

THE SERVICE OF HOLY UNCTION

Wednesday Evening



Service of Holy Unction

Mystery of Holy Unction

The Orthodox Church teaches that our body and soul are linked and as such it is necessary that a person is in good physical and spiritual health. The Lord Jesus Christ expressed this when He instructs His Disciples to "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons" (Matthew 10:8) and to heal "all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease" (Matthew 4:23). The Mystery of Holy Unction was established by the Church on these words. It embodies, extends and continues His healing ministry. Christ takes on our infirmities and bears our diseases (Matthew 8:17) and, just as He overcame the suffering, corruption and death in the world, He allows us to share in His victory over the world and gives us eternal life.

During the Mystery of Holy Unction the priest says special prayers relating to sanctifying the oil and then anoints the faithful with the blessed oil. The blessed oil, through the prayers of the faithful person, physically and spiritually heals that person. This action can be found even in the days of the Apostle James who

says: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sin, he will be forgiven." (James 5:14-15)

Holy Wednesday

The primary theme of Holy Wednesday is our human need for the healing of our bodies and souls and the forgiveness of sins that comes through our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. They are reconciled to God and one another so that they might receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

The solemn celebration of Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday serves to remind the faithful of Christ's power to forgive our sins, defeat our sufferings, sickness and death and heal our bodies and souls through His own death and Resurrection. In this way we look forward to the experience of His Passion and Resurrection in the following days. Pascha becomes the cure of all our infirmities.

The faithful are reminded how fragile human life really is and how dependent we are on God, if life is to have any true meaning and purpose. In addition, the corporate celebration highlights the responsibility of the community to care for and comfort the sick and the afflicted.

In its basic structure the service of the Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday contains the following parts:

- (1) a modified Matins;
- (2) a prayer for the consecration of the oil;
- (3) a set of seven Scripture lessons, each with an Epistle and Gospel reading and a priestly prayer; and
- (4) an additional prayer for the anointing of the persons for whom the sacrament is celebrated.

Opening Doxology and Prayers

A small table is placed in the nave of the church, on which is placed a vessel containing pure olive oil, another vessel containing pure red wine and several cotton buds for anointing the faithful. The holy Gospel and the cross are also placed on the table.

In some parishes seven candles are also placed and one of the candles is lit after each of the seven gospel readings.

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

The priest censens the table crosswise.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O God, Glory be to You!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things; the treasury of Blessings and the giver of Life; come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. [3 times]**

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

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord have mercy [3 times].

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

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy [12 times]. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

O Come let us worship and fall down before God our King!

**O Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King
and our God!**

**O Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our
King and our God!**

Psalm 143

Reader: Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O LORD; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, Lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; In You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O LORD, for Your Name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, And destroy all those who afflict my soul; For I am Your servant.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God! [*3 times*]

O our God and our hope, glory to You.

The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord!**

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour and adoration to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Alleluias (Tone 6)

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Reader: O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, neither chasten me in Your wrath.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Reader: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Troparia (Tone 6)

Chanter: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we are empty of all defence. As sinners we offer this supplication to You, O Master, have mercy on us.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy on us, For in You we have put our trust, be not exceedingly angry with us; Nor remember our many iniquities, but look upon us now as the Compassionate and deliver us from our enemies. For You are our God, and we Your people. We are all the work of Your hands and upon Your Name we have now called.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: The doors of caring do now open unto us, O most blessed Theotokos. So that hoping in you we shall not fail, through you we may be delivered from adversities. For you are the salvation of the Christian faith.

Psalm 51

The priest does the great censuring.

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight – That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

The Canon

Ode 1 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] When Israel of old had crossed the depths of the Red Sea remaining dry, they overthrew the hosts of Amalek in the wilderness.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: O Master, You always gladden the souls and bodies of mortals, with the oil of loving kindness, and You also safeguard Your faithful by oil. Show compassion also to those, who now draw near to You through the Oil.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: The whole earth is full of Your mercy, O Master. Therefore, we in faith do implore You that You bestow upon us, who today shall be anointed mystically by Your Divine and precious Oil, Your mercy, which surpasses understanding.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: You, O Lord, Who loves mankind, and Who through Your Apostles mercifully gave us a caring command to anoint in holiness Your ailing servants, we pray that through their intercessions, You bestow Your seal of mercy on us all.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: The only Pure one, who has enriched the gulf of peace, by your perpetual intercessions to God, deliver your suppliants from infirmities and afflictions, that they may unceasingly magnify you.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] When Israel of old had crossed ...

