

Ninth Hour

Typically, Daily Vespers is served by a priest alone.

*The curtain is **not** opened.*

The priest stands before the Holy Table:

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

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle 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 to the 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 to the ages of ages.
Amen.

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

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the 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 83 (84)

How lovely is Your tabernacle,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, even faints

For the courts of the Lord;

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Even the sparrow has found a home,

And the swallow a nest for herself,

Where she may lay her young –

Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,

My King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;

They will still be praising You.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,

Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baca,

They make it a spring;

The rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength;

The God of gods shall be seen.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Give ear, O God of Jacob!
O God, behold our shield,
And look upon the face of Your anointed.
For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord will give grace and glory;
No good thing will He withhold
From those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Psalm 84 (85)

Lord, You have been favorable to Your land;
You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
You have covered all their sin.
You have taken away all Your wrath;
You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.
Restore us, O God of our salvation,
And cause Your anger toward us to cease.
Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
Will You not revive us again,
That Your people may rejoice in You?
Show us Your mercy, Lord,
And grant us Your salvation.
I will hear what God the Lord will speak,
For He will speak peace
To His people and to His saints;
But let them not turn back to folly.
Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
And righteousness shall look down from heaven.
Yes, the Lord will give what is good;
And our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before Him,
And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

Psalm 85 (86)

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me;
For I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am holy;
You are my God;
Save Your servant who trusts in You!
Be merciful to me, O Lord,
For I cry to You all day long.
Rejoice the soul of Your servant,
For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
And attend to the voice of my supplications.
In the day of my trouble I will call upon You,

For You will answer me.
 Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord;
 Nor are there any works like Your works.
 All nations whom You have made
 Shall come and worship before You, O Lord,
 And shall glorify Your name.
 For You are great, and do wondrous things;
 You alone are God.
 Teach me Your way, O Lord;
 I will walk in Your truth;
 Unite my heart to fear Your name.
 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
 And I will glorify Your name forevermore.
 For great is Your mercy toward me,
 And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
 O God, the proud have risen against me,
 And a mob of violent men have sought my life,
 And have not set You before them.
 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,
 Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.
 Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me!
 Give Your strength to Your servant,
 And save the son of Your maidservant.
 Show me a sign for good,
 That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed,
 Because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and to the ages of ages.
 Amen.
 Allilulia. Allilulia. Allilulia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)
 Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
(Troparion from the Menaion – St. Procopius, Tone 1)

Having advanced in asceticism, O Father Prokopios,
 you went from strength to strength.
 By venerating the icon of Christ, you were shown as one comparable to the Martyrs.
 With them, intercede for those who cry to you:
 "Glory to Him Who has strengthened you.
 Glory to Him Who has crowned you.
 Glory to Him, Who through you, works healings for all."

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, Who for our sake were born of a virgin and have endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the Resurrection: Despise not the works of Your hands, but show Your love for mankind, O merciful one. Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave You birth, and save Your despairing people, O our Savior.

For Your holy name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Your covenant; do not take Your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader. 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 to the 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 to the 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

On Non-Lenten days, if there is a Kontakion of the day:

Reader: (Kontakion from the Menaion – holy hieromartyrs of Kherson – Tone 2)

The radiant day of the hierarchs and pastors in Kher-SON has dawned!

Let us sing hymns for the feast of those who suffered for the sheep of Christ!

Hieromartyrs, entreat Christ, the chief Shepherd, that He may number us with the sheep on His right hand,

So that we may cry aloud to you://

Rejoice, holy fathers, for you shed your blood for Christ!

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Prayer of the Hours

Reader: You who at every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who are long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; who loves the just and shows mercy upon the sinner; who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications, and direct our lives according to Your commandments; sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with Your holy Angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious, beyond compare, than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: O God, be merciful to us and bless us, and show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Reader: Amen.

Open Curtain.

