The Lectionary of
Holy Week

According to the Rite of the
Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria

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Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria

Third Edition
April 2017

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Old testament readings

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Homily readings

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Preface to the Third Edition

Beloved in Christ,

We sought to make the readings of Holy Week accessible to all, while at the same time keep them rooted in the Septuagint text of the Old Testament, as used by our Holy Church since the time of our Fathers the Holy Apostles.

It is for this reason that we have compiled this Lectionary of Holy Week from the English text found in the Orthodox Study Bible: the Old Testament readings are taken from the St. Athanasius Academy Septuagint, while the New Testament readings are taken from the New King James Version. Wherever needed, the text of some of the prophecies and Psalms has been modified to match the Coptic.

As unworthy and unprofitable servants, it is inevitable that we have made mistakes in compiling this Lectionary. Thus, we ask you to please inform us immediately if you encounter any errors, by emailing us at info@stbasil.net.

Wishing you a rich, fruitful Holy Week, as we all anticipate the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord.

The servants of

Saint Basil American Coptic Orthodox Church

April 2017

Sunday

of Holy Week

Sixth Hour (Funeral Prayer)

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Again the hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me by the Spirit of the Lord, and set me in the midst of the plain, which was full of human bones. So He led me round about them, and behold, there was a great multitude of bones on the face of the plain. They were very dry. Then He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord, You know this." Then He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord to these bones: "Behold, I will bring the Spirit of life upon you. I will put muscles on you and bring flesh upon you. I will cover you with skin and put my Spirit into you. Then you shall live and know that I am the Lord." ' " So I prophesied as He commanded me, and it came to pass while I prophesied that, behold, there was a shaking, and the bones came together, each one to its joint. So I looked, and behold, muscle and flesh grew upon them, and skin covered them over; but no breath was in them. Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus says the Lord: "Come from the four winds and breathe upon these dead men; and let them live." ' " So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the Spirit entered into them; and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great assembly. Again the Lord spoke to me, saying, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope has perished, and we are lost.' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will open your tombs, bring you up from your graves, and bring

you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your tombs to lead you, My people, up from their graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live; and I will place you in your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I have spoken, and I will do it," says the Lord.' " ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Pauline Epistle

For the resurrection of the dead who slept and reposed in the faith of Christ, O Lord repose all their souls. Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

1 Corinthians 15:1-27 [selection]

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." ***The grace be with you all. Amen. So be it.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 64:5 (LXX)

Blessed is he whom You choose and help / He shall dwell in Your courts / We shall be filled with the good things of Your house / Holy is Your temple, wondrous in righteousness.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 5:19-29

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Lamentations of Jeremiah 1:1-4

Now it came to pass that after Israel was taken captive and Jerusalem became desolate, Jeremiah sat weeping; and he lamented this song of grief over Jerusalem and said: "How does the city now sit alone, She who was full of people? She has become like a widow, She who was multiplied among the nations, She who was ruling among the countries. She has become subject to tribute. "She weeps bitterly in the night; she sheds tears on her cheeks. Yet among all her lovers there is no one who comforts her. All who love her have dealt treacherously with her. They have become her enemies. Judea has gone into captivity Because of her humiliation and harsh servitude. She dwells among the Gentiles; she finds no rest. All who pursue her overtake her in the midst of her distress. "The roads of Zion mourn, because no one comes to the feast. All her gates are destroyed, her priests groan, her virgins are led away, and she is embittered in herself. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Zephaniah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zephaniah 3:11-20

"In that day, you will not be ashamed of all your practices in which you acted profanely against Me. For at that time I will take away from you the contempt of your arrogance, and you shall no longer be haughty upon My holy mountain. And I will leave among you a gentle and humble people,

who will show reverence to the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will not commit unrighteousness nor speak vanities; neither will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they will feed and lie down, and there will be no one terrifying them." Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil. At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, "O Zion, be of good courage; do not let your hands grow slack. The Lord your God is with you. The Mighty One shall save you. He shall bring gladness upon you and will renew you with His love. He will delight over you with joy as in a day of feasting. I shall gather together your broken ones. Alas! who has taken up a reproach against her? "Behold, at that time I will act among you for your sake," says the Lord. "I will save the oppressed and welcome those being rejected. I will make them a praise and renowned throughout the whole earth. And they shall be put to shame in that day when I do well with you, at the time when I shall receive you, for I will make you praised and renowned among all the peoples of the earth when I return your captivity," says the Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 8:3-4 (LXX) [selection]

From the mouths of babies and nursing infants, You prepared praise because of Your enemies / That You may destroy the enemy and avenger / For I shall look at the heavens, the works of Your fingers / The moon and stars You established.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 21:10-17

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?" Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 48:12-22

Listen to Me, O Jacob and Israel, whom I call: I am the first, and I am forever. My hand also laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand established heaven. I shall call them, and they will stand together. All shall be gathered and hear: Who declared these things to them? Because I love you, I did your will against Babylon, to slay the seed of the Chaldeans. I have spoken, I have called him, I have brought him, and made his way prosper. Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning, nor did I speak in a dark place of the earth. When it took place, I was there, and now the Lord and His Spirit have sent Me." Thus says the Lord who delivers you, the Holy One of Israel: "I am your God, who showed you how to find the way wherein you should walk. If only you had heeded My commandments, then your peace would be like a river, and your righteousness as a wave of the sea. Your seed would also be like the sand, and the offspring of your womb like the dust of the ground. Neither would you be utterly destroyed now, nor would your name perish before Me." Go forth from Babylon, you who are fleeing from the Chaldeans. Proclaim a voice of gladness and let it become well known. Proclaim it to the end of the earth, and say, "The Lord delivered His servant Jacob." If they shall thirst, He will lead them through the desert, and water shall flow from the rock for them. He will split the rock, the water shall flow, and My people will drink. "There is no rejoicing," says the Lord, "for the ungodly." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Nahum the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Nahum 1:2-8

God is jealous, and the Lord is an avenger; the Lord is avenging with fury; the Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries and drives out His enemies. The Lord is patient and His power is great, but the Lord will not acquit the guilty. His way is in destruction and in a whirlwind; the clouds are the dust of His feet. He threatens the sea and makes it dry, and he dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel have diminished, and the flowers of Lebanon have died out. By Him the mountains are shaken and the hills quake, and the earth heaves at His presence—the whole earth and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His wrath? Who can withstand the fierceness of His anger? His fury melts away ruling powers, and He shatters the rocks into pieces. The Lord is merciful to those who wait on Him in the day of affliction, and He knows those who reverence Him. For with an overwhelming flood He shall make an end to those rising up, and darkness will pursue His enemies. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 8:3, 8:2 (LXX) [selection]

> From the mouths of babies and nursing infants / You prepared praise / O Lord, our Lord / how wondrous is Your name in all the earth.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 20:20-28

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eve of Monday

of Holy Week

First Hour

Prophecies

From Zephaniah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zephaniah 1:2-12

"Let all things be totally consumed from the face of the earth," says the Lord. "Let man and cattle cease. Let the birds of the air and the fish of the sea be consumed. I shall drive mankind from the face of the land," says the Lord. "I shall stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I shall remove the names of Baal from this place and the names of the priests— those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops and who swear oaths by the Lord and who swear oaths by their king— those who turn away from the Lord, neither seeking the Lord nor holding steadfastly to Him. "Fear before the presence of the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand. The Lord has prepared His sacrifice; He has sanctified His guests. And it shall be in the day of the Lord's sacrifice that I shall take vengeance on the princes and on the king's house, and upon all clothed with strange garments. And I will openly take vengeance upon all those in the gates in that day, on those who fill the house of the Lord their God with ungodliness and deceit. "And in that day," says the Lord, "there will be from the gate the sound of shouting from men killing, and a wailing from the second gate along with a great destruction from the hills. Mourn, those of you dwelling here, being cut down in pieces; for all the people are like Canaan. All those exalting in silver are utterly destroyed. "And it shall come to pass in that day that I shall search Jerusalem with a lamp and shall take vengeance on the men having scorned their charge, the ones saying in

their hearts, 'The Lord shall not do any good, nor shall He do any harm.'
Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 26:6-8 (LXX) [selection]

I will sing to the Lord, and praise Him / O Lord, hear my voice, wherein I cry / Have mercy on me and hear me / My heart speaks to You.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 12:20-36 [selection]

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." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Zephaniah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zephaniah 1:14-end, 2:1-2

"For the great day of the Lord is near. It is near and quick. The sound of the day of the Lord is bitter and harsh. A mighty day of wrath has been appointed: a day of affliction and distress, a day of unseasonable happenings and destruction, a day of gloom and darkness, a day of cloud and vapor, a day of the trumpet and shouting against the fortified cities and the high towers. I will greatly afflict the men, and they will walk as blind men, for they sinned against the Lord; and He shall pour out their blood as dust and their flesh as dung. Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord, but the whole land shall be consumed by the fire of His zeal; for He will bring about a speedy end to all those who dwell in the land. "O untaught nation, be gathered together and united to one another, before you become like a flower that passes away, before the anger of the Lord comes upon you, before the day of the wrath of the Lord comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth. Bring about justice, seek righteousness, and give answer to these things, so you may be sheltered in the day of the Lord's wrath. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 27:9, 27:2 (LXX) [selection]

Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance / And shepherd them, and raise them up forever / Hear the voice of my supplication / when I pray to You.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 9:18-22

And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Joel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Joel 1:5-15

Get sober, you who are drunk from your wine, and weep, mourn all you who drink wine, for joy and gladness are removed from your mouth. For a nation strong and numberless came up against My land. His teeth are the teeth of a lion and his molars those of a young lion. He laid waste My vine and splintered My fig tree. He diligently searched out and uprooted My vine, peeling off its outer bark. Mourn before Me more than a virgin bride clothed with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. The meat-offering and the drink-offering are removed from the house of the Lord. Mourn, you priests, you who serve at the altar, for the fields languish and the land mourns; for the grain withers, the wine is dried up, and the olive oil is scarce. The farmers are exhausted. Mourn for the sake of your fields of wheat and barley, for the harvest from the field has been lost. The vine is shriveled up, and the fig trees are scarce in number. The pomegranate and the palm tree, the apple tree and all the trees of the field are withered, for they put to shame the delight of the sons of men. Gird yourself with sackcloth and wail, you priests. Mourn, you who serve at the altar. Go in, sleep in sackcloth, you who minister unto God, for the grain-offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God. Sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly. Gather all the elders and all the people of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out fervently to the Lord. Alas! Alas! Alas! For the day of the Lord draws near, and it will come as misery upon

misery. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 28:1-2 (LXX)

Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God / Bring to the Lord the sons of rams / Bring to the Lord glory and honor / Bring to the Lord the glory due His name / Worship the Lord in His holy court.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 10:32-34

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Micah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Micah 2:3-11 [selection]

Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, I am devising evils against this tribe from which you shall not lift up your neck, nor will you suddenly walk upright, for this is a time of evil. In that day a parable shall be taken up against you, and a dirge will be wailed, saying, 'In misery we have suffered hardship. The portion of my people has been measured out with a measuring line, and there was no one who was able to stop Him. Our fields have been divided among them.' Therefore there will be no one to put out a measuring line for a lot for you in the assembly of the Lord. "Do not shed tears, nor even weep over these things; for He will not dismiss the reproaches who says, 'The house of Jacob has provoked the Spirit of the Lord; are these not His practices? Are not His words good with Him, and have they not proceeded as predicted? And previously, for enmity my people resisted against His peace. They flayed his skin to remove hope in the ravages of war. Therefore those leading my people will be cast out of their luxurious homes; they have been driven out because of their wicked practices. Draw near to the everlasting mountains.' " Arise and depart, for this is not a final resting place for you on account of uncleanness; you have been utterly destroyed by corruption. You were pursued by no one pursuing! ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 16:6, 16:1 (LXX) [selection]

I cried out, because You listened to me, O God / Incline Your ear to me, and hear my words / Listen, O Lord of my righteousness / Attend to my supplication.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 8:27-33

Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Micah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Micah 2:13 [selection], 3:1-4

And the Lord shall lead them.He will say, "Hear these things, O heads of the house of Jacob, and you remnant of Israel. Is it not for you to know judgment? you who hate good and love evil; you who seize their skins in order flay them and cut their flesh off their bones? who devoured the flesh of my people by removing their skin, breaking their bones, and dividing them as merely flesh for the cauldron and as meat for the pot?" Thus they will cry out to the Lord, but He will not hear them. Instead, He will turn His face from them at that time because they have done wickedly in their deeds against themselves. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 17:18-19 (LXX) [selection]

Deliver me from my strong enemies / And from those who hate me / Because they were too strong for me / They overran me in the day of my misfortune.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 17:19-23

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Monday

of Holy Week

First Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 1:1-2:3

In the beginning God made heaven and earth. The earth was invisible and unfinished; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day. Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. So God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good; and there was evening and morning, the second day. Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the third day. Then God

said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven for illumination to divide day from night. Let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Let them be for illumination in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth." It was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the fourth day. Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth creatures having life, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of heaven's firmament." It was so. Thus God made great sea creatures and every living thing that moves with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on earth." So evening and morning were the fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind." It was so. So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth." So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them. Then God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. I also give every green

plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life." It was so. Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day. Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 5:1-9

"Now I will sing to My Beloved a song of My Beloved regarding My vineyard: There was a vineyard for My Beloved, a place in power and richness. He placed a wall around it and fortified it. He planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst and also made a winepress in it. So I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. And now, man of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, judge between Me and My vineyard. What shall I yet do for My vineyard that I have not done for it? For I waited for it to bring forth grapes, but it produced thorn-plants. But now I will tell you what I shall do to My vineyard: I shall remove its wall and it shall be for booty. I shall break down its wall and it shall be trampled underfoot. I will forsake My vineyard. It shall not be pruned or cultivated, but thorns shall sprout forth as in a barren land. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it." For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the man of Judah is His beloved plant. I waited for it to bring forth judgment, but it brought forth lawlessness, and not righteousness, but a cry. Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, to take something from their neighbor. Surely you will not dwell alone in the land. For

these things reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 1:1-17

All wisdom comes from the Lord and is with Him forever. Who can count the sand of the seas, the drops of rain, and the days of eternity? Who can search out the height of heaven, the breadth of the earth, the abyss, and wisdom? Wisdom was created before all things, and the insight of prudence was from eternity. To whom has the root of wisdom been revealed? And who has come to know her great deeds? There is one who is wise and is feared exceedingly, He who sits upon His throne. The Lord Himself created wisdom. He saw and numbered her and poured her out on all His works, in the midst of all flesh according to His gift; and He provided her for those who love Him. The fear of the Lord is glory and boasting, and gladness and a crown of rejoicing. The fear of the Lord will cheer the heart and will give gladness, joy, and long life. For those who fear the Lord, it shall be well to the utmost, and on the day of his death, he will be blessed. The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and she was joined with the faithful in the womb. She constructed a foundation of life among men and will be trusted among their seed. The gratification of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and she intoxicates them with her fruits. She will fill every house of theirs with objects of desire and their storehouses with her harvest. The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom, making peace and soundness of health to flourish. The Lord saw and numbered her, and poured out the power of comprehension; and He exalted the glory of those who hold fast to her. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

If now, O brethren, we desire to escape from the hands of God, and to find mercy before Him; let us sit alone each day in the evening, and after the conclusion of the day let us examine ourselves as to what we have given to the angel who ministers unto us, to bear up to the Lord. And again, should the night be end and the light arise, let us examine ourselves and let us know what we have given to the angel who is appointed to us, to bear up to God. And be not mistrustful at all, because to any one whether male or female, or small or great, who has been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, God assigns a guardian angel unto the day of his death, who bears up to Him each day the deeds of the man with whom he sojourns, both those of the day and those of the night. Because it will not be that God is ignorant of our deeds, on the contrary He knows them the more, according as it is written, "the eyes of the Lord are in every place; they keep watch over both the evil and the good" [Proverbs 15:3 LXX]. But they are servers whom the Creator of all has appointed for these, on account of those who shall inherit salvation. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous[1] and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

[1]Nous in Orthodox Christianity is the eye of the soul. Just as the soul of man, is created by God, man's soul is intelligent and noetic. St. Thalassios wrote that God created beings "with a capacity to receive the Spirit and to attain knowledge of Himself; He has brought into existence the senses and sensory perception to serve such beings." *(from Orthodox Wiki)*

Psalm

A Psalm of David

Psalms 71:18-19 (LXX) [Selection]

Blessed is the Lord God,The God of Israel / who alone does wondrous things / And blessed is the name of His glory forever / Amen! Amen!

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark

Mark 11:12-24

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it. So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ” And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. When evening had come, He went out of the city. Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.” So

Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 5:20-30

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are intelligent in their own eyes and expert in their own sight! Woe to your strong ones who drink wine and the mighty ones who mix intoxicating drink, who justify the ungodly for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man! Therefore in the manner that stubble shall be burned by coals of fire and consumed by a violent flame, their root shall be like chaff and their flower shall go up like dust, for they did not will to do the law of the Lord of hosts, but despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Thus the wrath of the Lord of hosts is furious against His people. He laid His hand on them and struck them. The mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the road. For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand is still uplifted. Consequently He shall take up a banner to the nations from afar and will whistle to them from the ends of the earth. Behold, they are coming swiftly and with speed. They shall not hunger or be weary. Neither shall they slumber nor sleep. Nor shall they loose the belts from their loins. Neither shall their sandal-straps be broken. Their arrows are sharp, and their bows are bent. The hooves of their horses seem like flint and their chariot-wheels like a sudden blast of wind. They rush like lions, and stand like a young lion that seizes his prey and roars like a wild animal, then carries it away; and there shall be no one to deliver them. In that day, they will bellow against them like the sound of

the roaring sea. They will look at the land and behold harsh darkness in their despair. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 9:11-18 [selection]

Who is a wise man? Let him understand this. Let him declare to you by the word of the Lord to him why the land was ravaged by fire, and became like a desert no one could pass through. The Lord answered me, "Because they forsook My law which I set before their face, and they did not hear My voice. Instead, they walked after what pleased their evil heart, and after the idols their fathers taught them." Therefore, thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Behold, I will feed them as a matter of necessity, and give them the water of bitterness to drink. I will also scatter them among the Gentiles, amongst whom neither they nor their fathers are known. I shall send a sword after them until I consume them with it." Thus says the Lord: "Call for the mourning women and let them come. Send for the wise women and let them give utterance. Let them take up a lamentation over you. Let your eyes run with tears, and your eyelids flow with water. For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 121:1-2 (LXX)

I was glad when they said to me / "Let us go into the house of the Lord" / Our feet stand / in your courts, O Jerusalem.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 11:11-19

And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve. Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it. So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' " And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. When evening had come, He went out of the city. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 32:7-15

But the Lord said to Moses, "Go quickly! Get down from here! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt are transgressing the law. They turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them. They made themselves a calf and are worshiping and sacrificing to it, and are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.' Now therefore, let Me be, that I may burn in wrath against them and consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation." But Moses prayed before the Lord God and said, "Why, O Lord, does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak and say, 'He brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath and be merciful to the wickedness of Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself and said to them, 'I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven for multitude; and all this land I spoke about to give their seed, they shall inherit unto the ages.' " So the Lord granted mercy for the harm He said He would do to His people. Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands. They were stone tablets written on both sides, on one side and on the other. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-9

Love righteousness, you who judge on the earth. Think about the Lord in goodness and seek Him with sincerity of heart; because He is found by those who do not tempt Him, and He is manifest to those who do not disbelieve Him. For dishonest reasoning separates people from God, and when His power examines someone, it convicts the undiscerning; for wisdom will not enter the soul that plots evil, nor will it dwell in a body involved in sin. For a holy spirit of discipline flees from deceit and sends away undiscerning reasoning; it will put wrongdoing to shame when it comes near. For wisdom is a spirit that loves mankind, but she will punish a blasphemer because of his words; for God is the witness of his thoughts, the true examiner of his heart, and the hearer of his tongue; because the Spirit of the Lord fills the world, and He who holds all things together knows what is said. Therefore no one who speaks unrighteous things will escape notice, nor will justice, when it cross-examines, pass him by. For there shall be a close examination into the deliberations of an ungodly man, and a report of his words will come to the Lord as proof of his lawlessness. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 121:4 (LXX)

There the tribes went up / The tribes of the Lord / a testimony
to Israel / To give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 2:13-17 [selection]

And Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 2:15-end, 3:1-end

Then the Lord God took the man He formed and put him in the garden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying, "You may eat food from every tree in the garden; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat; for in whatever day you eat from it, you shall die by death." And the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him." Also, God formed out of the ground all the wild animals of the field and all the birds of heaven, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. Thus whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all the cattle, to all the birds of heaven, and to all the wild animals of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. So Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh." Now the two were naked, both Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed. Now the serpent was more cunning than all the wild animals the Lord God made on the earth. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat from every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the ser-

pent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden; but from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You shall not die by death. For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of the two were opened, and they knew they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. Then they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden that afternoon, and Adam and his wife hid themselves within the tree in the middle of the garden from the presence of the Lord God. So the Lord God called Adam and said to him, "Adam, where are you?" He replied, "I heard Your voice as You were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." Thus He said, "Who said you were naked? Have you eaten from the one tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" Then Adam said, "The woman You gave me, gave me of the tree, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Thus the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than all the wild animals of the earth. On your breast and belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for His heel." To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain and your groaning, and in pain you shall bring forth children. Your recourse will be to your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you heeded the voice of your wife, and ate from the one tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it,' cursed is the ground in your labors. In toil you shall eat from it all the days of your

life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are, and to earth you shall return." So Adam called his wife's name Life, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made garments of skin, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. Now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—" therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of pleasure to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He cast out Adam, and made him dwell opposite the garden of pleasure. He then stationed the cherubim and the fiery sword which turns every way to guard the way to the tree of life. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 40:1-5

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people," says God. "O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord's hand double for her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 1:1-10

The Proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, who reigned in Israel, to know wisdom and instruction, and to understand words of discernment; to receive both subtlety of words, and to understand true righteousness and upright judgment; so as to give astuteness to the simple, and both perception and understanding to a young man; for a wise man who hears these things will be wiser, and the man of understanding will gain direction. He will understand both a parable and a hidden saying, both wise words and riddles. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and there is good understanding in all who practice it; and godliness toward God is the beginning of perception, but the ungodly despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, the instruction of your father, and do not reject the laws of your mother. For you will receive a crown of grace on your head and a gold chain around your neck. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 64:6, 64:5 (LXX) [selection]

Hear us, O God our savior / The hope of all the ends of earth /
Blessed is he whom You choose and help / He shall dwell in
Your courts.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 21:23-27

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 50:1-3

Thus says the Lord: "Of what quality is your mother's certificate of divorce, by which I put her away? Or to which debtor have I sold you? Behold, you are sold for your sins, and for your lawlessness I put away your mother. Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to obey? Is My hand unable to deliver? Or have I no strength to deliver? Behold, with My rebuke I dry up the sea, and I turn rivers into deserts; and because there is no water, their fish dry up and die of thirst. I clothe heaven with darkness and make its covering like sackcloth." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 1:18-end

The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and her branches are length of days. Unjust anger cannot be justified, for anger's decisive influence causes his fall. A patient man will hold fast until the proper time, then afterwards gladness shall burst forth for him. He shall conceal his words until the proper time, and the lips of many will tell of his understanding. In the treasures of wisdom are the parables of knowledge, but godliness is an abomination to a sinner. If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord will supply it to you. For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and instruction, and His good pleasure is faith and gentleness. Do not disobey the fear

of the Lord, and do not come to Him with a divided heart. Do not be a hypocrite in the sight of men, and be careful with your lips. Do not exalt yourself, lest you fall and bring dishonor to your soul. The Lord shall reveal your secrets, and in the midst of the assembly He will strike you down, because you did not come in the fear of the Lord and your heart was full of deceit. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Occasionally there are some deeds that we may think they are good, but in God's eyes they are bad. For example, the unqualified tolerance of sinners in holy places may lead them to be indifferent to sin. For example, the Lord did not plant good trees and bad trees in Paradise, but only good trees. He did not plant fruitless trees nor trees with bad fruits. Even when man, himself, disobeyed the commandment, He was not indifferent about man's inequity but expelled him from Paradise. From this, we can see, dearly beloved, that the houses of the Lord should not be filled with bad and good people—as is the case in the world where the saints and sinners, the unjust and the impure mingle together. It is incumbent on us to remind those who come to the house of the Lord to behave appropriately. "I know that the whole earth is God's, but if we make His house just like the rest of the earth, what will distinguish the house of the Lord from the rest? If I as a servant of God commit the same bad deeds as the wicked, then I do not deserve to be called a servant of God. For we often sin and are unable to judge ourselves with the same standard we judge others. You see no one can fill your place with dirt unless they notice your lack of interest in it. Just like the king's servants; they cannot let everyone in the king's house—whether they honor the king's decree or whether they ignore them—without the king's permission.

