

Great and Holy Thursday

Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil

AT PSALM 140

In Tone 2

10.

The Jewish Council gathers to deliver to Pilate
the Author and Creator of all.
O what iniquity and infidelity!
They prepare for judgement
the One who comes to judge the living and the dead;
they prepare to make suffer the One who heals all suffering:
therefore, O long-suffering Lord, great is Your mercy.
Glory be to You.

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therefore, O long-suffering Lord, great is Your mercy.
Glory be to You.

8.

At the supper Judas the transgressor dipped his hand into the dish with You, O Lord,
yet reached out to the transgressors to receive the money.
He calculated the value of the oil of myrrh,
yet was not afraid to sell You, the One beyond all price.
He stretched out his feet to be washed,
yet deceitfully kissed the Master and betrayed Him to the lawless ones.
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.

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6.

With a kiss that was deceitful
Judas, the deceitful traitor,
betrayed the Lord and Saviour,
selling 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.

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4.

Judas showed himself by his deeds
to be a servant yet deceiver,
a disciple yet betrayer,
and a friend yet a devil.
For as he followed the Master
he concealed the betrayal, saying to himself:
I will betray this One and gain much wealth.
He sought to sell the spice that he might trap the Lord.
He gave a kiss and betrayed Christ,
who like a lamb was led to the slaughter
and who alone has compassion and love for mankind.

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2.

The Lamb proclaimed by Isaiah
goes of His own will to the slaughter.
He gives His back to be scourged, and His cheeks to be slapped;
He does not turn His face from the shame of their spitting;
He is condemned to a disgraceful death.
Though sinless, He accepts all these things willingly,
that He may grant to all resurrection from the dead.

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In Tone 6, Glory... Now...

Truly, Judas is the son of those ungrateful
who ate the manna in the wilderness,
and murmured against the Nourisher;
for, while food was still in their mouths,
those ingrates murmured against God.
Likewise this wicked one,
while the Holy Bread was still in his mouth,
conspired to betray the Saviour.
O, what greedy purpose!
What bold inhumanity!
For he betrayed the Nourisher
and delivered to death the Master who loved him.
In truth, this lawbreaker is a son of unbelievers,
and inherited destruction with them.
Save our souls, O Lord, from such unkindness;
for You alone can endure such long-suffering.

ENTRANCE WITH GOSPEL

READINGS

Prokeimenon (Tone 1, Psalm 139)

Deliver me, O Lord, from an evil person from the unrighteous man keep me safe.

verse: From those who plan evil in their hearts all the day.

First Reading - Exodus 19:10-19

Prokeimenon (Tone 7, Psalm 58)

O God, deliver me from my enemies; redeem me from those who rise up against me.

verse: Rescue me from those who work iniquity, and from men of blood save me.

Second Reading - Job 38:1-23; 42:1-5

Third Reading - Isaiah 50:4-11

SMALL LITANY

TRISAGION HYMN

READINGS

Prokeimenon (Tone 7, Psalm 2)

The rulers have gathered together against the Lord and His anointed.

verse: Why have the nations grown insolent, and peoples contemplated vain things?

Liturgy Epistle - 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Alleluia Verses (Tone 6, Psalm 40)

verse: Blessed is he who considers the poor and needy; the Lord will deliver him on the day of evil.

verse: My enemies spoke evil against me: "When will he die and his name perish?"

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

Gospel - Matthew 26:2-20; John 13:1-17; Matthew 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; Matthew 26:40-27:2

GREAT ENTRANCE

Instead of the Cherubic Hymn, the following troparion is sung:

Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical supper. I will not tell the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess to You: remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

After the Great Entrance, the following is sung:

Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

HYMN TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

Instead of "It is truly right" we sing the Irmos of the Ninth Ode in Tone 6:

Come, you faithful, let us lift up our minds on high,
and enjoy the Master's hospitality,
and the Table of Immortal Life in the upper room;
and let us hear and learn the exalted teaching
of the Word, Whom we magnify.

COMMUNION VERSE

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AFTER COMMUNION

Instead of "We have seen the true Light" and "Let our mouths be filled with Your praise, O Lord" we sing:

Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical supper. I will not tell the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess to You: remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom.

An Alternate Ambo Prayer for Holy and Great Thursday

Today we have seen our Lord Jesus Christ placed upon the altar. Today we have touched the burning coal, whose foreshadowing the Cherubim were unable to grasp. Today we have heard his sweet words, "This is My Body which is broken for you and given for the forgiveness of sins." This Body Thomas touched as he cried out, "My Lord and my God." By eating this Body we are filled with joy. Again our Life said, "This is My Blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." Beloved, we have drunk the earthly and heavenly Blood. We have drunk the Blood which enlightens us. See what kind of Lord we have, who gives us His Blood. This is the gift we have received, this is the mystery we enjoy. Who is able to worthily glorify this great gift? We have accepted the gift, let us keep a genuine faith, that we may become heirs of His kingdom. In love for God, let us ask peace for the Church, so that those teaching false doctrine may be shamed and brought down, and Christ our Lord be glorified in all things together with His immortal Father and His all-holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.