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# The Service of Vespers

**on Wednesday Evening**

**for Thursday, August 15, 2019**

**Menaion - August 15**

**Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - August 15**

Commemoration of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

**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.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 1. Automelon.**

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

What a paradoxical miracle! \* For the fountain of life \* is consigned to a tomb, \* and the grave now becomes a ladder to heaven above. \* Be glad, O Gethsemane, \* the holy shrine of the blessed Mother of God. \* With Gabriel as our chief, \* come, O believers, and let us cry out to her: \* 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! \* For the fountain of life \* is consigned to a tomb, \* and the grave now becomes a ladder to heaven above. \* Be glad, O Gethsemane, \* the holy shrine of the blessed Mother of God. \* With Gabriel as our chief, \* come, O believers, and let us cry out to her: \* 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]

Indeed! O pure one, these mysteries of yours! \* You became, O Lady, \* the throne of the Most High God, \* and from earth you were translated unto heaven today. \* Your glory is grand and bright \* with graces shining divine and resplendent light. \* O virgins, be lifted up \* into the heights with the Mother of God the King. \* Lady full of grace, rejoice, \* for the Lord is with you, \* and through your intercessions \* He bestows great mercy on the world. [SD]

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

Indeed! O pure one, these mysteries of yours! \* You became, O Lady, \* the throne of the Most High God, \* and from earth you were translated unto heaven today. \* Your

glory is grand and bright \* with graces shining divine and resplendent light. \* O virgins, be lifted up \* into the heights with the Mother of God the King. \* Lady full of grace, rejoice, \* for the Lord is with you, \* and through your intercessions \* He bestows great mercy on the world. [SD]

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

Dominions and Principalities \* extol your Dormition \* with Authorities and Thrones \* and Powers and Cherubim and awesome Seraphim; \* while those born on earth exult \* in your divine glory, being therewith adorned. \* And kings bow prostrate to you \* with the Archangels and Angels, and sing to you: \* Lady full of grace, rejoice, \* for the Lord is with you, \* and through your intercessions \* He bestows great mercy on the world.. [SD]

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

Dominions and Principalities \* extol your Dormition \* with Authorities and Thrones \* and Powers and Cherubim and awesome Seraphim; \* while those born on earth exult \* in your divine glory, being therewith adorned. \* And kings bow prostrate to you \* with the Archangels and Angels, and sing to you: \* Lady full of grace, rejoice, \* for the Lord is with you, \* and through your intercessions \* He bestows great mercy on the world.. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

### Mode 1.

By the command of God, the God-bearing Apostles everywhere were transported through the skies on clouds. [SD]

**Mode pl. 1.**

And reaching your all-immaculate body,  
that origin of Life, they kissed it in grand  
veneration. [SD]

**Mode 2.**

The supreme Hosts of heaven arrived  
with their Master. [SD]

**Mode pl. 2.**

Seized with awe, they ushered your  
inviolable body, which had hosted God. High  
above the earth, they went before you, and  
invisibly they shouted to the angelic orders  
above them, "Behold, the Queen of all, the  
Maid of God, has arrived. [SD]

**Mode 3.**

"Lift up the gates, and give a formal  
heavenly reception to the Mother of the  
everlasting Light. [SD]

**Grave Mode.**

"For the salvation of all humanity came  
through her. We are unable to gaze on her,  
and it is impossible to bestow worthy honor  
on her. [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, your children, and that He  
save us from every hostile assault, 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 pl. 1.**

Save me, O God, in Your name, and judge  
me in Your power. (2) [SAAS]

**Verse:** *O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the  
words of my mouth.*

Save me, O God, in Your name, and judge  
me in Your power.

**The Readings**

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

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**

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**

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.)