Ode 3 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] In You, O Christ, is Your Church glad, crying: "You are my fortress, O Lord, both refuge and support."

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: You, Who alone are wonderful and merciful to the faithful, grant Your Grace from on High to Your servants, who are sorely afflicted, O Christ.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: O Lord, Who of old showed forth an olive-branch to the abating of the Flood through Your Divine command, save the sufferers, through Your mercy.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Brighten the lamp of Your light Divine, and gladden through the anointing, those who now in faith, make haste to receive Your mercy.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Graciously look down from on High, O Mother of the Creator of all, and through your intercessions, dispel the sufferers' bitter pangs.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] In You, O Christ, is Your Church glad ...

Kathismata (Tone 8)

Chanter: Being a Divine river of mercy, like a fathomless gulf of great loving-kindness, O Merciful One, show forth the Divine streams of Your mercy, and heal all. Let the fountains of miracles gush forth abundantly, and cleanse all; for ever resorting to You, we fervently implore Your grace.

Chanter: The Physician and Help of the suffering, the Redeemer and Saviour of the sick, Master and Lord of all, grant healing to Your ailing

servants; have compassion and mercy, on those, who have grievously sinned, and deliver them, O Christ, from their iniquities, that they may glorify Your Divine power.

Ode 4 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] The Church seeing You, the Sun of Righteousness, uplifted upon the Cross, stands in her stateliness, worthily crying out: "Glory to Your might, O Lord."

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: O Saviour, Who like the incorruptible Chrism, You emptied Yourself in Grace to purify the world, show mercy on the bodily wounds of those, who with faith, are now about to be anointed.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: Forasmuch as You now have sealed with the seal of Your mercy the senses of Your servants, O Master, make impassable and inaccessible the entry of all adverse powers.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: You, Who have commanded the ailing to summon Your divinely ordained Priests, and to be healed by prayers and the anointing with Your Oil, O Loving Lord, save the anointed, through Your mercy.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: All-holy Theotokos, ever-Virgin, steadfast refuge and fortress, haven and wall, ladder and bastion, have mercy and compassion on the sick; for in you alone we have sought refuge.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] The Church seeing You, the Sun ...

Ode 5 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] You my Lord, have come into the world as light, a holy light, which converts from the darkness of ignorance those who with faith praise You.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: You are the fathomless mercy, O Good One; show mercy through Your Holy Oil to the anointed, as a Merciful Lord.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: O Christ, Who ineffably sanctified both our souls and bodies from on High, by the Divine impress of Your Seal, heal us all, by Your Hand.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: O Lord, supremely Good, Who through Your ineffable love, accepted anointing with precious ointment at the hands of the sinful woman, have compassion on Your servants.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: All-praised, pure, exceedingly gracious Lady, have mercy on those, who are about to be anointed with the Oil Divine, and save your suppliants.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] You my Lord, have come into the world ...

Ode 6 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] I will sacrifice to You with the voice of praise, O Lord, the Church cries out to You, having been cleansed of the blood of demons through the Blood that mercifully flowed from Your side.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: You, O Lord, Who loves mankind instituted the anointing of kings by Your words; and by the hands of High Priests did accomplish the same. Save also the sufferers by Your Seal; forasmuch as You are Merciful.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: Let no interposition of malignant demons, O Saviour, touch the senses of those, who are anointed in God; hedge them under the shelter of Your glory.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Stretch forth Your hand from on High, O Loving Lord, and sanctifying Your Oil, O Saviour, give it to Your suppliants for healing and release from all their ills.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: In your Divine Birth-giving, you manifested yourself as a fruitful olive-tree, O Mother of the Creator, through whom, the world was seen filled with mercy. Therefore save us, through your intercessions, touching those who suffer.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] I will sacrifice to You with the voice ...

