

THE MATINS SERVICE

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

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

Reader: Amen.

MATINS

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 iniquities. 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 our King and God.

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

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

PSALM 19

The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Let Him send forth unto thee help from His sanctuary, and out of Zion let Him help thee. Let Him remember every sacrifice of thine, and thy whole-burnt offering let Him fatten. The Lord grant thee according to thy heart, and fulfill all thy purposes. We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the Name of the Lord our God shall we be magnified. The Lord will fulfill all thy requests. Now have I known that the Lord has saved His anointed one; He will hearken unto him out of His holy Heaven; in mighty deeds is the salvation of His right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God. They have been fettered and have fallen, but we are risen and set upright. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

PSALM 20

O Lord, in Thy strength the king shall be glad, and in Thy salvation shall he rejoice exceedingly. The desire of his heart hast Thou granted unto him, and hast not denied him the request of his lips. Thou wentest before him with the blessings of goodness, Thou hast set upon his head a crown of precious stone. He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest him length of days unto ages of ages. Great is his glory in Thy salvation; glory and majesty shalt Thou lay upon him. For Thou shalt give him blessing for ever and ever, Thou shalt gladden him in joy with Thy countenance. For the king hopeth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High shall he not be shaken. Let Thy hand be found on all Thine enemies; let Thy right hand find all that hate Thee. For Thou wilt make them as an oven of fire in the time of Thy presence; the Lord in His wrath will trouble them sorely and fire shall devour them. Their fruit wilt Thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from the sons of men. For they have intended evil against Thee, they have devised counsel which they shall not be able to establish. For Thou shalt make them turn their backs; among those that are Thy remnant, Thou shalt make ready their countenance. Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy strength; we will sing and chant of Thy mighty acts.

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 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 iniquities. 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.

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Orthodox Christians victory over adversaries and, by the power of Thy Cross, preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

O Thou Who wast lifted up willingly on the Cross, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation called after Thee, Christ God; gladden with Thy power Orthodox Christians, granting them victory over foes. May they have as Thy help in war the Weapon of peace, the invincible Trophy *(the Cross)*.

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

O dread protection that cannot be put to shame, disdain not, O good one, our entreaties, O all-hymned Birth-giver of God. Make steadfast the commonwealth of the Orthodox; protect Orthodox Christians, and grant them victory from on high; for thou hast given birth to God, O only blessed one.

LITANY

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

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

Priest: 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.

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

Priest: Furthermore we pray for all the brethren and for all Christians.

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.

In the Name of the Lord, father bless.

Priest: **Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-creating and Indivisible Trinity, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.**

Choir: Amen.

THE SIX PSALMS

Reader: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. *(Three times)***

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. *(Twice)*

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me, many say to my soul: "There is no salvation for him in his God". But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me roundabout. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who, without cause, are mine enemies; the teeth of the sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath, for Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath, and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen up higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My wounds are become foul and rotten in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face, for my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my

nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and deceit all day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth; and I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live, and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They, that rendered me evil for good, slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me; be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me, be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn; my soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy Name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee, for Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee, for Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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)*

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 87

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear before my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life to hell hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves; I have been delivered up, and have not come forth. Mine eyes are grown weak from poverty; I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Wilt Thou work wonders for the dead? or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to Thee? shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Why, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me; they came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances, because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear before my supplication.

PSALM 102

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 to 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. Magnanimous and merciful is the Lord, long suffering and plenteous in mercy. Not to the end will He be angered, neither to eternity will He be wroth; not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon those that fear Him. For He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth; for when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him; and His righteousness is upon the sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in Heaven hath prepared His throne, and His

kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath set me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord the way wherein I should walk, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me, in Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies; and Thou shalt cut off all of them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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)*

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 to 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.

GOD IS THE LORD

Deacon: In the fifth tone:

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

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

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

Deacon: ***All the nations compassed me round about, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.***

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

Deacon: ***I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord.***

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

Deacon: ***The stone that the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.***

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

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. *(Twice)*

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.

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.

THE KATHISMA (READINGS FROM THE PSALTER)

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

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

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

(A psalm is read)

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

Choir: 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)*

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

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

(A psalm is read)

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

Choir: 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)*

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

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

(A psalm is read)

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)*

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 to 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.

SESSIONAL HYMN

[Resurrection]

Reader: We praise the Cross of the Lord, we honor in song His sacred tomb and we glorify the Resurrection, for as God He raised up the dead from the tomb, stripped death of its power and the devil of his strength, and shone forth light upon those in hell.

Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

O Lord, Who didst put death to death, Thou wast called dead. Thou Who hast emptied the tombs wast placed in a tomb. Above, the soldiers guarded the grave; below, Thou didst raise up them that were dead from ages past. O Almighty and Incomprehensible Lord, glory be to Thee.

