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# The Service of Vespers

**on Sunday Evening**

**for Monday, December 23, 2019**

**Menaion - December 23**

**Memory of the Holy Ten Martyrs in Crete**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - December 23**

Memory of the Holy Ten Martyrs in Crete

**VESPERS**

**PRIEST**

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,  
and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**READER**

Come, let us worship and bow down  
before God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down  
before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down  
before Him, Christ our King and God.

**Psalm 103 (104).**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my  
God, You are magnified exceedingly; You  
clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and  
majesty, who cover Yourself with light as  
with a garment, who stretch out the heavens  
like a curtain; You are He who covers His  
upper chambers with water, who makes the  
clouds His means of approach, who walks  
on the wings of the winds, who makes His  
angels spirits and His ministers a flame of  
fire. He established the earth on its stable  
foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of  
ages. The deep like a garment is His covering;  
the waters shall stand upon the mountains;  
at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound  
of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The  
mountains rise up, and the plains sink down  
to the place You founded for them. You set  
a boundary they shall not pass over; neither  
shall they return to cover the earth. You are  
He who sends springs into the valley; the

waters shall pass between the mountains;  
they shall give drink to all the wild animals  
of the field; the wild asses shall quench their  
thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside  
them; they shall sing from the midst of the  
rocks. You are He who waters the mountains  
from His higher places; the earth shall be  
satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are  
He who causes grass to grow for the cattle,  
and the green plant for the service of man, to  
bring forth bread from the earth; and wine  
gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face  
with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.  
The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit,  
the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted;  
there the sparrows shall make their nests;  
the house of the heron takes the lead among  
them. The high mountains are for the deer; the  
cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the  
moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting.  
You established darkness, and it was night,  
wherein all the wild animals of the forest  
will prowl about; the young lions roar and  
snatch their prey, and seek their food from  
God. The sun arises, and they are gathered  
together; and they shall be put to bed in their  
dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his  
labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall  
be magnified greatly; You made all things  
in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your  
creation. There is this great and spacious sea:  
the creeping things are there without number;  
the living things are there, both small and  
great; there the ships pass through; there is  
this dragon You formed to play therein. All  
things wait upon You, that You may give  
them food in due season. When You give  
it to them, they shall gather it; when You

open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

*While the Opening Psalm is being read the Priest, bareheaded and standing in front of the Holy Table, says quietly the following Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps.*

**PRIEST** (*inaudibly*)

### **1st Prayer**

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in your way, to walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear your holy Name, because you are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like you, O Lord, among gods: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in your holy Name. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **2nd Prayer**

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor chastise us in your wrath, but deal with us in accordance with your kindness, physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbour of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth and grant that the rest of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints. [EL]

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **3rd Prayer**

Lord our God, remember us, sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy Name, and do not put us to shame from the expectation of your mercy, but graciously grant us, Lord, all the requests that are for salvation, and count us worthy to love and to fear you from our whole heart, and in all things to do your will. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **4th Prayer**

O Lord, who are praised by the holy Powers with never silent hymns and unceasing songs of glory, fill our mouth with your praise to give majesty to your holy Name, and give us a part and an inheritance with all who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all your Saints. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **5th Prayer**

Lord, Lord, who uphold the universe by your immaculate hand, who are long-suffering towards us all and who repent of evils, remember your acts of compassion and your mercy. Visit us in your loving kindness and grant that for the rest of the present day we may escape the manifold wiles of the evil one, and, by the grace of your All-holy Spirit, keep our life free from assault. [EL]

By the mercy and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### 6th Prayer

O God, great and wonderful, who order the universe with inexpressible loving-kindness and rich providence; who have granted us also the blessings of this world and brought us near to the promised Kingdom through the blessings that have been bestowed on us already; who have made us turn aside from every evil during that part of the present day which is now over, grant us also to complete what remains without blame in the presence of your holy glory, as we sing your praise, who alone are our God, good and the Lover of mankind. [EL]

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### 7th Prayer

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer you our evening hymn of glory; do you, O Lord who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense

before you and accept it as a savour of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every deed that walks in darkness. And give us sleep, which you have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, as we bring to your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all your people. At the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

*When the Opening Psalm is completed the Priest, in front of the Holy Table, or the Deacon in his usual place outside the Holy Doors, says the Litany of Peace.*

**DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Mode 4.**

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.

