened to sell the precious One.  
She recognized the Master, but Judas parted from Him.  
She was set free, but Judas was enslaved to the  
enemy.  
How terrible is slothfulness!  
How great her repentance!  
O Savior, You suffered for our sakes:  
grant us also repentance, and save us.

*Reader:* Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,  
praise Him with cymbals of victory!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

O, the wretchedness of Judas!  
He saw the harlot kiss the footsteps of Christ,  
but deceitfully he contemplated the kiss of betrayal.  
She loosed her hair while he bound himself with wrath.  
He offered the stench of wickedness instead of myrrh,  
for envy cannot distinguish value.  
O, the wretchedness of Judas!  
Deliver our souls from this, O God.

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

*Tone 2*

The sinful woman ran to buy the precious myrrh  
with which to anoint her Savior.  
She cried to the merchant: "Give me myrrh,  
that I may anoint Him who has cleansed all my sins."

*Reader:* ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Tone 6*

The woman who was engulfed in sin  
found in You a haven of salvation.  
She poured out myrrh with her tears and cried to You:  
"Behold the One who brings repentance to sinners!"  
Rescue me from the tempest of sin, O Master,  
through Your great mercy.

*Reader:* To You, O Lord our God, belongs glory, and to You we  
send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

**Go to The Lesser Doxology**

## The Aposticha

### *Tone 6*

*People:* Today, Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee.  
A sinful woman crawls to his feet and cries:  
Look at me who am engulfed in sin,  
in despair because of my evil deeds.  
But in Your goodness do not despise me.  
Grant me forgiveness of my evil deeds, O Lord,  
and save me.

### *Psalm 89 (90):14-16*

*Reader:* Let us be satisfied with Your mercy in the morning,  
Lord, and we shall be glad and rejoice all our days.

Let us be glad for the days in which You humbled us,  
for the years in which we have seen evils.

And look upon Your servants and Your works,  
and guide their children.

*People:* The harlot spread out her hair to you, O Master;  
Judas spread out his hands to lawless men:  
she in order to receive forgiveness;  
he in order to receive some silver.  
We cry to You, for You were sold for us and yet set us  
free:  
O Lord, glory to You!

### *Psalm 89 (90):17*

*Reader:* And may the radiance of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and direct the works of our hands for us,  
and direct the work of our hands.

*People:* The corrupt and filthy woman  
drew near to you, O Savior.  
She poured out her tears on Your feet  
and thus announced Your passion.  
How can I gaze on You, O Master?  
Yet You came to save the harlot.  
Raise me from the depths, for I am dead in sin,  
as you raised Lazarus from the tomb after four days.  
Accept me in my misery, O Lord,  
and save me.

*Reader:* I will thank You, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all Your wondrous works!

*People:* Despairing for her life, and despaired of for her deeds,  
the woman came bearing myrrh to You and cried:  
“O Son of the virgin,  
though I am a harlot, do not cast me aside.  
O Joy of the angels,  
do not despise my tears.  
As You did not reject me as a sinner,  
accept me now as a penitent, in Your great mercy.”

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

## **The Hymn of Cassia**

### **Tone 8**

*People:* The woman had fallen into many sins, O Lord,  
yet when she perceived Your divinity,  
she joined the ranks of the myrrh-bearing women.  
In tears she brought You myrrh before Your burial.  
She cried: "Woe is me!  
For I live in the night of licentiousness,  
shrouded in the dark and moonless love of sin.  
But accept the fountain of my tears,  
as You gathered the waters of the sea into clouds.  
Bow down Your ear to the sighing of my heart,  
as You bowed the heavens in Your ineffable  
condescension.  
Once Eve heard Your footstep in paradise in the cool of  
the day,  
and in fear she ran and hid herself.  
But now I will tenderly embrace those pure feet  
and wipe them with the hair of my head.  
Who can measure the multitude of my sins,  
or the depth of Your judgments, O Savior of my soul?  
Do not despise Your servant in your immeasurable  
mercy."

*Reader:* It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to  
Your name, O Most High, to declare Your mercy in the  
morning, and Your truth by night. (2x)

(Go to **The Trisagion Prayers** for the completion of the service)