

## The Ninth Hour

*The Beautiful Gates are closed; the Priest, vested in rasson and dark-colored epitrachelion stands before the Holy Altar and says:*

*The Priest:*

**B**lessed ✠ is our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Priest:*

**G**lory to You, our God, glory to You.

**H**eavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present everywhere and filling all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

*The Reader:* Holy God..., Glory..., now and ever..., All-holy Trinity..., Lord, have mercy (3).  
Glory..., now and ever..., Our Father...

*The Priest:*

**F**or Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Priest exits and takes Kairo saying only: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers ...". He reenters to vest in dark vestments (without wearing the epigonation or pectoral Cross) simply saying, "Through the prayers of our holy fathers ..."*

### Psalm 83

*The Reader:* Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, ✠ let us worship and fall down before God, our King.

Come, ✠ let us worship and fall down before Christ God, our King.

Come, ✠ let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

How beloved are Your dwellings, Lord of hosts; my soul longs and faints for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God.

For the sparrow has found herself a house, and the turtledove a nest for herself where she may lay her young.

Even Your altars, Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they shall praise You to ages of ages.

Blessed is the man whose help is from You; he has made ascents in his heart, in the valley of weeping, in the place which he has appointed.

Yes, for the lawgiver will give blessings; they shall go from strength to strength, the God of gods shall be seen in Sion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, God of Jacob.

God our Defender, behold, and look on the face of Your anointed one.

For one day in Your courts is better than thousands elsewhere.

I have chosen to be an outcast in the house of my God rather than to dwell in the tents of sinners.

For the Lord loves mercy and truth, God will give grace and glory; the Lord will not withhold good things from those who walk in innocence.

Lord God of hosts, blessed is the man that hopes in You.

#### **Psalm 84**

You have been gracious to Your land, Lord; You have turned back the captivity of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquities of Your people, You have covered all their sins.

You have made all Your wrath to cease, You have turned back from the wrath of Your anger.

Turn us back, God of our salvation, and turn away Your anger from us.

Will You be wrathful with us to the ages? Or will You draw out Your wrath from generation to generation?

God, You will turn and quicken us, and Your people shall be glad in You.

Show us Your mercy Lord, and give us Your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God will speak in me; for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints and to those who turn their heart to Him.

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth has sprung up out of the earth, and righteousness has looked down from heaven.

Yes, for the Lord will give goodness, and our land shall yield her fruit.

Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set His footsteps in the way.

#### **Psalm 85**

Bow down Your ear, Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Your servant that hopes in You, my God.

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I will cry to You all the day long; make the soul of Your servant glad, for I have lifted up my soul to You.

For You, Lord, are good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy to all those who call on You.

Give ear, Lord, to my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplication.

In the day of my affliction I have cried to You, for You have heard me.

There is none like You among the gods, Lord, nor are there any works like Your works.

All nations whom You have made shall come and shall worship before You, Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

For You are great and work wonders; You alone are God.

Guide me, Lord, in Your way, and I will walk in Your truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Your name.

I will confess You, Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name to the ages.

For Your mercy is great on me, and You have delivered my soul from the nethermost Hades.

God, transgressors have risen up against me, and the assembly of the mighty has sought after my soul, and they have not set You before them.

But You, Lord my God, are compassionate and merciful, long suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true.

Look upon me, and have mercy upon me; give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your handmaiden.

Work in me a sign for good, and let those who hate me behold and be put to shame; for You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

### **Troparia**

*Tone Plagal 4*

*The Reader:*

#### ***Holy Week***

Glory to the ✠ Father ...

Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the midst of the night; and blessed is the servant, whom He shall find vigilant. Again unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, that sleep not overcome you; lest you be given up to death; and be shut out from the Kingdom. Wherefore rouse yourself, crying out: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, our God; through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

*Now and ever, ... Amen.*

You Who were born of a ... (*below*)

#### ***Great Lent***

You Who at the ninth hour tasted death in the flesh for our sake, deaden the arrogance of our flesh, Christ God, and save us.

*Let my supplication draw near before You, Lord; according to Your oracle give me understanding . (Psalm 118:169)*

*(Repeat)* You Who at the ninth hour ...

*Let my petition come before You, Lord; according to Your oracle deliver me. (Psalm 118:170)*

You Who at the ninth hour ...

*Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

You Who were born of a ... *(below)*

### *Theotokion*

You Who were born of a Virgin and endured crucifixion, good One; You Who crushed death by Your death, and as God showed forth the resurrection; do not turn away from those whom You have created with Your own hands; show them Your love for mankind, show forth as an intercessor the Theotokos who gave birth to you and save, our Savior, a desperate people.

*Three metanoias.*

### **Old Testament Verses**

*The Reader:*

For the sake of Your holy name, do not totally abandon us, nor disannul Your covenant; and, for the sake Abraham Your beloved, of Isaac Your servant, and of Israel Your holy one, do not take away Your mercy from us. *(Daniel 3:34-35)*

*The Reader:* Holy God..., Glory..., now and ever..., All-holy Trinity..., Lord, have mercy (3). Glory..., now and ever..., Our Father...

*The Priest:*

**F**or Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

### **Lenten Troparia of the Ninth Hour**

*The Reader:* Amen.

Seeing the Author of life hanging on the Cross, the thief said: "Were it not God incarnate Who is crucified with us, the sun would not have hidden its rays, nor would the earth have quaked and trembled. But You Who endures all things, remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom."

*Glory ...*

In the midst of two thieves, Your Cross was found to be a balance of justice; for the one was borne down to Hades by the weight of his blasphemy, but the other was raised up from his sins to the knowledge of theology; Christ God, glory to You.

*Now and ever ...*

When she who bore the Lamb and Shepherd, and Savior of the world, beheld Him on the Cross, she said with tears: "The world rejoices at receiving redemption, but my heart burns as I see Your crucifixion which You endure for all, my Son and my God."

## Kontakion

*The Reader:*

### *During the Fourth Week of Great Lent (of the Cross)*

The fiery sword no longer guards the gate of Eden, for in a strange and glorious way the wood of the Cross has quenched its flames. The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, for You have come, my Savior, crying to those in hell: "Return again to paradise."

### *On Holy Monday*

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his noble son was seated in a chariot and honored as a king; for when he refused to be enslaved by the enticements of the Egyptian woman, he was in turn glorified by Him, Who beholds the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.

### *On Holy Tuesday*

Having realized, my soul, the hour of the end, and remembering the cutting down of the fig tree, work therefore most diligently, wretched soul, with the talent, which has been given to you, in vigilance and crying aloud: "May we not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ."

### *On Holy Wednesday*

I have transgressed, good One, more than the harlot, but I have not offered You a flood of tears; praying though in silence, I fall down before You with fervor, kissing Your sacred feet, that You will grant me remission of my debts, as I cry out to You: "Savior, deliver me out of the filth of my evil deeds."

*The Reader:* Lord, have mercy. (40)

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, (*master*) father, bless.

*The Priest:*

**T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us and save us.

*The Reader:* Amen.

## Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

*The Priest:*

**L**ord and Master of my life, from the spirit of laziness, meddling, the lust for power, or gossip deliver me. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**R**ather, the spirit of self control, humility, patience, and love, bestow upon me Your servant. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**Y**es, Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults and not judge my brother; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**Prayer of Saint Basil**  
**Holy Week**

*The Priest:*

**M**aster, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who are long-suffering in the face of our transgressions, and Who has brought us even to this present hour, wherein You hung upon the life-giving tree, and did make a way into paradise for the wise thief, and by death did destroy death: be gracious to us sinners and Your unworthy servants; for we have sinned and committed iniquity, and are not worthy to lift up our eyes and behold the height of heaven, for we have abandoned the way of Your righteousness, and have walked in the desires of our hearts. But we beseech Your boundless goodness: spare us, Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercy and save us for the sake of Your holy name; for our days are consumed in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary, and forgive us our sins, and mortify our carnal mind; that, putting aside the old man, we may be clad with the new, and live for You, our Master and Benefactor; and that thus by following in Your commandments, we may attain to rest everlasting, wherein is the dwelling place of all those who rejoice.

