

# THE ROYAL HOUR

ON THE EVE OF  
THEORIANPY OF OUR LORD



## **The Royal Hours**

At Royal Hours all of the Hours: 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 9th, as well as the Typical Psalms, are sung as one service. The service is read on the eves of the Nativity of Christ and Theophany, as well as on Holy Friday. It is characterized by special Psalms and hymns, as well as special Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel Readings, relating to the particular Feast or events of the day.

Historically, it was customary for the Byzantine emperor to be in attendance for the entire Service, hence the title Royal Hours.

Although there will be no emperor present today, an effort is being made to restore the use of services such as this that have fallen into disuse in the hopes of one day having a fuller liturgical life within our parishes.

*Text for this service is taken from the Divine Office of the  
Byzantine-Slavonic Rite. Stamford, CT., USA. 2014*

# The Royal Hours

*If the eve of Theophany falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, then,  
the Royal Hours are taken on Friday.*

## **First Hour**

Priest: Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You!

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,\* Who are everywhere present and fill all things,\* Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us;\* cleanse us of all that defiles us,\* and, O Good One, save our souls.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us.\* Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;\* pardon our transgressions, O Master;\* look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One;\* for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven,\* hallowed be Thy name.\* Thy kingdom come.\* They will be done on earth as it is in heaven.\* Give us this day our daily bread,\* and forgive us our trespasses\* as we forgive those who trespass against us.\* And lead us not into temptation,\* but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Come, let us adore the King, our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

### *Psalm 26*

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?\* The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?

When evil-doers draw near to devour my flesh,\* it is they, my enemies and foes, who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart would not fear;\* though war break out against me, even then would I trust.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,\* to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold His temple.

For there He keeps me safe in His tent in the day of evil;\* He hides me in the shelter of His tent, on a rock He sets me safe.

And now my head shall be raised above my foes who surround me\* and I shall offer within His tent a sacrifice of joy, I will sing and make music for the Lord.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;\* have mercy and answer.

Of Your heart has spoken: "Seek His face,"\* It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek.

Hide not Your face from me, dismiss not Your servant in anger;\* You have been my help, do not abandon or forsake me, O God my help!

Though father and mother forsake me,\* the Lord will receive me.

Instruct me, Lord, in Your way, on an even path lead me;\* when they lie in ambush protect me from my enemy's greed.

False witnesses rise against me,\* breathing out fury.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness\* in the land of the living.

Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.\* Hope in the Lord!

### *Psalm 5*

To my words give ear, O Lord,\* give heed to my groaning,

Attend to the sound of my cries, my King and my God.\* It is You Whom I invoke, O Lord.

In the morning You hear me;\* in the morning I offer You my prayer, watching and waiting.

You are no God Who loves evil;\* no sinner is Your guest.

The boastful shall not stand their ground before Your face.\* You hate all who do evil;

You destroy all who lie.\* Deceitful and bloodthirsty people are hateful to You, O Lord.

But I through the greatness of Your love\* have access to Your house.

I bow down before Your holy temple,\* filled with awe.

Lead me, Lord, in Your justice, because of those who lie in wait;\* make clear Your way before me.

No truth can be found in their mouths,\* their heart is all mischief,

Their throat a wide-open grace,\* all honey their speech.

Declare them guilty, O God.\* Let them fall in their designs.

Drive them out for their many offenses,\* for they have defied You.

All those You protect shall be glad\* and ring out their joy.

You shelter them;\* in You they rejoice, those who love Your name.

Lord, it is You Who bless the upright;\* You surround them with favour as with shield.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*(Tone 4)* After Elijah had gone up to heaven,\* Elisha threw his mantle in the Jordan River which parted,\* opening a way, a dry path between two walls of water, where he could pass,\* a true symbol of our baptism by which we pass through his fleeting life.\* Christ has been seen at the Jordan River to sanctify the waters.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

What shall we call you, O Full of Grace? A heaven, for you have borne the Sun of Justice? A paradise, for you have brought forth the Flower of immortality? A virgin, for you have remained undefiled? A mother, holding in her holy arms the Son Who is the God of all? Intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls.