If they deviate from this rule they receive punishment. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 12:4-5 (LXX) [selection]

Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God / Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death / Lest my enemy say / "I prevailed against him".

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 8:51-end

"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them,

"Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eve of Tuesday

of Holy Week

First Hour

Prophecies

From Zechariah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zechariah 1:1-6

In the eighth month of the second year of the reign of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, son of Berechiah, son of Addo the prophet, saying, "The Lord has been very angry with your fathers, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord, "And do not become like your fathers, whom the former prophets accused, saying, 'Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' " But they did not pay attention or heed Me," says the Lord. "Your fathers—where are they? And the prophets—will they live forever? But receive My words and My ordinances as I commanded by My Spirit to My servants the prophets who overtook your fathers." And they answered and said, "As the Lord Almighty determined to deal with us, according to our ways and according to our practices, thus He dealt with us." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 61:8, 61:3 (LXX)

In God is my salvation and my glory / He is the God of my help, and my hope is in God / For He is my God and my savior; My protector / I shall be shaken no more.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 13:23-30

Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them,"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."
Bow down to the Holy Gospel.

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Malachi the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Malachi 1:1-9

The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by the hand of His messenger Malachi. Take it to heart! "I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau the brother of Jacob?" says the Lord. "Yet Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated, and I have appointed his borders for destruction and made his heritage as dwellings of the wilderness." Because one will say, "Edom has been destroyed, but let us return and rebuild the desolate places," thus says the Lord, Ruler of all: "They may build, but I will throw down. They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the Lord has placed Himself forever. Your eyes will see, and you will say, 'The Lord is magnified beyond the borders of Israel.' A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then, I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the reverence due to me?" says the Lord Almighty. "You priests are the ones who disparage My name, yet you say, 'In what way have we disparaged Your name?' You offer defiled bread on My altar, but you say, 'How have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible and the food placed upon it is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is that not evil? Offer it then to your ruler! See if he will accept it, if he will accept it favorably," says the Lord Almighty. "But now earnestly entreat the face of your God and pray to Him. These things have been done by your hands; shall I accept

these from you?" says the Lord Almighty. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 12:4, 12:6 (LXX)

Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God / Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death / But I hope in Your mercy / My heart shall greatly rejoice in Your salvation.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 13:31-end

On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' " ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Hosea the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Hosea 4:15-end, 5:1-7

"But you, O Israel, be not ignorant, and do not go, men of Judah, to Gilgal; and do not go up to Beth Aven nor swear by the living Lord. For Israel was maddened like a mad heifer; now the Lord will feed them like a lamb in a wide place. Ephraim, joined with idols, has laid stumbling blocks in his own way. He has chosen the Canaanites; they have grievously gone a-whoring; they have loved dishonor through her rudeness. You are a blast of wind in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their altars. "Hear these things, O priests, and attend, O house of Israel! Listen, O house of the king! For judgment is with you because you have been a snare in Mizpah and a net spread on Tabor, which they that hunt the prey have fixed; but I will be your instructor. I know Ephraim, and Israel is not far from Me; for now Ephraim has gone grievously a-whoring; Israel is defiled. "Their deliberations did not allow them to return to their God, for a spirit of fornication is in them, and they have not gotten to know the Lord. The arrogance of Israel shall be brought low before His face, and Israel and Ephraim shall become weak due to their wrongdoings; and Judah also shall become weak with them. "They shall go with sheep and calves diligently to seek the Lord; but they shall not find Him, for He has withdrawn Himself from them. For they have forsaken the Lord because strange children have been born to them. Now the rust shall devour them along with their heritages. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 90:2-3 (LXX)

You are my protector and my refuge / My God, I will hope in Him; For He shall free me from the snare of the hunters; And from every troubling word.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 21:34-end

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet. Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Hosea the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Hosea 10:12-end, 11:1-2

Sow to yourselves in righteousness; gather in the fruit of life; light for yourselves the light of knowledge; seek the Lord till the fruits of righteousness come upon you. Why have you passed over ungodliness in silence and reaped its wrongdoings? You have eaten the fruit of deception, for you have hoped in your chariots, in the abundance of your power. Therefore destruction shall rise up among your people, and all your walled places shall be gone, as Beth Arbel in the time of Prince Shalman. In the days of battle, they dashed the mother to the ground upon the children. Thus will I do to you, O house of Israel, because of your evil deeds. Early in the morning were they cast off; the king of Israel has been cast off. "For Israel is a child, and I loved him, and out of Egypt I have called his children. As I called them, so they departed from My presence. They sacrificed to the Baals, and burned incense to graven images. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 32:10-11 (LXX)

The Lord scatters abroad the counsels of the nations / And He sets aside the reasoning of peoples / And He rejects the counsels

of rulers / The counsel of the Lord abides forever, the thoughts of His heart from generation to generation.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 11:37-52

And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. When the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first washed before dinner. Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you. "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them." Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also." And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' that the blood of all the prophets

which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. “Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.” ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Amos the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Amos 5:6-14

Seek the Lord and live, lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph and devour it, with no one to extinguish the fire for the house of Israel. The Lord is He who brings about justice on high and righteousness on the earth! "He makes all things. He transforms the darkness into the morning and makes the day dark as night; He calls forth the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name. He rains ruin upon the strong and brings misery upon the fortress. "They hated him who reproved in the gates and abhorred the upright word. They tread upon the poor and take bribes from him. They built houses of hewn stone, yet they shall not dwell in them. They planted pleasant vineyards, but they shall not drink wine from them. For I know your many transgressions and the enormity of your sins, devouring the righteous and taking bribes, turning away the poor at the gate. Because of this, the prudent keep silent in this time, for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil so that you may live."
Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 121:4 (LXX)

There the tribes went up / The tribes of the Lord / a testimony
to Israel / To give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 13:32-end, 14:1-2

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Tuesday

of Holy Week

First Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 19:1-9

Now in the third month after the children of Israel departed from the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came into the Sinai Desert. For they departed from Rephidim, came into the Sinai Desert, and camped in the desert. So Israel camped there before the mountain. Then Moses went up to the mountain of God, and God called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be a special people to Me above all nations; for all the earth is Mine. You shall be to Me a royal priesthood and a holy nation.' These are the words you shall speak to the children of Israel." So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered with one accord and said, "Everything the Lord said we will do and hearken to." So Moses reported these words to God. The Lord then said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the pillar of cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you and believe you forever." So Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Job the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Job 23:2-end, 24:1-end

"Indeed, I know pleading is out of my reach, for His hand is heavy upon my groaning. Who then would know, that I might find Him, and might bring this matter to an end? I would state my case before Him And fill my mouth with arguments. Would that I knew the words He would answer me And could understand what He would tell me. Though He would come on me in His great strength, He would not use the occasion to threaten me. For truth and rebuke are from Him, and He would bring my judgment to an end. "Though I should proceed to this important end Until I no longer exist, Still what would I know about the last things? When He worked on the left hand, I could not understand it. His right hand will encompass me, but I will not see it. For He knows my way already, and He has weighed me as gold. I will go forth in His commandments; for I have kept His ways and will not turn aside. I will not disregard His commandments; but I have hidden His words in my bosom. "If He too has thus judged, Who is he that has opposed Him? Whatever He has willed, that He has done. Therefore I pursue Him zealously, and when I was instructed, I thought of Him. Therefore let me be serious before His face. I will consider and be afraid of Him. For the Lord softened my heart, and the Almighty has alarmed me. For I did not know darkness would come upon me, but thick darkness covered my face. "Why have the times escaped the Lord's notice? "Why have the ungodly stepped over the boundary, Snatching away the flock with the shepherd? They have led away the donkey of the orphans And have taken the widow's ox as a pledge. They have turned aside the weak from the right way; the gentle of the land have hidden themselves together. They departed like donkeys in the field. Contrary to me, they went forth to their own pursuits. Their bread was sweet to their little ones. For they harvested a field that was not their own before the time, and the weak worked the vineyard of the

ungodly without pay or food. They caused many naked to sleep without clothing, and they took away the covering of their life. They are wet with the showers of the mountains And have huddled around the rock for want of shelter. They have snatched the orphan from the breast And have humiliated the banished. They have unjustly caused them to sleep without clothing, and they have taken away the morsel from the hungry. They have wrongfully laid snares in narrow places And have not known the way of righteousness. They have cast the weak out of the city and their own houses, and the soul of the infants sighed greatly. Why then has He not visited them? "They are ones on the earth who do not know the Lord, and they do not understand the way of righteousness, Nor do they walk in His paths. But He knows their works and delivered them into darkness; and one shall be like a thief in the night. For the eye of the adulterer watches for the darkness, Saying, 'No eye will perceive me'; and he puts a covering on his face. In the dark he breaks into houses; in the daytime they seal themselves up; they do not know the light. For in due time, the shadow of death will be the same to them, because they shall know the troubles of the shadow of death. "He is swift on the face of the waters; may his portion be cursed on earth. May their plants wither on earth, for they have taken away from the orphans Even the smallest portions. Then his sin is recalled to memory, and he vanishes like a mist of dew; but what he has done, may it be recompensed to him, and may every wrongdoer be crushed like rotten wood. For he has not treated the barren woman well, and showed no mercy to the feeble woman. "In his anger, he overturns the weak; therefore when he rises up, No one believes his own life is safe. When he falls sick, let him not hope to recover, but let him perish by disease. For his exaltation mistreated many, but he has withered as mallows in the heat, Or as an ear of corn falling on its own from the stalk. "If it is not so, who says I speak falsely And will make my speech worth nothing?" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Hosea the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Hosea 4:1-8

Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord has a judgment for the inhabitants of the land:"There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. Cursing and lying, murder and theft and adultery gushed forth in the land, and blood is mingled with blood. Therefore the land shall mourn and be diminished with all the things that dwell in it: the wild beasts of the field, the reptiles of the earth, and the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea shall come to an end; that neither may anyone judge, nor analyze another; but my people are as a priest who is spoken against. "Thus you shall be weak by day, and the prophet shall be weak with you; I have compared your mother to the night. My people are like as those who have no knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being a priest to Me; and because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. According to their multitude, so they sinned against Me; I will turn their glory into dishonor. They will eat the sins of My people and take away their lives because of their wrongdoings. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Let me inform you about two matters. Those for whom the heavens rejoiced because they repented their sin on earth will suffer neither grief nor sorrow in that place. While those whom heavens did not rejoice for because there was no conversion of their repentance on earth, shall see neither joy nor rest in that place. These shall have their happiness on earth, and shall see neither joy nor rest afterwards. Haven't you heard, "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted"? While the others who do not re-

joice on earth shall they rejoice in heavens? For haven't you heard, "Woe to you who laugh now for you shall weep and mourn?" Isn't this the time when the meek shall be vested with strength? And he who is weak will say, "I am strong" when he yields his heart to the Written Word? "According to the word of the prophet, "[many] will be weak in their bodies because of the abundance of sexual immorality". And they shall be weakened at heart as well. As the Book says about those, they will be ruined by the impurity of his soul. As for those who struggle with strength the Word says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 119:2, 119:7

O Lord, deliver my soul from unjust lips / And from a deceitful tongue / With those who hate peace, I was peaceful / When I spoke to them, they made war against me without cause.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 8:21-29

Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." So the Jews said,

"Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. "I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Deuteronomy 8:11-end

"Watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, judgments, and ordinances I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them, and when your cattle and sheep multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all you have is multiplied, when your heart is lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, who led you through that great and fearful desert, with its biting serpent and scorpion and thirst, where there was no water, who brought a spring of water for you out of the sharp-edged rock, who fed you in the desert with manna your fathers did not know, that He might deal harshly with you and might test you, to do you good in the end of your days—then do not say in your heart, 'My strength and the might of my hand gained me this great power.' Then you shall remember the Lord your God, for He it is who gives you strength, that you may gain power, and He may establish His covenant the Lord swore to your fathers, as it is today. Thus it shall be, if you forget the Lord your God, and follow after different gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 2:1-9

My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord, prepare your soul for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not strive anxiously in distress. Cleave to Him and do not fall away, that you may be honored at the end of your life. Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in exchange for your humiliation, be patient; because gold is tested in fire and acceptable men in the furnace of abasement. Believe in Him, and He will help you; make your ways straight and hope in Him. You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy, and do not turn aside, lest you fall. You who fear the Lord, believe in Him, and your reward will not fail. You who fear the Lord, hope for good things and for everlasting gladness and mercy. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Job the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Job 27:1-20, 28:1-2

"As the Lord lives who thus judges me, and the Almighty who embittered my soul, surely as long as my breath is in me and the divine breath is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak lawless things, nor shall my soul practice wrongdoings. May it not be I who set forth the opinion that you are righteous. Until the day I die, I will not put away my integrity from me. I hold fast to my righteousness and am not letting it go; for I am not conscious in myself of having done anything wrong. "Surely not, but rather may my enemies be as the destruction of the ungodly, and those who rise up against me as the destruction of the lawless. For what hope is there for an ungodly man that he holds to it? Will he trust in the Lord and be saved? Will the Lord hear his prayer when distress comes upon him? Has he any confidence before Him, or will the Lord hear him when he calls on Him?

"But indeed, I will tell you what is the hand of the Lord. I will not lie concerning what is with the Almighty. Behold therefore, all of you know you are adding vanity to vanity. "This is the portion from the Lord for the ungodly man, and the possession of oppressors shall come upon them from the Almighty. If their children be many, they will be for slaughter; and if they reach manhood, they will beg. Those who survive him shall be buried in death, and no one will have pity on their widows. Though he gathers silver like dust and shall prepare gold like clay, the righteous will acquire these things, and the true ones will possess his wealth. His house goes away like a moth and like a spider's web. The rich man will lie down and not continue; he opens his eyes, but is no more. Pains happen to him like a flood, and thick darkness takes him away in the night. "Indeed, there is a place for silver, from whence it comes, and a place for gold, from whence it is refined. Certainly, iron is taken from the earth, and copper is hewn out like a stone.

Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

From the Book of 3 Kingdoms (1 Kings), may its blessings be with us. Amen.

3 Kingdoms (1 Kings) 19:9-14 [selection]

Behold, the word of the Lord came to him and said to him, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" And Elijah said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord Almighty since the children of Israel have forsaken You. They tore down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life." Then He replied, "Go out tomorrow and stand on the mountain before the Lord; and behold, the Lord will pass by, and before the Lord, a great and powerful wind will be rending the mountains and shattering the rocks; but the Lord will not be in the wind. After the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord will not be in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there will be a fire, but the Lord will not be in the fire. After the fire, there will be a sound of a gentle breeze, and the Lord will be there." So

when Elijah heard this, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a Voice came to him and said, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord Almighty, since the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 118:154-155

Plead my cause and redeem me / Give me life because of Your word / Salvation is far from sinners / For they have not searched Your ordinances.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 23:37-end, 24:1-2

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! "See! Your house is left to you desolate;"For I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not

see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 21:3-18 [selection]

Thus says the Lord and Master…"'Behold, I am against you, and I will draw My sword out of its sheath and destroy both the unrighteous man and the lawless man from among you. Because I will destroy both the unrighteous man and the lawless man from among you, thus My sword shall go out of its sheath against all flesh from north to south, and all flesh will know that I, the Lord, have drawn My sword out of its sheath; and it shall not return anymore.' As for you, son of man, groan with a breaking heart, and sigh with bitterness before their eyes. It will be, if they say to you, 'Why are you groaning?' that you shall say, 'Because of the news, for it is coming. Every heart will be oppressed, all hands will be feeble, all flesh and every spirit will faint, and every thigh will be stained with urine. Behold, it is coming and will be,' says the Lord and Master." Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy and you will say, 'Thus says the Lord: "Say, 'O sword, sword, be sharpened and furious, that you may slay victims. Be sharpened, that you may be glistening and ready for destruction. Despise and reject every tree.' So he made it ready for his hand to hold. The sword is sharpened and ready to put in the hand of the slayer.' " "Cry out and wail, son of man, for this sword is come among My people; this sword is come among all the leaders of Israel. They shall be as strangers because of the sword that is come among My people; therefore, clap your hands, because it is justified; and what if even the tribe is rejected? It shall not be," says the Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 4:20-end, 5:1-2

Watch for a proper opportunity and keep yourself from evil; and do not bring shame upon your soul. For there is a shame that brings sin, and there is a shame which is glory and grace. Do not show partiality to someone to your own harm, and do not let your respect for another cause you to fall. Do not withhold a word in time of need; for wisdom is made known by a word, and instruction by a word of the tongue. Do not speak against the truth, and do not be put to shame by your ignorance. Do not be ashamed to confess your sins, and do not exercise force against the current of a river. Do not subject yourself to a foolish man, and do not show partiality to a ruler. Fight to the death for the truth, and the Lord God will fight for you. Do not be rash with your tongue and sluggish and neglectful in your works. Do not be like a lion in your home and act in pretense with your servants. Do not let your hand be extended to receive and shut when you should repay. Do not set your heart on your possessions, and do not say, "I am independent." Do not follow yourself and your strength so as to walk in the desires of your heart. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 1:1-9

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw against Judah and Jerusalem in the kingdom of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: "I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me." Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to an-

ger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 17:49, 17:18

My deliverer from the rage of my enemies / Because of those who rise up against me, You will exalt me / You will deliver me from the unrighteous man / He will deliver me from my strong enemies, and from those who hate me.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 8:12-20

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” The Pharisees therefore said to Him, “You bear witness of Yourself; your witness

is not true." Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. "You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. "And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. "It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. "I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me." Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also." These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 6:5-end, 7:1-end, 8:1-end, 9:1-7

Then the Lord God saw man's wickedness, that it was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts within his heart was only evil continually. So God was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and He thought this over. Then God said, "I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the earth, from man to cattle, and from the creeping things to the birds of heaven, for I am grieved I made them." But Noah found grace in the presence of the Lord God. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, who was perfect in his generation and well-pleasing to God. So Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt before God and filled with unrighteousness. Thus the Lord God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh corrupted their way on the earth. Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with unrighteousness through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of square timber. You shall make the ark in compartments, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. Thus you shall make the ark: three hundred cubits in length, fifty cubits in breadth, and thirty cubits in height. Now when you assemble the ark, you shall gradually finish it up to a cubit at the top, and set the door in its side. You shall make the ark with lower, second, and third stories. And behold, I am bringing a flood of water on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life. Whatever is on the earth shall

die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. From every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing on the earth after its kind, two of every kind, they will enter into the ark with you, male and female, to keep them alive. You shall also take for yourself all kinds of food to eat, and you shall gather it both for yourself and for them." Thus Noah did according to all the Lord God commanded him, so he did. Then the Lord God said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your family, because I have seen you righteous before Me in this generation. You shall also bring with you into the ark the clean cattle by sevens, male and female; and the unclean cattle by twos, male and female; and the clean birds of heaven by twos, male and female, to keep seed alive on the face of all the earth. For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will blot out from the face of the earth every living thing I made." So Noah did all the Lord God commanded him. Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. Then Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, entered the ark because of the flood waters. Also the clean and unclean birds, the clean and unclean cattle, and everything that creeps on the earth, entered with Noah into the ark, two by two, male and female, as God commanded him. Then it came to pass after seven days, the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the floodgates of heaven were opened. Then it rained on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives entered the ark. Also, all the wild animals after their kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing moving upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, entered

the ark with Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God commanded him. Then the Lord God shut him in the ark. Now the flood was on the earth forty days and forty nights. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. So the waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. The waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and covered all the high mountains. And all flesh died that moves on the earth: birds and cattle, wild animals, and every creeping thing that moves on the earth, and every man. Thus all things in whose nostrils was the breath of life, and everything on dry land, died. So He blotted out all living things on the face of the earth: both man and cattle, creeping things and the birds of heaven. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained alive. Now the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. Then God remembered Noah, and whatever was with him in the ark: all the wild animals, all the cattle, all the birds, and all the creeping things. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for

the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and brought her to himself in the ark. Then he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and again sent out the dove; however, she did not return to him any more. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. Now in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. Then the Lord God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and their wives with you.Also, bring out with you every living thing of all flesh: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, so they may abound on the earth, and increase and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. Every animal, every bird, and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, according to their kind, went out of the ark.Then Noah built an altar to God, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered whole burnt offerings on the altar. So the Lord God smelled a sweet aroma. Then the Lord God thought it over and said, "I will never again curse the earth because of man's works, although the mind of man is diligently involved with evil things from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and spring shall not cease by day or by night." Thus God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and have dominion over it. For the dread and fear of you shall be upon all the wild animals of the earth, all the birds of heaven, all that move upon the earth, and all the fish of the sea. I have put them under your authority. Every moving thing that lives shall be food

for you. I have given you all things, even as I did the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its lifeblood. Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of all the wild animals I will require it; and I will require the life of man at the hand of his fellow man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; because I made man in God's image. So then, increase and multiply; and fill the earth and have dominion over it." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 9:1-11

Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. She offered her sacrifices; she mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with knowledge." He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 40:9-end

O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God." Behold, the Lord is coming with strength, and His arm is with authority. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young. Who measured the water in His hand, and heaven with a span, and all the earth with a handful? Who weighed the mountains in scales and the vales in a balance? Who knows the Lord's mind, and who was His counselor; who advises Him? Or with whom does He take counsel, who instructs Him, and who teaches Him judgment and shows Him the way of understanding? The nations are as a drop in a bucket and are counted as the balance of a scale; and they are counted as spittle. Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its four-footed animals sufficient for a whole burnt offering. All nations are as nothing and are counted as nothing. To whom then will you liken the Lord, and to what likeness will you compare Him? Has the workman made an image, or has the goldsmith overspread it with gold, gilding it, making a likeness of Him? For the workman chooses wood that will not rot, and skillfully seeks to prepare a carved image that will not totter. Will you not know? Will you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Do you not know the foundations of the earth? It is He who possesses the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It is He who stretches out heaven like a vault, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He makes the rulers He establishes to rule to be as nothing; he makes the earth as nothing. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when He shall also blow on them and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away

like stubble. "Now then, to whom will you liken Me, that I should be exalted?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see. Who displayed these things? He who brings forth their host by number; He who calls them all by name. From the greatness of His glory to the strength of His might, nothing escapes Your notice. For why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, saying, "My way is hidden from God, and my God took away my judgment and departed"? So then, have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the God who created the ends of the earth, neither hungers nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives strength to the hungry, and sorrow to those who do not grieve. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Daniel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Daniel 7:2, 7:9-15