**F**or You are indeed the true joy and gladness of those who love You, Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, with Your unoriginate ✠ Father, and Your most-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)**

*Tone Plagal 4*

*The Reader:*

In Your Kingdom remember us, Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in the heavens.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. (Small reverence)*

Remember us, Lord, when You enter into Your Kingdom. *(Great reverence)*

Remember us, Master, when You enter into Your Kingdom. *(Great reverence)*

Remember us, Holy One, when You enter into Your Kingdom. *(Great reverence)*

### Angelic Hymn

*The Reader:*

The heavenly choir praises You and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

*Come to Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.*

The heavenly choir praises You and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

*Glory to the ✠ Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

The choir of the holy Angels and Archangels, with all the heavenly host, praises You and says: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

### Creed

*The Reader:*

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made;

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from the heavens and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man;

Crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried;

Rising on the third day according to the Scriptures,

And ascending into the heavens, He is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, His kingdom shall have no end;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets;

In ☩ one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

I expect the resurrection of the dead;

And the life of the age to come. Amen.

*The Priest:*

**R**emit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by night and by day, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, since You are good and love mankind.

*The Reader:* Our Father...

*The Priest:*

**F**or Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the ☩ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

### **Kontakia**

*During Holy Week:*

*On Holy Monday*

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his noble son was seated in a chariot and honored as a king; for when he refused to be enslaved by the enticements of the Egyptian woman, he was in turn glorified by Him, Who beholds the hearts of men, and bestows an incorruptible crown.

*On Holy Tuesday*

Having realized, my soul, the hour of the end, and remembering the cutting down of the fig tree, work therefore most diligently, wretched soul, with the talent, which has been given to you, in vigilance and crying aloud: "May we not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ."

*On Holy Wednesday*

I have transgressed, good One, more than the harlot, but I have not offered You a flood of tears; praying though in silence, I fall down before You with fervor, kissing Your sacred feet, that You will grant me remission of my debts, as I cry out to You: "Savior, deliver me out of the filth of my evil deeds."

*The Prayer of the Hours*  
*page 12.*

*During the Fourth Week of Great Lent, read the following Kontakion:*

*During the Fourth Week of Great Lent  
(of the Cross)*

The fiery sword no longer guards the gate of Eden, for in a strange and glorious way the wood of the Cross has quenched its flames. The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, for You have come, my Savior, crying to those in hell: "Return again to paradise."

*The Prayer of the Hours  
page 12.*

*During the other weeks of Great Lent, read the following Kontakia:*

*Of the Transfiguration  
Grave Tone*

Upon the mountain You were transfigured, Christ God, and your disciples saw as much of Your glory as they could hold, so that seeing You crucified they would know that You had willed to suffer your passion and would proclaim to the world that You are truly the reflection of the Father.

*On Wednesdays and Fridays:*

*Of the Holy Cross  
Tone 4*

You, Christ our God, Who chose of Your own will to be lifted up on the Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new commonwealth which is called by Your name. In Your power, gladden the hearts of our faithful rulers against those who war against them, having Your alliance as their weapon of peace, an invincible standard.

**Kontakion of the Church**

*The Reader:  
The Kontakion of the Church.*

**Martyrikon of the Day**

*The Reader:  
The daily Martyrikon of the tone.*

**Tone 1**

*Wednesday*

Accept in supplication, Lord Who loves mankind, the sufferings that the saints endured for You; and, we beseech You, heal all our distress.

*Friday*

The victorious martyrs clothed themselves in You, Lord; You were their glory in their sufferings, their crown and their reward. Steadfastly enduring torment, they overthrew the wicked; and through the power of God they were granted victory from heaven. Through their intercessions, God, grant us Your great mercy.

***Tone 2***

*Wednesday*

Martyrs of the Lord, blessed is the earth on which your blood was shed, and holy are the shrines that have received your bodies; for you openly triumphed over the enemy in the arena, and you preached Christ with boldness. We beseech you, pray to Him that in His love He might grant salvation to our souls.

*Friday*

Founded on the rock that cannot be shaken, the saints resisted tyrants bravely, and through torment they obtained their crowns; through their intercessions, save us, O God.

***Tone 3***

*Wednesday*

In Your almighty power, Lord, You have glorified the memory of Your victorious martyrs, for You have strengthened them to follow You in Your sufferings. They bravely overcame the power of the devil, and thus received gifts of healing. Through their intercessions, Christ Who loves mankind, grant peace to our souls.

*Friday*

You shine as radiant lights through your faith, holy and glorious martyrs, physicians of the true worship of God. You were not terrified by the torments of the tyrants, rather you cast down the blasphemous teachings of idolatry, taking up the true Cross as your emblem of victory.

***Tone 4***

*Wednesday*

Your martyrs, Lord, in their struggles have brought away the crowns of incorruption, from You our God; by having Your power, they tore down tyrants; and they shattered the feeble audacities of demons. Through their supplications, Christ God, save our souls.

*Friday*

The solemn feast of those who suffered martyrdom has made the Church into an earthly heaven, and the angels now rejoice with men. Through the intercessions of Your martyrs, Christ God, save our souls.

***Tone Plagal 1***

*Wednesday*

Your victorious martyrs, Lord, You have made mighty defenders of the inhabited earth, Savior, putting the passions to flight; through their intercessions, save our souls.

*Friday*

Today the memory of the victorious martyrs shines with light from heaven; the choir of angels keeps the festival, and mankind celebrates the feast with them, for they intercede before the Lord, that He might have mercy on our souls.

***Tone Plagal 2***

*Wednesday*

Persecuted by tyrants, the martyrs endured and suffered bravely in the arena, and near them stood the choirs of angels, holding prizes of victory. In their wisdom they astounded rulers and

sovereigns, and by confessing Christ they overthrew the devil; glory be to You, Lord, Who made them strong.

*Friday*

The Lord has given glory to those who preached Christ in the arena and who did not fear the threats of the ungodly. They suffered with fortitude, and thereby cast down the pride of the transgressors. As their due reward, Christ gave them the grace of healing, and they ceaselessly intercede for the salvation of our souls.

***Grave Tone***

*Wednesday*

You despised the godless tyrants, holy ones, and scorning all the pain of tortures you did not deny your faith in Christ; pray, therefore, to the God Who loves mankind for the salvation of our souls.

*Friday*

Your martyrs, Lord, defeated the enemy, and armed with the power of Christ they put to shame the error of idolatry; therefore with the angels we cry out to You, Christ, glorifying You with a hymn of victory. Through their intercessions we beseech You to save us.

***Tone Plagal 4***

*Wednesday*

You have steadfastly walked the narrow way of sorrow, martyrs, and endured the troubled waters of temptation; now you have received a dwelling-place among the ministering angels, having proven yourselves as a rock of patient fortitude, a firm foundation of the faith. Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

*Friday*

Through their self-restraint, the martyrs of Christ put to death the fiery impulses of passion; they received grace to drive out diseases from the sick, and to work miracles both when alive and after they ended this life. Marvelous wonder! Their bare bones are a source of healing: glory to God, the only wise Creator.

***Kontakion of the Deceased***

***Tone Plagal 4***

*Glory to the ☩ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

Among the saints give rest, Christ, to the souls of Your servants in a place where there is no pain, sorrow, or grieving, but only life everlasting.

***Kontakion of the Theotokos***

***Tone 2***

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our holy Maker, unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us, for you are good; your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you: hasten to intercede, and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.

***The Prayer of the Hours, (below).***

## Prayer of the Hours

*The Reader:* Lord, have mercy. (40)

You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3) Glory ..., now and ever ...

