

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

Reader: Amen.

Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who 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 Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

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

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

Psalm 103(4) is typically read (chanted) at Daily Vespers, but may be sung at Great Vespers. Note: the prayers on the next few pages are for the priest to say quietly as Psalm 103(4) is chanted. Psalm 103(4) begins on page 3.

Priest's Vespers prayers

Prayer I

O Lord, compassionate and loving, long-suffering and greatly merciful, listen to our prayer and give heed to the voice of our supplication. Make with us a favorable covenant, guide us along your ways that we may live in your truth, gladden our hearts that we may fear your holy name: for You are great and You perform wondrous deeds. You are the only God and none among the gods is like You, O Lord. You are greatly merciful and able in your power to assist, support and save all those who place their hope in your holy name.

For all glory, honor and adoration, are your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer II

O Lord, in your indignation rebuke us not, chastise us not in your wrath, but deal With us according to your loving kindness, O Physician and Healer of our souls! Guide us to the harbor of your will, enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know your truth, and grant that the remainder of this day and all the time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints.

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer III

O Lord, our God, be mindful of us sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy name, and put us not to shame for having placed our hope in your mercy, but graciously grant us, O Lord, all the means of salvation; make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart, and to accomplish your will in all things.

For You are the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer IV

O Lord who are celebrated by the holy Powers in never silenced hymns and unceasing doxologies: fill our mouths with your praise, that we may exalt your holy name; give us part and lot with all those who fear You in truth and who keep your commandments - through the intercession of the holy Mother of God and of all your saints.

For all glory, honor and adoration are your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer V

O Lord, Lord, who hold all things together in your spotless hands, who are long-suffering towards us all, and who grieve at our wickedness: be mindful of your compassion and mercy and look down upon us in your bounty. Grant us to escape for the remainder of this day from the manifold deceits of the evil one and keep our life free from all assaults through the grace of your All-Holy Spirit.

Through the mercies and love for mankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer VI

O God, great and wonderful, who pursue all things with ineffable love and universal providence, who govern all things, who provided us with the bounties of this world and assured us through your kindness of obtaining the promised kingdom; O Lord who through all the blessings already received this day have kept us away from evil: grant that we may spend its remaining hours without blame before your holy glory, and that we may sing your praise, O You the only Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind.

For You are our God and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer VII

O God, great and most-high, who alone are the source of immortality, who dwell in light beyond reach and who created all things in wisdom, dividing light from darkness, setting up the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to rule the night; who have deemed us poor sinners worthy to reach this hour and to come into your presence with our thanks and to offer you our evening praise, O Lord and Lover of Mankind: let our prayers go up to You like incense and accept them as a sweet fragrance; grant that this evening and the coming night may be spent in peace; clothe us with an armor of light; save us from nightly fear and from all things that lurk in darkness, and grant that the sleep You have given us to refresh us from our wickedness may be free from all satanic dreams and imaginations.

Yes, truly, O Lord, Giver of all good things, may we remember your name throughout the night, and, enlightened by the practice of your commandments, may we rise in gladness of soul and supplications for our sins and those of your people. Look down upon them with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For You are the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Next is the Great Litany on page 4.

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, You are very great:
You are clothed with honor 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 labor 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!
 The sun knows its 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 ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God! (*Twice*)
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God, O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

Great Litany

First Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For His Beatitude Metropolitan *Tikhon*,
 for His Eminence, Archbishop *Alexander*,
 for the honorable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy, and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For reasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

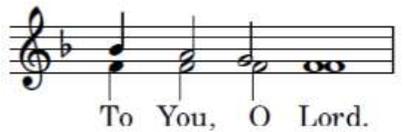
Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

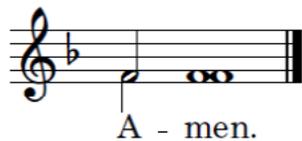
Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To You O Lord.



Priest (Exclamation): For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.



Kathisma / "Blessed is the man ..."

Choir:



Refrain



Serve the Lord_____ with fear, and re-joice in Him with trem - bling.

Refrain



Bless - ed are all who take ref - uge in Him._____

Refrain



A - rise,_____ O Lord,_____ save me, O my God._____

Refrain



Sal - va - tion be - longs__ to the Lord, Your__ blessing be upon Your peo - ple.

Refrain



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Refrain



Now and ev - er, and un - to a - ges of a - ges. A - men.

