

## THE VIGIL SERVICE

DECEMBER 26, 2011 [JANUARY 8, 2012]: THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 5

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY KINSMEN OF THE LORD IN THE FLESH: JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

*Deacon:* Arise. Bless, O Lord.

*Priest:* **G**lory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-creating and Indivisible Trinity, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Clergy:* O come, let us worship our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

### VESPERS

THE PROEMIAL PSALM [VERSES FROM PSALM 103, WITH REFRAINS]

*Choir:* **B**less the Lord, O my soul.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

O Lord, my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Confession and majesty hast Thou put on.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Upon the mountains shall the waters stand.

How wondrous are Thy works, O Lord.

Between the mountains will the waters run.

How wondrous are Thy works, O Lord.

How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who hast created all!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who hast created all!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

### THE GREAT LITANY

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For them that travel by sea, land and air, for the sick, the afflicted, for captives, and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### ANTIPHON FROM FIRST KATHISMA [VERSES FROM PSALMS 1 - 3]

*Choir:* **B**lessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is the Lord's: Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Three times*)

#### THE LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is the dominion, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### LORD, I HAVE CRIED [VERSES FROM PSALMS 140, 141, 129 AND 116 WITH HYMNS OF THE DAY]

*Choir:* **L**ord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; hearken unto me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; attend to the voice of my supplication when I cry unto Thee: hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice; hearken unto me, O Lord.

*Reader: **Bring my soul out of prison***

*Choir: **that I may confess Thy Name.***

*[Resurrection]*

Thou hast shamed the devil with Thy precious Cross, O Christ, and Thou hast blunted the sting of sin by Thy Resurrection, and Thou hast saved us from the gates of death. We glorify Thee, O only-begotten Son.

*Reader: **The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.***

He Who granted mankind the Resurrection was led like a lamb to the slaughter; the princes of hell trembled before Him, the gates of tears were lifted up: for Christ the king of glory entered in, declaring to those in bonds: "Go forth," and to those in darkness: "Show yourselves."

***Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.***

What a mighty wonder! In His love for mankind, the Maker of things invisible suffered in the flesh and He Who was immortal rose. Come and worship Him, ye kindreds of the nations; let us, delivered indeed from beguilement by His compassion, learn to sing the praises of the only God in three Persons.

***Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.***

*[Nativity of Christ]*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, telling of this present mystery: The middle wall of partition hath been demolished, the fiery sword is removed, the cherub withdraweth from the gate of life, and I partake of the food of paradise, from whence I was driven away because of disobedience; for the immutable Image of the Father, the Image of His eternity, doth assume the guise of a servant, issuing forth from the Mother who knew not wedlock, without undergoing change, yet He remained what He was before, our true God; and He hath received what He was not, becoming man in His love for mankind. To Him let us cry aloud: O God Who wast born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!

***If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.***

When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all things were enlightened; for when the shepherds piped, the magi offered homage and the angels sang, Herod was troubled, for God appeared in the flesh, the Savior of our souls.

***For Thy Name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.***

Thy kingdom, O Christ God, is a kingdom of all the ages, and thy dominion is for all generations. O Christ God Who wast incarnate by the Holy Spirit and became man through the Ever-virgin Mary, Thou hast shone forth Thine advent upon us as light. O Light from Light, Effulgence of the Father, Thou hast illumined all creation. Every creature that hath breath praiseth Thee, the Image of the glory of the Father. O Thou Who art and ever shall be, O God Who hast shone forth from the Virgin: Have mercy upon us!

***From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.***

What shall we offer thee, O Christ, in that Thou hast appeared on earth as a man for our sake? For every creature fashioned by Thee offereth Thee thanksgiving: the angels, hymnody; the heavens, a star; the magi, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder; the earth, a cave; the wilderness, a manger; and we, the Virgin Mother. O God Who hast existed from before time, have mercy upon us!

***For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.***

*[The Kinsmen of the Lord]*

Let us all praise King David, the ancestor of God, for from him sprang forth the rod of the Virgin, and from her blossomed the Flower, even Christ, Who hath called forth Adam and Eve from corruption, in that He is full of lovingkindness.

***O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye peoples.***

In old age Joseph the betrothed beheld the things foretold by the prophets clearly fulfilled, having received a strange betrothal and a revelation from angels that cry, Glory to God, Who was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave.

***For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.***

Let us all praise the brother of God, for he is a holy hierarch that shone forth nobly also in martyrdom, through whose prayers do Thou save all that sing to Thee, O Jesus, our God, Who was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

Let us celebrate the memory of the pious David and James, king and prophet, apostle and first bishop; and, delivered from deception by their teachings, let us glorify Christ, Who shone forth from the Virgin and became incarnate to save our souls.

*Choir: **both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

*[Resurrection Theotokion]*

The image of the unwedded Bride was once inscribed in the Red Sea: there, Moses parted the waters; here, Gabriel was the servant of the wonder. Then, Israel rode dry-shod through the deep, while now the Virgin has without seed given birth to Christ. After the passing of Israel, the sea was as ever impassable; after the birth of Emmanuel, the Virgin without reproach remains uncorrupt. Thou, O God, Who art now and hast ever been, Who hast appeared as man, have mercy on us.

## THE SMALL ENTRANCE

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Upright.

## EVENING SONG TO THE ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

*Choir:* **O** joyous Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: we that come to the setting of the sun, when we beheld the evening light, praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with gladsome voices, O Son of God, Giver of life. Therefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Deacon:* Wisdom. The prokimenon is in the sixth tone:

***The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.***

*Choir:* The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

*Deacon:* ***The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girded Himself.***

*Choir:* The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

*Deacon:* ***For He established the world which shall not be shaken.***

*Choir:* The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

*Deacon:* ***Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forever.***

*Choir:* The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

*Deacon:* ***The Lord is King,***

*Choir:* He is clothed with majesty.

## THE AUGMENTED LITANY

*Deacon:* Let us say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy:

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; and for all our brethren in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy orthodox patriarchs, and for the pious kings and faithful queens, and for the founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and for all the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins for the servants of God, our brethren of this holy Temple.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for them that bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that labor and them that sing, and for all the people here present that await Thy great and abundant mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Reader:* Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, grant me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes. O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. Unto Thee is due praise, unto Thee is due song, unto Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

#### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* An Angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* For things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art a gracious God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* Blessed and glorified be the dominion of Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE APOSTICHA HYMNS OF THE DAY

*[Resurrection]*

*Choir:* We lift up our voices in song to magnify Thee, O Savior, Christ incarnate yet never parted from heaven, for Thou Lord, Who lovest mankind, hast suffered the Cross and death for the sake of our kind and, casting down the gates of hell, Thou hast risen on the third day and thereby saved our souls.

