

## Memorization

### The Midnight Hour

- ❖ The Midnight Hour signifies the second coming of the Lord
- ❖ It is read just before the Midnight Praises
- ❖ It consists of three watches, corresponding to the three stages of Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane

#### First Watch:

##### Psalm 3

O Lord, why have they who afflict me multiplied? Many have risen up upon me. Many say unto my soul, "There is no salvation for him in his God." But You, O Lord, are my supporter, my glory, and the elevation of my head.

With my voice I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid down and slept; and I arose; for the Lord is He who supports me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, who surround me; who have risen upon me. Rise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for You have smitten all who are enemies to me without cause. The teeth of the sinners You have broken. Salvation is the Lord's, and His blessing is upon His people. ALLELUIA.

##### The Gospel (Matthew 25: 1-13)

*Holy, holy, holy. A reading from the gospel according to our teacher Saint Matthew the Evangelist. May his blessings be with us all. Amen.*

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And 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. While the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; arise and go out to meet him." Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, "Give us 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, "Verily I say unto you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Glory be to God forever. Amen.

## Second Watch:

### Psalm 120 (121)

I lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from where my help shall come. My help shall come from the Lord, who made the heaven and the earth. He will not let your foot be moved, and your keeper will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall not slumber nor sleep. The Lord shall keep you; the Lord shall cast a shelter upon your right hand. The sun shall not burn you by day, neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from every evil; the Lord shall keep your soul. The Lord shall keep your coming in and your going out, from this time and forever. ALLELUIA.

### Psalm 123 (124)

If it had not been that the Lord is among us, let Israel say; if it had not been that the Lord is among us when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their wrath was kindled against us. Then the water would have drowned us. Our soul would have gone under the raging flood; then our soul would have gone under the unlimited water. Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us for a prey to their teeth. Our soul has been delivered as a sparrow from the snare of the hunters. The snare was broken, and we were delivered. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ALLELUIA.