Refrain

Then, Alleluia (x3) repeated three times:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to You, O God.

After the Kathisma, the Second Deacon says the little litany. If the Kathisma is not sung, neither is the Litany.

Little Litany

Second Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mer - cy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mer - cy.

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

Choir: To You O Lord.

To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

A - men.

Reader: In the Second Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Lord, I Call (Tone 2)

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me. Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon You, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer
 when I call u - pon You. Hear me, O Lord.
 Let my prayer a - rise in Your sight as in - cense and let the lifting
 up of my hands be an evening sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I Call . . . (continued)

Reader (chanted after the first sticharion is completed): 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.
 With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.
 I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.
 When my spirit was fainting within me, then You knew my paths.
 In this way where I have walked they hid for me a snare.
 I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that knew 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, You are my portion 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.

(10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Your name.

(9) The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You shall reward me.

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,
as we sing of this present mystery:
the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,
now feast on the delights of Paradise:
for today the Father's perfect Image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,
has taken the form of a servant.

Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;

He was true God, and He remains the same,

but through His love for mankind,

He has become what He never was: true man.

Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://

"O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Come, — let us greatly re-joice in the Lord as we tell of this
pres - ent mys - ter - y! The di - vid - ing wall has been destroyed;
the flam - ing sword turns back, the Che - ru - bim withdraw from the
Tree — of Life, and I partake of the delight of par - a - dise

from which I was cast out through dis-o-be - dience. For the express

im - age of the Father, the imprint of His e - ter - ni - ty,

takes the form of a serv - ant, and with - out un - der - going change

He comes forth from an unwedded moth - er. For what He was,

He has re-mained: true_ God, and what He was not, He has taken up -

on Him - self, be - com - ing man_ through love for man - kind.

Un - to Him, let us cry a - loud: "O God
born of a Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us!"

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,
 as we sing of this present mystery:
 the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;
 the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
 the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;
 and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,
 now feast on the delights of Paradise:
 for today the Father's perfect Image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,
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 Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;
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 pres - ent mys - ter - y! The di - vid - ing wall has been destroyed;

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from which I was cast out through dis - o - be - dience. For the express

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He comes forth from an unwedded moth - er. For what He was,

He has re-mained: true God, and what He was not, He has taken up-

on Him - self, be - com - ing man through love for man - kind.

Un - to Him, let us cry a - loud: "O God -

born of a Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us!"

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
 the whole universe was filled with light.
 The shepherds watched in the fields.
 The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.
 But Herod was troubled,
 for God had appeared in the flesh.//
 He is the Savior of our souls.

When the Lord Je - sus was born of the ho - ly Vir - gin, all the

world was en - light - ened. The shep - herds watched

in the fields, the Ma - gi a - dored and the angels praised

in___ song; but Herod was trou - bled: for God has ap -

peared___ in the flesh, the Sav - ior of our___ souls!

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my
 When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
 the whole universe was filled with light.
 The shepherds watched in the fields.
 The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.
 But Herod was troubled,
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in the fields, the Ma - gi a - dored and the angels praised
in song; but Herod was trou - bled: for God has ap -
peared in the flesh, the Sav - ior of our souls!

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord.

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.
Your rule is from age to age.
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,
You have filled all creation with joy.
The light of Your coming has shone on us;
every living creature praises You,
the Image of the Father's glory.
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,
the same yesterday, today, and forever,
You have shone forth from the Virgin.//
O God, have mercy on us!

Your King - dom, O Christ our God, is a kingdom of all the a - ges,

and Your rule is from generation to gen - er - a - tion! Made flesh

of the Holy Spirit and made man of the ever-virgin Mar - y, You have en -

light - ened us by Your com - ing. Light of light, Brightness

of the Fa - ther, You have made the whole creation shine with

joy. All that has breath prais - es You, the image of the glory of the

Fa - ther! O God, You are and have ev - er been! As You have

shone forth from a Vir - gin have mer - cy on us!

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.

Your rule is from age to age.

Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,

made man of the ever-virgin Mary,

You have filled all creation with joy.

The light of Your coming has shone on us;

every living creature praises You,

the Image of the Father's glory.

Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,

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of the Fa - ther, You have made the whole creation shine with
 joy. All that has breath prais - es You, the image of the glory of the
 Fa - ther! O God, You are and have ev - er been! As You have
 shone forth from a Vir - gin have mer - cy on us!