*Reader:* ***The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.***

O Giver of life, Thy pierced side poured streams of remission, life and salvation upon us all. By taking upon Thyself death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality and, taking up Thy abode in the tomb, Thou hast set us all free and as God Thou hast raised us up with Thee in glory. Therefore, we cry aloud: "Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who lovest mankind."

***For He established the world which shall not be shaken.***

O Thou, Who lovest mankind, strange are Thy crucifixion and Thy descent into hell. For after despoiling it and raising up with Thyself as God in glory those who were in times of old held captive there, Thou hast opened Paradise and vouchsafed that it let man enter. Therefore, cleanse us, who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, from sin and vouchsafe that we too may dwell in Eden: for Thou alone art merciful.

***Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forever.***

O Thou, Who for our sakes hast accepted suffering in the flesh and hast risen on the third day from the dead, heal the passions of our flesh and raise us from our grievous iniquities and save us: for Thou alone lovest mankind.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

***[The Kinsmen of the Lord]***

Thy birthgiving hath become the memorial of priests, the dominion and gladness of kings, O Lover of mankind, and, rejoicing therein, we say, Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name!

***Choir: both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

***[Nativity of Christ]***

Today is the invisible Nature joined to man through the Virgin. Today is the infinite Essence wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem. Today by a star doth God lead the Magi to worship, foretelling His three-day burial, as it were, in their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. To Him let us sing: O Christ God, Who didst become incarnate of the Virgin, save Thou our souls!

#### SONG OF SAINT SYMEON

***Reader: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all the peoples: a light of revelation for the nations, and the glory of Thy people Israel.***

#### THRICE-HOLY, TO "OUR FATHER"

***Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (Three times)***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

***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 ever, and unto the ages of ages.***

***Choir: Amen.***

#### *Troparion of Christmas, tone 4*

**Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of reason upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee. ***(Twice)*****

#### *Troparion of the holy Kinsmen of God in the flesh, tone 2*

**O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ god to save our souls.**

**Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. ***(Three times)***  
***(Psalm 33 is omitted in many parishes)*****

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

#### PSALM 33

**I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. The poor**

man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you His Saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord come upon you, by His grace and love for mankind, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## MATINS

### THE SIX PSALMS

*Reader:* **G**lory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. *(Three times)*

**O** Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. *(Twice)*

#### PSALM 3

**O** Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me, many say to my soul: "There is no salvation for him in his God". But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me roundabout. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who, without cause, are mine enemies; the teeth of the sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

#### PSALM 37

**O** Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath, for Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath, and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen up higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My wounds are become foul and rotten in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face, for my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and deceit all day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth; and I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live, and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They, that rendered me evil for good, slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me; be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me, be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

#### PSALM 62

**O** God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn; my soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy Name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee, for Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee, for Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

**G**lory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

**G**lory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

#### PSALM 87

**O** Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear before my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life to hell hath drawn nigh. I am counted with

them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves; I have been delivered up, and have not come forth. Mine eyes are grown weak from poverty; I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Wilt Thou work wonders for the dead? or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to Thee? shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Why, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me; they came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances, because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear before my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious to all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His way known to Moses, to the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Magnanimous and merciful is the Lord, long suffering and plenteous in mercy. Not to the end will He be angered, neither to eternity will He be wroth; not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon those that fear Him. For He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth; for when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him; and His righteousness is upon the sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in Heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath set me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord the way wherein I should walk, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me, in Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies; and Thou shalt cut off all of them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

THE GREAT LITANY

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For them that travel by sea, land and air, for the sick, the afflicted, for captives, and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### GOD IS THE LORD

*Deacon:* In the fifth tone:

**G**od is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

***O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***All the nations compassed me round about, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***The stone that the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

#### *Resurrection troparion, tone 5*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection. *(Twice)*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***Troparion of the holy Kinsmen of God in the flesh, tone 2*

**O** Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ god to save our souls.

**both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

*Troparion of Christmas, tone 4*

**T**hy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of reason upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

## THE KATHISMA (READINGS FROM THE PSALTER)

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

*Reader:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(A psalm is read)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

*Choir:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

*Reader:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(A psalm is read)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

*Choir:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

*Reader:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(A psalm is read)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

## THE LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is the dominion, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## SESSIONAL HYMN I

*[Resurrection]*

*Reader:* We praise the Cross of the Lord, we honor in song His sacred tomb and we glorify the Resurrection, for as God He raised up the dead from the tomb, stripped death of its power and the devil of his strength, and shone forth light upon those in hell.

**Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.**

**O** Lord, Who didst put death to death, Thou wast called dead. Thou Who hast emptied the tombs wast placed in a tomb. Above, the soldiers guarded the grave; below, Thou didst raise up them that were dead from ages past. O Almighty and Incomprehensible Lord, glory be to Thee.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

O impassable gate of the Lord, do thou rejoice. Rejoice, O rampart and shelter for them that hasten to thee. Tranquil haven and pure Maiden who didst not know man and who didst bear in the flesh thy Creator and thy God, rejoice; and cease not to pray Him, making entreaty for them that worship and praise Him that was born of thee.

SESSIONAL HYMN II

*Reader:* O Lord, after Thy resurrection on the third day and the worship of the apostles, Peter cried out to Thee: "The women showed courage, but I was afraid. The thief uttered theology, but I denied Thee. And dost Thou now call upon me to be Thine apostle still? Or wilt Thou show me again to be a fisher of the deep? Yet do Thou accept me, who repent, O God, and save me!"

***I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.***

O Lord, the iniquitous nailed Thee in the midst of condemned criminals, and pierced Thy side with a spear, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept burial, Who broke down the gates of hades, and didst rise again on the third day. The women hastened to behold Thee, and announced Thine arising to the apostles. O supremely exalted Savior, Whom the angels hymn, O blessed Lord, glory be to Thee!

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

O Theotokos, unwedded Bride, who hast transformed the grief of Eve into joy, we, the faithful, hymn and bow down before thee, for thou hast led us out of the ancient curse. And now, pray thou unceasingly, O most hymned and all-holy one, that we be saved.

EVLOGITARIA (HYMNS) OF THE RESURRECTION

*Choir:* ***Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.***

The assembly of the Angels was amazed to see Thee accounted among the dead, Thou Who hadst destroyed the might of death, O Savior, and didst raise up Adam with Thyself, and Who hadst freed all men from hell.

***Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.***

Why do you mingle myrrh with tears of compassion, O ye women disciples? The radiant Angel in the grave addressed the myrrh-bearing women: "Behold the tomb and exult, for the Savior hath arisen from the grave."

***Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.***

At early morn, the myrrh-bearers hastened to Thy grave with lamentation; but the Angel came to them and said: "The time for sorrow is ended; weep ye no longer. And tell the Apostles of the Resurrection".

***Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.***

The myrrh-bearing women came with myrrh to Thy tomb, O Savior, and they heard the Angel saying to them: "Why do ye count the Living among the dead? For, as God, He is risen from the grave.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

Let us worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in essence, crying out with the Seraphim: "Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord".

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

By giving birth to the Giver of life, O Virgin, thou didst rescue Adam from sin, and thou didst grant Eve joy instead of sorrow; for He, Who was incarnate of thee, God and Man, guided back to life him that had fallen away therefrom.

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Three times)***

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

ΥΠΑΚΟΕ

*Reader:* The myrrh-bearing women, their minds dazzled by the sight of the angel and their souls enlightened by Thy divine Resurrection, preached the good tidings to the apostles: "O spread among the nations the news of the Resurrection of the Lord, He Who works wonders and grants us His great mercy."

*(In most parishes only one of the three “hymns of ascent” is said)*

HYMNS OF ASCENT

ANTIPHON 1

When I am filled with sorrow, I sing unto Thee like David, O my Savior: Deliver my soul from a lying tongue.

Blessed is the life of those in the wilderness, who soar aloft on wings of love divine.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

By the Holy Spirit are sustained all things, visible and invisible; for, Himself possessed of dominion, He is truly One of the Trinity.

ANTIPHON 2

Ascend into the mountain, O my soul and go thither from whence cometh our help.

Let Thy right hand, which toucheth me, O Christ, preserve me from all deception.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Theologizing concerning the Holy Spirit, let us say: Thou art God, Life, Love, Light and understanding! Thou art Goodness and Thou reignest forever!

ANTIPHON 3

Full of great Joy, I send up supplications for those who have said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

Awesome things are wrought in the house of David; for there is found the fire which burneth up every shameful thought.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

To the Holy Spirit, by Whom every living thing is made animate, is due the dignity of the Bestower of life, as to the Father and the Word.

THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

*Deacon:* Let us attend. Wisdom. Let us attend.

The prokimenon is in the fifth tone:

***Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand, for Thou shalt reign for ever.***

*Choir:* Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand, for Thou shalt reign for ever.

*Deacon:* ***I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will recount all Thy marvelous works.***

*Choir:* Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand, for Thou shalt reign for ever.

*Deacon:* ***Arise, O Lord my God, lift up Thine hand,***

*Choir:* for Thou shalt reign for ever.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For holy art Thou, O our God, who retest in the holies, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* ***Let every breath praise the Lord.***

*Choir:* Let every breath praise the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.***

*Choir:* Let every breath praise the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***Let every breath***

*Choir:* praise the Lord.

*Deacon:* And that we may be deemed worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us beseech the Lord God.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Priest:* The reading is from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*(John 20:11-18)*

*Priest:* **At that time, Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her: "Woman why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away", she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman", He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said: "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." Jesus said to her: "Mary!" She turned toward Him and cried: "Rabboni!", which means Teacher. Jesus said: "Do not touch Me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them: 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that He said these things to her.**

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

HYMN TO THE RESURRECTION

*Choir:* **Let us, who have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, worship our holy Lord Jesus, Who is alone without sin. We bow down before Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy Resurrection. For Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee, and we call upon Thy Name. Come, all ye faithful, let us bow down before Christ's holy Resurrection, for behold, through the Cross joy hath come to the whole world. Forever blessing the Lord, we praise His Resurrection. He endured the Cross for us, and by death destroyed death.**

PSALM 50

*(Omitted in most parishes)*

*Reader:* **Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.**

*Choir:* ***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

**By the intercessions of the Apostles, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.**

***both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

**By the intercessions of the Birthgiver of God, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.**

***Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy bounties, blot out my transgression.***

**Jesus, having risen from the grave as He had foretold, has granted us life everlasting and great mercy.**

*Deacon:* **Save, O God, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; visit Thy world with mercy and bounties; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies: by the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the venerable, heavenly Bodiless Powers; by the supplications of the venerable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, the great Hierarchs and universal Teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our Fathers among the Saints Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the wonder-worker, and Spyridon, bishop of Trimythun; of our Fathers among the Saints, wonder-workers of all Russia and Hierarchs Peter, Alexis, Jonah and Philip; of our Fathers among the Saints John the wonderworker of Shanghai, San Francisco and all America; *(other Hierarchs among the Saints [especially Russian] may be mentioned here)*; of the holy Equal-to-the apostles Methodius and Cyril, evangelizers of the Slavs, prince Vladimir, evangelizer of Russia, Nina, evangelizer of Georgia and Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow and evangelizer of America; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Martyrs; of the Great-martyrs George, Panteleimon, Catherine, Barbara and Tatiana; of the holy Hierarchs Tikhon, Nicholas and all the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia; *(here other Martyrs may be mentioned)*; of the venerable Sergius of Radonezh and Seraphim of Sarov, the wonderworkers of all Russia and Herman of Alaska, wonderworker of all America; *(here other holy Monks may be mentioned)*; the holy righteous Father John of Kronstadt, wonderworker of all Russia and Xenia of St. Petersburg; *(here other Saints may be mentioned ad lib.)*; of the holy kinsmen of the Lord: righteous Joseph the betrothed, David the king and James the brother of the Lord; hieromartyr**

Euthymius, bishop of Sardis; venerable Constantine of Synnada; venerable Evaristus of the Studion monastery; hieromartyr Constantius the Russian; new hieromartyrs presbyters Alexander (Volkov) and Demetrius (Chistoserdov); new monk-martyr Issacius II of Optina: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, O greatly merciful God, hearken unto us sinners, who pray to Thee, and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

*Priest:* By the mercy and bounties and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## THE CANON

*(The canon is presented in full here. In most parishes a certain number of troparia is omitted in each canticle and the katavasia is sung at the end of canticles 3,6,8 and 9 only.)*

### CANTICLE 1

*[Resurrection]*

*Choir:* Christ breaking the battle with His right arm shook horse and rider into the Red Sea while He saved Israel, singing a triumphal song.

*Reader:* ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

The thorny assembly of the Jews, devoid of maternal love for Thee, their Benefactor, O Christ, crowned Thee with thorns, Who lifted the thorny sentence of our first father.

***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Bending down, O Bestower of life, Thou raised me up who had fallen into the pit; and having endured my fetid corruption without partaking thereof, O Christ, Thou hast made me fragrant with the myrrh of the divine Essence.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

The curse hath been annulled; grief hath ceased! For she who is blessed and full of grace hath shone joy forth upon the faithful, causing Christ to blossom forth as a blessing upon all the ends of the earth.

*[Nativity of Christ]*

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

Man fell from the divine and better life: though made in the image of God, through transgression he became wholly subject to corruption and decay. But now the wise Creator fashions him anew: for He has been glorified.

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

The Creator, when He saw man perishing, whom He had made with His own hands, bowed the heavens and came down; and from the diving and pure Virgin did He take all man's substance, being made truly flesh: for He has been glorified.