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 impassable gate of the Lord, do thou rejoice. Rejoice, O rampart and shelter for them that hasten to thee. Tranquil haven and pure Maiden who didst not know man and who didst bear in the flesh thy Creator and thy God, rejoice; and cease not to pray Him, making entreaty for them that worship and praise Him that was born of thee.

EVLOGITARIA (HYMNS) OF THE RESURRECTION

Choir: ***Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.***

The assembly of the Angels was amazed to see Thee accounted among the dead, Thou Who hadst destroyed the might of death, O Savior, and didst raise up Adam with Thyself, and Who hadst freed all men from hell.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

Why do you mingle myrrh with tears of compassion, O ye women disciples? The radiant Angel in the grave addressed the myrrh-bearing women: "Behold the tomb and exult, for the Savior hath arisen from the grave."

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

At early morn, the myrrh-bearers hastened to Thy grave with lamentation; but the Angel came to them and said: "The time for sorrow is ended; weep ye no longer. And tell the Apostles of the Resurrection".

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

The myrrh-bearing women came with myrrh to Thy tomb, O Savior, and they heard the Angel saying to them: "Why do ye count the Living among the dead? For, as God, He is risen from the grave.

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

Let us worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in essence, crying out with the Seraphim: "Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord".

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

By giving birth to the Giver of life, O Virgin, thou didst rescue Adam from sin, and thou didst grant Eve joy instead of sorrow; for He, Who was incarnate of thee, God and Man, guided back to life him that had fallen away therefrom.

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

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 to Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

YPAKOE

[Resurrection]

Reader: The myrrh-bearing women, their minds dazzled by the sight of the angel and their souls enlightened by Thy divine Resurrection, preached the good tidings to the apostles: "O spread among the nations the news of the Resurrection of the Lord, He Who works wonders and grants us His great mercy."

SESSIONAL HYMN

[Holy Fathers]

Reader: Let us extol in hymns Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the meek David, Joshua and the twelve patriarchs, together with the three youths who put out the fiery flames with spiritual power, crying to them: "Rejoice, you who denounced boldly the deceit of the foolish king, and intercede with Christ that he grant remission of sins to those who celebrate with love your holy memory."

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

[Forefeast]

Thou hast come down from the Father's side and, O Lover of mankind, Thou hast assumed our poverty in an inexpressible self-emptying beyond nature; it has been Thy good pleasure, O our Lord and Fashioner, to dwell in a cave and to suckle as a babe. And thus the Magi, instructed by a star, bring Thee gifts as the Master of creation. The shepherds and the angels were amazed, crying: "Glory to God in the highest, to Him Who comes to earth to be born as a man."

(In most parishes only one of the three "hymns of ascent" is said)

HYMNS OF ASCENT

ANTIPHON 1

When I am filled with sorrow, I sing unto Thee like David, O my Savior: Deliver my soul from a lying tongue.

Blessed is the life of those in the wilderness, who soar aloft on wings of love divine.

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

By the Holy Spirit are sustained all things, visible and invisible; for, Himself possessed of dominion, He is truly One of the Trinity.

ANTIPHON 2

Ascend into the mountain, O my soul and go thither from whence cometh our help.

Let Thy right hand, which toucheth me, O Christ, preserve me from all deception.

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

Theologizing concerning the Holy Spirit, let us say: Thou art God, Life, Love, Light and understanding! Thou art Goodness and Thou reignest forever!

ANTIPHON 3

Full of great Joy, I send up supplications for those who have said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

Awesome things are wrought in the house of David; for there is found the fire which burneth up every shameful thought.

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

To the Holy Spirit, by Whom every living thing is made animate, is due the dignity of the Bestower of life, as to the Father and the Word.

THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Let us attend. Wisdom. Let us attend.

The prokimenon is in the fifth tone:

Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand, for Thou shalt reign for ever.

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand, for Thou shalt reign for ever.

Deacon: ***I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will recount all Thy marvelous works.***

Choir: Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand, for Thou shalt reign for ever.

Deacon: ***Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand,***

Choir: for Thou shalt reign for ever.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For holy art Thou, O our God, who retest in the holies, 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.

Deacon: **Let every breath praise the Lord.**

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Deacon: **Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.**

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.

Deacon: **Let every breath**

Choir: praise the Lord.

Deacon: And that we may be deemed worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us beseech the Lord God.

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

Deacon: Wisdom. Upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to John.

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

(*John 20:11-18*)

Priest: **At** that time, Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her: "Woman why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away", she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman", He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said: "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." Jesus said to her: "Mary!" She turned toward Him and cried: "Rabboni!", which means Teacher. Jesus said: "Do not touch Me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them: 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that He said these things to her.

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

HYMN TO THE RESURRECTION

Choir: **L**et us, who have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, worship our holy Lord Jesus, Who is alone without sin. We bow down before Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy Resurrection. For Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee, and we call upon Thy Name. Come, all ye faithful, let us bow down before Christ's holy Resurrection, for behold, through the Cross joy hath come to the whole world. Forever blessing the Lord, we praise His Resurrection. He endured the Cross for us, and by death destroyed death.