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

What shall we offer You, O Christ,
 Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?
 Every creature made by You offers You thanks:
 the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;
 the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
 the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,
 and we offer You a virgin Mother!!
 O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

What shall we of - fer You, O Christ, who for our sakes have

appeared on earth as a man? Every creature made by You
of - fers You thanks, the an - gels offer You a hymn; the heav - ens a
star; the Magi gifts; the shepherds, their won - der; the earth its
cave; the wilderness, the man - ger; and we of - fer You a Virgin
Moth - er! O pre - e - ter - nal God, have mer - cy on us!

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

What shall we offer You, O Christ,
Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?
Every creature made by You offers You thanks:
the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;
the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,
and we offer You a virgin Mother!!
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

What shall we offer You, O Christ, who for our sakes have
 appeared on earth as a man? Every creature made by You
 offers You thanks, the angels offer You a hymn; the heavens a
 star; the Magi gifts; the shepherds, their wonder; the earth its
 cave; the wilderness, the manger; and we offer You a Virgin
 Mother! O pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

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

When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth,
 the many kingdoms of men came to an end,
 and when You were made man of the pure Virgin,

the many gods of idolatry were destroyed.
 The cities of the world passed under one single rule,
 and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead.
 The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar,
 and we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the Godhead,
 When You, our God, were made man.
 Great is Your mercy, O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

When Au - gus - tus reigned a - lone up - on the earth, the many kingdoms
 of man - kind came to an end; and when You were made man of the
 pure Vir - gin, the man - y gods of i - dol - a - try were des - troyed.
 The cities of the world passed under one sin - gle rule, and the
 na - tions came to believe in one sovereign God - head. The peo - ples

were enrolled by the decree of Cae - sar; and we, the faithful,
 were enrolled in the name of the God - head, when You, our God, were
 made a man. Great is Your mer - cy: glo - ry to You!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Gladsome Light ...

Prokeimenon of the Day, Old Testament readings

First Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: + Peace be to all.

First Deacon: Wisdom.

And then the prokeimenon of the day:

Priest/Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Behold now, bless the Lord, / all you servants of the Lord!

Choir/People: Behold now, bless the Lord, / all you servants of the Lord!

Be - hold now bless the Lord all you ser - - - vants of the Lord.

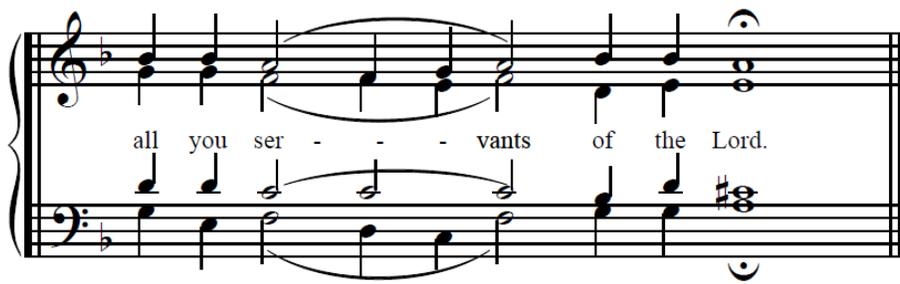
Priest/Deacon: You that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Choir/People: Behold now, bless the Lord, / all you servants of the Lord!

Be - hold now bless the Lord all you ser - - - vants of the Lord.

Priest/Deacon: Behold now, bless the Lord,

Choir/People: all you servants of the Lord!



Old Testament Readings

- 1) Genesis (1:1-13)
- 2) Numbers (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)
- 3) Micah (4:6-7; 5:2-4)

The Holy Doors are closed.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Book of Moses, called Genesis. (*Genesis 1:1-13*)

Priest: Let us attend!

In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth. Now the earth was invisible and unformed, and darkness was upon the deep and the Spirit of God was borne upon the water. And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God made a separation between the light and the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night; and there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water and let there be a separation between the water and the water"; and it was so. And God made the firmament. And God made a separation between the water, which was below the firmament, and between the water which was above the firmament. And God called the firmament Heaven; and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the water below heaven be gathered together into one gathering, and let dry land appear"; and it was so. And the water below heaven was gathered together into their gatherings, and the dry land appeared. And God called the dry land Earth, and the accumulations of the waters he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout herb of grass, sowing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and fruiting tree making fruit, whose seed is in it according to its kind upon the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth herb of grass, sowing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and fruiting tree making fruit, whose seed was in it according to its kind upon the earth, and God saw that it was good. And there was evening and morning, a third day.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Fourth Book of Moses, called Numbers. (*Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18*)

Priest: Let us attend!

