

# Sunday Evening Pan-Orthodox Vespers



## On the Evening of the First Sunday of the Great Fast

*Text approved February 2006*

+ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

## *Foreword*

For over one thousand years Orthodox Christians have been observing the Sunday of Orthodoxy in recognition of the fact that the holy icons which had been removed from the churches by government edict during the eighth century were once again reinstated in the churches.

Even though the Seventh Ecumenical Council in AD 787 had supported the legitimacy of the holy icons and defined their proper use in Orthodox worship, various Byzantine emperors, having been influenced by heretical concepts, did not allow their public use and veneration.

It was not until March 11, 843 in Constantinople that Empress Theodora and Patriarch Methodios in a great procession returned the holy icons to their rightful places.

Icons have been used in the Christian faith from the very beginning and have always enjoyed a place of honor in the churches and in the homes of the faithful. The Church teaches that icons are the windows of heaven from where the saints of God look down upon us to protect us and to intercede with Christ for us and our salvation.

Since Orthodox Christians believe that when they enter a church, they leave the world behind and find themselves on a higher and more spiritual plane, the icons which surround them are vivid reminders of man's divine purpose in Creation and of his ultimate destiny in God's Kingdom.

Today we celebrate this event not only for the icons, but for the fact that the Orthodox Church is the only Christian church which has preserved the teachings of the Seven Ecumenical Councils and of undivided Christianity without addition or subtraction (*Revelation 22:18-19*), but intact down through the centuries; for intact we must present Her to the Lord when He returns.

+ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

## Pan-Orthodox Vespers on the Evening of the First Sunday of the Great Fast

*When a Hierarch presides at Vespers:*

*1. The clergy without having vested exit the Beautiful Gate in order from junior to senior and proceed to the narthex; they are preceded by the Senior Priest, vested in Epitrachelion and Felonion, carrying the Gospel Book.*

*2. After the Hierarch is vested in his Mandyas, the clergy process from junior to senior to the solea and then to the throne; the Senior Priest immediately enters through the Beautiful Gate, places the Gospel on the Altar, then exits and stands in his place at the throne.*

*a. If the Hierarch will not be met in the narthex, but chooses to proceed directly from the Holy of Holies to the throne, all the clergy without having vested exit the Beautiful Gate in order from junior to senior and precede him to the throne.*

*3. The Senior Deacon and Senior Priest take Kairo from the Hierarch, then enter through the Beautiful Gate; the remaining clergy likewise take Kairo from the Hierarch and enter through the Beautiful Gate.*

*4. The Deacon puts on his Sticharion and Orarion (no epimanika are worn at Vespers), then stands in his usual place at the Altar and intones:*

*Deacon*     **M**aster, give the blessing

*1st Priest*   **B**lessed is our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Hierarch\**   **A**men.

### Proemial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Hierarch\**   **C**ome, let us + worship and bow down before our King and God.

**C**ome, let us + worship and bow down before Christ, our King and God.

**C**ome, let us + worship and bow down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

**B**less the Lord, my soul! Lord my God, You are very great! You are clothed with honor and majesty.

**W**ho cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who has stretched out the heavens like a curtain.

**H**e lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind

**W**ho makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

**Y**ou Who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever.

**Y**ou covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

**A**t Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.

**T**hey went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the place which You founded for them.

**Y**ou have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.

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\* Or the reader if no Hierarch is present.

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**H**e sends the springs into the valleys, which flow among the hills.

**T**hey give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

**B**y them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

**H**e waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

**H**e causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth,

**A**nd wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart.

**T**he trees of the Lord are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted.

**W**here the birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

**T**he high hills are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for the rabbits.

**H**e appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

**Y**ou make darkness, and it is night, in which all of the beasts of the forest creep about.

**T**he young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God.

**W**hen the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens.

**M**an goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening.

**L**ord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your creation.

**T**his great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things, both small and great.

**T**here the ships sail about, and there is the Leviathan which You have made to play there.

**T**hese all wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season.

**W**hat You give to them, they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good.

**Y**ou hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

**Y**ou send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.

**M**ay the glory of the Lord endure to the ages, may the Lord rejoice in His works.

**H**e looks on the earth and it trembles, He touches the hills and they smoke.

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**I** will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

**M**ay my meditation be pleasing to Him; I will rejoice in the Lord.

**M**ay sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, my soul!

**T**he sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night. Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom You have made them all.