PSALM 50

(*Omitted in most parishes*)

Reader: **H**ave 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.

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

By the intercessions of the Apostles, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.

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

By the intercessions of the Birthgiver of God, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy bounties, blot out my transgression.

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He had foretold, has granted us life everlasting and great mercy.

Deacon: Save, O God, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; visit Thy world with mercy and bounties; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies: by the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the venerable, heavenly Bodiless Powers; by the supplications of the venerable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, the great Hierarchs and universal Teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our Fathers among the Saints Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the wonder-worker, and Spyridon, bishop of Trimythun; of our Fathers among the Saints, wonder-workers of all Russia and Hierarchs Peter, Alexis, Jonah and Philip; of our Fathers among the Saints John the wonderworker of Shanghai, San Francisco and all America; *(other Hierarchs among the Saints [especially Russian] may be mentioned here)*; of the holy Equal-to-the apostles Methodius and Cyril, evangelizers of the Slavs, prince Vladimir, evangelizer of Russia, Nina, evangelizer of Georgia and Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow and evangelizer of America; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Martyrs; of the Great-martyrs George, Panteleimon, Catherine, Barbara and Tatiana; of the holy Hierarchs Tikhon, Nicholas and all the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia; *(here other Martyrs may be mentioned)*; of the venerable Sergius of Radonezh and Seraphim of Sarov, the wonderworkers of all Russia and Herman of Alaska, wonderworker of all America; *(here other holy Monks may be mentioned)*; the holy righteous Father John of Kronstadt, wonderworker of all Russia and Xenia of St. Petersburg; *(here other Saints may be mentioned ad lib)*; 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 and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, O greatly merciful God, hearken unto us sinners, who pray to Thee, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Priest: By the mercy and bounties and love for mankind 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 to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE CANON

(The canon is presented in full here. In most parishes a certain number of troparia is omitted in each canticle and the katavasia is sung at the end of canticles 3,6,8 and 9 only.)

CANTICLE 1

[Resurrection]

Choir: Christ breaking the battle with His right arm shook horse and rider into the Red Sea while He saved Israel, singing a triumphal song.

Reader: ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

The thorny assembly of the Jews, devoid of maternal love for Thee, their Benefactor, O Christ, crowned Thee with thorns, Who lifted the thorny sentence of our first father.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Bending down, O Bestower of life, Thou raised me up who had fallen into the pit; and having endured my fetid corruption without partaking thereof, O Christ, Thou hast made me fragrant with the myrrh of the divine Essence.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

The curse hath been annulled; grief hath ceased! For she who is blessed and full of grace hath shone joy forth upon the faithful, causing Christ to blossom forth as a blessing upon all the ends of the earth.

[Forefeast]

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The Virgin now cometh to Bethlehem to give birth to Christ, Who becometh a babe in the flesh, to Christ, Who of His own will hath beggared Himself; to Christ, Who becometh visible. Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Leap up, ye mountains and hills! Join chorus, ye divinely eloquent prophets! Ye people and nations, clap your hands! Our salvation and Enlightenment, Who is born in the city of Bethlehem, hath nearly come.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Without change is God known as man through the Virgin who hath not known wedlock; He Who is rich becometh poor, enriching those who, through malice, have been reduced to poverty. Let us all hymn Him with praises, for He hath been glorified.

[Holy Fathers]

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Today the assembly of the divine fathers doth radiantly celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ, and most glorious grace doth prefigure it, for Abraham and the children of the Law are an image thereof.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Of old the sacred Abraham received One of the three Persons of the Godhead, and now the Word of the Father, Who is equally enthroned with Him, doth, through the divine Spirit, come to the children, He Who is gloriously praised.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The children that cast down godlessness in the furnace are in number and faith images of the divine Trinity, and they have revealed to the world the hidden mysteries of God.

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

Abraham delivered from the hands of the unrighteous, and the divine youths and Daniel the prophet were once saved from the flame of the furnace and from the den of wild beasts. Wherefore, we now celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ.

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

O joyous and unwedded Mother, incorrupt Virgin, we bless thee, for thou didst blossom forth from the generation of Abraham and the tribe of David, and gavest birth unto Christ, Who of old was foretold by the prophets.

[Katavasia (The Nativity of Christ)]

Choir: Christ is born, give ye glory. Christ comes from heaven, meet ye Him. Christ is on earth be ye exalted. O all the earth, sing unto the Lord, and sing praises in gladness O ye people, for He has been glorified.

CANTICLE 3

Choir: By Thine command hast Thou set the earth up on nothing and hast hung it while its weight drags it down irresistibly: do Thou establish Thy Church upon the immovable rock of Thy commandments, O Christ, Thou Who alone art good and lovest mankind.

