

THE SERVICE OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

DECEMBER 21, 2009 [JANUARY 3, 20010]: THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 5

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

THE THIRD HOUR

Priest: **B**lessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, O Treasury of every good and Bestower of life: come and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*Three times*)

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

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

O come, let us worship God, our King.

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

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

PSALM 16

Hearken, O Lord, unto my righteousness, attend to my supplication. Give ear unto my prayer, which cometh not from deceitful lips. From before Thy face let my judgment come forth, let mine eyes behold uprightness. Thou hast proved my heart, Thou hast visited it in the night, Thou hast tried me by fire, and unrighteousness was not found in me. That my mouth might not speak of the works of men, for the sake of the words of Thy lips have I kept the ways that are hard. Set my footsteps in Thy paths, that my steps may not be shaken. I have cried, for Thou hast hearkened unto me, O God. Incline Thine ear unto me, and hearken unto my words. Let Thy mercies be made wonderful, O Thou that savest them that hope in Thee. From them that have resisted Thy right hand, keep me, O Lord, as the apple of Thine eye. In the shelter of Thy wings wilt Thou shelter me, from the face of the ungodly which have oppressed me. Mine enemies have surrounded my soul, they have enclosed themselves with their own fat, their mouth hath spoken pride. They that cast me out have now encircled me, they have set their eyes to look askance on the earth. They have taken me as might a lion ready for his prey, and as might a lion's whelp that dwelleth in hiding. Arise, O Lord, overtake them and trip their heels; deliver my soul from ungodly men, Thy sword from the enemies of Thy hand. O Lord, from Thy few do Thou separate them from the earth in their life; yea, with Thy hidden treasures hath their belly been filled. They have satisfied themselves with swine and have left the remnants to their babes. But as for me, in righteousness shall I appear before Thy face; I shall be filled when Thy glory is made manifest to me.

PSALM 24

To Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul. O my God, in Thee I have trusted; let me never be put to shame, nor let mine enemies laugh me to scorn. Yea, let none that wait on Thee be put to shame; let them be ashamed that are lawless without a cause. Make Thy ways, O Lord, known to me and teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art God my Savior; for on Thee have I waited all the day long. Remember Thy compassions, O Lord, and Thy mercies, for they are from everlasting. The sins of my youth and my ignorance remember not; according to Thy mercy remember Thou me, for the sake of Thy goodness, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore will He set a law for them that sin in the way. He will guide the meek in judgment, He will teach the meek His ways. All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth to them that seek after His covenant and His testimonies. For the sake of Thy Name, O Lord, cleanse my sin, for it is great. Who is the man that feareth the Lord? He will set him a law in the way which He hath chosen. His soul shall

dwell among good things, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The Lord is the strength of them that fear Him, and His covenant shall be manifested to them. My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He it is that will draw my feet out of the snare. Look upon me, and have mercy on me; for I am alone and poor. The afflictions of my heart are multiplied; bring me out of my troubles. Behold my lowliness and my toil, and forgive all my sins. Look upon my enemies, for they are multiplied, and with an unjust hatred have they hated me. Keep my soul and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I have hoped in Thee. The innocent and the upright have cleaved to me, for I waited on Thee, O Lord. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his afflictions.

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Resurrection troparion, tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, tone 4

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

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

O Birthgiver of God, thou art the true vine that hath blossomed forth the Fruit of life *(Jesus)*. We beseech thee: "Intercede, O Lady, together with the Apostles and all the saints that our souls find mercy."

Blessed is the Lord God, blessed is the Lord day by day; the God of our salvation shall prosper us along the way; our God is the God of salvation.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

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

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, tone 2

In Bethlehem now beholding Him in swaddling clothes, that holdeth the earth within the hollow of His hand, we all offer our prefestal songs to the Mother that gave Him birth, who rejoiceth maternally to hold in her bosom the true Son of God. Lord, have mercy. (*Forty times*)

PRAYER OF "THE HOURS" BY SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners, Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by their array, we may attain to the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

In the Name of the Lord, father bless.

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

Reader: Amen.

PRAYER OF SAINT MARDARIUS

O Sovereign Master, God Father Almighty, Lord the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power, have mercy on me, a sinner; and by means which are known to Thee, save me, Thine unworthy servant; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THE SIXTH HOUR

Reader: O come, let us worship God, our King.

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

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

PSALM 53

O God, in Thy Name save me, and in Thy strength do Thou judge me. O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth. For strangers are risen up against me, and mighty men have sought after my soul and have not set God before themselves. For behold, God helpeth me, and the Lord is the protector of my soul. He will bring evils upon mine enemies. Utterly destroy them by Thy truth. Willingly shall I sacrifice unto Thee; I will confess Thy Name, O Lord, for it is good. For out of every affliction hast Thou delivered me, and mine eye hath looked down upon mine enemies.

PSALM 54

Give ear, O God, unto my prayer, and disdain not my supplication; attend unto me, and hear me. I was grieved in my meditation, and I was troubled at the voice of the enemy and at the oppression of the sinner; because they have turned iniquity upon me, and with wrath were they angry against me. My heart is troubled within me, and the terror of death is fallen upon me. Fear and trembling have come upon me, and darkness hath covered me. And I said: "Who will give me wings like a dove? And I will fly and be at rest." Lo, I have fled afar off and have dwelt in the wilderness. I waited for God that saveth me from faint-heartedness and from tempest. Plunge them into the depths, O Lord, and divide their tongues, for I have seen iniquity and gainsaying in the city. Day and night they go round upon her walls; iniquity and toil and unrighteousness are in the midst of her. And usury and deceit have not departed from her streets. For if mine enemy had reviled me, I might have endured it. And if he that hateth me had spoken boastful words against me, I might have hid myself from him. But thou it was, O man of like soul with me, my guide and my familiar friend, thou who together with me didst sweeten my repasts; in the house of God I walked with thee in oneness of mind. Let death come upon such ones, and let them go down alive into hell. For wickedness is in their dwellings, and in the midst of them. As for me, unto God have I cried, and the Lord hearkened unto me. Evening, morning and noonday will I tell of it and will declare it, and He will hear my voice. He will redeem my soul in peace from them that draw nigh unto me, for they among many were with me. God will hear, and He will humble them, He that is before the ages. For to them is no requital, because they have not feared God; He hath stretched forth His hand in retribution. They have defiled His covenant; they were scattered by the wrath of His countenance, and their hearts have convened. Their words were smoother than oil, and yet they are darts. Cast thy care upon the Lord, and He will nourish thee; He will never permit the righteous to be shaken. But Thou, O God, shalt bring those men down into the pit of destruction. Bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but as for me, O Lord, I will hope in Thee.

PSALM 90

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say to the Lord:

"He is my helper and my refuge, my God, and I will hope in Him." For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap and demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee. With thine eyes only shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners, thou who canst say: "For Thou, O Lord art my hope". Thou hast made the Most High thy refuge; no evils shall come nigh thee, and no plague shall draw nigh thy body. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and the dragon. "For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My Name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation."

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Resurrection troparion, tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Troparion of the holy Fathers of the Old Testament, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the three holy Children rejoiced. And the prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

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

Seeing that we have no boldness on account of our many sins, do thou beseech Him Who was born of thee, O Virgin Birthgiver of God: for the supplication of a mother availeth much to win the Master's favor. Disdain not the prayers of sinners, O all-pure One, for merciful and mighty to save is He, Who deigned also to suffer for our sake.

Let Thy compassions quickly go before us, O Lord, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the sake of the glory of Thy Name; O Lord, deliver us and be gracious unto our sins for Thy Name's sake.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

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

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion of the holy Fathers of the Old Testament, tone 1

Be glad, O Bethlehem! Make ready, O Ephratha! For, lo! She who beareth the Lamb and great Shepherd in her womb doth make haste to give birth. Beholding this, the God-bearing fathers are glad, with the shepherds hymning the Virgin who giveth milk.

Lord, have mercy. *(Forty times)*

PRAYER OF "THE HOURS" BY SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners, Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by their array, we may attain to the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

In the Name of the Lord, father bless.

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

Reader: Amen.

PRAYER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

O God and Lord of Hosts, and Maker of all creation, Who in the tender compassion of Thine unfathomable mercy didst send down thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and by his precious Cross didst rend the handwriting of our sins and thereby didst triumph over the principalities and powers of darkness: do thou thyself O Master, Who lovest mankind, accept also from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving entreaty; and deliver us from every destructive and dark transgression, and from all enemies, both visible and invisible, that seek to do us evil. Nail down our flesh with the fear of Thee and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but pierce our souls with longing of Thee, so that ever looking to Thee, and being guided by Thy light as we behold Thee, the Unapproachable and Everlasting Light, we may send up unceasing praise and thanksgiving unto Thee, the Father which is without beginning, with Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thine All-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Deacon: Bless, master.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For them that travel by sea, land and air, for the sick, the afflicted, for captives, and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON [SELECTED VERSES FROM PSALM 102]

Choir: **B**less the Lord, O my soul; blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities. Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His way known to Moses, to the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long suffering and plenteous in mercy.

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

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

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

PSALM 145

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life, I will sing unto my God for as long as I have my being. Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish. Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein, Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who executeth judgment for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry. The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen; the Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the strangers; He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy. The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation.

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

SONG TO THE ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

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

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a gracious God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE THIRD ANTIPHON [THE BEATITUDES]

(The verses between the Beatitudes are omitted in many parishes)

Choir: ***In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.***

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

[Resurrection]

Reader: The thief on the cross, believing Thee to be God, confessed thee earnestly from his heart, crying aloud: 'O Lord, remember me in Thy Kingdom.'

Choir: ***Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.***

Reader: Let us with one accord praise as Savior and Creator Him, Who made life flower for our kind by the Tree of the Cross, and Who withered the curse coming from the tree.

Choir: ***Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.***

Reader: By Thy death, O Christ, Thou hast destroyed the might of death, and hast raised with Thyself those dead from the ages, who praise Thee as our true God and Savior.

Choir: ***Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.***

Reader: Having come to Thy tomb, O Christ, the holy women sought to anoint Thee with myrrh, O Giver of life; an angel appeared to them crying aloud: 'The Lord is risen!'

Choir: ***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.***

[Holy Fathers]

Reader: Faithfully preserving the glory of the image and likeness of God, with the fire of the Spirit the children, as champions, extinguished the fire of the golden image, chanting: We know but one Lord!

Choir: ***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***

Reader: The captive children, clothed with the wisdom and power of the Spirit, put to shame the wise men of Babylon and boldly cried out: None is holy save Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind!

Choir: ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.***

Reader: The law doth rejoice and joineth chorus with the children and the prophets and doth exult today before the divine advent of the Lord. And Abraham doth rejoice, for from his seed hath the incarnate Lord appeared.

Choir: ***Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.***

Reader: A conception without pain, an acceptance of thy birthing hath transpired in manner beyond recounting, O Theotokos, for the Word of God, Who is God and was proclaimed by the prophets, hath shown Himself to be a mystery beyond nature.

Choir: ***Blessed are ye when men shall revile and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.***

[Forefeast]

Reader: O Mistress, as a new heaven thou dost come, that Christ, the Sun of glory, might shine forth in the flesh from thy womb, as through a cloud, in the cave; for, in His boundless loving-kindness, He desireth splendidly to illumine all who are of this earth with rays of His own light.

Choir: ***Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for your reward is great in the Heavens.***

Reader: O Mistress, as a new heaven thou dost come, that Christ, the Sun of glory, might shine forth in the flesh from thy womb, as through a cloud, in the cave; for, in His boundless loving-kindness, He desireth splendidly to illumine all who are of this earth with rays of His own light.

