

The Ninth 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 93

The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength. Yea, the world is established; it shall never be moved; thy throne is established from of old; thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice, and the floods lift up their roaring. Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty! Thy decrees are very sure; holiness befits thy house, O Lord, for evermore

PSALM 114

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion. The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? O mountains that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water!

PSALM 86

Incline thy ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am godly; save thy servant who trusts in thee. Thou art my god; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to thee do I cry all the day. Gladden the soul of thy

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servant for to thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on thee. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; hearken to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on thee, for thou dost answer me. There is none like thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like thine. All the nations thou hast made shall come and bow down before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name. for thou art great and doest wondrous things, thou alone art God. Teach me thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in Thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name. I give thanks to thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify thy name forever. For great is thy steadfast love toward me; thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set thee before them. But thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and take pity on me; and give thy strength to thy servant, and save the son of thy handmaid. Show me a sign of thy favor that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because thou, Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.

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.

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

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

(Tone 4) The river Jordan once turned back before the mantle of Elisha after Elijah had been taken up into heaven and the waters were divided on this side and on that the stream became a dry path before him forming a true figure of the baptism whereby we pass over the changeful course of life. Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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

O loving Lord, who for our sakes wast born of a virgin and hast endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the Resurrection: Despise not the works of Thy hands, but show Thy love for mankind, O merciful one. Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave Thee birth, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

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

Reader A strange wonder it is to see the maker of heaven and earth stand naked in the river, and as a servant receive baptism from a servant, for our salvation. The choirs of angels were filled with amazement, fear and joy. Joining with them we worship Thee: O Lord, save us.

Vs. Therefore I will remember Thee from the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites. The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

When he saw the Lord of glory draw near to him, the Forerunner cried out: 'Lo, here is He who redeems the world from corruption. Lo, here is He who delivers us from affliction. Here is He who in mercy has come forth upon earth from a

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pure Virgin, granting remission of sins. Instead of servants, He makes us the sons of God; instead of darkness, He gives us light, through the water of His divine baptism. Come then, and let us with one accord, glorify Him together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

With thine hand hast thou touched the immaculate head of the master and with the finger of that hand thou hast shown Him to us: on our behalf O Baptist, stretch out that same hand over Him. For thou hast great boldness before Him. To thee He bore witness that thou art greater than all the prophets. With thine own eyes hast thou beheld the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove. Lift up those same eyes toward Him, O Baptist, and make him merciful towards us. Come and stand with us, setting the seal upon our song and beginning our feast.

The Readings

Priest *Wisdom. Let us attend*

Reader The Prokeimenon is in the 3rd Tone:

The Lord is my light and my savior: / whom shall I fear?

Vs: The Lord is the defender of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

Priest *Wisdom*

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Reader The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (49:8-15)

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you, in a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, in apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, 'Come forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways, on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall smite them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from afar, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Sinim." Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his afflicted. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Priest Wisdom

Reader The reading is from Epistle of the Holy Paul to Titus (2: 11-14; 3:4-7)

My child Titus: For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

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 Mark
(1:1-8)*

Choir Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

Priest

Choir Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

Reader For Thy holy name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not
dissolve Thy covenant; do not take Thy mercy from us, for the
sake of Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and
Israel Thy holy one

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.

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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, 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.

Priet 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)

(Tone 4) When the Lord descended today into the waters of the Jordan He cried aloud to John: Do not be afraid to baptize me for I am come to save Adam the first-formed man.

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

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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 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 Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, who art long-suffering towards our sins and hast brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-giving cross, Thou hast opened unto the good thief the way into paradise, and destroyed death by death: be merciful to us, Thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up

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our eyes and look at the height of heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Thy righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we pray Thee of Thy boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Thy mercy, and save us for Thy holy name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live for Thee, our master and Protector; and that so, following Thine ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest, in the place where all the joyful dwell. For Thou, O Christ our God, art indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love Thee, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is without beginning, and Thy most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen