

# Great Compline, Matins & Liturgy For The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord





# Great Compline

**Priest:** Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver Life; Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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 an ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit an 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 an ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are in Heaven, 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.

**Priest:** For 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 unto ages of ages.

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

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

### **Psalm 4**

You heard me when I called, O God of my  
righteousness. You strengthened my heart when I was in  
distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. How  
long, O you sons of men, Will you be slow of heart? Why

do you love vain things And seek after lies? Know that the Lord made His Holy One wondrous; The Lord will hear me when I cry to Him. Be angry, and do not sin; Have remorse upon your beds For what you say in your hearts. Offer the sacrifice of righteousness, And hope in the Lord. There are many who say, "Who will show us good things?" O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us. You put gladness in my heart; From their season of wheat, wine, and oil they were multiplied. I will both sleep and rest in peace, For You alone, O Lord, cause me to dwell in hope.

### **Psalm 6**

O Lord, do not reprove me in Your anger, Nor discipline me in Your wrath. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; Heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled; And my soul is greatly troubled; But You, O Lord, how long? Return, O Lord, and deliver my soul. Save me because of Your mercy. For there is no remembrance of You in death; And in Hades who will give thanks to You? I am weary with my groaning; Every single night I will dampen my bed; I will drench my couch with my tears. My eye is troubled by anger; I grow old among all my enemies. Depart from me, all you workers of lawlessness; For the Lord heard the voice of my weeping; The Lord heard my supplication; The Lord received my

prayer. Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be suddenly ashamed.

### **Psalm 13 (12)**

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me to the end? How long will You turn Your face from me? How long will I take counsel in my soul, Having grief in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? Look upon me and hear me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death, Lest my enemy say, "I prevailed against him"; Those who afflict me greatly rejoice, if I am shaken. But I hope in Your mercy; My heart shall greatly rejoice in Your salvation; I will sing to the Lord, who shows kindness to me; I will sing to the name of the Lord Most High.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O Lord! **(3X)**

### **God is With Us**

**Priest:** God is with us! Understand this, O nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**Choir:** God is with us! Understand this, O nations and

submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**Priest:** Hear this, all you ends of the earth!

**CHOIR:** For God is with us! **(This refrain is sung after each verse)**

**Priest:** Submit yourselves, you mighty ones! **(Refrain)**  
Even if your strength returns, you shall be overthrown  
once more **(Refrain)**

Take counsel together, if you wish, but it will come to  
nothing **(Refrain)**

Make your plans, if you wish, but they will never stand,  
even among yourselves. **(Refrain)**

We do not fear your threats, nor are we troubled. **(Refrain)**  
For the Lord our God is holy, and Him we will fear.  
**(Refrain)**

If I trust in Him, He will be my sanctification. **(Refrain)**

I will wait for Him, He will save me. **(Refrain)**

Behold, I and the children whom God has given me are  
signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of Hosts.  
**(Refrain)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**(Refrain)**

To those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a  
light is risen. **(Refrain)**

For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given.

**(Refrain)**

And the government shall be upon His shoulder. **(Refrain)**

And of His peace there shall be no end. **(Refrain)**

And His Name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel.

**(Refrain)**

Wonderful, Counselor. **(Refrain)**

Mighty God, Eternal Ruler, Prince of Peace. **(Refrain)**

The Father of the World to Come. **(Refrain)**

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

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest:** God is with us! Understand this, O nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us.

**Choir:** God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

**Reader:** The day is over; I thank You, O Lord! Grant me to pass this evening and this night without sin. And save me, O Savior!

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

The day is over; I glorify You, O Master! Grant me to pass the evening and this night without giving offense, and save



me, O Savior!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The day is over; I sing to You, O Holy One! Grant me to pass this evening and this night free from temptation, and save me, O Savior!

The bodiless cherubim glorify You with never ending hymns! The six-winged seraphim exalt You with ceaseless voices! All the host of angels triumphantly sing the thrice-holy hymn: You are Father before eternity; With Your co-eternal Son and the Spirit of Life, equal in honor to You, You have revealed the undivided trinity. O all-holy virgin mother of God, And you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, You choirs of prophets and martyrs who enjoy immortal life fervently pray for us. For we are all in fearful distress. That being delivered from the snares of the evil one. We may sing the angel hymn: Holy, holy, holy, thrice-holy Lord, have mercy on us and save us! Amen.

### **The Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true

God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The All Holy**

**Priest:** ALL-HOLY SOVEREIGN LADY THEOTOKOS,  
PRAY FOR US SINNERS.

**CHOIR:** *[REPEATS EACH VERSE...]*

ALL-HOLY SOVEREIGN LADY THEOTOKOS, PRAY  
FOR US SINNERS.

All ye heavenly hosts of Angels and Archangels, pray for

us sinners.

Holy John, the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, pray for us sinners.

Holy, glorious Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs and all the Saints, pray for us sinners.

Venerable God-bearing Fathers, Pastors and Ecumenical teachers, pray for us sinners.

Holy Hierarch Patriarch Tikhon, pray for us sinners.

Holy Hierarch and Apostle to America Innocent, pray for us sinners.

Holy Hierarch Raphael, pray for us sinners.

Venerable Father Herman, pray for us sinners.

Holy martyrs Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut, pray for us sinners.

Holy Priest-martyrs John and Alexander, pray for us sinners.

Holy and Righteous Fathers Jacob and Alexis, pray for us sinners.

All Saints, pray for us sinners.

Invincible and ineffable, and divine power of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross, forsake not us sinners.

O God, cleanse us sinners. **(TWICE)**

O God, cleanse us sinners and have mercy on us.

### **The Thrice Holy**

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 an ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O 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 an ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are in Heaven, 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.

**Priest:** For 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 unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Troparion Tone 4 (Sung)**

Thy nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the  
light of wisdom. For by it, those who worshiped the stars  
were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun: of  
Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. (12)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son. and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto 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: true Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

### **Prayer of St. Basil the Great**

**Reader:** O Lord, Lord, who delivers us from all the arrows that fly by day, deliver us also from all things that infest the darkness. Accept our evening sacrifice, even the lifting up of our hands. Grant that we may pass through the course of the night without sin, untempted of evil things; and deliver us from every alarm and cowardice that comes to us from the Devil. Grant unto our souls contrition, and unto our minds anxiety concerning that strict searching out of the thoughts which shall come in your dread and just Day of Judgement. Nail our flesh to the fear of you, and mortify our earthly members: that, in the quietness of sleep, we may be illuminated by the vision of Your

judgements. Remove from us, also, every unseemly imagination and hurtful carnal passion. Raise us up again at the hour of prayer fortified in the faith, and advancing in your commandments; through the favor and goodness of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed together with your all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God, our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself; our King and our God!

### **PSALM 50 (51)**

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving-kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash

me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, That the bones which You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me with Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

### **The Prayer of Manasseh**

O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and of their righteous posterity; You who made heaven and earth with all their order, who shackled the sea by Your word of command, who confined the deep



and sealed it with Your terrible and glorious Name; at whom all things shudder, and tremble before Your power, for Your glorious splendor cannot be borne, and the wrath of your threat to sinners cannot be withstood, yet immeasurable and unsearchable is Your promised mercy. For You are the Lord Most High, of great compassion, long-suffering, and very merciful, and repents over the evils of men. You, O Lord, according to Your great goodness have promised repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against You; and in the multitude of Your mercies You have appointed repentance for sinners, that they may be saved. Therefore You, O Lord, God of the righteous, have not appointed repentance for the righteous, for Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob, who did not sin against You, but You have appointed repentance for me, who am a sinner. For the sins I have committed are more in number than the sand of the sea; my transgressions are multiplied, O Lord, they are multiplied! I am unworthy to look up and see the height of heaven because of the multitude of my iniquities I am weighted down with many an iron fetter, so that I am rejected because of my sins, and I have no relief; for I have provoked Your wrath and have done what is evil in Your sight, ignoring Your will and disobeying Your commandments. And now I bend the knee of my heart, beseeching You for Your kindness. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know my

transgressions. I earnestly beseech You, to forgive me, O Lord, forgive me! Do not destroy me with my transgressions Do not be angry with me for ever or lay up evil for me; do not condemn me to the depths of the earth. For You. O Lord, are the God of those who repent, and in me You will manifest Your goodness; for, unworthy as I am. You will save me in Your great mercy, and I will praise You continually all the days of my life. For all the host of heaven sings Your praise, and Yours is the glory forever. Amen.