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

Wisdom and Word and Power, Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; and unknown to the powers both above and upon the earth, He was made man, and so has won us back again: for He has been glorified.

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

Plainly foreshadowed by the burning bush that was not consumed, a hallowed womb has borne the Word. God is mingled with the form of mortal man, and so He looses the unhappy womb of Eve from the bitter curse of old. We men give Him glory.

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

A star showed plainly to the Magi the Word that was before the sun, Who has now come to make transgression cease. They saw Thee wrapped in swaddling clothes, within a poor and lowly cave, Who sharest all our sufferings, and in joy they gazed upon Thee, Who art at once both man and Lord.

*[The Kinsmen of the Lord]*

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

As many as celebrate the natal festivities of Him Who became incarnate for our sake, let us hymn with joy James, the brother of God, and David, the forefather of God.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

The choirs of angels stood before Joseph in Bethlehem, saying: Glory to God in the highest! With them let us hymn Him Whose good pleasure it was to become incarnate.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

O David, thou forefather of God, calling the righteous James, with harps hymn thou the Lord, Who is incarnate of the root of Jesse.

*both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

To Thee shall I sing, O Lord my God, for Thou wast born of the holy Virgin Mother and hast shown her to be the hope of our souls.

*[Katavasia (Nativity of Christ)]*

*Choir:* Christ is born, give ye glory. Christ comes from heaven, meet ye Him. Christ is on earth be ye exalted. O all the earth, sing unto the Lord, and sing praises in gladness O ye people, for He has been glorified.

CANTICLE 3

*Choir:* By Thine command hast Thou set the earth up on nothing and hast hung it while its weight drags it down irresistibly: do Thou establish Thy Church upon the immovable rock of Thy commandments, O Christ, Thou Who alone art good and lovest mankind.

*Reader: Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.*

They who sucked honey from a rock when Thou didst work a miracle in the desert, O Christ, gave Thee gall to eat; the ungrateful children of Israel gave Thee vinegar in return for manna, repaying thus Thy benefactions.

*Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.*

They who of old were covered by the cloud of light placed Christ, our Life, in the tomb; yet He hath arisen through His own power and from on high hath given to all the faithful the effulgence of the Spirit, which mystically overshadoweth them.

*Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.*

Thou, O Mother of God, gavest birth without knowing union, and without the pangs of motherhood, unto Him Who shone forth from the incorrupt Father; wherefore, in Orthodox manner we proclaim thee the Theotokos, for thou gavest birth unto the incarnate Word.

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

Adam, though formed from dust, shared in the higher breath of life; yet through the beguilement of a woman he slipped and fell into corruption. But now, beholding Christ born of a woman, he cries aloud, "O Thou who for my sake hast become as I am, holy art Thou, O Lord."

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

O Christ, who hast made Thyself in the form of a creature of vile clay, by Thy sharing in that which is worse, even our flesh, Thou has made us partakers in the divine nature; for thou has become mortal man, yet still remainest God. Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

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

Be glad, O Bethlehem, for thou art Queen among the princes of Judah; for from thee comes forth, before the sight of all, the shepherd who tends Israel, He that is seated upon the Cherubim, even Christ. He has raised up our horn and reign over all.

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

The choir of shepherds abiding in the fields was overwhelmed by the strange sight that they were counted worthy to behold: for they looked upon the all-blessed Offspring of the all-pure Bride; and they saw also the ranks of bodiless Angels who sang in praise of Christ the King, incarnate without seed.

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

He Who rules the heights of heaven, in His compassion has become such as we are, born of a Maiden who has not known man. The Word, Who before was wholly outside matter, in these last times has assumed the material substance of the flesh so that He might draw unto Himself fallen Adam, the first-formed man.

*Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.*

With the angels let us all hymn Christ God, Who, without seed, hath been born in the flesh of the Virgin, crying aloud: Glory to God in the highest!

*Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.*

O ye faithful, with David and James let us honor with hymns, as is meet, the most jubilant feast of Him that emptied Himself for our sake.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

Like a bridegroom from a bridal chamber will the Lord come forth from His Mother's womb! Thus said David, whom, with James, let us now hymn.

*both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

Let us honor Mary, the Theotokos unwedded, for the Sun of righteousness hath shone forth upon us for her sake.

*Choir:* To the Son who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God let us cry aloud: Thou has raised up our horn, holy are Thou, O Lord.

## THE LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Kontakion of Nativity of Christ, tone 3*

*Choir:* Today the Virgin gives birth to Him Who is above all being, and the earth offers a cave to Him Whom no one can approach. Angels with shepherds give glory; and Magi journey with a star . For our sakes a young Child is born, He Who existed before the ages as God.

*Ikos*

*Reader:* Bethlehem has opened Eden: come, and let us see. We have found joy in secret: come, and let us take possession of the paradise that is within the cave. There the unwatered Root has appeared, from which forgiveness flowers forth: there is found the undug Well, whence David longed to drink of old: there the Virgin has borne a Babe, and made the thirst of Adam and David to cease straightway. Therefore, let us hasten to this place where now is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God.

## SESSIONAL HYMN

*[The Kinsmen of the Lord]*

Right fittingly let us hymn the righteous Joseph, the betrothed of the Virgin, with James and David; for, having trod the righteous path, they have attained unto the mansions of heaven, and joining chorus with the angels as is meet, they beg remission of sins for us.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

*[Nativity of Christ]*

The Virgin hath given birth to the Creator of all things, and the magi come to worship Him in the flesh. Men and angels render glory; the cave and the manger offer gifts, lauding Him Who hath been newly born as a babe, the pre-eternal God!

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

The choir of prophets doth divinely celebrate the wonder which took place within thee, O Virgin; for thou didst give birth to God incarnate upon earth. Wherefore, angels and shepherds chant, and the magi and Joseph sing of the wonders to David, the forefather of God.

## CANTICLE 4

*Choir:* Habakkuk, having foreseen and understood Thy divine self-emptying, O Christ, cried to Thee in fear: "Unto the salvation of Thy people hast Thou come to save Thine anointed."

*Reader:* ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

O Good One, with a tree Thou didst sweeten the bitter waters of Marah, prefiguring Thine all-precious Cross, which doeth away with the taste of sin.

***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

O my Savior, Thou didst receive a Cross in exchange for the tree of knowledge and gall for sweet food, and thou didst pour forth Thy divine blood for the corruption of death.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

Without physical joining thou didst incorruptibly conceive within thy womb, and gavest birth without pain; and having given birth unto God in the flesh, thou wast preserved a virgin even after birthingiving.

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

O Christ, whom Jacob foretold in days of old, calling Thee the Expectation of the nations, Thou hast shown forth from the tribe of Judah, and Thou hast come to plunder the strength of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria, turning their error into faith beautiful to God. Glory to Thy power O Lord.