I, Daniel, looked on in my vision in the night…I continued to watch until thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days enthroned Himself. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, and its wheels a burning fire. A river of fire flowed from before Him. Thousands and thousands ministered to Him, and countless thousands stood before Him. The court was in session, and the books were opened. Then I kept watching because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. I watched until the beast was put to death and destroyed, and its body given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, yet length of life was given them for a season and a time. I continued to observe the vision in the night, and be-

hold, One like the Son of Man was coming with the clouds of heaven, until He came to the Ancient of Days and approached Him. Then dominion, honor, and the kingdom were given to Him, and all peoples, tribes, and languages served Him. His authority is an everlasting authority which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed. My spirit within me trembled with fear, and the visions in my head troubled me. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

O my beloved brethren, let us do the will of God while yet we have time to work for the Lord. Remember that death does not delay, and we are destined to leave this world. Where are those who were before us? They are all laying in tombs! Let us produce fruits worthy of the Grace of God which He bestowed upon us. It is for us and to all Christians to liken ourselves to Jesus Christ, the True Light. But we are human, and He is the Master whose servants we are. He is the Shepherd and we are His sheep of His hand. He is the Begotten of the Father but we are His creation. He is Light of Light and He died for us, sinners. He gave Himself up to the Wood of the Cross for our sake, so that He might bestow upon us His Kingdom. If the Lord, despising the shame died for His servants, shouldn't rather the servants die for their Lord, so that according as He died they shall die with Him ,and as He lived they also shall live with Him? ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 24:1-3 (LXX) [selection]

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul, O my God / I trust in You; let me not be ashamed / Let not my enemies laugh at me / Let those be ashamed who act lawlessly in vain.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 24:3-35

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. "All these are the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. "But he who endures to the end shall be saved. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a

witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. “Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. “And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! “And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. “See, I have told you beforehand. “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. “For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. “So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. “Heaven and earth will

pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 30:25-30

On every high mountain and on every high hill there will be streams in that day, when many perish and the towers fall. In that day, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven-fold, when the Lord heals the wound of His people and the pain of your plague. Behold, the name of the Lord comes after a long time, a burning anger. The teaching of His lips is with glory, a revelation full of wrath, and the wrath of His anger shall devour like fire. His breath, like an overflowing stream in a valley, shall reach up to the neck and be divided, to trouble the nations for their vain error; and error shall pursue and overtake them. Must you always be glad, and go into My holy places continually, as those who keep a feast, and must you always go with a flute, as those who are glad when they go into the mountain of the Lord, to the God of Israel? God will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and He will show the anger of His arm with anger and wrath, and the flame of a devouring fire. He shall strike violently with thunderbolts, and His wrath shall be as water and violent hail.
Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 6:24-end, 7:1-5

My son, guard the laws of your father, and do not depart from the rules of your mother. But fasten them to your soul continually and wear them as a

collar upon your neck. When you walk about, bring along this commandment and let it be with you; and as you sleep, let it guard you, that when you arise, it may speak to you. For a commandment of law is a lamp and a light, and the way of life is reproof and instruction, that you may keep yourself from a married woman and from the slanderous tongue of a strange woman. Do not let the desire of beauty conquer you; neither be caught by her eyes, nor captivated by her eyelids; for the value of a prostitute is only one loaf, and such a woman hunts for the precious souls of men. Shall anyone bind fire to his bosom and his garments not burn? Or will anyone walk about on coals of fire and not burn his feet? Likewise is the one who goes in to a married woman; he shall not be guiltless, nor any who touch her. It is not surprising if anyone who steals is caught, for he steals that he may fill his hungry soul; but if he is caught, he will repay sevenfold, and by giving all his goods, he shall deliver himself. But the adulterer through his lack of discernment obtains the destruction of his soul; he bears both pain and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away forever. For the anger of her husband is full of jealousy; he will not spare in the day of judgment; he will not take any ransom in exchange for his hatred, nor will he be reconciled by many gifts. My son, guard my words, and hide my commandments within yourself; my son, honor the Lord, and you shall be strong, and fear none other but Him. Guard my commandments and you will live, and my words as the pupils of your eyes; and put them around your fingers, and write them upon the breadth of your heart. Say that wisdom is your sister, and gain discernment as a friend for yourself. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

I desire also to remind you, O my brethren, of what I have often spoken to you, that it is the hour for us to partake of the Holy Mystery which is Christ. If I see you in dissoluteness and great impudence worthy of lamentation, I weep within myself and say in my mind, "Do these people know at all before Whom they stand, or do they discern what is the power of the Mysteries?" And so I am aroused to anger against my will, until I desire to leave from among you on account of the affliction of my soul. And if it happens that I reprove anyone, he not only becomes weak, but murmurs against me, as though I had done wrong to him. O the great marvel of it! Those who do wrong to you, who take your possessions, you are not as angry with them as you are angry with me, who desires your salvation! I am concerned and troubled at the telling of the retribution which shall come upon you from God because you have despised this Great Mystery. Do you know Who it is of Whom you wish to partake? This is the Holy Body of God the Logos and the Blood which He gave for our salvation, of Which if anyone partakes of unworthily, there shall be unto him condemnation and destruction such as happened to Judas who betrayed the Lord. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 44:7, 40:1 (LXX)

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever / Your royal scepter is a scepter of uprightness / Blessed is he who understands the poor and needy / The Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 25:14-end, 26:1-2

"Like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant;

you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil

and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eve of Wednesday

of Holy Week

First Hour

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 22:17-22

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, behold, the house of Israel is mixed before Me—they are altogether mixed—the house is mixed together in the midst of the silver, with bronze, iron, tin, and lead. Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Because all of you are one mixture, therefore, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem, as men gather silver, bronze, iron, tin, and lead into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire on it, to cast it like metal into a mold. Thus I shall gather you in My wrath, and bring you together and cast you. I shall blow on you with the fire of My wrath and cast you in her midst. As silver is cast into a mold in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be cast in her midst. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have poured out My anger upon you.'" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 22:23-28

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, say to her, 'You are the land not rained on, neither has rain come upon you in the day of wrath.' Her leaders are like roaring lions seizing prey, who devour souls by domination and receive honors in wrongdoing; and your widows multiply in your midst. Her priests reject My law and desecrate My holy things. They no longer distinguish between the holy and the profane, nor between the unclean and the clean. They have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I

am desecrated in their midst. Her rulers in her midst are like wolves seizing their prey, so as to shed blood and exploit others for greed. Her prophets who anoint them will fall because they see worthless and false prophecies. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 58:17-18 (LXX) [selection]

For You are my protector / And my refuge in the day of my affliction / You are my helper, I will sing to You / For You, O God, are my protector, You are my mercy, O my God.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, "and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. "Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' "But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. "And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. "But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their

city. “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ‘Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ “So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. “So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are called, but few are chosen.” ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Amos the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Amos 5:18-end

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! What is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! As though he rushed into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the Lord darkness and not light? Is it not a deep darkness, with no brightness in it? "I hate, I reject your feast days. I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and meat offerings, I will not accept them. I will not regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the sound of your songs, for I will not hear your musical instruments. Instead, let justice run swiftly as does water from the mountain, and let righteousness be as a stream that cannot be crossed. O house of Israel, did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings those forty years in the wilderness? You have carried the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of your god Raiphan, which you made for yourselves. Therefore I shall exile you beyond Damascus," says the Lord—the Almighty God is His name. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 64:5 (LXX) [selection]

Blessed is he whom You choose and help / He shall dwell in Your courts / Holy is Your temple / wondrous in righteousness.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 24:36-end

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,e but My Father only. "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. "Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. "But if that evil servant says

in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' "and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, "the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, "and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 16:9-13

For thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Behold, before your eyes and in your days, I will bring to an end from this place the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. It shall come to pass that when you shall announce all these words to this people and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all these evils against us? What is our wrongdoing, and what sin did we commit before the Lord our God?' Then you shall say to them, 'Because your fathers forsook Me,' says the Lord, 'for they went after foreign gods; and they served and worshiped them. They forsook Me, and did not keep My law. But you acted in ways more evil than your fathers; for behold, you, each one of you, walk after the evil pleasures of your heart and do not obey Me. Therefore I will cast you out of this land and into a land neither you nor your fathers know; and there you shall serve other gods, who will show you no mercy.' ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 101:2-3 (LXX) [selection]

Hear my prayer, O Lord / And let my cry come to You / In the day when I call upon You / hear me quickly.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming;a go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Hosea the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Hosea 9:14-end, 10:1-2

Give to them, O Lord! What will You give to them? A childless womb and dry breasts. "All their evils are in Gilgal, for there I hated them. Because of their evil practices, I will cast them out of My house. I will not love them any more. All their leaders are disobedient. Ephraim underwent trouble; he is dried up at his roots; he shall bear fruit no more. Wherefore, even if they should beget children, I would kill the desired fruit of their womb." God shall reject them Because they have not hearkened to Him. So they shall be wanderers among the nations. Israel is a luxuriant vine; her fruit is abundant. According to the multitude of her fruits She has multiplied her altars; according to the wealth of his land He has set up pillars. They have divided their hearts; now shall they be utterly destroyed. He shall raze their altars to the ground; their pillars shall experience distress. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 21:21-22

Deliver my soul from the sword / And my only-begotten from the hand of the dog / Save me from the lion's mouth / My humiliation from the horns of the unicorns.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 23:29-36

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, "and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. "Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. "Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? "Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, "that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. "Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From the Wisdom of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Solomon 7:24-end

For wisdom moves from one place to another More easily than motion itself, and because of her purity, she penetrates all things. So she is the exhalation of the power of God And the emanation of the pure glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled enters her. For she is the radiance of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the operative power of God And the image of His goodness. Though she is one, she can do all things; so while remaining in herself, she renews all things; and in every generation, she passes into holy souls And makes them friends of God and prophets. Thus God loves nothing as much As the one who lives with wisdom. For wisdom is more beautiful than the sun And more than every constellation of stars. Compared with light she is found to be superior, for night succeeds the light, but evil cannot overcome wisdom. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 56:2 (LXX)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me / For my soul trusts in You / And in the shadow of Your wings I will hope / Until lawlessness shall pass away.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 11:55-end

And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, "What do you think—that He will not come to the feast?" Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Wednesday

of Holy Week

First Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 17:1-7

Now all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the Wilderness of Sin, according to their encampments and by the word of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, saying, "Give us water, that we may drink." Moses then said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?" Thus the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why is it you brought us up out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our cattle with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go before this people and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand the rod with which you struck the river and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so the people may drink." So Moses did so before the children of Israel. Thus he called the name of that place Temptation and Abuse, because of the abusive language of the children of Israel and because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 3:5-15 [selection]

Trust in God with all your heart, and do not exalt your own wisdom. In all your ways know wisdom, That she may cut a straight path for you; and your foot will not stumble. Do not rely on your own discernment, but fear God, and turn away from every evil. Then there shall be healing for your body And care for your bones. Honor the Lord from your righteous labors, and offer Him the firstfruits from the fruits of your righteousness, That your storehouses may be filled with abundance of grain, and your winepresses may gush with wine. My son, do not despise the instruction of the Lord, Neither grow weary under His reproof. For whom the Lord loves He instructs, and chastises every son He receives. Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment; for the profits gained from wisdom are better Than the treasures of gold and silver. And wisdom is more valuable than precious stones. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Hosea the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Hosea 5:13-end, 6:1-3 [selection]

Then Ephraim went to the Assyrians And sent ambassadors to King Jareb. But he could not heal you, and your pain shall in no way cease from you. Wherefore I am as a panther to Ephraim And as a lion to the house of Judah. So I will grasp and go away; and I will take, and there shall be none to rescue. I will go and return to My place Until they are destroyed, and then they shall seek My face. In their affliction they will seek Me early, saying: "'Let us go and return to the Lord our God; for He has grasped and will heal us; He will smite and plug the wound with lint. After two days He will heal us. In the third day we shall rise And live before Him. Let us know, let

us pursue That we might know the Lord. We shall find Him ready as the daybreak, and He will come to us As the early and latter rain to the earth."
Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach Selections from 1:12 to 3:28

The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and she was joined with the faithful in the womb… The Lord saw and numbered her, and poured out the power of comprehension; and He exalted the glory of those who hold fast to her. Unjust anger cannot be justified, for anger's decisive influence causes his fall. A patient man will hold fast until the proper time, Then afterwards gladness shall burst forth for him. He shall conceal his words until the proper time, and the lips of many will tell of his understanding. In the treasures of wisdom are the parables of knowledge, but godliness is an abomination to a sinner. If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord will supply it to you…Do not disobey the fear of the Lord, and do not come to Him with a divided heart. Do not be a hypocrite in the sight of men, and be careful with your lips. Do not exalt yourself, lest you fall And bring dishonor to your soul. The Lord shall reveal your secrets…My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord, Prepare your soul for temptation…Because gold is tested in fire And acceptable men in the furnace of abasement…You who fear the Lord, wait for His mercy, and do not turn aside, lest you fall…Consider the ancient generations and see: Who believed in the Lord and was put to shame? Or who stood fast in His fear and was forsaken? Or who called upon Him and was overlooked? Woe to cowardly hearts and weakened hands, and to a sinner who walks on two paths! Woe to you who have lost your patient endurance! What will you do when the Lord visits you? Those who fear the Lord will not disobey His words, and those who love Him will keep His ways… My son, help your father in his old

age…My son, accomplish your works with gentleness… Speculation has led many astray, and evil suppositions have caused their minds to slip and fall. A hard heart will suffer ruin in the end, and he who loves danger will perish in it. A hard heart will be weighed down with pains, and the sinner will add sin to sin.There is no healing to aid an arrogant man…The heart of an intelligent man will ponder a parable…Water will quench a blazing fire, and almsgiving will atone for sins. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

I say this word, and I will not hide it, which is: Do not imagine that after they have separated the wheat from the chaff, that the sinners will have relief. I say to you that according to the testimony of the Scriptures that whether it be an angel or archangel, they will all remain silent. According to the testimony of the Scriptures the very saints shall be silent, and the judgment for God will come to pass, a thing accomplished and final, in the day on which he shall separate the evil-doers from among the just, and at that hour when they shall cast the sinners into the furnace of burning fire. Or, is God like us men that He needs a counselor or co-adjudicator to question Him? What can God forget that someone else may remember? Or [who] can ask God about anything else other than these words, except saying together in one voice, "O You Who judges truly, true are Your judgments [cf. Psa. 18:10], Who renders to everyone according to his deeds [cf. Psa. 61:13]. How can we remind You of these things, You from Whom is all mercy? ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in***

the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 50:6, 32:10 (LXX) [selection]

That You may be justified in Your words / And overcome when You are judged / The Lord scatters abroad the counsels of the nations / And He sets aside the reasoning of peoples.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 11:46-end

But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. “If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.” And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, “nor do you consider that it is expedient for use that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. Therefore Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near

the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples. And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves. Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, "What do you think—that He will not come to the feast?" Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 13:17-end

Thus when Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by way of the desert to the Red Sea, and in the fifth generation the children of Israel went up from the land of Egypt. Now Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you." So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham by the desert. Moreover, God led them, by day in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire. Thus the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before all the people. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 22:7-18

He who teaches a fool is like one who glues pottery together, Or like trying to arouse one from a sound sleep. He who tells something to a fool tells it to a drowsy man, and at the end he will say, "What is it?" If children live honestly, and have wherewithal, They shall cover the baseness of their par-

ents. But children, being haughty, through disdain and want of nurture Stain the nobility of their kindred. Weep for a dead man, for he left the light behind; but weep over a fool, for he left intelligence behind. Weep gladly for a dead man, because he is at rest; but the life of the fool is worse than death. Mourning for a dead man lasts seven days, but mourning for a fool or an ungodly man lasts all his life. Do not hold a conversation with a fool, and do not visit with a senseless man. Beware of him, so as to avoid trouble, and you will not be defiled when he shakes himself off. Stay away from him, and you will find rest And not be exhausted by his insanity. What will be heavier than lead? And what will be his name but "Fool"? Sand, salt, and a piece of iron are easier to bear Than a senseless man. A wooden beam bound together in a building Will not be broken loose in an earthquake; so a heart strengthened by reasonable counsel Will not be afraid in a crisis. A heart settled on intelligent thought Is like a plaster decoration on a smooth wall. As fences set on a high place will not stand firm against the wind, So a cowardly heart in the thought of a fool Cannot stand firm against any kind of fear. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Job the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Job 27:16-20, 28:1

Though he gathers silver like dust And shall prepare gold like clay, The righteous will acquire these things, and the true ones will possess his wealth. His house goes away like a moth And like a spider's web. The rich man will lie down and not continue; he opens his eyes, but is no more. Pains happen to him like a flood, and thick darkness takes him away in the night. "Indeed, there is a place for silver, from whence it comes, and a place for gold, from whence it is refined. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 4:5-end, 5:1-4, 5:8 [selection]

Guard our commandments; do not forget them; neither disregard the word of my mouth, Nor forsake it, and it shall cleave to you; love it, and it will keep you. Secure it, and it shall exalt you; honor it, that it may embrace you, and give your head a crown of graces, and cover you with a crown of delight." Hear me, my son, and receive my words, and the years of your life shall be increased, That many ways of life may be yours; for I teach you the ways of wisdom And set you on upright paths. For if you walk, your steps shall not be confined; and if you run, you will not grow weary. Lay hold of my instruction; do not let go, but guard it for yourself as your life. Do not go in the ways of the ungodly, Neither be zealous for the ways of the lawless; in whatever place they encamp, do not go there, but turn aside from them and pass by. For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; their sleep is taken away, and they do not rest; for they feed on the bread of ungodliness, and they are drunk with the wine of lawlessness. But the ways of the righteous shine like a light; they go before and give light until full daylight. But the ways of the ungodly are dark; they do not know how they stumble. My son, give heed to my word And incline your ear to my words, That your fountains may not fail you; guard them in your heart; for they are life to those who find them And healing for all their flesh. Keep your heart with all watchfulness, for from these words are the issues of life. Put away from yourself a crooked mouth And remove unrighteous lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight forward, and let your eyelids assent to righteous things. Make straight paths for your feet And direct your ways aright. Do not turn aside to the right or to the left, but turn your foot from an evil way; for God knows the ways on the right hand, but those on the left are perverse; and He shall make your paths straight And guide your steps in peace. My son, hold fast to wisdom And in-

cline your ear to my words, That you may guard good thinking; and I command you with the perception of my lips. Do not join yourself to a base woman, for honey drips from the lips of a prostitute, Or for a season she is pleasing to your taste; afterward, however, you will find her more bitter than gall And sharper than a two-edged sword…Make your way distant from her. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 40:7, 40:2 (LXX)

And if he comes to see us, he speaks in vain / His heart gathered lawlessness to itself / Blessed is he who understands the poor and needy / The Lord will deliver him in an evil day.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:1-6

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 14:13-end, 15:1

Then Moses said to the people, "Be of good courage. Stand still and see the Lord's salvation which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. Now lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it; and let the children of Israel go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. I indeed will harden Pharaoh's heart and all the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. So I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horses. Then the Egyptians will know I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horses." Now the Angel of God who went before the camp of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud also went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, and the night passed; but there was such darkness and blackness, they did not come near one another all that night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses,

chariots, and horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud; and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.He bound the axles of their chariot wheels and caused them to proceed with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots and the riders." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were trying to flee. But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh's army that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. The waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the Lord's mighty hand and the things He did to the Egyptians; therefore, the people feared the Lord and believed God and His servant Moses. Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying: "Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 48:1-6 [selection]

"Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel and have come forth from Judah, who swear by the name of the Lord God of Israel, mentioning it, but not with truth nor with righteousness, and who are devoted to the name of the holy city, and lean on the God of Israel for support—the Lord of hosts is His name. I still declare the former things that

went forth from My mouth, and they became well known. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. I know you are stubborn, and your neck is an iron nerve; and your forehead is made of bronze. Yet I told you long ago, before it came to pass. I made it well known to you, lest you should say, 'My idols did them'; and lest you should say, 'My carved images and my molten images commanded them for me.' You heard all this, yet you knew not what you heard. But I also made new things known to you, things about to happen from that present time. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 23:7-14

My children, hear the teaching of my mouth, for he who keeps it will not be conquered. A sinner will be overtaken by his lips, and a slanderer and arrogant man will be made to stumble by them. Do not accustom your mouth to vows, Nor make a habit of using the name of the Holy One. For as a servant who is continually beaten will not lack bruises, So also he who makes a vow and continually names the Holy One Will never be cleansed from sin. A man who swears many oaths will be filled with lawlessness, and that plague will not depart from his house. If he offends, his sin will be on him, and if he overlooks it, he has sinned doubly. If he swears in vain, he will not be declared righteous, for his house will be filled with trouble. There is a way of speaking comparable to death. May it not be found in the inheritance of Jacob; for all these things will be far from the godly, and they will not be involved in sins. Do not accustom your mouth to lewd expressions, for this is sinful speech. Remember your father and mother When you sit in council with great men, lest you forget yourself in their presence And by habit act foolishly. Then you will wish you had never been born, and you will curse

the day of your birth. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 82:3-4 (LXX)

For behold, Your enemies made a noise / And those who hate You raised up their heads / They devised a wicked judgment against Your people / And they plotted against Your saints.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 12:1-8

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. "For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 24:1-9

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my land where I was born, and to my tribe, and take from there a wife for my son Isaac." And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land you came from?" But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there. The Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, who took me from my father's house and from the land where I was born, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To you and your seed I give this land,' He will send His Angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his lord, and swore to him concerning this matter.
Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

From the Book of Numbers of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Numbers 20:1-13

Now the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Desert of Sin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died and was buried there. But there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. So the people scoffed at Moses and spoke, saying, "Would we had died in the destruction of our brethren before the Lord. Why have you brought up the Lord's congregation into this desert to kill us and our cattle? Why did you also bring us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place?—a place where nothing is sown, neither figs nor vines nor pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink." So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the congregation to the door of the tabernacle of testimony and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord then spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before them, and it will give its waters; thus you shall bring them water out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as the Lord ordered him. Then Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear me, you disobedient ones. Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" Moses then lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their cattle drank. But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to sanctify Me before the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land I am giving them." This was the Water of Contention, because the children of Israel scoffed before the Lord, and He was sanctified among them. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 1:11-end

My son, do not let the ungodly lead you astray, and do not consent if they invite you, saying, "Come with us; take part in bloodshed, and let us hide a righteous man in the earth unjustly; and let us swallow him, just as Hades does the living, and let us take away his remembrance from the earth; let us seize his valuable property, and let us fill our houses with spoils; cast your lot with us And let us acquire a common bag; let there be one purse for us." Do not walk in the way with them, but turn away your foot from their paths. For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. For nets are not spread before birds for no reason, for those who participate in murder store up evils for themselves; and evil is the destruction of lawless men. These are the ways of all who accomplish lawless things, for they take away their own soul in ungodliness. Wisdom sings in the streets; she moves boldly in the squares. She preaches on high city walls And sits at the gates of lords. At the gates of a city she boldly says, "So long a time as the simple hold fast to righteousness, They shall not be ashamed; but those without discernment, since they are desirous of arrogance, and are become ungodly, they hate perception, and are become subject to reproofs. Behold, I shall bring forth upon you the utterance of my breath, and I shall teach you my word. Since I called, but you did not obey, and spoke at length, but you paid no attention, but made my counsels invalid, and were not persuaded by my reproofs; consequently, I will laugh at your annihilation, and will exult when ruin comes to you, and when confusion reaches you unawares, and overthrow comes like a whirlwind, and when tribulation and anguish come to you, and when destruction comes to you. For it shall be, when you shall call upon me, I will not listen to you; evil men will seek me, but not find me, for they hate wisdom, and choose not the fear of the Lord. Neither do they

wish to follow my counsels, but despise my reproofs. Therefore, they shall eat the fruits of their own way And be filled with their own ungodliness. For since they wrong the simple, they shall be killed, and a close examination shall destroy the ungodly. But he who obeys me shall dwell in hope, and shall be at rest without fear from every evil." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Zechariah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zechariah 11:11-14 [selection]

And the Canaanites shall know the flock is kept safe, for this is the word of the Lord. And I shall say to them, "If it is fitting in your judgment, give me my payment, or refuse it." And they established my wage at thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Drop them into the smelting furnace and see if it is proven, as in the same manner I was proven for their sake." And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the smelting furnace in the house of the Lord. And I threw aside the second staff, the Line, to disband the possessions between Judah and Israel. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

I will say two things. Every one over whom they rejoice in Heaven on account of their repentance upon earth, shall not see grief nor sorrow in that place [cf. Lk. 15:7]. While those over whom they do not rejoice in Heaven on account of the conversion of their repentance upon earth, shall not see joy nor rest in that place. For these shall have their joy upon earth, and shall not see joy nor rest hereafter. How long will you be headless O man? Weep, I beseech you, while your tears will be accepted, especially if you do the

things which are worthy of tears. Weep while all the Saints weep with you on account of the salvation of your soul. Blessed is he who is soaked with weeping, from henceforth, he shall escape the weeping and the eternal gnashing of teeth, and shall rejoice with a heavenly rejoicing. Let us be sober, O my beloved, that they may not shut against us the bride-chamber and the door of unrepentance; and that we pray at the door and hear: "I do not know you" [Mt. 25:12]. All these things and worse than these we shall hear, if we continue to persist in our sins. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 40:8, 40:7 (LXX)

All my enemies whisper together against me / Against me they devise evils for me / And if he comes to see us, he speaks in vain / His heart gathered lawlessness to itself.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:3-16

Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest

there be an uproar among the people." And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? "For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. "For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Bow down to the Holy Gospel.