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

Reader: Thou didst perceive our infirmity and misery, O compassionate Christ, and didst not disdain us; but, without leaving the Father, Thou didst abase Thyself and make Thine abode in the womb of her who knew not wedlock, who now cometh forth to give birth unto Thee, without pain, in the cave.

Choir: ***both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Reader: *Ye mountains and hills, fields and vales, people and generations, nations and every creature: exult, filled with divine gladness, for the deliverance of all, the Word of God, the Timeless One, Who in His loving-kindness hath come under time, doth come with haste.*

THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand aright.

Choir: ***Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who didst arise from the dead, save us, who sing to***

Thee: Alleluia.

SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrection troparion, tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the holy Fathers of the Old Testament, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the three holy Children rejoiced. And the prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, tone 4

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

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

Kontakion of the holy Fathers of the Old Testament, tone 1

Be glad, O Bethlehem! Make ready, O Ephratha! For, lo! She who beareth the Lamb and great Shepherd in her womb doth make haste to give birth. Beholding this, the God-bearing fathers are glad, with the shepherds hymning the Virgin who giveth milk.

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

Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, tone 2

In Bethlehem now beholding Him in swaddling clothes, that holdeth the earth within the hollow of His hand, we all offer our prefestal songs to the Mother that gave Him birth, who rejoiceth maternally to hold in her bosom the true Son of God.

THE THRICE-HOLY HYMN

Priest: For holy art Thou, O our God, and to Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

Deacon: Lord, save the pious, and hearken unto us.

Choir: Lord, save the pious, and hearken unto us.

Deacon: and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

THE READING OF THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The prokimenon is in the fourth tone, the song of the Fathers:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and Thy name is praised and glorified unto the ages.

Choir: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and Thy name is praised and glorified unto the ages.

Reader: ***For Thou art righteous in all things that Thou hast done to us.***

Choir: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and Thy name is praised and glorified unto the ages.

Choir: ***Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers,***

Choir: and Thy name is praised and glorified unto the ages.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the epistle of the holy apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

Deacon: Let us attend.

(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)

Reader: **B**rethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said: "In Isaac your seed shall be called," accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshipped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trials of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: Alleluia in the fourth tone.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: ***O God, with are ears have we heard and our fathers have proclaimed to us.***

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: ***Thou hast saved us from them that afflict us, and them that hate us hast Thou put to shame.***

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Bless, master, him that proclaimeth the Good Tidings of the Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist Matthew.

Priest: May God, through the prayers of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostle and evangelist Matthew, grant to thee the word of one who proclaims the Good Tidings with great power, unto the fulfillment of the gospel of His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom. Stand aright. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Priest: Let us attend.

(Matthew 1:1-25)

Deacon: **T**he book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehosaphat, Jehosaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His Mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put

her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." And Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Priest: Peace be to thee that proclaimest the Gospel.

Deacon: And to thy spirit.

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

THE AUGMENTED LITANY

Deacon: Let us say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for our brethren, priests, monks, nuns, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy orthodox patriarchs, and for the pious kings and faithful queens, and for the founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters gone to their rest before us and for all the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

(Here Deacon will sometimes add one or more appeals for prayer for specific individuals of the community who may be ill or in some other difficulty, or who may be traveling, or whose namesday may be on or about the current date. Choir, as always, responds to each petition with the threefold "Lord, have mercy".)

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for them that bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that labor and them that sing, and for all the people here present that await Thy great and abundant mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH OF RUSSIA

(Often omitted on holidays)

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, accept from us, Thine unworthy servants, these words of thanksgiving: for Thou hast given unity to the Church of Russia and transformed into joy the most painful cry of Thy servants. Hearken now to our supplication: Bring Thy laborers unto the harvest, that the Church may not lack good pastors to enlighten so great a multitude of those who have not been taught the Faith or have fallen away therefrom. Instill obedience to Thee in those who govern, justice and mercy in their judgments, compassion in the rich, and long-suffering in the weak, that in our land the kingdom of Christ may thus grow and increase, and that Thou, O God, Who art wondrous in Thy saints, may be

glorified therein. Show Thyself as almighty unto those who are led astray by heresies and schisms, who have fallen away from Thee or seek Thee not, that not one of them may perish, but that all of us may be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth; that all, in harmonious oneness of mind and constant love, may glorify Thy most honored name, O kind and patient-hearted Lord, unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE LITANY OF THE CATECHUMENS

Deacon: Pray, ye catechumens, to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Ye faithful, let us pray for the catechumens that the Lord may have mercy on them.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may catechize them with the word of truth.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may reveal unto them the Gospel of righteousness.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Save them, have mercy on them, help them, and keep them, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Ye catechumens, bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE FIRST LITANY OF THE FAITHFUL

Deacon: As many as are catechumens, depart. Catechumens, depart. As many as are catechumens, depart. Let none of the catechumens remain.

As many as are of the faithful: again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE SECOND LITANY OF THE FAITHFUL

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Priest: That being guarded always under Thy dominion, we may send up glory unto Thee, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE CHERUBIC HYMN AND THE GREAT ENTRANCE

START OF THE CHERUBIC HYMN

Choir: Let us, who mystically portray the Cherubim and sing the thrice-holy hymn unto the life-creating Trinity, lay aside all earthly care:

THE GREAT ENTRANCE

Deacon: Our great lord and father Cyril, most holy patriarch of Moscow and all Russia; and our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion, first hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the right reverend Cyril, archbishop of San Francisco and Western America; and our lord the right reverend Theodosius, bishop of Seattle: may the Lord God remember in His Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Priest: The God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, this country and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country: may the Lord God remember in His Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

The holy Orthodox patriarchs, Orthodox metropolitans, archbishops, bishops, the priesthood, diaconate and the monastic orders: may the Lord God remember in His Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

All those who are persecuted and who suffer for the Holy Orthodox Faith: may the Lord God remember in His Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

The founders, benefactors and parishioners of this holy temple; the warden, the sisterhood, the singers, the teachers and the students: may the Lord God remember in His Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

(Here the priest may add other petitions, such as those for parishioners who are ill or who have recently fallen asleep, as indicated by circumstances).

You and all Orthodox Christians: may the Lord God remember in His Kingdom, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE COMPLETION OF THE CHERUBIC HYMN

that we may receive the King of all, escorted invisibly by the Angelic orders. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE LITANY OF OBLATION

Deacon: Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the precious Gifts set forth, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess:

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

Deacon: The doors, the doors! In wisdom let us attend.

THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

People: **I** believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from the Heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; and arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; and ascended into the Heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; and shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead, Whose Kingdom shall have no end; and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the prophets; in one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead; and the life of the age to come. Amen.

THE ANAPHORA

Deacon: Let us stand well. Let us stand with fear. Let us attend, that we may offer the holy oblation in peace.

Choir: A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.

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

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us lift up our hearts.

Choir: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

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

Priest: Singing the triumphal hymn, shouting, crying, and saying:

Choir: **H**oly, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: "Take, eat: This is My Body which is broken for you for the remission of sins."

Choir: Amen.

Priest: "Drink ye all of it: This is My Blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins."

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Thine own of Thine own do we offer unto Thee, because of all and for all.

Choir: **W**e hymn Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks to Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O our God.

Priest: Especially our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary.

Choir: **I**t is truly meet to call thee blest, the Birthgiver of God, the ever-blest and all-immaculate and Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, thee do we magnify.

Priest: Among the first, remember, O Lord, our lord and father Cyril, most holy patriarch of Moscow and all Russia; and our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion, first hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the right reverend Cyril, archbishop of San Francisco and Western America; and our lord the right reverend Theodosius, bishop of Seattle: whom do Thou grant unto Thy holy churches in peace, safety, honor, health and length of days, rightly administering the word of Thy truth.