The Prayer of the Ninth Hour (by St. Basil the Great):

Reader: O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who are long-suffering towards our sins and have brought us even to this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-creating Cross, You have opened to the good thief the way into Paradise, and destroyed death by death: be merciful to us, Your humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the height of heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Your righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we implore You: in Your boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Your mercy, and save us for Your holy name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live for You, our master and protector; and that so, following Your ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest in the place where all the joyful dwell. For You, O Christ our God, are indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love You, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Daily Vespers

At the end of the Ninth Hour, there is no dismissal. The priest remains before the Holy Table, bows three times, and says:

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

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.

Psalms 103(4) is typically read (chanted) at Daily Vespers.

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: both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amin.
Allilulia, Allilulia, Allilulia. Glory to You, O God! (x3)

Great Litany

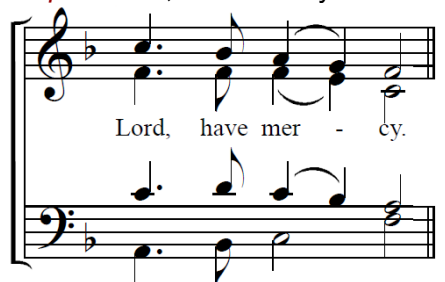
Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



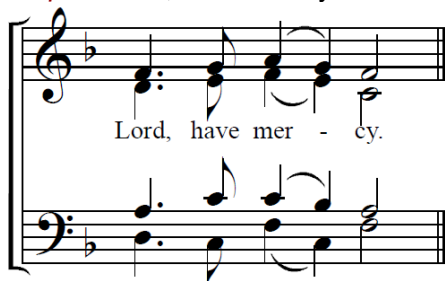
For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



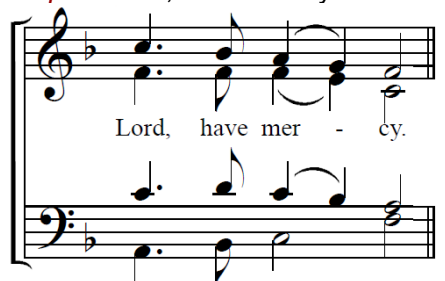
For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



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

People: Lord, have mercy.



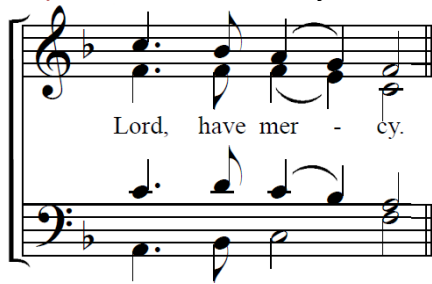
For our Archbishop *Alexander*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



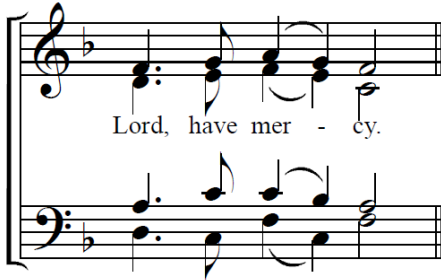
For the civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



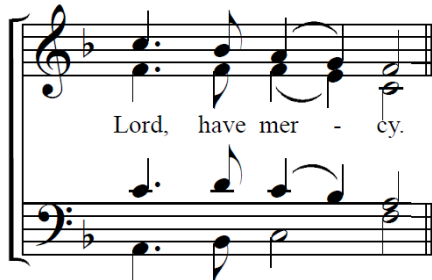
For this holy city, for every monastery, city, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



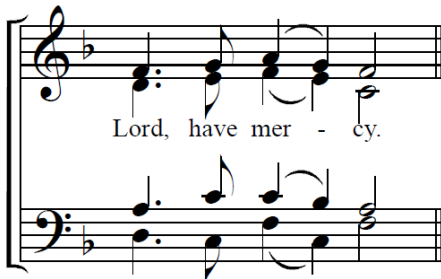
For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



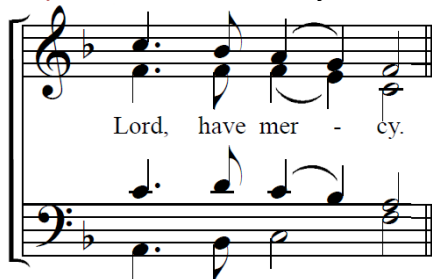
For travelers by land, sea, and air, the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



