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The Service of Vespers

on Friday Evening

for Saturday, July 20, 2019

Menaion - July 20

Memory of the Holy Prophet Elias

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - July 20

Memory of the Holy Prophet Elias

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.)

The first stanza of Kathisma 1 of the Psalter may be read, followed by the short litany.

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.)

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 Yours is the dominion, and Yours 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

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 Prophet.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

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

Merciful Lord, You translated Tishbite Elijah from earth * by fiery chariot taking * him as if into heaven. * O Logos, we who faithfully glorify You * pray You save and deliver us, * by his entreaties for us who with joy observe * his divine and solemn memory.

[SD]

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

Merciful Lord, You translated Tishbite Elijah from earth * by fiery chariot taking * him as if into heaven. * O Logos, we who faithfully glorify You * pray You save and deliver us, * by his entreaties for us who with joy observe * his divine and solemn memory. [SD]

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

O blessed Prophet Elijah, of old the Lord appeared * to you, but not in whirlwind, nor in earthquake nor fire, * but in the gentle breeze, and illumined you. * Then on a four-horse chariot * you rode as if into heaven amazingly, * O most wondrous God-inspired Saint. [SD]

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

O blessed Prophet Elijah, of old the Lord appeared * to you, but not in whirlwind, nor in earthquake nor fire, * but in the gentle breeze, and illumined you. * Then on a four-horse chariot * you rode as if into heaven amazingly, * O most wondrous God-inspired Saint. [SD]

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

Being on fire with divine zeal, * you put to death with the sword * the priests of shame, O Prophet, * having spoken, the heavens * withheld their rain and dew for the span of

three years. * And by sending your mantle to * Prophet Elisha, you filled him with twice the grace, O Elijah, that you had from God. [SD]

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

Being on fire with divine zeal, * you put to death with the sword * the priests of shame, O Prophet, * having spoken, the heavens * withheld their rain and dew for the span of three years. * And by sending your mantle to * Prophet Elisha, you filled him with twice the grace, O Elijah, that you had from God. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2.

Come, gathering of the orthodox, assembled today in the all-honoured temple of the inspired Prophets, let us sing in psalms a harmonious melody to Him who glorified them, Christ our God, and let us cry out with joy and gladness: Hail, angel on earth and man of heaven, glorious Elias. Hail, all-honoured Elissaios, who received double grace from God. Hail, fervent helpers, defenders and physicians of both souls and bodies of the people which loves Christ. From every hostile assault and calamity, from every kind of danger deliver those who celebrate with faith your festive memorial. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Mode 3.**

The First Theotokion of the Mode.

How can we not marvel at your theandric childbirth, O most reverend Maid? For while having had no spousal congress, all-blameless one, you gave birth unto a Son unfathered in the flesh, Who had, unmothered, been begotten of the Father before all ages. He in

no way underwent any change, intermingling or division; but He preserved each nature's distinct identity in its totality. Therefore, O Virgin Mother and Lady, entreat Him for the salvation of the souls of those confessing you, in Orthodox manner, to be Theotokos. [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. Grave Mode.

You are my protector, O God. Your mercy shall go before me. (2) [SAAS]

Verse: *Rescue me from my enemies, O God, and redeem me from those who rise up against me.*

You are my protector, O God. Your mercy shall go before me.

The Readings

From Menaion - - -

READER

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

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

17:1-24

Now Elijah the Tishbite from Tishbe in Gilead said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Hosts lives, the God of all Israel before whom I stand, there shall not be any dew nor rain during these years except at my word." Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Depart and go eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. You shall drink water from the brook, and I shall command the ravens to feed you there." So Elijah went and obeyed the word of the Lord, and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he drank water from the brook. But after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. 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]

