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The Service of Matins

for Saturday, December 7, 2019

**Octoechos - Grave Mode.
on Saturday Morning**

**Menaion - December 7
Memory of St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan**

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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

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Octoechos - Grave Mode.

On Saturday Morning

Menaion - December 7

Memory of St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

MATINS

CHOIR

Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

Verse 1: *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.*

or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Verse 2: *All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.*

Verse 3: *And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

Apolytikion. For the Saint.

Mode 4.

A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You were humble and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. Father holy hierarch Ambrose, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4.

O Theotokos, through you became manifest to us on earth the mystery, which was hid from eternity, and which the Angels themselves knew not: that God, uniting natures without confusion, becomes a man

and accepts crucifixion for our salvation voluntarily. By virtue of this, resurrecting man whom He had first created, He saved our souls from death. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 16. There is no litany, but immediately the following:

From Octoechos - - -

CHOIR

Kathisma I.

For the Martyrs.

Grave Mode.

The saints, O Lord, contended bravely on this earth; * they trampled the enemy and overthrew the error of idolatry. * Therefore they received crowns from you, O loving Master, ** the God of all compassion, who grants us great mercy. [OCA]

Verse: *God is wondrous in His saints.* [SAAS]

Be glad, O you righteous; let the heavens sing for joy. For when the Martyrs competed, they trampled the enemy, and they brought down the deception of the idols. Let the Church leap for joy, as she celebrates the Judge of the contest, Christ our God, who alone confers victory, and who grants the world the great mercy. [SD]

Verse: *To the saints on His earth, in them He magnified all His will.* [SAAS]

Your Martyrs, O Lord, armed with the power of the Cross, wounded the foe and shamed the deception of idols; and so with the Angels they hymn you, shouting the triumphal hymn and glorifying you, O Christ. At their entreaties grant us your great mercy.

[EL]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

O all-praised Lady, our resurrection's treasury, do from the pit and the deep of offences draw us up, as we have put our trust in you. For you have saved us who were liable for sin, by giving birth unto our salvation. Virgin prior to bearing; and in bearing, a Virgin; and after bearing, still a Virgin. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 17. There is no litany, but immediately the following:

CHOIR

From Octoechos ---

**Kathisma II.
For the Martyrs.
Grave Mode.**

O Saints, we pray you to intercede for us, that we be granted forgiveness for our offences, and that we be delivered from impending evils and from bitter death. [SD]

Verse: *Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord.* [SAAS]

For the Dead.

O Lord, Your death gave rise to life for the dead for you plundered Hades and uncovered those who were sleeping in darkness. Therefore we entreat You, O God the Giver of Life: Grant rest with the Righteous to those whom You have taken to yourself, so that in judgment they may find great mercy. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Rejoice, O Maiden who contained within your womb the One whom heaven cannot contain. Rejoice, O Virgin, the Prophets' proclamation; through you Emmanuel has shone forth. Rejoice, O Mother of Christ our God. [SD]

READER

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory. Both now.

Psalms 50 (51).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with

whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. [SAAS]

Kontakion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 3. N/M (Your confession.)

O Ambrose, shepherd and teacher of mysteries, flashing with divine doctrines, you obscured the deceitful error of Arius. You performed miracles by the power of the Spirit, and you cured many illnesses. O devout father, entreat Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy. [SD]

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On December 7 we commemorate our devout Father St. Ambrose Bishop of Milan.

On this day we also commemorate the holy Martyr Athenodoros.

On this day Saint Neophytos died when he was thrown into the sea.

On this day Saint Dometios died by the sword.

In this day Saints Isidore, Akepsimas, and Leo died by fire.

On this day Saint Ammoun, Bishop of Nitria, reposed in peace.

On this day the holy Martyrs Gaianos and Gaius died by fire.

On this day the holy 300 Martyrs, who were in Africa, died by the sword.

On this day devout St. Ignatius, who was near Blachernae, reposed in peace.

On this day we also commemorate our devout father Paul the Monk, the subordinate.

On this day we also commemorate the holy Martyrs Priscus, Martin, and Nicholas; the first (Priscus) was starved, the second (Martin) cut to pieces with an axe, and the third (Nicholas) died by fire. The services in their honor were held near the wall of Blachernae.

On this day was the Consecration of the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos at the Curator.

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy and save us. Amen.

DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

CHOIR

Ode ix.

Megalynarion. Mode pl. 4.

Verse: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Heirmos. Mode pl. 4.

The heavens were astounded as a result, * and the ends of the earth were astonished, inasmuch as God * bodily appeared to the human race, * O Theotokos, coming forth * from your virgin womb which indeed became * more spacious than the heavens. * And therefore by the orders * of men and angels you are magnified. [SD]

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. 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.

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 all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Exaposteilarion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2. N/M (On the mountain.)

