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# The Service of Vespers

**on Wednesday Evening**

**for Thursday, December 12, 2019**

**Menaion - December 12**

**Memory of St. Spyridon the Wonder-worker**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - December 12**

Memory of St. Spyridon the Wonder-worker

**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 pl. 1.**

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.



The righteous man shall correct me with mercy,  
and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner  
anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of  
their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the  
rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.  
As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so  
their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in  
You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from  
the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone,  
until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I  
prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I  
shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew  
my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one  
who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared  
for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope,  
my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled  
exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are  
stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your  
name, O Lord.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward  
me.

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

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my  
supplication.

### **Stichera. For the Saint.**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode pl. 1. Rejoice.**

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

Rejoice, standard for hierarchs, \* and the  
unshakable support of the Church of Christ;  
\* the Orthodox peoples' glory, \* wellspring  
of miracles, \* and the never-failing stream  
of charity; \* the luminous beacon light, and  
the Spirit's own instrument. \* Your mind was  
godly, you were meek and impeccable, \* and  
you were adorned with authentic simplicity. \*  
You as a man were heavenly, \* an angel upon  
the earth; \* you labored well in the vineyard;  
\* you are a genuine friend of Christ. \* To Him  
importunately \* pray beseeching Him to send  
down great mercy to our souls. [SD]

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

Rejoice, standard for hierarchs, \* and the  
unshakable support of the Church of Christ;  
\* the Orthodox peoples' glory, \* wellspring  
of miracles, \* and the never-failing stream  
of charity; \* the luminous beacon light, and  
the Spirit's own instrument. \* Your mind was  
godly, you were meek and impeccable, \* and  
you were adorned with authentic simplicity. \*  
You as a man were heavenly, \* an angel upon  
the earth; \* you labored well in the vineyard;  
\* you are a genuine friend of Christ. \* To Him  
importunately \* pray beseeching Him to send  
down great mercy to our souls. [SD]



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

Truly you were distinguished as meek, \* and you inherited the land of the truly meek. \* O Spyridon, as the glory \* of all the Fathers, your wise \* unsophisticated words by grace divine \* like chords choked the enemy \* the all-wicked, and Arius \* who was demented. \* In the Spirit you lifted up \* the dogmatic teaching, salvific and God-inspired. \* Openly you enlightened all \* the Orthodox to believe \* that there is one Logos who with \* the unoriginate Father is \* indeed coessential, \* and who also is bestowing great mercy on the world. [SD]

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

Truly you were distinguished as meek, \* and you inherited the land of the truly meek. \* O Spyridon, as the glory \* of all the Fathers, your wise \* unsophisticated words by grace divine \* like chords choked the enemy \* the all-wicked, and Arius \* who was demented. \* In the Spirit you lifted up \* the dogmatic teaching, salvific and God-inspired. \* Openly you enlightened all \* the Orthodox to believe \* that there is one Logos who with \* the unoriginate Father is \* indeed coessential, \* and who also is bestowing great mercy on the world. [SD]

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

Father, when you had mortified all \* the carnal passions, by divine grace you raised the dead, \* and rendered the serpent golden; \* and

by the force of your prayer \* you restrained the river's swiftly flowing course. \* One night you indeed appeared to the Emperor deathly ill, \* and standing near him, by your presence you made him well, \* and were thereby wondrously glorified by the Lord. \* Therefore with voices loud and strong \* we honor your memory; \* we also reverence your relics' most sacred casket, O Spyridon, \* from which divine rivers \* of your healings and great mercy abundantly gush forth. [SD]

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

Father, when you had mortified all \* the carnal passions, by divine grace you raised the dead, \* and rendered the serpent golden; \* and by the force of your prayer \* you restrained the river's swiftly flowing course. \* One night you indeed appeared to the Emperor deathly ill, \* and standing near him, by your presence you made him well, \* and were thereby wondrously glorified by the Lord. \* Therefore with voices loud and strong \* we honor your memory; \* we also reverence your relics' most sacred casket, O Spyridon, \* from which divine rivers \* of your healings and great mercy abundantly gush forth. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

### Mode 1.

O devout Father, wise and blessed Spyridon, you inquired of your dead daughter as though she were alive, for the love of God; you who practiced poverty turned a snake into gold; and out of sympathy for the people, you held back the river's flow. You stood by the Emperor as his physician by the providence of God, and as His disciple

you raised people who had died. You openly proclaimed the Faith in the midst of many Fathers. Since you can do all things in Christ who strengthens you, entreat Him now to save our souls. [SD]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Prepare yourself, O Grotto, for the Ewe is coming, carrying Christ in her womb. O Manger, receive Him who released us earthlings from irrational activity by His word. You shepherds watching by night, witness to the awesome wonder. And you Magi from Persia, offer gold and frankincense and myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a virgin Mother. And bending over Him, the Mother, as a servant, worshiped Him, and she addressed the Infant in her arms, "How were You sown in me, and how were You implanted in me, O my Redeemer and my God?" [SD]

**DEACON** (*in a low voice*)

Let us pray to the Lord.

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

**Prayer of the Entrance**

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise, bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord, our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise.

**CLERGY AND PEOPLE**

**Mode 2.**

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; \* and therefore the world glorifies You. [SD]

**DEACON**

The evening Prokeimenon.

