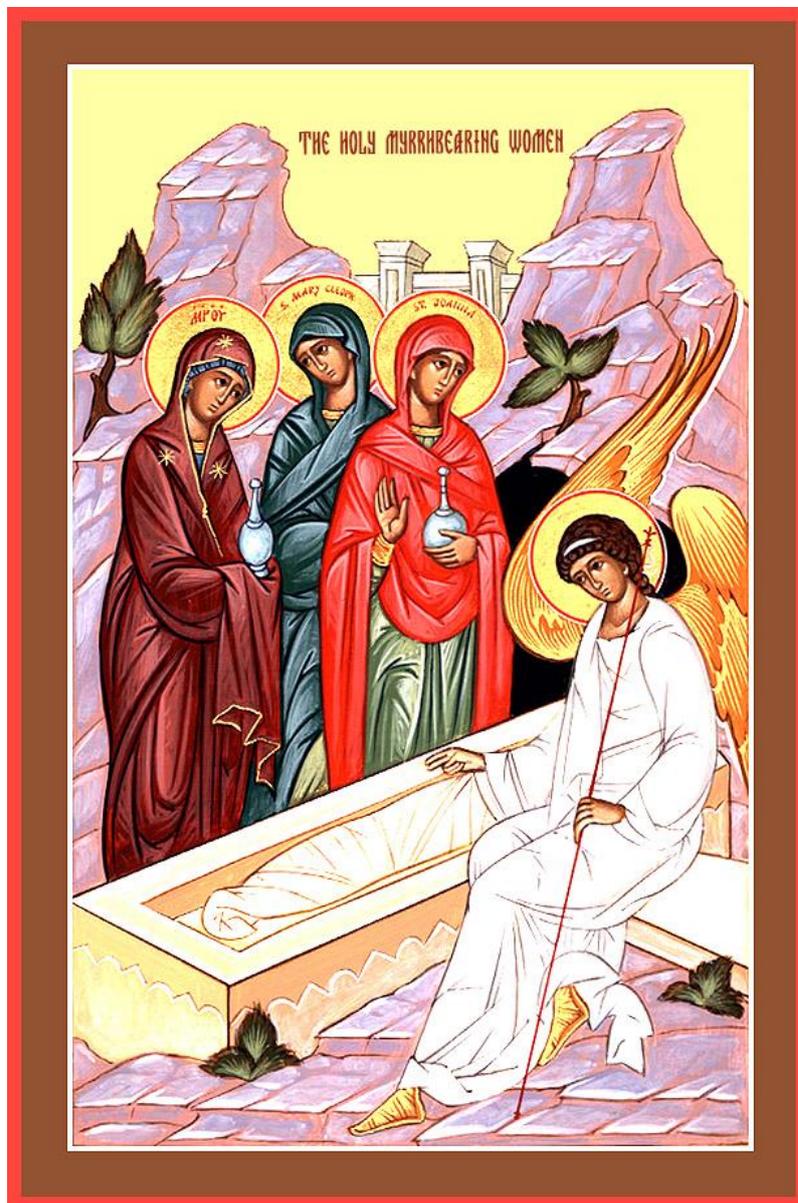


The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil

Great and Holy Saturday Morning



The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil – Great and Holy Saturday Morning

The Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St Basil

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

O come let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King, our Lord, and our God.

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honour and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth. He sends the springs into the valleys; They flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches. He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for

the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted, Where the birds make their nests; The stork has her home in the fir trees. The high hills are for the wild goats; The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers. He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night, In which all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God. When the sun rises, they gather together And lie down in their dens. Man goes out to his work and to his labour until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions - This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; There is that Leviathan Which You have made to play there. These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; May the Lord rejoice in His works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

The sun knows it's going down, you make darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Your works, in wisdom You have made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (x3)

O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace, from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy House, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our Father Metropolitan (*Name*), for the venerable Priesthood, for the Diaconate in Christ, for all the Clergy, Monks, Nuns and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who govern this country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this blessed city, for every monastery, city, and land, and for the faithful, who dwell in them; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For favourable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times; let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who travel by sea, by land, by air, for the sick and suffering; for those in captivity; and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos,*

save us) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Psalm 140 (Tone 1)

Lord, I have cried unto You: hearken unto me, hearken unto me O Lord. Lord, I have cried unto You, hearken unto me; attend to the voice of my supplications when I cry unto You, hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You; the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. Hearken unto me O Lord.

Set O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

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

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me, as for the oil of the sinner let it not anoint my head.

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

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto Hades.

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

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

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

Psalm 141 (Tone 1)

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

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

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

In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked up on my right hand and beheld, and there was none that did know me.

Flight has failed me, and there is none that watches out for my soul.

I have cried unto You, O Lord; I said, “You are my hope: my portion are You in the land of the living.”

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

Deliver me from them that persecute me for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Your Name.