### **Stichera. For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion ---

#### **Mode 4. N/M (When you were called.)**

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

Now is fulfilled the saying of Isaiah  
the prophet:/The uncircumscribed Lord is  
enclosed in the womb of the Virgin:/She  
hastens to give Him birth most wondrously./  
Let the divine cavern be prepared;/make  
ready, O Bethlehem:/the King delights to take  
up his abode in you;/manger, receive Christ  
as a babe in swaddling bands, //Who in his  
goodness comes to loose men from the chains  
of sin. [OCA]

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

The radiant and life-bearing cloud/  
carrying the heavenly rain/now comes forth  
to shed Him upon the earth/that He may  
water the face of the ground:/she is the  
flower of grace and the spiritual spring!/She  
disperses the winter of godlessness,/bearing  
in her womb Him Who was conceived by a  
wondrous Word://the royal palace brings into  
the cave the incarnate King! [OCA]

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

Wishing to destroy the bond of our sins,/  
You, Master, were enrolled by your servants,/  
inscribing in the book of life/all who were  
held in death by the serpent's deceit./You



uphold all things and are clothed in mortal flesh, borne by a Virgin:/She accepts to lodge in a small cave to give You birth! /The host of angels from on high sing with the shepherds, // trembling before your power. [OCA]

**For the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. N/M (To a brave one.)**

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

On this day let the group of ten holy Martyrs elect of God be extolled in sacred hymns of praise sung with uplifted voices. They are a lamp with ten flames, which illumines the complement of the Church with divine rays; they are unshaken pillars, and bright stars that made earth like heaven, by the brilliance of their great contests. [SD]

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

Let us extol the holy Martyrs: Theodoulos, Zotikos, and Pompey, Vasilides and Efporos, Agathopus, Satorninos, Gelasios, Evarestos, and Evnikianos; and let us honor them now in song. They are a calm harbor in the storm. They exposed deceptive error, and they received crowns of victory. [SD]

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

Let us extol the medal-winning Martyrs, the offspring of Crete, the supporters of the Church, the unfading ornaments of the faithful, the precious fragrant flowers of Paradise, the finest sacrificial victims acceptable to Christ, those ten holy men

dedicated in the celestial temple to the Trinity.

[SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

Today, Crete celebrates the fore-feast of the Birth of Christ, in the memory of its medal-winning Martyrs. Therefore we entreat You, Lord, that by their prayers You save our souls. [SD]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

Bethlehem, land of Judah,/prepare the divine cavern/as a dwelling for God to be born in the flesh /from a Virgin who knew not a man //in order to save mankind. [OCA]

*(No Entrance)*

**READER**

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. 4.**

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. (2) [SAAS]

**Verse:** *Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.*

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord.

**READER**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

*(Amen.)*

**DEACON**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

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

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon

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

**PRIEST**

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

(Amen.)

From Menaion - - -

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha of the Feast.**

**Mode pl. 2.** *N/M (O Christ, as it is written.)*

Christ, Who is the infinite wisdom of God,/has wondrously built a house for Himself from the Virgin;/she comes into the cave and manger of dumb beasts:/There she will give birth in the flesh to Him//in a manner beyond all understanding. [OCA]

**Verse:** *God will come from Teman, the Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees.* [SAAS]

You are the adornment of the prophets, O Christ:/it is fitting and right that You should reveal yourself,/visiting us as a man in the latter days,//born in the city of Bethlehem. [OCA]

**Verse:** *Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was greatly astonished.* [SAAS]

The star rises in the heavens,/revealing Christ, the sun of righteousness./The stargazers proceed to the city of Bethlehem;/the angels announce glad tidings to the

shepherds./Let us run with them, our hearts cleansed by godliness. [OCA]

Glory. **For the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 3.**

Today we celebrate the forefestal feast of the Martyrs, which is a harbinger for us of the coming feast of the Nativity, as it heralds the Sun from the Sun who physically appeared from the Virgin. The Ten Martyrs in Crete competed mightily, and they received the crowns of victory from heaven. Let us say to them, "O holy Martyrs, chosen and sanctified choir, entreat Christ on behalf of us who faithfully observe your most solemn memory.