And the Spirit of God came upon Balaam, and he took up his discourse, and said, "How fair are your houses, O Jacob, your tents, O Israel. Like shady groves, like gardens beside a river, like tents that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. A man shall come forth from his seed and shall be lord over many nations, and his kingdom shall be exalted and increased. God led him out of Egypt; he has as it were the glory of the unicorn, he shall eat up the nations of his adversaries, and suck the marrow of their fat bones, and pierce the foe through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down like a lion, and like a young lion; who will rouse him? Blessed be every one who blesses you, and cursed be every one who curses you". A star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a man shall rise out of Israel; and shall crush the princes of Moab, and plunder all the sons of Seth. Edom shall be an inheritance, Esau his foe shall be an inheritance, while Israel did valiantly.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Micah. (*Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4*)

Priest: Let us attend!

In those days, says the Lord, I will gather her that is bruised, and her that has been driven out I will receive, and those whom I have driven out; and her that has been bruised I will make into a remnant;

and her that has been cast out into a strong nation; and the Lord shall reign over them in Mount Sion from this henceforth and for ever more. Thus says the Lord: And you Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, are not least among the thousands of Juda; for from you there shall come forth for me the one who is to be ruler in Israel, and his goings out are from the beginning, from eternity. Because of this he will give them until the moment that she who bears child shall bring to birth; and the remainder of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And he will stand and shall see, and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, and they shall abide in the glory of the name of the Lord his God; for now they shall be magnified even to the extremities of the earth.

The Holy Doors are opened.

*(Then we **stand** and sing the following troparion. The reader chants the verses and the choir responds.)*

Tone 6

Troparion

You were secretly in the cave,
 but heaven spoke through a star and proclaimed You to all, O Savior.
 And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
 have mercy upon them and upon us!

Thou wast born se - cret - ly in the cave, but heav - en
 You were

spoke through a star and pro - claimed Thee to all, O Sav - ior.
 You

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
 You

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: His foundations are in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
 have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
 You
 have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: Glorious things are spoken of you, O City of God. I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
 have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
 You
 have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: Behold, O Philistia and Tyre and the people of Ethiopia!

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
 have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
 You
 have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: "This one was born there," And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High Himself shall establish her."

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;

have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
You

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: The Lord will record, when He registers the people and the princes born in her. All rejoice to have their dwelling in you.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
You

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

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

You were born secretly in the cave,
but heaven spoke through a star and proclaimed You to all, O Savior.
And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

Thou wast were born se - cret - ly in the cave, but heav - en
You were

spoke through a star and pro - claimed Thee to all, O Sav - ior.
You

Old Testament Readings

- 4) Isaiah (11:1-10)
 - 5) Jeremiah (Baruch 3:36-4:4)
 - 6) Daniel (Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45)
-

The Holy Doors are closed.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 11:1-10*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Thus says the Lord: There shall come forth a rod from the root of Jesse, and a flower shall grow out of the root. And the Spirit of the Lord God shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and piety. The spirit of the fear of the Lord will fill him. He shall not judge by glory nor reprove by hearsay; but he will give judgement for the lowly with justice, and reprove with equity the glorious ones of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the word of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall destroy the wicked. And he will have his loins girt with righteousness, and his sides clothed with truth. Then the wolf shall feed with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the bull and the lion shall feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The ox and the bear shall feed together; their young shall be together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. An infant child shall put its hand over the hole of asps, and the weaned child its hand on the nest of the offspring of asps. They shall not hurt or be able to destroy anyone on my holy mountain; for the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as much water covers the sea. In that day there shall be the root of Jesse, and he that shall arise to rule nations; in him shall the nations hope, and his rest shall be honor.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah. (*Baruch 3:36-4:4*)

Priest: Let us attend!

This is our God, and there shall be none other reckoned in comparison with him. He has found out all the way of knowledge, and given it to Jacob his servant and Israel his beloved. After this he appeared on earth and lived among men. This is the book of the commandments of God, and the law which exists unto the ages; all those who keep it fast shall have life; but those who abandon it shall die. Turn back Jacob, and lay hold of it, walk in the presence of its light to be illumined. Do not give your glory to another, and what is profitable to you to a foreign nation.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Daniel. (*Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was lightening. The head of this image was of pure gold, its hands, breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its

feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out from a mountain by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This was the dream; now we shall tell the king its interpretation. The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand unto the ages; just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The great God has informed the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy”.