Accept our evening prayers O Holy Lord, and grant us forgiveness of sins; for You alone have shown forth the Resurrection to the world.

The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.

Encircle Zion O you people, and encompass her; and in her, give glory to Him, Who rose from the dead; for He is our God, Who redeemed us from our iniquities.

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

Come you people, let us praise and worship Christ, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead; for He is our God, Who redeemed the world from the delusion of the enemy.

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

By Your Passion, O Christ, we have been freed from passions; and by Your Resurrection we have been freed from corruption; Lord, glory to You.

Tone 8

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Today Hades cried out groaning: “Would that I had not received the One born of Mary; for He came upon me and loosed my power. He shattered the gates of brass; the souls, which I held captive of old, as God He raised up.” Glory O Lord to Your Cross and Your Resurrection.

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

Today Hades cried out groaning: “My authority is dissolved; I received a mortal, as one of the mortals; but this One, I am powerless to contain; with Him I lose all those, over which, I had ruled. For ages I had held the dead, but behold, He raised up all.” Glory O Lord to Your Cross and Your Resurrection.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He shall redeem Israel from all His iniquities.

Today Hades cried out groaning: “My power has been trampled on; the Shepherd has been crucified, and Adam He raised up. I have been deprived of those, over whom I ruled; and all those, I had the power to swallow, I have disgorged. He, Who was crucified has cleared the tombs. The dominion of Death is no more.” Glory O Lord to Your Cross and Your Resurrection.

Tone 6

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

The great Moses mystically foreshadowed this day, saying; “And God blessed the seventh day,” For this is the blessed Sabbath; it is the day of rest, in which the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, and through the dispensation of death, in body He rested. And having returned to it again through the Resurrection, He granted us Life eternal, as the only Good and Merciful Lord.

Tone 1

Now and forever and to the ages of ages! Amen!

Let us praise Mary the Virgin, for she is the glory of the whole world; she sprang forth from the human race and gave birth to the Master; she is the portal of Heaven; the song of the bodiless Powers, and the adornment of the faithful. She has been shown forth as Heaven, and as a Temple of the Godhead. She has broken down the dividing wall of enmity, bringing us peace, and has opened up the Kingdom. Therefore, having Her as our anchor of Faith, we have an invincible

Champion the Lord, born of Her. Take courage then; take courage, you people of God, for He, as the Almighty will vanquish the enemies.

The Prayer of the Entrance

Priest: (*Quietly*) In the evening, and in the morning, and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray unto You, O Lord of all: Direct our prayer before You as incense, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of wickedness; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, lift we up our eyes, and in You have we trusted. Put us not to shame, O our God. For unto You are due all glory, honour and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: Now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of your Holy Ones, always: Now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Gladsome Light

Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory of the Immortal Father: Heavenly, Holy, Blessed, O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light evening, we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How right it is at all times to worship you with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of life. Therefore, all the world glorifies You.

The Old Testament Readings

First reading

Reader: The first reading from the Book of Genesis. (Chapter 1:1-13)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. The Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus, God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So, the evening and the morning were the second day. Then God said, "Let the waters under the Heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the Earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the Earth"; and it was so. And the Earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So, the evening and the morning were the third day.

The Second Reading

(Being the fourth reading of fifteen readings)

Reader: The second reading from the Book of Jonah. (Chapter 1:1-4:10)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so, he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. So, the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish." And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So, they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" So, he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of Heaven, Who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me." Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. Therefore, they cried out to the Lord and said, "We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You."

So, they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. And he said: "I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice. For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The Earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord." So, the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." So, Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" So, the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his

nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So, he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One Who relents from doing harm. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" Then the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" So, Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So, Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the Sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the Sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not laboured, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left and much livestock?"

The Third Reading

(Being the fifteenth reading of fifteen readings)

Reader: The third reading from the Prophecy of Daniel. (Chapter 3:1-57)

Priest: Wisdom Let us attend.

Reader: King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits, and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, were assembled for the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counsellors, and treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, were assembled for the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the image, which King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down to worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." Therefore, as soon as the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Therefore, at that time certain Chaldeans came forwardly and maliciously accused the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that every

man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music shall fall down and worship the golden image; and whoever does not fall down shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no heed to you; they do not worship your gods, or worship the golden image which you have set up.

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods, or worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well and good; but if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a fiery furnace; and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God, whom we worship, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O King. But if not, let it be known to you, O King, that we will not serve your gods, or worship the golden image which you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury; and the expression on his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he ordered certain mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their mantles, their tunics, their hats and their other garments, and they were cast into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was strict, and the furnace was very hot, the flame of the fire slew those men

who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. And they walked in the midst of the flame, praising God and blessing the Lord. Then Azaria standing up prayed in this manner, and opening his mouth in the midst of the fire, he said:

"Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and Your name is praised and glorified, forever. For You are just, in all that you have done for us, and all Your works are true; Your ways are right, and all Your judgments true. You have executed true judgments in all the things, that You have brought upon us, and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers; for according to truth and judgment, You have brought all these things upon us for our sins.

