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# The Service of Vespers

**on Wednesday Evening**

**for Thursday, July 11, 2019**

**Menaion - July 11**

**Memory of the Holy Great Martyr Euphemia**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - July 11**

Memory of the Holy Great Martyr  
Euphemia

**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 pl. 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 Holy Woman.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4. N/M (What a paradoxal.)**

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

O marvelous wonder! The Lord's ewe-Lamb, through the contest of suffering, imitates his voluntary death, and while lying in the tomb, she makes an effusion of blood spring up by the power of the Holy Spirit. Drawing of this for the purification of our souls, we offer praise at all times to the God of all. [JR]



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

O Martyr truly all-laudable, like Daniel before you, you held off the attacks of wild beasts, and by grace readily faced fire with boldness; and having accepted every other torment, you were crowned with an unfading wreath of victory and joyously ascended to him for whom you longed; therefore, we honor you and call you blessed. [JR]

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

The convocation of divine Fathers placed the definition of faith near your head, and you took it in your arms, preserving the divine faith unshaken, shunning all heresy, and putting to shame the defenders of falsehood, O glorious martyr hymned by all; therefore, we honor you and call you blessed. [JR]

#### **Additional Stichera.**

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]

Observing the casket of your relics, all-laudable Euphemia, we draw for ourselves inexhaustible health and strength, and are illumined in our souls and enlightened in mind, being purified noetically by the Spirit's rays through your holy mediations. Therefore with love we honor your holy festival. [JR]

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

You experienced fire and were handed over to wild beasts; you were thrown in a cistern, and were placed on the wheels. The Maker of all rescued you from these things, O fair virgin, shaming that one who cunningly prepared them for you, and glorifying you, O Martyr Euphemia, who preached the one Christ in two natures. [JR]

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

The holy Euphemia utterly disgraced Eutyches and Dioscorus and those of like mind with them, who were incurably afflicted, having lost their minds and their wits; and she proclaimed Christ as two-fold in wills and energies alike, but one in hypostasis, as the Fathers explained. [JR]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode pl. 2.**

At the right hand of the Savior stood the virgin and prize-winner and invincible martyr, arrayed with virtues and adorned with the oil of purity and with the blood of her struggle; and she cried to him in great joy, bearing her lamp: "I ran to the fragrance of your myrrh, O Christ God, for I was wounded by your love; do not separate me from you, O heavenly Bridegroom." By her entreaties, O Almighty Savior, send down on us your mercies. [JR]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

#### **Mode pl. 2.**

Who will not call you blessed, most holy Virgin? Who will not sing praises of your

wondrous birth giving? For the only begotten Son, timelessly having shone forth from the Father, came forth from you who are pure. And having been ineffably made flesh, he, who by nature is God, for our sake became also by nature man: not in two divided persons, but in two natures without confusion. O honored and all blessed one, beseech him to have mercy on our souls. [HC]

**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 Prophecy of Isaiah.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

43:9-14

Thus says the Lord: All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My Servant whom I chose, that you may know and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves. I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

3:1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune, and their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. He tested them like gold in a furnace and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect [and He watches over His holy ones]. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

5:15-6:3

The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by

the Most High. Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies. He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield and sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; and hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High. [SAAS]

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

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

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

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

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

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

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

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

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

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

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

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and

those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

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

### **PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

### **READER**

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

*(Amen.)*

### **DEACON**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

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

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

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**Litany and Blessing of Loaves.**

**CHOIR**

**Idiomelon 1.**

*From Menaion - - -*

**Mode 1.**

Come, all you faithful, with praises, let us sing hymns at the annual commemoration of the all-praiseworthy Euphemia, saying: "Rejoice, O Prizewinner and Martyr, who shredded the tyrant's impudence and thoroughly refuted the folly of the falsely-believing. Rejoice, fairest crown of Chalcedon, and unshaken support of the rightly-believing. Rejoice, who for the sake of Christ your Bridegroom, consumed your bodily strength through tortures, but enlightened your soul with the Spirit's rays. Rejoice, always



interceding for those who in faith and love celebrate your memorial." [JR]

**Idiomelon 2.**

**Mode 2.**

O marvelous wonder! As a living witness, the martyr, though dead in the coffin, holds in her honorable hands our decree, but tramples with her feet that of the heretics, belittling what is perverse and blasphemous, but strengthening the correct and unalloyed doctrine of the faithful, who proclaim Christ one in hypostasis, but two in nature and will. By her intercessions, O Christ God, grant peace to your churches and to our souls great mercy. [JR]

