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Holy Week

Vesperal Liturgy on Saturday Morning

Vespers of Pascha

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Triodion

Holy Saturday

VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

PRIEST

Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

READER

Come, let us worship and bow down before God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Him, Christ our King and God.

Psalm 103 (104).

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly; You clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain; You are He who covers His upper chambers with water, who makes the clouds His means of approach, who walks on the wings of the winds, who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire. He established the earth on its stable foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of ages. The deep like a garment is His covering; the waters shall stand upon the mountains; at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The mountains rise up, and the plains sink down to the place You founded for them. You set a boundary they shall not pass over; neither shall they return to cover the earth. You are

He who sends springs into the valley; the waters shall pass between the mountains; they shall give drink to all the wild animals of the field; the wild asses shall quench their thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside them; they shall sing from the midst of the rocks. You are He who waters the mountains from His higher places; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are He who causes grass to grow for the cattle, and the green plant for the service of man, to bring forth bread from the earth; and wine gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit, the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted; there the sparrows shall make their nests; the house of the heron takes the lead among them. The high mountains are for the deer; the cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night, wherein all the wild animals of the forest will prowl about; the young lions roar and snatch their prey, and seek their food from God. The sun arises, and they are gathered together; and they shall be put to bed in their dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your creation. There is this great and spacious sea: the creeping things are there without number; the living things are there, both small and great; there the ships pass through; there is this dragon You formed to play therein. All things wait upon You, that You may give them food in due season. When You give

it to them, they shall gather it; when You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

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

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

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Mode 1.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Resurrectional Stichera.

From Triodion ---

Sticheron 1. Mode 1.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. [SAAS]

Accept our evening prayers, holy Lord, and grant us remission of our sins, for you alone revealed the resurrection to the world.

[HC]

Sticheron 2. Mode 1.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. [SAAS]

Encircle Zion, people, and surround her. Give glory to him who is risen from the dead, for he is our God and has delivered us from our iniquities. [HC]

Sticheron 3. Mode 1.

If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness with You. [SAAS]

Come, people let us praise and worship Christ, glorifying his resurrection from the dead, for he is our God and has delivered the world from the deception of the enemy. [HC]

Sticheron 4. Mode 1.

Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in the Lord. [SAAS]

By your Passion we were set free from our passions, O Christ, and by your resurrection we were redeemed from corruption. O Lord, glory to you. [HC]

Stichera of the Triodion.

From Triodion ---

Idiomelon 5. Mode pl. 4.

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. [SAAS]

Today, Hades groans and cries out, "It would have been better for me if I had not received the One born of Mary; for when He came here, He destroyed my power. He shattered the gates of brass; and, as God, He resurrected the souls, which I held captive for ages." Glory to Your Cross and Your Resurrection, O Lord! [SD]

Repeat.

Idiomelon 5. Mode pl. 4.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions. [SAAS]

Today, Hades groans and cries out, "It would have been better for me if I had not received the One born of Mary; for when He came here, He destroyed my power. He shattered the gates of brass; and, as God, He resurrected the souls, which I held captive for ages." Glory to Your Cross and Your Resurrection, O Lord! [SD]

Idiomelon 6. Mode pl. 4.

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples. [SAAS]

Today, Hades groans and cries out, "My authority has been destroyed. I took One who died, as though He were mortal, but I am powerless to contain Him. Along with Him I lose all those, over whom I had ruled. I had held the dead from all ages, but behold, He raises them all." Glory to Your Cross and Your Resurrection, O Lord! [SD]

Idiomelon 7. Mode pl. 4.

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [SAAS]

Today, Hades groans and cries out, "My power has been swallowed up; the Shepherd has been crucified; and He raised Adam. I have been deprived of those, over whom I ruled; and I have thrown up all those, whom I had swallowed when I was strong. He who was crucified has emptied the tombs. The power of death is no longer in force." Glory to Your Cross and Your Resurrection, O Lord! [SD]

Glory.

From Triodion - -

Mode pl. 2.

Moses, the great Prophet, mystically prefigured this day saying, "Then God blessed the seventh day." For this is the blessed Sabbath; this is the day of rest, on which the only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, observing the Sabbath rest in the flesh, through the dispensation involving death. And returning once again to what He was, through the Resurrection, He granted to us eternal life, for He alone is good and He loves humanity. [SD]

From Octoechos - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 1.

Let us praise Mary the Virgin, glory of all the world. Born of human parents, she gave birth to the Lord, and is the doorway to heaven. The adornment of the faithful, she is hymned by the angelic hosts. For she has been shown to be heaven and the temple of the Godhead. She is the one who, breaking down the wall of enmity, ushered in peace and threw open the Kingdom. With her as the anchor of our faith, we have a defender in the Lord, to whom she gave birth. Take courage, therefore, people of God, take courage; for he, the Almighty, will defeat your enemies. [HC]

DEACON *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Prayer of the Entrance

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise, bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that

hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord, our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise.

CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Mode 2.

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; * and therefore the world glorifies You. [SD]

The Readings

From Triodion - - -

1.

READER

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

1:1-13

In the beginning God made heaven and earth. The earth was invisible and unfinished; and darkness was over the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw the light; it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day; the darkness He called Night; and there was evening and morning, one day. Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the water from the water"; and it was so. Thus God made the firmament, and God divided the water under the firmament from the water above the firmament. So God

called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good ; and there was evening and morning, the second day. Then God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. The water under heaven was gathered into its places, and the dry land appeared. So God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. Let the fruit tree bear fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth." It was so. Thus the earth brought forth the herb of grass, bearing seed according to its kind and likeness. The fruit tree bore fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind on earth. God saw that it was good. So evening and morning were the third day. [SAAS]

2.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

60:1-16

Shine, shine, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Behold, darkness and gloom shall cover the earth upon the nations, but the Lord will shine on you; and His glory shall be seen upon you. Kings shall come to your light, and the Gentiles to your brightness. Lift up your eyes all around, and see your children gathered together. Behold, all your sons come from

afar, and your daughters shall be lifted upon their shoulders. Then you will see, fear and be amazed in your heart, because the wealth of the sea and of nations and peoples shall change their course and turn to you. Herds of camels shall come to you, and the camels of Midian and Ephah shall cover you. All those from Sheba shall come bearing gold, and they shall bring frankincense and proclaim the good news of the Lord's salvation. All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, and the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you. They shall offer acceptable sacrifices upon My altar, and My house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these who fly like clouds and like doves with young? The coastlands waited for Me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from afar, and silver and gold with them for the sake of the Lord's name, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. Foreigners shall build your walls, and their kings shall defend you; for I struck you because of My wrath, and I loved you because of My mercy. Your gates shall be opened continually, and they shall not be shut day or night, to bring you the power of the Gentiles, and their kings leading them. For the nations and their kings who will not serve you shall perish, and those nations will be utterly desolate. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place. The sons of those who humbled and provoked you shall go to you in fear, and you shall be called City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Because you were forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you, therefore I will make you an eternal joy, the

gladness of generations to generations. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles and eat the wealth of kings. You shall know I am the Lord who saves you and the God of Israel who delivers you. [SAAS]

3.