### **The Thrice Holy**

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 am ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Names 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 unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are in Heaven, 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.

**Priest:** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, o the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever am unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

### **Kondak Tone 3 (Sung)**

Today the virgin gives birth to the transcendent one, And the earth offers cave to the unapproachable one. Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star, Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

### **Psalm 70 (69)**

**READER:** O God, make haste to help me. May those who seek my soul be dishonored and shamed; May those who plot evils against me be turned back and disgraced; May those be turned back immediately Who shame me, saying,

"Well done! Well done!" May all who seek You greatly rejoice and be glad in You, And let those who love Your salvation always say, "Let God be magnified." But I am poor and needy; O God, help me. You are my helper and deliverer, O Lord; do not delay.

## **The Lesser Doxology**

**READER:** Glory to You who has shown us the light!

**READER:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory: O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You that takes away the sins of the world, accept our prayer. You that sits on the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy. You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day will I give thanks to You and praise Your Name for ever and ever. Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul. for I have sinned against You. Lord, I have fled unto You. Teach me to do Your

will, for You are my God. For with You is the fountain of life. and in Your light shall we see light. Continue Your mercy unto those who know You. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us. O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Holy One; enlighten me with Your precepts. Your mercy. O Lord, endures forever: O despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory, to the Father, and to the Son. and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **The Aposticha (Tone 2)**

**Choir:** A great and wondrous mystery unfolds today. / A virgin gives birth and remains a **virgin!** / The **Word** is made flesh without leaving His **Father!** / Angels and shepherds **glorify Him!** / Let us **join** in their **song:** / "Glory to God in the highest, and on **earth, peace!**" /

**Verse:** The Lord said to my. Lord: "Sit at. my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."

**(Tone 3)** Today the virgin gives birth to the **maker of all!**  
/ **Eden offers a cave.** / To **those** in darkness, a star reveals  
**Christ, the Sun!** / **Wise** men are enlightened by faith and  
**worship with gifts.** / **Shepherds** behold the wonder, and  
the **angels** sing: // Glory to **God** in the **highest!**"

**Verse:** Out of the womb before the morning star have I  
begotten Thee.

When **Jesus** the Lord was born in Bethlehem of **Judah,** /  
**Wise** men came from the East to Worship **God** made **man.**  
/ **Eagerly** opening their **treasures,** / they **offered** precious  
**gifts** to **Him:** / purest **gold** for the King of the **ages;** /  
**Frankincense,** for the **God** of **all;** / **myrrh,** for the  
immortal **One,** / as **though** He were **dead** three **days.** /  
Come all you nations, let us **worship Him!** // He is **born** to  
save **our** souls.

**Verse:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit.

**(Tone 4)** **Sing, O Jerusalem!** / Make merry, all who love  
**Zion!** / **Today** Adam's ancient bonds are **broken.** /  
Paradise is **opened** to **us.** / The **serpent** is **cast down!** /  
Long ago our first mother was **deceived** by **him!** / Now he  
sees a woman become mother of the Creator. / O the depth

of the riches of the **wisdom** and **knowledge** of **God!** /  
Through Eve, woman became the **tool** of **sin**, / bringing  
**death** to all **flesh**; / but through Mary, she becomes the  
first-fruits of salvation for **all** the **world**, / for God, the  
All-perfect, is **born** of **her**. / By His birth He seals her  
**virginity**. / He is bound in swaddling, clothes to **loose** the  
**bonds** of **sin!** / Through His birth, the pains of **Eve** are  
**healed!** / Let all creation sing and **dance for joy**, // for  
Christ has come to restore it and to **save our souls**.

**Verse:** Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou hast dwelt in a cave, O **Christ** our **God**; / A manger  
welcomed **Thee**; / **shepherds** and wise men **worshiped**  
**Thee**. / Then were the words of the **prophets fulfilled**, /  
and the hosts of **angels marveled** and **cried**: // Glory to  
Thy condescension, O only **Lover of Man!**

## **St. Symeon's Prayer**

### **Tone 6**

Lord, now let Your servant **depart** in Peace. / **According**  
to Your word, / for my eyes have seen Your **salvation** /  
which You have prepared before the face of all **people**; / a  
light to enlighten the **Gentiles** // and to be the glory of  
Your people **Israel**.

## The Thrice Holy

**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 unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O 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 unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are in Heaven, 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.

**Priest:** For 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 unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### **Troparion Tone 4**

Thy nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom. For by it, those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun: of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

**CHOIR:** Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. **(thrice)**

**Priest:** The Blessing of the Lord be upon you, through His grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Matins**

**PRIEST:** Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating, and undivided Trinity always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth

peace, good will towards men. (3)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth  
Your praise. (2)

## **The Six Psalms - (Abbreviated)**

### **Psalm 3**

**Reader:** O Lord, why do those who afflict me multiply?  
Many are those who rise up against me. Many are those  
who say to my soul, "There is no salvation for him in his  
God." But You, O Lord, are my protector, My glory and  
the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my  
voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and  
slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be  
afraid of ten thousands of people Who set themselves  
against me all around. Arise, O Lord, and save me, O my  
God, For You struck all those who were foolishly at  
enmity with me; You broke the teeth of sinners. Salvation  
is of the Lord, And Your blessing is upon Your people.

### **Psalm 38 (37)**

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me  
in Your anger. For Your arrows are fixed in me, And Your  
hand rests on me; There is no healing in my flesh because  
of Your wrath; There is no peace in my bones because of

my sins. For my transgressions rise up over my head; Like a heavy burden they are heavy on me. My wounds grow foul and fester Because of my folly. I suffer misery, and I am utterly bowed down; I go all the day long with a sad face. For my loins are filled with mockeries, And there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and greatly humbled; I roar because of the groaning of my heart. O Lord, all my desire is before You, And my groaning is not hidden from You. My heart is troubled; my strength fails me, And the light of my eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and neighbors draw near and stand against me, And my near of kin stand far off; And those who seek my soul use violence, And those who seek evil for me speak folly; And they meditate on deceit all the day long. But I like a deaf man do not hear, And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. I am like a man who does not hear, And who has no reproofs in his mouth. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Let not my enemies rejoice over me, For when my foot was shaken, they boasted against me." For I am ready for wounds, And my pain is continually with me. For I will declare my transgression, And I will be anxious about my sin. But my enemies live, and are become stronger than I; And those who hate me unjustly are multiplied; Those who repaid me evil for good Slandered me, because I pursue righteousness; And they threw away my love as though it

were a stinking corpse. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not depart from me; Give heed to help me, O Lord of my salvation.

### **Psalm 63 (62)**

O God, my God, I rise early to be with You; My soul thirsts for You. How often my flesh thirsts for You In a desolate, impassable, and waterless land. So in the holy place I appear before You, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your mercy is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You in my life; I will lift up my hands in Your name. May my soul be filled, as if with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall sing praise to You with lips filled with rejoicing. If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at daybreak; For You are my helper, And in the shelter of Your wings I will greatly rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand takes hold of me. But they seek for my soul in vain; They shall go into the lowest parts of the earth. They shall be given over to the edge of the sword; They shall be a portion for foxes. But the king shall be glad in God; All who swear by Him shall be praised, For the mouth that speaks unrighteous things is stopped.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God (3)

**DEACON:** (Tone 4) God is the Lord, who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed us He that comes in The Name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

**CHOIR:** God is the Lord, who has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

**DEACON:** All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I destroyed them.

**CHOIR:** God is the Lord . . .

**DEACON:** I shall not die, but live, and recount the works of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** God is the Lord . . .