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Chanter: Being the Fountainhead of mercy, O gracious One, deliver from every adversity those, who with fervent faith entreat Your ineffable mercy, O most Compassionate One; and taking away their maladies, grant them Divine grace from above.

Ode 7 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] The Abrahamic children in the Persian furnace, fired rather with love of piety than with the flame, cried out: "Blessed are You, O Lord, in the temple of Your glory."

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: You, Who in Your mercy and compassion, O Saviour and only God, heals both the passions of souls and afflictions of bodies, heal those, who suffer from illness, O Merciful One.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: In the anointing of the heads of all with Oil, grant the joy of gladness to all who seek the mercy of Your redemption, through the abundance of Your mercy, O Lord.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Your Seal is a sword against demons, O Saviour, and a fire, that consumes the passions of souls, through the prayers of the Priests. Therefore, we who have received healing in faith praise You.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: O Mother of God, who in a divine manner held within Your womb, and ineffably did incarnate Him, Who holds all things in the palm of His hand, we pray that you intercede with Him, to expiate those who suffer.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] The Abrahamic children in the Persian furnace ...

Ode 8 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Daniel stretched forth his hands and closed the lions' jaws in their den and the force of the fire was quenched by the zealously pious children who girded themselves with virtue and called out: "All the works of the Lord, bless the Lord."

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: Show mercy to all, O Saviour, according to Your great and Divine mercy. For mystically foreshadowing this rite, we bring the anointing with the Holy Oil to the sick, whom by Your Power heals them all.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: By the streams of Your mercy, O Christ, and through the anointing by Your Priests, wash away, as a Merciful Lord, the pains and wounds, and the sudden assaults of suffering of those, tormented by

passions, that they may be healed through Your cleansing.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Forasmuch as Your mercy Divine has decreed to us from on High, O Master, the Oil of gladness as a symbol of condescension, take not away Your mercy, nor overlook those, who with faith, continually cry out: "All the works of the Lord, bless the Lord."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: As a glorious crown, O pure one, nature accepted your Divine Son, crushing the hosts of the enemy, and conquering them totally. Therefore, crowned with the joyful radiance of your grace, we sing praises to you, all-lauded Lady.

Reader: We praise, we bless and we worship the Lord.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Daniel stretched forth his hands ...

The Deacon goes through the Royal Doors and stands before the Icon of the Theotokos, raises his Orarion and says:

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify in song.

The Deacon censes the whole church as the Choir sings Ode 9.

Ode 9 (Tone 4)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] A rock unhewn by hands from you unquarried mountain was hewn, O Virgin, even Christ the cornerstone, Who has conjoined the separate natures, rejoicing therein we magnify you, O Theotokos.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: Beckon from Heaven, O Merciful One, and show forth Your mercy to all. Grant now, Your compassion and Your strength to those, who draw near to You, through the Divine anointing by Your Priests, O Loving Lord.

Reader: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Chanter: O benevolent Saviour! Rejoicing, we behold the Holy Oil, which by Your condescension You have received, beyond the merits of the participants, symbolically imparted to those, who share in the Divine cleansing.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Show compassion and mercy, O Saviour; deliver from dread and pains; shield from the darts of the evil one, the souls and bodies of Your suppliants, forasmuch as You are a Merciful Lord, Who heals

by grace Divine.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: As you receive the hymns and supplications of your servants, All-pure Virgin, so also deliver from irksome ills and maladies those, who through us, flee to your Divine protection.

People: **How right it is to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed most blameless and Mother of our God. More honoured than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, in all purity you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we exalt you.**

The Little Litany

The Deacon from the Solea, facing the Royal Doors, says:

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord!**

Priest: For all the Powers of Heaven praise You, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Exaposteilarion (Tone 3)

Chanter: In mercy, O benevolent One, look favourably on our petitions, who have come together today in Your Holy Temple, to anoint with Holy Oil Your ailing servants. [*3 times*]

The Praises (Tone 4)

Chanter: Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. To You, O God, is due our song. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. To You, O God, is due our song.

Reader: This honour have all His saints.

Chanter: You have given Your Grace, O reconcilable and Loving Lord,

through Your Apostles, by Your Holy Oil, to heal the wounds and infirmities of all. Have mercy, therefore, on those, who with faith approach to be anointed with this Oil; sanctify, show mercy, purge them from every ailment, and make them worthy of Your incorruptible bliss, as our Merciful Lord.

Reader: Praise God in His Sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Chanter: Look down from Heaven, O Incomprehensible One, in Your loving kindness; and with Your invisible hand, seal our senses, O Loving Lord. By Your Holy Oil grant to those, who with faith come to You, seeking the forgiveness of sins; and grant the healing of soul and body, that they may glorify You with profound feeling, magnifying Your dominion.

Reader: Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Chanter: Anointed with Your mercy, and by Your Priests, O Loving Lord, touch Your suppliants and sanctify them from Above. Heal their infirmities; purge away and cleanse their soul, O Saviour, and deliver them from entangling temptations. Soothe their pain; expel adverse situations; and banish their sorrows, as a compassionate and Loving Lord.

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

Chanter: You, who are the purest Palace of the King, O greatly praised, I implore you; cleanse my mind, stained with all manner of sin, and make it the pleasant abode of the exceedingly Divine Trinity; that I, your wicked suppliant, being saved, may magnify your power, and your boundless mercy.

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. [3 times]**

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

All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord have mercy [3 times].

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

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom

come, Your will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Troparia (Tone 4)

Chanter: You, Who alone are quick to help, O Christ, show Your speedy visitation from on High to Your ailing servants; deliver them from their infirmities, and bitter pain; raise them up again, that they may praise and glorify You without ceasing, through the prayers of the Theotokos, O only Loving God.

The Great Litany

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*], for the revered priesthood, for the deacons in Christ, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For this country, for its Prime Minister, for all national and regional government, and for the civil administration, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our armed forces, that the Lord God will grant them wisdom

and strength to preserve our nation in harmony and stability, and to maintain peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the faithful in attendance, who anticipate the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

The Priest blesses the Oil.

Priest: That this Oil will be blessed by the descent, power, and operation of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the servants of God, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for their visitation in God; and that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and adoration to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Oil

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Lord, Who in Your mercy and bounties, heals the disorders of our souls and bodies; sanctify this Oil, that those, who shall be anointed with it, may be healed and freed from every passion, illness of body, uncleanness of body and spirit, and from all evils; that also in

this, Your All-Holy Name may be glorified, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Priest invokes the Prayer of the Oil over the vessel containing the olive oil and blesses it with his right hand. After concluding the prayer the Priest pours the wine into the vessel containing the oil as the Choir sings the following:

Troparia (Tone 4)

Chanter: You, Who alone are quick to help, O Christ, show Your speedy visitation from on High to Your ailing servants; deliver them from their infirmities, and bitter pain; raise them up again, that they may praise and glorify You without ceasing, through the prayers of the Theotokos, O only Loving God.

Tone 4

Chanter: Blinded spiritually, I come to You, O Christ, as did the man born blind, crying out to You in repentance: "You are the super-bright Light of those in darkness."

Tone 3

Chanter: As You raised up the paralytic O Lord, by Your Divine supervision, raise up my soul, cruelly paralysed by unseemly deeds and all manner of sin; that, being saved, I may cry out to You: "O Benevolent Christ, glory to Your Power!"

Saint James (Tone 2)

Chanter: As a disciple of the Lord, O righteous James, You received the Gospel; as a Martyr you have that, which surpasses utterance; the boldness, as the brother of God; as a Hierarch, the power to intercede. Implore Christ our God to save our souls.

Saint James (Tone 4)

Chanter: The Only-begotten Word of God the Father, Who in these latter days sojourned among us, ordained you, O James divine, to be the first shepherd and teacher of Jerusalem, and a faithful steward of spiritual mysteries. Wherefore, O Apostle, we all honour you.

Saint Nicholas (Tone 3)

Chanter: In Myra, O Nicholas, you revealed yourself as a minister of Holy Mysteries. For fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O Venerable one, you laid down your life for your people, and saved the innocent from death. For this, you were canonized as a great mystic of God's Grace.

Saint Demetrios (Tone 3)

Chanter: The world has found in you a mighty champion in dangers, and a gallant victor putting to flight the heathen. Therefore, as you brought down the arrogance of Lyaïos, encouraging Nestor in the stadium, in like manner O Saint, Great Martyr Demetrios, beseech Christ our God, that He will grant to us His great mercy.

