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# The Service of Vespers

**on Monday Evening**

**for Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

**Menaion - September 24**

**The Synaxis in Honor of the Most Holy Theotokos, our Lady of the Myrtles; and Memory of the Holy Great Martyr Thecla, the Equal to the Apostles.**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - September 24**

Memory of the Holy Great Martyr Thecla,  
the Equal to the Apostles.

**Menaion Supplement**

The Synaxis in Honor of the Most Holy  
Theotokos, our Lady of the Myrtles

**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 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]

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.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your  
name, O Lord.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward  
me.

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

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

### Stichera for the Theotokos.

Menaion Supplement - - -

#### Mode 1. *What a paradoxical miracle.*

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

What a paradoxical miracle. \* Today a  
luminous and most resplendent feast of feasts  
\* has dawned on those living on the Isle of  
Kythira. \* O heavens above, be glad, \* and  
send down droplets of sweet spiritual joy. \* O  
hosts of Angels on high, \* join the believers of  
Kythira and cry aloud: \* "Lady full of grace,  
rejoice, for the Lord is with you, \* and through  
your intercessions \* He bestows great mercy  
on the world." [SD]

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

What a paradoxical miracle. \* As they  
festively celebrate your holy miracle, \* the  
pious Christians of Kythira receive the rays \*  
of the never-setting light, \* O all-immaculate  
Virgin Mother of God. \* And all who were  
born on earth \* by faith are brightened  
together with them and sing aloud: \* "Lady  
full of grace, rejoice, for the Lord is with you,  
\* and through your intercessions \* He bestows  
great mercy on the world." [SD]

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

What a paradoxical miracle. \* Such a  
blessing indeed has the Isle of Kythira \*  
obtained and enjoys from you, O Lady graced



by God. \* For you loved the people there \*  
as an affectionate Mother and gave to them \*  
your Icon, which they revere \* and which they  
cherish; and venerating it they sing: \* "Lady  
full of grace, rejoice, for the Lord is with you,  
\* and through your intercessions \* He bestows  
great mercy on the world." [SD]

**For the Holy Woman.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4. Lord, even if.**

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

Lord our God, while St. Thekla sat by the  
window and paid attention for love of You,  
\* mentally transported to heaven \* she was  
standing by Your throne on high; \* and she  
marveled at the great \* incomparable majesty \*  
of the One who was incarnate \* for the love of  
man, to save our souls. [SD]

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

Lord our God, Thekla ran to be with Your  
Apostle, \* shackled as he was and bound in  
chains, \* shaking off the chains of attachment  
\* to all worldly and mundane affairs. \* And  
rather chained by the might \* of Your divine  
consuming love, \* fully confirmed in You the  
Savior \* of our souls, she bound herself to  
You. [SD]

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

Lord our God, Thekla was deprived of her  
teacher \* against her will and was left alone;  
\* even so she had You with her present \* in  
the hour of her martyrdom. \* And though  
they stripped off her clothes, \* Your holy glory

covered her. \* And You crowned her with  
Your own hand. \* Now she zealously defends  
our souls [SD]

Glory. Both now. **For the Theotokos.**

Menaion Supplement - - -

**Mode 1.**

The people of Kythira know you to be  
truly a source of miracles. They come from all  
directions to your holy shrine. [SD]

**Mode pl. 1.**

O Lady, full of divine grace, they they kiss  
your holy Icon in grand veneration. [SD]

**Mode 2.**

They are exceedingly illumined by  
the rays and divine energy of the Spirit, O  
Theotokos. [SD]

**Mode pl. 2.**

They glorify you, the Queen of all and  
Protectress of the world. And in faith they  
honor you and supernally extol you. Glowing  
with joy, they gratefully shout, "Behold, the  
Queen of all has visited us. [SD]

**Mode 3.**

Let us all clap our hands, and let us  
venerate her Icon and kiss it with undefiled  
lips. [SD]

**Grave Mode.**

For the salvation of all humanity came  
through her. Perils and diseases are driven  
away, and health is granted to the sick  
ineffably. [SD]

**Mode 4.**

For her excellence surpasses all  
understanding." [SD]

**Mode pl. 4.**

Therefore, O immaculate Theotokos, as you now live forever with the life-bearing King who is your Son, intercede unceasingly, that He guard us who glorify you, and that He save us from every hostile threat, since we are under your protection. [SD]

**Mode 1.**

And to the ages with splendor we call you blessed. [SD]

**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 4.**

The Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.

