Johannes Pulkkanen

Sankt Ignatios College

The Hexapsalmos refers to the seemingly random combination of six Psalms that the superior of a monastic community, a bishop if present, or an appointed reader solemnly reads at the beginning of the Matins service. It is composed of two triads. The first is the psalms 3, 38, 63 and the second the psalms 88, 103, 143. This paper discusses the meaning of these psalms taken as a whole. The thesis is that they function both as an unusually potent, albeit mystical, commentary on both the life in God and Orthodox worship.