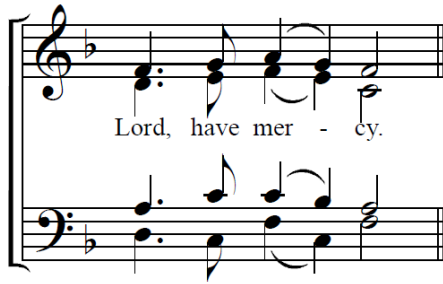
For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



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

People: Lord, have mercy.



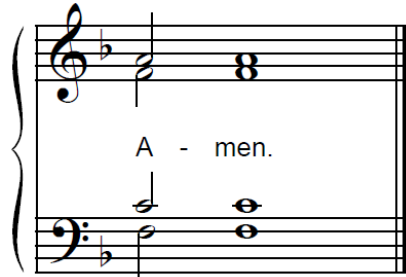
Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

People: To You O Lord.



Priest (Ekphonisis): For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.



Clergy reenter the sanctuary.

"Lord I Call..." – Tone 4

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

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!

The musical score is written for Soprano and Alto voices. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some words underlined to indicate emphasis or specific musical treatment. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

System 1: Lord, I call up - on You, hear — me. Hear me, O Lord!

System 2: Lord, I call up - on You, — hear — me; re - ceive the voice of my prayer

System 3: when I call up - on — You. Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer a - rise

System 4: in Your sight as in - cense, and let the lift - ing up of —

System 5: my — hands be an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

Reader (chanted after the first sticharion is completed by the people): 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, my 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 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, 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.

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Tone 8

(Penitential stichera in the Tone of the week)

The Angels never cease singing praises to You,

and I fall before You, O King and Master;

and cry out like the Publican:://

"Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!"

v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

Since you are immortal, O my soul,

do not be overwhelmed by the waves of this life!

Come to your senses and cry out to your Benefactor:://

"Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!"

Since you are im-mor-tal, O my soul, do not be overwhelmed by the waves of this life!

Come to your senses and cry out to your Ben - e - fac - tor:

"Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!"

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

When I grasp with my mind the great number of terrible things I have done,
 and go in my thoughts to that terrible reckoning,
 then I tremble with fearfulness.
 I flee for refuge to You, O God and Lover of mankind.
 I humbly pray: "Do not turn from me, O sinless Lord, //
 but grant my lowly soul compunction before the end, and save me!"

When I grasp with my mind the great number of terrible things I have done,

and go in my thoughts to that terrible reck - on - ing, then I trem - ble with fear - ful - ness.

I flee for refuge to You, O God and Lov - er of man - kind.

I humbly pray: "Do not turn from me, O sin - less Lord,
but grant my lowly soul compunction before the end, and save me!"

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

Give me tears, O God, as You once gave them to the woman who had sinned,
and thus count me worthy to drench Your feet with tears —
those feet that freed me from the path of error!
Let me offer You a life of purity,
acquired by me through repentance,
as fragrant ointment,
that I too may hear that voice for which I pray, //
saying: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace!"

Give me tears, O God, as You once gave them to the wom - an who had sinned,
and thus count me worthy to drench Your feet with tears
those feet that freed me from the path of er - ror!
Let me offer You a life of pu - ri - ty, acquired by me through re - pen - tance,

as fra - grant oint - ment, that I too may hear that voice for which I pray,

saying: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace!"

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

Tone 2

(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph)

(Joseph of Arimathea)

Let us humble the flesh by abstinence,
as we follow the divine path of pure fasting!
With prayers and tears let us seek the Lord, Who saves us!
Let us put an end to anger, crying out:
"Save us for we have sinned against You!
Save us, O Christ our King, as You saved the men of Nineveh,//
and make us partakers of Your heavenly Kingdom, O compassionate One!"

