

The Third 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 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy array. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Si'rion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forests bare; and in his temple all cry, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

PSALM 42

As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me continually, "Where is your God?" These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you

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disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God. My soul is cast down within me, therefore I remember thee from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the thunder of thy cataracts; all thy waves and thy billows have gone over me. By day the Lord commands his steadfast love; and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock: "Why hast thou forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?" Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable

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to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good to Zion in thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on thy altar.

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

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 Theotokos, you are the true vine who blossomed for us the fruit of life. We pray to you, O Lady: intercede together with the Apostles and all the saints that mercy may be granted to our souls.

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

Reader The right hand of the Forerunner and Baptist, the prophet honored above all the prophets, trembled as he beheld Thee, the Lamb of God who cleanses the sins of the world. Seized with agony, he cried, 'I dare not touch Thy head, O Word. Do Thou Thyself in Thy mercy sanctify and enlighten me; for thou art the life and the light and the peace of the world'.

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.

The Trinity, our God, today has made itself indivisibly manifest to us. For the Father in a loud voice bore clear witness to His Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove came down from the sky; while the Son bent His head before the Forerunner, and by receiving baptism He delivered us from bondage, in His love for mankind

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

Desiring to receive baptism, O Lord, Thou hast come with Thy flesh in man's form to the Jordan, O Giver of Life, to enlighten us who were gone astray, delivering us in Thy compassion from every device and snare of the dragon. Then the Father bore witness to Thee, and the divine Spirit in the form of a dove came down upon thee. Make Thy dwelling in our souls, O Thou who lovest mankind.

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The Readings

Priest *Wisdom. Let us attend*

Reader The Prokeimenon is in the 6th Tone:

The waters saw Thee, O God, / the waters saw Thee and were afraid.

Vs: I cried unto the Lord with my voice, even unto God with my voice, and He gave ear unto me.

Priest Wisdom

Reader The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (1:16-20)

Thus says the Lord: Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Priest Wisdom

Reader The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (19:1-8)

In those days, While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a

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Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God

*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 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my
messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the
voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the
Lord, make his paths straight -- " John the baptizer appeared
in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country
of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were
baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now
John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle
around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he
preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I,
the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down*

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and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Reader Blessed be the Lord God, blessed be the Lord from day to day, and may the God of our salvation prosper us, for He is our God, the God of salvation

Let Thy face shine on Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may hymn Thy glory and honor all day long.

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, 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.

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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)

(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 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

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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 Master, Father Almighty, O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power, have mercy upon me, a sinner, and according to Thy divine judgments save us, Thine unworthy servant, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen