

Vesting For Compline

The Priest goes to stand before the closed Holy Doors and makes 3 metanias, turns toward the West and bows once and enters the Sanctuary through the North door saying:

Priest: I will enter Your house, I will worship toward Your holy temple in fear of You. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make my way straight before You. For there is no truth in their mouth; their heart is destruction, their throat is an open sepulcher, they flatter with their tongue. Judge them, O God, let them fall by their own counsels; because of their many transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against You. But let all who take refuge in You rejoice, let them always sing for joy; and dwell in them, that those who love Your name may exult in You. For You bless the righteous, O Lord, You cover us with good will as with a shield.

He bows 3 times before the Altar Table, kisses the Holy Gospel, the Altar Table, and the Cross.

He blesses the stole (epitrachelion), and says, as he vests:

+ Blessed is God, Who pours out His grace upon His Priests, as myrrh upon the head, that runs down the beard, the beard of Aaron, that runs down the border of his robe.

As he puts on the cuffs (epimanikia), he recites the following:

(Right) Your right hand, O Lord, has been glorified in power. Your right hand, O Lord, has shattered Your enemies. In the greatness of Your majesty, You have overthrown Your adversaries.

(Left) Your hands have made and fashioned me. Give me understanding that I may learn Your commandments.

He blesses the chasuble (phelonion), and prays, as he vests:

+ Your Priests, O Lord, shall clothe themselves with righteousness, and Your saints shall shout with joy always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Great Compline

Part I

The Prayers of the Evening¹

The Priest, exits through the North door, stands before the closed Holy Doors facing East, makes the Sign of the Cross and blesses himself:

Priest: + Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

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

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

¹ Great Compline is celebrated on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, the eve of Theophany, the eve of Annunciation in most situations, the eves of Tuesday through Friday of the first week of Great Lent, and the eves of Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The service is composed of three distinct parts, which were probably once separate services.

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

All: Our Father, Who are 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, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12x*)

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

Come, let us worship God our King!

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

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

The Priest then goes to stand at the Reader's stand.

Monday through Thursday of the First Week of Great Lent:

Psalm 69 (70)

O God, attend to my help;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confounded.
Let those who wish evils for me
be turned back and put to shame.

Let those who say to me, “Fine, fine!”
be turned back immediately ashamed.

Let all who seek You, O God,
rejoice and be glad in You,
and let those who love Your salvation
say continually, “The Lord be magnified!”

But I am poor and needy;
O God, help me.

You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, make no delay.

Then all sing and chant:

[The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete]

Psalm 4

Reader: When I call upon You, You answer me,
God of my righteousness,
You relieve me in trouble.

Have compassion on me
and answer my prayer.

Sons of men, how long will you be heavy-hearted?
Why do you love vanity and want a lie?

But know that the Lord has made wonderful His Holy One.
The Lord will answer me when I cry to Him.

Be angry, but do not sin.²
For what you say in your hearts
be sorry on your beds.

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness³
and put your trust in the Lord.

Many say, “Who will show us good times?”⁴
The light of Your face, O Lord, has been signed upon us.

You have given me gladness in my heart;
they are satisfied with the harvest of their wheat, wine and oil.

In peace in the same place I will lie down and sleep,
because You alone, Lord, make me live in hope.

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your rage
or correct me in Your anger.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, because I am weak.
Heal me, O Lord, because my bones are troubled.

And my soul is troubled greatly;
but You, O Lord, how long will You be?

Return, O Lord, deliver my soul;
save me for Your mercy’s sake.

For in death there is no one who remembers You,
and who will confess You in Hades?

² Eph. 4:26 verbatim.

³ “Obtain righteousness, do righteousness, and offer it in sacrifice to God” (St. Athanasius the Great). Offer Christ our Passover until His coming again (1 Cor. 11:26).

⁴ or “good things”. Cp. Ps. 83:11.

I am worn out with my groaning,
each night I bathe my bed
and sprinkle my couch with my tears.

My eye has become troubled from anger,
I have become old among all my enemies.

Keep away from me, all you evildoers,
because the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my petition,
the Lord has received my prayer.

May all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled,
may they be quickly routed and utterly confounded.

Psalm 12 (13)

How long, O Lord, will You forever forget me?
How long will You turn Your face away from me?

How long shall I make plans in my soul
and in my heart have sorrows day and night?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

Regard me, answer me, O Lord my God;
enlighten my eyes lest I sleep in death,
lest at any time my enemy say, “I defeated him.”
Those who trouble me will exult if I am shaken.

But I have set my hope on Your mercy;
my heart rejoices in Your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord who is so good to me,
and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Psalm 24 (25)

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in You I trust:
let me never be put to shame,
nor let my enemies laugh at me.

For none who wait for You will be put to shame;
let those be ashamed who do wrong for no reason.