Reader: Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

They who sucked honey from a rock when Thou didst work a miracle in the desert, O Christ, gave Thee gall to eat; the ungrateful children of Israel gave Thee vinegar in return for manna, repaying thus Thy benefactions.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

They who of old were covered by the cloud of light placed Christ, our Life, in the tomb; yet He hath arisen through His own power and from on high hath given to all the faithful the effulgence of the Spirit, which mystically overshadoweth them.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Thou, O Mother of God, gavest birth without knowing union, and without the pangs of motherhood, unto Him Who shone forth from the incorrupt Father; wherefore, in Orthodox manner we proclaim thee the Theotokos, for thou gavest birth unto the incarnate Word.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

He Who in manner past understanding was born of the Father before the ages, hath become incarnate of the Virgin in latter times, as He Himself knew, desiring to restore humanity, which had become corrupt through the counsel of the evil serpent.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The unoriginate Son of God, Who is enthroned with the Father and the Spirit in the highest, beholding human nature which had been humbled, doth accept a beginning and desireth to be born in the flesh as man.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

She who is more holy than the angels and all creation doth now give birth without seed to the Angel of great counsel in the flesh, for the restoration of all who unceasingly chant unto Him: Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

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!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

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!

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

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.

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

A conception without pain, an acceptance of thy birthgiving 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: To the Son who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God let us cry aloud: Thou has raised up our horn, holy are 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 to Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art our God, 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.

YPAKOE

[Holy Fathers]

Reader: An Angel bedewed the children in the furnace, and hath now put an end to the lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women, saying: Why bring ye myrrh? Whom seek ye in the tomb? Christ God is risen, for He is the life and salvation of the human race!

CANTICLE 4

Choir: Habakkuk, having foreseen and understood Thy divine self-emptying, O Christ, cried to Thee in fear: "Unto the salvation of Thy people hast Thou come to save Thine anointed."

Reader: ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

O Good One, with a tree Thou didst sweeten the bitter waters of Marah, prefiguring Thine all-precious Cross, which doeth away with the taste of sin.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O my Savior, Thou didst receive a Cross in exchange for the tree of knowledge and gall for sweet food, and thou didst pour forth Thy divine blood for the corruption of death.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Without physical joining thou didst incorruptibly conceive within thy womb, and gavest birth without pain; and having given birth unto God in the flesh, thou wast preserved a virgin even after birthgiving.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Thou hast given rise unto a staff from the root of Jesse, O Virgin, putting forth the unfading Blossom of the Creator of all, Who, as God, doth with flowers adorn all the earth, which crieth aloud to Him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Word of God, Thou hast come to edify me, who have been despoiled through evil food and dragged down in mind and made like unto dumb beasts; and, becoming a babe, Thou didst lie down in a manger of dumb beasts. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

O Jesus, Habbakuk foresaw Thee incarnate of the Virgin, the mountain overshadowed, breaking down the mountains and hills of evil, and giving over to utter destruction the arrogance of the evil one and the uprisings of the demons.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Let us honor Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the firstfruits of the fathers, for from their seed hath Christ shone forth incarnate of the Virgin, in that He is almighty.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Indicating the coming events of the descent of Christ unto all, Daniel clearly showed forth lions as sheep, for, as a prophet of God, he foresaw the future.

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

Not attracted by the poison of sin, O children, ye were delivered from the flame; for, being of wisdom more pure than gold, ye were not melted in the furnace of deception.

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

O honored and all-pure one, thine Offspring, Who surpasseth nature, is proclaimed aloud to be the expectation of the nations and the salvation of the world. And today the multitude of the fathers doth hymn Him.

Choir: Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, Thou hast sprung from the Virgin. From the Mountain overshadowed by the forest Thou hast come, made flesh from her that knew not wedlock, O God who art not formed from matter. Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

CANTICLE 5

Choir: Unto Thee, clad in light as in a garment, do I come right early in the morning, and I cry to Thee: "Enlighten my darkened soul, O Christ, as Thou alone art compassionate."

Reader: ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Of His own will the Lord of glory hangeth ignominiously upon the Tree in inglorious form, ineffably taking thought of divine glory for me.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Having tasted of the corruption of death in the flesh without suffering corruption, O Christ, Thou didst clothe me in incorruption, having shone forth from the tomb on the third day.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Having seedlessly given birth for us to Christ, our righteousness and deliverance, O Theotokos, thou didst rid the nature of our first father of the curse.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

As the most perfect Son of God, the Master by nature, in Thy loving-kindness wast well pleased to be called the Son of man and reckoned among slaves, O most Compassionate One. Wherefore, willingly begging Thyself, Thou comest to be born in a cave, O All-good One.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Christ our King, Who art uncontainable by nature, how can a little cave receive Thee? How can a manger hold Thee, Who comest in the flesh to Thine own for our sake, from a Mother who knew not wedlock, that Thou mightest save those who have been estranged from Thee, O Lord?