### *Stichera*

*(Tone 8, Samohlasen):* As man You came to the river Jordan, O Christ King,\* and You hasten, O Gracious One,\* to receive the baptism of a servant\* from the hands of the Forerunner for our sins,\* O Lover of mankind.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

To the voice of the one crying in the wilderness:\* Prepare the way of the Lord;\* You came, O Lord, as a servant seeking to be baptized\* even though You had no sin.\* When the waters saw

You, they trembled in fear\* like the Forerunner who exclaimed:\*  
How can a lamp give light to the Light?\* How can a servant touch  
his Master?\* Rather, O Saviour, bless the waters and me,\* for  
You take away the sin of the world.

*Opening the royal doors, the priest vested in the phelonion and deacon intones:*

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be with all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*Prokimenon in Tone 4*

The Lord thundered from heaven; the Most high made His voice  
resound.

*Verse:* I love You, Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, my fortress,  
my deliverer.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: The desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with  
abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of  
Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and  
Sharon; They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our  
God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees  
that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be  
strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication;  
with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes  
of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will  
the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing.  
Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe.  
The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground,  
springs of water; the abode where jackals lurk will be a marsh of  
the reed and papyrus. A highway will be there, called the holy  
way; no one unclean may pass over it nor fools go stray on it. It is  
for those with a journey to make, and on it the redeemed will  
walk. Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter

Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: “And as John was completing his course, he would say, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.’ “My Brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good new to you that what God promised our ancestors.

*The deacon incenses the altar and the people, then intones:*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: (Reading from Matthew 3:1-12)

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

*The royal doors are now closed, and the choir continues:*

Choir: Let my way be straight according to Your word;\* let no sin over come me.\* Save me from the wickedness of evildoers,\* and I will keep Your commandments.\* Let Your face shine upon Your servant,\* and teach me Your laws.

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise, O Lord,\* and let me sing Your glory and magnificence all the day long.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us.\* Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;\* pardon our transgressions, O Master;\* look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One;\* for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven,\* hallowed be Thy name.\* Thy kingdom come.\* They will be done on earth as it is in heaven.\* Give us this day our daily bread,\* and forgive us our trespasses\* as we forgive those who trespass against us.\* And lead us not into temptation,\* but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

### *Kontakion*

(*Tone 4*): Today the Lord stood in the waters of Jordan telling John:\* Do not be afraid to baptize Me,\* for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. (40x)

O Christ, our God, in all times and places You are worshiped and glorified both in heave and on earth. You are long-suffering and

generous in Your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with Your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of Your unspeakable glory. For You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

More honourable than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Give the blessing, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may His countenance shine upon us, and may He have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

### *Prayer of the First Hour*

O Christ, the true Light who enlightens and sanctifies everyone in the world, mark us with the light of Your countenance so that we may see the unapproachable radiance. Let our life be straight along the path of Your commandments, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother and of all Your saints.

### ***Third Hour***

Come, let us adore the King, our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

*Psalm 28*

O give the Lord, you sons of God,\* give the Lord glory and power;

Give the Lord the glory of His name.\* Adore the Lord in His holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,\* the Lord on the immensity of waters;

The voice of the Lord, full of power,\* the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

The Lord's voice shattering the cedars,\* the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon leap like a calf\* and Sirion like a young wild-ox.

The Lord's voice flashes flames of fire.\* The Lord's voice shaking the wilderness, the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The Lord's voice rending the oak tree and stripping the forest bare.\* In His temple they all cry: Glory!

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;\* the Lord sits as king for ever.

The Lord will give strength to His people,\* the Lord will bless His people with peace.

*Psalm 50*

Have mercy on me, God, in Your kindness.\* In Your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt\* and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;\* my sin is always before me.

Against You, You alone, have I sinned;\* what is evil in Your sight I have done.

That You may be justified when You give sentence\* and be with

out reproach when You judge.