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

**A**lleluia, + alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

**A**lleluia, + alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

**A**lleluia, + alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God. Our hope, Lord, glory to You.

### **The Great Litany**

*Dcn/Ist Pr* **I**n peace let us pray to the Lord.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/Ist Pr* **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.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/Ist Pr* **F**or our Archbishop Isaiah, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/Ist Pr* **F**or this city, for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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*Dcn/Ist Pr* **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.

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/Ist Pr* **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.

*All* To You, O Lord.

*Ist Priest* **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.

*All* Amen.

### **Kekragaria**

*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*)

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*)

*At "Let my prayer be ...," the Deacon censes according to the customary order.*

### **Stichera of Repentance**

*We sing ten verses at "Lord, I have cried." The first four are Compunctionate Stichera in the tone of the week, found in this book beginning on page 15.*

*Reader* *Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

*Compunctionate Stichera from the Triodion.*

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

*Compunctionate Stichera from the Triodion.*

*Out of the depths I have cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

*Compunctionate Stichera from the Triodion.*

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

*Compunctionate Stichera from the Triodion.*

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\* *The Reader:* Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

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***Prosomoia from the Triodion***

***Tone 4***

*Reader* If You should mark iniquities, Lord, Lord, who shall stand? For with You there is forgiveness. (Psalm 129:3)

Grant me reverence, separation from evil and perfect obedience, for I am now immersed in the passions of the flesh, separated from You and completely without hope, my God, King of all. Save me, Your prodigal son, by Your great goodness, Jesus the Almighty, the Savior of our souls.

*Reader* For Your name's sake I have patiently waited for You, Lord; my soul has waited patiently for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord. (Psalm 129:4)

When Moses the wonderful was purified by fasting he saw the Beloved One. Therefore imitate him, my humble soul, and hurry to be purified of all evil during these days of abstinence; that the Lord may grant forgiveness to you, so that you may behold Him; for He is the almighty, gracious Lord Who loves mankind.

***Tone Plagal 2***

*Reader* From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord. (Psalm 129:5)

Let us, brethren, begin the second week of the Fast, fulfilling it day by day with rejoicing and remembering Elias the Tishbite, as a fiery chariot of great cardinal virtues, elevating our minds by subduing our passions, arming ourselves with purity, to drive away and subdue the enemy.

***Prosomoia from the Menaion***

*The last three Prosomoia as well as the Theotokion are from the Menaion.*

*Chanter* For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities. (Psalm 129:7)

*Prosomoion from the Menaion.*

*Praise the Lord, all you nations, praise Him, all you peoples. (Psalm 116:1)*

*Prosomoion from the Menaion.*

*For He has made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abides to the ages. (Psalm 116:2)*

*Prosomoion from the Menaion.*

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

*Theotokion from the Menaion.*

**Entrance**

*The Priests put on their epitrachelia and felonis, and exit during the Theotokion. Preceded by the candle bearers, the Senior Deacon exits the Holy of Holies through the north door carrying the censer, followed by the concelebrating clergy from junior to senior. The Senior Deacon stands before the Beautiful Gate and the other clergy proceed to the throne.*

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### *Prayer of the Entrance*

*Deacon* (In a low voice, facing the Hierarch) **L**et us pray to the Lord.

*Hierarch* (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. **F**or 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.

*Deacon* (In a low voice, facing the Hierarch) **M**aster, bless the holy entrance.

*The Hierarch blesses the entrance, saying in a low voice:*

*Hierarch* (In a low voice) **B**lessed is the entrance of Your holy ones, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### *Lamp-Lighting Hymn of Thanksgiving*

*Deacon* **W**isdom! Rise!