**CHOIR**

**Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 1.**

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

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

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

**The Readings**

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

The reading is from the Proverbs of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

Pr 10:8a, 7a; 3:13-16, 18; 8:32, 34, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 22:24, 22; 15:4b

The remembrance of the righteous is with eulogies; the blessing of the Lord is upon the head of a righteous man. Blessed is a man who finds wisdom, and a mortal who sees discernment; for the profits gained from wisdom are better than the treasures of gold and silver. Wisdom is more valuable

than precious stones, and nothing evil will withstand her. She is well known to all who come near her, and no honor is worthy of her. Righteousness proceeds from her mouth, and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. Now therefore, my son, hear me: Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me and the man who shall guard my ways; for my issues are the issues of life, and grace is prepared from the Lord. You, O men, I exhort, and I utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, dwell with counsel, and I call upon knowledge and understanding. Counsel and safety are mine; discernment is mine, and strength is mine. I love those who love me, and those who seek me shall find me. Understand astuteness, O simple ones, and put it in your heart, O uninstructed ones. Obey me, for I speak sacred things, and from my lips I will bring forth things that are true. For my mouth shall speak the truth, but false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing in them crooked or twisted. All things are evident to those who understand and true to those who find knowledge. Therefore, I teach you a true word and good knowledge to be obeyed, that you might answer words of truth to those who question you, that your hope might be in the Lord, and the one who guards it will be filled with the Spirit. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Proverbs of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

Pr 10:31-32; 11:1-10

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom, but the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys. The lips of righteous men distill grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord, but a righteous weight is acceptable to Him. Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom. When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret, but the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy. Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths, but ungodliness embraces wrongdoing. The righteousness of upright men delivers them, but lawless men are taken to their destruction. When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish, but the boast of the ungodly perishes. A righteous man escapes from a snare, but the ungodly man is handed over in his place. There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly, but the perception of the righteous is prosperous. A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous, but it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly. A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt, but a man of discernment keeps quiet. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

WSol 4:7-15

Though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest. For old age is not honored for its length of existence, nor measured by its number of years; but discernment is gray hair for mankind, and a spotless life is the maturity of old age. There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or deceit deceive his soul. For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good, and a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart. He was made perfect, for in a short time he fulfilled long years, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord; therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil. Yet peoples saw this but did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect and that He watches over His holy ones.

[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.)

From Menaion - - -

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha.**

**Mode 1. (not metered)**

A festive gathering is this, and a sacred banquet; come, believers, let us partake of it. Indeed Spyridon, our spiritual host, invites us to join him. His table is divine, and sweet are his miracles, his deeds are immortal. Let us imitate his gentleness, his innocence, his simplicity, his humanity, his wisdom concerning all. In these virtues he shone as a light among hierarchs. [SD]

**Verse:** *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one.* [SAAS]

A great worker of virtue and miracles were you, O Spyridon most wise. By the former you made your life brighter than the sunshine, and by the latter you lit up the earth more than lightning in the sky; and you appeared more beautiful than both, O devout Father, to those who in faith take refuge in your protection. [SD]

**Verse:** *O Lord, Your priests shall clothe themselves in righteousness; Your saints shall greatly rejoice.* [SAAS]

Oh awesome miracle! the dead girl spoke in a live voice to you who believed; the river's current reversed at your command; the Emperor's illness departed by your prayer; the snake was transformed into gold; dead people were raised. For Christ was working in you, O Spyridon the priest, who openly proclaimed the dogma of the Trinity. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

O devout and wise Father Spyridon, by your virtues you proved to be a divine gem of hierarchs. Therefore, when you became a guardian of the Church, you expelled the leaders of heresy, and in the Synod you threw down the blasphemy of Arius. Therefore, as a wonder-worker in both deed and word, entreat the Savior to save our souls. [SD]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

Behold, the time of our salvation is at hand. Prepare yourself, O Grotto; the Virgin is close to giving birth. Bethlehem, land of Judah, rejoice and be glad, for our Lord has risen from you. Listen, O mountains and hills, and the region around Judea, for Christ is coming to save man whom He created, in His love for humanity. [SD]

**PRIEST**

**Song of Simeon.**

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You

have prepared before the face of all peoples.  
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and  
the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

**PEOPLE**

**Trisagion Prayers.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PRIEST**

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

(Amen.)

**CHOIR**

**Apolytikion.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 1.** *The stone had been secured.*

At the first of the Synods, you emerged  
as the champion, \* and wonder-worker, our  
God-bearing Father Spyridon. \* Therefore, you  
addressed the dead one in the grave, \* and  
a serpent you changed to gold. \* And while  
chanting in service your sacred prayers,\*  
you had angels concelebrating, O most Holy  
One.\* Glory to Christ who glorified you, \*  
glory to Him who crowned you, \* glory to  
the One who works through you, healings for  
everyone. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 1.** *The stone had been secured.*

When Gabriel had uttered rejoice to you,  
O Virgin, \* then with the voice was the Lord of  
all becoming incarnate \* in you whom the holy  
Ark of old \* prefigured, as righteous David  
said. \* You carried your Creator and proved to  
be more spacious than the heavens. \* Glory to  
Him who dwelt inside of you; \* glory to Him  
who came forth from You; \* glory be to Him  
who through your childbirth has set us free. [SD]

**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 our  
devout father Spyridon the Wonder-worker,  
whose memory we celebrate, 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.)