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# The Service of Vespers

**on Thursday Evening**

**for Friday, November 8, 2019**

**Menaion - November 8**

**The Synaxis in Honor of the Chief Commanders Michael and  
Gabriel**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - November 8**

The Synaxis in Honor of the Chief  
Commanders Michael and Gabriel

**VESPERS**

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**READER**

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

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

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

**Psalm 103 (104).**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

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

**PRIEST** (*inaudibly*)

### **1st Prayer**

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

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

### **2nd Prayer**

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

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

### **3rd Prayer**

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

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

### **4th Prayer**

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

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

### **5th Prayer**

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

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

### 6th Prayer

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

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

### 7th Prayer

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

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

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

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

**DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

*The first stanza of Kathisma 1 of the Psalter may be read, followed by the short litany.*

**DEACON**

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*



**PRIEST**

*For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Mode 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 Prosomia.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. To a brave one.**

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

As Commander-in-chief you stand by the Godhead and triple Sun, \* O Archangel Michael, most brilliant minister. \* And with the heavenly hosts on high \* rejoicing you cry aloud: \* You are holy, O Father; \* You are holy, O equally unoriginate \* Word; and holy are You, O Holy Spirit, single glory, rule and nature \* and single Power and Divinity. [SD]



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

Wholly fiery is your form \* and your beauty is wonderful. \* You are known to all as one mighty in your strength. \* And in your bodiless nature you, O Archangel Michael, go \* everywhere throughout the world, \* executing the orders of \* God who made all things. \* And the church that was honored with your holy name you made into a well-spring \* of cures and healings for everyone. [SD]

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

You, O Lord, make Your messengers spirits, even as Scripture says, \* and you make Your ministers be a fiery flame. \* And You have made Michael who is Chief-commander to be supreme \* in Your archangelic ranks. \* He obediently submits unto Your commands. \* And with fear does he cry out in a loud voice the thrice-holy hymn, O Master, \* unto Your glory, O Word of God. [SD]

**Additional Stichera.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. You have given.**

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

Gabriel, the pre-eternal Mind set you as a second light, \* to illumine the whole wide world \* through participation in the grace of the Godhead, \* and also to make known to us the great and most divine \* mystery which was from all eternity: \* that He who had been bodiless assumed a body within the womb \*

of a Virgin and thus became \* man to save all humanity. [SD]

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

Standing as you do by the tri-solar Godhead's supernal throne and illumined abundantly \* by the divine splendor that \* from it without ceasing \* radiates, Archangel, \* deliver from the passions' gloom \* those who on earth stand in chorus joyfully \* extolling you, O Gabriel the Chief-commander. And brighten them \* with divine lumination's light, \* and entreat that our souls be saved. [SD]

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

Shatter all the insolence that sons of Hagar continually \* aim against us your humble flock. \* Captain of the Bodiless, stop the Church's schisms. \* Calm the swelling ocean of the temptations that we have. \* Also deliver us from calamity \* and circumstances fraught with danger, for with longing we honor you, \* who entreat on our souls' behalf, as our refuge, O Gabriel. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Rejoice with us, all you commanders of the Angels, for your leader and our champion, the great Chief Commander, wondrously appearing in his august temple, sanctifies this day. Therefore let us dutifully extol him and cry aloud: Shelter us in the shelter of your wings, O Michael the greatest Archangel. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode pl. 2.**

Rejoice with us, all you choirs of virgins.  
For our protection and mediatrix and shelter,  
and the great refuge, marvelously appearing  
in her august temple, sanctifies this day.  
Therefore let us dutifully extol her and cry  
aloud: Shelter us in the shelter of your wings,  
O immaculate Lady Theotokos. [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. 2.**

My help comes from the Lord, who made  
heaven and earth. (2) [SAAS]

**Verse:** *I lifted my eyes to the mountains;  
from where shall my help come?*

My help comes from the Lord, who made  
heaven and earth.

**The Readings**

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

The reading is from the book of Joshua.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

**Jos 5:13-15**

Then it came to pass, when Joshua was at  
Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing  
before him with a sword drawn in his hand.  
So Joshua came near and said to him, "Are  
you for us or on the side of our adversaries?"  
He said to him, "I am now come, the chief  
captain of the host of the Lord." Then Joshua  
fell on his face upon the earth and said to  
him, "O Master, what do you command your  
servant?" The chief captain of the Lord said to  
Joshua, "Loose the shoe from your feet; for the  
place on which you stand is holy." [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the book of Judges.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

**Jdg 6:2a, 6b, 11-24**

It came to pass in that day that the hand  
of Midian prevailed against Israel, and the  
sons of Israel cried out to the Lord. Now the

Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree in Ephrathah which belonged to Joash the father of Esdri, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress in order to hide from the presence of the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, mighty one of the armies!" Gideon said to Him, "It is I, my Lord? If the Lord is with us, why then have these evils come upon us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has driven us out and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." Then the Angel of the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with this strength of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Indeed, I have sent you." And Gideon said to Him, "Be gracious with me, my Lord, for how can I save Israel? My thousand is weakened in Manasseh, and I am the smallest in my father's house." And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "The Lord will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." Then Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found mercy in Your sight, then You shall do everything for me today that You have told me. Do not leave here, I pray, until I come to You and I will bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I am. I will wait until you come back." So Gideon went in and prepared a goat kid, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. He put the meat in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and approached. The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on

this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. Then the Angel of the Lord stretched out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. Now Gideon perceived this was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "O Lord, my Lord! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face." Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it the Peace of the Lord. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Prophecy of Daniel.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

**Dan 10:1-21**

In the third year of Cyrus king of the Persians, a word was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The word was true, and great power and understanding were given to him in the vision. In those days, I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no desirable food, and no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself, until three whole weeks were fulfilled. Then on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, I was beside the great river, that is, the Tigris. I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a man clothed in fine linen; and his waist was girded with gold of Uphaz. His body was like beryl, and his face like the appearance of lightning. His eyes were

like lamps of fire, and his arms and legs like the appearance of shining brass. The sound of his words was like the voice of a multitude. I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men with me did not see the vision; but a great astonishment fell upon them, and they fled in fear. So I was left alone and saw this great vision, but no strength remained in me; for my splendor was turned into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard him, I was deeply troubled with my face on the ground. Suddenly, a hand touched me and raised me up on my knees. He said to me, "O Daniel, a man of desires, understand the words I speak to you and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." So when he spoke this word to me, I stood trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day you set your heart to understand and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I came because of your words. But the prince of the Persian kingdom withstood me twenty-one days, and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; for I was left there with the ruler of the Persian kingdom. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, for the vision is for days yet to come." When he had spoken these words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and was deeply troubled. Again suddenly, one having the likeness of a son of man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and spoke, and said to the one standing before me, "My lord, because of your vision, my insides churned within me so I have no strength. For how can your servant, my lord, speak with

my lord of this? As for me, no strength now remains in me, nor is any breath left in me." Then again, the one like the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. He said to me, "O man of desires, peace be to you; be courageous and strong." So when he spoke with me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to the war against the ruler of the Persians, and I will go forth, and the ruler of the Greeks will come. But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth—and there is no one loyal to me concerning this, except Michael your prince." [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. <sup>[HC]</sup>

*(Amen.)*

### **DEACON**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*



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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

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

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

operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**Litany and Blessing of Loaves.**

**CHOIR**

**Idiomelon 1.**

*From Menaion - - -*

**Mode 1.**

Chief captains of the spiritual Powers, who ever stand beside the Master's throne, implore the Lord to give peace to the world and to our souls his great mercy. <sup>[EL]</sup>

**Idiomelon 2.**

**Mode 1.**

The Commander of the Powers above, Michael, the leader of the divine ranks, who goes with us every day and guards us all from every assault of the devil, has called us together today to a great festival. Come then, lovers of feasts and lovers of Christ, let us pick the flowers of virtues and with pure thoughts and firm conscience, let us honour the Archangel's Assembly; for as he stands unceasingly next God and raises high the thrice-holy hymn, he intercedes that our souls may be saved. <sup>[EL]</sup>

**Idiomelon 3.**

**Mode 2.**

Leaders of the spiritual Powers of the immaterial Being, enlighteners of the world with the rays of the glory with triple sun, Chief Captains, with untiring voices you sing

out the thrice-holy hymn; therefore intercede that our souls may be saved. [EL]

**Idiomelon 4.**

**Mode 2.**

As you surround the immaterial throne, O spiritual beings, divine Bodiless ones, you sing the thrice-holy hymn to God the Ruler with lips of flame: Holy God, the Father without beginning; Holy strong, the co-eternal Son; Holy immortal, the consubstantial Spirit, glorified together with the Father and the Son.