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 28:16-29

Therefore, thus says the Lord: "Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for its foundations, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. I will also cause judgment to be for hope, and My mercy to be for a standard. The sudden blast of wind will not pass by you who trust vainly in falsehood, except it also take away your covenant of death. Your hope in Hades will also not stand when the rushing storm passes through, for you will be beaten down by it. When it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through by day, and by night there will be an evil hope." Learn to listen, you in difficult straits. We cannot fight, and we ourselves are too weak to gather ourselves together. As the mountain of the ungodly will rise up and be in the valley of Gibeon, He will do His deeds in anger, a work of bitterness. His anger will behave strangely, and His bitterness will be strange. So do not be glad, neither let your bands become strong; because I heard from the Lord of hosts the things He will perform upon all the earth. Give ear and hear my voice. Listen and hear my words. Will the plowman plow all day? Or will he prepare the seed before he cultivates the ground? When he levels its surface, does he not then sow the small black cummin, and afterward sow the wheat, the barley, and the one-seeded wheat in your borders? So you will be chastised by the judgment of your God and be gladdened by it. For the black cummin is not cleansed with harshness, nor will the wheel of a wagon roll over the cummin; but the black cummin is threshed with a stick, and

the cummin will be eaten with bread. For I will not be angry with you forever, nor will the voice of my bitterness trample you underfoot. These signs came forth from the Lord of hosts. Take counsel; exalt vain comfort. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Severian of Gabala, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Behold now, again O brethren, we shall remind you concerning the voice which shall come upon sinners and those who deny the law and the commandments of life. For He said, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into eternal fire" (Matt. 25:41). For what consolation do these look for at another time? This in truth is the Valley of Sorrow, the place in which shall be tears —after which there shall be no more consolation. Who shall be able to comfort sinners in that day? For the angels, the Cherubim, the Seraphim, the just and all the holy saints shall be silent; not even one of them shall be able to comfort mankind on that day. All creation shall stand in silence, and the whole world shall be present at the just Judgment of God. This is the time of the harvest, this is the time when they shall draw in the net to the shore, so that they may separate the bad fish from those that are good. This list he Day when it shall be said to sinners that they shall return to Hell, their house forever. ***Let us conclude the homily of Severian of Gabala, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 6:3-4, 68:18 (LXX) [selection]

Heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled / And my soul is greatly troubled / Turn not Your face from Your child / For I am afflicted; hear me speedily.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 12:27-36 [selection]

"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." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eve of Great and Holy Thursday

First Hour

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 43:5-11

The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the house was full of the Lord's glory. Then I stood, and behold, there was a voice from the house, and a Man was standing with me. He said to me, "Son of man, you have seen the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the house of Israel forever. No more will the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their leaders, by their fornication or murders of the leaders in their midst. When they set My threshold by their thresholds, and My doorpost by their doorposts, with a wall between them and Me, they desecrated My holy name by their lawlessness, and I destroyed them in My anger and with slaughter. Now let them remove their fornication from My presence, and the murders of their leaders, and I will dwell in their midst forever. As for you, son of man, explain this house to the house of Israel, and they will cease from the shame of their sins; and describe to them its vision and its plan. They shall take the chastisements for all the things they did, and you shall describe the house, its design, its exits, and its substance, and all its ordinances. You shall make known its laws to them and write them out in their sight. Then they will keep all My requirements and all My ordinances and perform them." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 68:2, 68:17 (LXX) [selection]

Save me, O God / for the waters flood my soul / According to Your abundant compassion / look upon me.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 10:17-21

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"
Bow down to the Holy Gospel.

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Amos the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Amos 4:4-13

"You come to Bethel and act lawlessly and multiply your transgressions in Gilgal. You bring your sacrifice in the morning and your tithes every three days. Moreover, outside they read things of the Law and call for professions. Proclaim that the children of Israel love these things," says the Lord God. "And in all your cities I gave you cleanness of teeth, and in all your places a lack of bread. Yet you did not return to Me," says the Lord. "And also, I withheld rain from you for the three months before the harvest. I caused it to rain upon one city while I withheld rain from another. On one field it rained, but where it did not rain, the crops withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied. Yet," says the Lord, "you did not return to Me. I struck you with a parching and blight. When you multiplied your gardens, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the caterpillar devoured them. Yet you did not turn back to Me," says the Lord. "I sent forth death against you by way of Egypt, and I killed your young men with a sword, together with your captured horses. And in My wrath I brought fire upon your army camps. Yet you did not return to Me," says the Lord. "I overthrew you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you became like a torch that burns out after being plucked out of the fire. Yet even after all this you did not return to Me," says the Lord. "Therefore, O Israel, thus shall I do to you, and because I will do thus to you, make yourself ready to call upon your God, O Israel! For behold, I am the One who strengthens the thunder, and creates the

wind, and proclaims His Anointed One to mankind, making the daybreak and the darkness, while treading upon the high places of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name!" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 54:22, 54:2 (LXX) [selection]

His words were softened above oil / And they are arrows / Give ear to my prayer, O God / And do not despise my supplication.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 14:3-11

And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply. But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Then Judas Iscariot, one of

the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Amos the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Amos 3:1-11

O house of Israel, hear this word the Lord has spoken against you, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, "Out of all the families of the earth, I have especially known you. Therefore I shall exact vengeance upon you for all your sins. If two people walk together, will each one not come to know the other? Will a lion roar from his lair in the forest if he has no prey? Will a lion's whelp cry out from his den if he has nothing? Will a bird fall to the earth without a fowler? Will a snare be sprung if it has caught nothing? If a trumpet is sounded in a city, will not the people be alarmed? If evil should be in a city, has not the Lord brought it? For the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals instruction to His servants the prophets. A lion shall roar, and who will not fear? The Lord God speaks, and who will not prophesy? Proclaim it in the regions among the Assyrians and to the lands of Egypt, and say, 'Gather yourself to the mountains of Samaria, and behold the many remarkable things in her midst and the oppression that is within her. She does not know the things that will come against her,' says the Lord, 'she stores up injustice and misery in her lands.' " Therefore thus says the Lord God: "O Tyre, your land round about you shall be made desolate, and your strength shall be sapped from you, and your lands shall be plundered." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 139:2-3 (LXX)

Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man / Rescue me from the unjust man / Who devised wrongdoing in their heart / They arrayed themselves for war all day long.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 12:36-43 [selection]

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. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 20:27-33

"Therefore speak to the house of Israel, son of man, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Up to this point, your fathers provoked Me by the transgressions they committed against Me. But I led them into the land I swore with an oath to give them, and they saw every high hill and every shade tree. There they sacrificed to their gods; and there they appointed fragrant offerings and poured out their drink offerings. Then I said to them, 'What is this high place you go to?' So they call its name Bamah, to this day.' " Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord: "Do you defile yourselves with the lawlessness of your fathers, and commit fornication after their abominations? You defile yourselves in the first fruits of your gifts with all your inventions to this very day. Shall I answer you, O house of Israel? As I live," says the Lord, "I will not answer you, nor will an answer occur to your spirit; for it will not be as you say, 'We will be like the nations and like the tribes of the earth, to worship trees and stones.' Therefore, as I live," says the Lord, "I will reign over you with a mighty hand, with a high arm, and with anger poured out." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 7:2-3 (LXX) [selection]

O Lord my God, in You I hope / Save me from all who pursue me,
and deliver me / Lest like a lion / he snatch away my soul.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 10:29-38

"My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'? "If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 8:4-9

For thus says the Lord: "Will not he who falls arise? Or he who turns away, will he not return? Why therefore has this My people turned away from Me in a shameful way, strengthened themselves in their choice, and were not willing to return? Indeed, give ear and listen. Will they not speak thus: 'There is no man who repents of his vices, saying, "What have I done?' " The runner ceases to run his race, as a sweating horse ceases to run when he is tired. Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed time, as do the turtledove and the swallow of the field. The sparrows watch for the times of their coming. But My people do not know the judgments of the Lord. How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us'? The lying pen becomes vanity for the scribes. Wise men are put to shame and convicted, for they rejected the word of the Lord. What wisdom is in them?" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 61:8, 61:3 (LXX) [selection]

In God is my salvation and my glory / He is the God of my help,
and my hope is in God / For He is my God and my savior / My protector; I shall be shaken no more.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 12:44-50

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." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Great and Holy Thursday

First Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 17:8-16

Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for yourself some mighty men and go out, and set the army in array against Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses said to him and set the army in array against Amalek. Then Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hands, that Israel prevailed; but when he let down his hands, Amalek prevailed. Now Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and one on the other; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in a book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." Now Moses built an altar and called its name The-Lord-My-Refuge; for with a secret hand the Lord wars with Amalek from generation to generation. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 15:22-end, 16:1-3

Thus Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the desert and found no water to drink. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore he named that place Bitterness. Then the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" So he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. There He proved him and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is pleasing in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His ordinances, I will put none of the diseases on you that I brought on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your God who heals you." Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve fountains of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters. Now they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron. The children of Israel said to them, "Would we had died, smitten by the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate bread to the full. For you brought us out into this desert to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 58:1-11

"Cry aloud with strength, and spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their sins, and to the house of Jacob their lawlessness. They seek Me day by day, and desire to know My ways. As a people who did righteousness, and did not forsake the judgment of their God, they now ask Me about righteous judgment, and desire to draw near to God, saying, 'Why have we fasted, but You did not see it? Why have we humbled our souls, but You did not know it?' Because in the days of your fasts, you seek your own wills, and mistreat those under your authority. If you fast for condemnations and quarrels, and strike a humble man with your fists, why do you fast to Me as you do today, so your voice may be heard in crying? I did not choose this fast, and such a day for a man to humble his soul; nor if you should bow your neck like a ring and spread sackcloth and ashes under yourself, could you thus call such a fast acceptable. I did not choose such a fast," says the Lord; "rather, loose every bond of wrongdoing; untie the knots of violent dealings; cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall break forth as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you. Then you shall cry out, and God will hear you. While you are still speaking, He will say, 'Behold, I am here.' If you take away your fetter and the pointing of the finger, and the word of grumbling, and if you give bread to the hungry from your soul, and satisfy the humble soul, then your light shall rise up in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as midday. God shall be with you continually, and you shall be satisfied as your soul desires. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 18:20-32

But the soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the wrongdoing of his father, nor shall the father bear the wrongdoing of his son. The righteousness of a righteous man shall be upon himself, and the lawlessness of a lawless man shall be upon himself. But if a lawless man turns from all the lawless deeds he commits, keeps all My commandments, does righteousness and shows mercy, he will surely live and not die. None of the transgressions he commits will be remembered. In the righteousness he does, he shall live. Do I ever will the death of a lawless man," says the Lord, "since My will is for him to turn from the evil way and live? But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits a wrongdoing, according to all the lawlessness a lawless man commits, then all the righteousness he does shall not be remembered. In the transgression he falls into and in his sins he commits, in these he shall die. "Yet you say, 'The Lord's way is not straight.' Hear now, all the house of Israel, is My way not straight? Is your way straight? When the righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits a transgression, and dies in the transgression he commits, he should die because of it. Again when a lawless man turns away from the lawlessness he commits and does judgment and righteousness, then he guards his life; for he turned himself away from all the ungodliness he committed. He will surely live and not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The Lord's way is not right.' Is not My way right, O house of Israel? Is not your way wrong? I shall judge you, O house of Israel, each one according to his way," says the Lord. "Return and turn away from all your ungodliness, and it shall not be to you as a punishment for wrongdoing. Cast away from yourself all your ungodliness you commit against Me, and make a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I do not will the

death of the one who dies," says the Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

It is time to approach that fearful table. Therefore, let us all approach with fitting discretion and sobriety. And let no one be Judas any longer; let no one be wicked; let no one possess venom, bearing one thing in his mouth and another in his mind. Christ is present, and He Who set in order that meal of old also sets this one in order now. For it is not a man who causes the elements that are set forth to become the Body and Blood of Christ, but Christ Himself, Who was crucified for our sake. Fulfilling the figure, the priest stands and utters the words. But the power and the grace belong to God. This is My Body, the priest says. These words transform the elements set forth; and just as the words Increase and multiply and fill the earth [Gen. 1:28] were said once, but throughout all time they give our nature the power to beget children, so also from that time until now and until His Coming, these words that were said once accomplish the perfect Sacrifice on each altar table in the churches. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Praxis

A reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. The acts, the acts of our fathers the Apostles, may their holy blessings be with us. Amen.

Acts 1:15-20

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; "for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.' " ***The word of the Lord shall grow, multiply, be mighty, and be confirmed in the Holy Church of God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalm 54:22, 54:13 (LXX) [selection]

His words were softened above oil / And they are arrows / For if an enemy reviled me, I would have endured it / And if one hating me boasted against me, I would have hidden from him.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:7-13

Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."'So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 32:30-end, 33:1-5 [selection]

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You committed a great sin. So now I will go up to God to make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "I pray, O Lord, these people have committed a great sin and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin, forgive it—but if not, blot me out of the book You have written." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever sins against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go down and lead the people to the place of which I spoke to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before your face. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will strike them for their sin." So the Lord struck the people for making the calf which Aaron made. Now the Lord said to Moses, "Depart, go up from here, you and the people you brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your seed I will give it.' I will send My Angel before your face, and I will drive out the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Gergesite, the Hivite, the Jebusite, and the Canaanite. I will bring you into a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people." When the people heard this bad news, they mourned in lamentations. For the Lord said to the children of Israel, "You are a stiff-necked people. Beware, lest I inflict another plague on you and consume you. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 24:1-11

Wisdom will praise herself, and in the midst of her people she will boast. In the assembly of the Most High, she will open her mouth and boast in the presence of His host. "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth like a mist. I pitched my tent in the high places and my throne on the pillar of cloud. I alone encircle the ring of heaven, and I walk in the depth of the abyss. In the waves of the sea, in all the earth, and in every people and nation I have gained a possession. With all these, I have sought a place to rest; in what inheritance will I lodge? "Then the Creator of all things commanded me, and He who created me gave me a place to live. He said, 'Pitch your tent in Jacob and receive an inheritance in Israel.' Before the age, He created me from the beginning, and in the age to come I will not cease. I serve before Him in His holy tabernacle; therefore, I am established in Zion. In the beloved city likewise He gives me rest, and my authority is in Jerusalem. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Zechariah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zechariah 9:11-14 [selection]

"And by the blood of your covenant, you freed your prisoners from the pit having no water. You prisoners from the congregation, you shall live in the fortress, and for one day of your exile, I will repay to you double. For I have bent you, O Judah, for Myself as a bow; I have filled Ephraim. And I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against the sons of the Greeks, and I will handle you as the sword of a warrior." And the Lord will be over them, and He shall go forth like a lightning bolt. The Lord Almighty shall sound with the

trumpet. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 30:1-6

My son, fear my words, and when you receive them, repent; the man says these things to those who believe in God, then I cease speaking; for I am the most lacking of all men in discernment, and the discernment of men is not in me; God gives me wisdom, and I know holy things. Who ascends into heaven and descends? Who gathers the winds in His bosom? Who wraps up the water in a garment? Who rules over all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is the name of His children, that you might acknowledge it? All the words of God are tried in fire, and He defends those who fear Him. Do not add to His words, that He might not reprove you, and you become a liar. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 93:21, 93:23 (LXX)

They shall hunt for the soul of a righteous man / And shall condemn innocent blood / And [He shall] repay their lawlessness to them / And according to their wickedness; the Lord our God shall destroy them.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:17-19

Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."' So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 7:1-14

Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah. Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your practices, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not entrust yourselves to lying words, for they will not profit you when you say, 'It is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.' For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your practices, if you thoroughly bring about judgment between a man and his neighbor, and do not oppress the resident alien, the orphan, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place or walk after foreign gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land I gave to your fathers of old and forever. "But if you trust in lying words from which you cannot profit, and you murder, commit adultery, steal, swear to do wrong, burn incense to Baal, and walk after foreign gods you do not know so as to do evil, and come and stand before Me in the house wherein My name is called and say, 'We have not abstained from doing all these abominations,' then is this house, called by My name, a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I have seen it. "But go to My place in Shiloh, where I caused My name to dwell before, and see what I did to it because of the vices of My people Israel," says the Lord. "Now then, because you did all these works, and I spoke to you but you did not hear Me, and I called you but you did not answer, therefore, I will also do to this house, called by My name in which you trust, and the place I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. I will cast you out of

My sight as I cast out your brethren—all the seed of Ephraim. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 20:39-44

"As for you, O house of Israel," thus says the Lord and Master: "Each of you put away your practices, and after this, if you listen to Me, you will no longer desecrate My holy name with your gifts and practices. For upon My holy mountain, the high mountain," says the Lord and Master, "there all the house of Israel will serve Me to the end; and there I shall receive you, and look upon the first fruits of your offerings, together with all your holy objects. I shall receive you as a fragrant aroma when I lead you out from the peoples, and receive you from the countries where you were scattered; and I shall be sanctified among you before the eyes of the peoples. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I lead you into the land of Israel, into the land I swore by an oath to give your fathers. There you will remember all your ways and practices which defiled you; and you shall bewail yourselves for all your evil. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I deal with you in the way, that My name be not desecrated according to your evil ways and corrupt practices," says the Lord.' " ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Joshua Son of Sirach, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Sirach 12:13-end, 13:1

Who will pity a snake charmer when he is bitten, or those who go near wild animals? So no one will pity one who approaches a sinful man and gets involved in his sins. He will stay with you for a while, but if you turn aside from him, he will not put up with you. An enemy speaks sweetly with his

lips, but in his heart he will plan to throw you into a pit. An enemy will shed tears, but if he finds an opportunity, he will not be satisfied apart from shedding your blood. If evil comes upon you, you will find your enemy there ahead of you, and as he pretends to help you, he will pull your feet from under you. He will shake his head and applaud with his hands; and he will whisper many things and alter his expression. Whoever touches pitch will be stained, and whoever associates with an arrogant man will become like him. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 30:19, 30:19 (LXX) [selection]

Let deceitful lips become speechless / When they speak lawlessness against the righteous / For I heard the blame of many who dwell round about / When they were gathered together against me, when they plotted to take my life.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 14:12-16

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?” And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. “Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passo-

ver with My disciples?" Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us." So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 22:1-19 [selection]

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from

heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen." Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice." So Abraham returned to his servants, and they rose and went together to the Well of Oath. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 61:1-6

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens

shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called priests of the Lord and the ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations and be admired because of their wealth. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 14:17-20

Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands." Then Abram gave him a tithe of all. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Job the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Job 27:2-end, 28:1-13

"As the Lord lives who thus judges me, and the Almighty who embittered my soul, surely as long as my breath is in me and the divine breath is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak lawless things, nor shall my soul practice wrongdoings. May it not be I who set forth the opinion that you are righteous. Until the day I die, I will not put away my integrity from me. I hold fast to my righteousness and am not letting it go; for I am not conscious in myself of having done anything wrong. Surely not, but rather may my enemies be as the destruction of the ungodly, and those who rise up against me as the destruction of the lawless. For what hope is there for an ungodly man that he holds to it? Will he trust in the Lord and be saved?