READER

The reading is from the book of Exodus.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

12:1-11

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the family households, a lamb for each home. If there be too few in a household, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of souls; he will make his count in lambs according to the needs of each one. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You shall take it from the sheep or the kids. Then you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted in fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head

with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, nor shall you break a bone of it; and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. Thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Pascha. [SAAS]

4.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Jonah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

1-4

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of her wickedness has come up to me." But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish, paid his fare, and boarded the ship to set sail with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord raised up a great wind upon the sea, and there came about a mighty tempest, and the ship was in danger of breaking up. And the mariners were afraid and cried out, each one to his god. And they cast out the cargo of the ship into the sea, attempting to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, had gone to sleep, and was snoring. The captain came to him and said, "Why are you snoring? Get up and call upon your God, that your God may keep us safe so we do not

perish." And each one said to his shipmate, "Come! Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this calamity is upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us, what is your occupation? Where do you come from and from what country and people are you?" And he said to them, "I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you did?" For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea will calm itself for us?" For the sea continued to be tempestuous, and the waves rose up even higher. And Jonah said to them, "Take me up and cast me into the sea, and the sea will grow calm for you, for I know this great tempest is upon you because of me." And the men tried hard to return to the land, but were unable to do so, for the sea arose and grew even more tempestuous against them. Then they cried out to the Lord and said, "Please, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, nor bring righteous blood upon us; for you, O Lord, have brought this about." So they took up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and vowed vows. Now the Lord commanded a huge sea creature to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the sea creature three days and three nights. And from the belly of the sea creature, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God, and said: "I cried out in my affliction to the

Lord, my God, and He heard my voice; out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice. You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and rivers encompassed me; all Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me. And I said, 'I have been driven away from Your sight; shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?' Water is poured over me to my soul; the lowest depth encircled me; my head plunged into the clefts of the mountains. I descended into the earth, the bars of which are everlasting barriers; yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God. When my soul was failing from me, I remembered the Lord. May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple. Those who follow vanity and lies forsake their own mercy. But with a voice of thanksgiving and praise, I will sacrifice to You. As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to You, to You, the Lord of Deliverance." Then the Lord commanded the sea creature, and it cast up Jonah onto the dry land. Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Arise and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach there according to the message I previously spoke to you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, just as the Lord spoke. Nineveh was an exceedingly great city to God, a journey of about three days. And Jonah began to enter into the city, going a day's journey, where he proclaimed and said, "Yet three days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." And the men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. Then the word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and

put on sackcloth, and sat upon ashes. And it was proclaimed and spoken in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, "Let not the men, cattle, oxen, or sheep taste anything, eat, or drink water." So the men and the cattle were clothed with sackcloth, and they cried out fervently to God; and they each turned back from their evil ways and from the wrongdoings of their hands, saying, "Who knows if God shall have a change of heart and turn from His fierce anger, that we should not perish?" And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways. And God had a change of heart about the evil which He said He would do to them, and He did not do it. But Jonah was deeply grieved and was troubled. So he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, were these not my words when I was yet in my land? Therefore I saw the need to flee to Tarshish; because I knew You to be compassionate and merciful, longsuffering and abundant in mercy, and willing to change your heart concerning evils. And now, Master, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said to Jonah, "Are you exceedingly grieved?" Then Jonah went out of the city and seated himself opposite it. There he made for himself a tent and sat under its shade, until he might observe what would happen to the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah to be a shade over his head, to shield him from his discomforts. Jonah rejoiced with great joy because of the gourd. But early the next morning, God commanded a worm, and it smote the gourd, and the gourd withered up. And when the sun rose, God commanded a

burning east wind; and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah, and he grew faint and despaired of his life. And he said, "It is better for me to die than to live." Then God said to Jonah, "Are you exceedingly grieved on account of the gourd?" And he said, "I am exceedingly grieved, even unto death." And the Lord said, "You took pity on the gourd, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came up during the night and perished before the next night. And shall I Myself not take pity upon Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know either their right hand or their left—and many livestock?" [SAAS]

5.

READER

The reading is from the book of Joshua.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

5:10-15

Then the children of Israel kept Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the west of Jericho, across the Jordan in the plain. They ate of the unleavened and new wheat of the land. On this day, the manna ceased, after they ate from the wheat of the land. Thus, the children of Israel no longer had manna, for they enjoyed the fruits in the land of the Phoenicians in that year. Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him with a sword drawn in his hand. So Joshua came near and said to him, "Are you for us or on the side of our adversaries?" He said

to him, "I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord." Then Joshua fell on his face upon the earth and said to him, "O Master, what do you command your servant?" The chief captain of the Lord said to Joshua, "Loose the shoe from your feet; for the place on which you stand is holy." [SAAS]

6.

READER

The reading is from the book of Exodus.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

13:20-22, 14:1-31, 15:1-19

So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham by the desert. Moreover, God led them, by day in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire. Thus the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before all the people. Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel that they turn and camp at the village between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before them by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the desert has closed them in.' Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them; and I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know I am the Lord." So they did. Now it was told the king of the Egyptians that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" So he made ready

his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. Thus the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and his servants, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with a high hand. So the Egyptians pursued them, all the cavalry and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the village opposite Baal Zephon. Now when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the desert? Why have you so dealt with us to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert." Then Moses said to the people, "Be of good courage. Stand still and see the Lord's salvation which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. Now lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it; and let the children of Israel go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. I indeed will harden Pharaoh's heart and all the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. So I will be glorified in Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horses. Then the Egyptians will know I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horses." Now the Angel of God who went before the camp of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud also went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel, and the night passed; but there was such darkness and blackness, they did not come near one another all that night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud; and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. He bound the axles of their chariot wheels and caused them to proceed with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots and the riders." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were trying to flee. But the Lord shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and

all of Pharaoh's army that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. The waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the Lord's mighty hand and the things He did to the Egyptians; therefore, the people feared the Lord and believed God and His servant Moses. Now Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to God and spoke, saying: "Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified. Horse and rider He has thrown into the sea. The Lord became my helper and the shield of my salvation; He is my God, and I will glorify Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord brings wars to nothing; the Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and army He cast into the sea; His chosen captains also were drowned in the Red Sea. The sea covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone. Your right hand, O God, is glorified in strength; Your right hand, O God, dashed the enemy in pieces. In the greatness of Your glory You broke the adversaries to pieces; You sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble. By the Spirit of Your anger the waters were gathered together; the waves stood upright in the midst of the sea; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils; I will satisfy my soul; I will destroy with my sword; My hand shall have dominion.' You sent forth Your Spirit; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty

waters. "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorified in holiness, marvelous in praises, doing wonders? You stretched out Your right earth swallowed them up. In righteousness You guided Your people whom You redeemed; in strength You called them to Your holy resting place. The nations heard and were angry; pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia. The princes of Edom and the chiefs of the Moabites were dismayed; trembling took hold of them; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. Fear and dread fell upon them; by the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone till Your people pass over, O Lord, till Your people pass over, whom You purchased. Bring them in and plant them in the mountain of their inheritance, in Your prepared habitation, O Lord, which Your hands made ready; the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands established. The Lord reigns forever and ever and ever." For Pharaoh's horses went with his chariots and horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. [SAAS]

7.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

3:8-15

"On account of this, wait for Me," says the Lord, "until the day of My rising up as a testimony. For My judgment shall be

for the gathering of the nations, to receive kings to pour out upon them all My fierce anger, for all the earth shall be consumed with the fire of My jealousy. For then I shall transform for the people a language for her generation, for all to call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him under one yoke. From the boundaries of the rivers of Ethiopia they will bring offerings to Me. In that day, you will not be ashamed of all your practices in which you acted profanely against Me. For at that time I will take away from you the contempt of your arrogance, and you shall no longer be haughty upon My holy mountain. And I will leave among you a gentle and humble people, who will show reverence to the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will not commit unrighteousness nor speak vanities; neither will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they will feed and lie down, and there will be no one terrifying them." Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Cry aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Be glad and rejoice with your whole heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your iniquities and ransomed you from your enemies. The Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer see any evil.

[SAAS]

8.

READER

The reading is from the Third Book of the Kingdoms (1 Kings).

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

17:8-24

Again the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath of Sidon and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the city, there was a widow gathering firewood. Elijah called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup so I can drink." She went to get it, and Elijah called after her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But the woman said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have any bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar. You see I am gathering a couple of sticks, so I can go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." But Elijah said to her, "Take courage, and do as you say, but make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me. Afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, and the jar of oil shall not run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.' " So the woman went and did it. Thus she and he and her children ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not run dry, according to the word the Lord spoke by Elijah. Now after this, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. His sickness was so serious there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? You came to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to kill my son." But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room

where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord and said, "Woe is me, O Lord! The witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you have embittered her by killing her son." Then he stretched himself out on the child three times, and called on the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, let the soul of this child come back to him." So it happened, and the child cried out. He took the child and brought him down from the upper room of the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Behold, your son lives." Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth."

[SAAS]

9.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

61:10 - 62:5

Let my soul rejoice exceedingly in the Lord, for He clothed me with the garment of salvation and the tunic of gladness. He put a miter around me like a bridegroom and adorned me with ornaments like a bride. As the earth causes its flower to grow, and as a garden its seeds, so shall the Lord cause righteousness to rise up, and exceeding joy before all the Gentiles. For Zion's sake I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until My righteousness goes forth as light, and My salvation burns like a lamp. The Gentiles will see your righteousness, and

kings your glory; and one will call you by your new name, which the Lord shall name. You shall also be a crown of beauty in the Lord's hand, and the diadem of a kingdom in the hand of your God. You shall no longer be called Forsaken, and your land shall not be called Desert; for you shall be called My Will, and in your land, the Inhabited Earth. As a young man lives in wedlock with a virgin, so shall your sons dwell with you, and as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so the Lord shall rejoice over you. [SAAS]

10.

READER

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

22:1-18

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and

laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-Appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen." Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of

the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice." [SAAS]

11.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

61:1-10

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because of which He anointed Me. He sent Me to proclaim good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, the day of recompense, and to comfort all who mourn; to give those who mourn in Zion glory instead of ashes, the oil of gladness to those who mourn; the garment of glory instead of a spirit of indifference. They shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. They shall build the ancient deserts, raise up those formerly abandoned, and renew the desert cities that laid waste for generations. Foreigners shall come and shepherd your sheep, and aliens shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called priests of the Lord and the ministers of God. You shall eat the strength of nations and be admired because of their wealth. So they shall inherit the land a second time, and eternal gladness shall be upon their head. For I am the Lord, who loves righteousness and hates robberies of wrongdoing. I will give their labor to the righteous and will make with them an everlasting covenant. Their seed

and their offspring shall be known among the Gentiles. All who see them shall know these are the seed blessed by God; and they shall have exceeding gladness in the Lord." Let my soul rejoice exceedingly in the Lord, for He clothed me with the garment of salvation and the tunic of gladness. He put a miter around me like a bridegroom and adorned me with ornaments like a bride. [SAAS]

12.

READER

The reading is from the Fourth Book of Kingdoms (2 Kings).

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

4:8-37

Now one day Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a persuasive woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And the woman said to her husband, "Look now, I know this is a holy man of God who comes to us regularly. Let us make a small room upstairs; and let us put a bed for him there, with a table, a stool, a chair, and a lamp stand. And it shall be when he comes to us, he will turn aside into this place." Now it happened one day that he came and he went there, and turned aside into the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to his servant, Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." He called her, and she stood before him. And he said to Gehazi, "Say now to her, 'Hear me. You have shown us all this care. What can I do for you? Do you have any request for the king

or the commander of the army?' " But she answered, "I dwell among my own people." So Elisha said, "What then is to be done for her?" And his servant, Gehazi, replied, "She certainly has no son, and her husband is old." Then Elisha called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said, "About this time next year, you shall embrace a son." So she said, "No, my lord, do not lie to your maidservant!" Then as Elisha told her, the woman conceived, and she bore a son when the appointed time came. And the child grew. And it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reaping, that he said to his father, "My head, my head!" His father said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." So he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon and died. She took him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She went out and closed the door as she left. She called to her husband and said, "Please bring to me one of the young men and one of the donkeys. I will ride quickly to the man of God and come back." So he said, "Why go to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she replied, "It is well." She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead onward and do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." She rode and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. And when the man of God saw her, he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, it is that Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' " And she answered, "Peace." Now she came to the man of God on the hill and took hold of him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of

God said, "Leave her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord hid it from me and did not tell me." So she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not tell you not to deceive me?" Then Elisha said to Gehazi, "Prepare yourself, take my staff in your hand and be on your way. If you meet anyone, you will not greet him. And if anyone greets you, you will not answer him. You shall lay my staff on the face of the child." Then the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So Elisha arose and followed her. Now Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the child's face; but there was neither voice nor hearing. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child is not awakened." Elisha went into the house, and there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went into the room and shut the door against the other two, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bowed himself down upon him, and the flesh of the child warmed. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and he went up and bowed himself down upon the child seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And she came to where he was and he said, "Take your son." So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out. [SAAS]

13.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

63:11-20, 64:1-4

Thus says the Lord: Who brought up the shepherd of His sheep from the land? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in them? Where is He who led Moses with His right hand, the arm of His glory? He overpowered the water by His presence to make for Himself an everlasting name. He brought them through the deep, like a horse through the desert, yet they did not grow weary. Like cattle through the plain, the Spirit came down from the Lord and guided them. Thus You led Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name. Return from heaven, and look from Your holy and glorious dwelling-place. Where are Your zeal and Your strength; where is the multitude of Your mercy and Your compassion, so as to be patient with us? You are our Father, although Abraham did not know us, and Israel did not acknowledge us; but You, O Lord, are our Father. You delivered us, and from the beginning Your name was upon us. Why have you led us astray, O Lord, from Your path, and hardened our hearts so as not to fear You? Return for the sake of Your servants, for the sake of the tribes of Your inheritance, that we may inherit a small portion of Your holy mountain. For our adversaries trampled down Your sanctuary, and we have become as we were from the beginning, when You did not rule us, neither did we call upon Your name.

If You open heaven, trembling shall take hold of the mountains before You, and they shall melt as wax melts before the fire. The fire shall burn up the adversaries, and the Lord's name shall be manifest among the adversaries; and the nations shall be troubled by Your presence. When You do glorious things, trembling shall take hold of the mountains because of You. From of old we have not heard, nor have our eyes seen any God but You, and Your works which You shall do for those who wait for Your mercy. For mercy shall meet with those who do righteousness, and they shall remember your ways. Behold, You were angry, for we sinned; therefore, we went astray. [SAAS]

14.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

58:31-34

"Behold, days are coming," says the Lord, "when I shall make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not abide in My covenant, and I disregarded them," says the Lord. "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will surely put My laws into their mind and write them on their hearts. I will be as God to them, and they shall be as My people.

Each shall not teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their wrongdoings, and I will no longer remember their sins. [SAAS]

15.

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Daniel.

PRIEST/DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

3:1-56

In his eighteenth year, King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image. Its height was sixty cubits and its width, six cubits, and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather together the high officials, the commanders, the governors, the rulers, and all those in authority, along with all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. So the governors, the high officials, the leaders, the great rulers—all those in authority who ruled the provinces came to the dedication of the image King Nebuchadnezzar set up, and they stood before the image Nebuchadnezzar made. Then the herald cried out in a loud voice, "To you it is commanded, O peoples and tribes and languages, that in what hour you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image King

Nebuchadnezzar set up. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace." So at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, all the peoples, tribes, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar set up. Then Chaldean men came forward and brought charges against the Jews, and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever. You, O king, made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, but does not fall down and worship the golden image shall be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Now there are certain Jews you set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those men did not obey your decree, O king; and they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden image you set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So the men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar then answered and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image I set up? Now then, if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, the pipe, the harp, the four-stringed instrument, the psaltery, the symphony, and every kind of music, that you shall fall down and worship the golden image I made. But indeed, if you do not worship it at that time, you shall be cast

into the burning fiery furnace. Then what god is there who will deliver you from my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "We have no need to answer you in regard to this thing. For there is a God in the heavens, whom we serve, and He is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us from your hands, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image you set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of anger, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So he commanded them to heat the furnace seven times more, until it burned to its fullest. Then he commanded certain very strong men to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Thereupon, those men were bound together with their sandals, caps, leg-coverings, and clothing, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace was exceedingly hot, these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. But they walked about in the midst of the flame, singing to God and praising the Lord. Then Azariah stood and prayed thus and opened his mouth in the midst of the fire and said: "Blessed are You and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto the ages. For You are righteous in all You did for us, and all Your works are true. Your ways are upright, and all Your judgments are true. The judgments You made are true, according to

all You brought on us and on the holy city of our fathers, because in truth and judgment You did all these things on account of our sins. For we sinned and acted lawlessly to depart from You. We sinned in every way, and did not obey Your commandments. Neither did we treasure or do as You commanded, that it might go well with us. Everything You brought on us and all You did to us, You did in true judgment. You delivered us into the hands of lawless and rebellious enemies and to an unjust king—the most evil in any land. Now it is not for us to open our mouth, for this has become a shame and disgrace to Your servants and to those who worship You. For Your name's sake, do not hand us over to the end, and do not reject Your covenant. Do not withdraw Your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, who is loved by You, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant, and of Israel, Your holy one, as You spoke to them, saying that You would multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand along the seashore. Yet we have been diminished in number, O Master, more than all the nations, and we are humbled in all the earth today because of our sins. At this time, there is no prince, no prophet, and no leader; there is no whole burnt offering, no sacrifice, no offering, and no incense; there is no place to bear fruit before You and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite soul and humbled spirit, may we receive mercy, as with whole burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and as with thousands of fatted lambs. So let this be our sacrifice before You today, and may it be accomplished for those who follow You; for there is no shame for those who trust in You. Now we are following

You with all our heart, and we fear You and seek Your face. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us according to Your kindness and according to the abundance of Your mercy. Deliver us by Your wondrous works and give glory to Your name, O Lord. May all those who inflict evils upon Your servants be put to shame and humiliated in their power; and let their strength be crushed. Let them know that You alone are the Lord God and glorious over all the inhabited earth." Now the king's servants who cast them in did not cease to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, coarse fiber, and brushwood. The flame shot forty-nine cubits above the furnace, and it broke out and burned those it found around the furnace of the Chaldeans. But the Angel of the Lord went down into the furnace to join Azariah and his companions, and shook off the fiery flame of the furnace. He made the inside of the furnace to be as though a dew-laden breeze were blowing through it, so the fire did not touch them at all, or cause them pain, or trouble them. Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying: "Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. Blessed is Your name and the temple of your glory, and You are praised exceedingly and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. You are blessed in the holy temple of Your glory, and are highly praised and exceedingly glorious unto the ages. Blessed are You on the throne of Your kingdom, and You are praised and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. Blessed are You who behold the depths and sit upon the cherubim. You are praiseworthy

and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.
Blessed are You in the firmament of heaven,
for You are praised and glorified unto the
ages." [SAAS]

CHOIR

Hymn of the Three Holy Servants Mode 1.

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord,

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord,

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

Bless the Lord, you heavens,

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you sun and moon, you stars of
heaven,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, every shower and dew, all you
winds,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you fire and heat, you winter
cold and summer heat,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you dew and snows, you frost
and cold,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you hoarfrosts and snows, you
lightning and clouds,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you light and darkness, you
night and day,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you earth, you mountains and
hills, and all you things growing on the earth,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, you springs, you seas and
rivers, you sea-monsters and everything that
moves in the waters,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, all you birds of heaven, all you
wild animals and cattle,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, O children of men; bless the
Lord, O Israel,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, O priests of the Lord, O
servants of the Lord,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

*Bless the Lord, O spirits and souls of the
righteous, O holy ones and humble in heart,*

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him
beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

Bless the Lord, O Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishaël,

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

Bless the Lord, O Apostles, Prophets, and Martyrs of the Lord,

Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we sing a hymn to Him and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.

We sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.

We sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

THE PRAYER OF THE TRISAGION HYMN

O Holy God, Who is resting among the holy ones, praised by the Seraphim with the thrice-holy voice, glorified by the Cherubim, and worshiped by every celestial power, You have brought all things into being out of nothing. You have created man according to Your image and likeness and adorned him with all the gifts of Your grace. You give wisdom and understanding to the one who asks, and You overlook not the sinner, but have set repentance as the way of salvation. You have granted us, Your humble and unworthy servants, to stand even at this hour before the glory of Your holy Altar of sacrifice and to offer to You due worship and praise. Master, accept the Trisagion Hymn also from the lips of us sinners, and visit us in Your goodness. Forgive all our voluntary and involuntary transgressions, sanctify our souls and

bodies, and grant that we may worship You in holiness all the days of our lives, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who have pleased You throughout the ages.

PRIEST

For You, our God, are holy, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever,

DEACON

And to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

INSTEAD OF HOLY GOD

You who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, Alleluia. (3) [GOA]

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

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

DEACON

Dynamis.

DEACON *(in a low voice)*

Command, Master.

PRIEST

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

DEACON

Master, bless the throne on high.

PRIEST

Blessed are You upon the throne of the glory of Your kingdom, enthroned upon the Cherubim always, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR

Dynamis.

You who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, Alleluia. [GOA]

The Readings
The Epistle

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 1. Psalm 65.

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You.

Verse: *Shout to God, all the earth.*

DEACON

Wisdom.

READER

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

6:3-11

Brethren, all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must

consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ^[RSV]

PRIEST

Peace be with you.

Instead of Alleluia, we sing:
Grave Mode. Psalm 81.

PRIEST

Arise, O God; judge the earth, for You shall inherit all the Gentiles. ^[SAAS]

The same hymn is sung after
each of the following verses
which are intoned by the reader.

CHOIR

Verse: *God stood in the assembly of gods; He judges in the midst of gods.*

Verse: *How long will you judge unjustly, and favor the persons of sinners?*

Verse: *Judge an orphan and a poor man; justify a humble and poor man.*

Verse: *Rescue a poor and needy man; deliver them from a sinner's hand.*

Verse: *They do not know nor understand; they carry on in darkness; all the foundations of the earth shall be shaken.*

Verse: *I said, "You are gods, and you are all sons of the Most High."*

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

Shine in our hearts, O Master Who loves mankind, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind that we may comprehend the proclamations of Your Gospels. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments so that, having trampled down all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the illumination of our souls and bodies, and to You we offer up glory, together with Your Father, Who is

without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Gospel

Great and Holy Saturday Morning

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

PRIEST

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

DEACON

28:1-20

After the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy,

and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen." [RSV]

PRIEST

Peace be with you.

CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

THE SERMON

(According to ancient tradition, the sermon was delivered following the readings.)

The following litanies are usually omitted.

**THE LITANY OF
FERVENT SUPPLICATION**

DEACON

Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

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

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

PRIEST (in a low voice)

THE PRAYER OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants, and have mercy on us in accordance with the abundance of Your mercy, and send down Your compassion upon us and upon all Your people who await Your great and rich mercy.

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

THE PRAYERS FOR THE CATECHUMENS

DEACON

Catechumens, pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Let us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the Lord will have mercy on them.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will teach them the word of truth.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will unite them to His holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Save them, have mercy on them, help them, and protect them, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Catechumens, bow your heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST (in a low voice)

THE PRAYER FOR THE CATECHUMENS

Lord our God, Who dwells on high and watches over the humble, You sent forth Your only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human race. Look down upon Your servants, the catechumens, who have inclined their necks to You, and grant them at a proper time the baptism of rebirth, the remission of sins, and the garment of incorruption. Unite them to Your holy, catholic,

and apostolic Church, and number them among Your chosen flock.

PRIEST

So that with us they also may glorify Your most honorable and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Those who are catechumens, depart, catechumens depart, all those who are catechumens, depart. Let none of the catechumens remain.

THE SUPPLICATION OF THE FAITHFUL

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Wisdom.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

THE FIRST PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

You, Lord, revealed to us this great mystery of salvation; You made us, Your humble and unworthy servants, worthy to be ministers of Your holy altar; enable us for this ministry, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may stand uncondemned before of Your holy glory and offer You a sacrifice of praise; for it is You who effect all in all. Grant, Lord, that our sacrifice for our sins and for those committed in ignorance by the people may be acceptable and well-pleasing before You.

PRIEST

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Wisdom.

PRIEST (*in a low voice*)

THE SECOND PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

O God, You have visited our lowliness in mercy and compassion. You have set us, Your lowly, sinful, and unworthy servants, to serve at Your holy altar before Your holy glory. Strengthen us for this service with the power of Your Holy Spirit, and grant speech to our lips that we may invoke the grace of Your Holy Spirit upon the gifts that are about to be offered.

PRIEST

That, ever guarded by Your might, we may ascribe glory to You, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(*Amen.*)

THE GREAT ENTRANCE

CHOIR

**Instead of the usual Cherubic Hymn.
Mode pl. 1.**

Let all mortal flesh keep silent and stand in fear and trembling, giving no thought to things of the earth. For the King of kings and the Lord of lords is coming forth to be sacrificed and given as food to the faithful. Before Him go the Choir of Angels, with all the Principalities and Powers. [SD]

PRIEST (*in a low voice*)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHERUBIC HYMN

No one bound by carnal desires and pleasures is worthy to approach, draw near, or minister to You, the King of Glory. For to serve You is great and awesome even for the heavenly powers. Yet, because of Your ineffable and immeasurable love for mankind, You impassibly and immutably became man. You, as the Master of all, became our high priest and delivered unto us the sacred service of this liturgical sacrifice without the shedding of blood. Indeed, Lord our God, You alone reign over the celestial and the terrestrial; borne aloft on the cherubic throne, Lord of the Seraphim and King of Israel, the only holy and

resting among the holy ones. I now beseech You, Who alone are good and inclined to hear: Look down upon me, Your sinful and unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and heart of a wicked conscience; and enable me, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, clothed with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before Your holy Table and celebrate the Mystery of Your holy and pure Body and Your precious Blood. I come before You with my head bowed, and I implore You: Turn not Your face away from me, nor reject me from among Your children, but make me, Your sinful and unworthy servant, worthy to offer these gifts to You. For You are the One Who both offers and is offered, the One Who is received and is distributed, O Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory, with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

DEACON

May the Lord God remember all of us in His Kingdom always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

The many eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, covering their faces and chanting their hymn: Alleluia. [SD]

THE LITANY OF COMPLETION

DEACON

Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

CHOIR

(*Lord, have mercy.*)

For the precious Gifts here presented, let us pray to the Lord.

(*Lord, have mercy.*)

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

(*Lord, have mercy.*)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

CHOIR

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You have shown us the way to salvation and have bestowed upon us the revelation of heavenly mysteries. You have appointed us to this service by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Grant, therefore, O Lord that we may be accepted as servants of Your new Covenant and ministers of Your holy mysteries. Accept us as we draw near to Your holy altar, according to the multitude of Your mercy, that we may be worthy to offer You this spiritual sacrifice without the shedding of blood, for our sins and for the transgressions of Your people. Grant that, having accepted this sacrifice upon Your holy, heavenly, and spiritual altar as an offering of spiritual fragrance, You may in return send down upon us the grace of Your Holy Spirit. Look upon us, O God, and consider our worship; and accept it as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly offices of Moses and Aaron, and the peace offerings of Samuel. As You accepted this true worship from Your holy apostles, accept also in Your goodness, O Lord, these gifts from the hands of us sinners, that being deemed worthy to serve at Your holy altar without blame, we may obtain the reward of the faithful stewards on the fearful day of Your just judgment.

PRIEST

Through the mercies of Your only begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

CHOIR

And with your spirit.

DEACON

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

CHOIR

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Trinity, one in essence and undivided. [GOA]

Or, for concelebrations:

I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my foundation, my refuge, my deliverer.

[SAAS]

DEACON

The doors! The doors! In wisdom, let us be attentive!

PEOPLE

THE SYMBOL OF OUR FAITH

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father through 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. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge the living and dead. His kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets. In one, holy,

catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen. [GOA]

THE HOLY ANAPHORA

DEACON

Let us stand aright! Let us stand in awe! Let us be attentive, that we may present the Holy Offering in peace.

CHOIR

A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR

And with your spirit.

PRIEST

Let us lift up our hearts.

CHOIR

We lift them up to the Lord.

PRIEST

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

CHOIR

It is proper and right.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Master, Lord, God, worshipful Father almighty, it is truly just and right to the majesty of Your holiness to praise You, to hymn You, to bless You, to worship You, to give thanks to You, to glorify You, the only true God, and to offer to You this our spiritual worship with a contrite heart and a humble spirit. For You have given us to know Your truth. Who is worthy to praise Your mighty acts? Or to make known all Your praises? Or tell of all Your wonderful deeds at all times? Master of all things, Lord of heaven and earth, and of every creature visible and invisible, You are seated upon the throne of glory and behold the depths. You

are without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, beyond words, unchangeable. You are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the great God and Savior of our hope, the image of Your goodness, the true seal of revealing in Himself You, the Father. He is the living Word, the true God, eternal wisdom, life, sanctification, power, and the true light. Through Him the Holy Spirit was manifested, the spirit of truth the gift of Sonship, the pledge of our future inheritance, the first fruits of eternal blessings, the life giving power, the source of sanctification through whom every rational and spiritual creature is made capable of worshipping You and giving You eternal glorification, for all things are subject to You. For You are praised by the angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers, and the many eyed Cherubim. Round about You stand the Seraphim, one with six wings and the other with six wings; with two they cover their faces; with two they cover their feet; with two they fly, crying out to one another with unceasing voices and everresounding praises:

PRIEST

Singing the triumphal hymn, exclaiming, proclaiming, and saying...

CHOIR

Holy, holy, holy, Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. [GOA]

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Together with these blessed powers, loving Master we sinners also cry out and say: Truly You are holy and most holy, and there are no bounds to the majesty of Your holiness. You are holy in all Your works, for with righteousness and true judgment You have ordered all things for us. For having made man by taking dust from the earth, and having honored him with Your own image, O God, You placed him in a garden of delight, promising him eternal life and the enjoyment of everlasting blessings in the observance of Your commandments. But when he disobeyed You, the true God who had created him, and was led astray by the deception of the serpent becoming subject to death

through his own transgressions, You, O God, in Your righteous judgment, expelled him from paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Your Christ. For You did not forever reject Your creature whom You made, O Good One, nor did You forget the work of Your hands, but because of Your tender compassion, You visited him in various ways: You sent forth prophets; You performed mighty works by Your saints who in every generation have pleased You. You spoke to us by the mouth of Your servants the prophets, announcing to us the salvation which was to come; You gave us the law to help us; You appointed angels as guardians. And when the fullness of time had come, You spoke to us through Your Son Himself, through whom You created the ages. He, being the splendor of Your glory and the image of Your being, upholding all things by the word of His power, thought it not robbery to be equal with You, God and Father. But, being God before all ages, He appeared on earth and lived with humankind. Becoming incarnate from a holy Virgin, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, conforming to the body of our lowliness, that He might change us in the likeness of the image of His glory. For, since through man sin came into the world and through sin death, it pleased Your only begotten Son, who is in Your bosom, God and Father, born of a woman, the holy Theotokos and ever virgin Mary; born under the law, to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who died in Adam may be brought to life in Him, Your Christ. He lived in this world, and gave us precepts of salvation. Releasing us from the delusions of idolatry, He guided us to the sure knowledge of You, the true God and Father. He acquired us for Himself, as His chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. Having cleansed us by water and sanctified us with the Holy Spirit, He gave Himself as ransom to death in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending into Hades through the cross, that He might fill all things with Himself, He loosed the bonds of death. He rose on the third day, having opened a path for all flesh to the resurrection from the dead, since it was not possible that the Author of life would be dominated by corruption. So He became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the first born of the dead, that He might be Himself the first in all