[EL]

**Idiomelon 5.**

**Mode 2.**

With bodiless lips and spiritual mouths the ranks of Angels offer their unceasing hymn to your unapproachable Godhead, Lord; and pure intelligences and ministers of your glory praise you, Master. With them Michael, the bodiless one and leader of the Powers above, the Chief Captain of the Angels, has become for us today host at the feast, urging us on to sing the songs of the Bodiless Powers to your unapproachable glory, Lover of mankind, that he may intercede without ceasing on behalf of our souls. [EL]

**Idiomelon 6.**

**Mode 4.**

Bright with the sun's beam of the divine light, Chief Captains, you outshine the ranks of immaterial beings; clothed like light in dazzling white in the highest, you shed on the world the fire of the unapproachable Godhead; and so you sing unceasingly with lips of flame the thrice-holy hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy are you, our God. Glory to you. [EL]

**Idiomelon 7.**

**Mode pl. 2.**

Your Angels, O Christ, standing with fear by the throne of your majesty and ever shining with the light that floods from you, sing your praises in the highest, and sent forth by you as ministers of your will, they give enlightenment to our souls. [EL]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

With lips of fire the Cherubim sing your praise, Christ God; with bodiless mouths the choir of Archangels sings a never-ending hymn of glory; Michael, the Chief Captain of the Powers above, offers to your glory an unceasing hymn of victory. For he has shone on us today that for this shining festival we may fittingly ring out in song the thrice-holy hymn with lips of clay; for all things have been filled with your praise, and you grant the world through him your great mercy. [EL]

Both now.

**Mode 4.**

Today the temple that contains God, the Mother of God, is brought into the Lord's temple and Zachary receives her. Today the Holy of Holies rejoices and the choir of Angels mystically celebrates the festival; with whom let us, as today we celebrate, cry out with Gabriel: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, he who has great mercy. [EL]

**DEACON**

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

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



Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

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

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

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of all pious and Orthodox Christians living and visiting in this city, the parishioners, the members of the Parish Council and every Ministry of this Parish, and the donors and benefactors of this holy church, and the servants of God [names] who celebrate this holy feast.

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

Again we pray for the protection of this holy church, this city and every city and land, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us by turning and keeping from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

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

Again we pray that the Lord our God may hear the prayer of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

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

**PRIEST**

Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all those who live everywhere on earth and those

far out at sea or in the air. Be gracious toward our sins, Master, and have mercy on us.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

Most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, whose Synaxis we celebrate; the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker, the Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (**local patron**

**saint);** the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your Saints.

Accept our prayer; grant us forgiveness of our transgressions; protect us under the shelter of your wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary; grant peace to our life; Lord have mercy on us and on your world; and save our souls as a good and loving God.

**PRIEST or: CHOIR**

**Hymn to the Theotokos.**

O Virgin Theotokos, rejoice, Mary full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb; for you have borne the Savior of our souls [SD]

**DEACON**

Let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

**PRIEST**

*Blessing of the Loaves.*

Lord, Jesus Christ. our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and from them five thousand men were filled. Bless now these loaves, the wheat, the wine and oil and multiply them in this holy church, this city, in the homes of those who celebrate today, and in Your whole world. And sanctify Your faithful servants who partake of them.

For You are He who blesses and sanctifies all things, Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory together with Your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CLERGY**

Rich men turned poor and went hungry; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. [SAAS]

**CHOIR**

Rich men turned poor and went hungry; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. **(2)** [SAAS]

*From Menaion - -*

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha.**

**Mode 1.** *For the celestial orders.*

Let us who dwell in the world now like angels keep the feast, \* and unto God who is carried \* on the throne of His glory \* cry aloud the hymn, saying: "Father who art \* in the heavens, Holy are You; \* co-unoriginate Logos, Holy are You; \* and all-holy Spirit, Holy are You." [SD]

**Verse:** *He makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.* [SAAS]

Since you are foremost in heaven, and have great freedom to speak, \* O Chief Commander Michael, as you stand there in glory \* near the unendurable throne of the Lord, \* and behold things ineffable, \* by your entreaties deliver us from distress \* and temptations and from perils, we pray. [SD]

**Verse:** *Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly.* [SAAS]

Among the bodiless Angels you are expressly the first. \* O Chief Commander Michael, \* an eye-witness and mystic \* are you of that divine and resplendent light. \* Hence we fervently pray to you: \* Save us who piously honor you every year \* and in faith extol the Trinity. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4.**

As captain and champion and leader of the Angels, deliver from all necessity and tribulation, illness and grievous sins, those who sincerely extol and entreat you, O glorious Chief Commander, as one immaterial who manifestly beholds the Immaterial One, and who is splendidly illumined by the unapproachable light of the Master's glory. He it is who out of love for mankind assumed flesh from the Virgin for our sake, wishing as He did to save the human race. [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 4. You who were lifted.**

O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, \* we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, \* to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, \* and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, \* guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: \* As the Commanders of the hosts on high, \* rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind. [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]

**DEACON**

Let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

**PRIEST**

May the blessing and the mercy of the Lord come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

**READER**

Amen.

*Optional:*

**PRIEST**

*Most-holy Theotokos, save us.*

**READER**

*Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.*

**PRIEST**

Glory to You, O Christ God, our hope.  
Glory to You.

**READER**

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

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

**PRIEST**

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-

immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, whose Synaxis we celebrate; 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.)*