For we have sinned and committed iniquity, departing from You; and we have trespassed in all things, and have not obeyed Your commandments, as You have commanded us, that it might go well with us. Wherefore, all that You have brought upon us, and everything that You have done to us, You have done in true judgment. You have delivered us into the hands of our enemies who are lawless, most wicked, and hated rebels, and to an unjust king, the most wicked, beyond all that are upon the earth. And now, we cannot open our mouths; we have become a shame and reproach to Your servants, and to them that worship You.

Do not give us up, for Your Name's sake, and do not withdraw Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one, to whom You have spoken, promising, that You would multiply their seed as the stars of Heaven, and as the sand on the sea shore. For we, O Lord, are diminished more than any nation, and are bowed low in all the earth this day for our sins. And there is neither at this time a prince, or leader, or prophet, nor a holocaust, nor sacrifice, nor oblation or incense, nor place of first fruits before You, that we may find Your mercy.

But in a contrite heart and humble spirit let us be accepted. As in holocausts of rams, and bullocks, and as in thousands of fat lambs,

so let our sacrifice be made in Your sight this day, that we may follow after You; for there is no shame to those, that trust in You. And now we follow You with all our heart, and we fear You, and seek Your face. Put us not to shame, but deal with us according to Your forbearance, and according to the multitude of Your mercy; deliver us according to Your marvellous works and give glory to Your name, O Lord. And let all them be confounded, who show evils to Your servants; let them be disgraced in all Your might, and let their strength be broken. And let them know that You are the Lord, and only God, and glorious over all the world."

Now the king's servants that had cast them in, ceased not to heat the furnace with naphtha, tow, pitch, and dry sticks. And the flame mounted up above the furnace nine and forty cubits. And it broke forth, and burned the Chaldeans, who were near the furnace. But the Angel of the Lord went down with Azaria and his companions into the furnace; and he drove the flame of the fire out of the furnace, and made the midst of the furnace like the blowing of a wind, bringing dew, and the fire did not touch them at all, nor troubled them, nor did them any harm. Then these three as with one mouth praised, and glorified, and blessed God, in the furnace, saying:

(The congregation kneels.)

"Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers; the most praised and most exalted to all ages; and blessed is the Name of Your Glory, the Holy and most praised, and exalted above all, to all ages. Blessed are You in the Holy Temple of Your Glory; the most praised, and exalted above all, forever. Blessed are You, Who looks over the depths, and are seated on the Cherubim; the most praised and exalted above all, forever. Blessed are You on the Throne of Your Kingdom, the most praised and exalted above all, forever. Blessed are You in the firmament of Heaven, and praised and glorified to all Ages."

Hymn of the Three Youths (Tone 6)

(Refrain) Praise You the Lord, and exalt Him to all ages.

1. All the works of the Lord, bless the Lord; praise and exalt Him to all Ages.
2. Bless the Lord, Angels of the Lord, and the heavens of the Lord;
3. Bless the Lord, you waters that are above the heavens, and all the Powers of the Lord;
4. Bless the Lord, Sun and moon and stars of heaven;
5. Bless the Lord, light and darkness; nights and days;
6. Bless the Lord, showers and dew and all winds;
7. Bless the Lord, fire and warmth, cold and heat;
8. Bless the Lord, dews and snows, frosts and cold;
9. Bless the Lord, frosts and snows, lightnings and clouds;
10. Bless the Lord, earth, mountains and hills, and all things, growing in it;
11. Bless the Lord, fountains, seas and rivers, whales and all that move in the waters;
12. Bless the Lord, fowls of heaven, all animals and all beasts;

13. Bless the Lord, sons and daughters, bless Him, and let Israel bless;

14. Bless the Lord, priests of the Lord, servants of the Lord;

15. Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the Righteous, holy and humble of heart;

16. Bless the Lord, Ananias, Azaria, and Misael;

17. Bless the Lord, Apostles, Prophets and Witnesses of the Lord;

We bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We praise, and exalt the Lord to all the Ages.

We praise, we bless, and worship the Lord.

We praise and glorify the Lord to all the ages.

Prayer of the Thrice Holy Hymn

Priest: (*QUIETLY*) O Holy God, seated in the Holy Place; praised by the Seraphim with thrice-Holy song, and glorified by the Cherubim, and worshiped by every Heavenly Power; it is out of nothing that you brought the universe into being; and created male and female according to your image and likeness adorning them with every gift of your grace you give wisdom and understanding to those who ask, and you do not reject the sinner, but for our salvation you have given us the way of repentance you have counted us, your humble and unworthy servants, worthy to stand at this time before the glory of your Holy Altar and to offer you due worship and praise. Accept Master, the Thrice-Holy Hymn even from the mouth of us sinners and visit us in your goodness. Forgive us every offence, through

weakness through ignorance or through our own deliberate fault. sanctify our souls and bodies; and grant that we may worship You in holiness all the days of our life, through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and of all the Saints, who have been well-pleasing to You in every age.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For You, our God, are Holy, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Anti-Trisagion (The baptism) Hymn

As many of you as were baptised into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia. (x3)

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

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Priest: Dhynamis!