Soprano
Alto

Let us humble the flesh by ab - sti - nence, as we follow the

Tenor
Bass

divine path of pure fast - ing! With prayers and tears let us seek

the Lord, Who saves us! Let us put an end to anger, cry - ing

out: "Save us for we have sinned a- gainst You! Save us, O Christ

our King, as You saved the men of Nin - e - veh, // and make us

partakers of Your heavenly Kingdom, O com-pas - sion - ate One!"

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

When I think of my deeds, O Lord,
 I am filled with despair,
 and know that I am worthy of every torment.
 I have despised Your commandments, O Savior.
 I have spent my life as a prodigal.
 I pray to You, O only merciful One:
 "Cleanse me by repentance,
 enlighten me through prayers and fasting,//
 and despise me not, O most gracious Benefactor of all!"

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

When I think of my deeds, O Lord, I am filled with de-spair,

and know that I am worthy of eve - ry tor - ment. I have despised

Your commandments, O Sav - ior. I have spent my life as a
 prod - i - gal. I pray to You, on - ly mer - ci - ful One: "Cleanse me by
 re - pent - ance, enlighten me through prayers and fast - ing, // and de - spise
 me not, most gracious Ben - e - fac - tor of all!"

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

Tone 2

(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore)

Let us begin the fast with joy!
 Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts!
 Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh!
 Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food!
 Let us rejoice in virtues of the Spirit and fulfill them in love,
 that we all may see the Passion of Christ our God, //
 and rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Let us begin the fast with joy! Let us prepare ourselves

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may see the Pas-sion of Christ our God, // and rejoice in spirit at the

ho - ly Pa - - - scha!

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

Tone 6

(for St. Nikolai)

You were revealed in every way as a most sacred bearer of light,
 invested with divine and holy anointing in the Holy Spirit,
 ablaze with the brightness that comes from God,
 always radiantly approaching the Holy of Holies,
 and partaking of the saving Mysteries by grace.
 As a true and most glorious bishop, //
 with boldness you intercede for our souls.

You were revealed in every way as a most sacred bear - er of light,

invested with divine and holy anointing in the Holy Spir - it,

ablaze with the brightness that comes from God,

always radiantly approaching the Holy of Ho - lies,

and partaking of the saving Mys - ter - ies by grace.

As a true and most glorious bish - op, with boldness you in-ter-cede for our souls.

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

Your life was resplendent with virtues that enlightened the faithful
 and dispelled the fog of error,
 for you truly appeared as a radiant sun, O all-blessed Bishop.
 And now you have made your dwelling
 where the Light that knows no evening shines;
 by the grace of the Holy Spirit you have become a son of the day.
 Therefore, as we celebrate your divine and revered memory,//
 we lovingly honor you, O Father Nikolai.

Your life was resplendent with virtues that enlightened the faith - ful

and dispelled the fog of er - - - ror,

for you truly appeared as a radiant sun, O all - blessed Bish - op.

And now you have made your dwell - ing where the Light that knows no eve - ning shines;

by the grace of the Holy Spirit you have become a son of the day.

Therefore, as we celebrate your divine and revered mem - o - ry,

we lovingly honor you, O Father Ni - ko - lai.

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Your pure mind dwelt in God through faith.
 Meditating on incorruption while in a mortal and corruptible body,
 you acquired the splendor of the Bodiless Powers.

By remaining passionless you were adorned with dispassion,
 O Father and most-wise Hierarch Nikolai, //
 radiant beacon and intercessor for those who honor your memory.

Your pure mind dwelt in God through faith.

Meditating on incorruption while in a mortal and corruptible body,

you acquired the splendor of the Bodiless Powers.

By remaining passionless you were adorned with dispassion,

O Father and most-wise Hierarch Nikolai,

radiant beacon and intercessor for those who honor your memory.

Note: There is NO Entrance at Daily Vespers!

In the Eighth Tone, Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 8

(from the Menaion, for St. Nikolai)

The fruit of your virtues,
 O venerable Father Nikolai,
 has enlightened the hearts of the faithful.
 For, upon hearing of your immeasurable humility,
 who would not wonder at your patience, gentleness, and compassion?