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, (*master*) father, bless.

*The Priest:*

**G**od be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine on us and have mercy on us. (*Psalm 66:1*)

*The Reader:* Amen.

## Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

*The Priest:*

**L**ord and Master of my life, from the spirit of laziness, meddling, the lust for power, or gossip deliver me. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**R**ather, the spirit of self control, humility, patience, and love, bestow upon me Your servant. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**Y**es, Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults and not judge my brother; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen. ✠ (*Prostration*)

*The Reader:* Holy God..., Glory..., now and ever..., All-holy Trinity..., Lord, have mercy (3). Glory..., now and ever..., Our Father...

*The Priest:*

**F**or Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory: of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

## Prayer to the Holy Trinity

*The Priest:*

**A**ll-holy Trinity, the consubstantial Dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and the Cause of every good: show Your good will even to me, a sinner; make my heart steadfast and grant it understanding, and take away my every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say: One is holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

## Small Dismissal

*The Beautiful Gates are opened, and the Priest reads the Small Dismissal*

**G**lory to You, God our hope, glory to You.

*The Reader:* Glory..., now and ever..., Lord, have mercy (3). Holy father, bless.

*The Priest:*

**M**ay (*Holy Week: the Lord Who willingly goes to His voluntary Passion for our salvation*), Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy Apostles; of Saints (*Names*) whom we commemorate; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is a good, loving, and merciful God.

**T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us and save us.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts begins.*

## The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

*The Priest and Deacon stand before the Holy Altar, and make three reverences, saying:*

*The Priest:*

**G**od cleanse me the sinner, and have mercy on me. (3)

*The Deacon, having kissed the Holy Altar and the right hand of the Priest, exits the Holy of Holies with head uncovered through the north door, stands in his usual place, makes a reverence toward the hierarchical throne, and holding his orarion in the customary manner, proclaims:*

*The Deacon:*

**B**less, master.

*The Priest meanwhile makes three reverences, kisses the Holy Gospel, raises it up after the Deacon intones "Bless, Master," blesses with it crosswise over the Antimension, and proclaims:*

*The Priest:*

**B**lessed is the kingdom of the ✠ Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Deacon enters the Holy of Holies through the south door. The Bimothyra (lower part of doors) is closed, and the Priest, standing before the Holy Altar, recites the 5th, 6th, and 7th Lamplighting Prayers, page 16.*

### Proemial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*The Reader:*

Come, let us ✠ worship and fall down before God, our King.

Come let us ✠ worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God.

Come, let us ✠ worship and fall down before Christ Himself, the King and our God.

Bless the Lord, my soul; Lord my God, You have been magnified exceedingly, You have put on confession and majesty: You Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment.

Who stretches out the heaven as if it were a curtain; Who supports His chambers in the waters.

Who appoints the clouds for His ascent, Who walks on the wings of the winds.

Who makes His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who established the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back to the ages of ages.

The abyss like a garment is His mantle; the waters shall stand on the mountains.

They will flee at Your rebuke, they shall be afraid at the voice of Your thunder.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, to the place where You have established them.

You appointed a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth.

He sends forth springs in the valleys; the waters will run between the mountains.

They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst

The birds of the heaven will lodge beside them, they will give voice from the midst of the rocks.  
He waters the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Your works.  
He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men.  
He brings forth bread out of the earth; and wine makes the heart of man glad.  
To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.  
The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which You have planted.  
There the sparrows will make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them.  
The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.  
He has made the moon for seasons; the sun knows his going down.  
You appointed the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad.  
Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God.  
The sun arises, and they gather together, and they lay down in their dens.  
But man shall go forth to his work, and to his labor until the evening.  
How magnified are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is filled with Your creation.  
So is this great and spacious sea, therein are innumerable creeping things, small living creatures with the great.  
There go the ships; there this dragon whom You have made to play therein.  
All things wait on You, to give them their food in due season; when You give it to them, they will gather it.  
When You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with goodness.  
When You turn away Your face, they shall be troubled.  
You will take away their spirit, and they shall cease; and they shall return to their dust.  
You will send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created; and You shall renew the face of the earth.  
Let the glory of the Lord be to the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works.  
Who looks on the earth and makes it tremble, Who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
I will sing to the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being; may my words be sweet to Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord.  
Oh that sinners would cease from the earth, and that those who work iniquity should be no more.  
Bless the Lord, my soul. The sun knows his going down. You appointed the darkness, and there was the night.  
How magnified are Your works, Lord! In wisdom You have made them all.

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, ✠ alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (2)

Alleluia, ✠ alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. Our Hope, O Lord, glory to You.

*Litany of Peace, page 17.*

**Lamp-Lighting Prayers**  
*Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Prayers*

*Fifth Prayer*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**L**ord, Lord, Who holds all things together in Your spotless hands, Who are long-suffering toward all of us, and Who repents of our wickedness: remember us in Your compassion and mercy; look down upon us in Your goodness, and grant, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that during the remainder of this day we may avoid the manifold deceits of the evil one, and preserve our lives free from every assault of the wicked. **T**hrough the mercies and love for mankind of Your only-begotten ✠ Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Sixth Prayer*

**G**reat and wonderful God, Who watches over all things with ineffable love and universal providence, Who orders all things, Who provides us with the bounties of this world, Who assures us of obtaining the Kingdom through the good things already bestowed upon us; Who has kept us from evil this day: grant that we may spend these remaining hours without blame in the presence of Your holy glory, singing praise to You the only good One, our God Who loves mankind. **F**or You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Seventh Prayer*

**G**reat and most-high God, Who alone have immortality; Who dwells in unapproachable light; Who creates all things in wisdom; Who divides light from darkness, setting the sun to govern the day, and establishing the moon and stars to rule the night; Who makes us sinners worthy at this hour to enter before Your countenance in confession and to offer You our evening praise: You the Lord Who loves mankind, direct our prayer as incense before You, and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend this evening and the coming night in peace. Clothe us with the armor of light. Save us from fears of the night, and protect us from all things that lurk in the darkness; grant that the sleep which You give to refresh us from our weakness may be free from all satanic dreams and evil imaginings. Truly, Master of all and Giver of every good thing, moved to compunction upon our beds, may we remember Your name throughout the remainder of the night, so that enlightened by meditation on Your commandments our souls may rise with gladness, glorifying Your goodness, and offering prayers and supplications to Your greatness for the forgiveness of our sins and of those of all Your people; through the intercessions of the Theotokos look down upon us with mercy. **F**or You are a good God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

## Great Litany, or Litany of Peace

*The Priest or Deacon chants the Litany of Peace, and the Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

**I**n peace let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or the peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or our Archbishop (*Name*), the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

*F*or our father (*Name*) hieromonk, and for all our brotherhood in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or this city (*or this holy monastery, or this land, or this island*), for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or temperate weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or travelers by sea, land, and air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**C**ommemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, ✠ the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

### *Prayer of the First Antiphon*

*The Priest bows his head, and reads the following Prayer in a low voice:*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**L**ord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and greatly merciful, hear our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication; work a sign unto good for us; lead us in Your way that we may live in Your truth; and gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy name; for You are great, and perform wondrous deeds, You alone are God and no other is like You, Lord, Who are great in mercy and gracious in Your power to assist, comfort, and save all who place their hope in Your holy name.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**F**or to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the ☩ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Deacon enters the Holy of Holies through the south door, and proceeds to wash his hands. The Beautiful Gate (and curtain) is totally closed, and the Priest also washes his hands.*

**Psalter**

*The Reader:*

**First Stasis**

*Psalm 119*

I cried to the Lord in my affliction, and He heard me.

Lord, deliver my soul from unrighteous lips and from a crafty tongue.

What shall be given to you and what shall be added to you for your crafty tongue?

The arrows of the mighty one, sharpened with coals of the desert.