**DEACON:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing and is wonderful in our eyes.

**CHOIR:** God is the Lord . .

## **Troparion Tone 4**

Thy nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom. For by it, those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun: of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

## **Kathisma Hymns Tone 4**

Come, O faithful! / Let us go to see where Christ was born. / We shall follow the wise men, kings from the East, / and be led by the guiding star / to the place where angels sing unceasing praise. / Shepherds in the fields offer fitting hymns:/ "Glory in the highest to Him who today was born / of the Virgin Theotokos // in a cave in Bethlehem of Judah!"

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

Why do you marvel, O Mary? / Why are you amazed at what has come to pass? / "I have given birth in time to a tuneless son; I cannot explain how He was conceived in me. / I have known no man; how then shall I bear a child? Who has ever seen a birth without seed?" / When God so

wills, as it is written: / The order of nature is overcome.”  
// Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem of Judah.

### **The Polyeleion**

Praise the Name of the Lord, O you Servants of the Lord!  
Alleluia! / Praised be the Lord from Zion, He who dwells  
in Jerusalem! Alleluia! / O give thanks to the Lord, for He  
is good, for His mercy endures forever! Alleluia! / O give  
thanks to the God of Heaven for His mercy endures  
forever! Alleluia!

### **The Magnification**

**Clergy:** We magnify You, O Christ the Giver of Life, who  
for our sake now is born in the flesh of the Virgin Mary,  
unwedded and most pure!

**Choir:** We magnify You, O Christ the Giver of Life, who  
for our sake now is born in the flesh of the Virgin Mary,  
unwedded and most pure!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; sing the  
glory of His name; proclaim His glorious praise.

We magnify.....

Our God is in heaven and on earth; He does whatever He pleases.

We magnify.....

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God (2)

**Clergy:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God.

We magnify.....

### **The Little Litany**

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy Grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.



**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

### **Song of Ascent Tone (4)**

**CHOIR:** From my youth, many passions have fought against me, / but do Thou protect me, and save me, O Savior. / You who hate Zion / shall be put to shame by the Lord: / you shall be withered up / like grass by the fire.

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

Every soul is enlivened by the Holy Spirit, / and is exalted in purity, / illumined by the Holy Trinity in a sacred mystery.

## **The Prokeimenon**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us attend! The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone. Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You; the Lord has sworn, and will not Change his mind

**Choir:** Out of the womb.....

**Deacon:** The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand; until I make your enemies your footstool."

**Choir:** Out of the womb....

**Deacon:** Out of the womb: before the morning star have begotten You;

**Choir:** The Lord has sworn and will not change His Mind.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For holy art Thou, O God, who rests in the sanctuary, and to Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**Choir:** Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**Deacon:** Praise God in His sanctuary! Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

**Choir:** Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**Deacon:** Let everything that breathes

**Choir:** Praise the Lord.

**Deacon:** That we may be accounted worthy of listening to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

**Choir:** Lord, have Mercy. (3)

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

**Priest:** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (Matt. 1:18-25)

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord; glory to Thee!

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord; glory to Thee!

### **Post Gospel Stichera**

**Reader:** Glory in the Second Tone:

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the **Holy Spirit.**

Today all things are **filled with joy**, / for Christ is born of the **Virgin!**

**Reader:** Now and ever in the Same Tone

**Choir:** Now and ever, and unto ages of **ages. Amen.**

Today all things are **filled with joy**, / for Christ is born of the **Virgin!**

**(Tone 6)** Have mercy on **me, O God**, / according to Thy great **mercy**, / and according to the multitude of Thy tender **mercies** / blot out my **transgressions.**

Glory to God in the highest, and on **earth peace!** / Today Bethlehem receives Him who reigns forever with the **Father.** / Today angels glorify the newborn babe in hymns **worthy of God:** / Glory to God in the **highest!** / And on

**earth, peace, good will to men!**

**Priest:** Through the Mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## **The Canon (Tone 1)**

### **Ode 1**

**Choir:** Christ is born; glorify Him! / Christ comes from heaven, go to meet Him! / Christ is on earth, be exalted! / Sing to the Lord, all the earth! / And praise Him in gladness, O people, // for He has been glorified!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** Man was made in the Image of God, but he sinned, and lost immortality. He fell from the divine and better life, enslaved completely by corruption. Now the wise Creator fashions Him again, for He has been glorified.

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** The Creator shaped man with His own hands, but when He saw us perishing eternally, He bowed the heavens and came down to earth, and clothed Himself completely in our nature, truly incarnate from a pure and holy Virgin, for He has been glorified!

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** Wisdom, and Word, and Power, Christ our God is the Father's Son, His Radiance. He was made man – a mystery concealed from every spirit above or on the earth. He has won us for Himself, for He has been glorified!

### Ode 3

**Choir:** To the Son, begotten of the Father, before all ages / and incarnate of the virgin without seed in these latter days / To Christ our God, let us cry out / Thou hast raised up our horn, // Holy art Thou, O Lord!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** Adam was made from dust, yet he shared God's life-giving breath. He was deceived by woman and fell, but from the dead, he saw Christ born of woman. He exclaimed, "for my sake You have become like me! Holy

are You O Lord!”

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** You have assumed a body of lowly clay, O Christ: By sharing our humble flesh, You have made our race partakers of divinity. By becoming mortal man yet remaining God, You have raised us from death to life. Holy are You, O Lord!

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**Reader:** Make merry, O Bethlehem! You are the King of Judah’s princes. Christ, the Shepherd of Israel, Who rides on the shoulders of the Cherubim, has come forth from you for all to see. He has raised us from death to life, and reigns over all.

**Choir:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Katavasia:** *To the Son.....*

## **The Little Litany**

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the



Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For You are our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## Ode 4

**Choir:** Stem and flower of the root of Jesse, / Thou hast blossomed from the Virgin, O Christ. / From the mountain overshadowed by the forest Thou art come, / made flesh

from her that knew no man. O God, not formed from matter // glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** You are the Expectation of the nations, O Christ, foretold by Jacob in days of old. You have sprung from Judah's tribe, to plunder the might of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria, replacing error with faith acceptable to God. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

**Reader:** You have filled the stargazers with joy, O Lord. They know the hidden meaning of the prophet Balaam's words. You have made the star of Jacob to rise. As the first-fruits of the Gentiles it led them unto You. You openly received their precious gifts. Glory to Your power, O Lord!

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** You have descended into the Virgin's womb, O Christ, like rain on the fleece and as raindrops watering the earth. All earth's rulers fall down before You: Ethiopia and

the islands of Arabia, the kings of Tarshish, of Sheba, and Medes. Glory to Your power, O Lord!

## Ode 5

**Choir:** O God of Peace, / Father of Mercies, / Thou hast sent Thine angel of great counsel to grant us peace. / We are guided to the light of the knowledge of God, / and keeping watch by night, // we glorify Thee, O Lover of Man!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** You were registered as Caesar's subject, O Christ, in Obedience to his decree. We were slaves of sin, and subject to the hateful enemy; by Your poverty You have set us free! You were united to our nature in every way. Though we were formed from dust, by this communion we are made divine!

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** Behold; the Virgin, as foretold of old, has conceived and given birth to God made man. She remains a virgin still. Through her we are reconciled to God. Let us sinners faithfully sing her praise. She is truly Theotokos!

## Ode 6

**Choir:** The sea monster cast forth Jonah as it had received him, / like a babe from the womb. / And when the Word came to dwell in the virgin and was made flesh, / He came forth preserving her uncorrupt, / for as He Himself was not subject to decay; / He kept his mother free from harm.