*Clergy* **O** gladsome light of holy glory, • of the immortal Father, • heavenly • and holy, • blessed Jesus Christ; • now that we have come • to the setting of the sun, • and see the light of evening: • we praise + Father, Son, • and Holy Spirit, God. • It is worthy • at all times to praise You, • with voices of joy, • Son of God • and Giver of life: • therefore, the world does glorify You.

*At the words "... to the setting of the sun ..." the Deacon censes (the Hierarch,) the icons, and the congregation from where he stands, then the (Hierarch and) icons again, and enters the Holy of Holies. Standing on the north side of the Beautiful Gate facing the people the Deacon proclaims:*

### **Prokeimenon**

*Tone Plagal 4*

*Deacon* **T**he evening Prokeimenon!

*Reader* *You, Lord, have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name. (Prostration)*

From the ends of the earth I have called to You.

*You, Lord, have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name. (Prostration)*

I will take refuge under the shadow of Your wings.

*You, Lord, have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name. (Prostration)*

So I will ever sing praises to Your Name.

*You, Lord, have given an inheritance to those who fear Your name. (Prostration)*

*After receiving a blessing from the Hierarch, the clergy enter the Holy of Holies through the Beautiful Gate; the Deacon censes them as they enter.*

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### Litany of Fervent Supplication

*Dcn/2nd Pr* **L**et us say with all our soul, and with all our mind let us say.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/3rd Pr* **L**ord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/4th Pr* **H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/... Pr* **A**gain we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/... Pr* **A**gain we pray for our Archbishop Isaiah.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/... Pr* **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, and of the members and the council of this holy church.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/... Pr* **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.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Ist Priest* **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.

*All* Amen.

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### Evening Prayer

*Hierarch\** **M**ake us worthy, Lord, to be kept this evening without sin. Blessed are You, Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

**L**et Your mercy, Lord, be upon us, as we have hoped in You. Blessed are You, Lord, teach me Your commandments. Blessed are You, Master, give me understanding of Your commandments. Blessed are You, Holy One, enlighten me by Your commandments.

**Y**our mercy, Lord, endures to the ages; do not disregard the works of Your hands. To You belongs praise, to You belongs song, to You belongs glory: to the + Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### Completion of the Litany

*Dcn/2nd Pr* **L**et us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*All* Lord have mercy.

*Dcn/3rd Pr* **H**elp us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*All* Lord have mercy.

*Dcn/4th Pr* **T**hat the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*All* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*All* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*All* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*All* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*All* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*All* Grant this, O Lord.

*Dcn/... Pr* **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.

*All* To You, O Lord.

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\* *The Reader:* Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

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*2nd Priest* **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.

*All* Amen.

### Prayer at the Bowing of Heads

*Hierarch\** **P**eace be with all.

*All* And with your Spirit.

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

*All* To You, O Lord.

*1st Priest* *(Quietly)* **L**ord our God, Who bowed the heavens, and Who came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance. For Your servants have bowed their heads, and bent their necks to You, the fearsome Judge Who loves mankind; they do not expect help from men, but await Your mercy, and look for Your salvation; protect them at all times, during both the approaching evening and the coming night, from every enemy, from every opposing work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil memories.

*3rd Priest* **B**lessed and glorified is the might of Your kingdom: of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*All* Amen.

### Aposticha

*Reader* Come, let us cleanse ourselves by almsgiving and acts of mercy to the poor, not sounding a trumpet or making a show of our charity. Let not our left hand know what our right hand is doing; let not vainglory scatter the fruit of our almsgiving; but in secret let us call on Him Who knows all secrets: Father, forgive us our trespasses, for You love mankind.

*To You I lift up my eyes, You Who dwell 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, till He has mercy upon us. (Psalm 122:1)*

Come, let us cleanse ourselves by almsgiving and acts of mercy to the poor, not sounding a trumpet or making a show of our charity. Let not our left hand know what our right hand is doing; let not vainglory scatter the fruit of our almsgiving; but in secret let us call on Him Who knows all secrets: Father, forgive us our trespasses, for You love mankind.

