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# The Service of Matins

**for Thursday, March 7, 2019**

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

**Triodion - On Thursday of Cheese Week  
at Matins**

**Menaion - March 7  
Memory of the holy Hieromartyrs in Cherson**

**Text in English**

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**vol** Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Triodion**

Grave Mode. On Thursday Morning

**Menaion - March 7**

Memory of the holy Hieromartyrs in Cherson

**MATINS**

**CHOIR**

**Mode 3.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Apolytikion.**

From Horologion - - -

**Mode 3.**

O holy Apostles, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. **Repeat.**

Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 3.**

The Prophets proclaimed it beforehand, and the Apostles taught it; the Martyrs confessed it, and we have believed it: that you gave birth to God indeed, O Theotokos. And therefore we magnify your childbirth, which is ineffable. [SD]

*The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 13. There is no litany, but immediately the following:*

From Triodion - - -

**CHOIR**

**Kathisma I.**

**Grave Mode.**

O Lord, You showed Your Apostles to be husbandmen of Your field, who weeded out the idols. Therefore they preached to the Gentiles that You are the Savior, and they magnified You with correct belief. [SD]

**Verse:** O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your anger. [SAAS]

O children of the Church, as we commemorate the all-lauded Apostles, let us extol Christ in songs and hymns. They saved those guilty of sin, by preaching repentance. They drove away deceitful error, they shined light on the world, and they intercede on behalf of our nation. [SD]

Glory. **For the Martyrs.**

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

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O Mother of Christ our God, we salute you and say: Rejoice! From you the Logos became flesh without alteration, and He dwelt among us. Rejoice, noble Lady! You are the exultation of the Apostles and Martyrs, and the salvation of the faithful. [SD]

*The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 14. It would be followed by the short litany.*

**PRIEST**

*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 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.)*

**Kathisma II.**

**CHOIR**

*From Triodion ---*

**Mode pl. 1. (NM)**

Today all the apostles bless the forty days and the week of cleansing that precedes them, and they sanctify this season of fasting which they received from Christ the Redeemer. They proclaim His Resurrection unto all and intercede with the Lord for mercy on our souls. [KW]

Glory. Both now.

**Mode pl. 1. (NM)**

Thou art the protection, O pure Virgin, of those who steadfastly have set their hope in thee. Deliver them from all temptations, from harsh danger and distress. Together with the apostles, intercede on their behalf before thy

Son, and save all those who sing thy praises.

[KW]

**READER**

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory. Both now.

**Psalm 50 (51).**

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

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

From Octoechos - - -

**CHOIR**

**Ode i.**

**Canon for the Holy Apostles.**

**Grave Mode. Heirmos**

*Verse: Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified.*

At your behest, O Lord, the nature of the waters that before flowed freely was transformed and became like earth; and so Israel having marched dryshod sings you a song of victory. [EL]

**Troparia.**

*Apostles of Christ, intercede for us.*

When by your inclination to that which is divine you had became god-like you smashed the gods of the godless, and raised all those who had come to believe in God to love inspired by God, All honoured ones. [EL]

*Verse: Let us sing to the Lord, for He is greatly glorified. Horse and rider He has thrown into the sea.* [SAAS]

When by your inclination to that which is divine you had became god-like you smashed the gods of the godless, and raised all those who had come to believe in God to love inspired by God, All honoured ones. [EL]

*Verse: The Lord became my helper and the shield of my salvation; He is my God, and I will glorify Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.*

[SAAS]

Since you have become the salt of the whole earth, Apostles of the Lord, stem the putrefaction of my heart and heal its fierce folly. [EL]

*Verse: The Lord brings wars to nothing; the Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and army He cast into the sea.* [SAAS]

Whenever the most just Judge at the second coming is about to take his seat with you, godlike Apostles, rescue us then from every condemnation. [EL]

*Verse: The sea covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.* [SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

Immaculate Mother of God, with bodiless Angels, Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles, intercede that we may receive forgiveness of offences, O Virgin, and his great mercy. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

**Canon for St. Nicholas.**

**Grave Mode. To God who worked. (NM)**

*Verse: The princes of Edom and the chiefs of the Moabites were dismayed; trembling took hold of them; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.*

[SAAS]

A state of glory you sought after while on earth; make us who glorify you, Nicholas, sharers in that glory. [EL]

*Verse: Fear and dread fell upon them; by the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone.*

[SAAS]

Crossing the sea of corruptible life, we are surrounded by waves of temptations, All-blest one: save us from them. [EL]

*Verse: Till Your people pass over, O Lord, till Your people pass over, whom You purchased.* [SAAS]

Stretch out to me a hand of help, Father Nicholas, granting me deliverance from enemies both seen and unseen. [EL]

*Verse: The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands established.* [SAAS]

### **Theotokion.**

He who makes immaterial Ministers was born from you, Mother of God, and was seen by humans through his ineffable pity. [EL]

### **Canon for the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode 4. N/M (The people of Israel.)**

*Verse: The Lord reigns forever and ever and ever. For Pharaoh's horses went with his chariots and horsemen into the sea.* [SAAS]

O Martyrs, because you out-pour of the holy overflow of radiance, save us from the dark haze of passions, we who piously commend without ceasing this radiant festival of yours which gives light. [un]

*Verse: But the children of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.* [SAAS]

O righteous Fathers, the Word of God made flesh displayed you to be shepherds of great glory, so that you would announce His Divinity to those in falsehood who are endangered by lack of knowledge. [un]

Glory.