READER

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

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

18:1, 17-27, 29b-41a, 41c, 44b,
42b, 45; 19:1a, 2-4a, 5-10, 15a, 16b

It came to pass many days later, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go and appear to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Are you the one who is troubling Israel?" Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but rather you and the house of your father, in that you forsook the Lord your God and followed after the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of shame, and the four hundred prophets of the sacred groves who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab went back to Israel and gathered all the prophets on Mount Carmel. Then Elijah came near to all of them and said, "How long will you be undecided between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer. Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone remain as a prophet of the Lord, but there are four hundred and fifty men who are prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the sacred groves. Let them give us two oxen. Then let

them choose one bull for themselves, to be cut into pieces and laid on the wood; but they shall not light a fire under it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood; and I will not light a fire under it. Then you will call loudly on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord, my God. So it shall come to pass that the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "The word you have spoken is good." "Choose one calf for yourselves and prepare it, for there are many of you. Then call on the name of your god, but do not put fire to the wood under it." So they took a calf and prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "Hear us, O Baal, hear us." But there was no voice, for no one answered, and they ran about the altar they had made. Then it came to pass at noon that Elijah the Tishbite mocked them and said, "Cry out with a loud voice, for he is a god; for either he is away meditating, or he is too busy, or preoccupied with other business. Perhaps he is sleeping and has need to be awakened from his nap." When the appointed time to offer the evening sacrifice, but even still, there was no voice. Finally, Elijah the Tishbite spoke to the prophets of the idols, saying, "Now remove yourselves from this place, for I will offer my whole burnt offering." And they turned away and departed. Then Elijah said to the people, "Come near me." So all the people came near to him. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Israel, for the Lord said, "Israel shall be your name." Then he built an altar with the stones in the name of the Lord, and he repaired the altar of sacrifice

that was scattered about, and around the altar he made a furrow holding two measures of seed. He piled the firewood on the altar he had made, divided the whole burnt offering, laid it on the firewood, and laid it in order on the altar. Then he said, "Bring me four pots of water, and pour it on the whole burnt offering and pour it on the unlit firewood." They did so. Again Elijah said, "Do it a second time." So they did it again. Again he said, "Do it a third time." So they did it a third time. And the water ran all about the altar, and even the furrow became filled with water. After this, Elijah cried out to heaven and said, "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, answer me, O Lord, answer me this day with fire, and let this people know You are the God of Israel, and I am Your servant; and for Your sake I do all these works. Hear me, O Lord, hear me with fire, and let these people know You are the Lord God, so as turn the heart of this people back." Then fire fell from the Lord out of the heaven and consumed the whole burnt offering, the firewood, and the water in the furrow. The fire also licked up the stones and the soil. So all the people fell on their faces, and they said, "Truly, the Lord is God; He is God." Elijah then said to the people, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Let not one of them escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon, where he slaughtered them. After this, Elijah said to Ahab, "There is a sound of rain. Make ready your chariot and get down from here before the rain overcomes you." But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, where he bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees. Thus it came to pass that

the sky darkened with black clouds and wind, and there was a heavy downpour of rain. But Ahab mourned and went to Jezreel. Now Ahab told Jezebel his wife everything Elijah did. Then Jezebel sent to Elijah, saying, "If you are Elijah and I this Jezebel, may God do so to me and more also if at this hour tomorrow, I do not make your life like the life of one of them." Elijah was fearful, and he arose and ran for his life. He came to Beersheba of Judah, where he left his servant. But Elijah himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree. Then he lay down and slept under a tree. Unexpectedly, someone touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then Elijah looked, and there by his head was a cake made of wheat and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. Again the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is a great many days for you." So he arose, ate and drank; and he went with the strength of that food forty days and forty nights, as far as Mount Horeb. There he went into a cave and rested. Behold, the word of the Lord came to him and said to him, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" And Elijah said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord Almighty since the children of Israel have forsaken You. They tore down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life." Then the Lord said to him, "Go and return on your way to the desert of Damascus; and you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah as prophet in your place."