Woe is me, for my sojourning is prolonged; I have tented with the tentings of Kedar, my soul has long been a sojourner.

I was peaceable with those who hate peace; they warred against me without a cause when I spoke to them.

*Psalm 120*

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved, He Who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, He Who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your Keeper; the Lord is your Shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and to the ages.

*Psalm 121*

I was glad because of those who said to me: Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet have stood in your courts, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city which its dwellers share in concord.

For the tribes went up there, the tribes of the Lord, as a testimony for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For thrones are set there for judgment, thrones over the house of David.

Ask now for the things which are for the peace of Jerusalem, and for the prosperity of those who love you.

Let peace now be in your strength, and prosperity in your palaces.

I spoke peace concerning you, for the sake of my brethren and my neighbors.

I have sought good things for you, because of the house of the Lord our God.

### *Psalm 122*

To You I lift up my eyes, You Who are enthroned in the heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He has mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Too long has our soul been placated with the scorn of those who are at ease, with the contempt of the proud.

### *Psalm 123*

Had it not been that the Lord was with us; let Israel now say: had it not been that the Lord was with us, when men rose up against us, they would have swallowed us up alive.

When their wrath raged against us, then the water overwhelmed us.

Our soul has passed through a torrent; then our soul passed through the water that is irresistible.

Blessed is the Lord Who has not given us to be a prey to their teeth.

Our soul was delivered like a sparrow out of the snare of the hunters.

The snare is broken, and we are delivered.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who has made the heavens and the earth.

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, ✠ alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

*The Deacon brings the censer with incense in it to the Priest and says in a low voice:*

*The Deacon says in a low voice:*

**M**aster, bless the incense. Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

*The Priest says in a low voice:*

**B**lessed is our ✠ God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. We offer You incense, Christ our God, as a scent of spiritual fragrance. Accept it before Your heavenly altar, and send down upon us the grace of Your all-holy Spirit.

*While the Reader chants the first Stasis of the 18th Kathisma, the Priest unfolds the Antiminsion on the Holy Altar. He then goes to the oblation table, takes the Diskos, Asterisk, and veil, and brings them to the Holy Altar, setting the Diskos upon the Antiminsion.*

*The Priest takes the Presanctified Lamb from the Artoforion and places it upon the Diskos with reverence, saying:*

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* **T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

*The Priest covers the Diskos with the Asterisk and veil, saying:*

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* **T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

*The Priest then takes the censer, censes the Holy Gifts thrice, returns the censer to the Deacon or acolyte, and makes three reverences. He then lifts up the Diskos above his head, and preceded by the candle-bearers and censer proceeds around the Holy Altar to the oblation table. After placing the Diskos on the oblation table, he pours wine and water into the Chalice saying:*

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* **T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

*The Priest covers the Diskos and Chalice with their veils, and then covers both with the Aera. The Priest takes the censer to cense the Holy Gifts thrice saying (and nothing else):*

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* **T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

*The Priest then returns to the Holy Altar and censes it and the Holy of Holies. Returning to the Holy Altar, the Priest folds up the Antiminsion.*

### **Small Litany**

*The Deacon chants the petitions, and the Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

**A**gain and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**C**ommemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, ✠ the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

*Prayer of the Second Antiphon*

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* **L**ord, Physician and Healer of our souls, do not rebuke us in Your indignation nor chasten us in Your wrath, but rather deal with us according to Your loving kindness. Guide us to the haven of Your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of Your truth, and grant that the remainder of this day and all the rest of our lives may be peaceful and without sin; through the intercessions of the Theotokos and of all the saints.

*(Aloud)* **F**or Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, of the ☩ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Deacon enters the Holy of Holies through the south door.*

*The Reader:*

**Second Stasis**

*Psalm 124*

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Those who trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Sion; he who dwells at Jerusalem, shall nevermore be shaken.

Mountains are around her, and the Lord is around His people from henceforth and to the ages.

For the Lord will not permit the rod of sinners to be on the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous stretch forth their hands to iniquities.

Do good, Lord, to those who are good and to the upright of heart.

But the Lord shall lead away with the workers of iniquity those who turn aside to crooked ways; peace be on Israel.

*Psalm 125*

When the Lord overturned the captivity of Sion, we became as men that are comforted.

Then our mouth was filled with joy, and our tongue with rejoicing.

Then they shall say among the nations: the Lord has done great things to them.

The Lord has done great things among us, and we have become glad.

Overturn our captivity, Lord, like streams in the south.

Those who sow with tears shall reap with rejoicing.

In their going they went, and they wept as they cast their seeds.

But in their coming shall they arrive with rejoicing, bearing their sheaves.

*Psalm 126*

Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do those who labor build it.

Unless the Lord guards the city, he who guards her watches in vain; it is vain for you to rise at dawn.

You who eat the bread of sorrow, rouse yourselves after resting.

When He has given sleep to His beloved, behold, sons are the heritage of the Lord, the reward of the fruit of the womb.

Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the sons of those who were outcasts.

Blessed is he who shall fulfill his desires with them; they shall not be put to shame when they speak to their enemies in the gates.

### *Psalm 127*

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, that walk in His ways.

You shall eat the fruit of your labors; blessed are you, and well shall it be with you.

Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine on the sides of your house.

Your sons like young olive trees round about your table.

Behold, so shall the man be blessed that fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you out of Sion, and may you see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

And may you see your children's children; peace be on Israel.

### *Psalm 128*

Many a time they have warred against me from my youth; let Israel now say.

Many a time they have warred against me from my youth, and yet they have not prevailed against me.

The sinners wrought on my back, they lengthened out their iniquity.

The Lord is righteous; He has cut asunder the necks of sinners.

Let those who hate Sion be put to shame and turned back.

Let them be as the grass on the housetops, which before it is plucked up is withered away.

Wherefore the reaper does not fill his hand, nor he who gathers sheaves his bosom.

Nor have those who passed by said: the blessing of the Lord come on you; we have blessed you in the name of the Lord.

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, ✠ alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

## Small Litany

*The Deacon chants the petitions, and the Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, ✠ the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

### *Prayer of the Third Antiphon*

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* Lord our God, remember us sinners and unworthy servants as we call upon Your holy name, and do not put us to shame for expecting Your mercy, but graciously grant to us, Lord, all our petitions that are unto salvation, and make us worthy to love and fear You with all our hearts and to do Your will in all things.

*(Aloud)* For You are a good God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Deacon enters the Holy of Holies through the south door.*

*The Reader:*

### **Third Stasis**

#### *Psalm 129*

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If You should mark iniquities, Lord, Lord, who shall stand? For with You there is forgiveness.

For Your name's sake have I patiently waited for You, Lord; my soul has waited patiently for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

#### *Psalm 130*

Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor have my eyes become lofty.

Nor have I walked in things too great or too marvelous for me.

If I were not humble-minded but exalted my soul, as one weaned from his mother, You would requite my soul.

Let Israel hope in the Lord, from henceforth and to the ages.

*Psalm 131*

Remember David, Lord, and all his meekness.

How he made an oath to the Lord, and vowed to the God of Jacob.

I shall not go into the dwelling of my house, I shall not ascend on the bed of my couch.

I shall not give sleep to my eyes, nor slumber to my eyelids, nor rest to my temples.

Until I find a place for the Lord, a habitation for the God of Jacob.

Behold, we have heard of it in Ephratha, we have found it in the plains of the wood.

Let us go forth to His tabernacles, let us worship at the place where His feet have stood.

Arise, Lord, to Your rest, You and the ark of Your holiness.

Your priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Your righteous shall rejoice.

For the sake of David Your servant, do not turn Your face away from Your anointed one.

The Lord has sworn in truth to David, and He will not annul it.

I will set the fruit of your loins on your throne.

If your sons keep My covenant and these testimonies which I will teach them.

Their sons shall also sit for ever on your throne.

For the Lord has elected Sion, He has chosen her to be a habitation for Himself.