O see, in guilt I was born,\* a sinner was I conceived

Indeed, You love truth in the heart;\* then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;\* O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,\* that the bones You have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away Your face\* and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,\* put a steadfast spirit with me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence,\* nor deprive me of Your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of Your help;\* with a spirit of fervor sustain me,

That I may teach transgressors Your ways\* and sinners may return to You.

O rescue me, God, my helper,\* and my tongue shall ring out Your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips\* and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For in sacrifice You take no delight,\* burnt offering from me You would refuse.

My sacrifice, a contrite spirit.\* A humbled, contrite heart You will not spurn.

In Your goodness, show favour to Zion:\* rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then You will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, burnt offerings wholly consumed,\* Then You will be offered young bulls on Your altar.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*(Tone 4)* After Elijah had gone up to heaven,\* Elisha threw his mantle in the Jordan River which parted,\* opening a way, a dry path between two walls of water, where he could pass,\* a true symbol of our baptism by which we pass through his fleeting life.\* Christ has been seen at the Jordan River to sanctify the waters.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O Mother of God, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of life; wherefore, we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the apostles and all the saints that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

### *Stichera*

*(Tone 8, Samohlafen):* The right hand of the Forerunner, baptizer and prophet,\* the most venerated of all the prophets,\* trembled, when he beheld the Lamb of God,\* Who takes away the sins of the world.\* Overwhelmed by the awesome task he was about to perform, he said:\* I do not dare, O Word, to touch Your hear.\* You Yourself, O bountiful One, sanctify and enlighten me,\* for You are the Life and the Light and the Peace of the World.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*(Tone 5):* You come, O Lord, as a man in the flesh to the Jordan,\* desiring, O Giver of life, to be baptized,\* in order to deliver us from the wiles and traps of the serpent, and to enlighten us.\* The Father bore witness to You\* and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above You.\* Have Him dwell within our souls, O Lover of mankind.

*Opening the royal doors, the priest vested in the phelonion and deacon intones:*

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be with all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*Prokimenon in tone 6*

The waters saw You, O God;\* the waters saw You and trembled.

*Verse:* I cry aloud to God, I cry aloud to God, that He may hear me.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool. If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land; but if you refuse and resist, the sword shall consume you: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and came down to Ephesus where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "We have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." He said, "How were you baptized?" they replied, "With the baptism of John." Paul then said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in

Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Altogether there were about twelve men. He entered the synagogue, and for three months debated boldly with persuasive arguments about the kingdom of God.

*The deacon incenses the altar and the people, then intones:*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: (Reading from Mark 1:1-8)

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

*The royal doors are now closed, and the choir continues:*

Choir: Blessed is the Lord God! Blessed is the Lord day by day! May the God of our salvation smooth our path. Our God is the God of salvation.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us.\* Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;\* pardon our transgressions, O Master;\* look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One;\* for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven,\* hallowed be Thy name.\* Thy kingdom come.\* They will be done on earth as it is in heaven.\* Give us this day our daily bread,\* and forgive us our trespasses\*

as we forgive those who trespass against us.\* And lead us not into temptation,\* but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

### *Kontakion*

*(Tone 4):* Today the Lord stood in the waters of Jordan telling John:\* Do not be afraid to baptize Me,\* for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. (40x)

O Christ, our God, in all times and places You are worshiped and glorified both in heave and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in Your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with Your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of Your unspeakable glory. For You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

More honourable than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Give the blessing, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may His countenance shine upon us, and may He have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

### *Prayer of the Third Hour*

Priest: O God our Master, almighty Father; only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit, one God and one Might, have mercy on me a sinner, and save me, Your unworthy servant, according to the ways of Your wisdom. For You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

### ***Sixth Hour***

Come, let us adore the King, our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

### *Psalm 76*

I cry aloud to God, cry aloud to God\* that He may hear me.

In the day of my distress I sought the Lord.\* My hands were raised at night without ceasing; my soul refused to be consoled.

I remembered my God and I groaned.\* I pondered and my spirit fainted.

You withheld sleep from my eyes,\* I was troubled, I could not speak.

I thought of the days of long ago\* and remembered the years long past.

At night I mused within my heart,\* I pondered and my spirit questioned.