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** Christ our God has come in the flesh. The Father begot Him from the womb before the morning Star. He rules the heavenly hosts, yet now He lies in a manger of dumb beasts. He who looses the tangled knots of sin now is wrapped in swaddling clothes.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**Reader:** A Son is born and given to the faithful, a newborn child of Adam's race, yet He is Father and Ruler of the world to come. He is called the Angel of Great Counsel. He is the Mighty God, He rules all creation by His might.

**Choir:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Katavasia:** *The Sea Monster....*

## The Little Litany

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For You are the King of Peace and the Savior of our Souls, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## **The Kontakion (Tone 3)**

Today the virgin gives birth to the transcendent one, / and the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable one. / Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star, // since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a little child!

### **Ode 7**

**Choir:** The children brought up together in godliness / scorned the impious decree of the tyrant. / They were not afraid of the threat of fire, / but standing in the midst of the flames, they sang: // “Blessed are You, O God of our fathers!”

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** The shepherds abiding in the fields were terrified by a dazzling sight. Around them shone the glory of the Lord. An angel: shouted unto them, "Sing praises! The Messiah is born!" Blessed are You, O God of our fathers!

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**Reader:** After the angel spoke, the hosts of heaven suddenly cried out: "Glory to God in the highest. Peace on

earth, good will to men. Christ has shone forth." Blessed are You, O God of our fathers.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** "What news is this?" asked the shepherds, "Has God's Messiah truly come? Let us go to Bethlehem." They saw You there, and worshiped You. With Your Mother, they sang: "Blessed are You, O God of our fathers!"

## Ode 8

**Choir:** The furnace moist with dew / was an image prefiguring a wonder beyond nature, / for it did not burn the children whom it had received, / nor did the fire of divinity consume the Virgin's womb when it entered it. / So let us raise the song: // "Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** The daughter of Babylon drove David's children from Zion with sword and spear. Now she sends her sons, the wise men, bearing gifts, to worship in David's city where God has come to dwell. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord, and exalt him throughout

all ages!

**Refrain:** Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

**Reader:** Grief had silenced the harps, Zion's children would not sing in a foreign land. But now Christ has shone forth in Bethlehem, destroying the din of Babylon's idolatries. So let us raise the song: “Let all creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all ages!

**Choir:** Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Reader:** Babylon plundered Zion, and captured all her royal wealth. But now, with a guiding star, Christ lures her treasure-laden wise men back to Zion. So let us raise the song: “Let all creation bless the Lord; and exalt Him throughout all ages!

## Ode 9

**Choir:** Magnify, O my soul, / the most pure Virgin Theotokos, / more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery! / Heaven the



cave / The cherubic throne the Virgin! / The manger the place where Christ lay, the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!

**Refrain:** Magnify, O my soul, God born in the flesh, from the Virgin!

**Reader:** The wise men saw a new, uncharted star, following an unexpected course, Its brightness surpassed every star in heaven. It foretold the Messiah's birth: Christ the King born on earth in Bethlehem, for our Salvation.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**Reader:** “Where is the newborn infant, King? We have seen His star,” the wise men said. “We have come to worship Him.” Herod trembled with fury. In his raging madness he plotted to kill Christ.

**Choir:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Magnify, O my soul, / the most pure Virgin Theotokos, / more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!

**Katavasia:** *I behold a strange.....*

## **The Little Litany**

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your Grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For all the powers of heaven praise You, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## **The Exapostilarion**

Our Savior the day spring from the East, has visited us from on high, and we who were in darkness and shadow, have found the truth, for the Lord is born of the Virgin!

### **The Praises (Tone 4)**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! / Praise the Lord from the heavens. / Praise Him in the highest. / To Thee, O God, is due a song! / Praise Him, all you angels of His! / Praise Him all His hosts! // To Thee, O God is due a song!

**Verse:** Praise Him for His mighty deeds; / praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

Make glad, O you righteous / Greatly rejoice, O Heavens / Dance for joy, O mountains for Christ is born! / the Virgin has become the cherubic throne. / She carries at her bosom God the Word made flesh. / Shepherds glorify the newborn Child. / Wise men offer the Master gifts, / Angels praise Him and sing: // “O Lord, beyond understanding, glory to Thee.

**Verse:** Praise Him with trumpet sound; // praise Him with lute and harp!

It was the good pleasure of the Father: / The Word is made flesh. / The Virgin gives birth to God made man. / A star announces the glad tidings, / Shepherds are amazed, and wise men worship, // and creation is filled with mighty joy!

**Verse:** Praise Him with timbrel and dance; // praise Him with strings and pipe!

You have borne the Savior, O Virgin Theotokos ? You have overthrown Eve's ancient curse! / You became the mother of the Son of God! / The Father is well pleased in Him. / You carry at your bosom God, the Word, made flesh! We cannot fathom this mystery / We can only believe, and give glory with you: // "O Lord, beyond all explanation, glory to Thee!

**Verse:** Praise Him with sounding cymbals; / praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. // Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Come. Let us sing to the Mother of the Savior! / After childbearing she remained a virgin. / "Hail O spiritual city of God the King! / Christ came to dwell in you. / He has accomplished salvation. / With Gabriel, we sing your praise. / With the shepherds, we glorify you . / O

Theotokos, pray to Him who took flesh from you to save us!”

**VERSE:** (Tone 6) Glory to the: Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

When it was time for Thy coming on earth, / the first imperial taxation was held; / but Thou also didst take a census, O Lord, / recording the names of all men who believed in Thy birth. / Thou didst use the decree of Caesar for Thine own end: / to make manifest Thy timeless and eternal Kingdom! / Therefore we pay Thee our taxes, not with golden coins, / but with the riches of Orthodox theology, // O God and Savior of our souls.

**Verse:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 2) Today Christ is born of the virgin in Bethlehem! / Today He who knows no beginning, begins. / Today the Word is made flesh. / The powers of heaven greatly rejoice. / The earth makes merry with men. / The wise men offer gifts; the shepherds announce the wonder, / and without ceasing we cry aloud; / Glory to God in the highest, // peace on earth, good will to men.

## The Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

BEHOLD a new and wondrous mystery.

My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him Angels, nor Archangels, nor Thrones, nor Dominations, nor Powers, nor Principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb.

Since this heavenly birth cannot be described, neither does His coming amongst us in these days permit of too curious scrutiny. Though I know that a Virgin this day gave birth, and I believe that God was begotten before all time, yet the manner of this generation I have learned to venerate in silence and I accept that this is not to be probed too curiously with wordy speech.

For with God we look not for the order of nature, but rest our faith in the power of Him who works.

What shall I say to you; what shall I tell you? I behold a Mother who has brought forth; I see a Child come to this light by birth. The manner of His conception I cannot comprehend.

Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is

simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.

Christ, finding the holy body and soul of the Virgin, builds for Himself a living temple, and as He had willed, formed there a man from the Virgin; and, putting Him on, this day came forth; unashamed of the lowliness of our nature.

For it was to Him no lowering to put on what He Himself had made. Let that handiwork be forever glorified, which became the cloak of its own Creator. For as in the first creation of flesh, man could not be made before the clay had come into His hand, so neither could this corruptible body be glorified, until it had first become the garment of its Maker.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger.



And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infants bands. But He has decreed that dishonor shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit that He may save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been in planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became

Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infants food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

### **The Troparion of St. John Chrysostom**

**CHOIR:** Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom; intercede before the Word; Christ our God; to save our souls.

# The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**DEACON:** Bless, Master.

*The priest kisses the Holy Gospel, lifts it up with both hands, and lowering it, blesses the altar cross-wise, saying:*

**PRIEST:** Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## The Great Litany

**DEACON:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the holy Orthodox patriarchs, for our Metropolitan\_\_\_\_\_, for our (Arch)Bishop\_\_\_\_\_, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Lord our God, Thy power is incomparable. Thy glory is incomprehensible. Thy mercy is immeasurable. Thy love for man is inexpressible. Look down on us and on this holy house with pity, O Master, and impart the riches of Thy mercy and Thy compassion to us and to those who pray with us.*

For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## **The First Antiphon (Psalm 111)**

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord!