The Holy Doors are opened.

Tone 6

Troparion

You have shone forth from a Virgin, O Christ,
 Spiritual Sun of righteousness,
 and a star showed You, Whom nothing can contain,
 contained within a cave.
 You have led Magi to worship You,
 and joining them we magnify You:
 “O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast shone forth from a Vir - gin, O Christ, thou spir - i - tual Sun of
 You have you

right - eous - ness, and a star showed Thee, Whom noth - ing can con - tain,
 You

con - tained with - in a cave. Thou hast led Ma - gi to wor - ship Thee,
 You have You

and join - ing them we mag - ni - fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor - y to Thee!
 You You

v: The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty; the Lord has put on His apparel and girded Himself with strength.

You have led Magi to worship You,
 and joining them we magnify You:
 “O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

v: He has made the world so sure, that it cannot be moved; Your throne is from of old; You are from everlasting.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
"O Giver of Life, glory to You!"

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

v: The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves at the voice of many waters.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
"O Giver of Life, glory to You!"

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

v: Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high. Your testimonies are very sure.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
"O Giver of Life, glory to You!"

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have You

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

v: Holiness becomes Your house, O Lord, forever.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
"O Giver of Life, glory to You!"

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have You

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

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

You have shone forth from a Virgin, O Christ,
Spiritual Sun of righteousness,
and a star showed You, Whom nothing can contain,
Contained within a cave.
You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
"O Giver of Life, glory to You!"

Thou hast shone forth from a Vir-gin, O Christ, thou spir-i-tual Sun of
You have you

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

right - eous - ness, and a star showed Thee, Whom noth - ing can con - tain,
 You

con - tained with - in a cave. Thou hast led Ma - gi to wor - ship Thee,
 You have You

and join - ing them we mag - ni - fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor - y to Thee!
 You You

Old Testament Readings

7) Isaiah (9:6-7)

8) Isaiah (7:10-16; 8:1-4, 8-10)

The Holy Doors are closed.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 9: 6-7*)

Priest: Let us attend!

A child has been born for us, a son has been given to us; whose government is upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called "Angel of Great Counsel, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Potentate, Prince of Peace, Father of the age to come". For I will bring peace upon princes, peace and health to him. Great his government, and of his peace there is no bound, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with judgement and with justice from henceforth and for ever more. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 7:10-16 & 8:1-4, 8-10*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; in the depth or in the height". But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test". And Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David. Is it a little thing for you to contend with men, and how do you contend with the Lord? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel. He shall eat butter and honey before he knows how to prefer evil or choose good. For before the child knows good or evil, he refuses the evil to choose the good. Then the Lord said to me, 'Take for yourself a large new volume and write upon it in with a man's pen, Of making a rapid plunder of spoils; for it is at hand. And get me witnesses, reliable men, Urias the priest and Zachary the son of Barachias'. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, 'Call his name Despoil-quickly-plunder-rapidly; for before the child knows how to cry 'Father' or 'Mother,' he will take the power of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of the Assyrians'. Know you nations and be wasted; give ear, as far as the extremity of the earth; for if again you have become strong, again you shall be wasted. And whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it; and whatever word you speak, it shall not remain in you, for God is with us".

The Little Litany

Second Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Musical notation for the first choir part. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Musical notation for the second choir part, identical to the first. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff.

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

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Musical notation for the third choir part. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'To You, O Lord' are written below the treble staff.

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

Choir: Amen.

Musical notation for the fourth choir part. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the treble staff.

Priest: Let us attend! + Peace be to all!

Second Deacon/Reader: And to your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Second Deacon/Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone, The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son, this day have I begotten You."

Choir: The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son, this day have I begotten You."

Musical notation for the fifth choir part. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'The Lord said to me: You are My Son, This day have I be-got-ten You.' are written below the treble staff.

Reader: Ask of Me, and I shall give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as Your possession!

Choir: The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son, this day have I begotten You."

The Lord said to me: You are My Son, This day have I be - got - ten You.

This musical score is for a choir response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "The Lord said to me: You are My Son, This day have I be - got - ten You." The word "You" is underlined in the original image.

Reader: The Lord said to Me,...

Choir: ... "You are My Son, this day have I begotten You."

