

APRIL 14
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 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!

Tone 4* 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 You, O Savior,
moving Judas to betrayal.
He shamelessly went forth and spoke against You,
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!

* Kathisma Hymns are pointed to be sung to the Bakhmetev Obikhod Troparion melody.

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 Your immaculate
Passion with love!

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-46, 23:1-39

The Two-Ode Kanon (*Odes 8 and 9, following the Kontakion and Ikos*)

Tone 2 Kontakion

You know that this is the last hour, O wretched soul,
and fear the cutting of the fig tree.
Work diligently, therefore, with the talent given to you.
Keep watch and cry://
“Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ!”

Ikos

*Why are you idle, my wretched soul?
What useless cares cause you to be lost in dreams?
Why busy yourself 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 yourself and cry:
“I have sinned before You, O my Savior!
Do not cut me off like the barren fig tree!
In Your 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 You, our God, glory to You!

*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 You, our God, glory to You!

*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.*

Tone 2 Ode 9 - Heirmos

In your womb you contained God Who cannot be contained.
You conceived the joy of the world.
We praise you, O most holy Virgin.

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

*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 Your dread second coming, O Master,
number me with the sheep at Your right hand,
overlooking my many transgressions!*

(Katavasia: "In your womb you contained God...")

Exapostilarion

Your 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)

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

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

Tone 1 *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

How shall I, the unworthy one,
appear in the splendor of Your saints?
For if I dare enter Your 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 Your love for mankind!

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

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 Your 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 You!”

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

Tone 4

You have 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, //
you may enter into the joy of your Lord!

Aposticha

Tone 6 *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

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 Your love for mankind!

v: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love that we may rejoice and be glad all our days! Make us glad as many days as You have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil! Let Your work be manifest to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children! (Ps 90/91:14)

When You shall come in glory, O Jesus,
with the Angelic Hosts,
and shall sit upon the throne for judgment,
do not drive me away, O Good Shepherd!
For You know the paths on Your right hand,
but those on Your left hand lead astray!
Do not destroy me with the goats,
though I am coarse with sin,
but number me with the sheep on Your right hand, //
and save me in Your love for mankind!

v: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands; yea, establish the work of our hands! (Ps 90/91:17)

You are more beautiful than all men, O Bridegroom!
You have invited us
to the spiritual banquet of Your bridal chamber.
Strip me of the ugly garment of my sins,
as I participate in Your Passion!
Adorn me in the glorious robe of Your beauty//
that proclaims me a guest in Your 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 you 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 your friend,
so that when He comes in glory,
You may stand at His right hand and hear His blessed voice:
“Enter, my servant, into the joy of your Lord!”
Though I have gone astray, make me worthy of this, O Savior, //
through Your great mercy!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.