Saint Panteleimon (Tone 3)

Chanter: O Holy Champion and healer Panteleimon, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant remission of sins to our souls.

Saints Cosmos and Damian (Tone 8)

Chanter: O Holy Unmercenaries and Wonder-workers Cosmos and Damian, visit our infirmities; freely you have received, freely give to us.

Saint John the Theologian (Tone 2)

Chanter: Who shall declare your grandeur, O Virgin? For you abound in wonders, pouring forth streams of healing, and interceding for our souls, as learned in wisdom Divine, and as the friend of Christ.

Theotokion (Tone 2)

Chanter: A fervent prayer, and wall most unshakeable a merciful spring and shelter of all mankind, fervently we cry to you Theotokos, our Lady, come to us, and from all dangers now deliver us. The only protection who speeds to us.

First Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of Saint James. (Chapter 5:10-16)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the Name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into

judgment. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The First Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.
(Chapter 10:25-37)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbour as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Then Jesus answered and said; "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So

which of these three do you think was neighbour to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The First Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Lord, Who is without beginning, eternal, Holy of Holies, Who sent down Your Only-begotten Son to heal every infirmity and every wound of our souls and bodies, send down Your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this Oil; and cause it to be for Your servants, who are about to be anointed with it, for complete remission of their sins, and for inheritance of the kingdom of Heaven.

For You are a great and marvellous God, Who keeps Your covenant and Your mercy to them who love You; Who grants remission of sins through Your Divine Son Jesus Christ. You gave us a rebirth from sin; You give light to the blind and raise up the fallen; You love the righteous, and show mercy to sinners; You renew us from darkness and the shadow of death, saying to those in captivity, "Come forth!" and to those in darkness, "Uncover your eyes!"

For the light of knowledge of Your Only begotten Son has shone in

our hearts; since for our sakes, He revealed Himself on earth, and dwelt among men; and for as many as accepted Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God, granting us the adoption of sonship through the layer of regeneration, and setting us free from the oppression of the devil. And inasmuch as it has not pleased You, that we should be cleansed by blood, but by Holy Oil, You gave us the sign of His Cross, that we might become the flock of Christ, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, purifying us by water, and sanctifying us by Your Holy Spirit. O Master and Lord, grant Grace to this Your ministry, as You did to Your servant Moses, and to Samuel, Your beloved, and to John, Your chosen one; and to all those, who from generation to generation, have pleased You.

In like manner, empower us also to be ministers of the New Covenant of Your Son over this Oil, which You have secured through His precious Blood; that putting away earthly desires, we may die to sin, and live in righteousness, being clothed with our Lord Jesus Christ, through the anointing with this sanctifying Oil, which we are about to summon to our aid.

Grant that this Oil, O Lord, becomes the Oil of gladness, the Oil of sanctification, a royal robe, an armour of might, the deflecting of every satanic assault, the seal of immunity from snares, the gladness of heart, everlasting joy; that also in this, they who shall be anointed with this Oil of rebirth, may be strong against their adversaries, and may shine in the radiance of Your Saints, having neither spot nor wrinkle, and that they may be admitted into Your eternal rest, and receive the award of the calling from Above.

For it is Yours, to show mercy and to save us, O God, our God, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Anointing

Priest: O Holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies, Who sent Your Only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to heal every infirmity and deliver from death, heal also these, Your servants from the ailments of their body and soul, and endow them with life by the Grace of Your Christ, through the intercessions our All-holy Lady Theotokos, and ever-Virgin Mary; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honoured Bodiless Powers in Heaven; the supplications of the honoured, glorious prophet and Forerunner, John the Baptist; the holy, glorious and all-laudable

Apostles; the brother of God, and first Bishop of Jerusalem, James; the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; our saintly and God-bearing Fathers; the holy Unmercenaries, and Healers, Cosmas and Damian, Cyrus and John, Samson and Diomedes, Mokias and Aniketos, Panteleimon and Hermolaos, Thalelaios and Tryphon; of our holy and righteous ancestors Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints.