Will the Lord reject us forever?\* Will He show us his favour no more?

Has his love vanished forever?\* Has his promise come to an end?

Does God forget his mercy\* or in anger withhold His compassion?

I said: This is what causes my grief;\* that the way of the Most High has changed.

I remember the deeds of the Lord;\* I remember Your wonders of old.

I muse on all Your works\* and ponder Your mighty deeds.

Your ways, O God, are holy.\* What God is great as our God?

You are the God Who works wonders.\* You showed Your power among the peoples.

Your strong arm redeemed Your people,\* the sons of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters Saw You, O God, the waters saw You and trembled,\* the depths were moved with terror.

The clouds poured down rain, the skies sent forth their voice;\* Your arrows flashed to and fro.

Your thunder rolled round the sky,\* Your flashes lighted up the world; the earth was moved and trembled.

Your way led through the sea, Your path through the mighty waters;\* and no one saw Your footprints.

You guided Your people like a flock\* by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

### *Psalm 90*

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High\* and abide in the shade of the Almighty.

Say to the Lord: My refuge, my stronghold,\* my God in whom I trust!

It is He who will free you from the snare of the fowler\* who seeks to destroy you;

He will conceal you with His pinions\* and under His wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night\* nor the arrow that flies by day,

Nor the plague that prowls in the darkness\* nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand fall at your right,\*  
you, it will never approach,\* His faithfulness is buckler and  
shield.

Your eyes have only to look to see\* how the wicked are repaid,  
You who have said: Lord, my refuge!\* and have made the Most  
High your dwelling

Upon you no evil shall fall,\* no plague approach where you  
dwell.

For you He has commanded His angels,\* to keep you in all your  
ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands\* lest you strike your foot  
against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread\* and trample the young  
lion and the dragon.

You set your love on Me so I will save you,\* protect you for you  
know My name.

When you call I shall answer: I am with you,\* I will save you in  
distress and give you glory.

With length of days I will content you,\* I shall let you see my  
saving power.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now  
and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
(*Tone 4*) After Elijah had gone up to heaven,\* Elisha threw his  
mantle in the Jordan River which parted,\* opening a way, a dry  
path between two walls of water, where he could pass,\* a true  
symbol of our baptism by which we pass through his fleeting  
life.\* Christ has been seen at the Jordan River to sanctify the  
waters.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Since we have no one in whom to confide because of our many sins,\* O Virgin Mother of God, intercede for us\* with the One Who was born of you;\* for a mother's prayer is a powerful means for obtaining the Master's favor.\* You are most worthy of veneration,\* so do not turn away from the pleading of us sinners;\* for the One Who willed to suffer in the flesh for our sake is full of mercy,\* and His power is sufficient to save us.

### *Stichera*

*(Tone 1, Samohlases):* The Lord spoke these words to John:\* Come and baptize Me, your Creator, O prophet,\* for I enlighten and purify all people by grace.\* Place your hand on my head and do not doubt.\* O prophet, allow it to be this way now,\* for I have come to fulfill all justice.\* Cast away all your doubt,\* for I hasten to put to death the prince of darkness,\* the enemy who hides in the waters,\* so I may release the world from his hold\* and grant eternal life in my love for all.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*(Tone 5):* O Jordan, why do your waters change course?\* Why do your streams stop, and why do you not flow as you should?\* The river then answered:\* I cannot hold the Fire that consumes me.\* I am amazed and awed at his great condescension.\* For I am not accustomed to wash Him Who is clean;\* I have not learned to bathe the sinless,\* but to purify the unclean vessels.\* Christ, now baptized in me, teaches me to burn the thorns of sin.\* John, the voice of the Word, testifies with me and cries out:\* Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.\* O faithful, with a loud voice, let us say:\* You are manifested for our salvation; O God, glory to You!

*Opening the royal doors, the priest vested in the phelonion and deacon intones:*

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be with all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*Prokimenon in Tone 4*

Your way led through the sea, Your path through the mighty waters.

