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# The Service of Vespers

**on Saturday Evening  
for Sunday, December 15, 2019**

**Octoechos - Mode 1.  
on Saturday Evening**

**Menaion - December 11-17  
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Menaion - December 15  
Memory of St. Eleftherios**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Octoechos - Mode 1.**

On Saturday Evening

**Menaion - December 11-17**

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

**Menaion - December 15**

Memory of St. Eleftherios

**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.

From Octoechos - - -

## **Resurrectional Stichera. Mode 1.**

### **Sticheron 1.**

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

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

### **Sticheron 2.**

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

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

### **Sticheron 3.**

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

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

### **Sticheron 4.**

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

Heavens, be glad! Foundations of the  
earth, sound the trumpets! Hills, shout for  
joy! For behold, Emmanuel has nailed our  
sins to the cross and he, the Giver of life, has  
put death to death by raising up Adam, as a  
loving God. [HC]



From Menaion - - -

**For the Forefathers.**

**Mode pl. 4. (not metered)**

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

Today, as we celebrate the memorial of the Forefathers, let us the faithful raise a hymn to Christ the Redeemer, the Lord who magnifies them among all the nations, and faithfully performs extraordinary wonders, as he is mighty and powerful; and he showed forth from them a rod of power for us, pure Mary the Child of God who alone knew no man, from whom the flower, Christ, came forth, blossoming life for all and pleasure without cost and eternal life. [EL]

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

Master, who delivered the Holy Youths from the fire, and Daniel from the lions' mouths; who blessed Abraham and Isaac your servant and his son Jacob; who were well pleased to be born from their seed for us, that you might save the Forefathers who had fallen away of old, to be crucified and buried, and you smash all the bonds of death, and you raise all who from every age were among the dead, who worship, O Christ, your eternal Kingdom. [EL]

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

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. You have given.**

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

You became a sacred vessel of the Holy Spirit of God \* when your soul had been purified \* of passions, O sacred man; \* then by ordination \* you received the holy, divine anointing and became \* bishop and guide of the holy people of God, \* O martyr Eleftherios, and an unfailing witness of Christ \* who had suffered for us and poured \* out dispassion for all mankind. [SD]

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

You payed no attention to your body tortured by whips and barbs \* and brought near to the burning flames, \* for you nailed your soul and mind \* to the handsome beauty \* of your divine Lover \* with ardent longing, and were pricked \* by His intense, sweet and unifying love. \* You are the gem of martyrs all and the adornment of hierarchs, \* Martyr St. Eleftherios, \* intercessor on our behalf. [SD]

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

When your blessed mother saw that you had finished the contest well, \* she who did

well in bearing you \* desired to run the same  
\* race as you her son had. \* As she held your  
body in the arena where you lay \* she like  
a heifer was slaughtered there as well. \* We  
fervently entreat you both to pray in earnest  
on our behalf \* to our Lord God and Savior  
Christ, \* O all-blest Eleftherios. [SD]

Glory. **For the Forefathers.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Let us the faithful today praise all the  
Fathers before the law: Abraham, God's  
friend, Isaac, born by promise, Jacob and the  
twelve Patriarchs; honouring with them meek  
David and Daniel the Prophet of desires, and  
the three Children who changed the furnace  
into dew, asking forgiveness of Christ God,  
who is glorified in his Saints. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Mode 1.**

**The First Theotokion of the Mode.**

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

**DEACON** *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST** *(in a low voice)*

**Prayer of the Entrance**

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise,  
bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of  
all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer  
before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to  
words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that  
hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord,  
our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise.

**CLERGY AND PEOPLE**

**Mode 2.**

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

**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.

**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 1.**

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

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

Let creation rejoice, the heavens be glad, the nations clap their hands with joy. For Christ our Savior, in his love for mankind, has nailed our sins to the cross, put death to death, and given us life by raising the fallen Adam, father of all mankind. [HC]

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

You are beyond all understanding, King of heaven and earth, and because of your love for us all, you were crucified of your own will. Hades was filled with bitterness when it met you below, and the souls of the just rejoiced at receiving you. What a miracle this is! That the life of all should taste death in his desire to give light to the world that cries and says: Glory to you, O Lord, risen from the dead. [HC]

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

The myrrh-bearing women brought spices, and hastened in mourning to your tomb. And when they found your immaculate body gone and learned from the angels of the new and strange miracle, they said to the apostles: The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world. [HC]

Glory. **For the Hieromartyr.**  
From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode pl. 4.**

Devout father, your episcopal vestments were dyed red in the pools of your blood. When your mother who raised you well saw how you bravely died in the middle of the stadium, she embraced you and kissed you

her sweet son. For this she too was beheaded, and together with you she entered the heavenly chambers. Such a blessed mother! Truly sacred were her breasts that nursed you, O blessed Eleftherios; and from her you came to know the Fashioner of nature. Together now intercede for us, that our souls find mercy. [SD]

Both now. **For the Forefathers.**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode 3.**

Come, lovers of festival, let us praise in song the gathering of the Forefathers: Adam the Forefather, Enoch. Noah, Melchisedek, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; after the law Moses and Aaron, Jesus, Samuel and David; with them Isaias, Jeremias, Ezekiel and Daniel, and the Twelve with Elias, Elisaius and them all; Zachary and the Baptist and all who proclaimed Christ, the life and resurrection of our race. [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 1. Automelon.**

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, \* and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. \* You rose on the third day, O Lord \* and Savior, granting life unto the world. \* For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: \* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; \* glory to Your kingdom; \* glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind. *[SD]*

Glory. **For the Hieromartyr.**

*From Menaion ---*

**Mode pl. 1. Let us worship the Word.**

You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. \* You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. \* In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint \* Eleftherius, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. \* Therefore cease not interceding \* for us who loyally honor \* your blessed contest of martyrdom. *[SD]*

Both now. **For the Forefathers.**

**Mode 2.**

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

*[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, the holy and  
glorious hieromartyr Eleftherios, and the holy  
Forefathers, 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.)