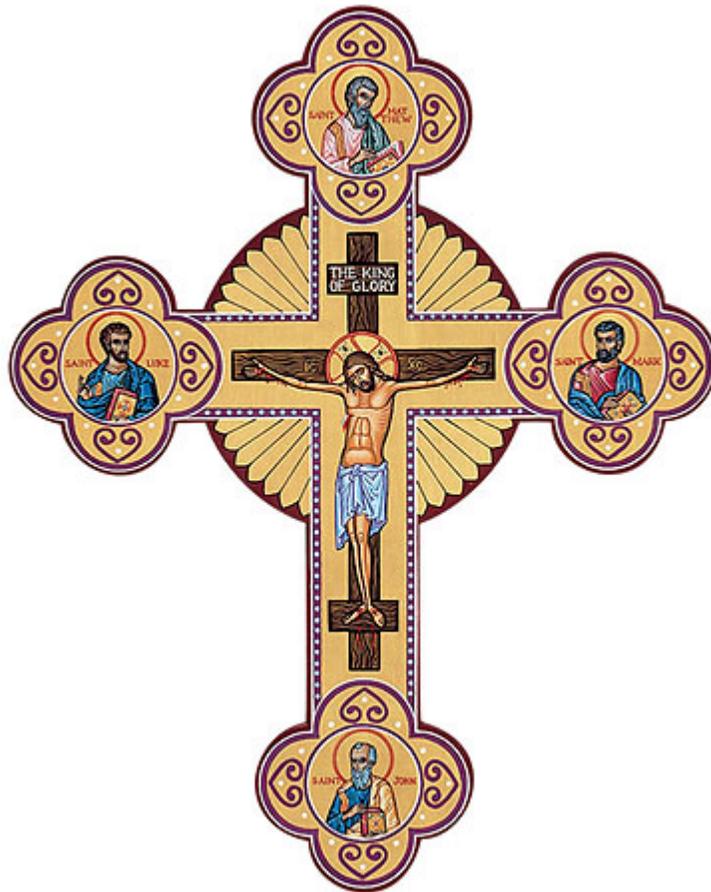


PRESANCTIFIED
LITURGY
FIFTH WEDNESDAY
OF LENT



**VESPERS WITH THE DEVINE LITURGY
OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS**

PRIEST: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

READER: Amen.

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

PSALM 103/104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! Clothed in pomp and brilliance, arrayed with light as with a cloak, stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth, establishing your lofty halls on water. You make the clouds your conveyance, you surge on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, and flaming fires your attendants.

You settled the earth on its foundation: it shall stand unmoved from age to age. The abyss covered it like a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke, they take to flight, at the peal of your thunder, they flee. They hurdle the hills and run down the dales to the place you have chosen for them. You have set up a boundary not to be passed: they shall never return to cover the earth.

Down in the gullies, you make springs to rise; waters shall flow between the mountains. They shall give drink to the beasts of the field; wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst. The birds of the sky shall abide by them; from among the rocks, they will raise their song. From your lofty halls you refresh the hills; the earth shall be fed with the fruit of your works.

You make green pastures for the cattle and food-plants for the service of man, so that bread may be drawn from the earth, and wine that gladdens the heart of man; so that oil may put a gleam on his face, and that bread may strengthen the heart of man. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. Sparrows shall build their nests in them, herons shall call them their home. To the deer belong the high mountains; to rodents, the shelter of the rock.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows the time of its setting. You establish darkness, and it is night, wherein the forest creatures prowl. Young lions roar for their prey, and call out to God for their meat. As the sun rises, they will come together, and lay themselves down in their dens. Man will go out to his labor, and work until eventide.

How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all. The earth is filled with your creatures, even the wide and open sea. Within it are countless creeping things, living beings small and large. Upon it there are ships a-sailing, and the great beast you made to have fun. All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. You provide and they gather up; you open your hands, and they are full. You hide your face, and they cringe; you suspend their breath, and they die and return to their dust. You send forth your breath, and they live; you renew the face of the earth.

May the Lord's glory endure forever, may the Lord rejoice in his works. He looks upon the earth, and makes it quake; he touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, I will praise my God as long as I last. Would that my thoughts be pleasing to him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. May the sinners vanish from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows the time of its setting. You establish darkness and it is night.

How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God. (2)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God. O Lord our hope, glory to you.

THE GREAT LITANY OF PEACE

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For heavenly peace and the salvation of our souls let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For peace in the whole world, the stability of God's Holy Churches and for the oneness of all, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy house, and all who enter it with faith, reverence and godly fear, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our Archbishop Gerasimos, the worthy priesthood, the deacons in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our country, the President, and all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For temperate weather, abundance of the goods of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For those who travel, by land, sea and air, for those who are sick or suffering or in captivity, and for their safekeeping, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That we may be spared all affliction, violence, danger and want, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

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

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

THE PRAYER OF THE FIRST ANTIPHON

PRIEST: *(inaudibly)* Gracious and merciful Lord, forbearing and generous in Mercy, hear our prayer and heed the voice of our entreaty. Give us a sign of Your favor. Lead us in Your way, that we may walk in Your truth; gladden our hearts , that we may be in awe of Your holy name, for You are great in the wonders You perform . You alone are God, and among all deities none is Your like, O Lord: mighty in mercy and benevolent in Might, helping and comforting and saving all who trust in Your holy name.

PRIEST: For all glory, honor and worship are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

*After which the gates of the **Royal doors are closed** and the Reader reads the eighteenth division of the Psalter.*

*While the first stasis of the Kathisma is being read, the **Priest, making three deep prostrations, opens the Tabernacle** (Artophorion) and censing the gifts, he places the paten (diskarion) on the **open antimension** on the Holy Altar. With great reverence he places a "Lamb" upon it. **Then, covering it with the veil**, and led by the censer, he **proceeds to the Prothesis**.*

*There he **pours wine and water into the chalice** in the usual way, covers it with the second veil, then both vessels with the aer. These actions are accompanied simply by the "Through the prayers of the Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us " **When the Presanctified Gifts have been covered, he proceeds to the Little Synapte**, or short petition.*

THE FIRST SETTING

PSALM 119/120

In my distress, I cried out to the Lord, and he answered me. O Lord, save me from lying lips, and from a treacherous tongue. What shall be given you and what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue? The sharpened arrows of a warrior with firebrands made of the broom tree. Woe is me that my exile has been so long; that I have set up tent in the camp of Kedar. Too long have I stayed among those who hate peace. I was peaceable, but when I spoke to them, they warred against me without cause.

PSALM 120/121

I lifted up my eyes to the hills whence help shall come to me. My help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not suffer your foot to stumble; nor shall the Guardian fall asleep. Behold, he will neither sleep nor slumber, the Watcher over Israel. The Lord will keep watch over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not scorch you by day, nor shall the moon fail you by night. The Lord will preserve you from every evil, the Lord will safeguard your life. The Lord will guard your coming and your going henceforth and for evermore.

PSALM 121/122

I was happy when they said to me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Our feet stood within your courts, Jerusalem, Jerusalem built as a city whose people are as one. For there did the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord as it was decreed to Israel to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there have been placed thrones for judgment, thrones for the house of David. Pray, then, for the peace of Jerusalem, and may prosperity be with those who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity upon your towers. For the sake of my brethren and my

friends, I have indeed asked peace for you; for the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I have earnestly sought your good.

PSALM 122/123

I have lifted up my eyes to you who dwell in heaven. As the eyes of the servants are on the hands of their masters, as the eyes of a maid are on the hands of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God until he has mercy on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for we have had more than our fill of contempt: yes, our soul has been more than glutted. May disgrace fall on the prosperous, and contempt on the proud.

PSALM 123/124

Had not the Lord been with us, let Israel now say, had not the Lord been with us at the time men rose against us, truly, they would have swallowed us alive when their fury was inflamed against us; truly, the water would have drowned us, the torrent would have swept over us . Truly, the raging waters would have overwhelmed us. Blessed be the Lord who has not abandoned us as prey to their teeth. Like a bird of passage we were rescued from the fowler's net. The snare was tom asunder, and we escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (3)

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

DEACON: Again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

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

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

THE PRAYER OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) O Lord, do not rebuke us in Your anger; do not chastise us in Your wrath; but deal with us according to Your loving kindness, as Healer and Physician of our souls. Guide us to the harbor of Your will; enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know Your truth; and grant that the rest of this **evening/day** may be peaceful and without sin, as may our whole life, through the prayers of the Theotokos and of all the saints.

PRIEST: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

THE SECOND SEITING OF THE PSALTER

PSALM 124/125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Sion which cannot be moved, which shall stand forever. Mountains are all around Jerusalem, as the Lord is around his people, now and forever. For the Lord will not

let the scepter of the wicked rule over the land of the just, lest the just themselves apply their hands to iniquities. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those whose heart is upright. But those who stray into crooked ways, the Lord will expel with evildoers. Peace upon Israel!

PSALM 125/126

When the Lord returned the captives of Sion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing. Then it was said among the Gentiles, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us: we have been made to rejoice. O Lord, return our captives as streams return to the south. Those who weep as they sow shall rejoice as they reap. Though they went forth shedding tears as they scattered their seeds, they shall return rejoicing, bearing with them their sheaves.

PSALM 126/127

Unless the Lord build the house, in vain do the builders toil; unless the Lord guard the city, in vain does the watchman keep watch. In vain do you rise early: you get up after rest only to eat the bread of grief, for he provides for his beloved while they sleep. Behold, the Lord's inheritance is his children, and his reward, the fruit of the womb. As arrows in the hand of a mighty warrior, so are the children of the exiles. Blessed the man who will be able to fill his quiver with them: they shall never be put to shame when they meet their foes at the gates.

PSALM 127/128

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You shall eat of your hand's labor: blessed are you, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your house: your children like olive shoots around your table. Behold, in this way shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Sion,

and may you see the wealth of Jerusalem all the days of your life. And may you see your children's children. Peace upon Israel!

PSALM 128/129

Often have they assailed me since my youth: let Israel say it! Often have they assailed me since my youth, but they have not prevailed over me. The wicked plowed my back: they increased their iniquity. But the righteous Lord has cut asunder the neck of the sinners. Let them all be confounded and turned back, those who hate Sion: let them become like grass on the house-tops which withers before it can sprout; with which the reaper fills not his hand, nor the binder of sheaves his arms, while those who pass by do not say, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you!" We have blessed you in the name of the Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (3)

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

DEACON: Again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, o God, in Your grace.

