The stern decree of the tyrant king did not persuade the three most righteous Children, who, being cast in the furnace, confessed God with thanks and sang the hymn:

Bless the Lord and exalt Him, ye works of the Lord our God.
While casting off far away from us all ease and sloth,

with bright kindled torches come, let us go forth

with hymns now to meet the immortal Bridegroom, Christ,

crying out: O ye works of the Lord, praise and bless the Lord.
May the fellowship of our souls suffice as timely oil in spiritual vessels, so that, not spending the season of commerce without reward or gain, we might chant: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord our God.
Let every one of you that received a talent from the hand of God increase it in measure fitting the grace, with the help of Christ God, Who gave the gift, as ye chant: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord our God.
Ode Nine

The Heirmos

O thou who held-est in thy womb God, Whom nothing can contain, and didst bring forth Joy for the world entire, we ex-tol thee, O thou all-ho-ly Vir-gin.

Thou, Who art good, didst tell Thy friends and dis-ci-ples,

Watch ye all; for ye know not the hour when the Lord shall come and shall ren-der un-to each as is fit-ting.
O Master, grant that I might stand with the sheep at Thy right hand, wholly overlooking the multitudes of my failings, at Thy dread Second Coming.