O glorious Fathers, because you are entirely replete with the streams of the Holy Spirit which create life, you irrigated those who had become dehydrated from the scorching heat of woeful atheism. You led them to the water of salvation. [un]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O pure and spotless Virgin, through your childbirth which is beyond understanding, our original ancestors had their conviction nullified. The original admission into Paradise was returned to them. They praised you with a mighty voice. [un]

From Octoechos - - -

### **Ode iii.**

### **Canon for the Holy Apostles.**

#### **Grave Mode. Heirmos**

*Verse: Holy are You, O Lord, and my spirit praises You.*

Lord, Saviour, who established the heavens in the beginning by your all-powerful Word and by the divine and all-effecting Spirit all their power, establish me on the unshakeable rock of confession of you. [EL]

### **Troparia.**

*Apostles of Christ, intercede for us.*

Revealed as sharpened arrows of Christ the powerful, wise Disciples, deliver me, I pray, from the arrows of the foe, and heal my heart, grievously wounded by the sword of sin. [EL]

*Verse: My heart is strengthened in the Lord; my horn is exalted in my God. I smile at my enemies; I rejoice in Your salvation.* [SAAS]

Revealed as sharpened arrows of Christ the powerful, wise Disciples, deliver me, I

pray, from the arrows of the foe, and heal my heart, grievously wounded by the sword of sin. [EL]

*Verse: Because no one is holy like the Lord, no one is righteous like our God, no one is holy but You.* [SAAS]

Like heavens you declare the glory of God, godlike Disciples, as the Prophet says, making clear his divine incarnation and his sufferings, through which we have all been ransomed from passions, from death and from corruption. [EL]

*Verse: Do not boast nor speak of high things; let no arrogance come from your mouth.* [SAAS]

Godlike Disciples, hasten to make me bright with garments of light, who have been fearfully led astray and stripped of the garment of God, for you laid bare the plots of the foe by faith and clothed him with shame. [EL]

*Verse: For the Lord is the God of knowledge; and God is preparing His actions.* [SAAS]

### **Theotokion.**

O God, who gave being to the Powers of heaven by a word, granted grace to Prophets, the Disciples and all the Martyrs, at their prayers and those of your immaculate Mother, save us all, take pity as you are compassionate. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

### **Canon for St. Nicholas.**

**Grave Mode.** *Be my firm foundation.* (NM)

*Verse: The One who gives a prayer to the one praying, He blesses with righteous years.* [SAAS]

As you offer intercessions for the whole world, save us from every necessity and ten thousand troubles, holy Nicholas. [EL]

*Verse: The Lord makes His adversaries weak; the Lord is holy.* [SAAS]

As you rescued those who were bound in an impregnable prison by breaking their bonds, by your prayers reconcile me to God from my wicked deeds, holy Nicholas. [EL]

*Verse: Let not the man of learning boast in his understanding, nor let the man of might boast in his might, nor let the man of riches boast in his riches.* [SAAS]

By night and day we call you Defender; bring our supplications to the Lord, and ever guard us, holy Nicholas. [EL]

*Verse: Only let the one who boasts boast in this: to understand and to know the Lord and to do justice and righteousness in the midst of the earth.* [SAAS]

### **Theotokion.**

All-pure, you are the tongs which received in your godlike womb the divine coal, yet remained quite unburned, burn up our faults. [EL]



**Canon for the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.** *N/M (Your Church rejoices.)*

*Verse: The Lord went up into the heaven and thundered. The Lord judges the ends of the earth.*

[SAAS]

O all-wise Basilefs, because your mind was inflamed with the holy fire, and because you are a wonderful shepherd, you caused atheism to burn in flames. [un]

*Verse: He gives strength to our leaders, and He will exalt the horn of His Christ.* [SAAS]

O glorious Fathers, by the radiance of the Holy Spirit, you caused those who were in destructive murkiness to come into the illumination of holy baptism. [un]

Glory.

