**APRIL 15**

**Great and Holy Tuesday**

**Bridegroom Matins (sung on Monday)**

*(The Matins of the first three days of Holy Week are commonly called the “Bridegroom Service.” This service is customarily served in anticipation on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings. Vespers with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in most places is celebrated early on the following day.)*

**Tone 8 Troparion**

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 thou be given up to death,

and lest thou be shut out of the Kingdom!

But rouse thyself, crying: “Holy, holy, holy, art Thou, O our God!”//

Through the Theotokos have mercy on us!

**Tone 4[[1]](#footnote-1) Kathisma Hymn (following Kathisma 9)**

Let us love the Bridegroom, O brothers!

Let us keep our lamps aflame with virtues and true faith,

so that we, like the wise virgins of the Lord,

may be ready to enter with Him into the marriage feast!//

For the Bridegroom, as God, grants unto all an incorruptible crown.

**Tone 4 Kathisma Hymn (following Kathisma 10)**

In envy, the priests and scribes

cunningly gathered a council against Thee, O Savior,

moving Judas to betrayal.

He shamelessly went forth and spoke against Thee,

saying to a transgressing people:

“What will you give me if I deliver Him into your hands?”//

From his condemnation save our souls, O Lord!

**Tone 8 Kathisma Hymn (following Kathisma 11)**

Judas loves money with his mind;

the impious one moves against the Master,

He wills and plans the betrayal.

Receiving darkness, he falls from the light.

He agrees to the price and sells the Priceless One.

As payment for his deeds the wretch gains hanging and a terrible death.

From his lot deliver us, O Christ God,

granting remission of sins to those who celebrate Thine immaculate Passion with love!

**Gospel**

(90) Matthew 22:15-23:39

**The Two-Ode Canon**

**Tone 2 Kontakion**

Thou knowest that this is the last hour, O wretched soul,

and dost fear the cutting of the fig tree.

Work diligently, therefore, with the talent given to thee.

Keep watch and cry://

“Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ!”

**Ikos**

*Why art thou idle, my wretched soul?*

*What useless cares cause thee to be lost in dreams?*

*Why busy thyself with things that pass away?*

*The last hour is at hand, and we shall be parted from all earthly things.*

*Therefore, while there is time, rouse thyself and cry:*

*“I have sinned before Thee, O my Savior!*

*Do not cut me off like the barren fig tree!*

*In Thy compassion, O Christ, take pity on me who call out in fear:*

‘Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ!’”

**Tone 2 Ode 8 – Heirmos**

The three Holy Youths would not obey the decree of the Tyrant.

When cast into the furnace they confessed God and sang:

“Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!”

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

*Let us cast aside all idleness,*

*and with shining lamps and hymns meet Christ, the Immortal Bridegroom, singing:*

*“Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!”*

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

*May we together have enough oil in the vessels of our souls,*

*so that, not wasting the time of rewards in buying more, we may sing:*

*“Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!”*

*Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord,*

*now and ever and unto ages of ages! Amen.*

*May all who have received a talent from God,*

*now, with the help of Christ, increase according to the grace given by Him and sing:*

*“Bless the Lord, O works of the Lord!”*

*We praise, bless, and worship the Lord,*

*singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.*

(Katavasia: “The three Holy Youths…”)

**Tone 2 Ode 9 – Heirmos**

In thy womb thou didst contain God Who cannot be contained.

Thou didst conceive the joy of the world.

We praise thee, O most holy Virgin.

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

*The Good One said to His Disciples:*

*“Watch, for you know not the hour*

*in which the Lord will come to repay each man!”*

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

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*At Thy dread second coming, O Master,*

*number me with the sheep at Thy right hand,*

*overlooking my many transgressions!*

(Katavasia: “In thy womb…”)

**Exapostilarion**

Thy bridal chamber I see adorned, O my Savior,

and I have no wedding garment that I may enter.

O Giver of Light,

enlighten the vesture of my soul, and save me!

**The Praises** *(Psalms 148, 149, 150)*

V. *Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding*

*greatness! (Ps. 150:2)*

**Tone 1**

How shall I, the unworthy one,

appear in the splendor of Thy saints?

For if I dare enter Thy bridal chamber with them,

my garments will betray me:

they are unfit for a wedding.

The angels will cast me out in chains.

Cleanse the filth of my soul, O Lord,//

and save me in Thy love for mankind!

V. *Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp! (Ps. 150:3)*

(Repeat: “How shall I…”)

V. *Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! (Ps. 150:4)*

**Tone 2**

O Christ the Bridegroom,

my soul has slumbered in laziness.

I have no lamp aflame with virtues.

Like the foolish virgins, I wander aimlessly when it is time for work.

But do not close Thy compassionate heart to me, O Master!

Rouse me; shake off my heavy sleep!

Lead me with the wise virgins into the bridal chamber,

that I may hear the pure voice of those that feast and cry unceasingly://

“O Lord, glory to Thee!”

V. *Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Ps. 150:5)*

(Repeat: “O Christ the Bridegroom…”)

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

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4**

Thou hast heard the condemnation, O soul,

of the man who hid his talent.

But do not hide the Word of God!

Proclaim His wonders,

that, increasing the gift of grace,//

thou mayest enter into the joy of thy Lord!

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6**

Come, O faithful,

let us work zealously for the Master,

for He distributes wealth to His servants!

Let each of us, according to his ability,

increase his talent of grace:

let one be adorned in wisdom through good works;

let another celebrate a service in splendor!

The one distributes his wealth to the poor;

the other communicates the Word to those untaught.

Thus we shall increase what has been entrusted to us,

and, as faithful stewards of grace,

we shall be accounted worthy of the Master’s joy.

Make us worthy of this, O Christ our God,//

in Thy love for mankind!

V. *Satisfy us in the morning with Thy steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad as many days as Thou hast afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. Let Thy work be manifest to Thy servants, and Thy glorious power to their children.* *(Ps. 89:16-18)*

When Thou shalt come in glory, O Jesus,

with the Angelic Hosts,

and shalt sit upon the throne for judgment,

do not drive me away, O Good Shepherd!

For Thou knowest the paths on Thy right hand,

but those on Thy left hand lead astray!

Do not destroy me with the goats,

though I am coarse with sin,

but number me with the sheep on Thy right hand,//

and save me in Thy love for mankind!

V. *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.* *(Ps. 89:19)*

Thou art more beautiful than all men, O Bridegroom!

Thou hast invited us

to the spiritual banquet of Thy bridal chamber.

Strip me of the ugly garment of my sins,

as I participate in Thy Passion!

Adorn me in the glorious robe of Thy beauty//

that proclaims me a guest in Thy Kingdom, O merciful Lord!

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

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 7**

Behold, the Master has entrusted thee with the talent, O my soul!

Receive the gift with fear!

Repay the One Who gave by giving to the poor,

and gain the Lord as thy friend,

so that when He comes in glory,

Thou mayest stand at His right hand and hear His blessed voice:

“Enter, My servant, into the joy of thy Lord!”

Though I have gone astray, make me worthy of this, O Savior,//

through Thy great mercy!

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, (“The Bridegroom Services of Holy Week”).

1. Kathisma Hymns are pointed to be sung to the Bakhmetev Obikhod Troparion melody. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)