### Martyrikon

*Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us, for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. Too long our soul has been filled with the scorn of those who are at ease, with the contempt of the proud. (Psalm 122:3)*

Holy martyrs of the Lord, you sanctify every place and heal diseases. We implore you to intercede for us with the Lord, that He may save our souls from the snares of the enemy.

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\* Or the First Priest if no Hierarch is present.

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

The heavenly powers praise you, unwedded mother, who are full of grace, and we glorify your incomprehensible childbearing. Theotokos, intercede for the salvation of our souls.

### Service of the Procession with the Holy Icons

*The Clergy take the Holy Icons and exit the Holy of Holies through the Beautiful Gate and process down the center and outside the Church to the south side (or they process around the interior of the Church, down the north aisle). The faithful may follow, also carrying Icon. All sing the Troparion:*

*All* Your immaculate Icon • we venerate, Good One, • begging for the forgiveness • of our offenses, Christ God; • for, of Your own will, You consented in the flesh to ascend the Cross, • in order to rescue those whom You created from the bondage of the enemy; • wherefore, thankfully we cry to You: • You filled all things with joy, our Savior, • in coming to save the world.

*The procession stops at the south side of the Church.*

*Dcn/1st Pr* **H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/1st Pr* **A**gain we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/1st Pr* **A**gain we pray for our Archbishop Isaiah.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*1st Priest* **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.

*All* Amen.

*The procession continues around the church as the faithful sing the Troparion:*

*All* Your immaculate Icon • we venerate, Good One, • begging for the forgiveness • of our offenses, Christ God; • for, of Your own will, You consented in the flesh to ascend the Cross, • in order to rescue those whom You created from the bondage of the enemy; • wherefore, thankfully we cry to You: • You filled all things with joy, our Savior, • in coming to save the world.

*The procession stops at the east side of the church.*

*Dcn/2nd Pr* **H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/2nd Pr* **A**gain we pray for the repose of all pious Orthodox Christians who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, kings, patriarchs, bishops, priests, deacons, monastics, parents, grandparents, forebearers, brothers, sisters, spouses, children, and all who piously lie asleep here and in all the world.

*All* Everlasting be their memory; • everlasting be their memory; • everlasting be their memory.

*2nd Priest* **F**or You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Repose of Your servants who have fallen asleep, Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your eternal + Father and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*All* Amen.

*The procession continues around the church as the faithful sing the Troparion:*

*All* Your immaculate Icon • we venerate, Good One, • begging for the forgiveness • of our offenses, Christ God; • for, of Your own will, You consented in the flesh to ascend the Cross, • in order to rescue those whom You created from the bondage of the enemy; • wherefore, thankfully we cry to You: • You filled all things with joy, our Savior, • in coming to save the world.

*The procession stops at the north side of the church.*

*Dcn/3rd Pr* **H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/3rd Pr* **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, and of the members and the council of this holy church, and all the people here present..

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*3rd Priest* **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.

*All* Amen.

*The procession continues around the church as the faithful sing the Troparion:*

*All* Your immaculate Icon • we venerate, Good One, • begging for the forgiveness • of our offenses, Christ God; • for, of Your own will, You consented in the flesh to ascend the Cross, • in order to rescue those whom You created from the bondage of the enemy; • wherefore, thankfully we cry to You: • You filled all things with joy, our Savior, • in coming to save the world.

*The procession stops at the west side of the Church.*

*Dcn/4th Pr* **H**ave mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we pray to You: hear us and have mercy.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Dcn/4th Pr* **A**gain we pray for the protection of this holy church, this city, and every city and land, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good God Who loves mankind may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us by turning and keeping from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

*All* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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*Hierarch\** **H**ear us, God our Savior, You Who are the hope of all those upon the earth and of all those who are far off upon the sea; and be merciful, be merciful, Master, regarding our sins, and have mercy on us. For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*All* Amen.