Will the Lord hear his prayer when distress comes upon him? Has he any confidence before Him, or will the Lord hear him when he calls on Him? But indeed, I will tell you what is the hand of the Lord. I will not lie concerning what is with the Almighty. Behold therefore, all of you know you are adding vanity to vanity. This is the portion from the Lord for the ungodly man, and the possession of oppressors shall come upon them from the Almighty. If their children be many, they will be for slaughter; and if they reach manhood, they will beg. Those who survive him shall be buried in death, and no one will have pity on their widows. Though he gathers silver like dust and shall prepare gold like clay, the righteous will acquire these things, and the true ones will possess his wealth. His house goes away like a moth and like a spider's web. The rich man will lie down and not continue; he opens his eyes, but is no more. Pains happen to him like a flood, and thick darkness takes him away in the night. A burning wind will take him up, and he will be gone; and it will scatter him from his place. It will blow against him and not spare; he will try in vain to flee from its force. It will strike him with its power, and whistle him from his place. Indeed, there is a place for silver, from whence it comes, and a place for gold, from whence it is refined. Certainly, iron is taken from the earth, and copper is hewn out like a stone. He set an order to darkness and examines accurately every limit. A stone is darkness and the shadow of death. There is a narrow channel of the brook because of dust; so those who forget the right way are weakened because of mortal men. As for the earth, from it will come bread, but underneath, it is turned up as by fire; its stones are the source of sapphires, and its dust contains gold. There is a path no bird knows, nor has the eye of a vulture seen it. The sons of the arrogant have not trodden it, nor has the lion passed over it. He has stretched forth his hand to quarry stones and has overturned the mountains by the roots. He has broken asunder the whirlpools of rivers, and my eye has seen every valued thing. He has uncovered the depths of the rivers and has brought his power to light. But where can

wisdom be found? What is the place of understanding? Mortal man has not known its way, Nor is it found among men. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Occasionally there are some deeds that we may think they are good, but in God's eyes they are bad. For example, the unqualified tolerance of sinners in holy places may lead them to be indifferent to sin. For example, the Lord did not plant good trees and bad trees in Paradise, but only good trees. He did not plant fruitless trees nor trees with bad fruits. Even when man, himself, disobeyed the commandment, He was not indifferent about man's iniquity but expelled him from Paradise. From this, we can see, dearly beloved, that the houses of the Lord should not be filled with bad and good people—as is the case in the world where the saints and sinners, the unjust and the impure mingle together. I know that all the earth is the Lord's and if, even as His house so is the whole world, then those who dwell on it live in Him. Therefore, it behooves us to fear Him and to keep His commandments, and if we fall in [completing] one of them, let us weep and bewail ourselves before Him ; so that when He sees the grief and the earnestness of our souls, like the woman who wet His feet with her tears [Lk. 7:38], we may be worthy, indeed, [to hear] that sweet voice [saying], "your sins are forgiven" [Lk. 7:48], "your faith has saved you. Go in peace" [Lk. 7:50]. You have seen, O my brethren, that faith works salvation [cf. James 2:22], and that she has manifested her earnestness therein. Therefore, every one who is not earnest in keeping the commandments of God and zealous [in imitating] the wise in Spirit — of whom it was testified that they knew the truth and received His counsel and works — and who does not have faith falls

into every evil thing that destroys the soul according as it is written: "The wise man in heart will receive the commandments, but the man unguarded in speech will be overthrown in his perverseness" [Prov. 10:9 LXX]. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 22:1-2 (LXX) [selection]

The Lord is my shepherd / I shall not want / He makes me to lie down in green pastures / He leads me beside the still waters.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:17-19

Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."' So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Liturgy of the Blessing of the Water

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 18:1-23, 18:25 [selection]

Then God appeared to him at the oak of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door during the noon hour. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood before him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, "O Lord, if I have now found grace in Your sight, do not pass by Your servant. Let water be brought, and let them wash Your feet, while You cool Yourselves under the tree. And I will bring bread for You to eat. After that You may pass by, inasmuch as You have come to Your servant." They said, "Do as you have said." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a young calf, tender and good, gave it to his servant, and he hastened to prepare it. He also took butter and milk and the calf he prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate. Then He said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" He replied, "Here, in the tent." Again He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "I have not yet had a child until now, and my lord is old also?" Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh within herself, saying, 'Shall I surely

bear a child, since I am old?' Is anything impossible with God? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied she had laughed, for she was afraid, saying, "I did not laugh"; but He said, "No, but you did laugh." Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham went along and escorted them on their journey. Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham, My servant, what I am about to do? But Abraham shall surely become a great and populous nation, and in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For I know he will order his sons and his house after him. They will keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken to him." Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah has been completed, and their sins are exceedingly great. Therefore, I will go down now and see whether or not they are carrying out the outcry coming to Me concerning them." Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained before the Lord. So Abraham drew near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the ungodly? …that the righteous should be as the wicked? ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Proverbs of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Proverbs of Solomon 9:1-11

Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars. She offered her sacrifices; she mixed her wine in a bowl and prepared her table. She sent her servants, inviting people to the bowl with a lofty proclamation, saying, "He who is without discernment, let him turn aside to me"; and to those in need of discernment, she says, "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I mixed for you; forsake lack of discernment, and you shall live; seek discernment so you may live, and keep straight your understanding with

knowledge." He who chastises evil men shall receive dishonor to himself, and he who reproves the ungodly man shall be blamed himself. Do not reprove evil men, so they may not hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give the opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser; instruct a righteous man, and he shall continue to receive it. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding; for to know the law is characteristic of a good mind. For in this manner you will live a long time, and the years of your life shall be increased. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Selection from Exodus Chapters 14 and 15

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud; and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. He bound the axles of their chariot wheels and caused them to proceed with difficulty … For Pharaoh's horses went with his chariots and horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dances. So Miriam led them: "Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Joshua the Prophet, may its blessings be with us. Amen.

Joshua 3:14-17 [Selection]

So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 4:2-4

In that day, the Lord will shine in counsel and glory on the earth, to exalt and glorify those of Israel who remain. And it shall come to pass that those who remain in Zion and in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem, because the Lord shall wash away the filth of the sons and the daughters of Zion. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 55:1-13, 56:1

"You who are thirsty, go to the water, and all who have no money, go and buy wine and fat, and eat and drink without money and price. Why do you value at the price of money, and give your toil for what does not satisfy? Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you." Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail." The Lord says this: "Guard judgment and do righteousness, for My salvation

draws near, and My mercy shall be revealed. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 36:22, 36:25-29 [selection]

'Thus says the Lord: "I shall sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness, and I will also cleanse you from all your idols. I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I shall put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements, and you will keep My judgments and do them. You will dwell in the land I gave to your fathers. You will be My people, and I shall be your God. I shall save you from all your uncleanness."' ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

And also from Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 47:1-9

Then he brought me back to the outer door of the house, and there was water, flowing from under the open air of the chamber toward the east; and the water was flowing from under the right side court, from the south to the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces east; and there was water coming down, running out on the right side, in the direction in which a man went forth opposite. There was a measure in his hands, and he measured a thousand cubits with the measure; and he passed through the water. It was the water of remission. Again he measured a thousand, and he passed through the water, and the water was up to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and the water came up to the waist. Again he measured a thousand, and it could not be crossed; for it broke into a rushing torrent which man

cannot pass through. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he led me to the bank of the river. As I returned, behold, along the bank of the river there were very many trees on this side and the other. Then he said to me, "This is the water that flows into Galilee, which is to the east. Then it goes down upon Arabia and reaches as far as the sea to the outlet of the water; and it will heal the waters. So it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the river goes, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Shenouti the Archimandrite, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Therefore, brethren we should be ashamed before Him Who suffered on our behalf. We should fear Him Who, when He had girded Himself with a towel, poured the water in a bowl and washed the feet of His disciples with His impeccable hands. Let us produce fruits worthy of this great humiliation which He underwent for our sake, in order that we should repent speedily of our sins that we committed. For, if we do not repent, it will be said concerning us in Heaven that we are lovers of sin; and what is our hope if they despise us in Heaven, and if they condemn and detest us on account of our sins, and if they judge us with a two fold judgment? [For, we will be twice:] not only because we have sinned through ignorance, but for those things we have done knowingly, which are more evil than the things of ignorance. Not only because we have sinned, but also because we have not repented. Who gave us His Flesh to eat and His Blood to drink, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, God, Son of God, Who is exalted and Who dwells in the Highest forever. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba***

Shenouti the Archimandrite, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Pauline Epistle

Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God. A reading from the first epistle of our teacher Saint Paul to Timothy. May his blessings be with us. Amen.

1 Timothy 4:9-16, 5:1-10

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity. Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. And these things command, that they may be blameless. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than

an unbeliever. Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David, alleluia.

Psalms 50:9, 50:12

You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed / You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow / Create in me a clean heart, O God / And renew a right spirit within me.

Gospel

Our Lord, God, Savior, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to whom is glory forever.

John 13:1-17

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You wash-

ing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." ***Glory be to God, forever.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Behold, today I see a crowd of faithful hastening to partake of this Mystery that is full of awe and trembling. In order that there shall be a gain according to the two matters, I will guide you at first by my words, that you may approach with fear and trembling and awe, according as is seemly, to the participation of these holy Mysteries. For indeed, today the Lord was betrayed, O my beloved, but if you hear that Jesus was betrayed, let not your face be sad, but be exceedingly sadder and weep, not over Him who was betrayed, but over him who betrayed, which is Judas. He, indeed, who was betrayed, sits at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven, and is become a king over all things in a kingdom without end. The same who betrayed Him,

descended into Hell, and remains now in Hell receiving a great punishment. Mourn and weep for this one, for whom the Lord Himself was grieved. Concerning this one He informs us, that it behooves us to grieve not over him who is afflicted, but over him who does evil. It is fitting to grieve for him in all places; for he who does evil is more evil than he who suffers. For truly he is not evil who suffers, but he who does evil, in truth he is evil. For it is suffering that draws us into the Kingdom of Heaven, but it is evil-doing that becomes for us the occasion of Gehenna and punishment. "Blessed," He said, "are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" [Mt. 5:10]. But it is evildoing which receives punishment and retribution. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Pauline Epistle

Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God. A reading from the first epistle of our teacher Saint Paul to the Corinthians. May his blessings be with us. Amen.

1 Corinthians 11:23-end

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come. ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 22:5, 40:10 (LXX) [selection]

You prepare a table before me / in the presence of my enemies /
He who ate my bread / dealt deceptively with me.

Gospel

Our Lord, God, Savior, and King of us all, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, to whom is glory forever.

Matthew 26:20-29

When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,"Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." ***Glory be to God, forever.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 52:13-end, 53:1-end

Behold, My Servant shall have wisdom, and He shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly. Just as many shall be astonished at You, so Your form and glory shall be dishonored by men. Thus many nations shall marvel at Him, and kings shall shut their mouth, because they to whom no report was brought concerning Him shall see; and they who did not hear shall understand. O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory, and we saw Him; and He had no form or beauty. But in comparison to all men, His form was lacking in honor. He was a man in suffering and knew how to bear sickness. His face was turned away, and He was dishonored and not esteemed. He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering, and ill-treatment. But He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. Although He was ill-treated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no law-

lessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

And also from Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 19:19-25

In that day, there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the country of Egypt and a pillar to the Lord at its border. It will be a sign forever to the Lord in the country of Egypt, for they will cry to the Lord because of their oppressors, and the Lord will send them a Man who will save them. He will judge and save them. Then the Lord will be known to the Egyptians, and in that day the Egyptians will know the Lord and offer sacrifices. Yes, they will make vows to the Lord and pay them. The Lord shall strike the Egyptians with a great wound and completely heal them. They will return to the Lord, and He shall hear and heal them. In that day there will be a road from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria. The Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day, Israel will be one of three with the Egyptians and Assyrians; a blessing in the land, which the Lord of hosts blessed, saying, "Blessed are my people in Egypt, and in Assyria and Israel, My inheritance." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Zechariah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zechariah 12:11-end, 13:1-end, 14:1-4, 14:5-9 [selection]

"In that day, the lamentation in Jerusalem shall be very great, like the mourning for the pomegranate orchard being cut down in the plain. And the land itself shall mourn throughout the tribe, the tribe of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the tribe of the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves; the tribe of the house of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; the tribe of Symeon by itself and their wives by themselves; and all the remaining tribes, every tribe by itself and their wives by themselves. "In that day every place shall be opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord of hosts, "that I will utterly destroy the names of the idols from the land, and their remembrance shall be no more. I will remove the false prophets and the unclean spirit from the land. "And it shall come to pass that if a man still prophesy, his father and his mother who begot him will say to him, 'You will not live, for you spoke falsehoods in the name of the Lord,' and his father and his mother who begot him will bind him when he prophesies. And it shall come to pass in that day that the prophets shall be put to shame, each by his vision when he prophesies, and they will put on a leather skin of hair because they spoke lies. And one will say, 'I am not a prophet, for I am a tiller of the soil; a man brought me up thus from my youth.' And I will say to him, 'What are these wounds in the middle of your hands?' And he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my beloved.' "O sword, raise up against My shepherds, and against My fellow-man," says the Lord Almighty. "Smite the shepherds and draw out the sheep, and I shall bring My hand against the shepherds. And it will come to pass in all the land," says the Lord, "two of every three will be utterly destroyed and shall die, but the other third will be left in it. And I shall bring the remaining third through the fire, and I shall try them as silver

is tried, and I will prove them as gold itself is proven. He will call upon My name, and I will hear him, and I will say, 'This is My people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.' "Behold, the days of the Lord come, and your plunder will be divided among you. And I shall gather together all the nations to war against Jerusalem. The city shall be taken, the houses plundered, the women defiled, and half of the city will go forth into exile, but the rest of My people shall not be utterly cut off from the city. And the Lord will go forth and prepare for battle against those nations, as in the day of His battle array in the day of war. And on that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. The Lord my God shall come and all the saints with Him. And in that day, it shall be that there will not be any light, but there shall be cold and frost for one day, and that day shall be known to the Lord. It will be neither a day nor a night, but towards evening there will be light. And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 49:17-18 (LXX)

You hate My instruction / And cast My words behind you / If you see a thief, you run with him / And you keep company with adulterers.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 13:21-30

When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eve of Great and Holy Friday

First Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 8:15-end, 9:1-6

For behold, I send forth lethal serpents among you, for which there are no charms. They shall bite you mortally with the pain of your disturbed heart. Behold, the voice of the daughter of my people cries out from a far land, "Is not the Lord in Zion? Is her King not there?" "No, because they provoked Me to anger with their carved images and foreign vanities." They will say, "The summer is gone, the harvest is past, and we are not saved." I am saddened because of the ruin of the daughter of my people. Pains have seized me as one who gives birth. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician? Why is no healing taking place for the daughter of my people? Who will give water to my head and a fountain of tears to my eyes, that I might weep day and night for this people of mine, for the wounded of the daughter of my people? Who will give me lodging in a deserted place, that I might leave my people and depart from them? For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. They bent their tongues like a bow. Falsehood, not faith, prevails in the land. For they went from evil to evil, and have not known Me. Let each take heed to his neighbor, and not trust their brothers, for every brother will utterly deceive, and every friend will walk treacherously. Each will mock at his friend and not speak the truth. Their tongue learns to speak lies, and they do wrong. They do not pause to turn back. There is usury upon usury, deceit upon deceit. They are unwilling to know Me." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 101:2, 101:9

Hear my prayer, O Lord / And let my cry come to You / My enemies reproached me all day long / And those who praised me swore against me.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 13:33-38, 14:1-25

"Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward." Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake." Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times. Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how

can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not

Mine but the Father's who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while being present with you." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 14:26-31, 15:1-25

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here. I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My

love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'" ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 15:26-27, 16:1-33

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And

you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Most assuredly, I say

to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 17:1-26

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me

into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 36:16-23

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, the house of Israel dwelt upon their land, but they defiled it by their conduct and by their idols and uncleanness. Their conduct before me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. Therefore I poured out My anger on them. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them as chaff into the countries. I judged them according to their conduct and their sins. So when they came to the nations, wherever they went, they desecrated My holy name when they said, 'These are the people of the Lord, and they have come out of His land.' But I spared them for the sake of My holy name, which the house of Israel desecrated among the nations wherever they went. Therefore say to the house of Israel," Thus says the Lord: "I will not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for the sake of My holy name, which you desecrated among the nations wherever you went. Thus I will sanctify My great name, desecrated among the nations, which you desecrated in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 108:1-2

O God, do not pass over my praise in silence / For the mouth of the sinner and the mouth of the deceitful man opened against me / And they surrounded me with words of hatred / And warred against me without cause.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:30-35

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 14:26-31

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me

this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:31-39

"Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing." Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough." Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 18:1-2

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 22:23-28 [selection]

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, say to her, 'You are the land not rained on, neither has rain come upon you in the day of wrath.' Her leaders are like roaring lions seizing prey, who devour souls by domination and receive honors in wrongdoing; and your widows multiply in your midst. Her priests reject My law and desecrate My holy things. They no longer distinguish between the holy and the profane, nor between the unclean and the clean. They have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am desecrated in their midst. Her rulers in her midst are like wolves seizing their prey, so as to shed blood and exploit others for greed. Her prophets who anoint them will fall because they see worthless and false prophecies

Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 58:2, 68:21 (LXX) [selection]

Rescue me from my enemies / O God; And redeem me from those who rise up against me / And I waited for someone to sympathize with me, but no one was there / And for comforters, but I found not one.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Bow down to the Holy Gospel.

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Mark 14:32-42

Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."
Bow down to the Holy Gospel.

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:40-46

When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in

agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 18:3-9

Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 9:6-10

Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will set them on fire and test them; I shall do so because of the evil of the daughter of My people. Their tongue is a wounding arrow, and the words of their mouth are deceitful. One speaks peaceably to his neighbor, but has hatred in his heart. Shall I not visit them for these things?" says the Lord. "Shall not My soul take vengeance on such a people as this? Take up a wailing on the mountains and a lamentation on the paths of the desert; for they cease from being a people. They do not hear the sound of existence from the birds of the sky, nor even from cattle. They were astonished; they were gone. I will put Jerusalem into captivity, and it will become a dwelling place of serpents. I will make the cities of Judah desolate, beyond habitation." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Ezekiel the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Ezekiel 21:33-37

"As for you, son of man, prophesy, and you shall say, 'Thus says the Lord to the sons of Ammon and to their shame,' and you shall say, 'O sword, sword, drawn for slaughter and for an end; arise, that you may glisten. While you are seeing a worthless vision, and while you are prophesying falsehood, and while you are handing over the necks of wounded and lawless men whose day has come, whose end of wrongdoing has come at the proper time, turn back, and do not lodge in this place in which you were born, for I

will judge you in your own land. I will pour out My wrath upon you; I will breathe upon you with the fire of My wrath, and deliver you into the hands of barbarians, skilled in working destruction. You will be fuel for the fire; your blood will be in the midst of your land. There will be no remembrance of you; for I the Lord have spoken.' " ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 27:3-4, 34:4 (LXX) [selection]

Who speak peace with their neighbor, But evil is in their hearts / Give them according to their works, according to the wickedness of their pursuits / Let those who seek my soul be dishonored and shamed / Let those who plot evils against me be turned backward and disappointed.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:47-58

And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took

Him. And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 14:43-54

And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely." As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him. And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." Then they all forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth

thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked. And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:47-55

And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 18:10-14

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus

said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 27:11-13, 28:1-15 [selection]

Come here, you women who come from that sight. For it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will have no compassion on them, neither He who formed them; and He will show them no mercy. And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will close it from the channel of the river to the Brook of Egypt. And you will gather the sons of Israel one by one. So it shall be in that day that they shall blow the great trumpet, and the lost ones in the country of the Assyrians and in Egypt will come, and they shall worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem. Woe to the crown of arrogance, the hirelings of Ephraim, the flower that fell from the glory on top of the fertile mountain, those who are drunk without wine. Behold, the anger of the Lord is a strong and harsh thing, like a falling hail where there is no shelter, falling violently like a great force of water, sweeping away the country. He shall bring relief for the earth with His hands. The crown of arrogance, the hirelings of Ephraim, will be trampled underfoot. But the flower that fell from the hope of the glory on the top of the high mountain shall be like the forerunner of the fig. He who sees it wishes to swallow it before he gets it in his hand. In that day, the Lord of hosts shall be the crown of hope, woven of glory, to the remnant of My people. They shall be left in a spirit of judgment upon judgment and for the strength of those who prevent slaying. For these are led astray with wine and are deceived by strong drink. Priest and prophet are out of their minds by reason of wine; they stagger because of drunkenness; they go astray. This

is delusion. A curse will devour this counsel, for this counsel was for the sake of covetousness. To whom have we reported evils and declared a message? Those weaned from milk and withdrawn from the breasts. Expect affliction upon affliction, hope upon hope, yet a little, yet a little. By reason of the contempt of lips and another tongue they will speak to this people, saying to them, "This is the rest for the hungry, and this is the affliction," but they would not listen. The teaching of the Lord God will be for them affliction upon affliction, hope upon hope, yet a little, yet a little, so they may go and fall backward; and they will be in danger, crushed and conquered. Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you afflicted men and rulers of this people in Jerusalem. Because you said, "We made a covenant with Hades, and are in agreement with death, and if the rushing storm passes through, it will not come upon us, for we made falsehood our hope, and in falsehood we shall be protected" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 2:1-2, 2:4-5

Why do the nations rage, And the people meditate on vain things? / The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers gather together Against the Lord and against His anointed / He who sits in the heavens shall laugh at them; The Lord shall mock them / Then shall He speak to them in His wrath and trouble them in His anger.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 26:59-75

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."

Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 14:55-72

Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" But not even then did their testimony agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophesy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands. Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." But he de-

nied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" A second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he wept. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:56-65

And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophesy! Who is the one who struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 18:15-27

And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the court-

yard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself. The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Great and Holy Friday

First Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Deuteronomy of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Deuteronomy 5:1, 8:19-end, 9:1-24 [selection]

Now Moses called all Israel, and said to them, "I testify against you today, you shall surely perish. As the remaining nations the Lord destroys before your face, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God. Hear, O Israel, You are to cross over the Jordan today and go in to inherit nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people, great and large and tall, the sons of Anak, whom you know and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand against the face of the sons of Anak?' Therefore understand today, the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and turn them from your face; and you will destroy them, as the Lord said to you. Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God consumes these nations before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the Lord brought me in to inherit this good land'; but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to inherit their land, but because of the ungodliness of these nations, the Lord will destroy them before your face, that He may establish His covenant He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thus you will know today, the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to inherit because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people. Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in

the desert. From the day you came out of Egypt until you came into this land, you continued being disobedient to the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord, and the Lord was angry enough with you to destroy you, when I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant the Lord established with you; and I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. Then the Lord delivered two tablets of stone to me, written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words the Lord spoke to you on the mountain, in the day of the assembly. And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. Then the Lord said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people you brought out of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they turned aside quickly from the way I commanded them; they made themselves a molten image.' Furthermore, the Lord spoke to me, saying, 'I told you once and twice, I see this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people. Let Me destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation greater and stronger and larger than they.' So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets were in my two hands. Then I looked, and you had sinned against the Lord your God and made for yourselves a molten image. You turned aside quickly from the way the Lord commanded you. Then I took the two tablets and threw them down with my two hands, and broke them before you. And I prayed before the Lord a second time, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sins you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him. For I was afraid because of the anger and the wrath, for the Lord was provoked by you to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at this time also. The Lord was also very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I also prayed for Aaron at that time. Then I took the sin you committed, the calf you made, and burned it with fire, and crushed

it, and ground it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain. Also at the Burning and the Temptation and the Graves of Lust, you provoked the Lord your God to wrath. Likewise, when the Lord sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, 'Go up and inherit the land I give you,' then you disobeyed the word of the Lord your God, and you did not believe Him nor listen to His voice. You were disobedient to the Lord from the day He became known to you. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 1:2-9

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: "I have begotten and brought up sons, but they rejected Me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know Me, and the people do not understand Me." Alas, sinful nation, a people full of sins, an evil seed, lawless children. They forsook the Lord; they provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. Why should you still be struck as you continue in lawlessness? The whole head is in pain, and the whole heart in sadness. From the feet all the way to the head, there is no soundness in them, only wounds and bruises and festering sores. They have not been closed or bandaged, or soothed with ointment. Your land is desolate; your cities are burned with fire. Strangers take over your land in your presence and it is made desolate, overthrown by foreign people. So the daughter of Zion is forsaken, like a tent in a vineyard, like a hut in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city. Unless the Lord of hosts had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 2:10-21

Enter now into the rocks and hide in the earth from the face of the Lord, for fear and the glory of His might when He rises to smite the earth. For the eyes of the Lord are lofty, and man is humble. The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon all who are insolent, arrogant, high and lifted up, and they shall be humbled; and upon every cedar tree of Lebanon, high and lifted up, and upon every oak of Bashan, and upon every mountain and lofty hill, and upon every high tower and fortified wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. Every man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of man shall fall. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. But they shall hide all the things made by hands. They shall carry them into the caves and cracks of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from fear of the Lord's presence and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth. For in that day, man will cast away his abominations of silver and gold, which they made to worship worthless things and bats, so as to enter into the holes of solid rocks and clefts of the rugged rocks, from fear of the Lord and the glory of His might when He arises to strike the earth. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 22:29-end, 23:1-6 [selection]