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

O Master who hast risen as a Star out of Jacob, Thou hast filled with joy the watchers of the stars, who interpreted wisely the words of Balaam, the soothsayer of old. As the first fruits of the Gentiles were they led unto Thee, and Thou has openly received them, as they brought Thee acceptable gifts. Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

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

As dew upon the fleece hast Thou descended into the womb of the Virgin O Christ, and as drops of rain that fall unto the earth. Ethiopia and Tarshish and the Isles of Arabia, the kings of Saba of the Medes and all the earth, fell down before Thee, O Savior. Glory to Thy power O Lord.

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

Of Thine own will, O Most High, Thou hast come forth equal to mortal men, taking flesh from the Virgin, to purge the poison of the serpent's head. God by nature, Thou ledest all from the gates that know no sun to the life-giving Light.

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

O ye people that before were sunk in corruption, but now have escaped wholly from the perdition of the adversary, lift up your hands and clap them in songs of praise, honoring Christ alone, our Benefactor, Who in His compassion is come into our midst.

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

O Virgin, sprung from the root of Jesse, thou hast passed beyond the boundaries of human nature, for thou hast borne the pre-eternal Word of the Father. According to His good pleasure, by a wondrous self-emptying, He passed through thy womb, yet kept it sealed.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

With the Magi let us worship Him that hath been born; and with the angels and Joseph let us join chorus, crying aloud in godly manner: Glory to Christ God in the highest!

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Christ, Who reigneth over all kings and Who hath been born in the flesh of the seed of David, hath accepted James, His chosen brother, as it was His good pleasure so to do.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

The Lord God, Who appeared in the flesh through the Virgin, hath glorified your memorials together, O James, chosen of the apostles, and David most blessed, ye holy ones.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Rejoice, O Theotokos unwedded, thou who dost surpass the ranks of the cherubim, having given birth in the flesh unto God Who is borne upon thine arm.

*Choir:* Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, Thou hast sprung from the Virgin. From the Mountain overshadowed by the forest Thou hast come, made flesh from her that knew not wedlock, O God who art not formed from matter. Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

#### CANTICLE 5

*Choir:* Unto Thee, clad in light as in a garment, do I come right early in the morning, and I cry to Thee: "Enlighten my darkened soul, O Christ, as Thou alone art compassionate."

*Reader:* ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Of His own will the Lord of glory hangeth ignominiously upon the Tree in inglorious form, ineffably taking thought of divine glory for me.

***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Having tasted of the corruption of death in the flesh without suffering corruption, O Christ, Thou didst clothe me in incorruption, having shone forth from the tomb on the third day.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

Having seedlessly given birth for us to Christ, our righteousness and deliverance, O Theotokos, thou didst rid the nature of our first father of the curse.

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

Obedient to the decree of Caesar, Thou wast enrolled among his servants, O Christ, and Thou hast set us free who were servants of the enemy and of sin. Sharing wholly in our poverty, Thou hast made our clay Godlike through Thy union and participation in it.

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

Lo, the Virgin, as it was said in days of old, has conceived in her womb and brought forth God made man; and she has remained still a Virgin. Reconciled to God through her, let us sinners sing her praises, for she is verily the Birthgiver of God.

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

The Master, by His coming in the flesh, has cut clean through the harsh enmity of the flesh against Him, and has destroyed the might of the murderer of our souls. Uniting the world to the immaterial essences, He has made the Father merciful to the creation.

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

The people that before walked in darkness this day have a light from the beacon on high. The Son offers to God the nations as His inheritance, bestowing grace past telling where sin once flourished more abundantly.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Glory to Thee! Glory to Thee, O God incarnate, Whose good pleasure it was to take flesh of the pure Virgin! did Joseph cry aloud.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Glory to Thee! Glory to Thee, O Jesus, Son of God, Who wast born of the Virgin and hast rendered the memory of David and James illustrious!

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

Jesus, the Son of God, Whom the prophet David, by divine inspiration, called Rain upon the fleece, hath James preached.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Unable to keep silent, creation doth offer thee the angel's salutation, O Virgin: Rejoice, O pure Mother of Jesus, the Son of God!

*Choir:* As Thou art God of peace and Father of mercies, Thou hast sent unto us Thine Angel of great counsel, granting us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God, and watching by night we glorify Thee, O lover of mankind.

## CANTICLE 6

*Choir:* Make still, O Christ Master, the sea of the passions raging with rough water that destroys the soul, and lead me up from corruption, as Thou art compassionate.

*Reader:* ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

The progenitor of our race stumbled headlong into corruption, having tasted of the forbidden food, O Christ our Master; but he hath been led up to life, through Thy suffering.

***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Thou, O our Life, didst go down into hades, and having become corruption for the corrupter, O Christ our Master, Thou didst pour forth resurrection through corruption.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

The Virgin gave birth, and having given birth hath remained pure. The Virgin Mother hath truly borne in her arms Him Who holdeth all things.

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

Christ our God, whom the Father begat from the womb before the morning star, has come, made flesh; and He who holds the reins of the undefiled powers is laid in a manger of dumb beasts. He who looses the tangled cords of sin is wrapped in swaddling rags.

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

From the substance of Adam, a young child, a Son is born and given unto the faithful. He is the Father and the Prince of the Age to Come, and He is called the Angel of great counsel, He is the mighty God and he holds in His dominion the creation

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

God the Word, Who was in the beginning with God, seeing our nature powerless to guard unharmed its ancient fellowship with Him, now grants it a new strength: abasing Himself, in a second act of fellowship He makes it once again free from the passions.

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

For our sakes He has come forth from the loins of Abraham, to raise up as His sons those who were sadly fallen into the darkness of sin that bowed them down to the earth; and He that dwells in light has now been pleased, despite His high dignity, to dwell in a manger for the salvation of mankind.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Awe-struck, the heavenly hosts stood before the cave and, unable to keep silent, hymned Thy most pure nativity, chanting: Glory in the highest to the newborn God!

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Upon Thy throne hast Thou sat, as Thou didst swear unto the prophet David, O Master, Who camest forth from the fruit of his loins; and unto James didst Thou commit the throne of the Church, O Christ.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

David the king is shown to be a wondrous prophet and forefather of the incarnation of God; and James, the disciple of Jesus, is shown forth as the first bishop.

**both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

We beseech thee, O Virgin Theotokos: In behalf of thy servants entreat thou Him that was incarnate of thee, for we know thee to be our sole intercessor.

*Choir:* The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb; while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh, came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt. For being Himself not subject to decay, He preserved His mother free from harm.

## THE LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Kontakion of the holy Kinsmen of God in the flesh, tone 3*

*Choir:* Godly David on this day is filled with gladness of spirit; Joseph also joineth James in offering glory and praises. They rejoice, for as Christ's kinsmen, they have received crowns: and they praise the One ineffably born upon earth as they cry out with a great voice: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee."