Choir: And all mankind.

Priest: And grant us with one mouth and one heart to glorify and hymn Thine all-honorable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: And with thy spirit.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Calling to remembrance all the Saints, again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That our God Who lovest mankind, Who hath accepted them (*the Gifts*) upon His holy and noetic altar above the Heavens for an odor of spiritual fragrance, will send down upon us in return the divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Having asked for the unity of the faith and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: And account us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon Thee, the Heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

People: **O**ur Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: By the grace and compassions and love for man of Thine only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE ELEVATION

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Holy Things are for the holy.

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

COMMUNION VERSE

Choir: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(Choir may then sing some other hymns, selected ad lib.)

(Also, prayers before communion may be said. During this time, the clergy takes Holy Communion in the altar and the priest prepares the Elements for the Communion of the faithful.)

THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Deacon: With fear of God and faith, draw near.

Choir: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us.

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Priest: **I** believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Furthermore, I believe that This is indeed Thine immaculate Body, and that This is indeed Thy precious Blood. Wherefore, I pray Thee: have mercy on me and forgive me my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and in deed, in knowledge and in ignorance. And vouchsafe that, uncondemned, I may partake of Thine immaculate Mysteries unto the remission of sins and life everlasting. Amen. Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, receive me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of the Mystery to Thine enemies, nor will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief do I confess: remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom. Let not this partaking of Thy Holy Mysteries be for me unto judgment or condemnation, O Lord, but unto the healing of the soul and body.

Choir: Receive ye the Body of Christ, taste ye the Fountain of immortality. *(Sung repeatedly while the faithful commune. Then:)*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Priest: Save, O God, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

Choir: **We** have seen the true Light. We have received the Heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We bow down to the indivisible Trinity, for He hath saved us.

Priest: Always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that we may hymn Thy glory, for Thou hast deemed us worthy to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal and life-giving Mysteries. Preserve us in Thy holy place, that all the day long we may be instructed in Thy righteousness. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Deacon: Upright. Having partaken of the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly and life-creating, fearful Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Having asked that the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art our sanctification, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: In peace let us depart.

Choir: In the Name of the Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: **O** Lord, Who blessest them that bless Thee, and sanctifiest them that put their trust in Thee: save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Thy Church, sanctify them that love the beauty of Thy house. Do Thou in turn glorify them by Thy divine power, and forsake us not that hope in Thee. Give peace to Thy world, to Thy churches, to Priests and to all Thy people. For every good giving and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from Thee, the Father of lights, and unto Thee do we send up glory, thanksgiving, and worship to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Choir: **B**lessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. *(Three times)*
(Psalm 33 is omitted in many parishes)

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

PSALM 33

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. The poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you His Saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Whoever of you loves life and desires many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry; the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all; He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems His servants; no one Who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.

(The sermon is usually said at this time, or after the dismissal.)

Priest: The blessing of the Lord come upon you, by His grace and love for mankind, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Father, bless.

Priest: **M**ay He Who arose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother; of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Father among the saints John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy Fathers of the Old Testament; virgin-martyr Juliana; hierarch Peter, metropolitan of Kiev; martyr Themistocles of Myra in Lycia; righteous Juliana of Vyazema; blessed Procopius of Vyatka, fool-for-Christ; hierarch Philaret, metropolitan of Kiev; new hieromartyr Nikita, bishop of Belevsk: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy new martyrs and confessors of Russia; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Choir: Our lord and father Cyril, most holy patriarch of Moscow and all Russia; and our lord the most reverend Hilarion, first hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; and our lord the right reverend Cyril, archbishop of San Francisco and Western America; and our lord the right reverend Theodosius, bishop of Seattle; the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora; this country and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country; the rector, clergy and parishioners of this holy temple; and all Orthodox Christians: O Lord, preserve them for many years.