(2) [SAAS]

**Verse:** *You heard me when I called, O God of my righteousness. You strengthened my heart when I was in distress.*

The Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.

**The Readings**

Menaion Supplement - - -

**READER**

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

**Gn 28:10-17**

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from

his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

**Ezk 43:27-44:4**

Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Proverbs of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

**Pr 9:1-11**

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [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 Menaion - - -

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha.**

**Mode 1.** *N/M (For the celestial.)*

Far-famed Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles, glory of women martyrs, fair virgin Thekla, by your supplications that are powerful with God heal the dread passions and bruises of my soul, I cry to you, and snatch me from the unquenchable fire. <sup>[EL]</sup>

**Verse:** *I waited patiently for the Lord, and He heeded me; and He heard my supplication.* <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

The almighty, divine power of Christ through a cloud that gave birth to rain quenched the flame, bedewing you, Thekla, as a believer and justly consuming unbelievers and, delivering you from being torn apart by wild beasts and bulls, it glorified you. <sup>[EL]</sup>



**Verse:** *And He established my feet on a rock and kept straight my steps.* [SAAS]

Filled with longing for the immaculate Bridegroom, all-fair in his beauty, you denied your suitor, Thekla, following the words of Paul, the groomsman of the Church. Raised up with him to the sphere of all-delight, you were betrothed to the One for whom you longed. [EL]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4.**

You overcame the attacks of lions. You put Thamyris to shame, O Proto-martyr and Apostle Thekla, and you followed after your Bridegroom and cried, "I have run after You, for the smell of Your ointments, O Christ." You pursued Paul, and you received the gift of grace from heaven, and you obtained the crown from God who gives the awards. Now you unceasingly intercede that He grant forgiveness of offences, to those who with faith observe your sacred memory. [SD]

Both now. **For the Theotokos.**

Menaion Supplement - - -

**Mode pl. 1.**

The words of the glorious Prophet Isaiah have come to pass. For he said: "Instead of the broom-tree shall come up the cypress, and instead of the nettle shall come up the myrtle." And now indeed the lowly myrtle has come up, and it is greatly exalted, above all other trees of the field. For the Icon of the all-pure Lady has risen from fragrant myrtles for the people of Kythira, as a badge of Orthodoxy and proof of good favor. Let us all joyfully take up branches of myrtle, and let us extol the Theotokos on this official day of the feast; and let us reverently venerate her Icon and

salute her saying: "Rejoice, glory and joy of the people of Kythira, O immaculate Virgin." [SD]

**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**

**For the Holy Woman.**

*From Menaion - - -*

**Mode 3. Your confession.**

All aflame with love for your Creator,  
\* from the teachings of the sacred preacher,  
\* you disregarded as fleeting all things  
mundane. \* And being bold in the face of the  
penalties, \* you gave yourself as a beautiful  
gift to God. \* Thecla, glorious companion of  
the Apostle Paul, \* we pray you entreat your  
Bridegroom, Christ, \* and ask Him to grant us  
His great mercy. *[SD]*

Glory. Both now. **For the Theotokos.**

*Menaion Supplement - - -*

**Mode 4. Come quickly.**

O come, all you people, and let us in faith  
clap our hands \* and sing sacred songs to her  
who is the Mother of God, \* and longingly cry  
aloud: \* "Rejoice, O protection of all those who  
entreat you; \* rejoice, the salvation of those  
who honor you with longing; \* rejoice, O Lady  
who restored \* the paralyzed man to health."

*[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 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, the  
holy Great Martyr Thecla, the Equal to the  
Apostles, the finding of whose holy icon "Our  
Lady of the Myrtles" we commemorate, 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.)*