[SD]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 3.**

Make ready, Bethlehem, for Eden is opened;/prepare, Ephratha, for Adam and Eve are renewed./Salvation enters the world and the curse is destroyed;/make ready, hearts of righteous men:/instead of myrrh, bring hymns as an offering of wisdom:/receive salvation and immortality of your souls and bodies./Behold, the Master lying in the manger/urges us to complete our spiritual songs./Let us cry out to Him unceasingly, //O Lord, glory to You! [OCA]

**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]

From Menaion - - -

**Three-ode Canon of the Forefeast**

**CHOIR**

**Ode v.**

**N/M (Early in the morning.) Mode pl. 2.**

Early will I seek You, O Word of God,/ Who without change emptied yourself in your compassion for fallen man,/ Who received from a Virgin the form of a servant./ Grant peace to us, O Lover of mankind. (2) [OCA]

Glory.

Let us purify our minds,/ washing ourselves with the divine mysteries;/ let us draw near in soul and body to Bethlehem,/ that we may behold the fearful dispensation of the birth of the Lord. [OCA]

Both now.

Behold, my friends, do not fear in vain;/ in false confidence the lawless Herod seeks to murder the newborn Judge,/ but He is the Master of life and of death,/ Who brings life and salvation to the world. [OCA]

From Menaion - - -

**Ode viii.**

**(N/M) Mode pl. 2.**

The godly youths exposed a monument of godless wickedness,/ but the lawless Herod plots against Christ,/ studying how to kill Him Who holds life in his hand,/ Whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages. (2) [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Shake the sleep of heedlessness from your eyes, O faithful;/ be vigilant in prayer; shun the temptations of the evil one./ With the shepherds behold Christ Who comes to be born:/ Bless Him Whom all creation glorifies in song. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Guard your lips against evil words, O faithful;/ speak in sincerity and truth to Christ./ He frees us from vain and reasonless speech,/ lying in the manger of dumb beasts,/ the Lord Whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages. [OCA]

Glory.

Who among men understands the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God?/ Who among the wise can explain the abyss of God's love for mankind?/ He has bowed the heavens and come down to live with men,/ the Lord Whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages. [OCA]

Both now.

Let us eagerly abandon the delights of the world;/ let us spurn the passions of the flesh./ Let us cling fast to thoughts of godliness,/ offering ourselves and our good works to the newborn Master,/ Whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages. [OCA]

From Menaion - - -

**Ode ix.**

**Heirmos. Mode pl. 2.**

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. (2) [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

As Herod the King, with evil intent,/ conspires to kill the blameless infants,/ let us the faithful honor the Mother of Jesus,/ fleeing from the malice of darkness. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Miserable Herod! / You despise the laws of nature and blaspheme the statutes of God. / Slaying the innocent infants, / you have rendered the mothers barren / in your hatred for the Life of the world. [OCA]

Glory.

The gate of Eden is opened to all peoples: / the fountain of desires, flowing with immortality: / the cave of the newborn Redeemer, / the Lord of glory, Whom we magnify in song. [OCA]

Both now.

The angels surround the manger as the throne of the cherubim; / they behold the cavern as heaven. / They sing to the Master enthroned in the cave: / Glory to God in the highest! [OCA]

### **Heirmos.**

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]

### **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.)

### **Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode 4.**

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. \* And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life \* has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. \* Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually \* a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. \* And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. \* Christ is born, so that He might raise up \* the formerly fallen image. [SD]

Glory. **For the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode 3. N/M (Seeing how beautiful.)**

Let us show forth our great praise of Crete / which brought forth these precious Christians: the pearls of Christ! / And these blessed ten, the offspring of martyrs, / who few in number, yet overcame all the deceits of



powerful demons. // Therefore these martyrs of Christ have been crowned with victory! [OCA]

Both now.

**Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. \* And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life \* has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. \* Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually \* a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. \* And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. \* Christ is born, so that He might raise up \* the formerly fallen image. [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.)