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The Service of Vespers

**on Saturday Evening
for Sunday, December 22, 2019**

**Octoechos - Mode 2.
on Saturday Evening**

**Menaion - December 18-24
Sunday Before Christmas**

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Octoechos

Mode 2.

On Saturday Evening

Menaion

December 22

Sunday Before Christmas

VESPERS

PRIEST

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,
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.

While the Opening Psalm is being read the Priest, bareheaded and standing in front of the Holy Table, says quietly the following Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps.

PRIEST (*inaudibly*)

1st Prayer

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in your way, to walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear your holy Name, because you are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like you, O Lord, among gods: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in your holy Name. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

2nd Prayer

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor chastise us in your wrath, but deal with us in accordance with your kindness, physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbour of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth and grant that the rest of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints. [EL]

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

3rd Prayer

Lord our God, remember us, sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy Name, and do not put us to shame from the expectation of your mercy, but graciously grant us, Lord, all the requests that are for salvation, and count us worthy to love and to fear you from our whole heart, and in all things to do your will. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

4th Prayer

O Lord, who are praised by the holy Powers with never silent hymns and unceasing songs of glory, fill our mouth with your praise to give majesty to your holy Name, and give us a part and an inheritance with all who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all your Saints. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

5th Prayer

Lord, Lord, who uphold the universe by your immaculate hand, who are long-suffering towards us all and who repent of evils, remember your acts of compassion and your mercy. Visit us in your loving kindness and grant that for the rest of the present day we may escape the manifold wiles of the evil one, and, by the grace of your All-holy Spirit, keep our life free from assault. [EL]

By the mercy and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

6th Prayer

O God, great and wonderful, who order the universe with inexpressible loving-kindness and rich providence; who have granted us also the blessings of this world and brought us near to the promised Kingdom through the blessings that have been bestowed on us already; who have made us turn aside from every evil during that part of the present day which is now over, grant us also to complete what remains without blame in the presence of your holy glory, as we sing your praise, who alone are our God, good and the Lover of mankind. [EL]

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

7th Prayer

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer you our evening hymn of glory; do you, O Lord who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense

before you and accept it as a savour of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every deed that walks in darkness. And give us sleep, which you have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, as we bring to your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all your people. At the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

When the Opening Psalm is completed the Priest, in front of the Holy Table, or the Deacon in his usual place outside the Holy Doors, says the Litany of Peace.

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 2.

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]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.

The righteous man shall correct me with mercy,
and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner
anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of
their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the
rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.
As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so
their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in
You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from
the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone,
until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I
prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I
shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew
my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one
who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared
for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope,
my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled
exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are
stronger than I.

From Octoechos - - -

Resurrectional Stichera. Mode 2.

Sticheron 1.

*Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to
Your name, O Lord.* [SAAS]

Come, let us adore God the Word,
begotten of the Father before all ages, who
took flesh from the Virgin Mary. For he
willingly suffered the cross and submitted
himself to burial, and he rose from the dead
and saved me, the one who has gone astray.

[HC]

Sticheron 2.

*The righteous shall wait for me, until You
reward me.* [SAAS]

Our Savior Christ blotted out the bond
that pledged us to the decree by nailing it
to the cross, and he abolished the dominion
of death. Let us worship his third day
resurrection. [HC]

Sticheron 3.

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

Together with the Archangels, let us
praise the resurrection of Christ. He is the
Deliverer and Savior of our souls. He will
come again in awesome glory and mighty
power to judge the world he fashioned. [HC]

Sticheron 4.

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

The angel proclaimed you Master,
crucified and buried. And he said to the
women: Come and see the place where the
Lord lay. For he is risen as he foretold, for
he is almighty. Therefore, we worship you

who alone are immortal. Have mercy on us, O Christ, Giver of life. [HC]

From Menaion - - -

For the Forefeast.

Mode 1. N/M (O Martyrs, extolled.)

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

All-blameless Virgin, living Palace of God, you contained within yourself him whom the heavens cannot contain; beyond understanding you gave birth to him in the Cave, a beggar and incarnate, that he might make me divine and enrich me, made a beggar by the incontinence of bitter eating. [EL]

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

Through compassion enrolled with slaves, long-suffering Christ, by Caesar's decree, you came to give freedom, life and deliverance to ungrateful servants, who worship your saving Nativity, for you have come to save our souls. [EL]

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

The All-holy and blameless Virgin, realising that her child-bearing was beyond explanation and had made new the laws of nature, cried to her Son: My Child, so much desired, I am amazed at the great mystery: I have born a child and yet remain a virgin by your power, who do all things by your will! [EL]

For the Fathers.

Mode pl. 4. N/M (The paradise of Eden.)