This is My rest to the ages of ages; here will I dwell, for I have chosen her.

Blessing, I will bless her pursuit; I will satisfy her beggars with bread.

I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall rejoice with rejoicing.

There I will make a horn to spring forth for David, I have prepared a lamp for My Christ.

I will clothe with his enemies shame, but My sanctification flourish on him.

*Psalm 132*

Behold now, what is so good or so joyous as for brethren to dwell together in unity?

It is like the oil of myrrh upon the head, which runs down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, which runs down to the fringe of his raiment.

It is like the dew of Aermom, which comes down upon the mountains of Sion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing: life to the ages.

*Psalm 133*

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord; you that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Lift up your hands to the holies in the nights, and bless the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Sion, He Who made the heavens and the earth.

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, ✠ alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### Small Litany

*The Deacon chants the petitions, and the Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, ✠ the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

### Prayer of the Fourth Antiphon

*The Priest:*

*(Quietly)* You Who are lauded by the holy powers with never-silenced hymns and never-ceasing doxologies, fill our mouths with Your praise, so that we may magnify Your holy name; and grant us a portion and inheritance with all who fear You in truth and who keep Your commandments; through the intercessions of the Theotokos and of all Your saints

*(Aloud)* For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Deacon enters the Holy of Holies through the south door.*

### Kekragaria

*The Reader:*

Lord, I have cried to You, hear me: hear me, Lord; Lord, I have cried to You, hear me: attend to the voice of my supplication; when I cry to You, hear me, Lord. *(Psalm 140:1)*

*The Deacon censes the Holy Altar, etc.; exits and censes the templon and church; reenters and censes those within the Holy of Holies.*

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You: the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice; hear me, Lord. *(Psalm 140:2)*

### Psalm 140

Set a watch before my mouth, Lord, and a door of enclosure around my lips.

Do not incline my heart to evil words, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; but do not let the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; their judges have been swallowed up near the rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken on the earth, their bones have been scattered near to Hades.

For to You, Lord, Lord, are my eyes, I have hoped in You; do not take my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling blocks of those who work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

### *Psalm 141 and Stichera*

I have cried with my voice to the Lord, I have made supplication with my voice to the Lord.

I will pour out my supplication before Him, I will declare my affliction before Him.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then You knew my paths.

In that way on which I have walked they hid a snare for me.

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, and there was no one who knew me.

Flight has failed me, and there is no one who watches out for my soul.

I have cried to You, Lord; I said: You are my Hope, You are my Portion in the land of the living.

Attend to my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from those who persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

### *Stichera*

Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name.

### *Stichos*

The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me.

### *Stichos*

Out of the depths I have cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

### *Stichos*

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

### *Stichos*

If You should mark iniquities, Lord, Lord, who shall stand? For with You there is forgiveness.

### *Stichos*

For Your name's sake I have waited patiently for You, Lord; my soul has waited patiently for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.

### *Stichos*

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.

*Stichos*

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

*Stichos*

Praise the Lord, all you nations; praise Him, all you peoples.

*Stichos*

For He has made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abides for ever. Praise the Lord!

*Stichos*

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Doxastikon*

**Entrance**

*During the Doxastikon, the Beautiful Gate (and curtain) are opened. The Priest, or Deacon, takes the censer, or Gospel, if the Liturgy is celebrated on a feast day or during Holy Week, and exit the Holy of Holies through the north door for the Entrance.*

*Prayer of the Entrance*

*As they exit, the Deacon says in a low voice:*

**L**et us pray to the Lord.

*The Priest, in a low voice:*

**I**n the evening, at dawn, and at midday, we praise You, bless You, thank You, and beseech You, Master of all, Lord Who loves mankind. Guide our prayers, as incense before You, and do not let our hearts be inclined to words or thoughts of wickedness, but save us from all who pursue our souls; for to You, Lord, Lord, are our eyes, and we have hoped in You; do not put us to shame, our God. For to You is due all glory, honor, and worship: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Before the Beautiful Gate the Deacon:*

**M**aster, bless the holy entrance.

*The Priest:*

**B**lessed is the ✠ entrance of Your saints, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Lamp-Lighting Hymn of Thanksgiving by Patriarch Sophronios of Jerusalem*

*The Deacon:*

**W**isdom! Rise!

*The Priest intones (reads) in plain chant*

**O** gladsome light of holy glory, the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ: having come to the setting of the sun and beholding the light of evening, we praise the ✠ Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit: one God. It is worthy at all times to hymn You, with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of life: the world glorifies You.

### **Readings**

*After the hymn is finished the Deacon, standing in the Holy Entrance and facing the faithful, proclaims:*

**E**vening!

#### ***First Prokeimenon and Reading***

*The Reader:*

Prokeimenon, Tone ... Psalm ...

*The Reader reads the Prokeimenon and its verse.*

*The Deacon:*

**W**isdom!

*The Reader:*

The reading from (*Genesis or Exodus*).

*The Deacon:*

**L**et us be attentive.

*The Reader reads the assigned Pericope.*

#### ***Second Prokeimenon***

*The Reader:*

Prokeimenon, Tone ... Psalm ...

*After the Prokeimenon the Reader intones:*

**C**ommand!

#### ***The Light of Christ***

*The Priest holds the censer and a lighted candle in his right hand, and, standing before the Holy Altar, he makes the Sign of the Cross, intoning:*

**W**isdom! Rise!

*The Priest turns to face the congregation from the Beautiful Gate, and intones:*

**T**he light of Christ illumines all.

*The Priest blesses the congregation with the candle and censer.*

#### ***Second Reading***

*The Reader:*

The reading from (*Proverbs or Job*).

*The Deacon:*

**W**isdom. Let us be attentive.

*The Reader reads the assigned Pericope.*

### **Censing**

*The Priest stands before the Holy Altar, with the censer, chanting:*

**L**et my prayer • be set forth • as incense • before You, • the lifting up of my hands • as an evening • sacrifice!

*Censing the south side:*

**L**ord, I have cried to You, hear me Lord; Lord, I have cried to You, hear me, attend to the voice of my supplication; when I cry to You.

*The Reader:* Let my prayer • be set forth ...

*Censing the east side:*

**S**et a watch before my mouth, Lord, and a door of enclosure around my lips.

*The Reader:* Let my prayer • be set forth ...

*Censing the north side:*

**D**o not incline my heart to words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

*The Reader:* Let my prayer • be set forth ...

*Censing the west side:*

**G**lory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The Reader:* Let my prayer • be set forth ...

*From the Gate, censing the Icon of Christ:*

**L**et my prayer • be set forth • as incense • before You ...

*The Priest censens the People, and the Reader chants:*  
... the lifting up of my hands • as an evening sacrifice!

### **Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian**

*The Priest:*

**L**ord and Master of my life, from the spirit of laziness, meddling, the lust for power, or gossip deliver me. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**R**ather, the spirit of self control, humility, patience, and love, bestow upon me Your servant. ✠ (*Prostration*)

**Y**es, Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults and not judge my brother; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen. ✠ (*Prostration*)

### **Epistle And Gospel**

*If it is a feast day of a Saint the Epistle and Gospel are read according to the customary order. During the first three days of Holy Week only the Gospel is read.*

*The Deacon:* **L**et us be attentive.

*The Reader reads the Prokeimenon.*

*The Deacon:* **W**isdom!

*The Reader reads the title of the Epistle.*

*The Deacon:* **L**et us be attentive.

*The Reader reads the Epistle.*

*The Priest:* **P**eace be with you the reader.

*The Reader:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***Censing and Prayer Before the Gospel***

*The Deacon censes, and the Priest says:*

**Y**ou have shined within our hearts, Master Who loves mankind, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and have opened the eyes of our minds that we may have understanding of Your gospel teachings. Instill in us also fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having trampled down all carnal desires, we may enter into a spiritual life, thinking and doing all things that are well-pleasing to You. For You, Christ God, are the Illumination of our souls and of our bodies, and to You we send up glory together with Your beginningless ✠ Father and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The Deacon:* **W**isdom. **R**ise. **L**et us hear the holy Gospel.