O Basilefs, because your ways were pointed straightways towards God, they caused every man to turn towards the way of holy understanding and away from the way of falsehood [un]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O pure and totally spotless Virgin, your conception was of the powerful Lord. He frees mortals from the power of the adversary. [un]

**Heirmos.**

Your Church rejoices in You, O Christ our God, and she cries out to You, \* "You are my mighty strength, O Lord, \* and You are my refuge and firm support." [SD]

**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 you are our 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.)*

**CHOIR**

**Kathisma.**

From Menaion - - -

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

You were ordained as priests through fragrant chrism. O lights that shine everywhere, you Martyrs who are commended by everyone, you became shepherds to a people full of faith and divine prudence. As immaculate and unblemished lambs, you were sacrificed on behalf of the Word and brought to the Highest Shepherd, Christ, who was sacrificed as though a sheep. Therefore, all of us hold a feast with yearning for your godly and holy memory. [un]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 3.** *Seeing how beautiful.*

O Virgin, the untilled vineyard are you indeed; \* and you produced the Lord, that ripest bunch of grapes, \* that gushes forth the sweetest drink, the wine of salvation, for us, \* gladdening the hearts and souls \* and the bodies of everyone. \* Therefore we pronounce



you blest \* as the cause of all theses blessings  
on us, \* and joining the Archangel we shout to  
you: \* Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace! [SD]

From Menaion - - -

**Canon for the Martyrs.**

**Ode iv. Mode 4. Heirmos.**

*Verse: Glory to Your strength, O Lord.*

When the Church beheld You raised  
on the Cross unjustly, \* You, the Sun of  
Righteousness, crucified for our sake, \* she  
stood in her course and was amazed, and  
fittingly she cried out, \* "Glory to Your power,  
O Lord my God." [SD]

**Troparia.**

*Saints of God, intercede for us.*

Permit it that the holy chorus of Martyrs  
may be commended, for this chorus is made  
wonderful by the graces of the priesthood and  
martyrdom. This chorus joyfully sings: Glory  
to Your power, O Lord. [un]

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

Permit it that the holy chorus of Martyrs  
may be commended, for this chorus is made  
wonderful by the graces of the priesthood and  
martyrdom. This chorus joyfully sings: Glory  
to Your power, O Lord. [un]

*Verse: When my soul is troubled, You will in  
wrath remember mercy.* [SAAS]

The Holy Spirit displayed Ephraim,  
Basilefs, Capito, Eugene, Elpidios, and the  
holy Aetherios as sailors of the Church and  
carriers of God. [un]

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

O holy Fathers, you were brought into  
holiness. Truly the people were shepherded  
by you with holiness and righteousness. You  
were giving an ending of blessed martyrdom.  
[un]

*Verse: His excellence covered the heavens, and  
the earth was full of His praise.* [SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

O Virgin, you made the men who had  
been killed to come back to life through your  
ineffable childbirth of hypostatic Life, who is  
our God Christ. Because of His empathy, He  
became man. [un]

From Triodion - - -

**Canon 1 from the Triodion.**

**Ode iv. Mode 4. (NM) The  
prophet heard of Thy coming.**

*Verse: For though the fig tree will not bear  
fruit and there be no grapes on the vines.* [SAAS]

Thy disciples shone in the world with the  
light of the knowledge of God; they overcame  
error and destroyed the darkness of deceit. At  
their prayers, save those who sing Thy praises.  
[KW]

*Verse: The labor of the olive tree fail and the  
fields yield no food.* [SAAS]

The gateway to the Fast is crowned with  
the fruits of the saints' ascetic labours, and it  
welcomes those who in vigilance draw near  
with hymns and mystical songs. Come, all ye  
faithful, let us make haste to enter. [KW]

*Verse: Though the sheep have no pasture and  
there be no oxen in the cribs.* [SAAS]

Yielding to the impulses of sensual  
pleasure, I was clothed in my misery with

the garments of death. But clothe me now, O Son of God, with the shining raiment of regeneration. [KW]

*Verse: Yet I will glory in the Lord; I will rejoice in God my Savior. [SAAS]*

**Theotokion.**

Ineffably thou hast conceived, O Mother of God, and in ways surpassing nature thou hast borne Him who rules creation. Intercede before Him without ceasing, that He may deliver from all peril those who call thee blessed. [KW]

**Canon 2 from the Triodion.**

**Ode iv. Mode 2. (NM)** *Thou hast come forth from a Virgin.*

*Verse: The Lord God is my strength; He will direct my feet to the end. [SAAS]*

With the light of your teaching, O apostles, ye have dispersed the darkness of sensual pleasure; praised in all the world, through your abstinence ye have enlightened all men, both sinners and righteous. [KW]

*Verse: He will set me upon high places, so to conquer by His song. [SAAS]*

Translucent pearls of the Word, O apostles, through your abstinence ye have filled with the glory all the ends of the earth, restoring our souls to their true nobility. [KW]

Glory.