*Verse:* Your thunder rolled around the sky.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: "With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation, and say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from

the dead, dies not more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

*The deacon incenses the altar and the people, then intones:*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: (Reading from Mark 1:9-15)

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

*The royal doors are now closed, and the choir continues:*

Choir: Let Your bounties, O Lord, come down upon us in haste, for our need has become great indeed. Help us O God our Saviour, for the glory of Your name. Save us, O Master, and forgive our sins for the sake of Your name.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us.\* Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;\* pardon our transgressions, O Master;\* look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One;\* for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven,\* hallowed be Thy name.\* Thy kingdom come.\* They will be done on earth as it is in heaven.\* Give us this day our daily bread,\* and forgive us our trespasses\* as we forgive those who trespass against us.\* And lead us not

into temptation,\* but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Choir: Amen.

### *Kontakion*

*(Tone 4):* Today the Lord stood in the waters of Jordan telling John:\* Do not be afraid to baptize Me,\* for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

Lord, have mercy. (40x)

O Christ, our God, in all times and places You are worshiped and glorified both in heave and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in Your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with Your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of Your unspeakable glory. For You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

More honourable than the cherubim, and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Give the blessing, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may His countenance shine upon us, and may He have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

## *Prayer of the Sixth Hour*

Priest: O God, Lord of Powers and Maker of the whole creation, through Your compassion beyond our understanding, You sent down Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race. Through His cross He cancelled the debt of our sins and triumphed over the powers and masters of darkness. Now accept from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and petition, and preserve us from any deadly fall in the darkness and against every visible and invisible enemy who may seek our harm. Pierce our bodies with fear of You, and let not our souls fall into evil words or thoughts, but, instead, wound them with longing for You so that, looking upon You at all times and guided by the light that emanates from You, we may contemplate the unapproachable eternal light. May we ever address our thanks giving and worship to You, O eternal Father, and to Your only-begotten Son, and to Your all-holy, gracious, and live-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Ninth Hour**

Come, let us adore the King, our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

## *Psalm 113*

When Israel came forth from Egypt, Jacob's sons from an alien people,\* Judah became the Lord's temple, Israel became His kingdom.

The sea fled at the sight:\* the Jordan turned back on its course.

The mountains leapt like rams\* and the hills like yearling sheep.

Why was it, sea, that you fled,\* that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?

Mountains, that you leapt like rams,\* hills, like yearling sheep?

Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,\* in the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turns the rock into a pool\* and flint into a spring of water.

*Psalm 85*

Turn Your ear, O Lord, and give answer\* for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am faithful;\* save the servant who trust in You.

You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,\* for I cry to You all the day long.

Give joy to Your servant, O Lord,\* for to You I lift up my soul.

O Lord You are good and forgiving,\* full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer\* and attend to the sound of my voice.

In the day of distress I will call\* and surely You will reply.

Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord,\* nor work to compare with Yours.

All the nations shall come to adore You\* and glorify Your name, O Lord,

For You are great and do marvelous deeds,\* You Who alone are God.

Show me, Lord, Your way so that I may walk in Your truth.\* Guide my heart to fear Your name.

I will praise You, Lord my God, with all my heart\* and glorify Your name forever;

For Your love to me has been great\* You have saved me from the depths of the grave.

The proud have risen against me;\* ruthless enemies seek my life; to You they pay no need.

But You, God of mercy and compassion,\* slow to anger, O Lord.

Abounding in love and truth\* turn and take pity on me.

O give Your strength to Your servant\* and save Your handmaid's child.

Show me a sign of Your favour that my foes may see to their shame\* that You console me and give me Your help.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*(Tone 4)* After Elijah had gone up to heaven,\* Elisha threw his mantle in the Jordan River which parted,\* opening a way, a dry path between two walls of water, where he could pass,\* a true symbol of our baptism by which we pass through his fleeting life.\* Christ has been seen at the Jordan River to sanctify the waters.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O gracious Lord, for our sake You were born of the Virgin and were crucified. You crushed Death by Your death, and, being God, brought forth the resurrection. Do not turn away from those You have made with Your own hands; but reveal instead Your love to us, O Lord of mercy. Accept as intercessor the Virgin Mother of God who gave You birth. O our Saviour, save a desperate people.