*The Priest:* **P**eace be with all.

*The Reader:* And with your spirit.

*The Deacon:*

**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John*).**

*The Deacon:* **L**et us be attentive.

*The Reader:* Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

*The Priest:*

**P**eace ✠ be with you who proclaims the Gospel.

*The Reader:* Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

***The Homily***

**Great Litany of Fervent Supplication**

*The Priest and Deacon make three reverences before the Holy Altar, and the Beautiful Gate is closed. The Deacon exits and intones the Litany; the Reader: Lord, have mercy (thrice to each petition).*

**L**et us say with all our soul, and with all our mind let us say.

**L**ord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

**H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**A**gain we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

**A**gain we pray for our Archbishop (*Name*).

*According to the practice of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Litany ends here; then the ekphonesis, "For You are a merciful God ..."*

**A**gain we pray for our brothers, the priests, hieromonks, hierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

**A**gain we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness, and remission of sins of the servants of God, of all pious and Orthodox Christians, of those who dwell and are in this city (*or land, or village, or island*), and of the members and the council of this holy church (*or monastery*).

**A**gain we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable builders of this holy church (*or monastery*), and for all our fathers and brothers gone to their rest before us, the Orthodox here and everywhere who piously lie asleep.

**A**gain we pray for those who are fruitful and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

### **Prayer of the Litany**

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**L**ord our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercies; and send down Your compassions upon us, and upon all Your people, who await Your great and rich mercy.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**F**or You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory, to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader: Amen.*

### **Litany for the Catechumens**

*Then the Deacon begins the Litany, and the Reader: Lord, have mercy.*

**C**atechumens, pray to the Lord.

**L**et us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens.

**T**hat the Lord will have mercy on them.

**T**hat He will teach them the word of truth.

**T**hat He will reveal to them the Gospel of righteousness.

**T**hat He will unite them to His Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

**S**ave them, have mercy on them, help them, and protect them, O God, by Your grace.

**C**atechumens, bow your heads to the Lord.

*The Reader: To You, O Lord.*

*Prayer for the Catechumens*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**G**od, our God, Creator and Fashioner of all, Who desires that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, look down upon Your servants the catechumens, and free them from the ancient delusions and from the wiles of the adversary; and call them to eternal life, illuminating their souls and bodies, and numbering them among Your rational flock, over which is invoked Your holy name.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**S**o that together with us, they may glorify Your all-honorable and magnificent name, of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Priest takes the Holy Gospel, and makes the sign of the Cross with it over the Antiminsion contained within the Eiliton. He then places the Gospel on the Holy Altar, above the Antiminsion.*

*Exhortation to the Catechumens  
Through Tuesday  
of the Fourth Week of Great Lent*

*The Deacon:*

**A**s many as are catechumens depart; catechumens depart; as many as are catechumens, depart; let none of the catechumens remain. As many as are of the faithful, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*The Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

*The First Litany for the Faithful,  
page 33.*

**Litany for Those Preparing for Illumination**

*After the Wednesday of the Fourth Week*

*From Wednesday of the Fourth Week until Wednesday of Holy Week, however, the following petitions are intoned on behalf of those who are preparing for Holy Illumination (for Holy Baptism).*

*Then the Deacon begins the Litany, and the Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

**A**s many as are catechumens depart; catechumens depart; as many as are ready for illumination come forward. Pray all that are preparing for illumination; let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or our brethren who are preparing for holy illumination and for their salvation, let us the faithful pray to the Lord.

**T**hat the Lord our God establish and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.

**T**hat He illumine them with the light of knowledge and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

**T**hat He may make them worthy in due time of the baptism of regeneration, the remission of sins, the robe of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

**T**hat He may regenerate them with water and the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**T**hat He may grant them the perfection of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**T**hat He may number them among His holy and chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

**S**ave them, have mercy on them, and keep them, O God, by Your grace.

**T**hose that are preparing for illumination, bow your heads to the Lord.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

*Prayer for Those Preparing for Illumination*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**M**aster, shine Your face on those who are preparing for holy illumination, and who desire to put away the defilement of sin: enlighten their understanding; establish them in the faith, strengthen them in hope; perfect them in love; make them honorable members of Your Christ Who gave Himself as a ransom for our souls.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**F**or You are our Illumination, and to You we send up glory; to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*Exhortation to Those Preparing for Illumination*

*The Deacon:*

**A**s many as are ready for illumination depart; you who are ready for illumination depart; as many as are catechumens, depart; let none of the catechumens remain. As many as are of the faithful, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*The Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

**First Litany for the Faithful**

*The Deacon:*

**H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*The Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

*First Prayer of the Faithful*

*The Priest unfolds the Antiminsion.*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**G**reat and praised God, Who through the life-giving death of Your Christ has brought us from corruption to incorruption, free all our senses from deadly passions, setting over them as a good guide the understanding that is within us; let our eye have no part in any evil sight; let our hearing be inaccessible to all idle words; and let our tongue be purged from unseemly speech. Purify our lips to praise You, Lord; make our hands abstain from evil deeds, and work only such things as are acceptable to You; establishing all our members and our minds by Your grace.

*The Deacon:* **W**isdom!

*The Priest exclaims:*

**F**or to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

### **Second Litany of the Faithful**

*Then the Deacon intones the Litany, and the Reader:* Lord, have mercy.

**A**gain and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*The Deacon enters the Holy of Holies through the south door, and stands next to the Priest.*

### **Second Prayer of the Faithful**

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**H**oly Master, exceedingly good, we beseech You Who are rich in mercy, that You will be gracious toward us sinners, and make us worthy to receive Your only-begotten Son and our Lord, the King of glory. Behold, His most-pure Body and His life-giving Blood, entering at this present hour, are about to be placed upon this mystical table, invisibly escorted by a multitude of heavenly hosts; grant that we may partake of them without condemnation, so that the eyes of our understanding being enlightened by them we may become sons of the light and of the day.

*The Deacon:* **W**isdom!

*The Priest exclaims:*

**T**hrough the Gift of Your Christ with ✠ Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

### **Cherubic Hymn**

#### ***Tone Plagal 2***

*The Reader:*

Amen. Now the powers of heaven are invisibly worshipping with us; for behold the King of glory enters in.

*The Priest reads in a low voice (thrice):*

**N**ow the powers of heaven are invisibly worshipping with us; for behold the King of glory enters in.

*The Deacon reads in a low voice:*

**B**ehold a mystical and perfect sacrifice is escorted in. In faith and longing let us come forth that we may become partakers of eternal life. Alleluia. (3)

### **Censing**

*The Beautiful Gate is opened and the Priest reads in a low voice*

**C**ome, ✠ let us worship and fall down before our King and God.

**C**ome ✠ let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God.

**C**ome, ✠ let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, the King and our God.

**H**ave mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy, and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

Against You only have I sinned, and have done evil in Your sight, that You may be justified in Your words, and be victorious when You are judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved the truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made manifest to me.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that are humbled shall rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, and establish me with Your governing Spirit.

I shall teach transgressors Your ways, and the impious shall turn back to You.

Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God, the God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness.

Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole-burnt offerings You shall not be pleased.

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not reject.