O Ambrose, you were a champion of Orthodoxy, a firm foundation of the Church, the supporter of hierarchs, and a wise shepherd, guiding the flock to pastures of true religion. You drove out the untamed factions of heretics like wild beasts, O revealer of God, and you publicly taught that the Holy Trinity is consubstantial. [SD]

Theotokion.

Mode 2. N/M (On the mountain.)

O blameless Maiden, such an awe-inspiring wonder! Ineffably you gave birth to the Logos, who is consubstantial with the Father and shone forth from Him before the ages. Therefore we call you truly and literally Theotokos, and the true Mother of God. Implore Him on behalf of the human race, O Lady blessed of God. [SD]

Lauds. Grave Mode.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichera for the Martyrs.

From Octoechos - - -

Grave Mode.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. [SAAS]

While standing in the center of the arena * of the lawless pagans, the Martyrs rejoiced and cried out, "Glory to You, O Lord." [SD]

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. [SAAS]

Extolled in every land are the holy Martyrs. * They became the stars of the world, as to Christ they shouted, * "Glory to You, O Lord." [SD]

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. [SAAS]

Breathing as one, looking to one end the victorious Martyrs found one road of life, death for the sake of Christ, as they emulated each other's end - O the wonder! - grasping tortures like treasures, they said to one another: Should we even now not die, we shall most surely die, and by birth we shall serve what is due; let us perform the duty which loves honour, purchasing life with death. At their prayers, O God, have mercy on us. [EL]

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

We celebrate the memory of Your holy * medal-winning Martyrs, and thereby we extol You. * Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**
No longer are we barred.

O Virgin, join the Martyrs and the Apostles * earnestly entreating, that those who have passed on find great mercy on Judgment Day. [SD]

READER

Doxology (read)

To you belongs glory, O Lord our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, and we thank you, for your great glory. Lord, King, Heavenly God, Father Almighty; only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God, the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, you who take away the sins of the world. Accept our supplication, you who sit at the right of the Father, and have mercy on us. For you are the only Holy One, you are the only Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day I shall bless you, and I shall praise your name forever, and unto the ages of ages. Lord, you have become for us a refuge from generation to generation. I have said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. Lord, to you I have fled; teach me to do your will, for you are my God. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we shall see light. Extend your mercy to those who know you. Grant, O Lord, that in this day we may be kept without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and

glorified is your name unto the ages. Amen.
Let your mercy, Lord, come upon us, just as
we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O
Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed
are you, O Master, make me understand your
commandments. Blessed are you, O Holy
One, enlighten me with your commandments.
Lord, your mercy remains forever, do not turn
away from the works of your hands. To you
belongs praise, to you belongs a hymn, to you
belongs glory, to the Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages
of ages. Amen.

DEACON

Let us complete our morning 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 day 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 are the God of mercy and
compassion and love for mankind, and to You
we give glory, to the Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to 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)*

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things
below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping
watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed
the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O
Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from
your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are
good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned
in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us

your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

PRIEST

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Octoechos - - -

CHOIR

Aposticha of the Octoechos.

Grave Mode. *N/M (When you had wisely.)*

You, the only immortal one, were seen to be dead on a Cross, and as a mortal You were laid in a tomb; and You rescued mankind from mortality, corruption, and death. We pray You, who are a deep ocean of compassion and as a wellspring of goodness, to grant rest to the souls of Your servants who have passed away from us. [SD]

Verse: *Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord.* [SAAS]

N/M (When you had wisely.)

O Good One, we pray You to grant to those who have passed away to You, that they be shined upon by Your unadulterated beauty and the sweetness of Your handsomeness, and the rays of Your divine light, in the immaterial radiance of Your appearance as light, and that they may join the Angels in chorus around You, the Master and King of glory and Lord.

[SD]

Verse: *Their souls shall dwell among good things.* [SAAS]

N/M (When you had wisely.)

We pray You, O compassionate God, whose majesty of gifts is inexhaustible, as a full treasury of rich goodness, grant that those

who have passed away to You may dwell in the land of Your elect, in a place of repose, in the house of Your glory, in the delight of Paradise, and in the bridal chamber of the virgins. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Grave Mode. *N/M (When you had wisely.)*

O Virgin, you gave birth to the Law's fulfillment, the Redeemer who became flesh. No one in the period of the Law before this was vindicated; it is Christ, who was crucified, who has now vindicated us. We pray you, since you have access to your compassionate Son: Entreat Him to grant rest to the souls of those who with correct belief has passed away. [SD]

PRIEST

It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night. [SAAS]

READER

Trisagion Prayers.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST

For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

**Apolytikion. For the Saint.
Mode 4.**

A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You were humble and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. Father holy hierarch Ambrose, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

**Glory. Both now. Theotokion.
Mode 4.**

We magnify you, O Theotokos, and cry out: You are the bush in which, without being burnt, Moses saw, as a flame, the fire of Divinity. [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 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.)

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 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, 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.)