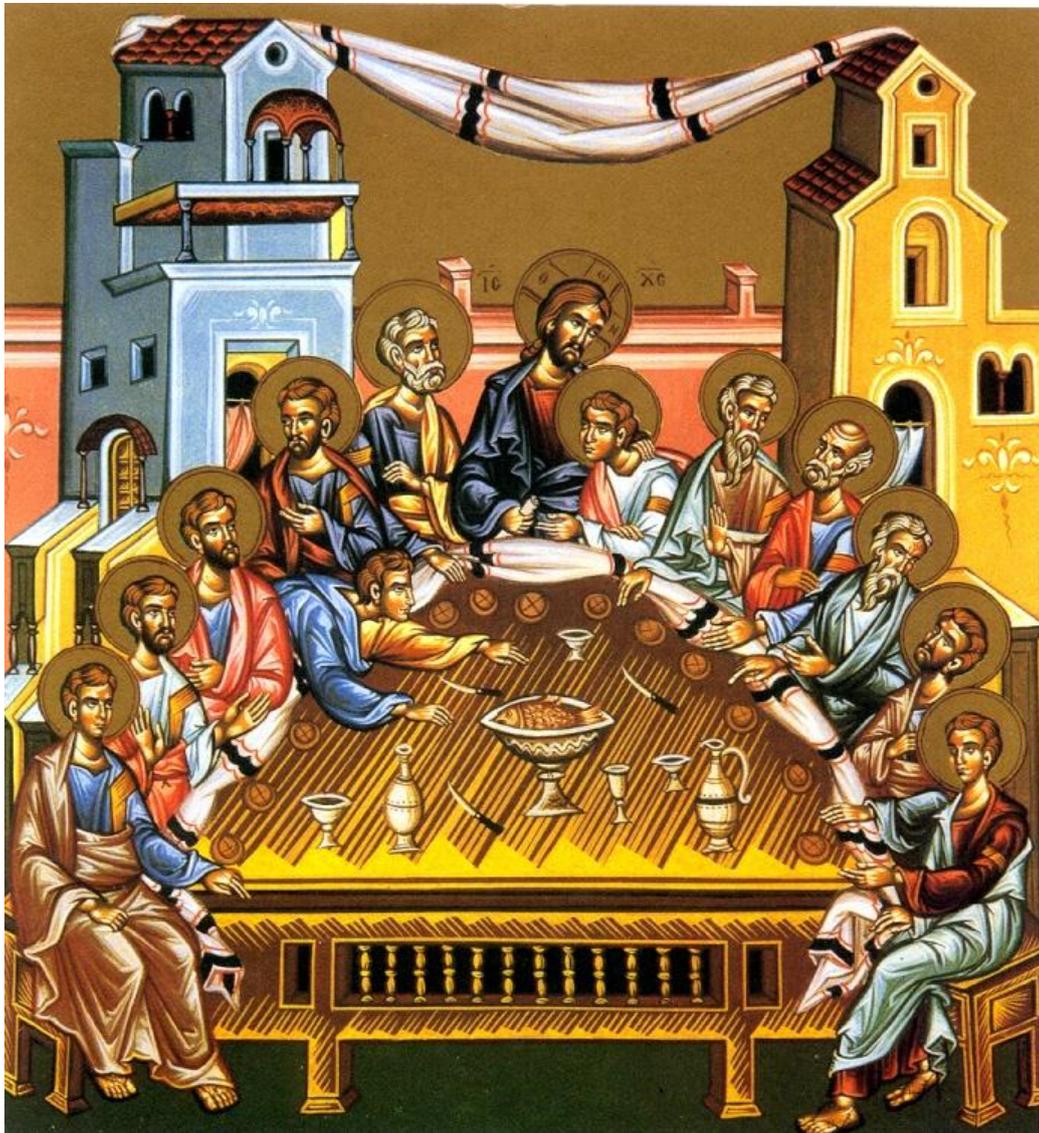


The Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St Basil

Great and Holy Thursday 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, town and village, 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 2)

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 2)

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.

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

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

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

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

I wait for the Lord, My soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord. Tone 2

In haste the council of the Jews assembles, to deliver the Fashioner and Creator of all to Pilate. O transgressors, O unbelievers! For they make ready to surrender to judgment Him Who comes to judge the living and the dead; they prepare the Passion of Him Who heals the passions. Great is Your mercy, O longsuffering Lord: glory to You.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Tone 2

Judas the transgressor at the supper dipped his hand into the dish with You, O Lord, yet sinfully he reached out his hands to receive the money. He reckoned up the value of the oil of myrrh, and yet was not afraid to sell You Who are above all price. He stretched out his feet to be washed, yet deceitfully he kissed the Master and betrayed Him to the breakers of the Law. Cast out of the company of the apostles, he threw away the thirty pieces of silver, and did not see Your Resurrection of the third day. Through this Your Resurrection have mercy on us.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with him is abundant redemption, and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. *Tone 2*

Judas, the deceitful traitor, with a deceitful kiss betrayed the Lord and Saviour; he sold the Master of all as a slave to the transgressors; the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, went as a sheep to the slaughter: for He alone is rich in mercy.

