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ΣΕΝ ΨΡΑΝ ἠΦΙΩΤ ΝΕΜ ΠΩΗΡΙ ΝΕΜ ΠΙΠΝΕΥΜΑ ΕΘΟΥΔΒ ΟΥΝΟΥ† ΝΟΥΩΤ ἌΜΗΝ

LESSON 3 The 9th, 11th, and 12th Hours of the Agpeya

The Agpeya

The word “Agpeya” comes from the Coptic word ⲧⲁⲭⲡⲓ (*ti agp*), which means “the hour”. Therefore, the Agpeya is the book of hours. Prayers, psalms, and parts of the gospel are read at each hour of the day. Each hour commemorates an event in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are seven canonical hours in the Agpeya, reminding us of what the prophet David said, “*Seven times a day I have praised You because of the judgments of Your righteousness*” (Psalm 118:164). It is also mentioned in the book of Acts that the apostles prayed at certain hours of the day.

We generally pray the Agpeya as follows:

- a. The Introduction to Every Hour
(The Lord’s Prayer, the Prayer of Thanksgiving, and Psalm 50)
- b. 12 Psalms in each hour of the Agpeya (except for the First Hour)
- c. The Gospel Reading
- d. The Troparia (verses after the Gospel)
- e. Pray, “Lord, have mercy” 41 times
- f. The prayer of “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Hosts”
- g. The Absolution
- h. The Conclusion of each hour (“Have mercy upon us, O God, and have mercy...”)

The Agpeya and the Raising of Evening Incense

During the Raising of Evening on Saturday, the ninth, eleventh, and twelfth hours of the Agpeya are read before the start of Vesper Praise.

1. **The Ninth Hour (3:00 pm)** – During this hour, we commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, his triumph over the evil that reigned over us, and the salvation that was accomplished by these events.

We are reminded of this when we read Psalm 109 in this hour, which starts, “*The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit on My right hand, until I place Your enemies under Your feet.*”

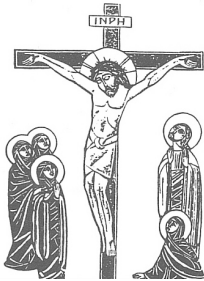
The gospel reading of this hour is the miracle of the feeding of the multitudes (Luke 9:10-17). On days, when we abstain from food, the church’s fasts generally end at the ninth hour, so this gospel reminds us to ask for the blessings of our Lord when we eat.

2. **The Eleventh Hour (5:00 pm)** – This is the sunset prayer. It commemorates the removal of the body of our Lord Jesus from the cross, and the restoration of our father, Adam, to paradise. The sunset prayer also reminds us of our own departure and how must be ready in repentance.

The gospel of this hour narrates the healing of Saint Peter’s mother in law and also how our Lord cast out the demons. We are reminded at the end of the day to ask the Lord to heal our sickness, both physical and spiritual, and to cast out the evil within us, which causes us to sin. In the absolution, we also thank Him for bringing us to the end of the day peacefully.

3. **The Twelfth Hour (6:00 pm)** – This hour commemorates the burial of our Lord in the tomb. This subject of death also reminds us of leading a repentant life. The Troparia remind us of this when we say, “Behold I am about to stand before the Just Judge terrified and trembling because of my many sins...but, repent, O my soul, so long as you dwell on earth...” In the absolution, we ask the Lord to forgive all our sins which we committed against Him in this day, whether in deeds, words, thoughts, or through all senses.

GLORY BE TO GOD FOREVER. AMEN.



“O You, Who tasted death in the flesh in the ninth hour for our sake, we the sinners put to death our carnal lusts, O Christ, our God, and deliver us.”



“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever” (Psalm 117).



“Graciously accord, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.”