

ST. MAXIMUS CATECHISM CLASS 2010 HANDOUT
INTRODUCTORY LECTURE 8: THE CHURCH & HER RATIONAL WORSHIP

Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Matthew 18:19-20 “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Didache, Chapter 14 “But every Lord’s day, do ye gather yourselves together, and break bread, and give thanksgiving after having confessed our transgressions, that our sacrifice may be pure.”

I Corinthians 10:16-17 “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.”

Didache, chapter 9 “Even as this bread was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let Thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Thy kingdom; for Thine is glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever.”

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

“Let us commend ourselves, each other, and all our lives unto Christ our God.” *Litany end*

Exodus 29:38-42 “Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD. This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.”

Exodus 30, 1, 7-8 “And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it....And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.”

Malachi 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, For the Life of the World, pp. 61-63 “Vespers is the recognition that the evening of this world has come which announces the day that has no evening. In this world every day faces night; the world itself is facing night. It cannot last forever. Yet the Church is affirming that an evening is not only an end, but also a beginning, just as any evening is also the beginning of another day. In Christ and through Christ it may become the beginning of a *new life*, of the day that has no evening.” *Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, For the Life of the World, pp. 61-6*

Psalm 118 (119):164 “Seven times a day do I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments.”

I Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

Psalm 118 (119):62 “At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments.”

Bp. Kallistos Ware, Festal Menaion, p. 16. “The Orthodox service books as a whole are in the last analysis little else than one vast and extended meditation upon Holy Scripture.”

Daily Cycle of Services

- A. Vespers (sunset)
- B. Compline (after supper)
- C. Midnight/Nocturnes (midnight)
- D. Matins (concludes at sunrise)
- E. First Hour (7:00 a.m.)
- F. Third Hour (9:00 a.m.)
- G. Sixth Hour (noon)
- H. Ninth Hour (3:00 p.m.)

Weekly Cycle of the Eight Tones

- A. Sunday (Resurrection)
- B. Monday (Holy Angels)
- C. Tuesday (St. John the Baptist)
- D. Wednesday (Betrayal and Cross)
- E. Thursday (Holy Apostles & St. Nicholas)
- F. Friday (Passion and Cross)
- G. Saturday (Martyrs & All-Saints)

Feasts of the Paschal Cycle

- Palm Sunday
- Pascha, the Feast of Feasts
- Ascension (40 days after Pascha)
- Pentecost (50 days after Pascha, or the 8th Sunday)

Great Fixed Feasts

- September 8: Nativity of Theotokos
- September 14: Elevation of the Cross
- November 21: Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
- December 25: Nativity of our Lord
- January 6: Theophany
- February 2: Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
- March 25: Annunciation
- August 6: Transfiguration
- August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos

Octoechos: Book of the Eight Tones (weekly cycle of 8 tones)

Menaion (1 volume per month): Fixed feasts of yearly cycle

Triodion: Hymns for the Lenten half of the Paschal Cycle

Pentecostarion: Hymns for the Paschal half of the Paschal cycle