

The Sixth Hour

Amen. Come let us worship God our King. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 54

Save me, O God, by thy name and vindicate me by thy might. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. For insolent men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before them. Behold, God is my helper; the lord is the upholder of my life. He will requite my enemies with evil; in thy faithfulness put an end to them. With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to thee; I will give thanks to thy name, O Lord, for it is good. For thou hast delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

PSALM 140

Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, Who plan evil things in their heart, and stir up wars continually. They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the poison of vipers. Guard me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from violent men, who have planned to trip up my feet. Arrogant men have hidden a trap for me, and with cords they have spread a net, by the wayside they have set snares for me. I say to the Lord, Thou art my God; give ear to the voice of my supplications, O Lord! O Lord, my Lord, my strong deliverer, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle. Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked; do not further his evil plot! Those who surround me lift up their head, let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them! Let burning coals fall upon them! Let them be cast into pits, no more to rise! Let not the slanderer be established in the land; let evil hunt down the violent man speedily! I

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know that the Lord maintains the cause of the afflicted, and executes justice for the needy. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to thy name; the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

PSALM 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, Will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; He will cover you with his pinions; and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, Nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation, No evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Because he cleaves to me in love I will deliver him; I will protect him because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

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

THE TROPARION may be read or sung (see appendix for music)

Troparion, Tone 2: Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth, O Christ our God; / by stretching out Thy most pure hands upon the Cross. / Gathering together all the nations, who cry: // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins, but entreat Him who was born of thee, O Virgin Theotokos, for the prayer of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master. Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-pure one, for merciful and strong to save is He who willed to suffer for us.

The following STICHERA may be read or sung (see appendix for music)

Reader Thus says the Lord to the Jews: My people, what have I done to you. Or how have I offended you? To your blind I gave sight, your lepers I cleansed, the paralytic I raised from his bed. My people, what have I done to you, and how have you repaid me? Instead of manna, gall: instead of water, vinegar; Instead of loving me, you nail me to the cross. I can bear no more. I shall call the Gentiles mine. They will glorify me with the Father and the Spirit, and I shall give them life eternal.

Vs. They gave me gall for food, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

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The choir of the Apostles cries out to you, O law-givers of Israel, scribes and Pharisees; behold the temple which you destroyed! Behold the Lamb whom you crucified! You delivered Him to the tomb, but by His own power he arose. Do not be deceived, O Jews. He it is that saved you in the sea and fed you in the wilderness. He is the life, the light, and the peace of the world.

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

Come, O Christ-bearing people! Let us see what the traitor Judas and the lawless priests have plotted against our Savior. Today they made the deathless word subject to death. They delivered Him to Pilate and crucified Him on Golgotha. Suffering these things our Savior cried aloud and said: "Father, forgive them this sin, that the nations may know my resurrection from the dead."

The Readings

Priest *Wisdom. Let us attend*

Reader The Prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone:

O Lord, our Lord / How wonderful is Thy name in all the earth.
Vs: Thy majesty is exalted above the heavens..

Priest Wisdom

Reader The reading is from the prophecy of Amos (8:9-12)

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Thus says the Lord: “And on that day” says the Lord God, “I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day. Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.”

Priest Wisdom

Reader The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18)

Brethren, For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, “I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee.” And again, “I will put my trust in him” and again, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

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Priest *Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.
Peace be unto all.*

Choir *And to Thy spirit*

Priest *The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke
(23: 32-49)*

Choir *Glory to Thy passion, O Lord.*

Priest At that time, two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place, which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him in Greek, Latin and Hebrew saying, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said to Jesus, "remember me when you come in your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about the sixth hour and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the

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sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he gave up the spirit. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

Choir Glory to Thy long-suffering, O Lord.

Reader Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, speedily go before us, for we have become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy name: O Lord, deliver us and purge away our sins, for Thy name's sake.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us, Lord cleanse us from our sins, Master, pardon our transgressions, Holy One visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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

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now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Priest For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader Amen

THE KONTAKION can either be read or sung (see appendix for music)

Kontakion, Tone 8: Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, / for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the tree, // Thou Thou dost endure the Cross, Thou art my Son and my God.

Reader Lord have mercy (12x)

Thou who at every season and in every hour, in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, merciful and compassionate: who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil and distress. Surround us with Thy holy angels, that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of

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Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without defilement You gave birth to God the Word: true Theotokos we magnify You.

In the name of the Lord, bless Father.

Priest God be bountiful unto us and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader Amen. O God, the Lord of hosts and Author of all creation, who in Thy boundless tender mercy hast sent down Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human race, and through His holy cross hast torn up the handwriting of our sins and thereby triumphed over the princes and dominions of darkness: Do Thou, O Master, who lovest mankind, accept these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to do us harm. Nail our flesh with the fear of Thee and let not our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with Thy love, that ever gazing upon Thee, guided by Thy light and beholding Thee, the eternal light that no man can approach, we may send up unceasing praises and thanks unto Thee, the Father without

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beginning, together with Thine only-begotten Son and Thy most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.