[SAAS]

READER

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

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

3 Kingdoms (1 Kings) 19:19a, 19c, 20a, 21b; 4 Kingdoms (2 Kings) 2:1, 6-14

Elijah departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. So Elisha left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and ministered to him. As the time came to be for the Lord to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha went from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the Lord sent me on to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So both of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water. The water divided this way and that, and the two of them crossed on dry ground. So it was that during the time they crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I may do for you, before I am taken away from you." Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." So Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me when I am taken up from you, it shall be so for you; and if not, it shall not be so." Thus it came to be, as they walked and continued to talk, behold a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and the fire separated them one from the other; and Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind. Then Elisha saw it and cried aloud, "Father, O

father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" He saw Elijah no more, and he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. Then he raised Elijah's mantle, which fell from Elijah and upon Elisha, and Elisha returned and stood on the bank of the River Jordan. He took Elijah's mantle which had fallen upon him and struck the water, but it did not divide. Then he said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah himself?" And he struck the water again, and it divided this way and that. So Elisha crossed over. [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.)

Litany and Blessing of Loaves.

CHOIR

Idiomelon 1.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1.

Elias, the zealot, the ruler over his own passions, is riding into the sky today, and he is made a mystic of worldwide salvation. Oh, unadulterated glory that was granted to this soaring Prophet and exquisite gem of the Prophets! By his accomplishments, he showed himself to be an angel in body and man without flesh. Let us extol him and say, "We pray you, O wise one, help us on Judgment Day!" [SD]

Idiomelon 2.

Mode 1.

O believers, using words of David, let us honor in hymns the Lord's Prophet Elias the Tishbite, the illustrious zealot. He is the one who with his tongue made the sky hard like iron, and made the fruitful earth to be unfruitful. What a miracle! A corruptible man is garbed in incorruption, and he dashes to the heavens in a fiery chariot, and he grants double grace to Elisha by giving him his mantel. He rebukes kings. With famine he punishes the disobedient people. He embarrassed all the shameful priests of Baal, and by a word he resurrected the widow's son. O Christ our God, at his entreaties preserve our elected officials in peace, and keep us safe from foreign enemies. [SD]

Idiomelon 3.

Mode 1.

Let us all now sing spiritual songs to extol those Prophets of Christ. Elias the Tishbite

became a sky-rider. Elisha received his mantel, and with it, double the grace from God. They were shown to bright luminaries for the whole world. And they unceasingly intercede on behalf of our souls. [SD]

Idiomelon 4.

Mode 2.

Two radiant luminaries have risen on the world. The one, Elijah, by divine word, made the sky withhold its raindrops, he censured kings, and he went up as if into heaven on a fiery chariot. The other, Elisha, received a double portion of grace, he crossed over the Jordan on foot, and he healed Jericho's water of death and barrenness. Now both of these Prophets celebrate with the Angels, and they intercede on our behalf, for the salvation of our souls. [SD]

Idiomelon 5.

Mode 2.

The fiery chariot, that took you up in a whirlwind as if into heaven, granted you the fire-breathing grace, O Elijah the Tishbite, such that you will not see death, until you announce the completion of all things. Therefore be with us now, and give us to understand what you accomplished. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

You were taken up, riding a fiery chariot, and transported to a place of light, O Elias the Tishbite, after you embarrassed the shameful priests of Baal. You had the power, by your word, to bind and loose the sky; so now, by your intercessions to the Lord, loose our offences, and save our souls. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4.

Guard your servants from dangers of every kind, O blessed Theotokos, so that we may glorify you, the hope of our souls. [SD]

DEACON

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of all pious and Orthodox Christians living and visiting in this city, the parishioners, the members of the Parish Council and every Ministry of this Parish, and the donors and benefactors of this holy church, and the servants of God [names] who celebrate this holy feast.

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

Again we pray for the protection of this holy church, this city and every city and land, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us by turning and keeping from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

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

Again we pray that the Lord our God may hear the prayer of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

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

PRIEST

Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all those who live everywhere on earth and those far out at sea or in the air. Be gracious toward our sins, Master, and have mercy on us.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

Most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers;

the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker, the Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (local patron saint); the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, the holy and glorious Prophet Elias the Tishbite, whose memory we celebrate; and of all your Saints.