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

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

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

## **The Little Litany**

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Lord our God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Thy Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house; glorify*



*them in return by Thy divine power, and forsake us not who put our hope in Thee.*

For Thine is the majesty, and 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 unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### **The Second Antiphon (Psalm 112)**

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments!

*Refrain:* O Son of God born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed!

*Refrain:* O Son of God born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever!

*Refrain:* O Son of God born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous!

*Refrain:* O Son of God born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

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

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word Of God. Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change didst become man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

### **The Little Litany**

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Thou who hast given us grace with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee, and promises that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wouldst grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Thy servants as may be expedient for them: granting us in this world the knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting.*

For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and

ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### **The Third Antiphon (Psalm 110)**

*Verse:* The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make thine enemies Thy footstool!"

**CHOIR:** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshiped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, Glory to Thee!

*Verse:* The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes. Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones!

**CHOIR:** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God...

*The priest and deacon then bow three times before the altar. The priest picks up the Holy Gospel and gives it to the deacon. Preceded by the servers, they go around the altar and leave the sanctuary.*

## The Little Entrance

**DEACON:** *(Silently)* Let us pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Master, Lord our God, who hast appointed in heaven orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of Thy glory: Grant that with our entrance there may be an entrance of holy angels, serving with us and glorifying Thy goodness. For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*Standing before the Royal Doors and holding the Holy Gospel in his left hand, the deacon points with his right hand towards the altar, and says:*

**DEACON:** Bless, Master, the Holy Entrance.

*The priest blesses, saying:*

**PRIEST:** Blessed is the entrance of Thy saints always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*The deacon presents the Holy Gospel to the priest; the priest kisses it. Then the deacon faces the altar again and exclaims as he elevates the Book:*

### **The Introit of the Little Entrance**

**DEACON:** Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee! The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind. Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

### **Troparion**

**CHOIR:** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshiped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, Glory to Thee!

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

### **Kontakion**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels, with shepherds, glorify Him! The wise men journey with the stars! Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

*The choir sings the appointed troparia while the priest reads the Trisagion Prayer:*

**PRIEST:** *O holy God who dost rest in the saints; who art hymned by the Seraphim with the thrice-holy cry, and glorified by the Cherubim, and worshiped by every heavenly power; who out of nothing hast brought all things into being; who hast created man after Thine own image and likeness, and hast adorned him with Thine every gift; who givest to him who asks wisdom and understanding; who dost not despise the sinner, but instead hast appointed repentance unto salvation; who hast vouchsafed to us, Thy humble and unworthy servants, even in this hour to stand before the glory of Thy holy altar, and to offer worship and praise which are due unto Thee. Thyself, O Master, accept even from the mouths of us sinners the thrice-holy hymn, and visit us in Thy goodness. Forgive us every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary. Sanctify our souls and bodies, and enable us to serve Thee in holiness all the days of our life. Through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who from the beginning of the world have been*

*well-pleasing to Thee.*

*At Now and ever...and the last Kontakion, the deacon kisses the corner of the Holy Table, and holding his orarion to receive a blessing, approaches and reverences the High Place, and returns to the celebrant saying:*

**DEACON:** Bless, Master, the time of the thrice-holy.

*The deacon after receiving the blessing continues out onto the ambo through the open Royal doors and taking his place before the Icon of Christ continues:*

**DEACON:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord have mercy.

**PRIEST:** For holy art Thou, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever ....

*During the priest's exclamation , the deacon points his orarion to the icon of Christ and then at its conclusion he exclaims:*

**DEACON:** O Lord save those who fear You..



**CHOIR:** O Lord save those who fear You.

**DEACON:** And hear us!

**CHOIR:** And hear us!

*Then, stepping into the middle of the amvon, and leading with his orarion from left to right while turning and facing the worshiping congregation, he completes the exclamation in a great voice!*

**DEACON:** ....And unto ages of ages!

*And the deacon enters the sanctuary, reverences the High Place, bows to the priest, and returns to his usual place. If there is no deacon, the priest completes: ...and unto ages of ages!*

## **THE TRISAGION**

**CHOIR:** Amen. As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

*The celebrants bow three times before the altar. The deacon says:*

**DEACON:** Command, Master.

*As they go to the High Place, the priest says:*

**PRIEST:** Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

**DEACON:** Bless, Master, the High Place.

**PRIEST:** Blessed art Thou on the throne of the glory of Thy Kingdom, who sits upon the Cherubim; always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*He then stands on the right side of the High Place, the center being reserved for the Bishop.*

## **THE EPISTLE READING**

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all!

**READER:** And to your spirit!

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Let all the earth worship You and praise You. Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

**CHOIR:** Let all the earth worship You and praise You. Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

**READER:** Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name! Give glory to His praise!

**CHOIR:** Let all the earth worship You and praise You. Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

**READER:** Let all the earth worship You and praise You.

**CHOIR:** Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

**DEACON:** Wisdom.

**READER:** The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians. (Gal. 4:4-7)

**DEACON:** Let us Attend!

**READER:** Brethren! When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto you the reader.

**READER:** And to your Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**READER:** The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**READER:** Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*As the reader chants the two Alleluia Verses after each*

*one, the choir repeats the Alleluia. The deacon censes. The priest reads this prayer:*

**PRIEST:** *Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **THE GOSPEL READING**

*The deacon, holding the Holy Gospel as he stands in the center of the Church facing the priest, says:*

**DEACON:** Bless, Master, him who proclaims the good

tidings of the holy Apostle and Evangelist  
John the Theologian.

*The priest blesses him, saying:*

**PRIEST:** May God, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, enable you to proclaim the glad tidings with great power, to the fulfillment of the gospel of His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**DEACON:** Amen. Wisdom! Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.

**DEACON:** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. (Matt. 2:1-12)

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**PRIEST:** Let us attend!

**DEACON:** At That time Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

*The appointed Gospel lesson is chanted by the deacon. Upon its completion, the priest blesses the deacon:*

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto you who have proclaimed the Glad Tidings.

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

## **THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION**

**DEACON:** Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken



and have mercy.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

*The antimimension is partly unfolded by the priest; the upper portion is left folded.*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, for our (Arch) Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our brethren, the Priests, Priestmonks, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God\_\_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** *O Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication of Thy servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Thy mercy. Send down Thy bounties upon us and upon all Thy people, who await the rich mercy that comes from Thee.*

For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## **THE LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS**

**DEACON:** Pray to the Lord, you catechumens.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Let us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens, that the Lord may have mercy on them.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That He may teach them the word of truth.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That He may reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That He may unite them to His Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help them, save them, have mercy on them, and keep them, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Bow your heads unto the Lord, you catechumens.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Lord our God, who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart; who hast sent*

*forth as the salvation of the race of men Thine only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ: Look down upon Thy servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before Thee; make them worthy in due time of the laver of regeneration, the remission of sins, and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to Thy Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and number them with Thy chosen flock.*

That with us they may glorify Thine all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*The antimimension is now fully unfolded. The priest makes the Sign of the Cross over it with the sponge, then kisses the sponge and lays it on the right side.*

**DEACON:** All catechumens, depart. Depart, catechumens. All that are catechumens, depart. Let no catechumen remain. Let us, the faithful, again and again in peace pray unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** *We thank Thee, O Lord God of Hosts, who hast accounted us worthy to stand even now before Thy holy altar, and to fall down before Thy compassion for our sins and for the errors of all Thy people. And enable us also, whom Thou hast placed in this Thy service, by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, blamelessly and without offence, in the pure witness of our conscience, to call upon Thee at all times and in every place; that hearing us Thou mayest be merciful to us according to the multitude of Thy great goodness.*

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**PRIEST:** For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**DEACON:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

\* \* \*

*The four following petitions are recited only if a deacon is serving: if the priest serves alone, they are omitted.*

**DEACON:** For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

\* \* \*

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** *Again and oftentimes we fall down before Thee, O God who lovest mankind, that looking down upon our petition Thou wouldst cleanse our souls and bodies from all defilement of flesh and spirit; and grant us to stand blameless and without condemnation before Thy holy altar. Grant also to those who pray with us, O God, growth in life and faith and spiritual understanding. Grant them to worship Thee blamelessly with fear and love, and to partake without condemnation of Thy Holy Mysteries, and to be accounted worthy of*



*Thy heavenly Kingdom.*

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**PRIEST:** That guarded always by Thy might we may ascribe glory unto Thee: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*The deacon returns to the sanctuary. He takes the censer, receives the priest's blessing, and censes the sanctuary, the iconostas, and the people. The choir sings the Cherubic Hymn as the priest recites the prayer.*

**CHOIR:** Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim, and who sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity, now lay aside all earthly cares.