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

The Shepherd's ewe-lamb hath come to give birth. Make ready, O holy cave! Make haste, ye shepherds, to see the newborn Shepherd and Lamb! Ye magi, prepare yourselves with gifts to worship Him as King in the flesh.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Let us honor today the divine Daniel, of the race of Abraham, the firstfruits of the fathers, as a leader of the Law and of grace; for, as a prophet of God, he foretold the advent of Christ from the Virgin and goeth forth to meet His divine nativity.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Clearly prefiguring through the Angel's descent the coming of the Lord unto us, the children of Abraham extinguished the furnace; and, rendering the flame dewy with their faith, they consumed the splendor of the golden image therein.

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

Through the Spirit, Daniel closed the mouths of the wild beasts in the pit; and, through grace, the children of Abraham quenched the strength of the fire. And, saved from corruption, they proclaim Christ Who is born of the Virgin, entreating Him as the Deliverer of our salvation.

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

Revealing through the divine Spirit Thy painless assumption of our nature, and keeping vigil in the Law of grace, O Lord, Isaiah cried out: From the race of Abraham and the tribe of Judah doth a Virgin come, giving birth in the flesh without seed.

Choir: As Thou art God of peace and Father of mercies, Thou hast sent unto us Thine Angel of great counsel, granting us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God, and watching by night we glorify Thee, O lover of mankind.

CANTICLE 6

Choir: Make still, O Christ Master, the sea of the passions raging with rough water that destroys the soul, and lead me up from corruption, as Thou art compassionate.

Reader: Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The progenitor of our race stumbled headlong into corruption, having tasted of the forbidden food, O Christ our Master; but he hath been led up to life, through Thy suffering.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou, O our Life, didst go down into hades, and having become corruption for the corrupter, O Christ our Master, Thou didst pour forth resurrection through corruption.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

The Virgin gave birth, and having given birth hath remained pure. The Virgin Mother hath truly borne in her arms Him Who holdeth all things.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

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.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

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.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Hospitable was the nature and exalted was the faith of Abraham the forefather. Wherefore, receiving in image the divine mystery, he rejoiced, and, running before Christ, he now maketh merry.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The faith of the youths now holdeth creation subject by the gift of the Creator, for the all-devouring and shameless fire stood in awe of them that honor Jesus Christ, the Creator of fire.

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

Daniel the prophet, once closing the mouths of the lions in the pit, showed in godly manner that through the coming of Christ the savagery of the world is in harmony with divine peace.

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

O Mary, Mother who knewest not man, from a virgin womb didst thou give birth unto Christ, Whom the prophets beheld in the Spirit; and the fathers who begot Him now join chorus before His nativity.

Choir: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb; while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh, came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt. For being Himself not subject to decay, He preserved His mother free from harm.

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 to Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, 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.

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

Choir: 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.

Ikos

Reader: Beholding the splendid radiance of thy birthgiving, O Virgin, the God-loving Abraham, the ever-memorable Isaac, Jacob and all the divinely assembled choir of saints rejoice, and, with joyous utterances, they lead creation forth to meet thee; for thou art shown to be the mediatrix of joy for all, having conceived in thy womb Him Who once was seen in Babylon, Who preserved unconsumed the youths that had been cast unjustly into the furnace, and Who showed thee forth in manner past all comprehension. Wherefore, the young maidens chant unto Him Who is borne in thine arms, hymning thee as the Virgin who giveth milk.

CANTICLE 7

Choir: The Most High Lord of our fathers put out the flame and sprinkled the Children with dew, as they sang with one accord: "Blessed art Thou, O God."

Reader: ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Clad in flesh like bait on a hook, by Thy divine power thou didst draw the serpent down, leading up those who cry: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Infinite One, Who brought the immense structure of the earth into being, in the flesh is covered in the tomb. Unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

O most immaculate one, thou gavest birth to the incarnate God, one Hypostasis in two natures, unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The divine vine whereon the incorrupt Cluster did ripen, draweth nigh, coming to give birth unto Him Who poureth forth the wine of gladness and watereth us who cry out to Him: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

The divine phial which beareth within herself the fragrant Myrrh cometh to pour It out in the cave of Bethlehem, filling with mystic fragrance those who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

The tongs which Isaiah the prophet beheld of old cometh, holding in her womb Christ, the divine Ember, which burneth up all the fuel of sin and enlighteneth the souls of the faithful.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

O father Abraham, founder of thy race, having begotten Christ in the flesh, thou art clearly revealed by the Spirit as the father of nations, unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The hymn of the inspired ones hath put to shame them that utter soulless noises, for the youths, bodily trampling down unharmed the furnace which burned with fire, chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

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

Of old, the prophet Daniel, gazing with spiritual vision, revealed the second coming of Christ, and he foretelleth the dreadful things which shall come to pass therein, crying out: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

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

O strange wonder, known among the prophets and revealed of old to the fathers: a pure Virgin is come, wishing to give birth unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Choir: Scorning the impious decree, the Children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire, but standing in the midst of the flames, they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou."

CANTICLE 8

Choir: The Children in the furnace, weaving a song in the furnace for Thee, the Creator of all, sang: "O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all for ever."

