





## *Holiness of Hymns and Purity of Praises*

The body of the Holy Psalmody begins with the Psali of the day, or the Psali of the feast. Then the Theotokia of the day is said. Afterwards, the Antiphonarium (praises to the saint of the day) is recited, the Theotokia is ended with the conclusion of the Theotokias (Adam or Batos). Here the introduction to the Creed and the Creed are recited together with the Litany, iHave Mercy O Godî. Finally, the Midnight Psalmody is concluded with the Absolution of the Midnight Office said by the priest.

As you might have noticed my dear reader, that the order of the Midnight Psalmody is following the pattern pictured for us in Psalm 66:12, which states: *“We went through water and through fire; but you brought us out to rich fulfillment.”* The first Canticle represents the water (Exodus 15), the third Canticle represents the fire (Completion of Daniel 3:23), and the fourth Canticle along with the Commemoration of the Saints represents the rich fulfillment, which is Heaven.

The Midnight Praises are followed by the Prayers of the Morning Hour. The latter consists of prayers of the First Hour in the Agpeya, the Doxology of the Morning Hour and then the conclusion of the Adam Theotokias After all these praises we start the Divine Liturgy. The faithful who attends all these praises before participating in the Divine Liturgy, receives an abundance of Grace that fills him with an overwhelming joy that exceeds all the minds of men.

We thank the Lord who has made it possible for us and for our children to praise His Name in the original language of our land of immigration,

which is English. The English Holy Psalmody consists of the Prayers of the Evening Hour, the Raising of the Evening Incense, the Midnight Psalmody, the Prayers of the Morning Hour, and the Raising of Incense

May the Lord help us to continually sing unto Him a new song, and forbid us not from standing before Him, lifting up holy hands and serving His Holy Name until His coming, through the intercessions of St John the Baptist and through the prayers of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III and His partner in the Divine Liturgy His Grace Bishop Youssef. Amen. ✙

