

LITURGY, AGPEYA AND PRAISES

The Midnight Praises

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Saint Basil the Great said that the work of praising attracts the service of the angels because this is part of their job and they come closer to those who do the same as they.

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- The psalmody is a deep spiritual book based in the order of the Holy Liturgy.
- It was placed through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- This is clear from the words of the psalmody, which are taken from the Holy Bible, the Book of Psalms, and from the accurate and deep theological understandings.
- These understandings can be found in either the *theotokiat* or the *Psalis* (which make up the psalmody), or from its *tunes* which move the emotions and stays in the sky of the spirit.
- Thus, bringing a person closer and closer to God and helping him easily towards the life of meditation

The Midnight Praises

1. The psalms

- The midnight hours which are found in the Agpeya .

2. "Ten Theno..."

- It is composed of the parts said in the midnight prayers and those which are said after Psalm 50 (Have mercy upon me O God).
- "Ten Theno..." mean "Let us rise o suns of light that we may praise the Lord of powers."

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3. "Tennav"

- which means "Let us look at the resurrection of Christ."
- It is said from the feast of the Resurrection and during the 50 days after it, then after that only on Sundays until the end of the month of *Hathor*.

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4. The first "hos" (canticle) and its Lobsh

- The word *hos* means praise.
- The first *hos* consists of the praises of Moses (book of Exodus chapter 15).
- And it was said when he and Israel crossed the Red Sea, they were saved from the hands of the Egyptians.“
- This was the cause of joy and praising to the entire congregation.
- It also symbolizes every person who has come out of the strict slavery of the devil and from the bondage of this hard world.
- He (anyone doing the psalmody) thus praises with Moses saying, "Your right hand O Lord is glorified with power, Your right hand my Lord has defeated Your enemies.“
- The *Lobsh* is an explanation or a praise about the *hos*.

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5. The second Hos and its Lobsh

- Psalm 135. In the which we thank God for He is good and beneficent.
- We meditate on all His creation, we thank Him for His creation.
- We say "for His mercy endures forever." This phrase is repeated after every verse of the Psalm.

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6. The third Hos

- The three saintly youths [Prayer of Azariah], which we find in the "Apocrypha".
- And in it the three youths ask all the creation to join with them in the praise of God and the blessing of His Mightiness.
- "Let us praise Him and exalt Him above all forever," ("Hos erof ari ho oo shasf sha ni eneh.") This is the phrase sung after every verse.

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7. Aripsalin

- It does not differ in its meaning from the meaning of the Third Hos itself.
- All its words are in the Coptic & Greek languages.

8. Tenen

- Another Greek hymn for the three saintly youths, *which is sung only during the month of Koiahk.*

9. "Tenoweh ensok khi pen heet tirtf,"

- Another praise for the three saintly youths, sung in a long and meditative tune, *meaning, "We follow You with all our hearts."*

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10. The commemoration of the saints. (in Arabic: "*magmaa*").

- When we have become involved in praising God and glorifying Him, we have the participation of the victorious church with us. It is the souls of the saints who have preceded us to the paradise of joy.
- That come to support us and to accompany us in our continuous struggle against the world, sin, and the weaknesses of the body.
- We ask from their love and their aid to remember us before the Throne of blessing with a stronger intercession.
- We say, "Intercede (or pray) on our behalf that the Lord may forgive us our sins."

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11. the Doxologies

- From the Greek word doxa, meaning glory.
- The Doxologies are the hymns in which we honor the Virgin Mary and all the saints.
- We remember also their virtues and their struggles in their spiritual lives.
- This is also in conjunction with the teachings of the church and the Holy Bible where the Lord said, "Honor those who honor Me."

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12. The fourth Hos

- *Composed of three psalms 148, 149, and 150.*
- These psalms express the state of joy, victory, and rejoicing from all the heart and from all the soul.

13. The Psali

- Changes every day.
- Each day of the week has one psali specifically for that day.
- The word Psali means hymn and, in is organized around the name of the Lord Jesus, which is always repeated in almost every paragraph (verse).

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14. The theotokia

- Changes every day.
- Each day of the week has one theotokia specifically for that day.
- A Greek word meaning, "The mother of God"
- The word "Theo" means God and "tokos" means mother.
- These "theotokiat" are all the symbols and allusions which are in the Old Testament about the Holy Virgin Mary.
- And in them also are the deep theological understandings about the truth (essence) of the incarnation which is beyond comprehension and the human mind.
- Also they are about the nature of the holy birth of our Good Savior our Lord Jesus Christ of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary.

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15. "Antiphonarium"(Difnar)

- Is read and in it is the shortened story of the saint of the day.

16. The ending of the Theotokia

17. "We magnify you o mother of the true Light..."

18. the creed.

19. "Kirie eleyson"

- *It has different requests for our bodily, psychological, and spiritual lives.*
- It has also the declaration of our faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

20. "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth..."

21. The morning psalms.

22. The Morning praise

as an introduction to the morning rising of incense.