Reader: ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Thou didst pray concerning Thy voluntary and saving passion as though it were a cup which Thou didst not desire; for Thou bearest two wills, according to each of Thy two natures, O Christ, forever.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

At Thine all-accomplishing descent, O Christ, hades, mocked, spewed forth all whom it had lured by deceit into death from of old, and they exalt Thee supremely for all ages.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

All of us, the works of the Lord, bless and supremely exalt thee for all ages, as her who, in manner past understanding, gave birth to the Lord as God and man at the word of the archangel, and doth remain a virgin.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

In gladness let us cry out with the angels: Glory to God in the highest! The Savior is born! The Master cometh, to Whom the star doth point! The magi hasten to behold Him, a Babe in a manger! Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Among slaves wast Thou enrolled of Thine own will, O Master, subjecting Thyself to the law of Caesar, that Thou mightest free mankind from slavery to the evil one, O most merciful God. Wherefore, rejoicing, we chant: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

O Word Who art without beginning, I bear Thee as a newborn Babe, although I have in no wise known man", said the Virgin, marveling. "Whom on earth can I call Thy father? I know not. Wherefore, with all I chant to Thee: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!"

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Prefiguring Thy sacrifice, O Christ, Abraham, obedient to Thee, O Master, went forth with faith, wishing to sacrifice on the mountain the son whom he had begotten; but he returned with him, rejoicing and glorifying and exalting above all Thee, the Deliverer of the world.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

When Thou didst clothe Thyself in ever-blazing flame as in a divine robe, O Christ, thou didst utterly extinguish the fire for the three holy children, and by Thy descent the dew hath cried out unto them that chant: Ye priests hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

Let us bless the Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

The prophet Daniel is given to the lions as an unjust trial, but, through the precept of abstinence, in his piety he had the wild beasts as fellow fasters in the depths of the pit. Through his prayers and those of Abraham and the children, save them that hymn Thee in the world, O Christ!

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

The voices of the prophets faithfully proclaimed Him as Jesus Immanuel, Who cometh in human form, God and man; and the Virgin Mary, without having known man, giveth birth in the city of Bethlehem unto a Son, the co-unoriginate Word, through the Holy Spirit.

Choir: ***We praise, bless and worship the Lord, hymning and exalting Him above all unto all the ages.***

The furnace moist with dew was the image and figure of a wonder past nature. For it burnt not the Children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended. Therefore, in praise let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

CANTICLE 9: THE SONG OF THE BIRTHGIVER OF GOD

Deacon: Let us magnify with hymns the Birthgiver of God and Mother of the Light.

Choir: ***My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.***

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.

For he hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

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.

For the Mighty One hath done great things to me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation.

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.

He hath showed strength with His arm, He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart.

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.

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them that are lowly; He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent away empty.

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.

He hath helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy, as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

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.

CANTICLE 9

Choir: Be of good cheer, O Isaiah, the Virgin has held in her womb and borne a Son, Emmanuel, Who is both God and man, and Orient is His name; magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

Reader: ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Thou didst take up fallen man, O Christ, through the Virgin's womb uniting Thyself wholly unto him without partaking of the least sin; and by Thine all-pure sufferings Thou didst free him wholly from corruption.

Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.

By the divinely flowing blood poured forth from Thine all-pure and life-creating side, O Christ our Master, the sacrifices of the idols were brought to an end, and the whole earth offereth Thee the sacrifice of praise.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

It is not the incorporeal God nor a simple man whom the pure and undefiled Maiden brought forth, but a perfect Man and the truly perfect God. Him do we magnify with the Father and the Spirit.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O mysteries strange, awesome and most glorious: the Lord of glory hath come to earth and, having beggared Himself, He hath entered a cave in the flesh, seeking to restore Adam and to deliver Eve from her pangs.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

By Thy swaddling clothes Thou dost loose the bonds of our sinful falls; by Thy great poverty Thou dost enrich us all, O Compassionate One; and having been laid in a manger of dumb beasts Thou dost release men from irrational malice, O all-unoriginate Word of God.

Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

The preaching of the prophets hath reached the ends of the earth, for they foretold Him Who was to come in the fullness of time; and He came and appeared incarnate of the pure Virgin. Let us receive Him with a pure mind!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Celebrating the feast of the fathers that were before the law, let us honor Christ, Who, in godly manner, is begotten of them in the flesh; for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, through faith, are proclaimers of the Spirit and grace, are shown to be the foundation of the prophets and the law.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

God, Who by the fire in the bush showed to Moses the godly mystery in manner past understanding, having descended into the fire for the children, showed the flame of the furnace to be dew through the fire of the Essence of His divinity.

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

The all-holy children, assembling with Abraham, and Daniel, the wondrous prophet of God, Isaac and Jacob, with Moses and Aaron, faithfully join chorus before the nativity of Christ, praying unceasingly that we be saved.

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

All of creation doth rejoice in thy birthgiving, O Virgin, for Bethlehem hath opened Eden unto us. And, lo! delighting in the Tree of Life, we all earnestly cry out in faith: Thou hast fulfilled our prayers, O Mistress!