For You, our God, are the Source of healing, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Second Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The LORD is my strength and song. The LORD has chastened me severely.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans.
(Chapter 15:1-7)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be likeminded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Second Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.
(Chapter 19:1-10)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Second Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O God great and supreme, worshiped by all creation, Fountainhead of wisdom, Abyss of unfathomable goodness, and boundless Gulf of loving kindness; do You, the same Master Who loves mankind, the God of things eternal and of wonders, Whom no man by reason can comprehend, look down and hear us, Your unworthy servants; and wheresoever in Your great Name we bring this Oil, send down the gift of Your healing, and remission of sins; and heal them in the multitude of Your mercies.

Yes, O Lord, Who are easy to be entreated; You alone are merciful and loves mankind; You are sorrowful for our evil deeds; You know how the mind of man leans towards wickedness, even from his youth; You do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should repent and live.

For the salvation of sinners, although being God, You became a created being for the sake of Your creatures; You have said: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." You sought the wandering sheep; You searched diligently for the lost piece of silver, and having found it, You said: "He that comes to me I will not cast out." You did not abhor the sinful woman who washed Your precious feet with her tears; You did say: "As often as you fall arise, and you shall be saved." It is You, Who said: "There is joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents."

O merciful Master, look down from on High, giving us, Your sinful and unworthy servant's shelter under the Grace of the Holy Spirit, in this hour, and take up Your abode in these, Your servants, who acknowledge their iniquities, and draw near to You in faith. Accept them because of Your love towards mankind, forgiving them whatsoever they have done amiss, whether by word, deed, or thought, and cleanse them from every sin; and abiding ever present with them, preserve them for the remaining years of their life, that, walking ever in Your statutes, they may in no way again become an object of joy to the Devil; so that also in these, Your All Holy Name may be glorified.

For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God; and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your All-Holy, and Good, and Life-giving Spirit, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Third Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; The LORD is the strength of my life.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
(Chapter 12:27- 13:8)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Third Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
(Chapter 10:1, 5-8)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Third Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Master Almighty, Holy King, Who chastens, yet does not put to death; Who supports those, who fall, and raises those, who are downtrodden; Who heals our physical afflictions; we entreat You, our God, that You bring Your Mercy on this Oil, and to those, who

are anointed with it in Your Name; that it may be effectual for the healing of soul and body, for cleansing and deliverance from every infirmity, illness, malady, and every defilement of body and soul. Yes, Lord, send down from Heaven Your healing Power; touch the body, quench the fever, soothe the pain and banish every hidden ailment. Become the Physician of these, Your servants; raise them up and heal their suffering; grant that they may be given to the Church whole and in restored health, pleasing You and abiding by Your will.

For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us our God, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Fourth Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: In that day when I shall call upon You, Lord, hear my prayer. I shall call upon the Lord my God.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the second Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. (Chapter 6:16-7:1)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Fourth Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
(Chapter 8:14-23)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them. When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses." And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Fourth Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O gracious, loving compassionate and ever merciful Lord, plentiful in mercy, and rich in beneficence, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, Who through Your holy Apostles has empowered us to heal the infirmities of Your people by Oil and prayer, confirm this Oil for the healing of those, who shall be anointed with it, for relief from every ailment, and every malady; for deliverance from evils of those, who in firm hope await salvation from You. Yes, O Master, Lord our God, we pray to You the Almighty, that You will save us all; the only Physician of souls and bodies, sanctify us all; as Healer of every malady, heal also these, Your servants.

Raise them up from their bed of pain, through the mercies of Your goodness. Visit them in Your mercy and compassion. Cast out from them every sickness and malady, that being healed by Your mighty hand they may serve You with all thanksgiving, that even now, sharing in Your ineffable love we may sing praises and glorify You, Who creates great and wondrous things, both glorious and transcendent.

For it is Yours to show mercy and to save us our God, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Fifth Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: You shall keep us, O LORD, You shall preserve us from this generation forever. Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases!