You instructed all in the ways of God.
 And now, as you are adorned with the never-fading crown, //
 ever intercede on behalf of our souls!

The fruit of your vir - tues, O venerable Father Ni - ko - lai,
 has enlightened the hearts of the faith - ful.
 For, upon hearing of your immeasurable hu - mil - i - ty,
 who would not wonder at your patience, gentleness, and com - pas - sion?
 You instructed all in the ways of God.
 And now, as you are adorned with the never fad - ing crown,
 ever intercede on be - half of our souls!

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

Tone 8*(Theotokion)*

Receive the Archangel Gabriel's voice, crying:

"Rejoice, O Mother of God, //

for you have borne for the world Christ the Giver of Life!"

Re - ceive the Archangel Gabriel's voice, cry - ing: "Rejoice, O Moth - er of God,

for you have borne for the world Christ the Giv - er of Life!"

Priest: Wisdom! Stand upright!*Choir:* O Gladsome Light ...

Gladsome Light, then Prokeimenon

O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory
Of the immortal Father,
Heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
Now that we have come to the setting of the sun
And behold the light of evening
We praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God.
For meet 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 musical score is written for a single melodic line, likely for a voice or a single instrument, using a treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into five systems, each with a single staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the first two lines of the text. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the next two lines. The fourth system contains the next two lines. The fifth system contains the final line of the text. The music is a simple, melodic setting of the text, with a steady rhythm and a clear melodic line.

O Glad-some Light of the ho-ly glo - ry of the im-mor-tal Fa -

ther, heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ!

Now that we have come to the set-ting of the sun_____ and be -

hold the light of eve - ning we praise_____ God:_____ Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly

Spir - it. For meet it is at all times to wor-ship

You with voices of praise, O Son of God and

Giver of Life! Therefore all the world glorifies You.

The Priest, standing before the Holy Table facing the People, or the Deacon standing before the Holy Doors:

Tone 8

Great Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: † Peace to all.

Deacon: Wisdom. The Great Prokeimenon in the 8th tone. Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted:

hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

v: Let Your salvation, O God, uphold me!

Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am af - flic - ted:
hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and de - li - ver it!

v: Let the poor see and be glad!

Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am af - flic - ted:
hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and de - li - ver it!

v: Seek God, and your soul shall live!

Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am af - flic - ted:



v: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: ...

Choir: ... hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!



The Holy Doors are closed. If not already completed, during the "Vouchsafe ..." the priest removes his vestments and puts on a dark epitrahelion. The Church vestments are changed to dark.

Vouchsafe, O Lord ...

Chanted very slowly and deliberately:

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 to the ages of ages. Amen.

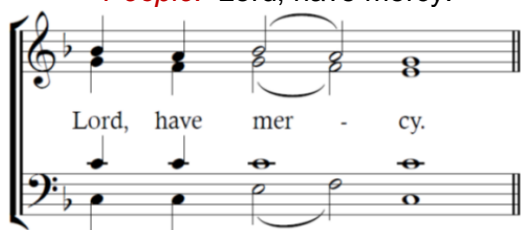
Deacon out, if no deacon, the priest says the litany from inside the altar, before the Holy Table.

From this point forward, the responses are sung to the Lenten melody.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

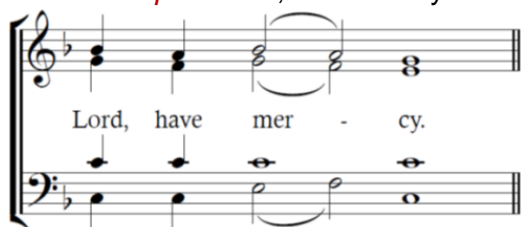
First Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



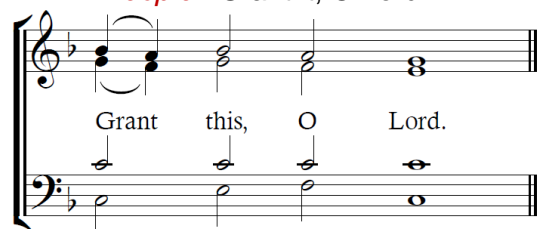
Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.