O apostles, and taught all men to keep within themselves a citadel safe from attack, a dwelling-place of holiness. [KW]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

In thee, O Theotokos, all the faithful have a haven of salvation and a rampart none can

overthrow: for by thine intercessions, O Lady, thou dost set free our souls from danger. [KW]

From Octoechos - -

**Ode v.**

**Canon for the Holy Apostles.**

**Grave Mode. Heirmos**

*Verse: O Lord our God, grant us peace.*

Lord my God, from nightfall I watch at dawn and implore you: grant me forgiveness of offences, and direct my ways to the light of your commandments I pray. [EL]

**Troparia.**

*Apostles of Christ, intercede for us.*

Lord my God, who of old gave peace to your Apostles, at their supplications give peace to all and forgiveness of offences. [EL]

*Verse: My spirit rises early in the morning to You, O God, for Your commands are a light upon the earth. [SAAS]*

Lord my God, who of old gave peace to your Apostles, at their supplications give peace to all and forgiveness of offences. [EL]

*Verse: Learn righteousness, you who dwell on the earth. [SAAS]*

Lord my God, who through your surpassing goodness saved the Thief and the Harlot who had sinned, pity me too and save me at the prayers of the Apostles. [EL]

*Verse: O Lord, Your arm is exalted, but they did not know it. But when they know it, they shall be ashamed. [SAAS]*

Lord my God, who through your surpassing goodness saved the Thief and the Harlot who had sinned, pity me too and save me at the prayers of the Apostles. [EL]

*Verse: Jealousy will seize an untaught people; and now fire will devour the adversaries.* [SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

Lord my God, born of a Maiden who knew not wedlock, at her supplications and those of your Apostles, give me redemption of offences and deliver me from the eternal punishment to come. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

**Canon for St. Nicholas.**

**Grave Mode.** *At dawn my spirit rises. (NM)*

*Verse: Bring more evils on them, O Lord, on the glorious of the earth* [SAAS]

The purposes of savage men, which are ever directed against us, render ineffectual, Father Nicholas, by your intercessions. [EL]

*Verse: O Lord, I remembered You in my hard circumstances. Your chastening to us was a small affliction.* [SAAS]

All-holy Nicholas, break open the bonds of our evils by your prayers, who bound the evil of the soul-destroying dragon. [EL]

*Verse: As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs, when she draws near the time of her delivery, so we became Your beloved.*

[SAAS]

We, who are ever slipping downwards of our own accord and are held by a multitude of dread deeds, have obtained you, Father Nicholas, as our most fervent defender. [EL]

*Verse: We shall not fall] but the inhabitants of the world shall fall.* [SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

Mary Mother of God, Lady of all creation, rescue my humble heart from the foe who shamelessly seeks to be its lord. [EL]

**Canon for the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.** *N/M (My Lord, You are the light.)*

*Verse: The dead shall rise up; and those in the tombs shall arise. Those in the earth shall be glad.*

[SAAS]

O God-bearing Fathers, you imbibed of the chalice of most eminent martyrdom while invoking the Name of the Lord in faith. [un]

*Verse: For your dew is a healing for them, but the land of the ungodly shall come to an end.* [SAAS]

O Basilefs, the one that was dead was resurrected through your prayers by He who alone can inspire new life into the slain. This caused your message to become even more radiant. [un]

Glory.

O Fathers, you mitigated the polytheistic oppression of the insanity of idolatry. You preached about the Son who is of the same eminence as the Father. [un]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O immaculate one, the people who understand that the Master of all has you as a mother are blessed. Their yearning for you causes them to name you as blessed. [un]

From Octoechos - - -

**Ode vi.**

**Canon for the Holy Apostles.**

**Grave Mode. Heirmos**

*Verse: Save us, O Lord, like You saved the Prophet Jonah.*

Sick on the rolling swell of the cares of this life, thrown overboard by the sins that sail with me and hurled to the soul-destroying beast, like Jonas I cry out to you, O Christ, 'Bring me up from this death-dealing deep'. [EL]

**Troparia.**

*Apostles of Christ, intercede for us.*

Having become divine Disciples of wisdom itself, they made foolish the wisdom of the Greeks, destroyed the false teacher of evil and as wise men enlightened those who were wandering lost in ignorance with the light of true religion. [EL]

*Verse: I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God, and He heard my voice.* [SAAS]

Having become divine Disciples of wisdom itself, they made foolish the wisdom of the Greeks, destroyed the false teacher of evil and as wise men enlightened those who were wandering lost in ignorance with the light of true religion. [EL]

*Verse: You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and rivers encompassed me.* [SAAS]

Of old you cleansed Peter's fault with tears, O Christ; at his prayers cleanse the numberless offences of my soul through your great compassion and your surpassing goodness. [EL]

*Verse: All Your surging waters and Your waves passed over me.* [SAAS]

Of old you took pity on the repentant Ninivites; through your Apostles have mercy too on me in your customary compassion; and do not cast me down beneath a multitude of punishments, O Redeemer, because of the multitude of my offences. [EL]

*Verse: Shall I again look with favor toward Your holy temple?' [SAAS]*

**Theotokion.**

Mother of the light, enlighten my soul, darkened by the passions, and entreat, with

Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs, that I may be delivered from every sin, every harm, every evil of the enemy. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

**Canon for St. Nicholas.**

**Grave Mode.** *Jonas from the bowels of Hell.* (NM)

*Verse: Water is poured over me to my soul; the lowest depth encircled me.* [SAAS]