things. Ascending into heaven, He sat at the right hand of Your majesty on high and He will come to render to each according to His works. As memorials of His saving passion, He has left us these gifts which we have set forth before You according to His commands. For when He was about to go forth to His voluntary, ever memorable, and life-giving death, on the night on which He was delivered up for the life of the world, He took bread in His holy and pure hands, and presenting it to You, God and Father, and offering thanks, blessing, sanctifying, and breaking it:

PRIEST

He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you and for the forgiveness of sins.

CHOIR

Amen.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Likewise, He took the cup of the fruit of vine, and having mingled it, offering thanks, blessing, and sanctifying it.

PRIEST

He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles saying: Drink of this all of you. This is my blood of the new Covenant, shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.

CHOIR

Amen.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Do this in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this Bread and drink this Cup, you proclaim my death, and you confess my resurrection. Therefore, Master, we also, remembering His saving passion and life giving cross, His three-day burial and resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and enthronement at Your right hand, God and Father, and His glorious and awesome second coming.

PRIEST

Your own of Your own we offer to You, in all and for all.

CHOIR

We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Lord our God. ^[GOA]

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Therefore, most holy Master, we also, Your sinful and unworthy servants, whom You have made worthy to serve at Your holy altar, not because of our own righteousness (for we have not done anything good upon the earth), but because of Your mercy and compassion, which You have so richly poured upon us, we dare to approach Your holy altar, and bring forth the symbols of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. We pray to You and call upon You, O Holy of Holies, that by the favor of Your goodness, Your Holy Spirit may come upon us and upon the gifts here presented, to bless, sanctify,

And make this bread to be the precious Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

(Amen.)

And this cup to be the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

(Amen.)

Shed for the life and salvation of the world.

(Amen. Amen. Amen.)

And unite us all to one another who become partakers of the one Bread and the Cup in the communion of the one Holy Spirit. Grant that none of us may partake of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ to judgment or condemnation; but, that we may find mercy and grace with all the saints who through the ages have pleased You: forefathers, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, teachers, and every righteous spirit made perfect in faith.

PRIEST

Especially for our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary.

CHOIR

Hymn to the Theotokos.

In you, O Lady full of grace, rejoices all creation, the orders of Angels and the human race together. O hallowed temple and rational Garden of Paradise, the pride of virgins, from you did God become incarnate, and our God who existed before the ages became a child. For He made your womb a throne for himself, and your body He made wider than the heavens. In you, O Lady full of grace, rejoices all creation. Glory to you. [SD]

PRIEST (*in a low voice*)

For Saint John the prophet, forerunner, and baptist; for the holy, glorious, and most honorable apostles; for Saint(s) (Name's), whose memory we commemorate today; and for all Your saints, through whose supplications, O God, visit us. Remember also all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life (here the priest commemorates the names of the deceased). And grant them rest, our God, where the light of Your countenance shines. Again, we pray to You, be mindful of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, which is from one end of the inhabited earth to the other. Grant peace to her which You have obtained with the precious blood of Your Christ. Strengthen also this holy house to the end of the ages. Remember, Lord, those who have brought You these gifts, and for whom and through whom and the intentions for which they were offered. Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches, and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly gifts. Grant them in return for earthly things, heavenly gifts; for temporal, eternal; for corruptible, incorruptible. Remember, Lord, those who are in the deserts, on mountains, in caverns, and in the chambers of the earth. Remember, Lord, those living in chastity and godliness, in asceticism and holiness of life.

Remember, Lord, this country and all those in public service whom you have allowed to govern on earth. Grant them profound and lasting peace. Speak to their hearts good things concerning your Church and all your people that through the faithful conduct of their duties we may live peaceful and serene lives in all piety and holiness. Sustain the good in their goodness; make the wicked good through Your goodness. Remember, Lord, the people here presented and those who are absent with good cause. Have mercy on them and on us according to the multitude of Your mercy. Fill their treasuries with every good thing; preserve their marriages in peace and harmony; nurture the infants; instruct the youth; strengthen the aged; give courage to the faint hearted; reunite those separated; bring back those in error and unite them to Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Free those who are held captive by unclean spirits; sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel; defend the widows; protect the orphans; liberate the captives; heal the sick. Remember, Lord, those who are in mines, in exile, in harsh labor, and those in every kind of affliction, necessity, or distress; those who entreat your loving kindness; those who love us and those who hate us; those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we may be. Remember, Lord our God, all Your people, and pour out Your rich mercy upon them, granting them their petitions for salvation. Remember, O God, all those whom we have not remembered through ignorance, forgetfulness or because of their multitude since You know the name and age of each, even from their mother's womb. For You, Lord, are the helper of the helpless, the hope of the hopeless, the savior of the afflicted, the haven of the voyager, and the physician of the sick. Be all things to all, You who know each person, his requests, his household, and his need. Deliver this community and city, O Lord, and every city and town, from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of foreign enemies, and civil war.

PRIEST

Among the first remember, Lord, (episcopal rank) (name). grant him to Your holy churches in peace, safety, honor, and

health, unto length of days, rightly teaching the word of Your truth.

DEACON

And remember those whom each one of us has in mind, and all the people.

CHOIR

And all the people.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Remember, Lord, all Orthodox bishops who rightly teach the word of Your truth. Remember Lord, my unworthiness according to the multitude of Your mercies; forgive my every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary. Do not take away the grace of Your Holy Spirit from these gifts presented because of my sins. Remember, Lord, the presbyters, the diaconate in Christ, and every order of the clergy, and do not confound any of us who stand about Your holy altar. Visit us with Your goodness, Lord; manifest Yourself to us through Your rich compassion. Grant us seasonable weather and fruitful seasons; send gentle showers upon the earth so that it may bear fruit; bless the crown of the year of Your goodness. Prevent schism in the Church; pacify the raging of the heathen. Quickly stop the uprisings of heresies by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Receive us all into Your kingdom. Declare us to be sons and daughters of the light and of the day. Grant us Your peace and love, Lord our God, for You have given all things to us.