**PRIEST:** *No one who is bound with the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach or draw near or to serve Thee, O King of Glory; for to minister to Thee is great and awesome even to the heavenly Powers. Nevertheless*

*through Thine unspeakable and boundless love for mankind, Thou didst become man, yet without change or alteration, and as Ruler of All didst become our High Priest, and didst commit to us the ministry of this liturgical and bloodless sacrifice. For Thou alone, O Lord our God, rulest over those in heaven and on earth; who art borne on the throne of the Cherubim; who art Lord of the Seraphim and King of Israel; who alone art holy and dost rest in the saints. Therefore, I entreat Thee who alone art good and ready to listen: Look down on me, a sinner, Thine unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and my heart from an evil conscience; and by the power of the Holy Spirit enable me, who am endowed with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this, Thy holy table, and perform the sacred mystery of Thy holy and pure Body and precious Blood. For I draw near to Thee, and bowing my neck I implore Thee: Do not turn Thy face away from me, nor cast me out from among Thy children; but make me, Thy sinful and unworthy servant, worthy to offer gifts to Thee. For Thou art the Offerer and the Offered, the Receiver and the Received, O Christ our God, and to Thee we*

*ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*When the priest finishes reciting the prayer and the deacon his censuring, both stand before the altar and recite the Cherubic Hymn three times, bowing after each recitation:*

**PRIEST:** *Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim, and who sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity, now lay aside all earthly cares.*

**DEACON:** *That we may receive the King of All who comes invisibly upborne by the angelic hosts. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*They go before the Table of Preparation; the priest censes the Offering and says silently:*

**PRIEST:** *O God, cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy on me.*

**DEACON:** *Lift up, Master.*

*The priest puts the large veil on the deacon's left shoulder and gives him the paten, saying:*

**PRIEST:** *Lift up Your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord.*

*The priest takes the chalice. Preceded by servers carrying candles, the celebrants make the Great Entrance.*

## **THE GREAT ENTRANCE**

*During the Great Entrance, the priest prays aloud for the hierarchy and the faithful, according to the accepted formula of the local tradition. At the conclusion, he says:*

**PRIEST:** May the Lord God remember all of you Orthodox Christians in His Kingdom always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

That we may receive the King of All, who comes invisibly upborne by the angelic hosts.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The celebrants enter the sanctuary The priest places the*

*Holy Gifts on the altar, saying:*

**PRIEST:** *The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb.*

*In the tomb with the body and in hell with the soul, in paradise with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, wast Thou, O boundless Christ, filling all things.*

*Bearing life and more fruitful than paradise, brighter than any royal chamber: Thy tomb, O Christ, is the fountain of our resurrection.*

*The priest takes the veils from the paten and chalice and places them on the altar, saying:*

**PRIEST:** *The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb.*

*The priest takes the censer from the deacon and censes the Gifts,*

*saying:*

**PRIEST:** *Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.*

*The priest returns the censer to the deacon; then he bows his head and asks the deacon:*

**PRIEST:** *Remember me, brother and fellow-minister.*

**DEACON:** *May the Lord God remember your priesthood in His Kingdom.*

**PRIEST:** *Pray for me, my fellow-minister.*

**DEACON:** *May the Holy Spirit descend on you, and the power of the Most High overshadow you.*

**PRIEST:** *May the Holy Spirit Himself minister together with us all the days of our life.*

**DEACON:** *Remember me, holy Master.*

**PRIEST:** *May the Lord God remember you in His Kingdom always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

**DEACON:** *Amen.*

*The deacon kisses the priest's hand, and then goes to his place for the litany.*

## **THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

**DEACON:** Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the precious Gifts now offered, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.



**DEACON:** All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Lord God almighty, who alone art holy, who acceptest the sacrifice of praise from those who call upon Thee with their whole heart. Accept also the prayer of us sinners, and bear it to Thy holy altar, enabling us to offer unto Thee gifts and spiritual sacrifices for our sins and for the errors of the people. Make us worthy to find grace in Thy sight, that our sacrifice may be acceptable unto Thee, and that the good spirit of Thy grace may dwell upon us and upon these Gifts here offered, and upon all Thy people.*

Through the compassions of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## **THE PEACE**

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.

**DEACON:** Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess.

**CHOIR:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! The Trinity, one in essence, and undivided!

*The priest bows three times before the altar, saying each time:*

**PRIEST:** *I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my firm foundation, my refuge, and my deliverer.*

*He then kisses the paten, the chalice, and the altar.*

*If two or more priests concelebrate they now exchange the Kiss of Peace:*

**SENIOR**

**PRIEST:** Christ is in our midst.

**OTHER**

**PRIEST:** He is and shall be.

*If two or more deacons serve together, they also exchange the Kiss of Peace.*

## THE CREED

**DEACON:** The doors'. The doors! In wisdom, let us attend!

*The priest lifts the large veil and raises it up and down over the Holy Gifts.*

**PEOPLE:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the

living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE ANAPHORA

**DEACON:** Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear!  
Let us attend, that we may offer the Holy Oblation in peace.

**CHOIR:** A mercy of peace! A sacrifice of praise!

*The deacon returns to the sanctuary. The priest blesses the faithful:*

**PRIEST:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**CHOIR:** And with your spirit.

**PRIEST:** Let us lift up our hearts.

**CHOIR:** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**PRIEST:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** It is meet and right to worship the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence, and undivided.

**PRIEST:** *It is meet and right to hymn Thee, to bless Thee, to praise Thee, to give thanks to Thee, and to worship Thee in every place of Thy dominion: for Thou art God ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, ever-existing and eternally the same, Thou and Thine only-begotten Son and Thy Holy Spirit. Thou it was who brought us from nonexistence into being, and when we had fallen away didst raise us up again, and didst not cease to do all things until Thou hadst brought us up to heaven, and hadst endowed us with Thy Kingdom which is to come. For all these things we give thanks to Thee, and to Thine*

*only-begotten Son, and to Thy Holy Spirit; for all things of which we know and of which we know not, whether manifest or unseen; and we thank Thee for this Liturgy which Thou hast deigned to accept at our hands, though there stand by Thee thousands of archangels and hosts of angels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, who soar aloft, borne on their pinions.*

Singing the triumphant hymn, shouting, proclaiming and saying:

*As the priest chants the above, the deacon touches the paten with each of the points of the star (making the sign of the Cross), then kisses it and lays it aside; he goes to the right side of the altar.*

**CHOIR:** Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

**PRIEST:** *With these blessed powers, O Master who lovest mankind, we also cry aloud and say: Holy art Thou and all-holy, Thou and Thine*

*only-begotten Son and Thy Holy Spirit! Holy art Thou and all--holy, and magnificent is Thy glory! Who hast so loved Thy world as to give Thine only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life; who when He had come and had fulfilled all the dispensation for us, in the night in which He was given up — or rather, gave Himself up for the life of the world — took bread in His holy, pure, and blameless hands; and when He had given thanks and blessed it, and hallowed it, and broken it, He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying:*

Take! Eat! This is My Body which is broken for you, for the remission of sins.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*As the priest says the above words, the deacon points to the paten with his stole.*

**PRIEST:** *And likewise, after supper, He took the cup, saying:*

Drink of it, all of you! This is My Blood of the



New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins!