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me
and teach me Your paths.

Guide me by Your truth and teach me,
because You, O God, are my Savior
and for You I wait all day.

Remember Your compassion, O Lord, and Your mercies,
because they are from all eternity.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my ignorance,
but in Your mercy remember me
for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.

Good and straight is the Lord;
so He gives laws for sinners in the way.⁵

He will guide the meek⁶ to judge what is right,
He will teach the humble His ways.

All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who seek His covenant and His laws.

For Your name's sake, O Lord,
forgive my sin, for it is great.

Who is a man who fears the Lord?
He will instruct him in the way he should choose.⁷

His soul will live among good things,
and his children will inherit the earth.

The Lord is the strength of those who fear Him,
and His covenant will make it clear to them.

My eyes continually look to the Lord,⁸
because He will pull my feet out of the trap.⁹

Look upon me and have mercy on me
because I am poor and lonely.

The troubles of my heart are multiplied;
O bring me out of my afflictions.

See my humiliation and my labor
and forgive all my sins.

⁵ Ps. 26:11.

⁶ Gk. *praus* = meek & humble, so we give both translations.

⁷ Ps. 26:11.

⁸ Cp. Ps. 68:14.

⁹ or “out of danger”, i.e., away from the trap.

See my enemies, for they are multiplied
and they hate me with an unjust hatred.

Guard my soul and deliver me;
let me not be ashamed, for I have hoped in You.

The innocent and upright have joined me,
because I wait for You, O Lord.

Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.

Psalm 30 (31)

In You, O Lord, I hope and trust;
let me never be put to shame.
Rescue me and deliver me in Your justice.

Bend Your ear to me,
make haste to rescue me.
Be my God and Protector,
my house of refuge to save me.

For You are my strength and my refuge,
and for Your name's sake
You will guide me and support me.

You will bring me out of this trap which they have hidden for me
because You are my Protector, O Lord.

Into Your hands I commit my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

You hate those who idly watch vanities,
but I set my hope on the Lord.

I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy,
because You have regarded my humiliation,
You have saved my soul from distress

and You have not shut me up
in the hands of my enemies;
You have set my feet in a wide place.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
because I am in trouble.
My eye is troubled with anger,
my soul and my body also.

For my life is spent with pain
and my years with groans;
my strength has grown weak from poverty,
and my bones are troubled.

I have become a reproach among all my enemies
and especially to my neighbors,
and a terror to my acquaintances;
those who see me outside run from me.

I am forgotten like a dead man lost from memory,¹⁰
I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the blame of many who live around me,
as they conspire together against me
and plot to take my life.

But I hope in You, Lord.
I have said, “You are my God.”

¹⁰ Lit. “from heart”. Cp. learn by heart, meaning by memory.

My life is in Your hands;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from those who persecute me.

Let Your face shine on Your servant,
save me in Your mercy.

O Lord, do not let me be ashamed,
because I have called upon You.
Let the godless be ashamed
and be brought down to Hades.

Let the lying lips be dumb
which talk lawlessness against the righteous
with pride and contempt.

How great is the wealth of Your goodness, O Lord,
which You have hidden for those who fear You
and provided for those who hope in You
before the sons of men!

You hide them in the secrecy of Your presence
from the disturbance of men;
You shelter them in Your temple
from the dispute of tongues.

Blessed is the Lord,
for He has shown the wonder of His mercy
in a besieged city.

But I said in my madness,
“I am cast away from the eyes of Your face.”
Therefore You heard the voice of my prayer
when I cried to You.

O love the Lord, all you His saints!
For the Lord requires truth,
and He fully repays those who act with pride.

Take courage and let your heart be strong,
all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 90 (91)

He who lives by the help of the Most High
will pass the night in the protection of the God of Heaven.

He will say to the Lord, “You are my protector and my refuge,
my God,” and in Him I will hope.

For He will deliver you from the trap of the hunters
and from the embarrassing word.

He will overshadow you with His shoulders,
and under His wings you will hope.
His truth will surround you with armor.

You will not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day--

of a thing going by in the dark,
of an accident or a noonday demon.

A thousand will fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

Only with your eyes you will look on,
and you will see the reward of sinners.

For You, Lord, are my hope;
You made the Most High Your refuge.

No evils will come to you,
and no scourge will come near your dwelling.

For He will command His angels regarding you
to guard you in all your ways.

They will lift you on their hands,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will step on the asp and the adder;
the lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

“Because he has set his hope on Me, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows My name.

He will call to Me and I will answer him.
I am with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and glorify him.

With a long life I will satisfy him,
and I will show him My salvation.”

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to You, O God. (3x)

The following is sung differently in different places, according to local custom. Some assign the verses to the Priest and the refrains to a Cantor or Choir. Some assign the verses to a Cantor or Reader and the refrains to a (second) Cantor or Choir. Some use two Choirs. No doubt there are other variations in use.

God Is With Us

Isaiah 8:8-10, 12-14, 17-18, 9:2, 6-7

Reader: God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves, for
God is with us!

People: God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Reader: Hear this, all you ends of the earth!

Refrain: For God is with us!

etc. Submit yourselves, you mighty ones!

Even if your strength returns, you shall be overthrown once more.

Take counsel together, if you wish, but it will come to nothing.

Make your plans, if you wish, but they will never stand, even among yourselves.

We do not fear your threats, nor are we troubled.

For the Lord our God is holy, and Him we will fear.

If I trust in Him, He will be my sanctification.

I will wait for Him, He will save me.

Behold, I and the children whom God has given me are signs and omens in Israel from the Lord of Hosts.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

To those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a light is risen.

For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.

And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

And of His peace there shall be no end.

And His name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel.

Wonderful, Counselor.

Mighty God, Eternal Ruler, Prince of Peace.

The Father of the Age to Come.

God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves, for
God is with us!

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

God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves, for
God is with us!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

God is with us! Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves, for
God is with us!

Additional Hymns of Day's End

Tone 8

Reader: Now that the day is over, I thank You, O Lord,
and I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without sin.//
Grant this, O Savior, and save me!

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

Now that the day is over, I glorify You, O Master,
and I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without giving
offense.//

Grant this, O Savior, and save me!

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

Now that the day is over, I praise You, O Holy One,
and I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without
temptation.//

Grant this, O Savior, and save me!

Tone 6

The bodiless Cherubim glorify You with never-ending songs.
The six-winged Seraphim exalt You with ceaseless voices.
All the hosts of Angels honor You with the thrice-holy hymn.
For You, O Father, are from all eternity, with Your co-eternal Son,
and with the Spirit of life, Who is equal to You;
You have revealed the unity of the Trinity.
O most-holy Virgin and Mother of God,
O eye-witnesses and servants of the Word,
O all choirs of prophets and martyrs, who enjoy eternal life,
fervently pray for us all, who are in fearful distress,
that we may be delivered from the deceit of the Evil One,
so that we may sing the song of the Angels:
“Holy, holy, holy, Thrice-holy Lord,/
have mercy on us and save us!”

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten,
begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true
God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all
things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and
suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to
the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of
the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and
the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from
the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and

glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world¹¹ to come. Amen.

The All-Holy

There are two ways in which the All-Holy is done:

Except on Fridays: The invocations below are each chanted by the Priest. The first is repeated twice, once by each choir. The remainder are repeated once, the two choirs alternating. A prostration is made for each invocation.

On Fridays: The Reader responds to the Priest instead of the two choirs and lesser reverences are made instead of prostrations.

O All-holy and sovereign Lady Theotokos, pray for us sinners.

O all the heavenly Host of angels and archangels, pray for us sinners.

O holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ, pray for us sinners.

O holy, glorious apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all saints, pray for us sinners.

O all our reverend and God-fearing fathers, pastors, and ecumenical teachers, pray for us sinners.

O holy [patron saint of the parish], pray for us sinners.

¹¹ Literally “age”.

O invincible, ineffable, and divine power of the honorable and life-creating Cross, do not forsake us sinners.

O God, cleanse us sinners. (2x)¹²

O God, cleanse us sinners, and have mercy on us.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are 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, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

¹² Technically 1x, but in practice usually 2x.

The Troparia

On Feasts:

People: Amen

[the Troparion]

On Fridays:

Reader: Amen.

[the Troparion of the Saturday commemoration]

On Monday and Wednesday:

Reader: Amen.

Tone 2

Lighten my eyes, O Christ God, that I not die in my sleep; lest my enemy say: “I have prevailed against him.”

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

Be the defender of my soul, O God, for I walk in the midst of many snares. Deliver me and save me, O Good One, for You love mankind!

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

We have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins, but entreat Him Who was born of you, O Virgin Theotokos, for the prayer of a mother has great power to win favor of the Master. Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-pure one, for merciful and strong to save is He Who willed to suffer for us.

On Tuesday and Thursday:

Reader: Amen.

Tone 8

O Lord, my Creator, You know the unsleeping watchfulness of my invisible enemies, and the weakness of my poor flesh: into Your hands I commit my spirit! Cover me with the wings of Your goodness, that I die not in my sleep, and enlighten the eyes of my spiritual understanding, that I may delight in Your holy words. Grant that I may give You praise, at an acceptable time, as the only Good One, the Lover of mankind.

Look upon me, and listen to me, O Lord my God!

How terrible is Your judgment, O Lord, as men are led before You while the angels stand by. The books are opened, deeds are tried, and all thoughts are searched out. What judgment shall then be awarded me, conceived in sin? Who shall quench the flame for me? Who shall enlighten my darkness, if not You, O Lord, Who show mercy to me because of Your love towards mankind.

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

Grant me tears, O God, as You did once to the sinning woman of old, and graciously grant that I may wash Your feet which delivered me from the path of error, that I may offer You a pure life as a sweet-smelling incense, fashioned by my repentance. Then shall I hear Your longed for voice saying: “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

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

I shall be saved, O Theotokos, having in you the hope which frees from shame, and I will not fear, possessing your intercession, All-pure one. I will pursue my enemies, and put them to flight, with only your protection and all-powerful aid as armor. I cry out and fervently implore

you: deliver me by your prayers, O Lady, and raise me up again from the gloom of sleep that I may glorify you in hymns, by the might of the Son of God, Who was made flesh through you.

The Priest comes to stand on the solea before the Holy Doors, facing East.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)¹³

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare
than the seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word.
True Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless!

Priest: + May God have compassion on us and bless us, may He manifest His presence to us and have mercy on us:

Reader: Amen.

A Prayer of Saint Basil the Great

Priest: O Lord, our Lord, Who deliver us from all the arrows that fly by day, deliver us also from every evil thing lurking in the darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Grant that we may pass the course of this night without reproach, untempted by evil, and free us from the anxiety and cowardice brought by the devil. Grant contrition to our souls, and make us mindful of the scrutiny to come on the dread and just day of Your judgment. Nail our flesh to the fear of You, and let our earthly passions die, that in the quietness of sleep, we may be enlightened by the vision of Your decrees. Remove from us also every indecent fantasy and harmful desire. Raise us up again at the hour of prayer, strengthened in the Faith, and advancing in obedience to Your

¹³ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

commandments; through the favor and goodness of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Part II

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King!
 Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
 Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

The Priest goes to stand at the Reader's stand.

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, O God,
 in Your great mercy,
 and in Your abundant compassion
 blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness¹⁴
 and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my sinfulness
 and my sin is before me continually.

Against You only have I sinned
 and done what is evil in Your sight,
 that You may be justified in Your words
 and win when You are judged.

¹⁴ “Sin is lawlessness” (1 Jn. 3:4). The one summarizing law is Gal. 5:14.

For I was conceived in iniquities¹⁵
and in sins my mother gave me birth.¹⁶

But You love truth;
the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom
You have made known to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean.
You will wash me
and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness.
The bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,¹⁷
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence¹⁸
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.¹⁹

I will teach Your ways to the lawless,
and sinners will return to You.

¹⁵ Lit. “lawlessnesses”.

¹⁶ As Slavonic.

¹⁷ Ezek. 36:26-27 tallies with Ps. 50:10-12.

¹⁸ or “face”.

¹⁹ Gen. 1:26, 28 LXX, NAS; Ps. 8:7-10 LXX; Ps. 8:6 NAS; Rev. 5:10; Rom. 5:17.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation.
My tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.²⁰

O Lord, You will open my lips
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You desired sacrifice,
I would have given it.
You take no delight in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.

Gladden Zion, O Lord, with Your goodwill,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You will delight in the sacrifice of righteousness,
in offering and whole burnt offerings.
Then they will offer young bulls on Your altar.

Psalm 101 (102)

O Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come to You.

Do not turn Your face from me
in the day when I am in trouble.

Incline Your ear to me, answer me quickly
in the day when I call upon You.

For my days vanish like smoke,
and my bones burn like firewood.

²⁰ As Slavonic.

My heart is sick and dry like grass,
because I forget to eat my bread.²¹

From the cry of my groaning
I am reduced to skin and bones.²²

I have become like a pelican of the desert,
I have become like an owl in a ruined building.

I kept awake and became
like a solitary sparrow on a housetop.

All day long my enemies taunted me,
and those who praised me swore against me.

For I have eaten ashes like bread
and mingled my drink with weeping,

because of Your anger and fury,
for after lifting me up You dashed me down.

My days decline like a shadow
and I am drying up like grass.

But You, O Lord, live forever
and Your memory²³ is from generation to generation.

You will rise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have compassion on her,
because the time has come.

For Your servants delight in her stones
and they feel compassion for her dust.

²¹ Mt. 4:4; Jn. 4:34; 6:32-51; 15:7.

²² Lit. “my bone sticks to my flesh”.

²³ Mt. 26:13 = same Gk.

Then the nations will fear Your name, O Lord,
and all the kings of the earth will fear Your glory.

For the Lord will build up Zion
and He will be seen in His glory.

He has regarded the prayer of the humble
and He has not ignored their need.

Let this be written for another generation
and people who are being created will praise the Lord.

For the Lord looked out from His holy height,
He looked down from heaven at the earth

to hear the groaning of the prisoners,
to deliver the sons of those put to death,

to tell the name of the Lord in Zion
and His praise in Jerusalem,

when the peoples are gathered together
and their kings to serve the Lord.

He answered him in the way of his strength:
Tell me how short my life is to be.

Do not take me away half-way through my life.
Your years are for all generations.²⁴

In the beginning, O Lord, You founded the earth,
and the heavens are the works of Your hands.

²⁴ Heb. 1:12.

They will perish, but You continue,
and they will all grow old like a garment,
and like a wrap You will fold them
and they will be changed.

But You are always the same
and Your years will never end.

The children of Your servants will live securely
and their descendants will forever be rightly guided.

The Priest goes to stand before the icon of Christ and prays:

The Prayer of Manasseh

Priest: O Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and of their righteous posterity;
You Who have made heaven and earth with all their order, Who have shackled the sea by Your word of command,
Who have confined the deep and sealed it with Your terrible and glorious Name;
at Whom all things shudder, and tremble before Your power, for Your glorious splendor cannot be borne,
and the wrath of Your threat to sinners cannot be withstood, yet immeasurable and unsearchable is Your promised mercy
for You are the Lord Most High, of great compassion, long-suffering, and very merciful, and You turn away from the evils of men.
You, O Lord, according to Your great goodness, have promised repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against You;
and in the multitude of Your mercies You have appointed repentance for sinners, that they may be saved.

Therefore You, O Lord, God of the righteous, have not appointed
repentance for the righteous,

for Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob, who did not sin against You, but
You have appointed repentance for me, who am a sinner.

For the sins I have committed are more in number than the sand of the
sea; my transgressions are multiplied, O Lord, they are multiplied!

I am unworthy to look up and see the height of heaven because of the
multitude of my iniquities.

I am weighted down with many an iron fetter, so that I am rejected
because of my sins, and I have no relief;

for I have provoked Your wrath and have done what is evil in Your
sight, ignoring Your will and disobeying Your commandments.

All present now kneel for the remainder of the prayer:

And now I bend the knee of my heart, imploring You for Your kindness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know my transgressions!

Do not be angry with me forever or lay up evil for me; do not condemn
me to the depths of the earth.

For You, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, and in me You will
manifest Your goodness;

for, unworthy as I am, You will save me in Your great mercy, and I will
praise You continually all the days of my life.

For all the host of heaven sings Your praise, and Yours is the glory
forever.

All stand.

Reader: Amen.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are 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, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

The curtain and Holy Doors are opened.

On Feasts:

People: Amen

[the Kontakion of the Feast]

At other times:

Reader: Amen.

The Penitential Troparia***Tone 6***

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to You, as to our Master, this supplication:
Have mercy on us.

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

O Lord, have mercy on us, for in You have we put our trust. Do not be angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since You are compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies, for You are our God, and we are Your people. We are all the work of Your hands, and we call on Your Name.

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

O Blessed Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in you, that we may not perish but be delivered from adversity through you, who are the salvation of the Christian people.

For all days:

Lord, have mercy. (12x)²⁵

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God, the Word.
True Theotokos, we magnify you.

²⁵ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

In the Name of the Lord, Father, bless!

Standing before the Holy Doors, facing East, the Priest says:

Priest: + May God have compassion on us and bless us, may He manifest His presence to us and have mercy on us:

Reader: Amen.

O God, the Master, Father almighty; O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son; and You, O Holy Spirit: one Godhead, one power: have mercy on me a sinner, and according to Your divine judgment, save me, Your unworthy servant, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen.

Part III

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

The Priest enters the Sanctuary through the South door.

All, Except Monday through Thursday of the First Week of Great Lent:

Psalm 69 (70)

O God, attend to my help;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confounded.
Let those who wish evils for me
be turned back and put to shame.

Let those who say to me, “Fine, fine!”
be turned back immediately ashamed.

Let all who seek You, O God,
rejoice and be glad in You,

and let those who love Your salvation
say continually, “The Lord be magnified!”

But I am poor and needy;
O God, help me.

You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, make no delay.

Psalm 142 (143)

Lord, listen²⁶ to my prayer,
give ear to my need in Your truth.
Answer me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,²⁷
for in Your sight no one living is righteous.²⁸

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
he has humbled my life to the ground.
He has made me sit in darkness²⁹
like the dead of long ago.

And my spirit desponded over me,
my heart within me was troubled.

I remember the days of old,
I meditate on all Your works,
I meditate on the works of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You,
my soul like parched earth thirsts for You.

Answer me quickly, O Lord, my spirit grows faint.
Do not turn away Your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for on You I have set my hope.
Make known to me the way I should go, O Lord,
For I lift up my soul to You.

²⁶ Gk. *eisakouein* = 1) listen, 2) answer.

²⁷ or “slave”. Job 15:14-16; Ps. 13:1-3; 52:2-4; Ro. 3:10-12; 23-38.

²⁸ Lit., “will be justified”.

