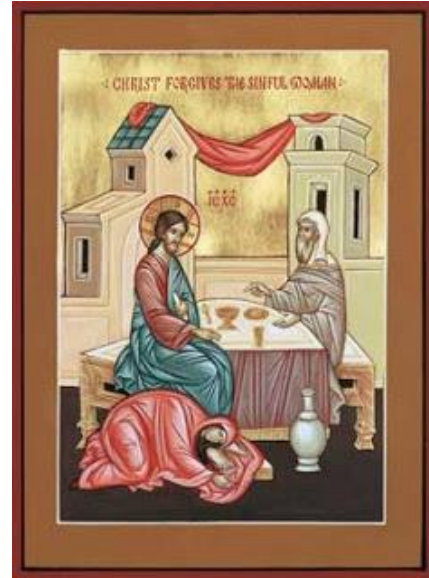


## ***Holy Week Reflections: Wednesday***

During these first three days of Holy Week, we reflect on Jesus as the “Bridegroom” — the Spouse of the Bride (the Church). He is coming to lay down His life for His Bride.

- **Holy Wednesday** is devoted to the remembrance of two actions:
  - the action of the woman who, at Bethany, came to pour a jar of precious ointment on Jesus’s head,
    - Spiritual thought: She was a sinner who repented. Our heart is the first jar of ointment that we must break before Him, for Him
  - and the action of the disciple (Judas) who betrayed his Jesus (the agreement made by Judas with the Jewish authorities).
    - Spiritual thought: He was a sinner who chose not to repent, and refused to believe in the possibility of forgiveness. Let us pray that our hearts are not harden by sin.

(Holy Wednesday Icon: <http://byztex.blogspot.com/2010/03/mystagogy-central-message-of-holy.html>)



- **Bridegroom prayer**

Behold, the Bridegroom is coming in the middle of the night.  
Blessed is the servant he shall find awake  
But the one he shall find neglectful will not be worthy of him.  
Beware, therefore, O my soul! Do not fall into a deep slumber, lest you be delivered to death and the door of the Kingdom be closed to you.  
Watch instead and cry out: Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O God.  
Through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

- **If you wish, additional readings:**

- Morning:
  - John 12:17-50
- Evening:
  - Exodus 2:11-22,
  - Job 2:1- 10,
  - Matthew 26:6-16