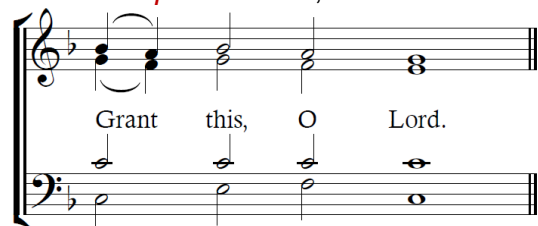
The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



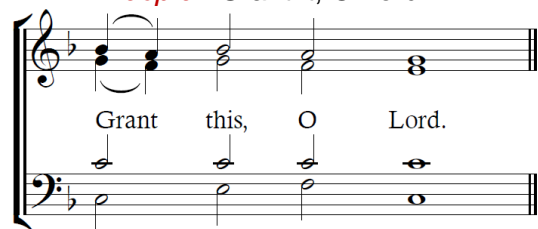
An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



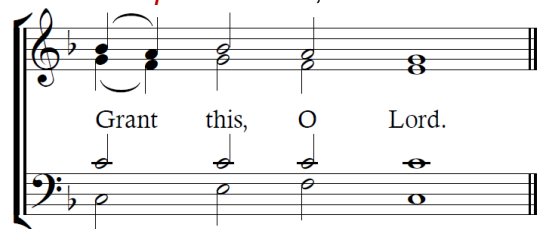
Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



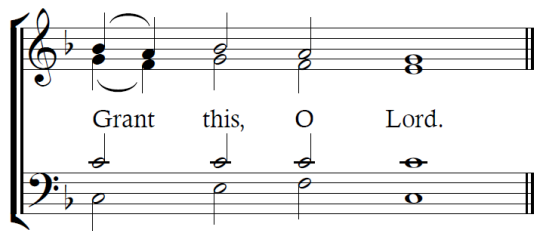
The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



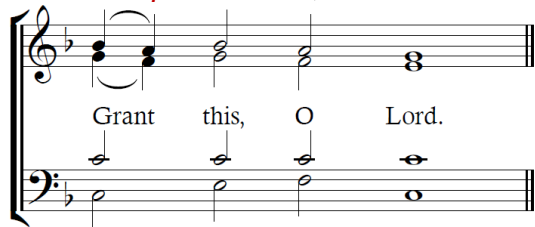
To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



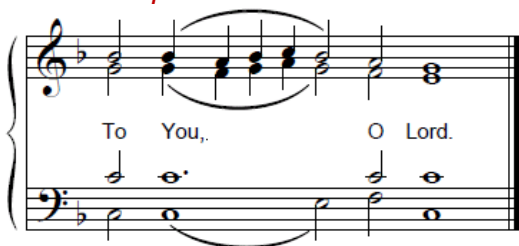
The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



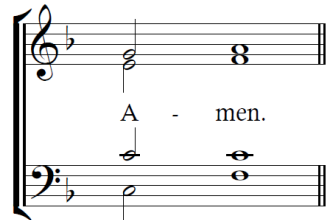
Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

People: To You O Lord.



Priest (Ekphronisis): For you are a good God and love mankind and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.



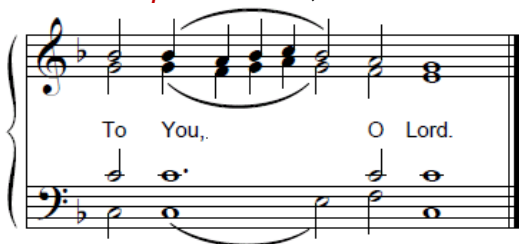
Priest (facing the people): † Peace to all.

People: And to Your spirit.



Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

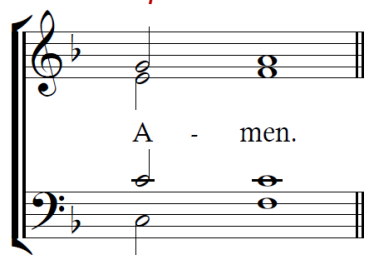
People: To You, O Lord.