People: As many as have been baptised into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

(The Priest faces the prothesis with outspread hands, while saying the following)

Priest: *Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.*

(The Priest faces the throne at the high place and with outspread hands, while saying the following:

Priest: *Blessed are you on the throne on the glory of Your kingdom, who are enthroned upon the cherubim, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

The Epistle Reading

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Let all the earth adore You, and sing to You. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the Earth.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. (Chapter 6:3-11)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall

also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 81)

Tone 7

Priest: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

(While chanting, the Priest proceeds down the middle aisle scattering bay leaves all over the Church, as a sign of triumph and victory over death.)

People: God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.

People: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

People: How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked?

People: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

People: Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

People: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

People: Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.

People: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

People: They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the Earth are unstable.

People: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

People: I said, “You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. But you shall die like men And fall like one of the princes.”

Priest: Arise, O God, judge the Earth; For You shall have an inheritance among all the nations.

The Gospel

Priest: Wisdom. Let us attend and hear the Holy Gospel.

Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
(Matthew 28:1-20)

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: Let us attend.

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So, they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." So, they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to

the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

The Ektenia of Fervent Supplication

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Wisdom.

Priest: *(Quietly)* O God, who in pity and compassion has visited our lowliness, who has set us, Your humble and sinful and unworthy servants, before Your holy glory, to minister at Your holy altar: strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit for this service, and grant us utterance in the opening of our mouth, to invoke the grace of Your Holy Spirit upon the gifts about to be set before You:

Priest: **That always guarded by Your might, we may ascribe to You glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

The Cherubic Hymn (Tone 5)

People: Let all mortal flesh keep silent, and stand in fear and trembling, giving no thought to the things of the earth. For the King of kings and the Lord of lords comes forth to be sacrificed, and given as food to the faithful. Before Him go the choirs of Angels, with all the Principalities and Powers. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim covering their faces

***Priest:** No one who is bound with the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach or draw nigh or to serve You, O King of Glory, for to serve You, is a great and terrible things even to the heavenly powers, Nevertheless through Your unspeakable and boundless love toward mankind You did become man, yet without change or alteration, and as Lord of all did take the name of our High Priest, and delivered unto us the ministry of this liturgic and sacrifice without the shedding of blood. For Your alone, O Lord our God, rules over those In heaven and on earth; who are borne on the throne of the cherubim; who are Lord the seraphim and King of Israel; who alone are holy and rest in You holy place. Wherefore I implore You who alone are good and are ready to listen: Look down upon me, a sinner, and Your unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and my heart from an evil conscience; and by the power of Your Holy Spirit enable me, who am endued with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this Your Holy table, and perform the sacred mystery of Your holy immaculate Body and precious Blood. For I draw near unto You, and bowing my neck I pray You: Turn not Your face from me, neither cast me out from among Your children; but vouchsafe that these gifts may be offered unto You by me, Your servant; for You Yourself are he that offers and is offered, that accepts and is distributed, O Christ our God: and unto You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father*

who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: *(Quietly)* Let all mortal flesh keep silent, and stand in fear and trembling, giving no thought to the things of the earth. For the King of kings and the Lord of lords comes forth to be sacrificed and given as food to the faithful. Before Him go the choirs of Angels, with all the Principalities and Powers. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim covering their faces and chanting their hymn. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (x3)

O come let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King, our Lord, and our God.

Psalm 50

Priest: *(Quietly)* Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; 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 always 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 hear joy and gladness, that the bones 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 by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, 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 Great Entrance

Priest: All of you, may the Lord our God remember in His kingdom, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Our Father Metropolitan (*Name*), may always the Lord God remember in His kingdom , now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: The servants of God, offer this Holy Oblation (*Names*), that they may have mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of their sins, may the Lord God remember in His kingdom at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: The servants of God departed this life, for whom we offer this Holy Oblation (*Names*), for the repose of their souls and remission of their sins, may the Lord God remember in His kingdom, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

People: And chanting their hymn. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Litany of Supplication

Priest: Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the precious Gifts here presented, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy House, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: All things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defence before the dread Judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, (*Most Holy Theotokos, save us*) with all the saints; let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O Lord, Our God, who has created us, and has brought us into this life, who has shown us ways of salvation, graciously bestowing upon us the revelation of heavenly mysteries: You are He who has appointed us to this ministry by the power of Your Holy Spirit; graciously grant us, therefore O Lord, to be servitors of Your new Covenant, ministers of Your holy mysteries. Accept us who draw near to Your holy altar, according to the fullness of Your mercy, that we may be worth to offer unto You this reasonable and bloodless sacrifice for our own sins, and for the errors of the people, which do You accept upon Your holy and ideal altar above the heavens for a sweet-smelling savour, and send down upon us in the return the grace of Your Holy Spirit. Look upon us, O God, and behold this our service, and accept it as You did Abraham, the priestly offices of Moses and Aaron, the peace-offerings of Samuel. Even as You did accept at the hands of Your holy apostle this true ministry, so also do You in Your goodness, O Lord, accept from the hands of us sinners these gifts: that, having been accounted worthy blamelessly to minister at Your Holy altar, we may receive the recompense of wise and faithful stewards, in the terrible day of Your just requiting:

Priest: Through the tender mercies of Your Only-Begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess.

