

**eMatins powered by AGES**

# The Service of Vespers

**on Saturday Evening**

**for Sunday, September 8, 2019**

**Octoechos - Mode 3.**

**on Saturday Evening**

**Menaion - September 8**

**The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos**

**Text in English**

## Sources

AC Copyright © 2019 by Anthony Cook

VPA Copyright © 2016 by Virgil Peter Andronache

RB Copyright © 2019 by Richard Barrett

SD Copyright © 2019 by Fr. Seraphim Dedes

GKD Copyright © 2017 by Geroge K. Duvall

GOA © The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

HC Liturgical Texts courtesy and copyright of Holy Cross Press, Brookline, MA

JMB Copyright © 2015 by John Michael Boyer

EL Copyright Archimandrite Ephrem [Lash] ©

KW © Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

NKJV Scripture taken from the New King James Version™. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

OCA Copyright © 1996–2015. All rights reserved.

RSV Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SAAS Scripture taken from the St. Athanasius Academy Septuagint™. Copyright © 2008 by St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

## Disclaimer

The translation, rubrics, Greek and English texts are for the purposes of worship only and is subject to change without notice and should not be construed as a commitment by the authors, translators, developers, and personnel associated with its publication. Efforts are taken to make this booklet complete and accurate, but no warranty of fitness is implied.

All rights reserved. The materials contained within this booklet remain the property of all contributing translators. It is published solely for the purpose of providing a source of worship materials to the parishes of the Orthodox Church and may be copied and otherwise reproduced as needed by the parish toward this end; however, it may not be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system, or translated into any language in any form by any means — electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise — for the purpose of sale without the express written permission.

## AGES DCS Website

<https://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs>

**The AGES Digital Chant Stand is supported in part by generous grants from Leadership 100 and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.**

**This document was produced using the AGES Liturgical Workbench. For more information, contact AGES Initiatives: [info@agesinitiatives.org](mailto:info@agesinitiatives.org)**

**Octoechos - Mode 3.**

On Saturday Evening

**Menaion - September 8**

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady  
Theotokos

**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 appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 1. It would be 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 3.**

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 3.  
Sticheron 1.**

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

Your cross, Christ Savior, has destroyed the power of death and has abolished the deception of the devil. Therefore mankind saved by faith, offers you hymns of praise forever. [HC]

**Sticheron 2.**

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

All of creation has been enlightened by your resurrection, O Lord, and paradise has once again been opened. Therefore, all creation extols you and offers hymns of praise forever. [HC]



**Sticheron 3.**

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

I glorify the might of the Father and  
the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit,  
the undivided, uncreated Godhead, the  
consubstantial Trinity that reigns to the ages  
of ages. [HC]

**Sticheron 4.**

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

We worship your precious cross, O Christ,  
and praise and glorify your resurrection, for  
by your wounds we have all been healed. [HC]

**Stichera for the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

Today, God who rests upon the noetic  
thrones has prepared a holy throne for  
Himself upon the earth. He who established  
the heavens in wisdom has prepared an  
animate heaven, in His love for mankind. For  
from a fruitless root, He raised for us a life-  
bearing plant, His Mother. God of wonders  
and the hope of the hopeless, Lord, glory to  
You. [VPA]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

This is the Lord's Day, O people, be filled  
with gladness! Behold! The bridal chamber of  
the Light and the book of the Word of Life has  
come forth from the womb. The Temple Gate

that faces east has been born, and she awaits  
the entry of the Great High Priest. She alone  
introduces the only Christ to the world, for the  
salvation of our souls. [GKD]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

Although by God's will other barren  
women/have brought forth famous  
offspring,/Yet among those children/Mary  
shines brightest with divine glory./Born  
wondrously herself of a barren mother,/she  
bore in the flesh the God of all,/in a manner  
surpassing nature,/from a womb without  
seed./She is the single gateway of the only-  
begotten Son of God,/Who passed through  
this gate yet kept it sealed./And having  
ordered all things in His own wisdom//has  
wrought salvation for all mankind! [OCA]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

Today, the barren gates are opened and  
the Virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth.  
Today, grace begins to bear fruit, showing  
forth to the world the Mother of God, through  
whom earth is to heaven united, for the  
salvation of our souls. [GKD]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

Today is the proclamation of universal  
joy!/The barrenness of humans is pardoned,/for the barren Anna becomes a mother/of

the virginal Mother of the Creator! / The One Who is God by nature / has taken our human nature / and has worked salvation in the flesh // Christ the Lover of mankind and the Redeemer of our souls. [OCA]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

Today, Anne the barren one gives birth to the Maiden of God, who had been chosen from all the human generations to become the dwelling-place of the Creator, Christ our God and King of all. In her He fulfilled His divine plan, through which our human nature was renewed, and by which we were to be transferred from corruption to eternal life. [GKD]