"O land, land, hear the word of the Lord: 'Write this man as a banished man, for none at all from his seed shall be raised to sit on the throne of David, or still as a ruler in Judah.' "Woe to the shepherds who scatter and destroy the sheep of My pasture!" Therefore thus says the Lord against those who tend My people: "You have scattered My sheep and driven them

out. You did not care for them. Behold, I shall punish you according to your evil practices. I will receive the remnant of My people from every land where I have driven them. I will establish them in their pasture, and they shall increase and be multiplied. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them. They shall fear no more, nor be terrified," says the Lord. "Behold, days are coming," says the Lord, "when I will raise up for David the Righteous Orient, and a King shall reign. He will understand and bring about judgment and righteousness on the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel shall dwell in confidence". ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 24:1-13

Behold, the Lord is about to lay waste the inhabited earth, and He will make it desolate, lay bare its surface, and scatter those who dwell therein. And it shall be that the people shall be as the priest, the servant as the lord, the maiden as the mistress, the buyer as the seller, the lender as the borrower, and the debtor as the creditor. The earth shall be completely laid waste and utterly plundered, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken these things. The earth mourns and the inhabited earth is ruined; the lofty of the earth mourn. The earth acts lawlessly because of its inhabitants, for they transgressed the law and changed the ordinances, the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse shall devour the earth, because those who dwell in it sinned. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth shall be poor, and few people will be left. The wine shall mourn, the vine shall mourn, and all the merry-hearted will groan. The mirth of tambourines, the willfulness and wealth of the ungodly, and the sound of the harp have ceased. They were ashamed; they did not drink wine; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. Every city was made desolate; every house is shut up, that none may go in. Wail

for wine everywhere; all gladness of the earth is gone! Cities shall be left desolate, and abandoned houses will be destroyed. All these things shall be in the earth in the midst of the nations, in the manner someone would glean an olive tree. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Wisdom of Solomon the Prophet and the King, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Wisdom of Solomon 2:12-22

Let us lie in ambush for the righteous man, because he is useless to us and opposes our deeds; he denounces us for our sins against the law and accuses us of sins against our upbringing. He claims to have knowledge of God, and he calls himself a child of the Lord. He has become for us as a refutation of our purposes; even seeing him is a burden to us, because his life is unlike that of others; for his paths go in a different direction. We are considered by him as a hybrid, and he avoids our ways as something immoral. He considers the last things of the righteous as blessed and pretends that God is his Father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us put these last things to the test at the end of his life. For if the righteous man is a son of God, He will help him, and deliver him from the hand of those who oppose him. Let us test him with insult and torture that we may know his gentleness and test his patient endurance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for there shall be a visitation because of his words." So they reasoned these things and were led astray, for their malice blinded them. But they did not know the mysteries of God, nor hope for the wages of holiness, nor judge the reward of blameless souls. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Job the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Job 12:17-end, 13:1 [selection]

He makes fools of judges. He sets kings upon thrones and binds their waist with a belt. He sends priests away into captivity and overthrows the mighty of the earth. He changes the lips of the faithful and knows the understanding of elders. He pours dishonor on rulers and heals the humble. He uncovers deep things out of darkness and has brought into light the shadow of death. He leads the nations astray and destroys them. He overthrows the nations and leads them away. He changes the hearts of rulers and leads them astray in a way they have not known. May they grope in darkness, and may they go astray like a drunken man. Behold, my eye has seen all these things, and my ear has heard them. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Apocryphon of Jeremiah[1] verses 2-6

Jeremiah spoke to Pashhur, saying, "But you, for all your days, fight against the truth; as did your fathers, and so will your sons who will come after you. They will commit a sin more damnable than you, for they will sell Him who is priceless, and will hurt Him who will heal pain, and will condemn Him who will forgive sin; they will take thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him that was valued, whom the children of Israel will sell, and will give that money for the potter's field. As the Lord commanded me, so I speak. There will therefore come upon them judgment and destruction for ever, and upon their sons after them, because in their judgment they have

[1]Though not present in the Septuagint, this text is included in the Sahidic Coptic and Ethiopic bibles. It is the prophecy from Jeremiah that Matthew the Evangelist references in Matthew 27:9. It is attested to by St. Jerome in his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew: "I have recently read in a Hebrew book, which a Hebrew of the Nazarene sect showed me, an apocryphon of Jeremiah in which I found this, word for word." *(Commentary on Matthew 27:9)*

shed innocent blood." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Micah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Micah 1:16, 2:1-3

Shave your hair and make your head bald as an eagle for the sake of your precious children; increase your widowhood, for they have been taken captive. They devised wickedness and were scheming evil on their beds, and at daybreak they put their plan into action, for they did not lift up their hands to God. They coveted fields and plundered orphans; they oppressed families and plundered a man and his house, a man and his inheritance. Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, I am devising evils against this tribe from which you shall not lift up your neck, nor will you suddenly walk upright, for this is a time of evil. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Micah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Micah 7:1-8 [selection]

Woe is me, O my soul! For the God-fearing man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among the men. They all lie in wait, even unto blood, and each one grievously oppresses his neighbor. They prepare their hands for evil; the prince demands a gift, and the judge speaks flattering words; it is the desire of their soul. "Thus I shall take away their good things as the moth who eats away, and as one proceeding by the rule in the day of the watch. Alas! alas! the time of your vengeance is come; now shall be their lamentation. Do not trust in friends, nor put your hope in those who govern. Beware of your wife and do not tell her anything. For a son dishonors his father, a daughter will rise up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are all the people of his own

house." But I will look to the Lord. I will wait for God my Savior, for my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy, for though I have fallen, yet will I arise, because even if I should sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

What shall we say, O beloved brethren, concerning the transgression of Judas who delivered the Lord? For He said one of the twelve who was Judas Iscariot. He went to the high priests and said to them, what will you give to me, and I will deliver Him to you? And they settled with him for thirty [pieces] of silver [cf. Mt. 26:24-25]. O how great is this folly, nay, rather, this great love of money! Because it is this which begets all evil. For this, one desiring it delivered his Master. For the love of money is an evil root [cf. 1 Tim 6:10], more evil than every demon, and the souls which it shall seize, it causes them to lose their reason, to rage, and to be ignorant of themselves. And again they are as without knowledge of everything, and forsaking the law of nature, their heart fails, and they are stupefied. Consider, then, how much goodness the love of money drove out of the soul of Judas. Moreover, our Lord Jesus Christ spoke to them openly a multitude of words concerning Gehenna and concerning the Kingdom of Heaven, making known to all the nature of the punishment of sinners, and the honor for all, who shall direct the establishing of their souls. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba John Chrysostom, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Pauline Epistle

Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God. A reading from the first epistle of our teacher Saint Paul to the Corinthians. May his blessings be with us. Amen.

Galatians 6:14-end

…but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 26:12, 34:11, 34:12, 34:16 (LXX) [selection]

For unjust witnesses rise up against me; And injustice lies to itself / Unjust witnesses rose up against me, Asking me things I knew nothing about / They repaid me evil for good / They gnashed their teeth at me.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:1-14

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel

priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me." Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 15:1-5

Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered and said to him, "It is as you say." And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 22:66-end, 23:1-12

As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." Then the

whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say." So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place." When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 18:28-end

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful

for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Genesis of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Genesis 48:1-19 [selection]

Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and went to Jacob. Thus Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "My God appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me and said to me, 'Behold, I will increase and multiply you; and I will make of you a gathering of nations, and give this land to your seed after you as an everlasting possession. Now therefore, your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Your offspring whom you beget after them shall take possession of their inheritances within the tribes of their brothers. But as for me, when I came from Mesopotamia of Syria, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath" (that is, Bethlehem). Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these with you?" So Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons God gave me here." Jacob then said, "Bring them to me that I may bless them." Now the eyes of Israel were dim by reason of old age, and he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed and embraced them. Then Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your seed." So Joseph brought

them from beside his knees, and they bowed down with their face to the ground. Then Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. Thus Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the first-born. Then he blessed them and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac were well-pleasing, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day, the Angel who redeemed me from all evil, bless these lads; let my name be named upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a great multitude in the midst of the earth." Now when Joseph saw his father put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. So Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord gives Me the tongue of the learned, so as to know when to speak a word at a fitting time; and He causes My ear to listen each morning. The Lord's instruction opens My ears, and I am not disobedient, nor do I contradict Him. I gave My back to whips, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting. The Lord became My helper; therefore, I was not disgraced. But I made My face like a solid rock and knew I would not be ashamed. For He who pronounces Me righteous draws near. Who is he who judges Me? Let him oppose Me at the same time. Who is he who judges Me? Let him come near Me. Behold, the Lord

will help Me. Who will harm Me? Behold, all of you will grow old like a garment, and old age will devour you, as a moth does a garment. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

And also from Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 3:9-15 [selection]

Woe to their soul, for they planned evil upon themselves, saying, "Let us hand over the righteous man, for he is burdensome to us." They shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him. "O My people, your punishers gather you, and those who make demands of you rule over you. O My people, those who bless you lead you astray and trouble the path of your feet." The Lord stands up to plead and stands to judge His people. The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders of His people and His princes: "For you set fire to My vineyard and the plunder of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the faces of the poor?" ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

And also from Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 63:1-7 [selection]

Who is this who comes from Edom with red garments from Bozrah, so beautiful in His apparel, with force of strength? "I speak of righteousness and saving judgment." Why are Your garments red and Your apparel as one who treads in a winepress? "I am full of the treading of grapes, and there is no man with Me among the nations. I trampled them in My anger, and crushed them like earth, and brought down their blood to the ground. For the day of recompense has come upon them, and the year of redemption has arrived. I looked, but there was no helper; and I observed, but there was no one to help; therefore, My arm delivered them, and My anger was sud-

denly present. So I trampled them in My wrath and brought their blood down to the ground." I remembered the Lord's mercy, the praises of the Lord in all things in which the Lord recompenses us. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Amos the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Amos 9:1, 9:4-6, 9:8-10

I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said…"I shall set My eyes on them for evil and not for good." The Lord, the Lord God Almighty, is He who takes hold of the land and causes it to shake, and all who dwell there shall mourn; for its destruction shall come up as the flood of a river and shall then return to its banks as the River of Egypt. He who builds his ascent to the heaven and establishes His promise on the earth, who calls the water of the sea, and pours it out on the face of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name. "Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are on the kingdom of sinners, and I shall destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet I shall not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," says the Lord. "For I commanded, and I will winnow the house of Israel among all the nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not a grain will fall upon the ground. All the sinners of My people who say, 'No evil will draw near, neither will it overcome us,' shall die by the sword. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Job the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Job 29:21-end, 30:1-10

Men heard and listened to me and kept silence for my counsel. At my word they did not speak again, and they were very glad when I spoke to them They waited for my speech as the thirsty earth for the rain. If I laughed at them, they did not believe it, and the light of my countenance

did not fail. I chose the way for them and sat as a ruler; and I dwelt as a king in the army, as one who comforts mourners. But now they laugh me to scorn, men younger than I, whose fathers I disdained; whom I did not deem worthy to be put with the dogs of my pastures. Indeed, what profit is the strength of their hands to me? For them the full term of life was lost. In want and famine, they are childless. Yesterday they fled to a waterless desert in anguish and misery. They are those who surround the noisy salt places, who have salty herbs for their food, and who are also considered worthless and deficient of every good thing, and chew on the roots of trees because of their great hunger. Thieves have risen up against me, whose houses were holes in the rocks, who cry out among the rustling bushes and live under the wild shrubs. They are the sons of fools and dishonored men, whose name and fame were extinguished from the earth. But now I am their lyre, and they have me as their byword. They detest me and keep their distance. They do not hesitate to spit in my face. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Athanasius the Apostolic, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Behold, Christ came of Himself, and of His love He died for us. As for us sinners, not only did He fashion us even as Adam and make us men, but when we had destroyed ourselves through sin, He came and suffered for us, and gave us life through His love. For He came as a physician unto us, and manifested Himself unto us; for He did not come to such as were sick, but unto those who were dead. Wherefore, He healed not us who were sick, but He raised us up who were dead; we who were swallowed up by death He freed us from its bonds. Wherefore, Christ the Lord died for us, so that we might live with Him for ever [cf. 1 Thess. 5:10]. For if the Lord had not suf-

fered with humanity, how should man have been saved? Moreover, death fell at the feet of Christ, and was dragged away captive and quaking. But Hell and its power retreated, when it heard the voice of the Lord calling out to the souls: "Come forth from your bonds, you who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death [cf. Lk 1:79], come forth from your bonds, I proclaim to you life, for I am the Christ the Son of the Eternal God!" ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Athanasius the Apostolic, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Pauline Epistle

Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God. A reading from the epistle of our teacher Saint Paul to the Colossians. May his blessings be with us. Amen.

Colossians 2:13-15

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 37:18, 21:17 (LXX) [selection]

For I am ready for wounds / And my pain is continually with me / For many dogs surrounded me / An assembly of evildoers enclosed me.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:15-26

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was

rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 15:6-25

Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?"So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!"So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified. Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was

coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 23:13-25

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him" (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast). And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"— who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder. Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 19:1-12

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him. "The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Numbers of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Numbers 21:1-9

Now the Canaanite king of Arad, who was dwelling in the desert, heard the news—for Israel came by way of Atharim—therefore, he made war against Israel; and they carried off captives from them as booty. Then Israel made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, I will anathematize him and his cities." So the Lord listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites; and they anathematized him and his cities. Therefore, they called the name of that place Anathema. Then they departed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea; and they went around the land of Edom, and the people became discouraged on the way. So the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to kill us in the desert? For there is no bread nor water, and our soul is weary of this worthless bread." So the Lord sent venomous serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the children of Israel died. Then the people came to Moses, and were saying, "We sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and against you; therefore, pray to the Lord, and let Him take away the serpent from us." So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a serpent for yourself and put it on a signal pole; and it shall be, if a serpent should bite someone, when the one bitten looks at it, he shall live." So Moses made a copper serpent and put it on a signal pole; and it happened, when a serpent bit any-

one, and he looked at the copper serpent, he lived. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 53:7-end [selection]

He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 12:2-end, 13:2-10

Behold, God is my Savior and Lord. I will trust in Him and be saved by Him. I will not be afraid, for the Lord is my glory and my praise. He has become my salvation." You will draw water with gladness from the wells of salvation. In that day, you will say, "Praise the Lord; call upon His name. Declare His glorious things among the Gentiles and make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the name of the Lord, for He has done great things.

Declare this in all the earth. Exult and be glad, O inhabitants of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is exalted in her midst." "Lift up a sign on the mountain of the plain and raise your voice to them. Do not fear; comfort with your hand; open the gates, O you rulers. I command and I lead them. They are sanctified, and I lead them. My mighty ones come to fulfill My anger—rejoicing and insulting at the same time." The sound of many nations upon the mountains, like that of many nations, the voice of kings and nations gathered together—the Lord of hosts commanded a warring nation to come from a far country, from the end of heaven, the Lord and His weapons, to destroy all the inhabited world. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand, and destruction will come from God. Therefore every hand will grow weary, and every man's soul will be fearful. The elders will be troubled. Pangs will take hold of them, like a woman in childbirth, and they will wail at one another and be amazed; and their countenance shall change like a flame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, a day that cannot be averted, a day of anger and wrath, to make all the inhabited world a desert, and to destroy the sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the ornament of heaven will not give their light. It will be dark when the sun goes forth, and the moon will not give its light. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Amos the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Amos 8:9-12

"And it will come to pass in that day," says the Lord God, "the sun will set at noon, and the light of day will grow dark over the land. And I shall turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation. I shall place sackcloth on every waist and make every head bald. They shall be as one mourning a beloved one, and those with them as a day of grief." "Behold, the days will come," says the Lord, "that I shall send a famine across the

land; not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but famine to hear the words of the Lord. The waters will be unsettled as far as the sea. And from the north to the east men will scurry about seeking to find the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Pauline Epistle

The epistle of our teacher Saint Paul, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen. Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

Galatians 6:14-end

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. ***The grace be with you all. Amen. So be it.***

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[1]The Orthodox Study Bible translates this verse as "And they threw away my love as though it were a stinking corpse", but the above translation from *Psalms and the Life of Faith* by Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra matches the Coptic text more closely. (2011. Athens: Indiktos Press.)

[2]While this verse appears in the Coptic text, it is not present in the Orthodox Study Bible.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 37:21-22, 21:17-19, 21:8-9 (LXX) [selection]

They cast me out, the beloved, as a corpse to be despised[1] / And they nailed my flesh[2] / Do not forsake me, O Lord, O my God.

They pierced my hands and my feet / I numbered all my bones / They divided my garments among themselves / And for my clothing they cast lots.

They speak with their lips and shake their head / Saying, "He hoped in the Lord, let Him rescue him / Let Him save him since He delights in him."

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:27-45

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. And when

they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others; himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 15:26-33

And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the

scribes, said, "He saved others; himself He cannot save. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him. Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.
Bow down to the Holy Gospel.

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 23:26-44

Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"' For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save

Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 19:13-27

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews."'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier

a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 11:17-end, 12:1-13

O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb led to be sacrificed. They plotted an evil device against me, saying, "Come, let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so his name might not be remembered any longer." But, O Lord, You who judge righteously, who tests minds and hearts, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to You. Therefore thus says the Lord against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, "Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands"— "Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation." O Lord, You are righteous, that I may plead my case with You, to speak to You concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? You planted them, and they took root. They bear children and are fruitful. You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind. But You, O Lord, know me. You have proven my heart before You. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, "God will not see our ways." Your feet run and grow weary. How then will you prepare yourself to run with horses? You are confident when the land is

peaceful, but what will you do when the Jordan floods the land? But even your brothers and the house of your father dealt treacherously with you. They cried out and gathered together in pursuit of you. Do not trust them because they will speak fair words to you. I forsook My house and left My inheritance. I gave My beloved inheritance into the hands of its enemies. For My inheritance became to Me like a lion in the forest. It raised its voice against Me; therefore, I hated it. Is not My inheritance the cave of a hyena to Me, or a cave it walks around? Gather together all the wild beasts of the field and let them come to devour her. Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. It was made a complete ruin. The whole land was utterly destroyed for My sake, because there was no man who took it to heart. The tormentors come to every passage in the desert, because the sword of the Lord will devour from one end of the land to the other. No flesh has any peace. Sow fires and reap thorns. Their portions will not profit them. Be ashamed of your boasting because of your disgrace before the Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Zechariah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zechariah 14:5-11 [selection]

And the Lord my God shall come and all the saints with Him. And in that day, it shall be that there will not be any light, but there shall be cold and frost for one day, and that day shall be known to the Lord. It will be neither a day nor a night, but towards evening there will be light. And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and half toward the western sea. So it will be in both summer and spring. And the Lord shall be King of all the earth, and in that day the Lord shall be one Lord, and His name one name, encircling all the land, even the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Rama shall remain in

her place; from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate; to the Gate of the Corners, and to the Tower of Hananeel, as far as the king's winepresses, they will dwell in her, and it will no longer be a curse. Jerusalem shall dwell securely. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Zechariah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Zechariah 2:1-3, 2:10-11 [selection]

Let all the inhabitants of the land be confounded, for the day of the Lord is near, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of cloud and of dense fog. About daybreak a people both strong and great in number will be spread upon the mountains, the likes of whom have never been nor will come after them, not even for many generations. Before them is a consuming fire and behind them a flame set ablaze. Before their presence the land will be confounded, and the sky will be shaken. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will hold back their brightness. And because the day of the Lord is great and exceedingly glorious, the Lord shall utter His voice before the face of His army, for His army is numberless, and the works of His words are mighty. Who shall resist? ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Pauline Epistle

For the resurrection of the dead who slept and reposed in the faith of Christ, O Lord repose all their souls. Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

(Philippians 2:4-11)

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with

God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ***The grace be with you all. Amen. So be it.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 68:2, 68:22 (LXX)

Save me, O God, for the waters flood my soul / I am stuck in the mire of the sea / They gave me gall for my food / And they gave me vinegar for my drink.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:46-50

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 15:34-37

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down." And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 23:45-46

Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. ***Bow down to***

Eleventh Hour

Prophecies

From the Book of Exodus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Exodus 12:1-14

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the family households, a lamb for each home. If there be too few in a household, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of souls; he will make his count in lambs according to the needs of each one. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You shall take it from the sheep or the kids. Then you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, nor shall you break a bone of it; and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. Thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Pascha. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I

will execute vengeance: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From the Book of Leviticus of Moses the Archprophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Leviticus 23:5-12

On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Pascha to the Lord. Then on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no service work on it. But you shall offer a whole burnt offering to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no service work.' " Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, 'When you come into the land I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits from your harvest to the priest. He shall offer the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the morning after the first day the priest shall offer it. Then you shall offer on that day on which you offer the sheaf a sheep of the first year, without blemish, as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Athanasius the Apostolic, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

It is so written in the Scriptures, "If our souls are following the law of God, the powers of darkness will not overpower us, but if we drift away from God they will prevail on us." It is said again, "You man, who want to be saved, teach yourself to swim in the depth of the richness and wisdom of God" [cf. Rom. 11:33]. Spread your arms in the likeness of the Cross to traverse a great sea, which is this age, that you may come to God. The hindering doubts are for those who live away from the Catholic Church, questioning outside the faith, which are these: fornication, detraction, and love of money that is the root of all evils [1 Tim. 6:10]. But the sign of the Cross is spread over all creation. If the sun could not emit its rays it would not be able to illuminate, neither the moon. Likewise, the birds in the sky, if they do not spread their wings they cannot fly, and if the ships could not spread their sails, they would not sail. Behold, Moses the Archprophet spread his arms and defeated Amalek. Daniel was saved form the lion's den, Jonah from the fish's belly and Thekla when they threw her to the lions she was saved by the likeness of the Cross. Also Susanna from the hands of those two old men, Judith from Holofernes and the three holy youth from the burning fiery furnace. All those were saved by the likeness of the Cross. Again it is said, "May Your place of habitation be in one place," which is this, the Church, receiving nourishment from the words of Scripture and the Heavenly Bread and the Blood of Christ, strengthening yourself at all times with the words of Scripture. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Athanasius the Apostolic, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.***

Pauline Epistle

Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God. A reading from the epistle of our teacher Saint Paul to the Galatians. May his blessings be with us. Amen.

Galatians 3:1-6 [selection]

[You] before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 142:6-7, 30:6 (LXX) [selection]

I spread out my hands to You / Hear me speedily, O Lord; My spirit faints within me / Turn not Your face from me / Lest I become like those who go down into the pit.