People: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

Priest: The doors. The doors. In wisdom let us attend.

The Creed

All: I believe in one God, the Father, the 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 from Light; True God from True God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

Who For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered, and was buried.

On the third day He rose in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will 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 worshipped and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Priest: Let us stand aright. Let us stand with fear. Let us listen with care, that we may offer this holy Oblation in peace.

People: Mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.

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

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right and just to worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

Priest: (Quietly) O eternal One, Master, Lord God, Father Almighty, worthy to be adored: it is entirely right, and just, and befits the majesty of Your holiness, that we should praise You, and hymn You, and bless You, and worship You, and give You thanks, and glorify You, the one True God Who is; and that we should offer this our reasonable service, with a contrite heart and a humble spirit; for it is

You that have bestowed on us the knowledge of Your truth. Who is able to speak of Your mighty acts, or make known all Your praises, or tell of all Your wonders in every age? You are the Master of all things, the Lord of Heaven and Earth and of all that is created, visible and invisible; You sit upon the throne of glory and behold the depths; You are without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, unbounded, and unchanging; You are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our great God and Saviour in Whom we hope; Who is the Image of goodness, the Imprint of perfect likeness showing You, the Father, in Himself; Who is the living Word, the true God, the Wisdom before all ages, Life, Sanctification and Power, the true Light through Whom was manifested the Holy Spirit: the Spirit of Truth, the Gift of adoption, the Pledge of an inheritance to come, the First-fruit of eternal blessings, the Power that gives life, the Wellspring of holiness; through Whom every rational and spiritual creature is empowered to worship You and to send up to You the eternal hymn of glory, for all things are Your servants. You are praised by angels and archangels, by thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers, and the many-eyed cherubim; round about You stand the seraphim, each with six wings: with two they cover their face, with two they cover their feet, and with two they fly, crying one to another with unceasing voice and never-ending praises,

Priest: Singing the triumphal hymn, shouting, proclaiming, and crying aloud:

People: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth. Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Priest: *(Quietly) Together with these blessed powers, O Master and Lover of mankind, we sinners also cry aloud and say: Holy are You, in truth, and most holy, and there is no measuring the majesty of Your*

holiness; You are just and holy in all Your works, for in righteousness and true judgement You have ordered all things for us. When You had formed man by taking dust from the earth, and had honoured him, O God, with Your own image, You placed him in a paradise of delight, promising him immortal life and the enjoyment of eternal blessings in the keeping of Your commandments. But when he disobeyed You, the true God, Who had created him, and was led astray by the deceit of the serpent, and made dead by his own transgressions, Your just judgement, O God, banished him from paradise into this world, and turned him back to the earth from which he was taken; and yet You provided for him the salvation by rebirth that is in Your Christ. For You did not entirely reject Your creature whom You had made, O gracious One, nor did You forget the work of Your hands: You visited him in various ways through Your merciful compassion. You sent out prophets; You did mighty works through Your saints, who in every generation have been well-pleasing to You; You spoke to us by the mouth of Your servants the prophets, who foretold the salvation that was to come; You gave us the Law to be our help; You appointed angels to watch over us. But when the fullness of time had come, You spoke to us in Your Son Himself, through Whom You had created the ages. He, though He is the Radiance of Your glory, and the exact Image of Your Being, sustaining all things by His word of power, did not regard equality with You, our God and Father, as something to be grasped; but though He was God before all ages, He appeared on earth and lived among us. Becoming incarnate of a holy virgin, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, conforming Himself to the body of our base condition, so we might be transformed into the image of His glory. For since by man sin came into the world, and by sin death, Your Only-begotten Son, though He was in Your bosom, our God and Father, consented to be born of a woman, of the holy Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, to be born under the Law, so He might condemn sin in His flesh, and so that those who were dead

in Adam might be made alive in Himself, Your Christ. Becoming a dweller in this world, and giving us His saving commandments, He turned us from the deceit of idols and brought us to the knowledge of You, the true God and Father, acquiring us for Himself as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Having cleansed us with water and sanctified us by the Holy Spirit, He gave Himself as a ransom to the death by which we were bound and sold to sin. Descending into hell by His cross, so He might fill all things with Himself, He dissolved the pains of death; and on the third day He rose, making a way for all flesh to the resurrection from the dead, for it was not possible that the Author of life should be subject to corruption. He became the First-fruits of those who had fallen asleep, the Firstborn from the dead, so that He might be all in all pre-eminent. Ascending into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of Your Majesty on high; and He shall come again to reward each one of us according to our works. He left us, as a remembrance of what He suffered for our salvation, these gifts which we have set forth according to His command. For when He was about to go to His voluntary, ever-remembered and life-creating death, on the night in which He gave Himself for the life of the world, He took bread into His holy and most pure hands; and when he had presented it to You, our God and Father, and had given thanks, and blessed it, and hallowed it, and broken it,

Priest: He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying: Take, eat this is My Body which is broken for you, for the forgiveness of sins.