Choir: A strange and most wonderful mystery do I see: the cave is heaven; the Virgin is the throne of the Cherubim; the manger a room, in which Christ, the God whom nothing can contain, is laid. Him do we praise and magnify.

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 to Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the Hosts of the Heavens praise Thee, and unto Thee do they 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.

Deacon: **Holy** is the Lord our God.

Choir: ***Holy is the Lord our God.***

Deacon: For holy is the Lord our God.

Choir: ***Holy is the Lord our God.***

Deacon: Above all people is the Lord our God.

Choir: ***Holy is the Lord our God.***

EXAPOSTILARION

[Resurrection]

Reader: Seeing two Angels inside the tomb, Mary was struck with wonder and, not knowing Christ and supposing Him to be the gardener, she asked Him: "Where, O Lord, hast thou laid the body of my Jesus?" And, recognizing by His call that He was the Savior Himself, she heard: "Touch me not; tell the brethren that I go to My Father."

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

[Holy Fathers]

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the elect of the patriarchs, the fathers before the Law, have shone forth like beacons, for all the prophets and the righteous shone forth from them like radiant lamps. With rays of honorable prophecy have they illumined all creation; and they earnestly pray to God in behalf of the world.

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

[Forefeast]

Wondrous hath this been! The unblemished ewe-lamb, the granddaughter of Adam and David, giveth birth unto the Lamb, the all-unoriginate Word, in the latter days, as is meet. The forefeast of her ineffable birthgiving doth the multitude of the fathers celebrate fittingly.

THE LAUDS [VERSES FROM PSALMS 148, 149 AND 150 WITH HYMNS OF THE DAY]

Choir: **L**et every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the Heavens, praise Him in the highest. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him all ye His Angels; praise Him all ye His Hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Reader: ***To do among them the judgment that is written.***

Choir: ***This glory shall be to all His saints.***

[Resurrection]

After the tomb was sealed by the evildoers, Thou, Lord, didst proceed from it, just as Thou didst come forth from the Virgin. Thy bodiless angels had no knowledge of the manner of Thine Incarnation, neither were the watch who guarded Thee aware of the moment of Thy Resurrection. For both the one and the other were concealed from those who questioned these things, but were made manifest as miracles to those who acclaimed with faith the Mystery. Grant us, who praise it, joy and great mercy.

Reader: ***Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.***

After breaking the eternal chains and bursting the bonds asunder, Thou didst rise, O Lord, from the tomb, leaving Thy burial clothes behind Thee as witness to Thy having been truly buried for three days; and Thou, Who wast in the cave with a guard watching over Thee didst go forward into Galilee. Great is Thy mercy, O Savior Who art beyond understanding: have mercy on us.

Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

The women, O Lord, hastened to the tomb, so as to see Thee, O Christ, Who suffered for us; and when they reached it they found an angel seated upon the stone, who cried out to them as they started back with dread: "The Lord is risen; tell the disciples that He is risen from the dead, saving our souls."

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

As Thou didst go forth from the sealed tomb, so didst Thou, O Lord, enter when the doors were closed and stand in the midst of Thy disciples, showing them the marks of Thy passion, O long-suffering Savior. Born of the seed of David, having endured the stripes, Thou as Son of God hast set the world free. Great is Thy mercy, O indescribable Lord: have mercy on us.

Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.

[Holy Fathers]

Lift up thy voice, O Zion, thou truly divine city, and proclaim the divine memory of the fathers, honoring Abraham, Isaac and the ever-memorable Jacob; for, lo! we all magnify Judah and Levi, the great Moses and the wondrous Aaron, and we honor David, Joshua and Samuel. And weaving divine hymns into godly praise on the forefeast of Christ's nativity, we ask that we receive grace from Him, and that He grant the world great mercy.

Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.

(Repeat "Lift up thy voice, O Zion ...")

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

O Elijah, who once rode upon a divine chariot of fire, come thou forth, and thou, O divinely wise Elisha; and joining with Ezekiel and Hosea, rejoice! O ye honored and divinely inspired twelve prophets, join chorus, and all ye righteous, chant in hymns unto the nativity of Christ; ye most blessed youths that quenched the flame of the furnace with the dew of the Spirit, entreat Christ in our behalf, that He send down upon our souls great mercy.

For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

The Virgin Theotokos, she who through the ages hath been preached on earth by the prophets in their utterances, she whom the wise patriarchs and the assemblies of the righteous proclaim, with whom the comeliness of women joineth chorus: Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Hannah, together with the glorious Miriam, the sister of Moses. With them all the ends of the world rejoice and all creation rendereth honor, for the Creator and God of all cometh to be born in the flesh and to grant us great mercy.

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

The compilation of the teachings of the Law doth reveal the divine birth of Christ in the flesh as being from them that, before the Law, proclaimed the glad tidings of grace to them that lived beyond the Law. Wherefore, in that this birth is the means of deliverance from corruption, for the sake of the resurrection they declared to the souls held fast in Hades: O Lord, glory be to Thee!