You set at naught the unjust sentence of death, and by your compassion you saved those condemned to die, O Father, as the fervent defender of those who call on you. [EL]

*Verse: My head plunged into the clefts of the mountains. I descended into the earth, the bars of which are everlasting barriers.* [SAAS]

End the diseases of our souls and stop up the mouths which are opened in vain against those who love you, most holy Shepherd. [EL]

*Verse: Yet let my life ascend from corruption, O Lord, my God.* [SAAS]

With the medicine of your words you did away with the bitter pasture of the impiety of Arius, Holy Initiate, and you became a firm support of the Orthodox. [EL]

*Verse: May my prayer be brought to You, into Your holy temple.* [SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

All-pure, heal my wretched soul, incurably sick from the deceptions of life and floods of many sins. [EL]

**Canon for the Martyrs.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.** *N/M (The Church cries out.)*

*Verse:* Those who follow vanity and lies  
forsake their own mercy. [SAAS]

With commendation may we grant  
crowns to Agathodoros, Eugene, the great  
Basilefs, and the wise Elpidios. They are  
hierarchs and honorable Martyrs. [un]

*Verse:* As much as I vowed, I shall offer up to  
You, to You, the Lord of Deliverance. [SAAS]

O Martyrs full of wisdom, you were fed  
by the commands of the Holy Spirit. You  
founded rules of salvation for the disobedient.  
You caused them to piously come to the light.

[un]

Glory.

You nursed the peoples of several cities,  
but you were shepherds of a single people  
You were heirs of the holy city where the  
Martyrs live and serve God. [un]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O Virgin without any guilt, the Prophets  
foretold of you with their unclear messages,  
as did the Law which cast shadows of you.  
Your conception beyond of understanding  
delivered the world from destruction. [un]

**Heirmos.**

The Church cries out to You, O Lord my  
God, "With a voice of praise \* I will sacrifice to  
You, \* for I am cleansed of blood offered to the  
demons, \* cleansed by the blood that for the  
sake of mercy poured out from Your side." [SD]

**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 You are the King of peace and the  
savior of our souls, 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.)*

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

**Kontakion.**

**Mode pl. 4.** *N/M (O Planter.)*

O Ephraim, Basilefs, Eugene,  
Agathodoros, Capito, Aetherios and Elpidios,  
you were like unsetting stars of spiritual  
luminescence. You made those who were  
sleeping in the night of error to be sons  
of light, and you competed as invincible  
Athletes. [SD]

**Synaxarion.**

*From the Menaion.*

On March 7 we commemorate the holy  
Hieromartyrs Ephraim, Basilefs, Evgenios,  
Agathodoros, Elpidios, Capito and Aetherios,  
who were bishops of Cherson.

On this day Nestor and Arcadios, Bishops  
of Trimythous, died in peace.

On this day we also commemorate our  
devout father Paul the Simple.



On this day Saint Ephraim, Patriarch of Antioch, died in peace.

We also commemorate our devout father Laurence, founder of the holy Monastery of Phaneromeni on the island of Salamina.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

From Octoechos - - -

**CHOIR**

**Ode vii.**

**Canon for the Holy Apostles.**

**Grave Mode. Heirmos**

*Verse: Blessed are You, the God of our fathers.*

The Youths of old revealed the furnace that blazed with fire to be moist with dew, as they sang the praise of the one God and said, 'O highly exalted and highly glorified God of our Fathers'. [EL]

**Troparia.**

*Apostles of Christ, intercede for us.*

Of old you quenched the furnace of bitter godlessness with the dew of the divine proclamation, as you cried, glorious Apostles: Highly exalted God of our fathers, blessed are you! [EL]

*Verse: Blessed are You and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto the ages.* [SAAS]

Of old you quenched the furnace of bitter godlessness with the dew of the divine proclamation, as you cried, glorious Apostles: Highly exalted God of our fathers, blessed are you! [EL]

*Verse: For You are righteous in all You did for us, and all Your works are true. Your ways are upright, and all Your judgments are true.* [SAAS]

Christ the Word I beg you, snatch me from harsh sin, from punishment in Hell, from the pain of hell, and save me at the prayers of your Apostles. [EL]

*Verse: The judgments You made are true, according to all You brought on us.* [SAAS]

Disciples of Christ, as you caught mortals in the net of the word from the deep of ignorance, save me who am sunk and storm-tossed by unnumbered offences. [EL]

*Verse: And on Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers.* [SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

All-spotless, with Martyrs, Angels, Saints and Apostles, implore your Son and Lord that your servants may be saved from temptations, dangers and troubles. [EL]

From Octoechos - - -

**Canon for St. Nicholas.**

**Grave Mode. The Youths of old revealed. (NM)**

*Verse: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.* [SAAS]

Wise Hierarch you became an ornament of the Church: deliver me from all the disorder of disgraceful passions, ever pleading with the Benefactor of the whole world. [EL]

*Verse: Blessed is Your name and the temple of your glory, and You are praised exceedingly and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.* [SAAS]