People: Amen.

Priest: (Quietly) In the same way He took the cup of the fruit of the vine; and when He had mingled it with water, and had given thanks, and blessed it, and hallowed it,

Priest: He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying: Drink from this, all of you. This is My Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.

People: Amen.

Priest: *(Quietly) Do this in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you proclaim My death and you acknowledge My resurrection. Remembering therefore His sufferings for our salvation, His Life-giving cross, the three days in the tomb, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His sitting-down at Your right hand, our God and Father, and His glorious and terrible second coming;*

Priest: Thine own of Thine own, we offer Thee in all things and for all things.

(Quietly) We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks unto You O Lord, and we pray unto You, O our God.

For this cause, most holy Master, we also, Your sinful and unworthy servants, who are made worthy to serve at Your holy altar, not through our own righteousness (for we have done no good thing upon the earth), but because of Your mercies and Your acts of compassion which You have so richly poured upon us, we also now dare to approach Your holy altar, offering the signs of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ; and we implore and beseech You, O Holy of Holies, that by the favour of Your goodness Your Holy Spirit may come upon us and on these gifts here offered, to bless them and to hallow them, and to show forth:

Priest: This bread to be the precious Body of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ;

All: Amen.

Priest: And this cup to be the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ;

All: Amen.

Priest: Which was shed for the life of the world and for its salvation;

All: Amen. Amen. Amen.

People: We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks unto You O Lord, and we pray unto You, O our God.

Priest: *(Quietly) As for us who are partakers of the one Bread and Cup, unite us all to one another in the communion of the one Holy Spirit; and cause none of us to partake of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ to our accusation or condemnation; but grant rather that we may find mercy and grace with all the saints who through the ages have been well-pleasing to You: with our fore-fathers and fathers, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, teachers, and with every just spirit made perfect in faith;*

Priest: And especially for our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary;

Hymn to the Theotokos (Tone 8)

All creation rejoices in you, O favoured one: the orders of angels and the race of men, O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins, from whom God, Who is our God before all ages, took flesh and became a little child; for He made your womb His throne, and

caused your body to be more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoices in you, O favoured one; glory be to you.

Priest: *(Quietly) The holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; the holy glorious and all-laudable apostles; Saint (Name of the day), whose memory we celebrate, and all Your saints, at whose supplications look down upon us, O God. And be mindful of all those who have fallen asleep before us in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal, (especially Names) and grant them rest, where the light of Your countenance watches over them.*

And again we pray You, O Lord, be mindful of Your Holy, catholic and apostolic Church, which is to the ends of the earth; and give peace unto her whom You have purchased with the precious Blood of Your Christ; and established You this holy Temple, even unto the ends of the world. Be mindful, O Lord of those who have offered unto You these gifts, and those for whom, and through whom they have offered them, and their several intentions. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in the You holy Churches, and who remember the poor; require them with You rich and heavenly gifts; give them things heavenly for things earthly, things eternal for things temporal, things incorruptible for things corruptible. Be mindful, O Lord, of those in the deserts, the mountains and in caverns and subterranean pits of the earth. Be mindful, O Lord, of all those who live in chastity and godliness, in austerity and holiness of life. Be mindful, O Lord, of the Prime Minister and of all civil authorities, and of our armed forces everywhere; grant them peaceful times, that we in their tranquillity may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and sanctity. Establish the good in Your goodness and make good the evil by Your virtue. Be mindful, O Lord, of the people here present, and of those who are absent for reasonable cause, and have mercy upon them and upon us, according to the multitude of Your mercies. Fill their treasuries with every good thing; maintain their marriage-bond in peace and concord; rear the infants; guide the young; support

the aged; encourage the fainthearted. Collect the scattered, and turn them from their wandering astray, and unite them to the Your holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. Set a liberty those who are vexed by unclean spirits; travel with those who journey by land and sea and air; defend the widows; protect the orphans; free the captives, heal the sick; and those who are under trial, in the mines, in exile, in every tribulation, necessity and danger, remember O God, all those who beseech Your great loving kindness; and those also who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have enjoined us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them. And be mindful, O Lord our God, of all Your people, and upon them all pour out Your rich mercy, granting to all their petitions which are unto salvation. And those whom we through ignorance or forgetfulness or the multitude of names have not remembered, do You Yourself remember, O God, who knows the time of life and name of each, and knows every man from his mother's womb. For You O Lord, are the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the Hopeless, the Saviour of the storm-tossed, the Have of the voyager, the Healer of the sick. Be You Yourself all things to all men, O You who knows every man, his petitions, his dwelling-place and his need.