**Idiomelon 3.**

**Mode 3.**

Who, O Martyr, who can fitly describe the struggles of martyrdom and of faith which you fought for the sake of Christ, in the weakness of feminine nature? Who can cite the perfections of your virtues, and your many miracles, all-praiseworthy Euphemia? Or your resoluteness in right doctrines, the constancy of your Orthodoxy? Therefore, you were entrusted by the divine Fathers with the definition of the faith, as a jealous guardian of this, and you preserve it accurately even for all time, also interceding for our souls. [JR]

**Idiomelon 4.**

**Mode 4.**

As we observe the martyric festival celebrated on earth today, let us rejoice in spirit and leap with gladness, for holy Euphemia has summoned us together through the holy and good Shepherd of the Church. And placing herself before us, she provides

to each the sanctification that we draw for ourselves. Let us approach now in faith and with an unwavering mind, and not with skepticism, so that from her holy coffin we may obtain in abundance the healing of the sick, asking from Christ God forgiveness and great mercy. [JR]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 1.**

Today, the undefiled bride of the heavenly King, the all-revered Euphemia, summons us together to a spiritual banquet. Come, then, all you lovers of feast, being purified in mind and adorned by the bright robes of the divine Spirit, let us mystically make glad in her solemn and resplendent banquet of all good things; for, like a pure dove, being espoused to the Son in the beauty of virginity, she established the Holy Trinity as dwelling entirely in her, Father and Son and Holy Spirit, the one God. Both desiring and seeking him, she contended bravely; and so she reigns with him forever in the heavenly dwellings. [JR]

Both now.

**Mode pl. 1.**

Now we call you blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, and we glorify you, duty-bound as believers; the city unshakable, the wall indestructible, the firm and steadfast protection, and the place of refuge for our souls. [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 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, 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 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, the holy Great Martyr and all-famed



Euphemia, whose memory we celebrate; 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 <sup>[SD]</sup>

**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. <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

**CHOIR**

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

*From Menaion - -*

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha.**

**Mode 2. N/M (Joseph took You.)**

Come, O brethren, let us be cleansed in lips, and in soul, and in heart, and let us draw for ourselves the inexhaustible wealth freely pouring from the all-laudable saint's reliquary, which is now set before us in our midst and is plainly seen. As we lovingly bless her and faithfully honor her, let us all crown her with holy praises. <sup>[JR]</sup>

**Verse:** *I waited patiently for the Lord, and He heeded me; and He heard my supplication.* <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

You stood before the tribunal of impious tyrants brave and firm like an anvil, impervious to pains, O martyr, fair virgin, proclaiming that Christ is the all-perfect God who, having received flesh, is in two natures and two wills. Therefore, you cast at your feet the decree of the heretics, holding on to ours with zeal. <sup>[JR]</sup>

**Verse:** *And He established my feet on a rock and kept straight my steps.* <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

We whom the pastor of the believers has now assembled, having come together in one, all praise in faith and bless in holy songs and melodies your august celebration. Keep watch, guard, shelter us, and deliver us from

every kind of harm by your intercessions, all-praiseworthy Martyr of Christ Euphemia. [JR]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Adorned with the virtues as with flowers and enlightened in reason, pouring fragrant myrrh into the hearts of the faithful, you rose from the East like a shining star, O Euphemia all-praised. And having ratified the assembly of the divine Fathers through the visitation of the Holy Spirit, do not cease entreating the Lord on our behalf, for the salvation of our souls. [JR]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode pl. 2.**

Most holy Virgin, Christ the Lord, Creator and Redeemer, proceeded from your womb, and clothing himself in me, set me free from the ancient curse on Adam. Therefore, most pure Virgin, we praise you without ceasing as Mother of God and true Virgin with the greeting of the angel: Rejoice! Lady, advocate, defender, and salvation of our souls. [HC]

**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 3. Your confession.**

To the Orthodox you brought elation, \* the unorthodox, humiliation, \* O Euphemia, the beautiful virgin of Christ. \* For what the Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical \* Synod decreed well as dogma you ratified. \* Pray to Christ our God, O glorious Martyr, fervently, \* entreating Him to grant us His great mercy. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 3.**

Unto you who mediated the salvation of our race we sing praises, O Virgin Theotokos. For your Son and our God in the flesh that He assumed from you accepted suffering by means of crucifixion and has thereby set us free from corruption, in His love for man. [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, 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, the holy Great Martyr and all-famed Euphemia, 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.)*