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

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

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

PRAYER OF THE THIRD ANTIPHON

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners and Your unfit servants, even as we call upon Your holy name; and do not put us to shame for having placed our hope in Your mercy; but grant, O Lord, all that we ask for our salvation; and make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart, and in all things to do Your will.

PRIEST: For You are a good and loving God, and to You we offer the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

THE THIRD SEITING OF THE PSALTER

PSALM 129/130

Out of the depths I have cried out to you: Lord, Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my plea. If you retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who can stand? With you there is forgiveness. For your name's sake, O Lord, I have waited for you. My soul has waited for your promise, my soul has hoped in the Lord. My soul has trusted in the Lord, from the morning watch till night. Let Israel hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love and in him is full redemption, and he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

PSALM 130/131

O Lord, my heart is not uplifted, nor are my eyes upraised. I have not busied myself with lofty pursuits, nor with wonders too great for me. If I have failed to remain humble, but instead have exalted my soul, as a weaned child is treated by its mother, so will you deal with my soul. Let Israel hope in the Lord, henceforth and forever.

PSALM 131/132

O Lord, remember David and all his forbearance, how he swore to the Lord, and made a vow to the God of Jacob: "I will not enter the tent, my abode, nor get up on the couch of my repose; I will give no sleep to my eyes, nor to my eyelids any slumber, nor to my temples any rest, until I find a place for the Lord, a tabernacle for the God of Jacob." Behold, I have heard of it in Ephrata: we found it in the forest clearings. Let us enter into his tabernacles, let us worship where his feet once stood. Arise, O Lord, and go to your rest, you and the ark of your holiness.

May your priests be clothed in righteousness, and your faithful ones rejoice. For the sake of David your servant, turn not away the face of your anointed one. The Lord swore to David a promise which he will not retract: "One of your own flesh I will place on your throne. If your sons will keep my covenant and the revelations I will offer them, their sons also shall be seated upon your throne for evermore." For the Lord has elected Sion, he has chosen it for his dwelling:

"This is my home for ever and ever; here I will dwell because I have chosen it. I will bless abundantly her provisions; I will feed her poor with bread; I will clothe her priests with salvation, and the faithful shall exult with joy. There will I raise the pride of David; I have readied a lamp for my anointed one. I will clothe his enemies with shame, but on him my crown shall shine."

PSALM 132/133

Behold how good and pleasant it for brothers to dwell in unity. It is as ointment upon the head, which runs down over the beard, the beard of Aaron, runs down to the hem of his garment. It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Sion, for there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore.

PSALM 133/134

Behold now, bless the Lord all you servants of the Lord who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. By night, lift up your hands to the holy places and bless the Lord. May the Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Sion.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. (2)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God. Lord our hope, glory to You.

DEACON: Again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

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

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

THE PRAYER OF THE FOURTH ANTIPHON

PRIEST: *(inaudibly)* Praised by the heavenly powers with hymns that are never silent and doxologies that never cease, fill our lips with praise of You, that we may fitly magnify Your holy name. And grant us a portion and share with all who truly fear You and keep Your commandments; at the intercession of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints.

PRIEST: For You are our God, a God who shows mercy and saves, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

He then sings the opening verses of Psalm 140/141 in the appointed tone:

PSALM 140/141

O Lord, I have cried out to you: hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me; hearken to the voice of my prayer as I cry out to you, hear me, O Lord.

As the second verse begins, the Priest invokes a blessing on the incense and the Deacon censes in the usual manner.

Let my prayer rise as incense before you; the lifting up of my Hands as an evening sacrifice.

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth, and a gate to contain my lips. Let not my heart incline to evil deeds, to finding excuses for sinful doings. In the company of men who work iniquity, and I will not partake of their delicacies.

Let the just man chasten me with kindness and chide me. But the oil of the wicked shall never touch my head, yet even then would I pray for

their good will. Their judges were dashed against the rock: they shall hear my words, how sweet they are.

As a lump of clay broken on the ground, so shall their bones be strewn near the grave.

On you, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are fixed; in you have I trusted: take not my life.

Keep me from the snare which they have set for me, and from the traps of wicked men.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.

PSALM 141/142

With my voice, I cried out to the Lord, with my voice, I implored the Lord.

Before him, I will pour out my prayer; in his presence, I will tell of my distress.

When my spirit was fainting within me, you knew my paths. On that very road I was walking, they set a trap for me.

I looked to my right and observed: no one was aware of me.

I had no means of escape: no one would take care of my life.

I cried out to you, O Lord, and said, "You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Attend to my supplication, for I am laid very low.

"Deliver me from my oppressors, for they are too strong for me.

Release me from prison, that I may give thanks to your name."

WEDNESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK

The following verses and hymns are chanted at the "O Lord I have cried out... "

Verse: The wicked shall fall into their own nets, while I alone escape
Sticheron Idiomelon in the eighth tone.