Accept our prayer; grant us forgiveness of our transgressions; protect us under the shelter of your wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary; grant peace to our life; Lord have mercy on us and on your world; and save our souls as a good and loving God.

PRIEST or: CHOIR

Hymn to the Theotokos.

O Virgin Theotokos, rejoice, Mary full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb; for you have borne the Savior of our souls ^[SD]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Blessing of the Loaves.

Lord, Jesus Christ. our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and from them five thousand men were filled. Bless now these loaves, the wheat, the wine and oil and multiply them in this holy church, this city, in the homes of those who celebrate

today, and in Your whole world. And sanctify Your faithful servants who partake of them.

For You are He who blesses and sanctifies all things, Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory together with Your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CLERGY

Rich men turned poor and went hungry; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. ^[SAAS]

CHOIR

Rich men turned poor and went hungry; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. (2) ^[SAAS]

From Menaion - -

CHOIR

Aposticha.

Mode 4. *When you were called.*

Prophet Elias has spiritually summoned * fans of feasts to celebrate his sacred memory. * Heavenly man, he was sanctified before conception; * incarnate Angel, he had a fiery mind. * Glorious foundation of the Prophets of the Lord, * he will return as the forerunner of the Messiah's * dread Second Coming, as it has been foretold. * And now Your people pray You, Christ our God: * At his strong intercessions, preserve us from * the assaults of the devil * and from any type of injury. ^[SD]

Verse: *Do not touch My anointed ones, and do not act wickedly towards My prophets.* ^[SAAS]

Prophet Elias, whose mind was on the heavens, * seeing all of Israel's whorish unfaithfulness * to God the Lord, and the people all clinging to idols, * his soul aflame

with the fire of zeal divine, * said, "There shall be neither dew nor rain, except by my word." * And with his word were the heavens shut, * and he prevented * the clouds from raining, and thus the earth was parched. * But he is now our banquet host on high, * as he lavishes great and ineffable * gifts of grace in abundance * on us faithfully extolling him. [SD]

Verse: *You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.* [SAAS]

Prophet and mystic, to you have been uncovered * ineffable mysteries. You parted Jordan's streams, * and you reduced the deception of idols to ashes, * with lightning bolts of your God-inspired words. * You rebuked the king when he transgressed the law of God. * You prayed for fire on your sacrifice, and it consumed it, * and then you killed the unholy pagan priests. * Now for your people pray with fiery zeal, * O Elias, and smother the burning coals * of the unruly passions * and the suffering afflicting us. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2.

O Prophet and herald of Christ, you are never away from the throne of majesty, and still you are ever at the side of every sick person. You minister in the heights, and you bless the whole world, and you are everywhere glorified. O Elias, pray for the forgiveness of our souls. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode pl. 2.

Most holy Virgin, Christ the Lord, Creator and Redeemer, proceeded from your womb, and clothing himself in me, set me free from

the ancient curse on Adam. Therefore, most pure Virgin, we praise you without ceasing as Mother of God and true Virgin with the greeting of the angel: Rejoice! Lady, advocate, defender, and salvation of our souls. [HC]

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

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. Come quickly.

The angel incarnate and the Prophets'
pedestal, * the second Forerunner of the
coming of Christ, Elias the glorious, * sent
down to Elisha the divine grace from heaven.
* He drives away diseases and he cleanses
lepers. * Therefore he pours out healings to
those who honor him. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4.

O Theotokos, through you became
manifest to us on earth the mystery, which
was hid from eternity, and which the Angels
themselves knew not: that God, uniting
natures without confusion, becomes a man
and accepts crucifixion for our salvation
voluntarily. By virtue of this, resurrecting
man whom He had first created, He saved our
souls from death. [SD]

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.)

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.

Optional:

PRIEST

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

READER

*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.*

PRIEST

Glory to You, O Christ God, our hope.
Glory to You.

READER

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

and glorious Prophet Elias the Tishbite, whose memory we celebrate; 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.)