Do good, Lord, in Your good pleasure to Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

*The Priest enters the Holy of Holies, stands before the Holy Altar and makes three prostrations, each time saying, "God, cleanse me a sinner, and have mercy on me" (3). He then goes to the oblation table and venerates the Holy Gifts, saying only: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us and save us."*

*After the censuring, and keeping total silence, the congregation make a deep prostration and say to themselves, "Through the prayers of our holy fathers..."*

*In deep silence the Priest places the Aera over his head, lifts up the Holy Gifts, and, preceded by the Deacon who carries a candle and the censer, he exits the Holy of Holies through the north door and proceeds around the Temple, praying in a low voice: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us," and they enter the Holy of Holies through the Beautiful Gate. The Priest places the Diskos and Chalice on the Holy Altar; removes the veils and lays them to one side on the Holy Altar; takes the Aera, censes it, and covers the Holy*

*Gifts; and then takes the censer from the Deacon and censes the Holy Gifts saying the completion of Psalm 50 in a low voice:*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**T**hen You shall be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then they shall offer young bulls upon Your altar.

*The Priest then kisses the Gifts saying in a low voice:*

**T**hrough the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

*The Choir completes the Cherubic Hymn, singing:*

Behold a mystical and perfect sacrifice is escorted in. In faith and longing let us come forth that we may become partakers of eternal life. Alleluia.

### **Completed Litany**

*The the Beautiful Gate is closed. The Deacon exits and intones the Litany;  
and the Reader: Lord, have mercy.*

**L**et us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**F**or the precious and presanctified gifts here presented, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**F**or our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*The Reader: Grant this, O Lord.*

**T**hat the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**A**n Angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

**F**orgiveness and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

**A**ll that is good and beneficial to our souls, and peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**T**o complete the remaining time of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

**A** Christian end to our lives, painless, unashamed, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

**H**aving prayed for the unity of the faith and for the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

*The Reader: To You, O Lord.*

*The Deacon remains standing in his usual place before the Beautiful Gate.*

*Prayer of the Proskomidi (Oblation)*

*The Priest in a low voice:*

**G**od of ineffable and invisible mysteries, with Whom the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden, Who has revealed to us the service of this liturgy, and has ordained in Your love for mankind that we sinners should offer to You gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorances of the people: invisible King, Who performs great and ineffable works, glorious and marvelous, which can not be numbered, look upon us, Your unworthy servants, who stand at Your Holy Altar as at Your Cherubic throne, upon which lies Your only-begotten Son and our God, in the awesome Mysteries set forth upon it; and, when You have delivered us and all Your faithful people from every impurity, sanctify all our souls and bodies with a sanctification which cannot be taken away; so that partaking of these divine, holy Things with a clear conscience, with a face unashamed, with a heart illumined, and being enlivened by them, may we be united to Your Christ Himself, our true God, Who said, "Whosoever eats My Body and drinks My Blood abides in Me and I in him," so that with Your word, Lord, abiding in us and walking among us, we may become a temple of Your all-holy and worshipped Spirit, freed from every diabolic device wrought by deed, or word, or thoughts, and may we thus obtain the blessings You promised to us with all Your saints who in all ages have been well-pleasing You.

**Lord's Prayer**

*The Priest exclaims:*

**A**nd make us worthy, Master, that with confidence, and without condemnation, we may dare to call upon You, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

*The Faithful:*

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**F**or Thine (*or, "Yours"*) is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Priest:*

**P**eace be with all.

*The Reader:*

And with your spirit.

*The Deacon:*

**L**et us bow our heads to the Lord.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

### *Prayer of the Elevation*

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**G**od, Who alone are good and compassionate, Who dwells in the heights and regards the humble, look with a compassionate eye upon all Your people, and preserve them; make us all worthy to partake without condemnation of these, Your life-giving Mysteries; for we have bowed our heads to You, in the hope of Your rich mercy.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**B**y the grace and compassion and love for mankind of Your ✠ only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

### **The Elevation**

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**H**ear us, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, from Your holy dwelling place, and from the throne of glory of Your Kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are enthroned on high with the Father and are also invisibly present here with us. And make us worthy, so that Your pure Body and precious Blood may be given to us by Your mighty hand, and through us to all the people.

*After the Prayer, the Priest and the Deacon make three reverences, saying each time:*

**G**od ✠ cleanse me the sinner, and have mercy upon me. (3)

*The Priest places his hand under the Aera, and touches the Holy Bread with great reverence and fear, intoning:*

*The Deacon:*

**L**et us be attentive!

*The Priest exclaims:*

**H**oly Presanctified Things for the Holy!

*The Reader:*

One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*The Reader chants the Koinonikon:*

Taste and see that Lord is good. Alleluia!

### **The Fraction**

*The Deacon:*

Master, break the Holy Bread.

*The Priest:*

**T**he Lamb of God is broken and distributed; broken, but not divided; Who is ever eaten, yet is never depleted, but sanctifies those who partake.

*The Deacon:*

Master, fill the Holy Cup.

*The Priest:*

**T**he ☩ fullness of the cup of faith, of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Deacon:*

Amen. Master, bless the Zeon.

*The Priest:*

**B**lessed ☩ is the fervor of Your saints, Lord, always; now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The Deacon pours the Zeon into the Chalice as the Priest says:*

**T**he fervor of faith, the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

*The Deacon:*

**A**men.

### **Prayers of Holy Communion**

*The Deacon:*

**I** believe, Lord, and I confess, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is Your immaculate Body, and that this is Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You: have mercy on me, and forgive me my transgressions, those voluntary and involuntary, those in word, those in deed, those in knowledge and those in ignorance; and make me worthy to partake of Your immaculate Mysteries without condemnation, for the remission of sins and to eternal life. Amen.

**B**ehold, I approach for divine Communion;

Creator, burn me not as I partake;

For You are Fire burning the unworthy.

But rather cleanse me from every impurity.

**O**f Your Mystical Supper, Son of God, receive me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of the Mystery to Your enemies; nor will I give a kiss to You, as did Judas; but like the thief I confess You: Remember me Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom!

**B**eholding the deifying Blood, O man, be awe-stricken;

For it is a fiery Coal burning the unworthy.

The divine Body both deifies and nourishes me;

It deifies the spirit, and wondrously nourishes the mind.

**Y**ou have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine love You have changed me; but burn away my sins with immaterial Fire, and make me worthy to be filled with delight in You; that, rejoicing, O good One, I may magnify Your two comings.

**H**ow shall I the unworthy enter into the radiance of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my garment exposes me, because it is not for the wedding feast, and bound I shall be cast out by the Angels; Lord, cleanse the pollution of my soul, and save me, for You love mankind.

**M**aster Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ my God, do not let these Holy Things be for judgment because of my unworthiness, but for the purification and sanctification of both soul

and body, and for a pledge of the future life and Kingdom. For it is good for me to cleave to God, to put the hope of my salvation in the Lord.

**O**f Your Mystical Supper, Son of God, receive me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of the Mystery to Your enemies; nor will I give a kiss to You, as did Judas, but like the thief I confess You: ✠ Remember me Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom! ✠ Remember me Master, when You come into Your Kingdom! ✠ Remember me Holy One, when You come into Your Kingdom!

### **Communion of the Clergy**

*The Priest, with bowed head,  
says to the Deacon, or the concelebrants, or the clergy standing in the Holy of Holies:*

**B**rother(s) and concelebrant(s), forgive me, the sinner.

*The Clergy:*

**M**ay the Lord God remember your priesthood in His Kingdom, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Priest faces the people with bowed head:*

**B**rothers, forgive me, the sinner.

*The Priest makes three reverences, saying:*

**G**od ✠ cleanse me the sinner, and have mercy on me. (3)

*With fear and reverence,*

*the Priest takes the portion of the Holy Bread marked with the letters IS, and says:*

**B**ehold, I approach Christ, our immortal King and God.

**T**he precious and all-holy Body of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is given to me, (*Name*), the unworthy priest, for the remission of my sins, and for eternal life.

*In fear and with all reverence, the Priest receives the Holy Bread held in his hand saying:*

**A**men.

*The Priest takes the communion cloth, then holds the holy chalice with one edge of the cloth,  
and says:*

**A**gain, the precious and all-holy Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is given to me, (*Name*), the unworthy priest, for the remission of my sins and for eternal life.