***Priest (Prayer at the Bowing of Heads):** Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.*

***Priest (Ekphonisis):** Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.*

***People:** Amin.*



Aposticha – Tone 4

Idiomelon

(from the Lenten Triodion)

Your grace hath shone forth, O Lord:

the grace which illumines our soul.

This is the acceptable time!

This is the time of repentance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,

that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

we may reach the Resurrection on the third day//

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

Your grace has shone forth, O Lord: the grace which il - lu - mines our soul.

This is the ac - cept - a - ble time! This is the time of re - pent - ance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the ar - mor of light,

that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

we may reach the Resurrection on the third day

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sav - ior of our souls.

v. I lift up mine eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us.

Your grace hath shone forth, O Lord:

the grace which illumines our soul.

This is the acceptable time!

This is the time of repentance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,

that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

we may reach the Resurrection on the third day//

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

Your grace has shone forth, O Lord: the grace which il-lu-mines our soul.

This is the ac-cept-a-ble time! This is the time of re-pent-ance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the ar-mor of light,

that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

we may reach the Resurrection on the third day

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sav-ior of our souls.

v. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud.

Tone 4*(for the Martyrs)*

You are glorified
in the memory of Your saints, O Christ God.//
At their supplications, send down on us Your great mercy!

You are glo - ri - fied in the memory of Your saints, O Christ God.

At their supplications, send down on us Your great mer - cy!

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

Tone 4*(from the Lenten Triodion)*

The angelic hosts glorify you, O Mother of God,
for you gave birth to God,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
Who, by His own desire, created the angelic hosts out of nothing.
Beseech Him to deliver from corruption and to enlighten//
the souls of those who rightly praise you, O most pure one!

The angelic hosts glorify you, O Moth - er of God, for you gave birth to God,

co - e - ter - nal with the Father and the Spir - it,

Who, by His own desire, created the angelic hosts out of noth - ing.

Beseech Him to deliver from cor - rup - tion and to en - light - en
the souls of those who rightly praise you, O most pure one!

The Prayer of St. Simeon

Reader (read, not sung or chanted):

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

Priest Out.

Reader (chant): 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.

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 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.

Tone 8**The Lenten Troparia**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace! The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb; //
for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*prostration*)

Re-joyce, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace the Lord is with you:

Bless - ed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb

for you have borne the Sa - viour of our souls. *Prostration*

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

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:

O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all,
that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//
for to you is given grace to intercede for us! (*prostration*)

O Bap - tizer of Christ remember us all,
 that we may be de - li - vered from our i - ni - qui - ties
 for to you is given grace to in - ter - cede for us. *Prostration*

At the "now and ever ..." the priest exists by the South Door and offers the Augmented Litany in front of the Holy Doors.

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

Now and e - ver and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

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

In - ter - cede for us, O Holy Apostles and all the saints

that we may be de - li - vered from perils and sor - rows

for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Sa - viour.

Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.

Do not despise our supplications in adversity, //

but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one! (*prostration*)

Prostration Be-neath your compassion we take refuge, O The - o - to - kos,

do not des - pise our supplications in ad - ver - si - ty,

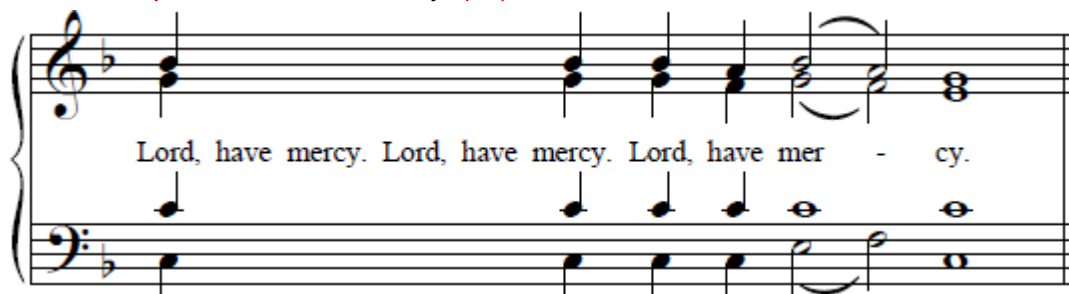
but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only bless - ed one. *Prostration*

The priest offers the Augmented Litany in front of the Holy Doors.