You are My Son, This day have I be - got - ten You.

This musical score is for the second part of the choir response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "You are My Son, This day have I be - got - ten You." The word "You" is underlined in the original image.

First Deacon: Wisdom!

Epistle: (207) Galatians 3:15-22

Reader/Second Deacon: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

First Deacon: Let us attend!

The reader chants the appointed Epistle

Brothers and sisters, speaking of a human example: even a human contract, once it has been confirmed, cannot be cancelled or altered. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Notice that he does not say, "to seeds," as if there were many, but as of one, "to your seed," which is Christ. What I am saying is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years after the covenant previously confirmed by God in Christ, does not cancel it to make the promise of no effect. If the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from the promise; but in fact, God granted it to Abraham by way of a promise.

What then is the law about? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed to whom the promise had been made should come, and it was established through the angels, by the hand of a mediator. Now there is no mediator when there is only one party, and God is one. Therefore, is the law against God's own promises? Certainly not! If a law had been given which could make alive, then certainly, righteousness would have been from the law. But in fact, the Scriptures declared all things to be captive under sin, so that the promise might be given to those who believe—that is, by faith in Jesus Christ.

After the Epistle, the Priest: + Peace be to you.

Second Deacon/Reader: **And to your spirit.** In the 5th Tone, Alleluia! The Lord said to My Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool!"

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)

verse: "The Lord shall send You a rod of strength out of Zion."

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)

verse: "From the womb before the morning star have I begotten You."

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)

Gospel: (5) Luke 2:1-20

Priest: Illuminate our hearts, O Master, Who loves mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel teachings. Implant also in us 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 that are well pleasing to You. For You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest serving alone does NOT pick up Gospel book yet!

Second Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest (facing the people): +Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.



Priest serving alone can NOW pick up Gospel.

First Deacon: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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



Second Deacon/Priest: Let us attend!

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. Because he was of the house and family of David, Joseph left the city of Nazareth in Galilee and went up to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem. He did so to enroll himself with Mary who was pledged to be married to him as wife and who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes. She laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

There were shepherds in the same countryside, staying in the field and keeping watch by night over their flock. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy which will be for all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, and good will among mankind.*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem now and see what has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." They came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph; and the baby was lying in the manger. After seeing it, they revealed the news which had been spoken to them about this child. All those who heard what the shepherds were saying were amazed, but Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, just as it was told them.

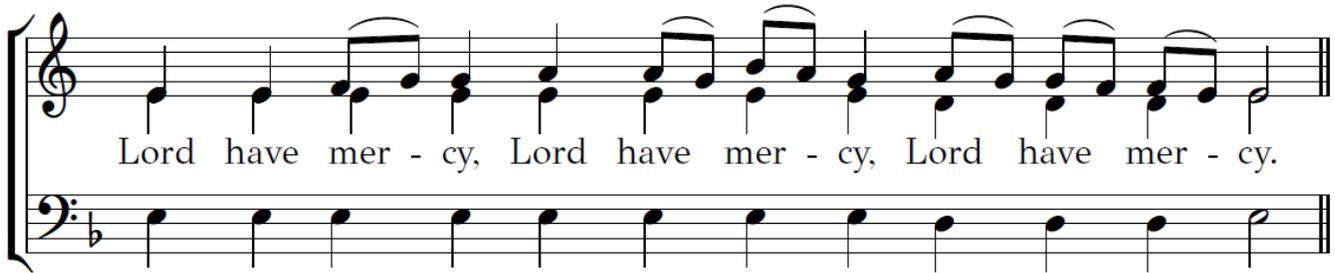
Choir: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.



Augmented Litany (Litany of Supplication)

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we ask You, hear us and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *THRICE*



Again we pray for our Metropolitan *Tikhon*,
for His Eminence, Archbishop *Alexander*,
(*AND/OR* for His Grace, Bishop *N.*,)
and for all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy place and all our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and kindred, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, pardon, and remission of sins of [the servants of God *N.N.*, and] the people of this holy place.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-honorable place, for those who labor and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await from You great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3X)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and the Lover of Mankind, and unto You do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.



Vouchsafe (Grant), O Lord ...

VOUCHSAFE, O LORD ... IS READ, NOT SUNG, AT DAILY VESPERS.

PRIEST EXITS BY THE NORTH DOOR AND STANDS BEFORE THE HOLY DOORS.

READER: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. O despise not the works of Your hands.