Deliver, O Lord, this city and every city and countryside from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies and civil war.

Priest: Remember first, O Lord, our Father Metropolitan (*Name*), and keep him for Your holy churches in peace, safety, honour, health, and length of days, rightly proclaiming the word of Your truth.

People: Amen.

Priest: And all those whom we hold in our minds and all your people.

People: And all mankind.

Priest: *(Quietly) Remember, O Lord, all Orthodox bishops, who rightly teach the word of Your truth. Remember also, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercies, my own unworthiness. Forgive all my offences, voluntary and involuntary, and do not, because of my sins, withhold the grace of Your Holy Spirit from these gifts here offered. Remember, O Lord, all priests and all deacons in Christ and every order of priesthood, and put none of us to shame who serve about Your holy altar. Visit us with Your loving-kindness, O Lord; show Yourself to us through Your rich and compassionate mercies; grant us temperate and helpful weather; send gentle showers upon the earth so it may bear fruit; and bless the round of the seasons with Your goodness. Cause schisms to cease among the Churches; quell the raging of the heathen; and swiftly destroy the upsurge of heresies by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Receive us all into Your kingdom, presenting us as children of light and children of the day; and grant us Your peace and Your love, O Lord our God, for You have given us all things; and grant that with one voice and heart we may praise and glorify Your most honoured and majestic Name: the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.*

Priest: **And grant us that with one voice and one heart we may worship and praise Your great and glorious name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

Priest: And the mercies of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

The Litany

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For the precious gifts here set forth and made holy, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That our God, who Loves of mankind, having accepted them on His holy and heavenly altar on high as a fragrant spiritual offering, may send down upon us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Having asked for the unity of the faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: *(Quietly) O Our God, the God of salvation, do You teach us how we may worthily give thanks unto You for Your benefits, which You have ever bestowed and yet bestow upon us. Do You, O our God who accept these gifts, purify use from every defilement of flesh and spirit; and teach us to perfect holiness in Your fear, that we, receiving a portion of Your Holy Things in the witness of a pure conscience toward You, may be made one with the Holy Body and Blood of Your Christ and that, having received them worthily, we may have Christ abiding in our hearts and may become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Yes O our God, cause also that none of us may be guilty of these Your dread and heavenly Mysteries or sick in soul or in body through an unworthy partaking; but enable us, even unto our last breath, worthily to receive a portion of Your Holy Things, which is a support upon the road to life eternal and acceptable defence at the dread judgement seat of Your Christ. That we also, together with all the Saints who, in all the ages, have been acceptable unto You, may be made partakers of Your everlasting good things, which You have prepared for those who love You, O Lord.*

Priest: **And count us worthy, Master, with boldness and without condemnation to dare to call upon You, the God of heaven, as Father, and to say:**

All: 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 the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: *(Quietly) O Master Lord, the Father of compassions and the God of all comfort: bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen, fortify those who have bowed their heads unto You; withdraw from them every evil work: unite them to every good work; and graciously grant that without condemnation, they may partake of these Your immaculate and life-giving Mysteries unto the remission of their sins and unto the communion of the Holy Spirit:*

Priest: Through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Hear us O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from Your holy dwelling place and from the glorious throne of Your kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are enthroned on high with the Father and invisibly present here with us. And with Your mighty hand, grant

communion in Your most pure Body and precious Blood to us, and through us to all the people.

O God, be gracious to me, a sinner, and have mercy me. (x3)

Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: The Holy things for the holy.

People: One is holy, One is Lord: Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Pre-Communion Prayers

I believe, Lord, and I confess, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Also, I believe that this is truly Your most pure Body, and this is indeed Your precious Blood. Therefore I beseech You, have mercy on me and to forgive me my offences, through weakness, through ignorance or through my own deliberate fault, in word and in deed, in knowledge and in ignorance; and count me worthy to partake uncondemned, of Your most pure Mysteries, for the forgiveness of my sins and for eternal life. Amen.

Accept me today, O Son of God, as a communicant in Your mystical supper; for I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You the kiss of Judas; but like the thief I will acknowledge You and say: Remember me, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

How can I, the unworthy one, enter into the glory of Your Saints? For should I dare to enter the bridal chamber with them, my clothing betrays me, for it is not the wedding garment; and bound I shall be

cast out by the Angels. So, cleanse my soul, O Lord, from the stain of sins, and save me by Your love for mankind.

Tremble, O mortal, as you look upon the Blood which makes You divine, for it is a burning coal, consuming the unworthy. The Body of God makes me divine and nourishes me. It makes the spirit divine and wondrously nourishes the mind.