Falling among thieves of my own thoughts, my wretched mind has been plundered; and severely beaten, I have been bruised to my very soul. Here I lie, stripped of virtue by life's roadside. A Priest, seeing me grievously wounded, thinking me beyond hope, looks away and pays no heed. Again a Levite, finding the deadly grief unbearable, also with a sidelong glance, passed me by. But You who condescended to take flesh, not from the Samaritan but from Mary, Christ God, in Your love grant me healing, pouring on me Your great mercy.

Verse: With my voice I cried out to the Lord, with my voice I implored the Lord.

Sticheron Idiomelon in the eighth tone.

Falling among thieves of my own thoughts, my wretched mind has been plundered; and severely beaten, I have been bruised to my very soul. Here I lie, stripped of virtue by life's roadside. A Priest, seeing me grievously wounded, thinking me beyond hope, looks away and pays no heed. Again a Levite, finding the deadly grief unbearable, also with a sidelong glance, passed me by. But You who condescended to take flesh, not from the Samaritan but from Mary, Christ God, in Your love grant me healing, pouring on me Your great mercy.

Verse: Before him I will pour out my prayer; in his presence I will tell of my distress.

Martyrikon

If there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, it is due to the Saints. For they inclined their necks to the sword for You who made the heavens incline and descended. They shed their blood for You who emptied Yourself and took on the form of a servant. They were humbled even to death, imitating Your humility. Through their prayers, in the abundance of Your compassion, O God, have mercy on us.

**Stichera Prosomoia, Poem of Joseph.
In the eighth tone.**

Verse: When my spirit was fainting within me, you knew my paths.

Lord, You proved Your holy Disciples to be spiritual Heavens. By their holy mediations, free me from worldly evils through self-control, lifting my thoughts from dwelling on desires, as merciful and loving God.

Verse: On that very road I was walking, they set a trap for me.

Having the time of the Fast as our yokemate in holy works, let us with heartfelt tears cry to the Savior: "Most merciful Lord, through Your disciples save those who in awe praise Your great love. "

**Another Sticheron, the Poem of Theodore.
In the same tone.**

Verse: I looked to my right and observed; no one was aware of me.

Renowned Apostles, the world's ambassadors, healers of the sick, guardians of health, uphold us on both sides to make it through the time of the Fast, at holy peace with one another, our mind untroubled by passions, that we may all sing a hymn of victory to the risen Christ.

**Additional Prosomoia in Alphabetical Order (Greek).
The Poem of Symeon the Translator.
In the fourth tone.**

Verse: I had no means of escape; no one would take care of my life.

My whole life has been spent with harlots and publicans. Can I ever, even in old age, repent of my sinful acts? Creator of all, healer of those in distress, Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: I cried out to you, Lord, and said, You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

I am burdened by sloth, wallowing in the mire, pierced by the arrows of Belial, and I defile my divine image. Chastiser of the slothful, deliverer of the fallen, Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: Attend to my supplication, for I am laid very low.

I have become a stumbling block to others, like one born of the earth cultivating earthly things. According to Your will I entered into marriage, and violated it, polluting my own bed. Lord, who shaped Your creatures from the earth, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: Deliver me from my oppressors, for they are too strong for me.

I am become my soul's executioner, thinking first of my body. I am become the plaything of demons, a slave to pleasures and disgusting acts. Lord, who banish demons, in Your compassion, pity me, and before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: Release me from prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

Wilfully I have sinned above all others; that is why I am abandoned. My carnal mind opposes my soul and keeps me in shadows. Lord, light of those in darkness and guide of the wayward, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: The just shall gather around me when you give me my due reward.

"My soul shall live and praise you, Lord," said the Prophet. Seek me out, the lost sheep, and number me among your flock. Allow me time for repentance that, with sighs, I may cry out to You, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Verse: Out of the depths I have cried out to you: Lord, O Lord, hear my voice!

I have sinned, I have sinned, violating Your commandments, Christ God. Be gracious to me, O Benefactor, that with my inner eyes I may see and escape the darkness, and cry out to You in fear, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Verse: Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my plea.

Savage beasts surround me, but snatch me from them, Master. For You desire that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Lord, as Creator, save all people, me among them. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: If you retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who can stand? With you there is forgiveness.

Benefactor, deliverer and savior, be my healing and do not reject me. See me lying in wickedness and as all-powerful raise me up, that I too may confess my deeds and cry out to You: "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Verse: For your name's sake, O Lord, I have waited for you. My soul has waited for your promise, my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Hiding the talent entrusted to me, like the senseless steward I buried it in the ground . Thus I am judged as worthless and dare not ask of You, in Your forbearance to have pity on me, that I too may cry, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me. "

Verse: From the morning watch till night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

By the touch of Your hem You stanchd the flow of the woman with bleeding. May I find remission of sins as I approach You in unhesitating

faith. Accept me as You did her, and heal my distress. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: For with the Lord is steadfast love and in him is full redemption, and he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

You will sit upon a throne, who by Your word created heaven and earth. And we will all stand, confessing to You our misdeeds. Before that day, accept me in penitence. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: Praise the Lord, all you nations; exalt him, all you peoples.