Praise the Lord all you nations, praise Him all you peoples. *Tone 2*

Judas, servant and deceiver, disciple and traitor, friend and false accuser, was revealed by his deeds. For he followed the Master, yet inwardly he plotted to betray Him. He said in himself: "I shall deliver Him up and gain the money that is promised." He desired the oil of myrrh to be sold and Jesus to be taken by deceit. He gave a kiss and handed over Christ; and the Lord went as a sheep to the slaughter, for He alone is compassionate and loves mankind.

For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. *Tone 2*

The Lamb Whom Isaiah proclaimed goes of His own will to the slaughter. He gives His back to scourging, and His cheeks to blows,

and turns not away His face from the shame of their spitting; He is condemned to a disgraceful death. Though sinless, He accepts all these things willingly, that He may grant to all resurrection from the dead.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages! Amen! (Tone 6)

Truly is Judas to be numbered with the generation of vipers, Who ate manna in the wilderness, yet murmured against Him who fed them; and while the food was yet in their mouth, in their ingratitude they spoke against God. So Judas in his impiety, still carrying in his mouth the heavenly Bread, went and betrayed the Saviour. O ever-greedy heart! O inhuman rashness! He sold the Lord Who fed him; and the Master Whom he kissed he delivered to death. Judas the transgressor is indeed their son, and with them he has inherited perdition. But deliver our souls, O Lord, from such hatred of mankind, for You alone are boundless in longsuffering.

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

O 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

Priest: The evening Prokeimenon.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in Tone 1. Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; Preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their hearts.

The First Reading

Reader: The first reading from the Book of Exodus. (Chapter 19:10-19)

Priest: Wisdom let us attend.

Reader: Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with

an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain." So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives." Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in Tone 7. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity.

The Second Reading

Reader: The second reading from the Book of Job. (Chapter 38:1-21; 42:1-5)

Priest: Wisdom let us attend.

Reader: Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its

foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!' Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place, That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it? It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken. Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this. Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home? Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?" Then Job answered the Lord and said, "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You."

The Third Reading

Reader: The third reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Chapter 50:4-11)

Priest: Wisdom let us attend.

Reader: The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near Who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed, they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the Name of the Lord And rely upon his God. Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled - This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

The Trisagion 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.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Priest: Dhynamis!

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

(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: The rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed. Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. (Chapter 11:23-32)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy

manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer before the Gospel

Priest: (Quietly) *(Illumine our hearts, O Master, who loves mankind with the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your Gospel teachings; implant in us also the fear of Your 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 You. For You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto You we ascribe Glory together with Your unoriginate Father and Your all-Holy and Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen)*

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 26:2-20, John 13:3-17, Matthew 26:21-39, Luke 22:43-45, Matthew 26:40-27:2)

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

Priest: Let us attend.

The Lord said to His disciples, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people." And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him. Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, 'My time is at hand; I will keep the

Passover at your house with My disciples’””. So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man

by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.

Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand." And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and

sat with the servants to see the end. Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus Who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

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 6

(the Choir start to chant this Hymn instead of the usual Cherubic Hymn.)

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:

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.*

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: *(Bless the incense) Blessed is our God, always now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Incense we offer unto You O Christ our God, as a savour of spiritual sweetness, which do You*

receive upon Your most-heavenly altar, and send down upon us in return the grace of Your all-holy Spirit.

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 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, 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 at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

(The Choir continue the second part of the Cherubic Hymn)

Remember me, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

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 unbloody 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, and suffered, and was buried.

And rose on the third day according to the Scriptures; And 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 confess 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 Sabboath. 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: We offer You Your own from Your own, for all and in behalf of all.

(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 humanity, 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, and good health, living a long life, and rightly teaching 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;

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 commemorated 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 mankind, having accepted them on His holy, and heavenly Altar on high altar as a fragrant spiritual offering, may send 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 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: 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.

The Holy things for a holy people.

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 me 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.

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.

(Faithful People receiving Holy Communion)

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: 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: Be exalted O God, above the heavens; and your Glory over all the earth. (X3)

Priest: 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: Having asked that the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us entrust ourselves and one another, and all 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 give 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, from this time forward and for evermore. (x3)

Priest: *(Quietly) The mystery of Your dispensation, O Christ our God, has been accomplished and perfected, as far as is in our power, for we have had the memorial of Your death, we have seen the type of Your Resurrection, and we have been filled with Your unending life, we have enjoyed Your inexhaustible delight, which also in the world to come be well-pleased to vouchsafe us all, through the grace of Your unoriginated Father, and of Your Holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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.**

People: Lord have mercy. (x3)

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

Priest: O You Who, because of Your exceeding goodness, did reveal humility as a virtuous way when You washed the feet of Your Disciples and did condescend to crucifixion and burial for our sakes,

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.



Saints Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church