#### *Stichera*

*(Tone 7, Samohlasen):* It was astonishing to see at the river Jordan the Creator of heaven and earth,\* Who stripped Himself naked, and, as a servant,\* received from a servant baptism for our salvation;\* the hosts of angels, filled with fear and joy, were struck with amazement.\* With them we also worship You, crying out: Save us!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*(Tone 5):* The hand with which you, O Forefunner and baptizer,\* touched the most pure head of our Lord and pointed Him out to the people,\* stretch out to Him in our behalf, seeing as you have

great confidence in Him,\* for He said that you are the greatest of all the prophets.\* Also raise your eyes to the all-holy Spirit,\* Whom they have seen in the form of a dove descending upon Him,\* and implore for us, O Baptizer, His grace.\* Come and join us; give us the sign to sing and begin a hymn of praise.

*Opening the royal doors, the priest vested in the phelonion and deacon intones:*

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be with all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

*Prokimenon in Tone 3*

The Lord is my light and Saviour; whom shall I fear?

*Verse:* The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: In a time of favour I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you, To restore the land and allot the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners: Come out! To those in darkness: show yourselves! Along the ways they shall find pasture, on every bare height shall their pastures be. They shall not hunger or thirst, nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them; For he who pities them leads them and guides them beside springs of water. I will cut a road through all my mountains, and make my highways level. See, some shall come from afar, others from the north and the west, and some from the land of Syene. Sing out O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains, For the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted. But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Reader: Titus my child: For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. But when the kindness and generous love of God our saviour appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our saviour, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope eternal life.

*The deacon incenses the altar and the people, then intones:*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all.

Choir: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: (Reading from Matthew 3:13-17)

Choir: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

*The royal doors are now closed, and the choir continues:*

Choir: For the sake of Your holy name, do not abandon us forever; do not forget Your covenant. For the sake of Abraham the trustful one, Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one, do not take Your mercies away from us.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us.\* Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;\* pardon our transgressions, O Master;\* look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One;\* for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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### *Kontakion*

*(Tone 3):* Today the Lord stood in the waters of Jordan telling John:\* Do not be afraid to baptize Me,\* for I have come to save Adam, the first created.

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than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the  
Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Give the blessing, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may His countenance  
shine upon us, and may He have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

### *Prayer of the Ninth Hour*

Priest: O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, You patiently endured our sins and  
led us to this very hour at which You were hung upon the life-  
giving wood. You opened a way to paradise for the penitent  
thief, and cursed Death by Your death. Now forgive the  
trespasses that we Your servants have committed, unworthy  
sinners that we are. We have sinned indeed and transgressed  
Your law. We are unworthy even to lift up our eyes to heaven,  
for we have abandoned the path of Your holiness and pursued  
the desires of our hearts. But now we implore Your immense  
goodness: Spare us, O Lord, in the multitude of Your mercies;  
save us for the sake of Your most holy name. Our days were  
spent in vanity; wrest us from the hands of our enemy, and for  
give our sins. Subdue in us the cravings of our flesh, so that, after  
putting off the old, we may put on the new and live for You, our  
Lord and Benefactor; and that obeying Your commandments, we  
may reach eternal repose in the place where all the blessed  
abide; for You are truly joy and delight to those who love You, O  
Christ our God. We send up glory to You, and to Your eternal  
Father, and to your all holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now  
and for ever and ever. Amen.

## Dismissal

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope; glory be to You.

Choir: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Priest: Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of Blessed Nykyta, first exarch of Canada; of Blessed Vasyl, elder of Winnipeg; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.





*Rosburn*  
Ukrainian Catholic  
Pastoral District

Український католицько-пастирський округ Росберн

*Serving the communities of  
Rosburn, Russell, Oakburn, Shoal Lake, Olha, Birtle, Lakedale,  
Angusville, Ruthenia, Dolyny and Seech Lake*

**Please do not remove from the parish.**

**Thank you!**

**December 2020**