### *Synodikon*

*From the proceedings of the Seventh Ecumenical Council*

*All* **A**s the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have dogmatized, as the universe has agreed, as grace has illumined, as truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dispelled, as wisdom has presented, as Christ has triumphed; this we believe, this we declare, this we preach: Christ our true God, and His saints we honor in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in temples, in icons, on the one hand bowing down and worshipping Christ as God and Master, on the other hand honoring the saints as true servants of the Master of all, and offering to them due veneration.

**T**his is the faith of the Apostles!

**T**his is the faith of the Fathers!

**T**his is the faith of the Orthodox!

**T**his is the faith which has established the Universe!

**T**herefore with fraternal and filial love we praise the heralds of the faith, those who with glory and honor have struggled for the faith, and we say: for the champions of Orthodoxy, faithful emperors, most-holy patriarchs, hierarchs, teachers, martyrs and confessors: may their memory be eternal.

*(Sing)* **E**verlasting be their memory; • Everlasting be their memory; • Everlasting be their memory.

**L**et us beseech God that we may be instructed and strengthened by the trials and struggles of these saints, which they endured for the Faith even unto death, and by their teachings, entreating that we may to the end imitate their godly life. May we be deemed worthy of obtaining our requests through the mercy and grace of the great and First Hierarch, Christ our God, through the intercessions of our glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, the divine Angels and all the saints. Amen.

*The procession reenters the sanctuary, singing the Great Prokeimenon:*

*All* What god • is so great as our God? • You are God, • Who alone works wonders. (3)

### **Hymn of Simeon the Just**

*Hierarch\** Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. *(Luke 2:29-32)*

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\* *Or the First Priest if no Hierarch is present.*

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### Trisagion Prayers

*Reader* Holy + God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
 Holy + God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
 Holy + God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.  
 Glory to the + Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.  
 All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Glory to the + Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.  
 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 the evil one.

*1st 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.

*All* Amen.

### Troparia

*Reader* Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*Prostration*)

Baptizer of Christ, remember us all, that we may be delivered from our iniquities; for to you was given the grace to intercede for us. (*Prostration*)

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

Intercede for us, holy Apostles and all you Saints, that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows; for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior. (*Prostration*)

Under your compassion we take refuge, Theotokos; turn not away from our supplications in adversity, but protect us from perils, only pure and only blessed one.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*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 incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

*Ist Priest* **B**lessed is Christ our God the existing One, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*All* Amen.

*Hierarch\** **H**eavenly King, protect our faithful rulers, strengthen the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world, preserve this church and this city, grant repose to our departed fathers and brothers among the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession, for You are a good God, Who loves mankind.

*All* Amen.

### Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian

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

**R**ather, grant the spirit of wisdom, humility, patience, and love to 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*)

### Dismissal

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

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Holy father, bless.

*Ist Priest* **M**ay 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 triumphant martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of (*the saints of the day*) whom we commemorate; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is a good, and loving, and merciful God.

### Troparion

*Reader* All those do you shelter, O good one,  
those who in their faith flee unto you,  
with your strong hand you protect;  
we who sin have no one else,  
who intercedes for us,  
before God endlessly,  
in ills and all dangers,

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\* *Or the First Priest if no Hierarch is present.*

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for us who are laden with  
our many sins and mistakes;  
Mother, of our God in the Highest  
therefore we fall down to you, humbly;  
from all misfortunes, keep your servants safe.

*If a Hierarch is Present:*

*1st Priest* **T**hrough the + prayers of our holy master, Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy upon us and save us.

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

*All* Amen.

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*\* Or the First Priest if no Hierarch is present.*

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**Compunctionate Stichera**  
*According to the Eight Tones*

**Tone 1**

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

The multitude of my transgressions is like deep waters of the sea, drowning in my iniquities. Give me Your hand, God my Savior; save me as You have saved Peter, and have mercy on me.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

Because of all my wicked thoughts and deeds I stand condemned; put into my thought, God my Savior, the thought of turning back to You, that I may cry: "Save me, loving Benefactor, and have mercy on me."