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

As we believers celebrate today the memorials of the Fathers, let us sing in praise to Christ the Redeemer; the Lord, who as mighty and powerful magnified them among all the nations and faithfully performed extraordinary wonders; and has revealed from among them a rod of power, Mary the only pure Child of God, who has not known man; from her Christ has come forth, the flower that blossoms with life for all, the inexhaustible delight and the salvation of our souls. [EL]

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

By the dew of the Spirit God's Youths rejoicing as in rain walked mystically in the midst of the flame, typifying in advance the Trinity and Christ's incarnation; and as wise through faith they quenched the power of fire. And the just Daniel appeared as a tamer of lions. Besought by their intercessions, O Saviour who loves mankind, deliver us also from the unquenchable and eternal fire, and make us worthy to gain your heavenly Kingdom. [EL]

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

The faithful, Holy Youths in the furnace of fire, as in dew, mystically prefigured your coming from the Virgin, which shone forth without burning for us. And the just Daniel, wonderful among Prophets, clearly foreshowed your second divine coming when

he cried: I see where thrones are set, and the judge has taken his throne, and a river of fire is present; from which at their intercessions may we be delivered, O Master Christ. [EL]

Glory. **For the Fathers.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2.

Daniel, the man of desires, when he saw a stone hewn without human hand, foretold that you, Lord, would be born as a babe without seed, you the Word incarnate of the Virgin, God unchanging and the Saviour of our souls. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Mode 2.**

The First Theotokion of the Mode.

At the coming of grace, the shadow of the law passed away. Just as the bush that burned was not consumed, so have you given birth and remained a virgin. Instead of a pillar of fire, the Sun of Righteousness shone forth; instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls appeared. [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]

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 2.

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty. [SAAS]

Verse: *The Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.*

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty.

Verse: *And He established the world, which shall not be moved.*

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty.

The Readings

From Menaion - - -

READER

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Gn 14:14-20a

Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far

as Dan. So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands." [SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the book of Deuteronomy.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Dt 1:8-11, 15-17

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them. So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.' So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men

and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall judge the small and the great; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is God's.' [SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the book of Deuteronomy.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Dt 10:14-18, 20-21

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things

for you, the things you saw with your own eyes. [SAAS]

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

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

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

READER

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our evening prayer 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 evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

(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

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to 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 our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful Judge who love mankind, your servants have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting your mercy and looking for your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

PRIEST

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Octoechos - -

CHOIR

Resurrectional Aposticha.

Mode 2.

Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has illumined the entire earth, and has recalled your creation. O almighty Lord, glory to you. [HC]

Verse: *The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty; the Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.* [SAAS]

By the wood of the cross, O Savior, you abolished the curse of the tree, and by your burial you have destroyed the dominion of death, and have enlightened mankind by your resurrection. Therefore, we cry to you: Glory to you, O Christ our God, the Giver of life. [HC]

Verse: *And He established the world, which shall not be moved.* [SAAS]

When you appeared, O Christ, nailed upon the cross, you altered the beauty of created things. Cruelly the soldiers pierced your side with a lance; and the Jews asked that your tomb might be sealed, not understanding your power. But you, O Lord, because of your mercy submitted to the tomb and rose on the third day. Therefore, glory to you. [HC]

Verse: *Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, unto length of days.* [SAAS]

O Christ, Giver of life, for the sake of us mortals you willingly endured the passion and descended into Hades with power, snatching from the hands of the tyrant those who awaited you there, granting them, instead of Hades, an abode in paradise. Therefore, to us who give glory to your rising on the third day, grant pardon of our sins and your great mercy. [HC]

Glory. **For the Fathers.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

Hail honoured Prophets, who excellently ordered the Law of the Lord and by your faith appeared as indestructible, unshakeable pillars; for you were seen as the mediators of

the New Testament of Christ; and now that you have passed over into heaven, implore him to grant peace to the world and to save our souls. [EL]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

See, the time of salvation is at hand; Cave prepare, the Virgin draws near to give birth. Bethlehem, land of Juda, rejoice and be glad, for our Lord has dawned from you. Hearken, mountains and hills, and the countries around Judea; for Christ is coming to save mankind whom he fashioned, for he loves mankind. [EL]

PRIEST

Song of Simeon.

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

PEOPLE

Trisagion Prayers.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

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.)

CHOIR

From Octoechos - - -

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Mode 2.

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. [SD]

Glory. **For the Fathers.**

Mode 2.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls. [SD]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

Mode 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image. [SD]

DEACON

Wisdom.

(Father, bless!)

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages. *(Amen.)*

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

READER

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

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, all those who from the beginning of time were well-pleasing to God, from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, whose memory we observe; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

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

(Amen.)