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the second Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. (Chapter 1:8-11)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God Who raises the dead, Who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in Whom we trust that He will still

deliver us, you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Fifth Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
(Chapter 25:1-13)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for

the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Fifth Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Lord, our God, You chasten, and again heal; You raise up from the ground and dunghill the indigent; Father of orphans, and Haven of tempest-tossed; Physician of the ailing, Who without toil bears our weaknesses, and accepts our infirmities; it is You, Who cheerfully shows mercy, and passes over our iniquities, taking away our unrighteousness; quick to help and slow to wrath; You breathed on Your Disciples, and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit; whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted". It is You, Who accepts the repentance of sinners, and has the power to pardon countless and grievous sins, bestowing healing upon all, who continue in weakness and long-enduring illness.

It is You, Lord, Who has also called me, Your humble, sinful and unworthy servant, intertwined in many sins, and wallowing in the pleasures of life, to the Holy and exceedingly lofty degree of the Priesthood, and to enter within the innermost Veil, into the Holy of Holies, where the Holy Angels desire to penetrate and hear the voice of the Lord, God, announcing glad tidings, and to behold with their own eyes the presence of the Sacred Oblation, and to enjoy the Divine and Sacred Liturgy.

You, Lord, deemed me worthy to minister Your Heavenly Mysteries, and offer You gifts and sacrifices for our sins, and the ignorance's of people; and to mediate for Your reason-endowed sheep, so that through Your great and ineffable love for mankind, You may blot out their transgressions.

All-merciful King, hear the voice of my prayer at this hour and Holy Day, and at all times and places; and to these, Your servants,

who are ailing in soul and body, grant Your healing, remitting their sins, and pardoning their transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, treating their incurable wounds, every ailment and malady. Give health to their soul, You, Who touched the mother-in-law of Peter, and having been cured of her fever, arose, and ministered to You.

Grant to these, Your servants, O Master, the healing and deliverance from every devastating pain. Remember Your mercies and compassion; and that the mind of man inclines toward evil from his youth; that no one is without sin upon earth, for You alone are without sin; Who came and saved the human race, and set us free from the bondage of the enemy.

For if You enter into judgment with Your servants, none will be found clean from stain; but every mouth shall be sealed, not having any defence; for as discarded rags is all our righteousness before You; wherefore, O Lord, remember not the sins of our youth.

For You are the hope of the hopeless, and the rest of those, who labour and are heavily-laden with iniquity, and to You we ascribe glory together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Sixth Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians.
(Chapter 5:22-6:3)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one

another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Sixth Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
(Chapter 15:21-28)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Sixth Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: We thank You Lord, our good and loving God, Physician of our souls and bodies, Who painlessly has borne our infirmities and by Whose stripes we all have been healed. You are the Good Shepherd, Who came in search of the wandering sheep; You give consolation to the faint-hearted, and life to the broken-hearted; You healed the flow of the woman, having an issue of blood for twelve years, and freed the daughter of the Canaanite woman from the cruel demon; You forgave the debt of the two debtors and forgave the sinful woman; You healed the Paralytic along with the remission of his sins; You justified the Publican with Your word, and received the Thief at his last confession; You took upon Yourself the sins of the world, by being nailed to the Cross.

We pray to You and entreat You; in Your goodness, loose, remit, forgive, O God, the sins of Your servants, and their iniquities, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether of knowledge or of ignorance, whether of excess of disobedience, whether of the night or of the day; whether they be under the ban of a priest, or the curse of father or mother; whether through the sight of their eyes, or their sense of smell; whether through adultery, or fornication, or through whatever impulse of the flesh and of the spirit, they have alienated themselves from Your will, and from Your Holiness.

If we also have sinned, in like manner, forgive; forasmuch as You are a good God, Who remembers not evil, and loves mankind, permitting us not to fall into the unclean life, neither to follow in wayward paths.

Yes, Lord and Master hear me, a sinner, in this hour, in behalf of these, Your servants; overlook all their trespasses, as a forgiving God. Deliver them from eternal punishment; fill their mouths with praise of You; open their lips, that they may glorify Your Holy

Name; stretch forth their hands to execute Your commandments. Direct their feet aright, in the way of Your Gospel, strengthening all their members and their thoughts by Your Grace. For You are our God, Who through Your holy Apostles gave us a commandment saying: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven."