Turn to me Your compassionate gaze and be gracious to me, my sole Savior. Grant healing waters to my miserable and afflicted soul. Wipe away the grime of my deeds, that I may sing, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Verse: For mighty is his love for us, and the truthfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Belial! has readied his sword, eager to hunt down my lowly soul. Merciful One, he has made me stranger to the light of knowledge of You. Mighty in strength, snatch me from his cunning. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: I have lifted up my eyes to you who dwell in heaven. As the eyes of the servants are on the hands of their masters; as the eyes of a maid are on the hands of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God until he has mercy on us.

I am totally enslaved by passions, abandoning both law and the holy scriptures. Heal me wholly, becoming for me Benefactor. Let me repent, merciful One, destroyer of the passions. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Verse: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have had more than our fill of contempt; yes, our soul has been more than glutted. May disgrace fall on the prosperous, and contempt on the proud.

The harlot bathes Your spotless and precious feet with tears, urging all to hasten and receive remission of their sins. Savior, grant me also her faith, that I may proclaim: "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

You who humbled Yourself and were born a child for my sake, purge my soul of uncleanness. Send but a drop of Your mercy, O Christ, on this sick and broken person. Cleanse me from foulness and heal my affliction. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Master, uphold my spirit, ever to seek You and to serve You. For You are my shelter and protector, my comfort and help. Make me fit, Word of God, to cry out boldly, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Jesus Savior and merciful God, be for us an impenetrable fortress. For we have fallen into deceitful ways and deeds. But as Benefactor, raise up Your creation and reconcile it to You as merciful. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

I have become the Prodigal Son, squandering his substance, and now am consumed by hunger. I take refuge under Your roof, loving Father. Will You accept me like him, to share Your table, and count me worthy to cry: "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Out of spite the author of all evil exiled the firstborn from Paradise. The thief attained Paradise on the cross by the words, "Remember me". While I, in fear and faith also cry to You, "Remember me!" Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Extend a hand to me, O God, as You did to Peter, and raise me up from the deep. Grant me grace and mercy through the intercession of Your all-pure Mother who bore You without seed, and of all Your saints. Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

As I sing to You each day, receive me, O Lamb who takes away my sin. I commend myself, soul and body, wholly into Your hands.

And night and day, as a debtor, I cry to You, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O, Your inexpressible compassion, surpassingly good and forbearing Lord! O sinless and merciful One, cast me not away from Your presence, that I too, with joy and thanksgiving, may cry out to You singing, "Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me."

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now And always and forever and ever. Amen.

O, the ineffable condescension! O, the strange and miraculous birth! O, how the Virgin bears in her arms the Creator and God! Submitting to be born in the flesh of her as Savior, Lord, before I am utterly lost, save me.

As the dogmatic hymn (**doxastikon**) is sung, the Royal Doors are opened. The Deacon and Priest exit the Sanctuary from the north door and come to the chancel (soleas) carrying the censer, and the **Entrance takes place.**

If however it is a Feast day, e.g. St. Haralambos, the Forty Holy Martyrs, as well as during Holy Week, and there is to be a Gospel reading, the Book of the Gospels is carried.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. (in a low voice)

PRIEST: (inaudibly) At nightfall, dawn and noon, we sing to You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we beseech You, Master of all, Lord and lover of mankind: guide our prayers aright as an offering of incense before You. Let not our hearts be led to wicked thoughts or words but deliver us all from those who pursue our souls. For it is on You, Lord, Lord, that our eyes are fixed, and in You that we have our hope; do not put us to shame, O our God.

PRIEST: For all glory, honor and adoration are Your due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

DEACON: Master, bless the Entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the Entrance of the holy people of God, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

The Deacon (or the Priest) **censing towards the East** (or on the vigil of a Feast holding the Gospel Book aloft) says aloud:

DEACON: Wisdom! Attend!

In the Presanctified the **Entrance Hymn** is not usually sung but **intoned**.

O joyful radiance of the holy glory of the immortal, Father, the heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ! Having come to the setting of the sun and seen the evening light, we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody, O Son of God, giver of life. Behold, the universe sings Your glory.

Having reentered the Sanctuary, the Deacon announces:

DEACON: The evening.

READER: Prokeimenon. Fourth tone. Psalm 93.

The Lord is a God of retribution: the God of retribution has declared himself. Rise up, O judge of the earth: render to the proud their due.

DEACON: Wisdom.

READER: The Reading is from Genesis. (17: 1-9)

DEACON: Let us be attentive.

READER: · When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant

between me and you and your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojourning's, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations."

READER: Prokeimenon. Sixth tone. Psalm 95. Sing to the Lord a new song, Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

And he chants in a louder voice: Order!

The **Priest**, holding aloft the **censer and a lighted candle**, stands **before the Holy Table** and says:

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Then, turning to the people, standing in the Royal Arch he proclaims:

PRIEST: The light of Christ enlightens all!

He blesses the congregation making the sign of the Cross with the candle and returns before the Holy Table.

READER: The Reading is from Proverbs. (15: 20-34, 16: 3-9)

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother. Folly is a joy to him who has no sense, but a man of understanding walks aright. Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed. To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is! The wise man's path leads upward to life, that he avoid Sheol beneath. The Lord tears down the house of the proud, but maintains the widow's boundaries. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, the words of the pure are pleasing to him. He who is greedy for unjust gain makes trouble for his

household, but he who hates bribes will live. The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones. He whose ear heeds wholesome admonition will abide among the wise. He who ignores instruction despises himself, but he who heeds admonition gains understanding. The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility goes before honor. The plans of the mind belong to the man, but the answer of the tongue belongs to the Lord.