**Litany and Blessing of Loaves.**

**CHOIR**

**Idiomelon 1.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 1.**

It was fitting that the eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word should also see the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, this being the final mystery concerning her; so that they might behold not only the Savior's ascent from earth, but also be witnesses of the translation of her who bore Him. Therefore, carried back from every part of the world by divine power, they reached Zion. And they escorted her who is higher than the Cherubim as she hastened toward heaven. Together with them, we also venerate her who intercedes on behalf of our souls. [SD]

**Idiomelon 2.**

**Mode 2.**

She who is higher than the heavens, and more glorious than the Cherubim, and is held in greater honor than all creation; she who for surpassing purity became the vessel of the eternal Essence, today commits her all-holy soul into the hands of her Son. And together with her all things are filled with joy, and on us is bestowed the great mercy. [SD]

**Idiomelon 3.**

**Mode 2.**

The all-blameless Bride and Mother of the good pleasure of the Father, she who was preordained by God for the dwelling of His own unconfused union, today commits her immaculate soul unto her Maker and God. The hosts of incorporeals meet her with a reception worthy of God. And she is

translated unto life, as the very Mother of Life, the lamp of the unapproachable light, the salvation of the faithful, and the hope of our souls. [SD]

**Idiomelon 4.**

**Mode 3.**

Come from all the ends of the earth, and let us acclaim the august Assumption of the Mother of God. For she has committed her blameless soul into the hands of her Son. By her holy Dormition, the world was restored to life, and hence it brightly celebrates with the bodiless powers and the Apostles, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 1.**

Come, O congregation of feast-lovers; come and let us form a choir. Come, let us deck the Church with songs, as the Ark of God goes to her place of rest. For today the heavens expand their vaults, receiving her who gave birth to Him who is not contained by anything. And the earth, yielding up the fountain of life, is adorned with the blessing and the majesty. Angels stand in concert with Apostles, gazing with great fear, as the Mother of the Author of life is translated from life to life. Let us all bow down to her in reverence, and entreat: "O Lady, forget not your kindred ties to us, who loyally celebrate the feast of your all-holy Dormition." [SD]

Both now.

**Mode pl. 1.**

Sing, O peoples, sing to the Mother of our God! For today she commits her soul, full of light, into the immaculate hands of Him who from her became incarnate without seed. And

now she intercedes with Him without cease, that He grant to the universe peace and great mercy. [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, whose Dormition we celebrate, 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, 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 of the Feast.**

**Idiomelon 1. Mode 4.**

Come, O you peoples, let us sing in praise of the pure and all-holy Virgin, from whom the incarnate Logos of the Father ineffably came forth, crying and saying unto her: Blessed are you among women; happy is your womb that contained Christ. And now that you commended your soul into His holy hands, O Immaculate, intercede that He save our souls. [SD]

**Idiomelon 2. Mode 4.**

**Verse:** *Arise, O Lord, into Your rest, You and the ark of Your holiness.* [SAAS]

The multitude of Angels in heaven and we the human race on the earth pronounce your most august Dormition blessed, O pure and all-holy Virgin. For you became the Mother of Christ our God the Creator of all. We entreat you, cease not from praying for us who have set our hope after God in you, O all-laudable and unwedded Theotokos. [SD]

**Idiomelon 3. Mode 4.**

**Verse:** *The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it, "I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins."* [SAAS]

O you peoples, let us sing today to Christ God an ode of David, who said: "The virgins who follow after her shall be brought before the King; they shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing." For she who descended from David's line, and through whom we were deified, ineffably is borne to heaven in the hands of her Son and her Lord in glory. Extolling her as the Mother of God, we cry aloud saying: Save us who confess you to be Theotokos from every adversity, and from perils redeem our souls. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

When you, O Virgin Theotokos, passed away to Him who indescribably was born of you, present was Iakovos the brother of the Lord and first hierarch, with Peter the most honorable and preeminent paramount of the Theologians, and the entire holy choir of Apostles, who, with utterances unveiling secrets of theology, extolled the divine and sublime mystery of the dispensation of Christ our God. And when they had buried your body that had generated life and had hosted God, they were filled with joy, O all-lauded Lady. While on high, the all-holy and most venerable angelic powers marveled at the wonder. Bowed in reverence, they called out to one another: "Lift up your gates and receive her who gave birth to the Creator of the heavens and the earth. With hymns of glory let us extol her august and holy body

that held the Lord who to us is invisible." And therefore, we also celebrate your memory and cry aloud to you, O all-lauded Lady: Exalt the Christians' horn of strength and save our souls. [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**

*From Menaion - - -*

**Apolytikion of the Feast.**

**Mode 1.**

In giving birth you retained your  
virginity, and in dormition you did not  
forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were  
translated unto life, being the Mother of Life.  
And thus by virtue of your intercessions you  
deliver our souls from death. (3) <sup>[SD]</sup>

**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, whose Dormition  
we celebrate, 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, 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.)*