## Third Watch:

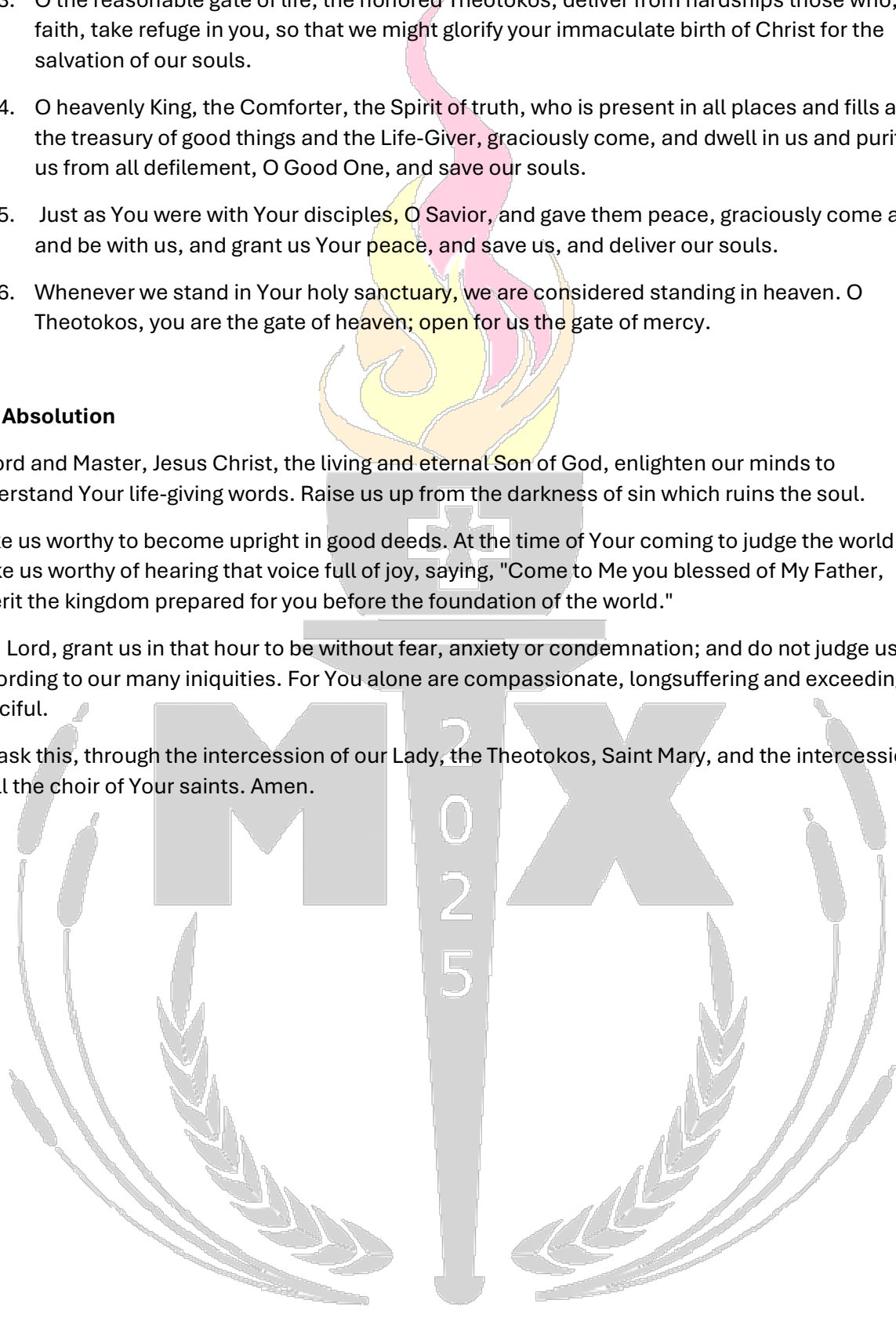
### Psalm 137

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart, for You have heard all the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will chant to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and give thanks to Your name, on account of Your mercy and Your truth; for You have magnified Your holy name above all. The day in which I call upon You, hear me speedily; You shall exceedingly look upon my soul with power. Let all the kings of the earth, O Lord, give thanks to You; for they have heard all the words of Your mouth. And let them sing in the ways of the Lord; for great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, and He regards the lowly; and He knows the existing things from afar off. If I walk in the midst of affliction, You shall revive me; You have stretched forth Your hands against the wrath of enemies, and Your right hand has saved me. O Lord, You shall reward on my behalf: Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever: do not overlook the works of Your hands. ALLELUIA.

### The Litanies

1. With a compassionate eye, O Lord, look at my weakness, for shortly my life will end, and in my deeds I shall have no salvation. Therefore, I beseech You, O Lord, with a merciful eye look at my weakness, my humility, my poverty and my sojourn, and save me.
2. As the Judge is present, take heed, O my soul, awake and consider that awesome hour, for in the day of judgment, there will be no mercy on those who were not merciful. Therefore, have compassion on me, O Savior, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

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3. O the reasonable gate of life, the honored Theotokos, deliver from hardships those who, in faith, take refuge in you, so that we might glorify your immaculate birth of Christ for the salvation of our souls.
  4. O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who is present in all places and fills all, the treasury of good things and the Life-Giver, graciously come, and dwell in us and purify us from all defilement, O Good One, and save our souls.
  5. Just as You were with Your disciples, O Savior, and gave them peace, graciously come also and be with us, and grant us Your peace, and save us, and deliver our souls.
  6. Whenever we stand in Your holy sanctuary, we are considered standing in heaven. O Theotokos, you are the gate of heaven; open for us the gate of mercy.

### **The Absolution**

O Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, the living and eternal Son of God, enlighten our minds to understand Your life-giving words. Raise us up from the darkness of sin which ruins the soul.

Make us worthy to become upright in good deeds. At the time of Your coming to judge the world, make us worthy of hearing that voice full of joy, saying, "Come to Me you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you before the foundation of the world."

Yes, Lord, grant us in that hour to be without fear, anxiety or condemnation; and do not judge us according to our many iniquities. For You alone are compassionate, longsuffering and exceedingly merciful.

We ask this, through the intercession of our Lady, the Theotokos, Saint Mary, and the intercession of all the choir of Your saints. Amen.