Augmented Litany

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)



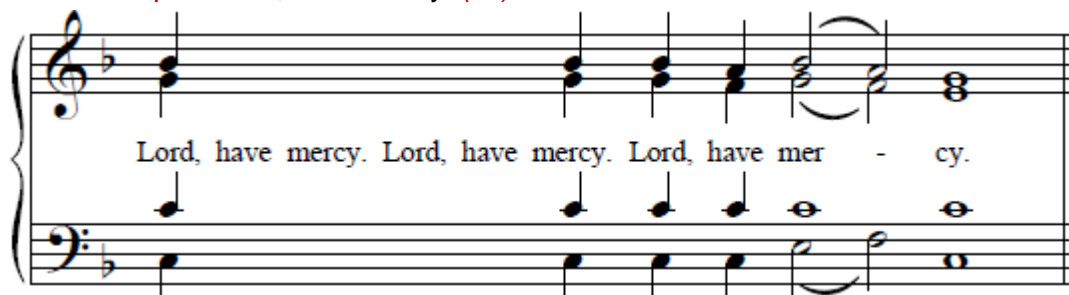
Again we pray for our Archbishop *Alexander*, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)



Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God (*N.N.*, and of) all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)



Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house and for all our right-glorifying fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who are in their rest before us (*especially remembering N.N.*), who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)



Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)



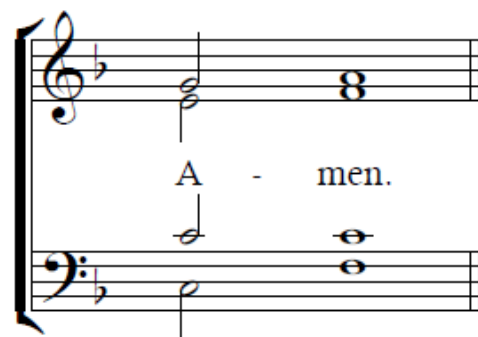
Again we pray also for our brothers and sisters who are in ministries and all those who serve and have served in this holy house.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)



Priest: For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.



Reader: Lord, have mercy! (x 40)

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Birthgiver of God, we magnify You.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

Priest: Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us who sorrow and repent, for You are good and love mankind.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (**prostration**)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. (**prostration**)

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. (**prostration**)

O God, cleanse me a sinner! (x12, with bows at each repetition)

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. (**prostration**)

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

Choir: Glory ... now and ever ... Lord, have mercy (x3). Father, bless.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit,

now and ever and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

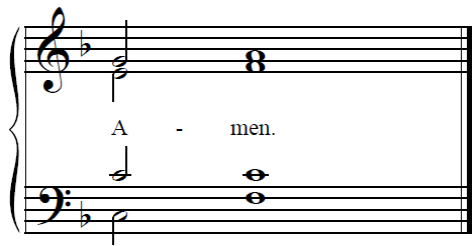
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - - - cy.

Fa - - - ther, bless.

And the priest pronounces the dismissal.

Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of the holy *Nikolai of Zhicha*, whose remembrance we also fulfill, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.



A brief homily is given, then follows the ceremony of mutual forgiveness. The priest stands beside the analogion, and the faithful come up one by one and venerate the ikon, after which each makes a bow before the priest, saying “Forgive me, a sinner.” The priest also makes a bow before each “May God forgive you. Forgive me.” The person responds, “May God forgive you” and receives a blessing from the priest. Meanwhile the choir sings quietly the Irmoi of the Paschal Canon, or else the Paschal Aposticha. After receiving the priests blessing, the faithful also ask forgiveness of each other.

When all have asked forgiveness, the priest says:

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

Choir: Amen.