With the showers of your intercessions, wise Nicholas, water the hearts of us all, that we may bear fruits worthy of repentance. [EL]



*Verse: You are blessed in the holy temple of Your glory, and are highly praised and exceedingly glorious unto the ages. [SAAS]*

By your intercessions make bright our thoughts, which rise early with faith, glorify God and hymn you, Nicholas, his true Hierarch. [EL]

*Verse: Blessed are You who behold the depths and sit upon the cherubim. You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages [SAAS]*

### **Theotokion.**

Every tongue glorifies you, Mother of God, pure and all-praised, who are revealed as the glory and boast of our race, and the guide of those who go astray. [EL]

### **Canon for the Martyrs.**

From Menaion ---

#### **Mode 4. N/M (Inside the furnace.)**

*Verse: Blessed are You on the throne of Your kingdom, and You are praised and exalted beyond measure unto the ages. [SAAS]*

O Father Capito, you joyously entered into the oven. Like the Three Youths, you were not burned. You caused those without belief to turn from the coming fire. You directed them to have faith when you performed your divine wonders. [un]

*Verse: Blessed are You in the firmament of heaven, for You are praised and glorified unto the ages. [SAAS]*

O holy Father Capito, you were neither intimidated nor fearful of the law. You were dressed in holy raiment. O blessed one, you carried fiery coals there. [un]

Glory.

O Capito, holy minister inspired by God, You buffeted against the power of foolishness.

You established the understanding of righteousness for everyone who had fallen into the abyss of empty living. [un]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O Maiden, the Word of God desired to reform all of mankind. He is together on one throne with the Father and with the Holy Spirit. He created Eve with his hand in the same way that He was given a beginning in your womb. [un]

### **Ode viii.**

From Menaion ---

#### **Canon for the Martyrs.**

#### **Ode viii. Mode 4. Heirmos.**

*Verse: O you works, to the Lord sing a hymn, and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.*

Daniel shut the lions' gaping mouths inside the den, of old, by stretching out his hands. \* The Servants girt themselves with virtue; \* and, as lovers of godliness, \* they put out the mighty fire \* in the furnace, and cried aloud, \* singing, "Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord." [SD]

### **Troparia.**

*Saints of God, intercede for us.*

O righteous Fathers, when you were slain by the suffering of the body, you became the reason of undying life for everyone that yielded to the dead gods. Those who received salvation with you always exclaim: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. [un]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

O you faithful, let us sing with one voice of Eugene, Agathodoros, Ephraim, Elpidios, Aetherios, Basilefs, and Capito. They

annihilated the adversary. They are hierarchs of Christ. To them we exclaim: Praise the Lord, all you works of the Lord. [un]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, you heavens of the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

O wise Father, upon giving joy to the nations by your instructions, you have gone on to the never-ending radiance and joy. You were given the prizes for your works. You exclaimed: Praise the Lord, all you works of the Lord. [un]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, all you waters above the heaven, all you powers of the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

O most blessed of mankind, because you now are clusters of the Vine of Life, you cause the wine of healings to constantly pour out. You cause the hearts of all the once who commend you with faith to be glad. These exclaim: Praise the Lord, all you works of the Lord. [un]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, you sun and moon, you stars of heaven, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

### **Theotokion.**

O pure Virgin, the One who is above all in His Essence was manifest as a man by being born of you. He is of two natures, energies, and wills. He willed to be shown to those whose image he took on. We exclaim to Him: Praise the Lord, all you works of the Lord. [un]

From Triodion - -

### **Canon 1 from the Triodion.**

#### **Ode viii. Mode 4. (NM)**

*In Thy wisdom, O Master.*

*Verse: Bless the Lord, all you birds of heaven, all ou wild animals and cattle, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

The whole earth is full of Thy praise, O Lord. For, inspired by God, the preaching of Thy divine disciples has been heard in every place, turning the world from the depths of ignorance to knowledge, as it sings aloud: O ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord. [KW]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, O children of men. Bless the Lord, O Israel, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

The God-given grace of repentance is made manifest, conferring salvation on those who gladly accept the sweat and labour of the ascetic struggle. Run to the master, then, my soul, and seek forgiveness for thy many trespasses. [KW]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, O priests of the Lord, O servants of the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages. [SAAS]*

The arena of God-given abstinence lies open before us: let us gladly enter there, for we are in need of mercy. In His compassion God thirsts for our salvation and He longs to grant forgiveness to those who seek Him with sincerity and serve Him with love. [KW]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, O holy ones and humble in heart,*

*and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages.*

[SAAS]

**Theotokion.**

O holy Theotokos, Queen who reignest over all, accept the supplications of thy servants: deliver me from darkness and the fire that never shall be quenched, and by thy mediation and thy divine intercession blot out the multitude of my offences. [KW]

**Canon 2 from the Triodion.**

**Ode viii. Mode 2. (NM) *The unwearied fire.***

*Verse: Bless the Lord, O Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishaël, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages.* [SAAS]

Christ gave you as a light to all the ends of the inhabited earth, O apostles, and He said: 'Go and teach the nations, that they may learn how in the flesh I lived with abstinence, trampling underfoot all the strength of the enemy and showing to mankind the straight path.' [KW]

*Verse: Bless the Lord, O Apostles, Prophets, and Martyrs, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages.* [SAAS]

Thou hast shown, O Christ, how abstinence leads men to cleansing and deliverance from the passions. For through it Thine apostles received Thy blessing and became shining lights upon the earth; and to all who sing God's praises they proclaimed the Lord as one in Essence but three in Persons.