*Ikos*

*Reader:* The Incorporeal One is, through the ineffable Counsel, born in the flesh; He Who is uncontainable is now contained in a body and doth preserve both essences immutably; He Who is without beginning and Who alone is beyond time doth take on a beginning; an Infant of surpassing perfection is beheld; He Who beareth all things is borne in arms. Wherefore, as God, He doth crown through His birth those who are honored by their kinship with Him, and, glorifying them with faith, we cry out unceasingly: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee."

## CANTICLE 7

*Choir:* The Most High Lord of our fathers put out the flame and sprinkled the Children with dew, as they sang with one accord: "Blessed art Thou, O God."

*Reader:* **Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.**

Clad in flesh like bait on a hook, by Thy divine power thou didst draw the serpent down, leading up those who cry: Blessed art Thou, O God!

**Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.**

The Infinite One, Who brought the immense structure of the earth into being, in the flesh is covered in the tomb. Unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

**Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.**

O most immaculate one, thou gavest birth to the incarnate God, one Hypostasis in two natures, unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

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

The shepherds abiding in the fields received a vision of light that filled them with terror. For the glory of the Lord shone around them and an angel cried aloud: "Sing praises, for Christ is born. O God of our fathers, blessed art thou"

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

At the word of the angel, the hosts of heaven suddenly cried aloud: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men; Christ has shone forth. O God of our fathers, blessed art thou"

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

"What are these tidings?" said the shepherds. "Let us go and see this thing which is come to pass even Christ our God." And coming to Bethlehem, they worshipped with her who had given Him birth. O God of our fathers, blessed art thou"

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

The seething and roaring furnace, heated sevenfold, in its fury burnt up the servants of the king, but spared the Children: for as the flame encircled them, the Lord, rewarding their godliness, shed upon them abundant dew.

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

O Christ, our Defender, Thou hast put to shame the adversary of man, using as shield Thine ineffable incarnation. Taking form, Thou hast now bestowed upon man the joy of becoming godlike: for it was in hope of this that of old we fell from on high into the dark depths of the earth.

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

Thou hast overthrown by Thine almighty power the fierce sin that raised its head in wanton pride, and raged with blasphemy throughout a world gone mad. Those, whom in times past it dragged down, today Thou hast delivered from its snares, O Benefactor, Who of Thine own will hast taken flesh.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Amazed beyond words by the birthgiving of Mary, the Theotokos, the angelic choirs cried out to Joseph: Glory in the highest, and on earth peace!

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

David, the leader of the bride, and James, who was the chamberlain of the divine Church, did say: O God, Who hast become incarnate for our sake, blessed art Thou!

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

O thou who wast a king among prophets and a prophet among kings, chant thou with the divinely wise James and lift thy voice in song for us: O Christ, Who wast incarnate for our sake, blessed art Thou!

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Prefigured in the unconsumed bush and in the bedewed furnace, O Mother most pure, thou didst bear without seed God incarnate, O ever blessed one.

*Choir:* Scorning the impious decree, the Children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire, but standing in the midst of the flames, they sang: "O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou."

## CANTICLE 8

*Choir:* The Children in the furnace, weaving a song in the furnace for Thee, the Creator of all, sang: "O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him above all for ever."

*Reader:* ***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Thou didst pray concerning Thy voluntary and saving passion as though it were a cup which Thou didst not desire; for Thou bearest two wills, according to each of Thy two natures, O Christ, forever.

***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

At Thine all-accomplishing descent, O Christ, hades, mocked, spewed forth all whom it had lured by deceit into death from of old, and they exalt Thee supremely for all ages.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

All of us, the works of the Lord, bless and supremely exalt thee for all ages, as her who, in manner past understanding, gave birth to the Lord as God and man at the word of the archangel, and doth remain a virgin.

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

The daughter of Babylon once led captive from Zion the children of David, whom she had taken with the sword: but now she sends her own children, the Magi bearing gifts, to entreat the daughter of David in whom God came to dwell. Therefore in praise let us sing, let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

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

Sorrow silenced the harps of the children of Zion, for they sang not among strangers; while Christ, shining forth in Bethlehem, destroys all the error of Babylon and all the music from her instruments. Therefore, in praise let us sing: Let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

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

Babylon despoiled Zion the Queen and took her wealth captive. But Christ by a guiding star drew to Zion the treasures of Babylon, with her kings who gazed upon the stars. Therefore in praise let us sing, let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

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

Shunning the guilt of its vain attempt to become as God, the whole creation sings, like the three Children, in praise of the eternal Word, Who now empties Himself; yet it sings with trembling, afraid to bring a prayer unacceptable to God, for it is subject to decay, even though the divine Wisdom maintains it ever in being.

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

Thou hast come, O Resurrection of the nations, to bring back the nature of man from its wanderings, leading it from the hills of the wilderness to a pasture rich in flowers. Do Thou destroy the violent strength of the murderer of man, O Thou Who in Thy providence hast appeared as man and God.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Christ incarnate, Whom the hosts of heaven have glorified, doth Joseph the betrothed unceasingly hymn, chanting: All ye works of the Lord, hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Christ incarnate, Whom David the forefather of God foretold, James preached to the people, crying out: All ye works of the Lord, hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

***Let us bless the Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,***

Christ, Who was born of the Virgin and Who hath exalted the sacred memory of David and James, in that they are His friends, do ye hymn, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt supremely for all ages!

***now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Christ the King, to Whom Mary the Theotokos hath given birth for us, remaining a pure Virgin even after her birthgiving, hymn, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt supremely for all ages!

***Choir: We praise, bless and worship the Lord, hymning and exalting Him above all unto all the ages.***

The Offspring of the Birth-giver of God saved the holy children in the furnace. He Who was then prefigured has since been born on earth. and He gathers together all the creation to sing: "O ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

#### CANTICLE 9: THE SONG OF THE BIRTHGIVER OF GOD

***Deacon:*** Let us magnify with hymns the Birthgiver of God and Mother of the Light.

***Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***For he hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***For the Mighty One hath done great things to me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***He hath showed strength with His arm, He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them that are lowly; He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent away empty.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***He hath helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy, as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

#### CANTICLE 9

***Choir: Be of good cheer, O Isaiah, the Virgin has held in her womb and borne a Son, Emmanuel, Who is both God and man, and Orient is His name; magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.***

***Reader: Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

Thou didst take up fallen man, O Christ, through the Virgin's womb uniting Thyself wholly unto him without partaking of the least sin; and by Thine all-pure sufferings Thou didst free him wholly from corruption.

***Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord.***

By the divinely flowing blood poured forth from Thine all-pure and life-creating side, O Christ our Master, the sacrifices of the idols were brought to an end, and the whole earth offereth Thee the sacrifice of praise.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

It is not the incorporeal God nor a simple man whom the pure and undefiled Maiden brought forth, but a perfect Man and the truly perfect God. Him do we magnify with the Father and the Spirit.

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

The Magi, beholding the strange course of an unknown and newly shining star that exceeded the brightness of all heavenly light, learnt thereby that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.

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

"Where is the newborn Child and King, whose star we have seen?" the Magi said, "For we are come to worship Him." Herod, the enemy of God was troubled and in his wild madness, he plotted how to kill Christ.

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

Herod inquired what time the guiding star appeared, which brought the Magi to Bethlehem, there to worship Christ with gifts. Let back to their own land by that same star, they returned not to Herod, but mocked the wicked slayer of children.

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

We have seen, O pure Mother, the dim images (*types*) and the vanished shades (*prophecies*) of the Word; and now that He has newly appeared from the closed gate, we who are counted worthy to behold the Light of truth, as is meet and right, bless thy womb.

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

The people that delights in Christ has attained its desire, being counted worthy of the coming of God; and now they humbly pray for the regeneration that gives life. O undefiled Virgin, grant them the grace to worship Christ in His glory.

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

With trembling doth all creation minister unto Him that hath been born of the Virgin: the heavens with a star; the earth with a manger; the mountain with a cave; the Magi with gifts; the shepherds with wonder; and the angels with the hymn, Glory to God in the highest!

***Holy kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us.***

Of old was David chosen king from amongst the shepherds; and from the royal tribe of Judah art thou, O James. Thou art shown to be a shepherd of the flock of the Incarnate One, the Lamb, the Son of God Most High.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

Be glad now, O Bethlehem, having become the city of the new David! O Zion, thou citadel of the Churches, exult now, taking up the common celebration of the King of all and His favored ones.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

The assemblies of angels glorify thee, O Theotokos, and the human race doth unceasingly honor thee with hymns, for by thy divine birthing hast thou united the earthly to the heavenly. Wherefore, we do thee honor.

*Choir:* A strange and most wonderful mystery do I see: the cave is heaven; the Virgin is the throne of the Cherubim; the manger a room, in which Christ, the God whom nothing can contain, is laid. Him do we praise and magnify.

#### THE LITTLE LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For all the Hosts of the Heavens praise Thee, and unto Thee do they send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* Holy is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* ***Holy is the Lord our God.***

*Deacon:* For holy is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* ***Holy is the Lord our God.***

*Deacon:* Above all people is the Lord our God.

*Choir:* ***Holy is the Lord our God.***

## EXAPOSTILARION

*[Resurrection]*

*Reader:* Seeing two Angels inside the tomb, Mary was struck with wonder and, not knowing Christ and supposing Him to be the gardener, she asked Him: "Where, O Lord, hast thou laid the body of my Jesus?" And, recognizing by His call that He was the Savior Himself, she heard: "Touch me not; tell the brethren that I go to My Father."

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

*[The Kinsmen of the Lord]*

Let us hymn David, the forefather of God, and divine Joseph, the betrothed of the Theotokos, with James, the glorious brother of God, for, with the angels, the Magi and the shepherds, they ministered in godly manner at the divine nativity of Christ in the city of Bethlehem, chanting a hymn unto Him as God and Master.

***Both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

*[Nativity of Christ]*

Our Savior, the Dayspring from the East, has visited us from on high, and we who were in darkness and shadow have found the truth: for the Lord is born of the Virgin.

## THE LAUDS [VERSES FROM PSALMS 148, 149 AND 150 WITH HYMNS OF THE DAY]

*Choir:* Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the Heavens, praise Him in the highest. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him all ye His Angels; praise Him all ye His Hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God.

*Reader:* ***To do among them the judgment that is written.***

*Choir:* ***This glory shall be to all His saints.***

*[Resurrection]*

After the tomb was sealed by the evildoers, Thou, Lord, didst proceed from it, just as Thou didst come forth from the Virgin. Thy bodiless angels had no knowledge of the manner of Thine Incarnation, neither were the watch who guarded Thee aware of the moment of Thy Resurrection. For both the one and the other were concealed from those who questioned these things, but were made manifest as miracles to those who acclaimed with faith the Mystery. Grant us, who praise it, joy and great mercy.

*Reader:* ***Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.***

After breaking the eternal chains and bursting the bonds asunder, Thou didst rise, O Lord, from the tomb, leaving Thy burial clothes behind Thee as witness to Thy having been truly buried for three days; and Thou, Who wast in the cave with a guard watching over Thee didst go forward into Galilee. Great is Thy mercy, O Savior Who art beyond understanding: have mercy on us.

***Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.***

The women, O Lord, hastened to the tomb, so as to see Thee, O Christ, Who suffered for us; and when they reached it they found an angel seated upon the stone, who cried out to them as they started back with dread: "The Lord is risen; tell the disciples that He is risen from the dead, saving our souls."

***Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the psaltery and harp.***

As Thou didst go forth from the sealed tomb, so didst Thou, O Lord, enter when the doors were closed and stand in the midst of Thy disciples, showing them the marks of Thy passion, O long-suffering Savior. Born of the seed of David, having endured the stripes, Thou as Son of God hast set the world free. Great is Thy mercy, O indescribable Lord: have mercy on us.

***Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.***

*[Nativity of Christ]*

Make glad, O ye righteous; greatly rejoice O ye heavens; ye mountains dance for joy. Christ is born; and like the Cherubim the Virgin makes a throne, carrying at her bosom, God the Word made flesh. Shepherds glorify the newborn Child, Magi offer the Master gifts. Angels sing praises, saying: "O Lord past understanding, Glory to Thee."

***Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.***

O Birthgiver of God, Virgin who hast born the Savior, thou hast overthrown the ancient curse of Eve. For thou hast become the mother of Him in whom the Father was well pleased, and hast carried at thy bosom God the incarnate Word. We cannot fathom this mystery: but by faith alone we all glorify it, crying with Thee and saying, O Lord past all interpretation, Glory to Thee.

***From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee: the Lord hath sworn and will not repent.***

O come, let us sing the praises of the mother of the Savior, who after bearing child still remained Virgin. Rejoice, thou living city of God the King, in which Christ hast dwelt bring to pass our salvation. With Gabriel we sing Thy praises; with the shepherds we glorify Thee, crying, O Birthgiver of God, intercede for our salvation with Him who took flesh from thee.

***The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand.***

It was the good pleasure of the Father, the Word became flesh, and the Virgin bore God made man. A star spreads abroad the tidings, the Magi worship, the shepherds stand amazed, and the creation is filled with mighty joy.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,***

*[The Kinsmen of the Lord]*

Blood and fire and clouds of smoke are the wonders which Joel foresaw on earth. The blood is the Incarnation; the fire is the Godhead; the clouds of smoke are the Holy Spirit, Who descended upon the Virgin and hath made the world fragrant. Great is the mystery of Thine Incarnation! O Lord, glory be to Thee!