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

[Resurrection Theotokion]

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Birthgiver of God; for by Him, Who was incarnate of Thee, hell was taken captive, Adam was recalled, the curse was annulled, Eve was freed, death was put to death, and we were brought to life. Therefore, with hymns we cry aloud: Blessed is Christ God, Who hast been thusly well pleased. Glory be to Thee.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Priest: Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the light.

Choir: **G**lory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, by reason of Thy great glory: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: Thou, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Thou, that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou, that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name for ever, yea, for ever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God, for in Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light. Continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

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.

TROPARION

Today is salvation come unto the world. Let us sing to Him, Who arose from the grave, and Who is the Author of our life. For, destroying death by death, He granted us the victory and great mercy.

THE AUGMENTED LITANY

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 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)*

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins for the servants of God, our brethren of this holy Temple.

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

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.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer 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 evening 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 to Christ, our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For a God of mercies and compassions and love for mankind art Thou, 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: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is to have mercy and to save us, O our God, 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 DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom.

Choir: Father, bless.

Priest: Blessed is He that is, even Christ our God, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

O God, make steadfast the holy Orthodox Faith of the Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Choir: 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.

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: **May** 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 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.

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

[Resurrection]

The tears of Mary, warmly shed, are not in vain. For behold, she was held worthy of the angels' teaching and vouchsafed the sight of Thee Thyself, O Christ. But again her thoughts were earthly thoughts, as those of a weak woman. Therefore, she was dismissed and told not to touch Thee, O Christ. But she was also sent as herald to the disciples, and she affirmed to them the good tidings proclaiming the Ascension to the portion with the Father. With her do Thou also make us worthy of Thy manifestation, O Master and Lord.

THE FIRST HOUR

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

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

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

(One psalm is said in most parishes, usually psalm 100)

PSALM 5

Unto my words give ear, O Lord; hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee, nor shall transgressors abide before thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee, for in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulcher, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall ever rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in thee that love Thy name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

PSALM 89

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. Before the mountains came to be and the earth was formed and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting art Thou. Turn man not away unto lowliness; yea, Thou hast said: 'Turn back, ye sons of men.' For a thousand years in Thine eyes, O Lord, are but as yesterday that is past, and as a watch in the night. Things of no account shall their years be; in the morning like grass shall man pass away. In the morning

shall he bloom and pass away, in the evening shall he fall and grow withered and dry. For we have fainted away in Thy wrath, and in Thine anger have we been troubled. Thou has set our iniquities before Thee; our lifespan is in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are faded away, and in Thy wrath are we fainted away; our years have, like a spider, spun out their tale. As for the days of our years, in their span shall they be threescore years and ten. And if we be in strength, mayhap fourscore years; and what is more than these is toil and travail. For mildness is come upon us, and we shall be chastened. Who knoweth the might of Thy wrath? And out of fear of Thee, who can recount Thine anger? So make Thy right hand known to me, and to them that in their heart are instructed in wisdom. Return, O Lord; how long? And be Thou entreated concerning Thy servants. We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants and upon Thy works, and do Thou guide their sons. And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hands do Thou guide aright upon us, yea, the works of our hands do Thou guide aright.

PSALM 100

Of mercy and judgment will I sing unto Thee, O Lord; I will sing and have understanding in a blameless path. When wilt Thou come unto me? I have walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house. I have no unlawful thing before mine eyes; the workers of transgression I have hated. A crooked heart hath not cleaved unto me; as for the wicked man who turned from me, I knew him not. Him who slandered his neighbor in secret did I drive away from me. With him whose eye was proud and his heart insatiate, I did not eat. Mine eyes were upon the faithful of the land, that they might sit with me; the man that walked in the blameless path, he ministered unto me. The proud doer dwelt not in the midst of my house; The speaker of unjust things prospered not before mine eyes. In the morning I slew all the sinners of the land, utterly to destroy out of the city of the Lord all them that work iniquity.

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.

What shall we call thee, O thou who art full of grace? Heaven, for from thee shone forth the Sun of righteousness? Paradise, for thou hast budded forth the Flower of immortality? Virgin, for thou hast remained undefiled? Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thy holy embrace thy Son, Who is God of all? Beseech him that our souls be saved.

My steps do Thou direct according to Thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing Thy glory and Thy splendor all the day long.

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 iniquities. 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: God, be bountiful unto us and bless us, show us the light of Thy countenance and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Priest: O Christ, the true Light, Which illumines and sanctifies every man who comes into the world, let the light of Thy countenance be impressed upon us, so that in it we may see the unapproachable Light; and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Thy commandments, through the intercessions of Thine all-pure Mother and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

Choir: To thee, the Champion Leader, we dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Birthgiver of God. But as thou art one with might that is invincible, deliver us from all dangers, that we may cry to thee: "Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded."

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: May Christ our true God, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

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