*The Priest drinks three times from the chalice, dries his lips and the edge of the chalice with the  
communion cloth, kisses the chalice, raises it up and says:*

**T**his has touched my lips, and the Lord takes away all my transgressions and cleanses me of my sins.

*The most-recently ordained Priest calls the Deacon, saying: Deacon, approach.*

*The Deacon:*

Behold, I approach Christ, our immortal King and God. Master, give to me (*Name*), the unworthy Deacon, the precious and all-holy Body of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, for the remission of my sins and for eternal life.

*The Priest gives him the Body, saying:*

**T**he precious and all-holy Body of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is given to you, *(Name)*, the most-pious Deacon, for the remission of your sins and for eternal life.

*He again calls the Deacon, saying:*

**D**eacon, again approach.

*The Deacon says:*

Master, give to me *(Name)*, the unworthy Deacon, the precious and all-holy Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the remission of my sins and for eternal life.

*The Priest gives him the cup, saying:*

**T**he precious and all-holy Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is given to you, *(Name)*, the most-pious Deacon, for the remission of your sins and for eternal life.

*The Priest says:*

**T**his has touched your lips, and the Lord takes away all your transgressions, and cleanses you of your sins.

*The Deacon breaks the remaining portions of the Holy Lamb into small pieces for the communicants, and places them in the Holy Chalice, saying:*

*The Deacon reads in a low voice:*

**T**hrough the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us and save us.

### *Communion of the Faithful*

*Then, the Beautiful Gate is opened, and the Deacon:*

**W**ith fear of God, faith, and love, come forth.

*While the Faithful receive Communion, the reader chants:*

Amen. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. God is Lord and has appeared unto us.

*The Priest(s) (and Deacon(s)) gives Communion, saying to each person:*

**T**he *servant* of God *(Name)* receives the Body and Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

*After Communion the Priest:*

**S**ave, O God, Your people and bless Your inheritance.

*The Reader chants:*

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Taste the heavenly bread, and the life-giving cup and see that the Lord is good. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (*Psalm 33:1,8*)

*The Priest places the Holy Gifts on the Holy Altar and then censes them:*

*The Deacon:*

**E**xalt, master.

*The Priest censens the Gifts three times, saying:*

**B**e exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth. (3)

*The Priest gives the Paten with the Veils to the Deacon, then lifts the Holy Chalice, saying in a low voice:*

**B**lessed is our God ...

*The Priest faces the people holding the Holy Gifts, intoning:*

... **A**lways; now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*Then the Reader reads:*

Let our mouths be filled with Your praise, Lord, that we may sing Your glory, for You have made us worthy to partake of Your holy Mysteries; keep us in Your holiness, that throughout the day we may meditate upon Your righteousness. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*The Priest places the Chalice containing the Holy Gifts on the Holy Prothesis, and returns to the Holy Altar where he places the sponge on the Antiminsion and folds it.*

### **Litany**

*The Deacon intones the Litany, and the Reader: Lord, have mercy.*

**L**et us be attentive: Having partaken of the divine, holy, pure, immortal, heavenly, life-giving, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks to the Lord.

**H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**H**aving asked that the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commit ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*The Reader:* To You, O Lord.

*The Priest reads in a low voice:*

**W**e thank You, O God, the Savior of all, for all the good things which You have granted to us, and for the communion of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ; and we beseech You, Master Who loves mankind, to keep us under the shelter of Your wings; and grant that even to our last breath, we may worthily partake of Your holy things for the illumination of our soul and body and for the inheritance of the Kingdom of heaven.

*The Priest exclaims:*

**F**or You are our sanctification, and to You we send up glory: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

### **Prayer Opposite the Ambon**

*The Priest:*

**L**et us depart in peace.

*The Deacon:*

**L**et us pray to the Lord.

*The Reader:*  
Lord have mercy.

*The Priest:*

**M**aster almighty, Who made all creation in wisdom; Who by Your ineffable forethought and great goodness have brought us to these all-revered days for the purification of soul and body, for the subduing of passions, and for the hope of the resurrection; Who during the forty days gave to Moses the tablets of the Law with letters divinely traced by You: Enable us also, good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the fast, to preserve the faith inviolate, to crush underfoot the heads of invisible dragons, to be accounted victorious over sin, and to arrive blamelessly and uncondemned to venerate Your holy resurrection.

**F**or blessed and glorified is Your all-honorable and magnificent name, of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages

*The Reader:*  
Amen.

*The Reader reads the following (thrice):*

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from now, and to end of the age. (3)

### **Prayer at the Consumption of the Holy Gifts**

*After completing the Prayer Opposite the Ambon, the Priest enters the Holy of Holies through the Beautiful Gate, and immediately goes to the Prothesis where he reads the following Prayer in a low voice before the covered Holy Gifts. The Gifts may either be consumed by the Deacon at this time, or by the Priest after the distribution of the Antidoron.*

*The Priest:*

**L**ord, our God, Who has brought us to these all-revered days, and has made us worthy to partake of Your awesome Mysteries; unite us to Your rational flock, and make us inheritors of Your kingdom, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The Deacon or the Priest:*  
**L**et us pray to the Lord.

*The Reader:*  
Lord have mercy.

*The Priest:*

**T**he blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you, through His divine grace and love for mankind, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*The Reader:* Amen.

*The Priest:*

**G**lory to You, O God, our hope, glory to You.

*The Reader:*

Glory ..., now and ever ... Lord, have mercy. (3) Master, bless!

*The Priest:*

**May** (*Holy Week: the Lord Who willingly goes to His voluntary Passion for our salvation*), Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the protection of the heavenly bodiless powers; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious, prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy Apostles; of the holy, glorious and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of (*the patron saint*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saints (*the saints of the day*) whom we commemorate; and of all the saints: have mercy and save us, as a good, and loving, and merciful God.

*The Reader reads Psalms 33 and 144. During the reading of these Psalms, the Priest distributes the Antidoron to the faithful*

**Psalm 33**

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad.

Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations.

Come to Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations.

The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopes in Him.

Fear the Lord, all you His saints: for there is no want to those who fear Him.

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

Come, children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is there that desires life, who loves to see good days?

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile.

Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened to their supplication.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit.

Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

The Lord keeps all their bones, not one of them shall be broken.

The death of sinners is evil, and those who hate the righteous shall do wrong.

The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

### Psalm 144

I will exalt You, my God, my King, and I will bless Your name to the ages, and to the ages of ages.

Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name for ever, yea, for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and exceedingly to be praised, and of His greatness there is no end.

Generation and generation shall praise Your works, and Your power shall they declare.

Of the majesty of the glory of Your holiness shall they speak, and they shall tell of Your wonders.

And the power of Your awesome deeds they shall relate, and they shall tell of Your majesty.

The memory of the multitude of Your goodness shall they pour forth, and in Your righteousness shall they rejoice.

Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy.

The Lord is good to all, and His compassions are over all His works.

Let all Your works, Lord, give praise to You, and let Your righteous ones bless You.

Of the glory of Your kingdom shall they speak, and they shall tell of Your dominion.

To make Your dominion known to the sons of men, and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

Your kingdom is the kingdom of all the ages, and Your sovereignty is in every generation and generation.

Faithful is the Lord in all His words, and holy in all His works.

The Lord upholds all that are falling, and sets up all that are broken down.

The eyes of all look to You with hope, and You gave them their food in due season.

You open Your hand and fill every living thing with Your favor.

Righteous is the Lord in all His ways, and holy in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

The will of those who fear Him shall He do, and their supplication shall He hear, and He shall save them.

The Lord preserves all that love Him, but He shall utterly destroy all the sinners.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy name, for ever, yea, for ever and ever.

*The Priest:*

**T**hrough the ✠ prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

*The Reader:* Amen.