And again: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." And as You hearkened to Hezekiah in the sorrow of his soul, at the hour of his death, and did not overlook his prayer, in like manner hear me, Your humble, sinful and unworthy servant, praying to You at this hour. For You are the Lord, Jesus Christ, Who in Your mercy and love for mankind, commanded us to forgive those, who fall in sin, even seventy times seven; Who laments for our wickedness, and rejoices over the return of those, who have strayed. For as is Your Majesty, so also is Your mercy, and to You we ascribe glory together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Seventh Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger. Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians. (Chapter 5:14-23)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Seventh Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
(Chapter 9:9-13)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

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

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Seventh Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Physician of souls and bodies, it is You, Who soothes the chronic pains, and heals every infirmity and malady of the people, Who desires, that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth and Who wills not the death of the sinner, but rather that he should repent and live.

For You, O Lord, in the Old Covenant, ordained repentance for sinners; for David and the Ninevites, and to those, before and after them; but also in the new dispensation of Your coming in the flesh, You called not the righteous, but the sinners to repentance; like the Publican, the harlot, the thief, and the blasphemous and persecutor Paul the great, receiving them all through repentance; Peter, Your great Apostle, denying You three times, You received in repentance, and promised him, saying: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it; and I will give You the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven." For which cause, O Merciful and Loving God, encouraged by Your faithful promise, we pray and entreat You at this hour. Hear our prayer and accept it as incense offered to You; visit these, Your servants, and if they have trespassed either in word or deed, or thought, by night or day, if they have fallen under the ban of a priest, or under their own anathema, or have sworn by oath, we pray to You; loose, pardon, forgive them, O God, overlooking their iniquities and their sins, committed by them knowingly or in ignorance. And if they have transgressed Your Commandments, or have erred, as bearing flesh and living in the world, or by the prompting of the devil, forgive, as a Merciful and Loving God; for there is no man who lives and sins not.

For You only are sinless; Your righteousness is to all eternity, and Your word is truth. For You have not created man for destruction, but for the keeping of Your Commandments, and for the inheriting of life incorruptible. To You we ascribe glory together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The people kneel. Then the Priest takes the holy Gospel, opens it with the writing down, raised above the heads of those attending, he recites the following prayer aloud.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Holy King, Compassionate and All Merciful, Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, Who desires not the death of a sinner, but that he will return and live. I do not lay my sinful hand, upon the heads of these who come to You in their iniquities and ask You through us the pardon of their sins, but Your mighty hand which is in this, the holy Gospel. I beseech Your compassion and Your love of mankind, O Saviour, Who gave to David, through Nathan the Prophet, remission of his sins, when he repented of them and as you accepted the contrite prayers of Mennases. Receive now also according to Your love of mankind, these Your servants, who are repenting from their sins having no regard of their trespasses. For You are our God, Who has commanded that those who fall into sin be forgiven, even seventy times seven.

For as is Your majesty, so also is Your mercy, and to You belong all glory, honour and adoration of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The Priest then raises the holy Gospel.

Litany

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray to You, hear us, and have mercy.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation for Your servants, who have come for this Holy Sacrament, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Troparia (Tone 4)

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Having the Fountain of healing, O Holy Unmercenaries, you bestow

healing on all who ask of it; for you were deemed worthy of exceedingly great gifts, from the perpetual Source of Christ, the Saviour. For the Lord has said to you, as equals in zeal to the Apostles: "Behold, I have given you authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every infirmity and every malady". Therefore, having faithfully followed His Commandments, freely you have received, and freely give, healing the ills of our souls and bodies."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Regard the prayers of your suppliants, O immaculate one, ceasing the fierce tumult within us, releasing us from all anguish. For you alone we have as a secure and firm anchor, and have acquired your protection; may we not be ashamed, O Lady, when we call upon you. Hasten to the petitions of those, who faithfully cry out: "Rejoice, O Lady, the help of all; the joy and shelter, and salvation of our souls."

The Dismissal

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory be to You!

People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Father bless.**

Priest: May He Who is going to His voluntary passion for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; of [*patron saint(s) of the community*] the patron(s) of this community; of [*saints of day*], whose memory we celebrate today; and of all the Saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: **Amen.**

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

People: **Amen.**

At this point of the Service, one by one, the faithful come forth to be anointed.