[KW]

*Verse: We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we sing a hymn to Him and exalt Him beyond measure unto the ages.* [SAAS]

Ye were sent by Christ your Teacher, O disciples, as heralds to the nations, to enlighten their minds with God's teaching. Ye bade them abstain from food and passions, and so to learn that He is Lord and Creator and Benefactor of all. [KW]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Blessed is the womb of the Mother of God, for it has received the Word. Assuming man's form, He united to His person the material flesh He took from her, and so she was revealed as the City of God in which the Lord Most High was pleased to dwell. To her we cry aloud: Hail, pure Theotokos, full of grace! [KW]

*We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.*

**Heirmos. Mode 2.**

Fed with unending fuel, the fire \* that wearied not shuddered at the spotless bodies, \* adorned as were the souls, \* of the pious Servants and yielded to them. \* When the ever-living flame had shrunk away, \* they sang the hymn that henceforth was immortalized: \* O bless the Lord, all you His works, and sing a hymn to Him, \* and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages. [SD]

**DEACON**

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

**CHOIR**

**Ode ix.**

**Megalynarion. Mode 4.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From Menaion - - -

**Canon for the Martyrs.**

**Ode ix. Mode 4. Heirmos.**

A cornerstone was cut out without hands \* from a never-quarried mountain, \* which prefigured you, holy Virgin. \* The stone is Christ, who joined the disparate natures. \* As we rejoice because of this, O Theotokos, we magnify you. [SD]

**Troparia.**

*Saints of God, intercede for us.*

As we commemorate the holy memory of the holy Hieromartyrs, with a loud shout may all of us give reverence to them with holy songs, because they supplicate to the God of all mercies on our behalf. [un]

**Verse:** *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.* [RSV]

O holy Martyrs, you manifested as valuable stones pulled through dirt by those

without God. By the power of God you demolished the fortifications of falsehood. Therefore you deserved to be named as blessed. [un]

*Verse: And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.* [RSV]

On this day the city of Cherson commemorates your memory, because you demonstrated yourselves as her towers, holy buttresses and fortifications. You were her shepherds, instructors, and intermediaries blessed by God. [un]

*Verse: As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old. That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us.* [RSV]

Eugene, Ephraim, Capito, Elpidios, Aetherios, the glorious Basilefs, and Agathodors of a godly mind, who are a chorus of Fathers, are already added to the choruses of Angels. [un]

*Verse: To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant.* [RSV]

### **Theotokion.**

The Maiden who was given grace by God, as she cradled Christ in her arms, this Christ who Himself holds everything in His own hand, she exclaimed in wonder: How can I understand You to be both my Son and my Creator, You who are beyond understanding? [un]

From Triodion - - -

### **Canon 1 from the Triodion.**

**Ode ix. Mode 4. (NM) For He that is mighty.**

*Verse: The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, be[ing] delivered from the hand of our enemies.* [RSV]

As lights that never fail ye were sent out into the world, delivering men from the depths of sin. With joy we sing in praise of Christ, who gave you the strength to be His apostles. [KW]

*Verse: [That we] might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.* [RSV]

O wise apostles, Christ sent you out as salt into a world that had lost its savour and grown foolish. Bringing it back to understanding, ye teach it the knowledge of God, and we praise you in faith. [KW]

*Verse: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.* [RSV]

I am beset by a multitude of grievous sins: in tears I fall before Thee, Christ, begging Thee to grant me a chance to gain forgiveness during the season of the Fast. [KW]

*Verse: To give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God.* [RSV]

### **Theotokion.**

God has appointed thee, pure Virgin, as helper of mankind: never cease to intercede before Him urgently on behalf of us and all the faithful. [KW]



**Canon 2 from the Triodion.**

**Ode ix. Mode 2. (NM)** *Thou hast enclosed.*

*Verse: When the day shall dawn upon us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.* [RSV]

Strengthened by fasting, the choir of the apostles shone with divine radiance upon the whole inhabited earth, giving light to the world. [KW]

*Verse: To guide our feet into the way of peace.* [RSV]

O Jesus who lovest mankind, the choir of Thy disciples has taught the nations to treasure the riches of abstinence. [KW]

Glory.