²⁹ Lam. 3:6 LXX, Gk. verbatim (these 2 lines only).

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I come running to You.

Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God;
Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.³⁰

Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake.
In Your justice You will bring my soul out of trouble,
and in Your mercy You will put an end to my enemies
and destroy all who afflict my soul,
for I am Your servant.

The Priest stands before the Altar Table, facing East.

The Lesser Doxology

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty: O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ: and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You who take away the sins of the world, accept our prayer. You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever, even unto ages of ages.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation.
I said, "Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned

³⁰ Cp. Slav. Cp. Ps. 124:4-5 & 144:15; 145:8.

against You!"

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see light. Continue Your mercy unto those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

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

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

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

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

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

Your mercy, O Lord, endures unto ages of ages. Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

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

At the Vigils of Nativity and Theophany and, in some situations, Annunciation (when Great Compline takes the place of Vespers at the Vigil):

[*The Litia - see Appendix A*]

[*The Aposticha*]

People: [*The Song of Simeon*]

All: [*The Trisagion Prayers*]

People: [*Troparion (3x)*]

Priest: [The Blessing of Bread - see Appendix A]

People: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore! (3x)

Priest: + The blessing of the Lord be upon you, through His grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Then go directly to Matins omitting the remainder of Great Compline.

Here a Canon may be appointed.

The Trisagion Prayers

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

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are 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, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

While the following is chanted, the Priest does the Great Censing, exiting the Sanctuary through the North door and entering through the South door. At the completion of the censing, the Priest goes to stand before the Altar Table, facing East.

Remain With Us

[based on Psalm 150]

Tone 6

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.
O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

Reader: Praise God in His saints, praise Him in the expanse of His power.

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.
O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

Reader: Praise Him for His mighty acts,
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.
O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

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

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.

O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

Reader: Praise Him with drum and dancing,
praise Him with strings and bells.

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.
O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

Reader: Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,
praise Him with cymbals of victory!

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.
O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

Reader: Let every breath praise the Lord!

People: Remain with us, O Lord of Hosts,
for we have no other help in times of sorrow but You.
O Lord of Hosts, have mercy on us.

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

People: How should we dare to hymn You, O Savior,
Whom the angels unceasingly glorify in song,
if we had not Your saints as intercessors,
and Your mercy and loving kindness towards us.
O You Who know our hearts, spare our souls.

Reader: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

People: The number of my transgressions is very great, O Theotokos:
I have fled to you, O Pure One, entreating salvation.
Visit my weakened soul, and pray to your Son and our God
that He will grant me remission of the terrible things I have done, Only
blessed one!

O all-holy Theotokos, do not forsake me all the days of my life.
Do not give me over to the protection of men,
but be my defender and have mercy on me.

I have put my whole trust in you, O Mother of God:
Keep me under your protection.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)³¹

The Prayer of the Hours

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

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

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

³¹ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

Priest: + May God have compassion on us and bless us,
may He manifest His presence to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Cheesefare Wednesday and Friday, weekdays of Great Lent, and Holy Monday through Wednesday:

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*All make a prostration.*)

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

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

Then all make 12 lesser reverences, saying for each:

O God, cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim is repeated, with one prostration at the end.

The Priest closes the Holy Doors and curtain and exits the Sanctuary through the North door, and comes to stand on the solea before the icon of the Theotokos and prays:

A Prayer to the Theotokos

Priest: O all-pure and incorruptible Virgin Bride of God, and our Sovereign Lady, who made the Word of God one with mankind by gloriously giving birth to your Son, and joining our fallen nature to His divine nature; who are the hope of the despairing and the support of those in distress, the swift defender of those who turn to you, and the refuge of all Christians: Do not turn from me, an unclean sinner, who have destroyed myself with unworthy thoughts, words and deeds, and have

been enslaved by forgetfulness to the carnal passions of life; but have compassion on me, O Theotokos, and accept the prayer of a sinner and prodigal, offered from unclean lips. Exercise your boldness as a mother, and pray to your Son, our Lord and Master, that He will make known to me also His compassionate goodness, and overlooking my countless sins, will turn me to repentance, and make me fervent in doing His commandments. Be with me always in your grace and loving mercy, for you are the fervent helper who turns away the assaults of enemies and guides men towards salvation, caring for my unworthy soul at the hour of death, and driving from it the darkness of evil spirits. In the Day of Judgment, free me from eternal torment, and show me to be an heir of the divine glory of your Son, and our God.

Grant this, O Lady Theotokos, by your prayers and intercessions, through the mercy and loving-kindness of your Only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom are due all glory, honor and worship, with the Father Who is without beginning, and His all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Facing the icon of Christ on the Iconostasis, the Priest prays:

An Evening Prayer to Christ

And grant rest, O Master, to our souls and bodies as we sleep; preserve us from the gloomy slumber of sin, and from the dark passions of the night. Calm the impulses of carnal desires; quench the fiery darts of the evil one which are craftily directed against us. Still the rebellions of the flesh, and put far from us all anxiety and worldly cares.