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. Everyone who is arrogant is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished. By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil. When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice. A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

PRIEST: Peace be to all

DEACON: Wisdom.

*When the reading is concluded, **the priest censures the Holy Altar, pausing at each side, singing** antiphonally with the Cantor the "Katefthynthito", "Let my prayer rise as incense before You..." introducing each reprise with a verse from Psalm 140/141:*

PRIEST: Let my prayer rise as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

1, Κατευθυνθήτω η προσευχή μου, ως θυμίαμα ενώπιον σου.
έπαρσις των χειρών μου, θυσία εσπερινή.

The priest then moves to the south of the Holy Table and censes, chanting aloud.

PRIEST: O Lord, I have cried out to You: hear me; hearken to the voice of my prayer as I cry out to You.

CANTOR: Let my prayer rise as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

The priest then moves to the rear of the Holy Table and censes, chanting aloud.

PRIEST: Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth, and a gate to contain my lips.

CANTOR: Let my prayer rise as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

The priest then moves to the north of the Holy Table and censes, chanting aloud.

PRIEST: Let not my heart incline to evil deeds, to finding excuses for sinful doings, in the company of men who work iniquity, and I will not partake of their delicacies.

CANTOR: Let my prayer rise as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

The priest then moves in front of the Holy Table and censes, chanting aloud.

PRIEST: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

CANTOR: Let my prayer rise as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

The priest standing before the Holy Table repeats.

PRIEST: Let my prayer rise,

Coming through the Royal Gates and censing the icon of Christ the Lord he chants.

PRIEST: as incense before You,

He then censes the remaining icons and the faithful as the Cantor chants.

CANTOR: the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

If the Feast of a Saint is being commemorated the appropriate Epistle and Gospel is now read.

The Deacon exits from the north door (or the Priest standing before the Holy table) and chants the Fervent Supplication.

THE FERVENT SUPPLICATION **Holy Week Start Here**

DEACON: Let us say with our whole heart and our whole mind, let us say.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON: Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, in Your great goodness; we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON: Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

DEACON: Again we pray for our Archbishop Gerasimos.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy. (3)

According to the practice of the Ecumenical Patriarchate the Litany ends here.

Prayer of the Fervent Supplication

PRIEST: *(During the Litany of Fervent Supplication: inaudibly)* Lord our God, accept this fervent prayer by Your servants, and have mercy on us, and in the abundance of Your compassion have pity on us and on all Your people, who await Your plenteous mercy.

PRIEST: For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

Open Antimension

Here the Priest makes the sign of the Cross over the Antimension with the Book of Gospels.

THE LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS

DEACON: You who are catechumens, pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: You faithful, let us pray for the Catechumens.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord will show them mercy.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will instruct them in the word of His truth.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will reveal to them the Gospel of righteousness.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will unite them to His Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Save them, have mercy on them, help them and keep them, O God, in Your grace.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: You who are Catechumens, bow your heads to the Lord.

Prayer for the Catechumens

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) O God, our God, Author and Creator of all things, it is Your will that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Look upon Your servants the Catechumens, and free them of ancient error and from the wiles of the enemy. Call them to eternal life, illuminating their souls and bodies, and numbering them among Your reasoning flock, on which Your holy name is invoked.

PRIEST: That with us they too may glorify Your most noble and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore.

CANTOR: Amen.

If not done, the Priest unfolds the Antimension as in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Don't Do from 4th Week

DEACON: All Catechumens, depart. The Catechumens, depart. All who are admitted for Illumination, depart. Pray, all you who preparing for Illumination. Let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

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From Wednesday of the Fourth Week, through Wednesday of Holy Week, after the doxology: "That with us... "The following petitions are added, for those "being made ready for Holy Illumination", ie. Baptism:

DEACON: All you faithful, for our brethren being made ready for Holy Illumination, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That the Lord our God will confirm and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will enlighten them with the light of understanding and piety; let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will make them worthy, at a fitting time, of the bath of rebirth, of remission of their sins, and of the garment of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will render them born again by water and the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will endow them with perfect faith, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He will number them among His holy and chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Save them, have mercy on them, help them and keep them, O God, in Your grace.

DEACON: You who are admitted for Illumination, bow your heads to the Lord.

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) Master, let the light of Your countenance shine on those who are being made ready for Holy Illumination, and who yearn to thrust aside the defilement of sin. Illumine their minds; confirm them in the faith; sustain them in their hope; perfect them in love; make them precious members of Your Christ, Who gave Himself as a ransom for our souls.

PRIEST: For You are our illumination, and to You we offer up glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

DEACON: All who are admitted for Illumination, depart. Those who are for Baptism, depart.

This concludes the petitions from Wednesday of the 4th week to Holy Wednesday.

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DEACON: Catechumens, depart. Let none of the Catechumens remain.

DEACON: All we faithful, once again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Wisdom!