Into Your hands I shall entrust my spirit / You redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:51-56

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 15:38-41

Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 23:47-49

So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 19:31-37

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced." ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Twelfth Hour

Prophecies

From the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:1-end

I am the man who sees poverty by the rod of His anger upon me. He took me and led me away into darkness, and not into light. Surely He has turned His hand against me throughout the day. He has aged my flesh and my skin and has broken my bones. He has besieged me and surrounded my head; He has worn me down with hardships. He set me in dark places as those long dead. He hedged me in, and I cannot come forth; He made my brazen chain heavy. Though I will call and cry out, He shuts out my prayer. He has blocked my ways and obstructed my paths; He has troubled me. He is a bear lying in wait for me like a lion in a hidden place. After I departed, He eagerly pursued and caught me; He has utterly ruined me. He bent his bow and set me up as a target for the arrow. He caused the arrows of His quiver to pierce my loins. I became a laughingstock to all my people, and their song all the day. He has filled me with bitterness and drenched me with gall. He also broke my teeth with gravel and fed me with ashes. He took away peace from my soul, and I have forgotten the good things. Therefore I said, 'My victory and my hope have perished from the Lord.' I remembered by reason of my poverty, and because of my persecution, I remembered my bitterness and gall. My soul shall remember and meditate within me. I will fix this in my heart; therefore, I will endure. The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who will seek Him, the Good One. He will wait for and quietly expect the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a

man when he takes up a yoke in his youth. He will sit alone and be silent, because he bears it on himself. He will give his cheek to the one who strikes him, and he will be filled with insults. Yet the Lord shall not reject him forever. For He who humbles will have compassion according to the abundance of His mercy. For He does not afflict willingly, though He humbles the children of men. To humble all the prisoners of the earth under His feet, to turn aside the judgment of a man before the face of the Most High, and to condemn a man before he is judged, the Lord does not command. Who thus speaks, and it comes to pass? The Lord has not commanded it, for evil and good shall not proceed from the mouth of the Most High. Why should a living man complain, a man concerning his sin? Our way has been searched out and examined; therefore we shall turn to the Lord. Let us lift our hearts and our hands to the Most High in heaven. We have sinned and acted in an ungodly way; thus You have not shown us mercy. But You visited us in anger and drove us away. You have put us to death and not spared us. You veiled Yourself with a cloud because of our prayer. To close my eyes and to reject me, You have placed us in the midst of the peoples. All our enemies have opened their mouth against us. Fear and anger have come upon us, yes, devastation and destruction. My eyes will shed tears for forgiveness because of the destruction of the daughter of my people. My eyes are drowned with tears, and I will not keep silent; so there shall be no rest, until the Lord bends down and sees from heaven. My eyes will bring suffering in my soul because of all the daughters of the city. My enemies hunted me down without cause, like a sparrow. They put my life to death in the pit and threw a stone at me. Water flowed over my head; I said, 'I am rejected.' I called on Your name, O Lord, from the lowest pit. You heard my voice; do not hide Your ears from my supplication. You drew near at my call on the day I called upon You. You said to me, 'Do not fear.' O Lord, You pleaded the case for my soul; You redeemed my life. O Lord, You saw my troubles; You judged my cause. You saw all their vengeance in all their reasoning

against me. You heard their taunts and all their plots against me, and the lips of those who rose up against me, and their meditations against me all the day. Look at their eyes as they sit down and rise up. You shall render a recompense to them, O Lord, according to the works of their hands. You shall repay them as a covering Your hardship for them. You shall pursue them in Your wrath and utterly destroy them from under heaven, O Lord. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Jonah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jonah 1:10-end, 2:1-8

Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you did?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?" For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonah said to them, "Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me." And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. Then they cried out to the Lord and said, "Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about." So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows. Now the Lord commanded a huge sea creature to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights. And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said: "I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God, and He heard my voice; out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice. You cast me into the depths of the heart of the

sea, and rivers encompassed me; all Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me. And I said, 'I have been driven away from Your sight; shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?' Water is poured over me to my soul; the lowest depth encircled me; my head plunged into the clefts of the mountains. I descended into the earth, the bars of which are everlasting barriers; yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God. When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord. May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple. ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 44:7, 44:9, 87:7, 22:4

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever / Your royal scepter is a scepter of uprightness / Myrrh and stacte and cassia pour forth from Your garments.

They laid me in the lowest pit / In dark places and in the shadow of death / Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death / I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:57-61

Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man

went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Mark.

Mark 15:42-end, 16:1

Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint Luke.

Luke 23:50-end

Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then

he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near. And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

According to Saint John.

John 19:38-end

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby. ***Bow down to the Holy Gospel.***

Great and Holy Saturday

Midnight Praise

Psalm

Glory be to our God. Alleluia. Glory be to our God.

Psalms 151:1-end

I was small among my brothers / And the youngest in my father's house / I tended my father's sheep / My hands built a musical instrument / My fingers tuned a lyre. *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

And who shall tell my Lord? / The Lord Himself, He Himself hears / He sent forth His Angel / And took me from my father's sheep / And he anointed me with his anointing oil. *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

My brothers were handsome and tall / But the Lord took no pleasure in them / I went out to meet the foreigner / And he cursed me with his idols / But I drew his own sword and beheaded him / And removed disgrace from the children of Israel. *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to our God. Again glory be to our God.*

The First Ode of Moses the Archprophet (Coptic First Ode)

Amen. Alleluia. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Exodus 15:1-22

Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying: "Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.

☩ Horse and rider He has thrown into the sea.The Lord became my helper and the shield of my salvation;

He is my God, and I will glorify Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

☩ The Lord brings wars to nothing; the Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and army He cast into the sea;

His chosen captains also were drowned in the Red Sea.

☩ The sea covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.

"Your right hand, O God, is glorified in strength; Your right hand, O God, dashed the enemy in pieces.

☩ In the greatness of Your glory You broke the adversaries to pieces; You sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. By the Spirit of Your anger the waters were gathered together; the waves stood upright in the midst of the sea; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

☩ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils; I will satisfy my soul; I will destroy with my sword; my hand shall have dominion.'

You sent forth Your Spirit; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

☩ "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorified in holiness, marvelous in praises, doing wonders?

You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them up. In righteousness You guided Your people whom You redeemed; in strength You called them to Your holy resting place.

✢ "The nations heard and were angry; pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

The princes of Edom And the chiefs of the Moabites were dismayed; trembling took hold of them;

✢ All the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. Fear and dread fell upon them;

By the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone Till Your people pass over, O Lord, Till Your people pass over, whom You purchased.

✢ Bring them in and plant them in the mountain of their inheritance, in Your prepared habitation, O Lord, which Your hands made ready;

The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands established. "The Lord reigns forever and ever and ever."

✢ For Pharaoh's horses went with his chariots and horsemen into the sea…

…and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.

✢ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dances.

So Miriam led them: "Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.

✢ Horse and rider He cast into the sea. ***Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified."***

The Second Ode of Moses the Archprophet

Deuteronomy 32:1-43

Take heed, O heaven, and I will speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth Let my proverbial saying be awaited as the rain, and let my words come down as raindrops on the wild grass, and as snowfall on the sown grass. For I invoke the Lord's name: ascribe greatness to our God. He is God, His works are true; and all His ways are judgment, a faithful God and without injustice; righteous and holy is the Lord. They sinned; the blameworthy children are not His, a generation twisted and perverse Is this how you repay the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who acquired you? Has He not made and created you? Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will tell you; your elders, and they will tell you: when the Most High divided the nations, when He scattered the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the nations by the number of God's angels. For the Lord's portion became the people of Jacob; the allotment of His inheritance is Israel. He provided for him in the desert, in thirst of heat in a waterless place He encircled him; He instructed him; He guarded him carefully as the apple of His eye. As an eagle covers its nest, yearns after its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its back, so the Lord alone led them, and there was no foreign god with them. He raised them on the strength of the land; He fed them on the produce of the fields; He suckled them on honey from the rock and oil from the solid rock, butter of oxen and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs and goats, of sons of bulls and goats, with the choicest wheat; and you drank wine, the blood of grapes. So Jacob ate and was filled, and the beloved kicked; He grew fat, he grew thick, he is obese. Then he forsook God who made him and stood back from God his Savior. They provoked Me to wrath against foreign gods; with their abominations they embittered Me. They sacrificed to demons, and not to God, to gods they did not

know; new ones, recent gods arrived, which their fathers did not know. You abandoned the God who begot you, and forgot the God who nourished you. So the Lord saw it, and was jealous; and He was provoked to anger by His sons and daughters. Then He said, 'I will turn My face from them, and I will make known what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, sons in whom is no faith. They provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; they moved Me to anger by their idols; but I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled in My anger, and shall burn to the lowest Hades; it shall consume the land with its produce and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. I will gather evils on them; I will spend My arrows on them. They shall be wasted with hunger, devoured by birds and incurable disease; I will also send against them the teeth of wild animals with the anger of things crawling on the earth. The sword shall make them childless outside, and fear from the inner chambers, for the young man and virgin, the nursing child with the elder of gray hairs. I said, "I will scatter them; I will make their memory cease from among men," but for the wrath of the enemy, lest they live long, lest their adversary make a joint attack, lest they should say, "Our hand is high; and it is not the Lord who did all this." ' For they are a nation void of counsel, nor is there understanding in them. They were not wise to understand these things; let them be concerned for the coming time. How could one chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight unless God had sold them, and the Lord delivered them up? For our God is not like their gods, but our enemies are foolish. For their vineyard is of the vineyard of Sodom, and their vine is of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of gall; their clusters are bitter. Their wine is the wrath of serpents, and the incurable wrath of asps. Behold, is this not laid up in store with Me, sealed up among My treasures? I shall repay on the day of vengeance; in time, when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and is waiting, ready for them. For the Lord will judge His people, and have compassion

on His servants; for He sees them disabled and left in distress and weakened. The Lord said, 'Where are their gods in which they trusted? Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise and help you and be your defender. Now see, I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hands. For I raise My hand to heaven, and I swear by My right hand, and say, "As I live forever, for I whet My sword like lightning; and My hand takes hold on judgment. I will render vengeance on My enemies, and repay those who hate Me. I will make My arrows drunk from blood; and My sword shall devour flesh from the blood of the slain and the captives, from the heads of the leaders of the enemy." ' "Rejoice, O Heavens, together with Him, and worship Him, all the sons of God; rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; and let all the angels of God be strong with Him; for He will avenge the blood of His sons and render vengeance to His adversaries; and the Lord will purify His people's land." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Hannah the Mother of Samuel

1 Kingdoms (1 Samuel) 2:1-11 [selection]

My heart is strengthened in the Lord; My horn is exalted in my God. I smile at my enemies; I rejoice in Your salvation. Because no one is holy like the Lord, no one is righteous like our God, no one is holy but You. Do not boast nor speak of high things; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the Lord is the God of knowledge; and God is preparing His actions. He weakened the bow of mighty men, and those who are weak are girded with strength. Those who were full of bread were made empty, and the hungry have forsaken the land. The barren woman has borne seven, and she who has many children has become feeble. The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Hades and raises up. The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the earth and lifts the needy

from the dung heap, to set them among princely people and make them inherit a throne of glory. The One who gives a prayer to the one praying, He blesses with righteous years; for by strength no man can prevail. The Lord makes His adversaries weak; the Lord is holy. Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding, nor let the man of might boast in his might, nor let the man of riches boast in his riches. Only let the one who boasts boast in this: to understand and to know the Lord and to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth. The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered. The Lord judges the ends of the earth. He gives strength to our leaders, and He will exalt the horn of His Christ. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Habakkuk the Prophet

Habakkuk 3:2-19

Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was greatly astonished. You shall be known between the two living creatures; in the approaching years You shall be acknowledged; You will be revealed when the time comes. When my soul is troubled, You will in wrath remember mercy. God will come from Teman, the Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees. His excellence covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness will be like the light; horns will be in His hand, and He established a mighty love of His strength. Before His face a word will go forth; it will go out by the shoes of His feet. The earth stood and was shaken to and fro; He looked and the nations melted away. The mountains were shattered by force; the everlasting hills wasted away. In the place of distresses, I saw His eternal ways. The tents of the Ethiopians will be dismayed, even the tents of the land of Midian. Were you angry, O Lord, with the rivers? Or was Your wrath against the rivers, or was Your fury against the sea, that You will mount on Your horses, and Your chariot is salvation? "You will stretch your bow against scepters," says the Lord. The land

of rivers shall be torn asunder. Many peoples will see you and be in travail, dispersing waters from its course. The abyss uttered its voice; raising its form on high. The sun arose, and the moon stood in its course; at the light of Your arrows they went forth, at the flashing of Your gleaming weapons. You will bring low the land with threatening; You will break the nations in wrath. You went forth for the salvation of Your people, to save Your anointed ones. You brought death upon the heads of the lawless; You brought bonds upon their neck. You cut off the heads of rulers in amazement; they shall tremble in it. They will break their bridles like a poor man eating secretly. You ran your horses into the sea, churning up the many waters. I kept watch, and my belly trembled from the sound of the prayer of my lips; and trembling penetrated into my bones. And my very frame of mind was troubled. I shall rest in the day of tribulation to go up to the people of my sojourn. For though the fig tree will not bear fruit and there be no grapes on the vines; the labor of the olive tree fail and the fields yield no food; though the sheep have no pasture and there be no oxen in the cribs; yet I will glory in the Lord; I will rejoice in God my Savior. The Lord God is my strength; He will direct my feet to the end; He will set me upon high places, so to conquer by His song. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Jonah the Prophet

Jonah 2:2-10

And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said: "I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God, and He heard my voice; Out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice. You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and rivers encompassed me; all Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me. And I said, 'I have been driven away from Your sight; shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?' Water is poured over me to my soul; the lowest depth encircled me; my head plunged into the clefts of the mountains. I descended

into the earth, the bars of which are everlasting barriers; yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God. When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord. May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple. Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy. But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise, I will sacrifice to You. As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You, to You, the Lord of Deliverance." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Hezekiah, King of Judah
when he was sick and recovered from his sickness

Isaiah 38:10-20

I said at the end of my days near the gates of Hades, 'I shall leave behind the remainder of my years.' I said, 'I shall no longer see the salvation of my God upon the earth; I shall no longer see a man among my kindred.' I left behind what remained of my life. It went away and departed from me like one who takes down a tent. My breath became in me like the web of a weaver when she draws near to cut it. On that day I was given as to a lion until morning. So He broke my bones, for from day until night I was given over. Like a swallow, so shall I cry; I will mourn like a dove. My eyes fail from looking to the height of heaven toward the Lord, who delivered me and removed the pain of my soul. O Lord, it was told You concerning this, and You revived my breath; and I was comforted and lived. For You chose my soul that it should not perish, and You cast all my sins behind me. For those in Hades shall not praise You, neither will the dead bless You; nor shall those in Hades hope for Your mercy. The living shall praise You as I do. For from this day forward, I shall cause children to declare Your righteousness, O Lord of my salvation, and I shall not cease to bless You with the psaltery all the days of my life before the house of God." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Manasseh the King

2 Chronicles 37:1-15

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their righteous seed; who made heaven and earth with all their ornamentation; who set the bounds of the sea by the word of Your command; who closed the abyss and sealed it by Your fearful and glorious name; before whom all things tremble and fear because of Your power; for the majesty of Your glory is unbearable, and the wrath of Your threats toward sinners cannot be withstood; yet Your merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable. For You are the Lord Most High, and are tenderhearted, patient, very merciful, and who repent toward the evils of man. Therefore You, O Lord God of the righteous, have not appointed repentance for the righteous, for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who have not sinned against You; but You have appointed repentance for me, a sinner, because I have sinned more than the number of the sands on the seashore. My lawlessness, O Lord, is multiplied. Yes, my lawlessness is multiplied, and I am not worthy to fix my eyes to behold the heights of heaven because of the multitude of my wrongdoings. I am bent down with so many iron chains that I shake my head over my sins, neither do I have any relief. For I have provoked Your anger and done evil in your sight. I have set up abominations and multiplied idols. Now therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, begging goodness from You. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know my lawlessness. I ask and beg you: forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and do not destroy me because of my lawlessness; neither reserve evils for me, nor be wrathful forever; nor condemn me to the lowest parts of the earth; for You are the Lord God of those who repent. And in me, though I am unworthy, You will show Your goodness, and will save me according to Your great mercy. Therefore I shall praise You continually all the days of my life, for all the powers of the heav-

ens praise You, and Yours is the glory unto the ages. Amen. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The First Ode of Isaiah the Prophet

Isaiah 26:9-20 [selection]

My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. The ungodly man ceases; he will not learn righteousness on the earth; he will not do the truth; let the ungodly man be taken away, that he may not see the glory of the Lord. O Lord, Your arm is exalted, but they did not know it. But when they know it, they shall be ashamed, for jealousy will seize an untaught people; and now fire will devour the adversaries. O Lord our God, grant us peace, for You render everything to us. O Lord our God, possess us; O Lord, we know no other besides You; we name Your name. The dead will not see life; neither will physicians raise them. Therefore You brought evils upon them and destroyed them, and took away every male of theirs. Bring more evils on them, O Lord, on the glorious of the earth. O Lord, I remembered You in my hard circumstances. Your chastening to us was a small affliction. As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so we became Your beloved because of Your fear, O Lord. We have been with child, we have been in pain, and we have given birth. We brought forth the spirit of Your salvation on the earth. But the inhabitants of the world shall fall. The dead shall rise up; and those in the tombs shall arise. Those in the earth shall be glad, for your dew is a healing for them, but the land of the ungodly shall come to an end." Come, my people, enter your closets and shut your door; hide yourself for a very short while, until the anger of the Lord is past. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Second Ode of Isaiah the Prophet

Isaiah 25:1-12

O Lord my God, I will glorify You; I will sing a hymn to Your name, for You have done wonderful things, an ancient and true counsel. So be it, O Lord. For You made cities into a mound; You made the foundations of their strong cities fall. The city of the ungodly shall not be built forever. Therefore the poor people will bless You, and the cities of wronged people will praise You. For You were a helper to every humbled city, and a protection to those who were disheartened by reason of poverty. You will deliver them from evil men, and be a shelter of the thirsty and a breath of life to the wronged. They will bless You as discouraged people, thirsting in Zion because of ungodly men to whom You delivered us. Then the Lord of hosts shall do this to all the nations on this mountain. They shall drink in gladness; they shall drink wine; they shall anoint themselves with ointment on this mountain. Deliver all these things to the nations, for this is the counsel for all the nations. Death prevailed and swallowed them, but again God wiped away every tear from every face; He took away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Then it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God, in whom we hoped and rejoiced exceedingly; and we shall be glad in His salvation." For on this mountain God will give them rest, and the Moabite shall be trampled down, in the manner the threshing floor is tread with wagons. He will spread forth His hands so as to humble man, to destroy him; and He will humble his arrogance—arrogance on which he laid his hands. The height of your refuge He will humble, and bring it down to the ground. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Third Ode of Isaiah the Prophet

Isaiah 26:1-9

In that day they shall sing this song in the land of Judah: "Behold, we have a strong city; He will make our salvation its surrounding wall. Open the gates; let the people enter who keep righteousness and guard the truth, and who lay hold of the truth and keep peace, because they hope forever in You, O Lord, the great and eternal God, who humbles and brings down those who dwell on high; the strong cities You will cast down; You will bring them down to the ground. The feet of the gentle and the humble shall tread them underfoot. The way of the godly is straight; and the way of the godly is prepared. For the way of the Lord is judgment. We hope in Your name and in the remembrance of You, which our soul desires at night. My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Ode of Jeremiah the Prophet

Lamentations of Jeremiah 5:16-22 [selection]

Woe to us, because we sinned! Because of this, our heart has become painful; because of this, our eyes have remained in darkness. On Mount Zion, because it is desolate, foxes pass through it. But You, O Lord, shall dwell forever, Your throne from generation to generation. Why will You utterly forget us? Will You forsake us for so long a time? Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we shall be converted; renew our days as before. For You have indeed rejected us, and are exceedingly angry with us." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Ode of Baruch the Prophet

Baruch 2:11-15

And now, O Lord God of Israel, who with a mighty hand led Your people out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with great power and with outstretched arm, and made a name for Yourself then, as it continues to this day, we have sinned and acted ungodly, we have acted unrighteously, O Lord our God, against all Your commandments. Let Your wrath turn away from us, for only a few of us remain within the nations where You scattered us. O Lord, hear our prayer and our petition, and for Your own sake deliver us, and grant us mercy before those who have carried us into exile, in order that the whole earth may come to know that You are the Lord our God, for Israel and his descendants are called by Your name. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Ode of Elijah the Prophet

3 Kingdoms (1 Kings) 18:36-39

After this, Elijah cried out to heaven and said, "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me this day with fire, and let this people know You are the God of Israel, and I am Your servant; and for Your sake I do all these works. Hear me, O Lord, hear me with fire, and let these people know You are the Lord God, so as turn the heart of this people back." Then fire fell from the Lord out of the heaven and consumed the whole burnt offering, the firewood, and the water in the furrow. The fire also licked up the stones and the soil. So all the people fell on their faces, and they said, "Truly, the Lord is God; He is God." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of David the Prophet

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 [selection]

Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel, our Father, unto the ages of ages. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the might. You are master over all that is in heaven and on the earth. Every king and nation is thrown into confusion before You. From the first, You are the wealth and the glory who reigns over all, as the Lord and dominion of all. In Your hand is power and authority, and you are almighty with Your hand to increase and establish all things. And now, Lord, we give thanks to You, and we praise Your glorious name. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Solomon the King

3 Kingdoms (1 Kings) 8:20-28

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, who keep Your covenant and Your mercy with Your servant who walks before You with all his heart. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth, and fulfilled it with Your hand, as today. Now, O Lord God of Israel, keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, so long as your people guard and keep their ways to walk before Me, as you walked before Me.' So now, O Lord God of Israel, let the word be confirmed You spoke to Your servant David my father. But will God indeed dwell with men on earth? If the heaven and the heaven of heaven will not be sufficient for You, how much less even this temple I built in Your name? Yet, O Lord God of Israel, regard my prayer, which Your servant is praying before You today, that Your

eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' to hear the prayer Your servant prays in this place day and night. You will hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. You will hear in Your dwelling place in heaven, and You will be merciful. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Daniel the Prophet

Daniel 9:4-19

So I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession. I said, "O Lord God, great and marvelous, who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and keep Your commandments— we sinned and did wrong. We acted lawlessly, fell away, and turned away from Your commandments and judgments. Neither did we obey Your servants the prophets who spoke in Your name to our kings, our rulers, our fathers, and to all the people in the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but shame of face belongs to us, as it is today, to the men of Judah, to those who dwell in Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those near and far in all the earth, wherever You scattered them in their faithlessness by which they rejected You. O Lord, shame of face belongs to us, our kings, our rulers, and to our fathers who sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, whereas we fell away. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by the hands of His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel transgressed Your law and turned aside, so as not to obey Your voice. Therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God has come upon us, because we sinned against You. So He confirmed His words which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us great calamities; for under the whole heaven such has not taken place, as the things that happened in Jerusalem. As it is written in the Law of Moses, all these calamities came upon us, yet we have

not entreated the Lord our God so as to turn from our wrongdoings, and to gain insight into all Your truth. Therefore the Lord watched and brought all these things upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in every work He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. So now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people from the land of Egypt with a strong hand, and who made Yourself a name as it is this day, we have sinned and acted lawlessly. O Lord, in all Your mercy, let Your anger and Your wrath be turned away from Your city of Jerusalem, Your holy mountain, though we have sinned; for in our wrongdoings and those of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a disgrace among all those around us. So now, O Lord our God, listen to the prayers of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is deserted because of You, O Lord. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our destruction and that of Your city, in which Your name is called upon; for not on the basis of our righteous deeds do we bring our prayer for mercy before You, but on the basis of Your abundant mercy. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, give heed and act! Do not delay for Your sake, O my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prophecy of Daniel the Prophet
concerning the Three Holy Young Men

Daniel 3:1-24

In his eighteenth year, King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image. Its height was sixty cubits and its width, six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather together the high officials, the commanders, the governors, the rulers, and all those in authority, along with all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. So the governors, the high officials, the leaders, the great rulers—all those in authority who

ruled the provinces came to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up, and they stood before the image Nebuchadnezzar made. Then the herald cried out in a loud voice, "To you it is commanded, O peoples and tribes and languages, that in what hour you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace." So at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, all the peoples, tribes, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. Then Chaldean men came forward and brought charges against the Jews, and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever. You, O king, made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, but does not fall down and worship the golden image shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace.Now there are certain Jews you set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those men did not obey your decree, O king; and they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden image you set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So the men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar then answered and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image I set up? Now then, if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, that you shall fall down and worship the golden image I made. But indeed, if you do not worship it at that time, you shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Then what god is there who will deliver you from my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "We have no need to answer you in regard to this thing. For there is a God in the heavens, whom we serve, and He is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us from your hands, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image you set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of anger, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he commanded them to heat the furnace seven times more, until it burned to its fullest. Then he commanded certain very strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Thereupon, those men were bound together with their sandals, caps, leg-coverings, and clothing, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace was exceedingly hot, these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. But they walked about in the midst of the flame, singing to God and praising the Lord. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Azariah

Daniel 3:25-51

Then Azariah stood and prayed thus and opened his mouth in the midst of the fire and said: "Blessed are You and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto the ages. For You are righteous in all You did for us, and all Your works are true. Your ways are upright, and all Your judgments are true. The judgments You made are true, according to all You brought on us and on the holy city of our fathers, because in truth and judgment You did all these things on account of our sins. For we sinned and acted lawlessly to depart from You. We sinned in every way, and did not obey Your commandments. Neither did we treasure or do as You commanded, that it might go well with us. Everything You brought

on us and all You did to us, You did in true judgment. You delivered us into the hands of lawless and rebellious enemies and to an unjust king—the most evil in any land. Now it is not for us to open our mouth, for this has become a shame and disgrace to Your servants and to those who worship You. For Your name's sake, do not hand us over to the end, and do not reject Your covenant. Do not withdraw Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, who is loved by You, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant, and of Israel, Your holy one, as You spoke to them, saying that You would multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand along the seashore. Yet we have been diminished in number, O Master, more than all the nations, and we are humbled in all the earth today because of our sins. At this time, there is no prince, no prophet, and no leader; there is no whole burnt offering, no sacrifice, no offering, and no incense; there is no place to bear fruit before You and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite soul and humbled spirit, may we receive mercy, as with whole burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and as with thousands of fatted lambs. So let this be our sacrifice before You today, and may it be accomplished for those who follow You; for there is no shame for those who trust in You. Now we are following You with all our heart, and we fear You and seek Your face. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us according to Your kindness and according to the abundance of Your mercy. Deliver us by Your wondrous works and give glory to Your name, O Lord. May all those who inflict evils upon Your servants be put to shame and humiliated in their power; and let their strength be crushed. Let them know that You alone are the Lord God and glorious over all the inhabited earth. Now the king's servants who cast them in did not cease to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, coarse fiber, and brushwood. The flame shot forty-nine cubits above the furnace, and it broke out and burned those it found around the furnace of the Chaldeans. But the Angel of the Lord went down into the furnace to join Azariah and his companions, and shook off the fiery flame of the furnace. He made the inside of the furnace to be as though a dew-laden

breeze were blowing through it, so the fire did not touch them at all, or cause them pain, or trouble them. Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying:

Hymn of the Three Holy Young Men (Coptic Third Ode)

Amen. Alleluia. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Daniel 3:52-88 & final verse of Coptic Third Ode

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Blessed is Your name and the temple of your glory, and You are praised exceedingly and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

You are blessed in the holy temple of Your glory, and are highly praised and exceedingly glorious unto the ages.