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*As the priest says the above words, the deacon points to the chalice with his stole.*

**PRIEST:** *Remembering this saving commandment and all those things which have come to pass for us: the Cross, the Tomb, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven, the Sitting at the right hand, and the second and glorious Coming.*

*The deacon crosses his right hand over his left, and elevates the Holy Gifts.*

**PRIEST:** Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee, on behalf of all and for all.

**CHOIR:** We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord. And we pray unto Thee, O our God.

**PRIEST:** *Again we offer unto Thee this reasonable and bloodless worship, and ask Thee, and pray Thee, and supplicate Thee: Send down Thy Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Gifts here offered.*

*The priest and the deacon bow three times before the holy altar as they say:*

**PRIEST:** *O Lord, who didst send down Thy Most Holy Spirit upon Thine apostles at the third hour: Take Him not from us, O Good One, but renew Him in us who pray to Thee.*

**DEACON:** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

**PRIEST:** *O Lord, who didst send down Thy Most Holy Spirit upon Thine apostles at the third hour: Take Him not from us, O Good One, but renew Him in us who pray to Thee.*

**DEACON:** *Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.*

**PRIEST:** *O Lord, who didst send down Thy Most*

*Holy Spirit upon Thine apostles at the third hour: Take Him not from us, O Good One, but renew Him in us who pray to Thee.*

*The deacon points to the paten, saying:*

**DEACON:** *Bless, Master, the Holy Bread.*

*The priest blesses the Holy Bread with the sign of the Cross, saying:*

**PRIEST:** *And make this Bread the precious Body of Thy Christ.*

**DEACON:** *Amen.*

*The deacon points to the chalice, saying:*

**DEACON:** *Bless, Master, the Holy Cup.*

*The priest blesses the Holy Cup with the sign of the Cross, saying:*

**PRIEST:** *And that which is in this Cup, the precious Blood of Thy Christ.*

**DEACON:** *Amen.*

*The deacon points to both, saying:*

**DEACON:** *Bless both, Master.*

*The priest blesses the Holy Gifts, saying:*

**PRIEST:** *Making the change by Thy Holy Spirit.*

**DEACON:** *Amen. Amen. Amen.*

*The deacon bows his head to the priest and says:*

**DEACON:** *Remember me, a sinner, holy Master.*

**PRIEST:** *May the Lord God remember you in His Kingdom always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.*

**DEACON:** *Amen.*

*The priest makes a bow before the holy altar and continues praying:*

**PRIEST:** *That they may be to those who partake for*

*the purification of soul, for the remission of sins, for the communion of Thy Holy Spirit, for the fulfillment of the Kingdom of Heaven, for boldness towards Thee, and not for judgment or condemnation.*

*Again we offer unto Thee this reasonable worship for those who have fallen asleep in the faith: ancestors, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics, and every righteous spirit made perfect in faith.*

*As he receives the censer, the priest continues:*

**PRIEST:** Especially for our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary.

## **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

**CHOIR:** Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts! I behold a strange, most glorious mystery! Heaven — the cave! The cherubic throne — the Virgin! The manger — the place where Christ lay, the

uncontainable God whom we magnify in song!

*During the singing of the above hymn, the priest continues praying:*

**PRIEST:** *For the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles; Saint \_\_\_\_\_, whom we commemorate today; and all Thy saints, at whose supplication look down upon us, O God. Remember all those who have fallen asleep before us in the hope of resurrection to eternal life, especially \_\_\_\_\_; grant them rest, O God, where the light of Thy countenance shines on them.*

*Again we entreat Thee: Remember, O Lord, all the Orthodox Episcopate, who rightly teach the word of Thy truth; all the priests, the deacons in Christ, and every order of the clergy.*

*Again we offer unto Thee this reasonable worship: for the whole world; for the Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church; for those who live in chastity and holiness of life; for all civil authorities; grant them, O Lord, peaceful*

*times, that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and sanctity.*

**PRIEST:** Among the first, remember, O Lord, His Beatitude, our Metropolitan\_\_\_\_\_; His Grace(Eminence), our (Arch)Bishop\_\_\_\_\_. Grant them for Thy holy churches in peace, safety, honor, health, and length of days, rightly to define the word of Thy truth.

**CHOIR:** And all mankind.

**PRIEST:** *Remember, O Lord, the city in which we dwell, every city and country; those who in faith dwell in them. Remember O Lord, travelers by land, by sea, and by air; the sick and the suffering; captives, and their salvation. Remember, O Lord, those who bring offerings and do good in Thy holy churches; those who remember the poor; and upon us all send forth Thy mercies.*

*The priest remembers by name the living faithful.*

**PRIEST:** And grant that with one mouth and one heart

we may praise Thine all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*The priest blesses the people:*

**PRIEST:** And the mercies of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you.

**CHOIR:** And with your spirit.

## **THE LITANY BEFORE THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**DEACON:** Having remembered all the saints, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For the precious Gifts offered and sanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.



**DEACON:** That our God, who loves mankind, receiving them upon His holy, heavenly, and ideal altar as a sweet spiritual fragrance, will send down upon us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** For our deliverance from all affliction wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a

guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** A Christian ending to our life: painless blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant it, O Lord.

**DEACON:** Having asked for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *Unto Thee we commend our whole life and our hope, O Master who lovest mankind. We ask Thee, and pray Thee, and supplicate Thee: Make us worthy to partake of the heavenly and awesome Mysteries of this sacred and spiritual table with a pure conscience: for the remission of sins, for the forgiveness of transgressions, for the communion of the Holy Spirit, for the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven, for boldness towards Thee, but not for judgment or condemnation.*

And make us worthy, O master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call on Thee, the heavenly God, as

Father, and to say:

**CHOIR :** Our Father, who art in heaven, 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.

**PRIEST:** For 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 unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.

**PRIEST:** Bow your heads unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *We give thanks unto Thee, O King invisible,*

*who by Thy measurable power didst make all things, and in the greatness of Thy mercy didst bring all things from non-existence into being. Look down from heaven, O Master, upon those who have bowed their heads unto Thee, the awesome God. Do Thou Thyself, O Master, distribute these Gifts here offered, unto all of us for good, according to the individual need of each; sail with those who sail, travel with those who travel by land and by air; heal the sick, O Thou who art the physician of our souls and bodies.*

Through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Thine only begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** *Attend, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, out of Thy holy dwelling place, from the throne of glory of Thy Kingdom; and come to sanctify us, O Thou who sittest on high with the Father, and art here invisibly present with us; and by*

*Thy mighty hand impart unto us Thy most pure  
Body and precious Blood, and through us to all  
the people.*

*The deacon crosses his stole over his shoulders. The priest  
makes three low bows before the holy altar, saying each  
time:*

**PRIEST:** O God, cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy  
on me.

*The priest takes up the Holy Bread in both hands and  
elevates it above the altar.*

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**PRIEST:** The Holy things for the holy!