***Choir: both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

*[Resurrection Theotokion]*

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Birthgiver of God; for by Him, Who was incarnate of Thee, hell was taken captive, Adam was recalled, the curse was annulled, Eve was freed, death was put to death, and we were brought to life. Therefore, with hymns we cry aloud: Blessed is Christ God, Who hast been thusly well pleased. Glory be to Thee.

#### THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

***Priest:*** Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the light.

***Choir:*** **G**lory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, by reason of Thy great glory: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: Thou, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Thou, that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou, that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name for ever, yea, for ever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God, for in Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light. Continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

#### TROPARION

Today is salvation come unto the world. Let us sing to Him, Who arose from the grave, and Who is the Author of our life. For, destroying death by death, He granted us the victory and great mercy.

#### THE AUGMENTED LITANY

***Deacon:*** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy:

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

***Deacon:*** Furthermore we pray for our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; and for all our brethren in Christ.

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

***Deacon:*** Furthermore we pray for the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation.

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

***Deacon:*** Furthermore we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

***Deacon:*** Furthermore we pray for this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country.

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

***Deacon:*** Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy orthodox patriarchs, and for the pious kings and faithful queens, and for the founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and for all the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

***Choir:*** Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins for the servants of God, our brethren of this holy Temple.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for them that bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that labor and them that sing, and for all the people here present that await Thy great and abundant mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* An Angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For a God of mercies and compassions and love for mankind art Thou, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is to have mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Choir:* Father, bless.

*Priest:* Blessed is He that is, even Christ our God, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

O God, make steadfast the holy Orthodox Faith of the Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

*Priest:* Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

*Choir:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

*Choir:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

Father, bless.

*Priest:* **M**ay He Who arose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother; of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy kinsmen of the Lord: righteous Joseph the betrothed, David the king and James the brother of the Lord; hieromartyr Euthymius, bishop of Sardis; venerable Constantine of Synnada; venerable Evaristus of the Studion monastery; hieromartyr Constantius the Russian; new hieromartyrs presbyters Alexander (Volkov) and Demetrius (Chistoserdov); new monk-martyr Issacius II of Optina: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy new martyrs and confessors of Russia; 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.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Reader:* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

*[Resurrection]*

The tears of Mary, warmly shed, are not in vain. For behold, she was held worthy of the angels' teaching and vouchsafed the sight of Thee Thyself, O Christ. But again her thoughts were earthly thoughts, as those of a weak woman. Therefore, she was dismissed and told not to touch Thee, O Christ. But she was also sent as herald to the disciples, and she affirmed to them the good tidings proclaiming the Ascension to the portion with the Father. With her do Thou also make us worthy of Thy manifestation, O Master and Lord.

### THE FIRST HOUR

*Reader:* **O** come, let us worship our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and God.

*(One psalm is said in most parishes, usually psalm 100)*

#### PSALM 5

Unto my words give ear, O Lord; hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee, nor shall transgressors abide before thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee, for in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulcher, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall ever rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in thee that love Thy name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

#### PSALM 89

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. Before the mountains came to be and the earth was formed and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting art Thou. Turn man not away unto lowliness; yea, Thou hast said: 'Turn back, ye sons of men.' For a thousand years in Thine eyes, O Lord, are but as yesterday that is past, and as a watch in the night. Things of no account shall their years be; in the morning like grass shall man pass away. In the morning shall he bloom and pass away, in the evening shall he fall and grow withered and dry. For we have fainted away in Thy wrath, and in Thine anger have we been troubled. Thou has set our iniquities before Thee; our lifespan is in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are faded away, and in Thy wrath are we fainted away; our years have, like a spider, spun out their tale. As for the days of our years, in their span shall they be threescore years and ten. And if we be in strength, mayhap fourscore years; and what is more than these is toil and travail. For mildness is come upon us, and we shall be chastened. Who knoweth the might of Thy wrath? And out of fear of Thee, who can recount Thine anger? So make Thy right hand known to me, and to them that in their heart are instructed in wisdom. Return, O Lord; how long? And be Thou entreated concerning Thy servants. We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants and upon Thy works, and do Thou guide their sons. And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hands do Thou guide aright upon us, yea, the works of our hands do Thou guide aright.

#### PSALM 100

Of mercy and judgment will I sing unto Thee, O Lord; I will sing and have understanding in a blameless path. When wilt Thou come unto me? I have walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house. I have no unlawful thing before mine eyes; the workers of transgression I have hated. A crooked heart hath not cleaved unto me; as for the wicked man who turned from me, I knew him not. Him who slandered his neighbor in secret did I drive away from me. With him whose eye was proud and his heart insatiate, I did not eat. Mine eyes were upon the faithful of the land, that they might sit

with me; the man that walked in the blameless path, he ministered unto me. The proud doer dwelt not in the midst of my house; The speaker of unjust things prospered not before mine eyes. In the morning I slew all the sinners of the land, utterly to destroy out of the city of the Lord all them that work iniquity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Resurrection troparion, tone 5*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, Who is co-beginningless with the Father and the Spirit, and Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation; for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

*Troparion of the Nativity of Christ, tone 4*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of reason upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

**both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

What shall we call thee, O thou who art full of grace? Heaven, for from thee shone forth the Sun of righteousness? Paradise, for thou hast budded forth the Flower of immortality? Virgin, for thou hast remained undefiled? Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thy holy embrace thy Son, Who is God of all? Beseech him that our souls be saved.

My steps do Thou direct according to Thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing Thy glory and Thy splendor all the day long.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*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 ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

*Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ, tone 3*

Today the Virgin gives birth to Him Who is above all being, and the earth offers a cave to Him Whom no one can approach. Angels with shepherds give glory; and Magi journey with a star. For our sakes a young Child is born, He Who existed before the ages as God.

Lord, have mercy. *(Forty times)*

PRAYER OF "THE HOURS" BY SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners, Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by their array, we may attain to the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

In the Name of the Lord, father bless.

*Priest:* God, be bountiful unto us and bless us, show us the light of Thy countenance and have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Amen.

*Priest:* **O** Christ, the true Light, Which illumines and sanctifies every man who comes into the world, let the light of Thy countenance be impressed upon us, so that in it we may see the unapproachable Light; and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Thy commandments, through the intercessions of Thine all-pure Mother and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

*Choir:* To thee, the Champion Leader, we dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Birthgiver of God. But as thou art one with might that is invincible, deliver us from all dangers, that we may cry to thee: "Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded."

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

*Choir:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Father, bless.

*Priest:* **May** Christ our true God, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen. Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*