Glory. Both now. **For the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Today, God who rests upon the noetic thrones has prepared a holy throne for Himself upon the earth. He who established the heavens in wisdom has prepared an animate heaven, in His love for mankind. For from a fruitless root, He raised for us a life-bearing plant, His Mother. God of wonders and the hope of the hopeless, Lord, glory to You. [VPA]

**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.

**The Readings**

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

Gn 28:10-17

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

Ezk 43:27-44:4

Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth

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

**READER**

The reading is from the Proverbs of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

Pr 9:1-11

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;

reprove a wise man, and he will love you.  
Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [SAAS]

**DEACON**

Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

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

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

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

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

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

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of

God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

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

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

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

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

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

**PRIEST**

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**READER**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise

the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

*(Amen.)*

**DEACON**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

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

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful Judge who love mankind, your servants have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting your mercy and looking for your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

**PRIEST**

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*



**Litany and Blessing of Loaves.**

**CHOIR**

**Idiomelon 1.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 1.**

Today, people, the first fruit of our salvation is here! / For behold, she who was foreordained from generations of old / as Mother and Virgin and receiver of God, / comes forth in birth from a barren woman: / A flower has blossomed from Jesse, / and from his root a branch has sprung. / Let Adam our forefather be glad / and let Eve rejoice with exultation! / For behold, she who was made from the rib of Adam / plainly declares her daughter and descendant blessed. / For, she says, deliverance is born to me, / through which I shall be set free from the bonds of hell. / Let David rejoice, striking upon the harp, / and let him bless God: / For behold, the Virgin comes forth from a barren rock, // for the salvation of our souls! [OCA]

**Idiomelon 2.**

**Mode 2.**

Come, all who love virginity, / who are friends of purity; / come, and welcome with love the boast of virgins. / She is the fountain of life that flows from the rock; / she is the bush that springs from barren ground // and burns with the spiritual fire that cleanses and enlightens our souls. [OCA]

**Idiomelon 3.**

**Mode 2.**

What is this sound of feasting we hear? / Joachim and Anna keep mystic festival. / Adam and Eve cry: Rejoice with us today! / For if by your transgression you closed the gate of Paradise to those of old, / we have now

been given a glorious fruit, / Mary, the child of God // who opens its entrance to us all! [OCA]

**Idiomelon 4.**

**Mode 2.**

She who was foreordained Queen of all / and the habitation of God, / has come forth today from the barren womb of joyful Anna. / She is the divine sanctuary of the eternal Essence; / through her cruel hell has been trampled underfoot, / and Eve with all her line is established secure in life. / It is fitting and right that we should cry aloud to her: / Blessed are you among women, // and blessed is the Fruit of your womb! [OCA]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 4.**

On this auspicious day of our feast, let us proclaim with a spiritual lyre that out of the seed of David, the mother of life who unbound the darkness is born today. She is the recreation of Adam and recalling of Eve, the spring of incorruption and the deliverance from corruption. Through her we have been deified and have been loosed from death, and we, the faithful, cry out to her with Gabriel: "Rejoice, O full of Grace, the Lord is with you; through you the great mercy was granted to us." [VPA]

**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 nativity 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 Octoechos - - -*

**CHOIR**

**Resurrectional Aposticha.**

**Mode 3.**

By your passion, O Christ, you have darkened the sun. By your resurrection, you have given all things light. Accept our evening hymn, O lover of mankind. [HC]

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

Your life giving resurrection, O Lord, has brought light to the entire earth and revived your creation that lay in corruption. Therefore, we, released from the curse of Adam, cry aloud: Glory to you, almighty Lord. [HC]

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

Suffering in the flesh, you, O God, who by nature cannot be changed, have changed yourself. Creation, unable to bear the sight of you hanging, was prostrate with fear, and it groaned as it sang the praises of your long suffering. You descended into Hades, and rose on the third day, granting life and great mercy to the world. [HC]

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

You, O Christ have suffered death to deliver us from death, and you arose on the third day from the dead resurrecting with yourself those who acknowledge you as God.

And you have enlightened the world. Lord, glory to you. [HC]

Glory. Both now. **For the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4.**

Come faithful, let us hasten to the Virgin. Behold, she is born, who before entering the womb was destined to be the Mother of our God, the heirloom of virginity, the blossoming rod of Aaron, from the root of Jesse, the counsel of the Prophets, and the sprout of the righteous Joachim and Anna. She is now born, and the world is renewed with her. She is begotten and the Church is adorned in her comeliness. Holy temple, vessel of divinity, model of virgins, royal chamber, in whom the strange mystery and preternatural union of Christ's two natures was accomplished. Worshiping Him, we praise the Virgin's all-immaculate nativity. [GKD]

**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 3.**

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy. [SD]

Glory. **For the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.

He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life. [SD]

Both now. **Repeat.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life. [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 He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, whose nativity 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.)*