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

## **THE COMMUNION HYMN**

**CHOIR:** The Lord has sent redemption to His people!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## THE COMMUNION

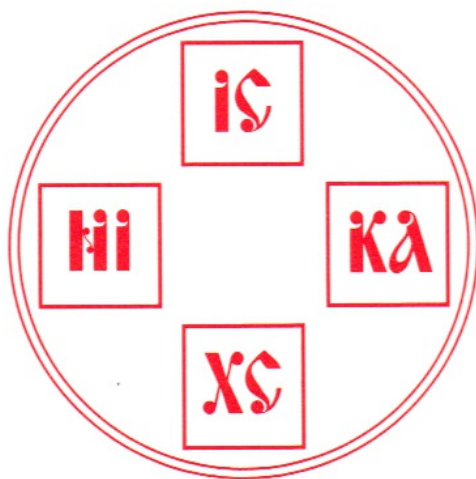
*The deacon returns to the sanctuary, closes the Royal Doors, and stands on the right side of the priest.*

**DEACON:** Divide, Master, the Holy Bread.

*The priest divides the Holy Bread into four parts, with proper reverence.*

**PRIEST:** Divided and distributed is the Lamb of God: who is divided, yet not disunited; who is ever eaten, yet never consumed; but sanctifying those who partake thereof.

*The priest arranges the pieces on the rim of the paten in the form of a cross:*



*The portion IC is placed in the chalice. The portion XC is for communion of the celebrants. The other two portions,*

*NI and KA are broken for the communion of the faithful people.*

**DEACON:** Fill, Master, the Holy Cup.

*As the priest places the portion IC into the chalice, the priest makes the sign of the Cross with it over the chalice, saying :*

**PRIEST:** The fullness of the Holy Spirit.

**DEACON:** Amen.

**DEACON:** Bless, Master, the warm water.

*The priest blesses the warm water, saying:*

**PRIEST:** Blessed is the warmth of Thy holy things  
always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

*The deacon pours a sufficient quantity of water into the chalice cross-wise, saying:*

**DEACON:** The warmth of faith, full of the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.



*The priest breaks the portion XC into a number of pieces corresponding to the number of clergy who take part in the Liturgy*

**PRIEST:** Deacon, draw near.

*The deacon approaches and bows, asking forgiveness ; he then kisses the altar and says:*

**DEACON:** Give me, Master, the precious and holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*The priest gives the deacon a portion of the Holy Bread, saying:*

**PRIEST:** To the deacon \_\_\_\_\_ is given the precious, holy, and most pure Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, for the remission of his sins, and unto life everlasting.

*The deacon kisses the priest's hand as he receives the Holy Bread, and goes behind the holy altar and prays with bowed head.*

*As the priest takes a portion of the Holy Bread for himself,*

*he prays:*

**PRIEST:** The precious and most holy Body of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ is given unto me, the unworthy priest \_\_\_\_\_, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting.

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own most pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore, I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, committed in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in

Thy Kingdom.

May the communion of Thy holy Mysteries be neither to my judgement, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body.

*After partaking of the Holy Bread and before drinking of the Holy Cup, he says:*

**PRIEST:** The precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ is given unto me, the unworthy priest \_\_\_\_\_, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

*He drinks of the Cup three times, saying :*

**PRIEST:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The priest cleans the chalice and his lips with the veil, and says*

**PRIEST:** Lo, this has touched my lips, and shall take away my iniquities, and cleanse my sins.

*The priest then summons the deacon:*

**PRIEST:** Deacon, draw near.

*The deacon approaches and bows once, saying:*

**DEACON:** Lo, I draw near unto the immortal King and our God. Give unto me, Master, the precious and holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*The priest holds the chalice and says:*

**PRIEST:** The servant of God, Deacon \_\_\_\_\_, partakes of the precious and holy blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, for the remission of his sins, and unto life everlasting.

*When the deacon has partaken, the priest says:*

**PRIEST:** Lo, this has touched your lips, and shall take away your iniquities, and cleanse your sins.

*The priest divides the portions NI and KA of the Holy Lamb and puts them into the chalice for the communion of the people: the chalice is covered with a veil. The Royal*

*Doors are opened. The deacon takes the chalice and goes through them and says:*

**DEACON:** In the fear of God, and with faith, draw near!

**CHOIR:** Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!  
God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

*The priest communicates those who are prepared to receive the Mystery, saying to each person :*

**PRIEST:** The servant (handmaid) of God \_\_\_\_\_,  
partakes of the precious and holy Body and  
Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus  
Christ, for the remission of sins and unto life  
everlasting.

*During the communion of the people, the choir sings:*

**CHOIR:** Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain  
of immortality. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The deacon cleans the lips of each communicant as he receives. After all have been communicated, the celebrants return to the sanctuary and replace the chalice on the altar. The deacon holds the paten over the chalice as he*

*says these Hymns of the Resurrection:*

**DEACON:** Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy Resurrection; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection! For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection, for by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

O Christ! Great and most holy Pascha! O Wisdom, Word, and Power of God! Grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending Day of Thy Kingdom.

*As the deacon wipes the remaining particles from the*

*paten into the chalice, he says :*

**DEACON:** Wash away, O Lord, the sins of all those remembered here, by Thy precious Blood; through the prayers of all Thy saints.

*The priest blesses the people, saying:*

**PRIEST:** O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

**CHOIR:** We have seen the true Light! We have received the heavenly Spirit! We have found the true Faith! Worshiping the undivided Trinity, who has saved us.

*The priest covers the chalice with one veil. He puts all others on the paten, and covers this also. He censes the chalice three times, saying:*

**PRIEST:** Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Thy glory over all the earth.

*The priest places the paten on the deacon's head; the deacon carries it with reverence to the Table of Preparation. The priest takes the chalice in his right hand,*

*and says, as he faces the people:*

**PRIEST:** *(Silently)* Blessed is our God  
*(Aloud)* always, now and ever and unto ages of  
ages.

*The priest carries the chalice to the Table and then censes  
it three times.*

**CHOIR:** Amen.

Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O  
Lord, that we may sing of Thy glory; for Thou  
hast made us worthy to partake of Thy holy,  
divine, immortal, and life-creating Mysteries.  
Keep us in Thy holiness, that all the day we  
may meditate upon Thy righteousness.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The deacon goes to his place for the litany; the priest  
returns to the altar and folds up the antimimension.*

## **THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

**DEACON:** Let us attend! Having partaken of the  
divine, holy, most pure, immortal,



heavenly, life-creating, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Asking that the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *We thank Thee, O Master who lovest mankind, Benefactor of our souls, that Thou hast made us worthy this day of Thy heavenly and immortal mysteries. Make straight our path; strengthen us all in Thy fear; guard our life; make firm our steps; through the prayers and intercessions of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and of all Thy saints.*

*The priest, having folded up the antimimension, makes the sign of the Cross over it with the Holy Gospel as he exclaims :*

**PRIEST:** For Thou art our Sanctification, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Let us depart in peace.

**CHOIR:** In the name of the Lord.

**DEACON:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

## **THE PRAYER BEFORE THE AMBO**

**PRIEST:** O Lord, who blesses those who bless Thee, and sanctifies those who trust in Thee: Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Thy Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Thy house; glorify them in

return by Thy divine power, and forsake us not who put our hope in Thee. Give peace to Thy world, to Thy churches, to Thy priests, to all those in civil authority, and to all Thy people. For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from Thee, the Father of Lights, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, thanksgiving, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. **(3)**

*Having completed the prayer, the deacon, holding the stole, stands with bowed head before the holy icon of our Lord Christ until the conclusion of the prayer before the Ambo. The priest enters the sanctuary through the Holy Doors, and going to the Table of Oblation, silently says the following prayer:*

**PRIEST:** *O Christ our God, who art Thyself the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, who didst fulfill all the dispensation of the Father: fill our hearts with joy and gladness always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*The deacon, entering through the north door, consumes the Holy Gifts with all reverence and awe. The priest blesses the people, saying:*

**PRIEST:** The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

**PRIEST:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee!

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

Lord, have mercy. **(3)** Father, bless.

**PRIEST:** May He who was born in a cavern and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of our father among the saints **(whose Liturgy is celebrated)**: and of all the saints: have mercy

on us and save us, for He is good and loves  
mankind.

**CHOIR:** Amen.