The First Prayer of the Faithful

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) O God, great and praised, through the life-giving death of Your Christ, You have borne us from corruption to immortality. Liberate all our senses from killing passion, setting over them as a benevolent sovereign our inner reason. Let the eye be averted from every evil sight, and the ear be deaf to idle talk. May the tongue be purged of unseemly speech. Purify these lips that praise You, Lord. Make our hands abstain from wicked deeds, doing only such things as are pleasing to You, thus sealing with Your grace all our members, and our mind.

PRIEST: For all glory, honor and worship are Your due: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forevermore.

CANTOR: Amen.

DEACON: Again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Wisdom!

The Second Prayer of the Faithful

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) Holy Master, infinitely good, we entreat You, rich in mercy, to be gracious to us sinners, and to make us worthy to receive Your only Son and our God, the King of Glory. For behold, His spotless body and life-giving blood are about to make their entrance at this hour, to be laid on this mystical table, invisibly attended by a multitude of the heavenly host. Grant that we may receive them in blameless communion, so that as the eyes of our understanding see the light, we may become children of light and of day.

PRIEST: Through the gift of Your Christ with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

In place of the Hymn of the Cherubim, which is normally sung at the Entrance of the Holy Gifts, the following hymn is sung:

CANTOR: Now the Powers of Heaven minister invisibly with us. For, behold, the King of Glory enters.

The hymn breaks off at this point. In total silence the Gifts are carried into the Soleas by the priest whose head is covered by the Aer, then into the Sanctuary, and placed on the Holy Altar. As these are the Presanctified Gifts, already consecrated, the people kneel in deep reverence during their Entrance.

They rise as the hymn concludes:

CANTOR: Behold, the mystical sacrifice, fully accomplished, is ushered in. In fervent faith let us draw near, that we may become sharers in everlasting life. Alleluia. Royal Gate could close but not required here.

THE COMPLETION LITANY

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the Precious Gifts here set forth and pre-sanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That our loving God, having received them at His holy and mystical and celestial altar as a sweet spiritual fragrance, will in turn send upon us His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That we may be spared all affliction, violence, danger and want, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us ask of the Lord.

CANTOR: 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.

CANTOR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Forgiveness of our sins and offenses let us ask of the Lord .

CANTOR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

CANTOR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: That we may live out our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

CANTOR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: A Christian end to our lives, peaceful, free of suffering and shame, and a good defense at the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

CANTOR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Having prayed for the unity of the faith, and for the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our life to Christ our God.

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: *During the Completion Litany: (inaudibly)* O God of ineffable and unseen mysteries, in You are hidden the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, yet You have revealed to us this Liturgy and, in Your great love for mankind, appointed us sinners to offer gifts and sacrifices to You, for our sins and for the failings of the people. Invisible King, You perform works great and inscrutable, glorious and extraordinary, beyond number. Look upon us Your undeserving servants as we stand, as at

Your throne of the Cherubim at this Your holy altar, where Your only-begotten Son, our God, rests in the awesome mysteries here offered.

Freeing us all, and Your faithful people, of all uncleanness, sanctify all of us, soul and body, with a sanctification that cannot be taken away. Thus, partaking of these divine Blessings with pure conscience, faces unblushing, hearts enlightened, and being quickened by them, we may be united to Your Christ Himself, our true God. For He said: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood, abides in me and I in him." Having Your Word indwelling and moving within us, we may thus become the temple of Your all-holy and worshipful Spirit, free of every wile of the Evil One affecting our acts, our words, our thoughts, and so obtain the blessings promised to us as to Your Saints who have pleased You through the ages.

PRIEST: And make us worthy, Master, with confidence and without fear of reproach, to make bold to call You, the heavenly God, Father, and to say:

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

PRIEST: For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CANTOR: And to you spirit.

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: *(inaudibly)* O God, You alone are compassionate and good. Dwelling on high, yet looking upon the lowly, regard Your people with tender eye and safeguard them. Count us all worthy to partake without reproach of these Your life giving Mysteries. For it is to You that we bow our heads, in the hope of Your rich mercy.

Lifting the Asterisk from the Paten:

PRIEST: Through the grace, mercy and love for us of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

PRIEST: *(inaudibly)* Lord Jesus Christ, hear us from Your holy dwelling place and from the throne of glory of Your kingdom and come to sanctify us. Though enthroned with the Father on high, yet present here in our midst, unseen, deign by Your mighty hand to give us a share of Your Pure Body and Precious Blood, and through us to all Your people.

With the Holy Gifts still covered by the veil, the Priest touches the consecrated "Lamb".

DEACON: Let us be attentive

PRIEST: The Presanctified Holy Gifts for the holy people of God.

CANTOR: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CANTOR: Taste and see how good the Lord is. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE FRACTION AND COMMUNION

The priest now uncovers the Gifts and performs the fraction in the usual manner.

DEACON: Master, break the Holy Bread.

He breaks the Amnos into its four quarters.

PRIEST: *(In a low voice)* The Lamb of God is broken and shared, broken but not divided; forever eaten yet never consumed, but sanctifying those who partake of Him.

DEACON: Master, fill the Cup.

He places the portion marked IC (Jesus) in the chalice, saying:

PRIEST: The fullness of the Holy Spirit.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Master, bless the Zeon.

PRIEST: Blessed is the fervor of Your Saints, now and forevermore. Amen.