*Out of the depths have I cried unto You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Another world awaits you, my soul, and the Judge will reveal there all your secret sins. Do not delay among the things of this life, but run quickly to the Judge and cry before it is too late: "God be merciful to me and save me."

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

Do not reject me, my Savior, though I am held fast by the slothfulness of sin. Rather, rouse my thoughts to repentance, and make me a tried laborer in Your vineyard; grant me the reward of the eleventh hour, and save me.

**Tone 2**

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

Like the Prodigal Son, I have sinned against You, Savior. Receive me as I repent, Father, and have mercy on me, O God.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

With the voice of the Publican I cry unto You, Christ my Savior. Take pity on me as You have upon him, and have mercy on me, O God.

*Out of the depths have I cried unto You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

When I contemplate the wicked things I have done, I flee for refuge to Your tender mercy, like the Publican, like the harlot with her tears, and like the Prodigal Son. Therefore I fall down before You, merciful Lord. Do not condemn me, O God, but spare me and have mercy upon me.

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

Turn Your eyes from my transgressions, Lord born of the Virgin, and cleanse my heart, making it a temple of Your Holy Spirit. Do not cast me away from before Your face, for Your great mercy is without measure.

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**Tone 3**

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

With incense and with spiritual songs, we offer to You, Christ, our evening hymn. Have mercy upon our souls, O Savior.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

Save me, Lord my God, for You are the salvation of all. The billows of my passions sorely trouble me, and the burden of my transgressions drags me down. Stretch out Your hand in help, and lead me up to the light of compunction, for You alone are compassionate and love mankind.

*Out of the depths have I cried unto You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Gather together my scattered mind, Lord, and purify my dry and barren heart, giving me repentance like Peter, sighs of sorrow like the Publican, and tears like the harlot, that I may cry with a loud voice to You: Save me, O God, for You alone are compassionate and love mankind.

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

Often when I offer praise to God, I am found to be committing sin; for while I sing the hymns with my tongue, I ponder evil thoughts in my soul. But through repentance, Christ my God, set my tongue and soul aright, and have mercy on me.

**Tone 4**

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

I want to wash away the record of my sins with tears, Lord, and to please You through the rest of my life through repentance. But the enemy deceives me and fights for my soul. Before I utterly perish, save me, Lord.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

If a man takes refuge in this harbor from the tempest, will he not be saved? If he kneels before this house of healing in his agony, will he not be cured? Maker of all and Physician of the sick, before I utterly perish, save me, Lord.

*Out of the depths have I cried unto You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Wash me with my tears, Savior, for I am defiled by many sins. Therefore I fall down before you: I have sinned, have mercy upon me, O God.

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

I am a sheep of your spiritual flock, and I flee to You for refuge, Good Shepherd. I have gone astray, O God, seek me and have mercy upon me.

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***Tone Plagal 1***

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

I do not cease from sin, Lord, nor do I perceive the love You show me. Vanquish my blindness, for You alone are good, and have mercy on me.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

Lord, I tremble from fear of You, yet I do not cease from doing evil. When called to trial, who does not fear the judge? What man, desiring to be healed, angers the physician as I do? Take pity on my weakness, forbearing Lord, and have mercy on me.

*Out of the depths have I cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Woe is me, for I am like the barren fig tree, and I fear that I also shall be accursed and cut down. But, heavenly Husbandman, Christ my God, make my dry and barren soul bear fruit. Receive me as the Prodigal Son, and have mercy on me.

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

Lord born of a Virgin, pass over my manifold transgressions and wipe out all my sins. Grant me the firm intent to turn back to You, for You alone love mankind, and have mercy on me.

***Tone Plagal 2***

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

I have no repentance and no tears. Therefore I entreat You, Savior: before the end comes, cause me to turn back, and grant me compunction, that I may be delivered from torment.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

At Your fearful coming, Christ, may we not hear the words: "I do not know you." For we have put our trust in You, Savior, although in our ignorance we do not keep Your commandments. Even so, we entreat You saying: "Spare our souls."