Grant us, O God, a watchful mind, pure thoughts, a sober heart, and a quiet rest free from every vision of the devil. Raise us up again at the hour of prayer, strengthened in Your precepts, and holding within us steadfastly the thought of Your commandments.

Grant that we may sing praises to You through the night and that we may hymn, bless, and glorify Your all-honorable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Facing the icon of the Theotokos, the Priest prays:

Another Prayer to the Theotokos

O exceedingly glorious and ever-virgin Theotokos, bring our petitions before your Son, and our God, and implore Him that through you He will save our souls. Amen.

Standing before the Holy Doors, facing East, the Priest prays:

A Prayer to the Trinity

O Father, my hope; O Son, my refuge; O Holy Spirit, my protection; O Holy Trinity: Glory to You!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, Bless!

Turning to face the People, the Priest blesses them:

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to Your spirit.

The Priest turns to face the East:

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

During the following prayer, all make a prostration:

Priest: O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God: through the prayers of our All-Pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the might of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the prayers of the honorable bodiless powers of Heaven; of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious, and gloriously triumphant martyrs; of our venerable and god-bearing Fathers; of the holy, righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all Your saints: make our prayer acceptable. Grant unto us remission of our iniquities. Hide us under the shadow of Your wings. Drive far from us every enemy and adversary. Give peace to our life. Have mercy on us and on Your world, O Lord, and save our souls, for You are merciful and You love mankind.

Reader: Amen.

In monasteries, convents, seminaries, and other organized Christian communities, there follows:

The Mutual Forgiveness

Priest: Bless me, holy fathers and brethren, and pardon me, a sinner, all wherein I have sinned this day, in deed, in word, in thought, and in all my senses. *[Prostration]*

All: May God pardon and have mercy on you, holy father.

Bless me, holy fathers and brethren, and pardon me, a sinner, all wherein I have sinned this day, in deed, in word, in thought, and in all my senses. *[Prostration]*

Priest: May God, through His grace, pardon and have mercy on us all.

and also:

The Compline Litany

Priest: Let us pray for [his Beatitude] Metropolitan _____; for [his Grace] our Bishop _____; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the (*President*) and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its Armed Forces.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, [*if a monastery*: For this holy habitation,] for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who hate us and for those who love us.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who are kind to us and those who serve us.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we be.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the release of captives and those in prison.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those who travel by land, by sea, and by air, and for their salvation.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For all who suffer from sickness and infirmity.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For those in need of guidance and strength from the Lord, and those who are weary in well-doing, in need of refreshment.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Let us pray also for favorable weather and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Orthodox Bishops, and for all who have served and cared for this holy habitation who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our parents, family and friends, and for all Orthodox believers departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Let us say also for ourselves:

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: ³²Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

³² Some books have at this point a lengthy prayer. It is not given here since it is almost word for word a repetition of the Litany.

Hymn to the Theotokos³³

People: ³⁴Beneath your compassion, we take refuge, virgin Theotokos. Despise not our prayer in our adversity, but deliver us from harm, only pure, only blessed one.

And all come forward and receive individually a blessing from the Priest and depart to sleep.

³³ The rector or the local tradition may choose any hymn to the Theotokos, but this is a) the most common, b) very ancient, and c) not otherwise prominently used outside of Lenten Daily Vespers.

³⁴ This is the translation usually used at Little Compline. A different translation is used at Lenten Vespers.

Appendix A

THE LITIA³⁵

As the appointed Stichera are sung, the Clergy kiss the Altar Table, and, with the Servers, exit through the Deacon Doors and proceed to the vestibule.³⁶

The Priest stands in the center, the Acolytes in front of him and to each side.

Then the Deacon censes the icons in the vestibule, the Clergy according to rank, the choirs, and the people and comes to stand in his place to the Priest's right in front of him. He then lifts his Orarion and prays:

Deacon: O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down on us Your rich mercies; through the prayers of our most-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles, Mary Magdalen;

of our fathers among the saints, hierarchs and ecumenical teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons, Cyprian of Carthage, Ambrose of Milan, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Gregory of Rome, Augustine of Canterbury, and Theodore of Tarsus;

of Gregory the Enlightener of Armenia; Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia; Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland; Robert, Bishop of Salzburg and Enlightener of the Bavarians; the holy Methodius and Cyril, Evangelizers of the Slavs; the blessed Princess Olga and the holy Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles; Nahum, Enlightener of the Bulgarians;

³⁵ In order to preserve the festal nature of the celebration, it is recommended that the Phelonion be worn, as in the Kievan practice.