PRIEST

And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise Your most honorable and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR

And with your spirit.

DEACON

Having commemorated all the saints, again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the precious Gifts here presented and consecrated, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That our God Who loves mankind, having accepted them at His holy and celestial and mystical altar as an offering of spiritual fragrance, may in return send down upon us the divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Having asked for the unity of the faith and for the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Our God, the God who saves, You teach us justly to thank You for the good things which You have done and still do for us. You are our God who has accepted these Gifts. Cleanse us from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and teach us how to live in holiness by Your fear, so that receiving the portion of Your holy Gifts with a clear conscience we may be united with the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. Having received them worthily, may we have Christ dwelling in our hearts, and may we become the temple of Your Holy Spirit. Yes, our God, let none of us be guilty before these, Your awesome and heavenly Mysteries, nor be infirm in body and soul by partaking of them unworthily. But enable us, even up to our last breath, to receive a portion of Your holy Gifts worthily, as provision for eternal life and as an acceptable defense at the awesome

judgment seat of Your Christ. So that we also, together with all the saints who through the ages have pleased You, may become partakers of Your eternal good things, which You, Lord, have prepared for those who love You.

PRIEST

And grant us, Master, with boldness and without condemnation, to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father, and to say:

PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [GOA]

PRIEST

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

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Lord Master, the Father of mercies and God of every consolation, bless sanctify, guard, fortify, and strengthen those who have bowed their heads to You. Distance them from every evil deed. Lead them to every good work and make them worthy to partake without condemnation of these, Your most pure and

life-giving Mysteries, for the forgiveness of sins and for the communion of the Holy Spirit.

PRIEST

Through the grace, compassion, and love for mankind of Your only begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Hearken, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from Your holy dwelling place and from the throne of glory of Your Kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are enthroned with the Father on high and are present among us invisibly here. And with Your mighty hand, grant Communion of Your most pure Body and precious Blood to us, and through us to all the people.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

PRIEST

The Holy Gifts for the holy people of God.

CHOIR

One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. [GOA]

PEOPLE

Prayers of Holy Communion

I believe and confess, Lord, that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure Body and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy, without condemnation,

to partake of Your pure Mysteries for the remission of sins and for eternal life. Amen.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the filth of my soul, and save me, as You are the one Who loves mankind. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul, and save me.

Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come. It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

O Son of God, receive me today as a partaker of Your mystical supper. For I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss, as did Judas. But like the thief, I confess to You: Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.

CHOIR

Communion Hymn. Psalm 77.

The Lord awoke as from sleep, and He rose and saved us. Alleluia. ^[SAAS]

DEACON

With the fear of God, faith, and love, draw near.

And the people receive Holy Communion. The Priest receives the holy Chalice from the hands of the Deacon and begins communing the people, saying to each one:

The servant of God (Name) partakes of the Body and Blood of Christ for the remission of sins and life eternal.

CHOIR

Hymns During Holy Communion

PRIEST

Save, O God, Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

CHOIR

Instead of "We have seen."

Mode 3.

Remember us also, O Merciful One, as You remembered the Robber, in the kingdom of heaven. ^[SD]

PRIEST

(in a low voice)

Wash away, Lord, by Your Holy Blood, the sins of Your servants here remembered through the intercessions of the Theotokos and all Your saints. Amen.

DEACON

Exalt, Master.

PRIEST

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let Your glory be over all the earth.

Blessed is our God.

PRIEST

Always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Let our mouths be filled with Your praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Your glory, because You have made us worthy to partake of Your Holy Mysteries. Keep us in Your sanctification, that all day long we may

meditate upon Your righteousness. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia. ^[GOA]

DEACON

Arise! Having partaken of the divine,
holy, pure, immortal, heavenly, life-creating,
and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us
worthily give thanks to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

or:

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Having prayed for a perfect, holy,
peaceful, and sinless day, let us commend
ourselves and one another and our whole life
to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

We thank You, Lord, our God, for the communion
of Your holy, most pure, immortal, and heavenly
Mysteries which You have granted us for the benefit,
sanctification, and healing of our souls and bodies.
Grant, Master of all, that the communion of the holy
Body and Blood of Your Christ may become for us faith
unashamed, love unfeigned, fulness of wisdom, healing
of soul and body, repelling of every hostile adversary,
observance of Your commandments, and an acceptable
defense at the dread judgment seat of Your Christ.

PRIEST

For You are our sanctification, and to You
we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the
ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Let us go forth in peace.

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

THE PRAYER BEHIND THE AMBON

O Christ, our God, accept from those who
call upon You with all their heart this spiritual
sacrifice without the shedding of blood as
a sacrifice of praise and true worship. You
are the Lamb and Son of God who bears the
sins of the world; the blameless calf who does
not accept the yoke of sin and who freely
sacrificed Yourself for us. You are broken but
not divided. You are consumed but never
spent. You sanctify those who partake of you.
In remembrance of Your voluntary passion
and life-giving resurrection on the third day,
You have made us partakers of Your ineffable
and heavenly and awesome mysteries of
Your holy Body and precious Blood. Preserve
us, Your servants, those who minister, our
leaders, the armed forces, and the people
present here, in Your holiness. Grant that we
may meditate upon Your righteousness at all
times and in every season. Guide us and our
actions so that we may do what is pleasing to
You, and may You find us worthy to stand at
Your right hand when You return to judge the
living and the dead. Deliver our brothers and
sisters who are in captivity, visit those who
are sick, protect those who are in danger at
sea, and give rest to the souls of all those who
have fallen asleep in the hope of the eternal
life where the light of Your face shines. Hear
the petitions of all those who beseech You for
Your help. For You are the giver of all good
things, and to You we give glory, together
with Your eternal Father and Your all holy,
good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever
and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and to the ages. (3) [GOA]

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

The mystery of Your dispensation, O Christ our God, has been accomplished and perfected as far as it is in our power. We have had the memorial of Your death. We have seen the typos of Your resurrection. We have been filled with Your unending life. We have enjoyed Your inexhaustible delight which in the world to come be well pleased to give to us all, through the grace of Your holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

May the blessing and the mercy of the Lord come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

PRIEST

May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, *(local patron saint)*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

CHOIR

Lord, protect for many years the one who blesses and sanctifies us. [GOA]

PRIEST

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

(Amen.)