To You belong worship, to You belong praise, to You belong glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Evening Litany

PRIEST: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." are written below the treble staff.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

Musical notation for the second system, identical to the first system, with the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." written below the treble staff.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics "Grant it, O Lord." are written below the treble staff.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical notation for the fourth system, identical to the third system, with the lyrics "Grant it, O Lord." written below the treble staff.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical notation for the fifth system, identical to the third system, with the lyrics "Grant it, O Lord." written below the treble staff.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical notation for the first instance of 'Grant it, O Lord.' It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Grant it, O Lord.' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical notation for the second instance of 'Grant it, O Lord.' It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Grant it, O Lord.' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

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

PEOPLE: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical notation for the third instance of 'Grant it, O Lord.' It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Grant it, O Lord.' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

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

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Musical notation for 'To you, O Lord.' It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'To you, O Lord.' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

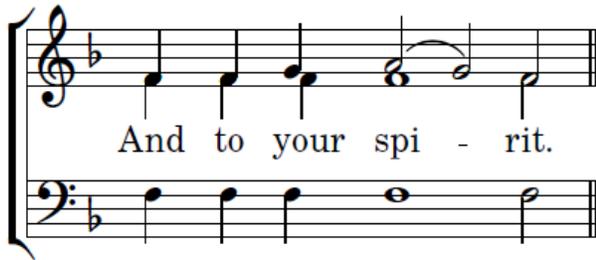
EXCLAMATION: For You are a good God and the Lover of Mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Musical notation for 'Amen.' It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

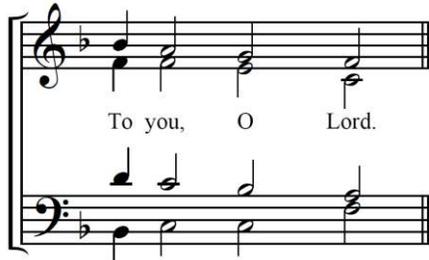
PRIEST: + Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.



PRIEST: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You O Lord.

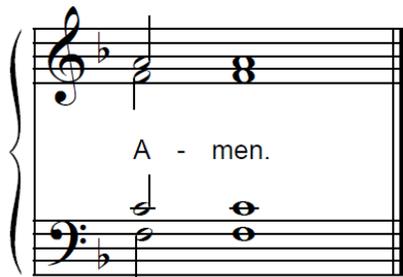


DEACON IN.

PRIEST (PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF HEADS): *O Lord our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race: Look upon Your servants and Your inheritance, for to You, the dread Judge Who loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting help not from men, but Your mercy, in expectation of Your salvation, whom You protect at all times, both during the present evening and in the approaching night, from every adverse action of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.*

PRIEST EXCLAMATION: Blessed and most-glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.



Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

At Vespers:

May He who was born in a cavern and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; of our holy and God-bearing fathers; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

At Liturgy:

May He who was born in a cavern and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; of our father among the saints, Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; of our holy and God-bearing fathers; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

(Immediately after the Dismissal the clergy go to the center of the church where the icon of the feast has been placed. The Troparion and the Kontakion of the feast are sung.)

Tone 4

Troparion

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,

has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
 For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
 were taught by a star to adore You,
 the Sun of righteousness,
 and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
 O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world
 the Light of wis - dom! For by it, those who wor - shipped
 the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of
 Right - eous - ness, and to know You, the O - rient from on
 High. O Lord, glo - ry to You!

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

Tone 3

Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
 and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!

The wise men journey with the star, //
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Soprano
Alto

To-day the Virgin gives birth to the Tran-scen-dent One,

Tenor
Bass

and the earth offers a cave to the Unap-proach-a-ble One!

An-gels with shep-herds glo-ri-fy Him, the wise men

jour-ney with a star, since for our sake the Eternal God

is born as a Lit-tle Child!

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: 'To-day the Virgin gives birth to the Tran-scen-dent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unap-proach-a-ble One! An-gels with shep-herds glo-ri-fy Him, the wise men jour-ney with a star, since for our sake the Eternal God is born as a Lit-tle Child!'. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

Priest: Christ is Born!

All: Glorify Him!

The priest makes any announcements to the faithful.

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

Tone 3

Kontakion

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

Cf: the Note in the "Liturgical Calendar and Rubrics" (page 129) for the readings of the Epistle and Gospel when the Eve of the Nativity falls on Saturday or Sunday.