As a twelve-stringed harp, the company of Thy disciples calls men to the riches of abstinence and the wellspring of salvation. [KW]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

In thy womb thou hast carried God made man, and thou art a fountain of life for all the world. We sing thy praises, O most holy Virgin. [KW]

**Heirmos. Mode 2.**

You have contained within your womb \* God whom nothing can contain; \* to the joy of the world you have given birth. \* We sing praises to you, all-holy Virgin. [SD]

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

From Horologion - - -

**Exaposteilarion.**

**Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.**

O Apostles of the Master, \* by your preaching of the Gospel, \* from the ocean of deception \* you drew the whole world to the light. \* Cease not in your intercessions \* on our behalf with the Savior. [SD]

**Another.**

**Mode 3. Having embellished heaven.**

O holy twelve-numbered unit, \* the glory of all Apostles, \* we pray you join St. Nicholas \* that holy bishop of Myra, \* and never cease your entreaties \* on our behalf to the Savior.

[SD]



**Theotokion.**

**Mode 3.** *Having embellished heaven.*

O Lady, refuge of Christians, \* cease not imploring Christ your Son \* with St. Nicholas that famous \* bishop, and pray on the behalf \* of us, your unworthy servants, \* that we obtain joy eternal. [SD]

**READER**

**Lauds.** *(read)*

**Psalm 148.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light. Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name, for He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created. He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps, Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word, mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds, kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth, young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted; His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people, a hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him. [SAAS]

**Psalm 149.**

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones. Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King. Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him; for the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation. The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds; the high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand, to deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples, to shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to fulfill among them the written judgment: This glory have all His holy ones. [SAAS]

**Psalm 150.**

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power; praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre; praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute; praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Alleluia. [SAAS]

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

**Doxology** *(read)*

To you belongs glory, O Lord our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Glory

to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, and we thank you, for your great glory. Lord, King, Heavenly God, Father Almighty; only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God, the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, you who take away the sins of the world. Accept our supplication, you who sit at the right of the Father, and have mercy on us. For you are the only Holy One, you are the only Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day I shall bless you, and I shall praise your name forever, and unto the ages of ages. Lord, you have become for us a refuge from generation to generation. I have said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. Lord, to you I have fled; teach me to do your will, for you are my God. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we shall see light. Extend your mercy to those who know you. Grant, O Lord, that in this day we may be kept without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is your name unto the ages. Amen. Let your mercy, Lord, come upon us, just as we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, O Master, make me understand your commandments. Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy remains forever, do not turn away from the works of your hands. To you belongs praise, to you belongs a hymn, to you belongs glory, to the Father and the Son and

the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**DEACON**

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

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

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

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

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

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

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha. From the Triodion.**

From Triodion ---

**Idiomelon. Mode 3.**

The glory of the Fast has shone upon us, putting to flight the darkness of the demons. The solemn time of abstinence has come,

bringing with it healing for the passions of our soul. Protected by it, Daniel shut the mouths of lions, and the Children in Babylon quenched the flame of the furnace. Through fasting save us also with them, Christ our God, in Thy love for mankind. [KW]

**Verse:** *I lift my eyes to You, who dwell in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the maidservant look to the hands of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God until He shall have compassion on us.* [SAAS]

The glory of the Fast has shone upon us, putting to flight the darkness of the demons. The solemn time of abstinence has come, bringing with it healing for the passions of our soul. Protected by it, Daniel shut the mouths of lions, and the Children in Babylon quenched the flame of the furnace. Through fasting save us also with them, Christ our God, in Thy love for mankind. [KW]

**For the Martyrs.**

**Mode 3.**

**Verse:** *Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we are greatly filled with contempt; our soul is greatly filled with it. We are a disgrace to those who prosper, and a contempt to the arrogant.* [SAAS]

Having fought the good fight, holy Martyrs, after death also you shine out like beacons in the world; and so, as you have boldness, implore Christ to have mercy on our souls. [EL]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 3.**

O Theotokos, holy among women, \*  
Mother unwedded, \* intercede with the King

and God whom you bore, \* that He save us as  
the Lover of man. [SD]

**PRIEST**

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

**READER**

**Trisagion Prayers.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PRIEST**

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

(Amen.)

**CHOIR**

**Apolytikion.**

From Horologion - - -

**Mode 3.**

O holy Apostles, make intercession to  
our merciful God, that He grant our souls  
forgiveness of offenses. [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

**Mode 3.**

Everyone, wherever he is saved, rightly  
runs to you for refuge. Who else can protect us  
like you, O Theotokos? You are the shelter 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 our brethren: the  
priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the  
monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

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

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace,  
health, salvation, protection, forgiveness,  
and remission of the sins of the servants of  
God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing  
and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the

members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

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

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

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

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

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

**PRIEST**

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

*(Amen.)*

**DEACON**

Wisdom.

*(Father, bless!)*

**PRIEST**

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.  
*(Amen.)*

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

**READER**

Amen.

*Then we begin the First Hour, saying: "Come let us worship..."*

*or:*

**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.

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

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

**PRIEST**

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (local patron saint); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

*(Amen.)*