³⁶ In Kievan practice, the Holy Doors are opened, the Deacon remains in the Sanctuary for this procession to cense the Sanctuary, Iconostasis, people, temple and Priest and comes to the place of the Litia.

Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Japan;

of our fathers among the saints: Innocent, the Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America; Jacob, Enlightener of the Upic and Athabascan peoples; Nicholas of Zhicha and South Canaan; Tikhon, Enlightener of North America and Patriarch of Moscow; and John the Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco;

of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious Martyrs: the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen; the Great-Martyr and Healer Panteleimon; the Great-Martyrs Demetrios of Thessalonika, George the Victorious, and Theodore the Recruit; Alban, Protomartyr of Britain; the martyrs Adrian and Natalia of Nicomedia; the New Martyr Gorazd of Prague; the new Hieromartyr Nicetas the Albanian of Mount Athos; the New Hieromartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Cosmos of Aitolia;

of Juvenaly, Protomartyr of America and the martyred Aleut Peter; of the New-martyrs and Passion-bearers of Russia, especially the martyrs John of Chicago and Alexander of New York;

of the Protomartyr among women and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thekla; of the Great Martyrs Barbara, Katherine, Irene of Thessalonika, and Marina of Antioch; of Lucy of Syracuse; the martyrs Faith, Hope, and Love and their mother Sophia; the Virgin-Martyrs of Rome: Anastasia, Tatiana, Paraskeva, Xenia, Agnes, Lucy, Susanna, and Eugenia; of Hripsime and Gayane of Armenia and Susanna of Georgia;

of our venerable and God-bearing fathers: Anthony the Great; Pachomias the Great; Sabbas; Euthymius; Benedict of Nursia; Columban of Iona; Theodore of Studion; Anthony and Theodosius and the other wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev; Sergius of Radonezh; Paisius of Modavia; Seraphim of Sarov; Macarius of Corinth; Nectarios of Aigina; Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain; Sergius and Herman of Valaam; Ambrose, Elder of Optina; Silouan of Mount Athos;

and our venerable father Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska and all America;

of our venerable and God-bearing mothers: Pelagia; Theodosia; Anastasia; Eupraxia; Fevronia; Theodulia; Euphrosyne; Mary of Egypt; and Hilda of Whitby; and Xenia of Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ; of the Holy and God-crowned Emperor Constantine and his mother Helen; of the Righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham; the Righteous Hanna, mother of the Prophet Samuel; Emilia, mother of Saints Basil the Great, Macrina ,and Gregory of Nyssa; Silvia, mother of Gregory the Dialogist; and Genevieve of Paris;

of St. John of Kronstadt; and our father-among-the-saints, Alexis of Minneapolis and Wilkes-barre, defender of the Orthodox Church in America;

of Saint *(of the day)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, hear us sinners who pray to You, and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Deacon: Again we pray for [His Beatitude] Metropolitan , for [His Grace] our Bishop , and for all our brotherhood in Christ; and for every Christian soul afflicted and weary in well-doing, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this city (*or countryside, or town, or village, or holy abode*), and for those who dwell therein, for the peace and quietness of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for those who are absent and those who are abroad; for the healing of those who lie in sickness; for the repose, refreshment and blessed memory and forgiveness of sins of all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us who lie here and everywhere; for the deliverance of captives; for our brethren who are serving, and for all who serve and have served in this holy temple (*or holy abode*), let us say.

People: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the President and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its armed forces, let us say.

People: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Deacon: Again we pray that He will keep this city (*or countryside, or town, or village, or holy abode*) and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion or civil war, and from sudden death; that our good God Who loves mankind, will be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us, and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of supplication of us sinners and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Hear us, O God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off on the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, to us sinners and have mercy on us. For You are a merciful God, the Lover of mankind, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

Priest: O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, through the intercessions of our most-pure Lady, and of all the saints, make our prayer acceptable, grant us forgiveness of our trespasses, hide us under the shelter of Your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, give peace to our life, O Lord, have mercy on us and on Your world, and save our souls, for You are good and You love mankind.

The procession proceeds “into the temple” (nave) to the center where the table is prepared with the tray of loaves, wheat, wine, and oil. The Deacon stands to the right of the Priest, facing East. The Servers stand on the sides, facing inward.

Then the Aposticha is sung and Compline continues.

The Deacon takes the censer, receives a blessing from the Priest for the censing, and censes around the table on which lies the Litia tray while the people sing the Troparion [Apolytikion] three times. On the last time around, he censes the festal icon and turns to cense the Celebrant, and the five loaves from the front only.

The Deacon gives the censer to the Acolyte, makes the Sign of the Cross, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place.

The Blessing of Bread

The Deacon raises his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them You satisfied the five thousand, bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city, and in all the world, and sanctify all the faithful who partake of them. For it is You, O Christ our God, Who bless and sanctify all things, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.