

## GREAT VESPERS

### Litany and Blessing of Loaves.

*Following the exclamation, "May the might of Your Kingdom," the Choir or one of the Clergy sings the selected hymn of the Lity (or, if there are none, the Apolytikion). The Deacons and Priests exit in order from the north door, and they process with the icon of the celebrated Saint and candles, and they stand in the center of the church, where a table has been prepared holding the five Loaves (each with a lit candle on it), the wheat, the wine and the oil.*

*The Deacon, or the youngest priest, intones the Supplication, and the Choirs respond reverently and appropriately.*

#### 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 saint of the day)*, whose memory we commemorate today; 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**

The wealthy have become poor and gone hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. *(GOA)*

**CHOIR**

The wealthy have become poor and gone hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. *(2) (GOA)*

*The Choirs, having repeated this hymn twice, commence singing the Aposticha, according to the Typikon.*