☩ Blessed are You on the throne of Your kingdom, and You are praised and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

“Blessed are You who behold the depths and sit upon the cherubim. You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Blessed are You in the firmament of heaven, for You are praised and glorified unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, and sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you heavens, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, all you waters above heaven, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, all you powers of the Lord, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ "Bless the Lord, you sun and moon, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you stars of heaven, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, every shower and dew, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, all you winds, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, you fire and heat, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

"Bless the Lord, you winter cold and summer heat, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, you dews and snows, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you frost and cold, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, you hoarfrosts and snows, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you night and day, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, you light and darkness, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you lightning and clouds, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Let the earth bless the Lord, and let it sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you mountains and hills, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, all you things growing on the earth, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, you springs, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, you seas and rivers, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

"Bless the Lord, you sea-monsters and everything that moves in the waters, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, all you birds of heaven, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, all you wild animals and cattle, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

☩ Bless the Lord, O children of men, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, O Israel, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

✢ Bless the Lord, O priests of the Lord, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, O servants of the Lord, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

✢ Bless the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, and sing a hymn to Him,and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Bless the Lord, O holy ones and humble in heart, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

✢ "Bless the Lord, O Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages;

Bless the Lord, all you who worship the Lord the God of our fathers, and sing a hymn to Him, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

Continuation of the Prophecy of Daniel the Prophet

concerning the Three Holy Young Men

Daniel 3:91-97

Now Nebuchadnezzar heard their singing, and he marveled and rose up in haste, and said to his nobles, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They replied to the king, "Truly, O king." Then the king said, "Behold, I see four men untied and walking in the midst of the fire, yet they are not destroyed; and the vision of the fourth is like the Son of God." Then the king approached the door of the burning fiery furnace, and called out to them by name, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come forth and come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came forth from the midst of the fire. Then the governors, the commanders, the viceroys, and the court officials gathered together and beheld

the men, that the fire had no power over their bodies; neither had it singed their hair, nor scorched their clothes, nor was the smell of fire on them. So King Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed is the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent His Angel and saved His servants who trusted in Him; for they altered the word of the king and handed over their bodies to be burned, so as not to serve and worship any god other than their God. Therefore I make a decree: 'Any people, tribe, or language that blasphemes the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be destroyed, and their houses plundered, because there is no other God who can deliver in this way.' " Then the king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego authority over the province of Babylon, and considered them worthy to be the rulers of all the Jews in his kingdom. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever."
Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.

The Prayer of Zechariah the Priest

Luke 1:68-79

"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Simeon the Elder

Luke 2:29-32

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

The Story of Susanna

Preamble to the Book of Daniel

There was a man living in Babylon, and his name was Jehoiakim. He took a wife whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Hilkiah, a very beautiful

woman and one who feared the Lord. Her parents were righteous and taught their daughter according to the Law of Moses. Jehoiakim was exceedingly wealthy, with a spacious garden adjoining his house, and the Jews came to him because he was the most honored of them all. In that year, two elders from the people were appointed as judges, concerning whom the Lord said, "Lawlessness came forth out of Babylon from the elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people." These men were frequently at Jehoiakim's house, and all who had judgments came to them. Now when the people departed at midday, Susanna would go into her husband's garden to walk. So the two elders would see her going in and walking about every day, and they desired her. They turned away their heart and averted their eyes from looking to heaven, and from remembering righteous judgments. Both were pierced to the heart for her, but they did not tell each other their pain. They were ashamed to inform one another of their desire, because they wished to have relations with her. So every day they eagerly watched to see her. Finally they said to one another, "Let us go home, for it is time for the midday meal," and going out, they parted from each other. But turning back, they met again, and when they pressured each other for the reason, they confessed their desire. Together they arranged for a time they could find her alone. Then it came to pass, while they were waiting for an opportune day, she went in as before with only two maids. She also wished to bathe in the garden, for it was hot. For no one was there except the two elders, who hid themselves and were watching her. She said to her maids, "Bring me oil and ointments, and shut the doors of the garden, that I may bathe." They did as she said and closed the garden doors. They went out by the side doors to bring the things commanded, but did not see the elders, because they were hidden. When the maids left, the two elders arose and ran to her, and said, "Look, the doors of the garden are closed, and no one will see us, and we desire you. Therefore give us your consent and lie with us. If you do not, we will testify that a young man was with you, and be-

cause of this you sent your maids away from you." Then Susanna sighed deeply and said, "I am hemmed in on all sides, for if I do this thing, it is death for me; yet if I do not, I will not escape your hands. But it is better for me not to do it and to fall into your hands, than to sin against the Lord." Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders cried out against her. One of them ran and opened the garden doors. When the household servants heard the cry in the garden, they rushed in by the side doors to see what had happened to her. So when the elders told their tale, the servants were deeply ashamed, for such a report had never been made about Susanna. Then it came to pass the next day, when the people assembled at the house of Jehoiakim, her husband, the two elders also came full of their lawless purpose against Susanna, to have her put to death. They said before all the people, "Send for Susanna the daughter of Hilkiah, who is the wife of Jehoiakim." So they sent for her, and she came with her parents, her children, and all her kindred. Now Susanna was very desirable and beautiful to behold. However, she was veiled; thus the lawless men commanded she be unveiled, so as to enjoy her beauty. But her friends and all who saw her wept. Then the two elders arose in the midst of the people and laid their hands upon her head. She wept and looked up to heaven; for her heart trusted in the Lord. The two elders said, "As we were walking in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, closed the doors of the garden, and dismissed the maids. Then a young man who was hidden came to her and lay with her. Now we were in a corner of the garden and saw this lawlessness. So we ran to them and saw them having relations. But we could not hold the man, for he was stronger than we. He then opened the doors and rushed out. So we seized this woman and asked her who the young man was, but she was unwilling to tell us." Thus the assembly believed them, as they were elders and judges among the people. So they condemned her to death. But Susanna cried out with a loud voice and said, "O eternal God, who know both what is secret and all things before they come to be, You

know these men testified against me falsely, and behold, I shall die, though I did none of the things they wickedly invented against me." The Lord heard her voice, and as she was being led away to be put to death, God aroused the holy spirit of a young boy, whose name was Daniel. He cried out with a loud voice, "I am innocent of the blood of this woman." So all the people turned to him and said, "What is this thing you said?" Then he stood in their midst and said, "Are you such fools, O sons of Israel? Without examination or knowledge of the evidence, have you condemned a daughter of Israel? Return to the place of judgment, for these men testified against her falsely." So all the people returned with haste. The elders said to him, "Come, sit in our midst and inform us, for God gives you that privilege." Daniel then said to them, "Separate them far from each other, and I will examine them." When they were separated from each other, he summoned one of them and said to him, "You old man of evil days, now the sins you committed in earlier days have come home; for you pronounce unjust judgments, condemn the innocent, and set the guilty free. Yet the Lord said, 'You shall not kill the innocent and the righteous.' Now then, if indeed you saw her, tell me, under which tree did you see them being intimate with each other?" He replied, "Under a mastic tree." Daniel then said, "Plainly, you lied against your own head, for even now the angel of God receives the sentence from God, and he shall cut you in two." Then he removed him, and commanded them to bring the other. He said to him, "You seed of Canaan and not of Judah, beauty deceived you, and desire turned away your heart. This is how both of you deal with the daughters of Israel, and they have been intimate with you through fear; but a daughter of Judah would not endure your lawlessness. Now then, tell me, under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?" He replied, "Under the evergreen oak." Daniel said to him, "Plainly, you also lied against your own head, for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to cut you in two, that he may destroy both of you." Then the whole assembly cried out with a loud voice and blessed God, who saves

those who hope in Him. So they rose up against the two elders, for Daniel convicted them out of their own mouth of bearing false witness; and they did to them the thing they maliciously intended to do against their neighbor. For acting in accordance with the Law of Moses, they put them to death. Therefore innocent blood was saved on that day. Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter, with Jehoiakim her husband and all her kindred, because nothing shameful was found in her. Thus Daniel had a great reputation among the people from that day onward. ***Praise is due to our God, forever. Amen.***

Matins

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 55:2-end [selection]

"Listen to Me and eat good things, and your soul will delight in good things. Incline your ears and follow my ways. Listen to Me, and your soul shall live in good things; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the holy and faithful things of David. Behold, I made him a witness among the Gentiles, a ruler and commander to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, which did not know you, shall call upon you, and the peoples who did not understand you shall take refuge in you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel; for He glorified you." Seek God, and when you find Him, call upon Him when He draws near to you. Let the ungodly man abandon his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; for He shall forgive your sins abundantly. "For My counsels are not as your counsels, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "But as heaven is distant from earth, so is My way distant from your ways, and your thoughts from My mind. For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments. For you shall go forth with gladness and shall be taught with joy, for the mountains and hills shall exult to receive you with joy; and all the trees of the field shall applaud with their branches. Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the

myrtle; and the Lord shall be for a name and for an everlasting sign, and He shall not fail." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Homily

A homily of our holy father Abba Athanasius the Apostolic, may his holy blessing be with us. Amen.

Again the season of the feast has come, O beloved brethren, which indeed, is always with us [we] who rejoice in the Lord, according as it is written, and it is shown again now to every one through him who was sent to proclaim it: "O Judah, celebrate your feasts, pay your vows " [Nah. 2:1 LXX]. For the fruit of our actions is brought yearly to the Lord who has commanded it, in a pure conscience; as with a husbandman's implement we bring up in a basket the fruit of the works of the year to the Lord who has commanded us. And again we shall blossom, being watered, indeed, from the sources of salvation, while planted in the vineyard of the Lord, as shoots we stretch out unto the things which are before; nor disobey Him who said, "Observe the month of new corn, and keep Pascha to the Lord your God" [Deut. 16:1 LXX]. For the Pascha is not of men, but of God; and as a manifestation of this we shall forsake the old works that we may be renewed by the new works which the Jews did not understand, who are now without feast. When it is said "keep the Pascha of the Lord your God," we bring to no effect the craft of these; as He informs us that it is not a commandment merely of this sort, but a figure of a work which is perfected towards God. For this saying "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness" [Ex. 20:14-16 LXX] and the rest of the commandments have a reproof for us; for they reprove the soul and are an exhortation to an upright life. In this is the victory of the crown of the elect of Heaven. ***Let us conclude the homily of our holy father Abba Athanasius the Apos-***

tolic, who enlightened our nous and the eyes of our hearts, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Pauline Epistle

For the resurrection of the dead who slept and reposed in the faith of Christ, O Lord repose all their souls. Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

1 Corinthians 5:7-end

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person." ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 87:5, 43:24, 43:27, 125:2-3 (LXX) [selection]

I am like a helpless man / free among the dead / Awake; why do You sleep, O Lord? / Arise; and do not reject us to the end / Arise, O Lord; help us / And redeem us for Your name's sake.

Then our mouth was filled with joy / And our tongue with exceeding joy / Then they shall say among the Gentiles / "The Lord did great things with them." / The Lord has done great things with us / We were glad.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 27:62-66

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard. ***Glory be to God, forever.***

Third Hour

Prophecies

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 13:15-22 [selection]

Listen and give ear. Do not exalt yourselves, for the Lord has spoken. Give glory to the Lord your God before it grows dark, and causes your feet to stumble on the dark mountains. You shall wait in anticipation of the light, but the shadow of death will be there; and they shall bring you into darkness. Now if you will not hear, your soul will weep secretly because of your insolent countenance, and your eyes will bring forth tears, for the Lord's flock is broken apart. Say to the king and to the nobles, "Humble yourself and sit down, for your crown of glory is removed from your head." The cities to the south were shut, and there was no one to open them. Judah is sent away completely as a settlement. Lift up your eyes, O Jerusalem, and see those who come from the north. Where is the flock given to you, the sheep of your glory? What will you say when they visit you? For you taught them lessons in the beginning against yourself. Shall not pains of agony seize you, like a woman who gives birth? But if you say in your heart, "Why have these things happened to me?" Because of the multitude of your wrongdoings.
Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 15:10-11 (LXX) [selection]

For You will not abandon my soul to Hades / Nor allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

You made known to me the ways of life / You will fill me with gladness in Your presence.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 16:24-end

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." ***Glory be to God, forever.***

Sixth Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 50:10-end, 51:1-8

"Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. Behold, all of you kindle a fire and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow. Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness and seek the Lord. Look to the solid rock which you hewed, and to the hole of the pit which you dug. Look to Abraham our father and to Sarah who bore you, for he was first, and I called and blessed him, and loved and multiplied him. And now I will comfort you, O Zion, and I comforted all her desert places; and I shall make her desert places like the Garden of the Lord. In it they shall find gladness and exceeding joy, and thanksgiving and the voice of praise. Listen to Me, listen, O My people and kings, give ear to Me, for law shall proceed from Me, and My judgment as the light of the Gentiles. My righteousness draws near quickly, and My salvation will go forth as light, and the Gentiles will hope in My arm, and the coastlands shall wait for Me and hope in My arm. Lift up your eyes to heaven, and look to the earth below, for heaven is solid as smoke, and the earth will grow old like a garment; and the inhabitants of the earth shall die, as do these things. But My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness will not fail. Listen to Me, My people who know judgment, in whose heart is My law. Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be overcome by their contempt. For as a garment will be devoured by time, and as wool will be de-

voured by a moth, so shall they be devoured. But My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 129:1-2, 141:8 (LXX) [selection]

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord / O Lord, hear my voice / Bring my soul out of prison / To give thanks to Your name, O Lord.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 5:3-12 [selection]

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven." ***Glory be to God, forever.***

The Book of the Revelation of St. John

Chapter 1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of

the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; his feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Chapter 2

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'"

And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."' And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."' And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I

will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Chapter 3

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can

shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""""

Chapter 4

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Chapter 5

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to

loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Chapter 6

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every moun-

tain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Chapter 7

After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Chapter 8

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the

censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Chapter 9

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months.

Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Chapter 10

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them." The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth." So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Chapter 11

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city

underfoot for forty-two months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great

power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth." Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Chapter 12

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to

the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 13

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given

him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Chapter 14

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could

learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth

was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Chapter 15

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested." After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Chapter 16

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth." So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew,

Armageddon. Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Chapter 17

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to

perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Chapter 18

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." And I heard another voice from

heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and say-

ing, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Chapter 19

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Chapter 20

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and

Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Chapter 21

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them,

which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Chapter 22

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each

tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone

takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Ninth Hour

Prophecies

From Isaiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Isaiah 45:15-20 [selection]

"'For You are God, the God of Israel, the Savior, yet we knew it not.' All who oppose him shall be ashamed and disgraced and shall walk in shame. Be restored to Me, O coastlands. Israel is saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation. They will not be ashamed or disgraced forever." For thus says the Lord, who made heaven—this is the God who formed the earth and made it. He established it, and did not make it in vain, but formed it to be inhabited—"I Am, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, nor in a dark place of the earth. I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain.' I Am, I am the Lord who speaks righteousness and declares the truth. Assemble yourselves and come. Take counsel together." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

From Jeremiah the Prophet, may his blessings be with us. Amen.

Jeremiah 38:31-34

"Behold, days are coming," says the Lord, "when I shall make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not abide in My covenant, and I disregarded them," says the Lord. "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will surely put My laws into their mind and write them on their hearts. I will be as God to them, and they shall be as My people. Each shall not teach his neighbor

and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoings, and I will no longer remember their sins." ***Glory be to the Holy Trinity our God, unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 40:11, 40:6 (LXX)

But You, O Lord, have mercy on me…

...And raise me up; and I will repay them / My enemies speak evil things against me / "When will he die, and his name perish?"

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

John 5:21-30

For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to

execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. ***Glory be to God, forever.***

Divine Liturgy

Pauline Epistle

For the resurrection of the dead who slept and reposed in the faith of Christ, O Lord repose all their souls. Paul, a bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

1 Corinthians 15:1-23 [selection]

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of

God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order. ***The grace of God the Father be with you all. Amen.***

Catholic Epistle

The Catholic Epistle, from the first epistle of our teacher Saint Peter. May his blessings be with us. Amen.

1 Peter 1:1-9

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you

do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. ***Do not love the world, nor the things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires. But he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.***

Praxis

The acts of our Fathers the Apostles. Their holy blessings be with us. Amen.

Acts 3:12-21

So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

The word of the Lord shall grow, multiply, be mighty, and be confirmed in the Holy Church of God. Amen.

Psalm

A psalm of David.

Psalms 3:6, 3:4, 81:8 (LXX)

I lay down and slept / I awoke, for the Lord will help me / But You, O Lord, are my protector / My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

Arise, O God; judge the earth / For You shall inherit all the Gentiles.

Gospel

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Matthew 28:1-end

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there

you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. ***Glory be to God, forever.***

Psalm
to be read during the distribution of the Holy Mysteries

A psalm of David.

Psalms 67:2 (LXX)

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered / And let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Gospel
to be read during the distribution of the Holy Mysteries

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the Holy Gospel. Wisdom. Let us stand aright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke 24:1-12

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. ***Glory be to God, forever.***

A selection of prophetic verses from the Psalms of David

to be chanted during the distribution of the Holy Mysteries

Psalms 21:2-3,7-9,12-14,17-22, 26:5-6 [selection], 37:21-23 [+verse from Coptic version of Septuagint], 68:21-27 [selection], 30:4-6 [selection], 68:27-30 [selection], 87:7-8, 40:7:-9 [selection], 3:6, 29:10, 39:3 [selection], 29:11-12, 29:6, 125:2-4

O God, my God, hear me; why have You forsaken me? / The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation / O my God, I will cry out by day, but You will not hear me / And by night, but not for a lack of understanding in me / But I am a worm, and not a man / A reproach of man and despised by the people / All who see me mock me / They speak with their lips and shake their head / Saying, "He hoped in the Lord, let Him rescue him / Let Him save him since He delights in him." / Do not stand off from me, for affliction is near / There is no one to help / Many young bulls surrounded me / Fat bulls encircled me / They opened their mouths against me / Like a raging and roaring lion / For many dogs surrounded me / An assembly of evildoers enclosed me / They pierced my hands and my feet / I numbered all my bones / And they look and stare at me / They divided my garments among themselves / And for my clothing they cast lots / But You, O Lord, do not remove Your help from me / Attend to my aid / Deliver my soul from the sword / And my only-begotten from the hand of the dog / Save me from the lion's mouth / My humiliation from the horns of the unicorns / He set me high upon a rock / And now, behold, He has lifted up my head above my enemies / Those who repaid me evil for good / Slandered me, because I pursue righteousness / They cast me

out, the beloved, as a corpse to be despised / And they nailed my flesh / Do not forsake me, O Lord / O my God, do not depart from me / Give heed to help me / O Lord of my salvation / And I waited for someone to sympathize with me; but no one was there / And for comforters, but I found not one / They gave me gall for my food / And they gave me vinegar for my drink / Let their table become a snare before them / And a recompense and a stumbling block / Let their eyes be darkened so they may not see / And bend down their backs continually / Pour out Your anger upon them / And let the fury of Your wrath lay hold of them / Let their dwelling place be laid waste / And let no one live in their tents / For they pursued closely the one You slew / And for Your name's sake You will guide and sustain me / For You will bring me out from the snare they hid for me / For You are my protector / Into Your hands I shall entrust my spirit / And they added to the pain of my wounds / Add lawlessness to their lawlessness / And let them not enter into Your righteousness / Let them be blotted out from the book of the living / And not be written with the righteous / I am poor and suffering / And the salvation of Your presence, O God, lays hold of me / They laid me in the lowest pit / In dark places and in the shadow of death / Your wrath rested upon me / And You brought all Your billows over me / He went forth and spoke the same / All my enemies whisper together against me / Against me they devise evils for me / They testify a lawless word against me / "Since he is asleep, will he rise up again?" / I lay down and slept / I awoke, for the Lord will help me / What profit is there in my blood / When I go down into decay? / Will the dust confess You? / Or will it declare Your truth? / [The Lord] …brought me up out of a miserable pit / And from miry clay / The Lord heard, and had mercy on me /

The Lord became my helper / You turned my lamentation into dancing for me / You tore up my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness / For there is wrath in His anger / But life in His will / Weeping will lodge at evening / But great joy in the morning / Then our mouth was filled with joy / And our tongue with exceeding joy / Then they shall say among the Gentiles / "The Lord did great things with them." / The Lord has done great things with us / We were glad / Return, O Lord, our captivity / Like streams in the south / Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit / Both and ever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.