*Out of the depths have I cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Heal the wounds of my heart, inflicted on me through my many sins, Savior and Physician of our souls and bodies; for You always grant forgiveness of transgressions to those who ask. Give me tears of repentance and remission of my debts, Lord, and have mercy on me.

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

Finding me naked, stripped of virtues, the enemy wounded me with the arrow of sin; but, O God, the Physician of our souls and bodies, heal the wounds of my soul and have mercy on me.

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**Grave Tone**

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

As the Prodigal Son, I also come to You, compassionate Lord, and I fall down before You. Accept me as one of Your hired servants, and have mercy on me.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

As the man who fell among thieves and was wounded, I too have fallen through my sins and my soul is wounded. To whom shall I flee for refuge, guilty that I am, if not to You, the merciful Physician of our souls? Pour on me, O God, the oil of Your great mercy.

*Out of the depths have I cried unto You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Sinner though I am, Savior, do not cut me down as the barren fig tree. Grant me forgiveness for my many years of sin, and water my soul with tears of repentance, that as fruit I may offer You acts of mercy and compassion.

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

You are the Sun of righteousness; illumine the hearts of those who praise You, singing: Glory to You, Lord.

**Tone Plagal 4**

*Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)*

The angels praise You without ceasing, King and Master, and I fall down before you crying like the Publican: God be merciful to me and save me.

*The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)*

Since You are immortal, my soul, be not overwhelmed by the waves of this life; but return to soberness and cry to your Benefactor: God be merciful to me and save me.

*Out of the depths have I cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)*

Give me tears, O God, as You once gave them to the woman that had sinned, and count me worthy to wash Your feet that have delivered me from the way of error. As sweet-smelling ointment let me offer You a pure life, created in me by repentance; and may I also hear those words for which I long: "Your faith has saved you, go in peace."

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)*

When I call to mind the many evils I have done, and I think upon the fearful day of judgment, seized with trembling I flee to You for refuge, O God Who loves mankind. Do not turn away from me, I beseech You, Who alone are free from sin; but before the end comes grant compunction to my humbled soul and save me.

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**Grave Tone** *Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)* As the Prodigal Son, I also come to You, compassionate Lord, and I fall down before You. Accept me as one of Your hired servants, and have mercy on me. *The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)* As the man who fell among thieves and was wounded, I too have fallen through my sins and my soul is wounded. To whom shall I flee for refuge, guilty that I am, if not to You, the merciful Physician of our souls? Pour on me, O God, the oil of Your great mercy. *Out of the depths have I cried unto You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)* Sinner though I am, Savior, do not cut me down as the barren fig tree. Grant me forgiveness for my many years of sin, and water my soul with tears of repentance, that as fruit I may offer You acts of mercy and compassion. *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)* You are the Sun of righteousness; illumine the hearts of those who praise You, singing: Glory to You, Lord. **Tone Plagal 4** *Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Your name. (Psalm 141:10)* The angels praise You without ceasing, King and Master, and I fall down before you crying like the Publican: God be merciful to me and save me. *The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You reward me. (Psalm 141:11)* Since You are immortal, my soul, be not overwhelmed by the waves of this life; but return to soberness and cry to your Benefactor: God be merciful to me and save me. *Out of the depths have I cried to You, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. (Psalm 129:1)* Give me tears, O God, as You once gave them to the woman that had sinned, and count me worthy to wash Your feet that have delivered me from the way of error. As sweet-smelling ointment let me offer You a pure life, created in me by repentance; and may I also hear those words for which I long: "Your faith has saved you, go in peace." *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. (Psalm 129:2)* When I call to mind the many evils I have done, and I think upon the fearful day of judgment, seized with trembling I flee to You for refuge, O God Who loves mankind. Do not turn away from me, I beseech You, Who alone are free from sin; but before the end comes grant compunction to my humbled soul and save me.