You have smitten my with yearning, O Christ, and by Your divine love You have changed me. But with Your spiritual fire, consume my sins and count me worthy to be filled with delight in You, that leaping for joy, O Good One, I may proclaim the greatness of Your two comings.

Master, Lover of mankind, Lord Jesus Christ my God, let not these Holy Mysteries be for my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but rather for the cleansing and sanctification of both soul and body, and as a pledge of the life and kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave to God, to place in the Lord the hope of my salvation.

Koinonikon

People: And the Lord was awakened, as one out of sleep, and arose as one delivered unto us. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

(Once the Holy Communion has been prepared it is placed in the Chalice which is then covered with the Communion Veil. The Priest takes the Chalice and elevates it and says)

Priest: With fear of God, with faith and love, draw near.

People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us.

People: Receive me today, O Son of God, as partaker of Your mystical supper, for I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, neither will I give You the kiss of Judas. But like the thief I will acknowledge You and say: Remember me, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

Priest: O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

People: But like the thief I will acknowledge You and say: Remember me, O merciful one in the kingdom of heaven.

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Let our mouth be filled with praise, Lord, that we may sing of Your Glory, for You have made us worthy to partake of Your Holy Mysteries. Keep us in Your holiness, as all the day we may meditate upon Your righteousness. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Litany of Thanksgiving

Priest: Be upstanding having received the divine, holy, pure, immortal, heavenly, life-giving and dread mysteries of Christ, let us give worthy thanks to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Asking that our whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: *(Quietly) We give thanks unto You, O Lord, our God, for the participation in Your holy, pure, immortal and heavenly Mysteries, which You have given unto us for the welfare and sanctification and healing of our souls and bodies. Do You, the same Lord of all, grant that the communion of the Holy Body and Blood of Your Christ may be for us unto faith which cannot be put to confusion, unto love unfeigned, unto increase of wisdom, unto the healing of soul and body, unto the turning aside of every adversary, unto the fulfilment of Your commandments, unto an acceptable defence at the dread judgement seat of Your Christ:*

Priest: **For You are our Sanctification, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

In the name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.

Priest: O Lord, You bless those who bless You and make holy those who trust in You: save Your people and bless Your inheritance; protect the fullness of Your Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; glorify them in recompense by Your divine

power, and do not forsake us, who put our hope in You. Give peace to the world, to Your churches, to Your priests, to those in authority over us, to the armed forces, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights;

and to You we ascribe glory, thanksgiving and worship to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (x3)

The Dismissal

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: **May the blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you, through His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.**

People: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to You.

People: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

Lord have mercy. (x3) In the name of the Lord, Father give the blessing.

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-creating Cross, through the protection of the honoured yet unseen Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honoured and glorious prophet, Forerunner, and Baptiser John; of the holy, glorious and ever to be praised Apostles; of the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; of our Father among the saints, Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; of Saint (*Name*) the patron(s) of this Church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.

The Post-Communion Prayers

I thank You, O Lord my God, that You have not rejected me, a sinner, but have suffered me to be a partaker of Your holy things. I thank You that, unworthy as I am, You have enabled me to receive of Your most pure and heavenly gifts. But, O Master, Who love mankind, Who for our sakes did die and rise again, and gave us these awesome and life-creating Mysteries for the good and sanctification of our souls and bodies; let them be for the healing of soul and body, the repelling of every adversary, the illumining of the eyes of my heart, the peace of my spiritual powers, a faith unashamed, a love unfeigned, the fulfilling of wisdom the observing of Your commandments, the receiving of Your divine grace, and the attaining of Your Kingdom. Preserved by them in Your holiness, may I always remember Your grace and live not for myself alone, but for You, our Master and Benefactor. May I pass from this life in the hope of eternal life, and so attain to the everlasting rest, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing, and the gladness of those who behold the goodness of Your countenance is unending. For You are the true desire and the ineffable joy of those who love You, O Christ our God, and all creation sings of Your praise forever. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ our God: let Your holy Body be my eternal life; Your precious Blood, my remission of sins. Let this Eucharist be my joy, health, and gladness. Make me, a sinner, worthy to stand on the right hand of Your glory at Your awesome second Coming, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother and of all the Saints. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Basil the Great

O Master Christ our God, King of the Ages, Maker of all things: I thank You for all the good things You have given me, especially for the communion with Your most pure and life-creating Mysteries. I implore You, O gracious Lover of Mankind: preserve me under Your protection, beneath the shadow of Your wings. Enable me even to my last breath, to partake worthily and with a pure conscience of Your holy things, for the remission of sins and for eternal life. For You are the Bread of Life, the Fountain of Holiness, the Giver of all Good; to You we ascribe glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Prayer of Simeon

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 lighten the gentiles, and to be the glory of Your people, Israel. Amen.

The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil – Great and Holy Saturday Morning



Saints Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church