

## 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 74

O God, why dost thou cast us off forever? Why does thy anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? Remember thy congregation, which thou hast gotten of old, which thou hast redeemed to be the tribe of thy heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where thou hast dwelt. Direct thy steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary! Thy foes have roared in the midst of thy holy place; they set up their own signs for signs. At the upper entrance they hacked the wooden trellis with axes. And then all its carved wood they broke down with hatchets and hammers. They set thy sanctuary on fire; to the ground they desecrated the dwelling place of thy name. They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them"; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land. We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long. How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile thy name forever? Why dost thou hold back thy hand, why dost thou keep thy right hand in thy bosom? Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. Thou didst divide the sea by thy might; thou didst break the heads of the dragons on the waters. Thou didst crush the heads of Leviathan, thou didst give him as food for the creatures of the wilderness. Thou didst cleave open springs and brooks; thou didst dry up ever-flowing streams. Thine is the day, thine also the night; thou hast established the luminaries and the sun. Thou hast fixed all the bounds of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter. Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs, and an impious people

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reviles thy name. Do not deliver the soul of thy dove to the wild beasts; do not forget the life of thy poor forever. Have regard for thy covenant; for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence. Let not the downtrodden be put to shame; let the poor and needy praise thy name. Arise, O God, plead thy cause; remember how the impious scoff at thee all the day! Do not forget the clamor of thy foes, the uproar of thy adversaries which goes up continually!

### PSALM 77

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me. In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. I think of God, and I moan; I meditate, and my spirit faints. Thou dost hold my eyelids from closing; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. I consider the days of old, I remember the years long ago. I commune with my heart in the night; I meditate and search my spirit: "Will the Lord reject forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love for ever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" And I say, "It is my grief that the right hand of the Most High has changed." I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; yea, I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate on all thy work, and muse on thy mighty deeds. Thy way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? Thou art the God who workest wonders, who hast manifested thy might among the peoples. Thou didst with thy arm redeem thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. When the waters saw thee, O God, when the waters saw thee, they were afraid, yea, the deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; thy arrows flashed on every side. The crash of thy thunder was in the whirlwind; thy lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Thy way was through the sea, thy path through the great waters; yet thy footprints were unseen. Thou didst lead thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

### 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.

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.

Because we have no boldness because of our many sins, entreat the One born of you, O Virgin Mother of God; for a Mother's plea has great force for the kindness of the Master. Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-holy one, for he is merciful, and able to save, he who even accepted to suffer for us.

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

Reader      Thus spoke the Lord to John: 'O Prophet, come and baptize Me who created thee, for I enlighten all men by grace and cleanse them. Touch My divine head and doubt not. O Prophet, suffer it to be so now: for I have come to fulfill all righteousness. Be in no doubt at all: for I am in haste to slay the enemy hidden in the waters, the prince of darkness, that I may now deliver the world from his snares, granting eternal life in my love for mankind.

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.

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Today the prophecy of the psalms swiftly approaches its fulfillment: the sea saw it and fled: Jordan was driven back before the face of the Lord, before the face of the God of Jacob, when He came to receive baptism from His servant, that we, washed clean from the defilement of idolatry, through Him might be enlightened in our souls.

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

Why dost thou turn back thy waters, O Jordan? Why dost thou stop thy streams and why dost thou not proceed upon thy natural course? ‘I cannot bear”, said he, “the fire that consumes me. I am filled with wonder and with dread before His extreme condescension. For I am not used to wash him that is clean: I have not learned to bathe the sinless, but to purge the filthy vessels. Christ who is baptized in me teaches me to burn the thorns of sin. John, the voice of the Word, bears witness with me and cries: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Unto Him let us the faithful cry aloud: O God who art made manifest for our salvation, glory to Thee.

### The Readings

*Priest*      *Wisdom. Let us attend*

*Reader*      The Prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone:

Thy ways are in the sea, / and Thy paths in the great waters.

Vs: The voice of Thy thunder was heard in the whirlwind.

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Priest      Wisdom

Reader      The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (12:3-6)

Thus says the Lord: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted. "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Priest      Wisdom

Reader      The reading is from Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (6: 2-11)

Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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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 Mark  
(1:1-8)*

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

*Priest*

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

Reader      Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, come quickly to our aid, for  
we are utterly poor; help us, O God our Savior, for the glory  
of thy name. O Lord, deliver us, and have mercy on 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.

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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.

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)

(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

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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. God and Lord of powers, and Maker of all creation, who through the compassion of your incomprehensible mercy sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and through his precious Cross tore up the record of our sins, and by it triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness; do you yourself, O Master who loves mankind, accept also our supplications of thanksgiving and entreaty; and deliver us from destroying and dark transgression, and from all our foes, visible and invisible, who seek to harm us. Nail down our flesh through fear of you, and do not let our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but wound our souls with longing for you; that ever gazing upon you and guided by the light that comes from you, seeing you the

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unapproachable and everlasting light, we may give thanks to you, the Father without beginning, with your only-begotten Son and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.