Pouring the Zeon into the chalice, he says:

DEACON: The fervor of faith, full of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS BEFORE COMMUNION

I believe, Lord, and confess that You are truly the Christ, Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the greatest. I also believe that this is truly Your spotless Body, and that this is truly Your precious Blood. Wherefore I pray to You: have mercy on me and forgive my offenses, whether intended or not, whether committed in word or in deed, knowingly or unknowingly; and count me worthy to share without judgment in Your pure Mysteries, for remission of sins and for everlasting life. Amen. You have beguiled me with yearning, O Christ, and by love divine transformed me. Consume my sins in ethereal flame, and let me be filled with the sheer delight of You, O Gracious Lord, that leaping for joy, I may magnify both Your Advents. How shall I, so unworthy, come into the splendor of Your Saints? If I make bold to enter the bridal feast, my clothing will reproach me since it is not a wedding garment. Then I shall be bound and cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, purge my soul and save me. Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ my God, let not these holy gifts become a judgment against me because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of both soul and body, and as a pledge of the future life and the kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God, to place in Him my hope for salvation.

And as he makes three prostrations before the altar:

Receive me today, Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical supper; for I will not reveal the Mystery to Your enemies, nor give You a kiss as did Judas. But as the thief I confess You: Lord, remember me in Your kingdom.

Bowing to the people in a gesture of mutual forgiveness, he then turns to the altar to receive, saying to the Deacon:

PRIEST: Brother and con-celebrant, forgive me the unworthy Priest.

DEACON: May the Lord forgive both you and us.

PRIEST: May the Lord forgive me a sinner, and have mercy on me. (3)

He then takes a portion of the Lamb, saying:

PRIEST: Behold, I approach Christ, our immortal King and God. The precious and most holy Body of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is given to me (N.) the unworthy Priest, for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

Then, drinking from the cup:

Behold, again I approach Christ, our immortal King and God. The precious and most holy, pure and life-giving Blood of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is given to me (N.) the unworthy Priest, for forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

Wiping the rim of the chalice and reverencing it, he adds:

This has touched my lips; it takes away my iniquities and cleanses me of my sins.

The deacon then also receives according to the established order. Then the following prayer:

PRIEST: We thank You, God and Savior of all, for all the blessings You have bestowed on us, and for the communion of the Holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. And we pray You, loving Lord, keep us in the shelter of Your wings, and grant that, to our very last breath, we may partake worthily of Your sanctifying blessings, for the enlightenment of soul and body, for the inheritance of the heavenly kingdom.

THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

DEACON: With the fear of God, with faith and with love, draw near.

CANTOR: God is Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

When all have received the Holy Eucharist, the Priest holds the chalice aloft and says:

PRIEST: God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

In place of the customary "We have seen the light..." we sing:

CANTOR: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever on my lips. Taste the heavenly bread and the cup of life, and see how good the Lord is. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

PRIEST: (*As he censes the Holy Gifts: inaudibly*) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let Your glory be over all the earth (3)

The Deacon receives the Paten from the Priest and takes it to the Prothesis.

The Priest lifting the Chalice prays before the Holy Table.

PRIEST: (*inaudibly*) **Blessed is our God**

Then, holding the Chalice aloft, covered, he faces the people and adds:

always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

CANTOR: Amen.

After returning the Holy Vessels to the Prothesis the Priest folds the Antimension

DEACON: Let us be attentive! Having received the divine, holy, pure, immortal, life giving and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us give fitting thanks to the Lord.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, in Your grace.

DEACON: Having asked that this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and free of sin, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

CANTOR: To You, O Lord.

He makes the sign of the Cross with the Book of Gospels over the now folded Antimension.

PRIEST: For You are our sanctification, and to You we give the glory: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

CANTOR: Amen.

PRIEST: Let us depart in peace.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Holy Father, give the blessing.

PRIEST: (*Standing before the icon of Christ*) Almighty Lord, You have created all things in wisdom. In Your inexpressible providence and great goodness You have brought us to these saving days, for the cleansing of our souls and bodies, for control of our passions, in the hope of the Resurrection. After the forty days You delivered into the hands of Your servant Moses the tablets of the law in characters divinely traced. Enable us also, O benevolent One, to fight the good fight, to complete the

course of the fast, to keep the faith inviolate, to crush underfoot the heads of unseen tempters, to emerge victors over sin and to come, without reproach , to the worship of Your Holy Resurrection . For blessed and glorified is Your most honorable and majestic name, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore.

CANTOR: Amen. May the name of the Lord be praised, from this time forth and to the endless ages.

This is sung three times as the Priest goes to the Prothesis, saying:

PRIEST: Lord our God, You have guided us to these most holy days, and admitted us as participants to Your awesome Mysteries. Unite us to Your spiritual flock and declare us heirs to Your kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.

Blessing the People

PRIEST: May the blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you, through His divine grace and love, always, now and forevermore.

CANTOR: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Glory to You, O God, our hope, glory to You.

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His most pure and holy Mother; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless heavenly powers; the supplications of the honorable, glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; our venerable and godly Fathers; the holy and righteous ancestors Joachim and Anna; of Saint (*the Saint*

of the day) whose memory we keep today; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

NOTE: The reading of Psalms 33/34 and 144/145 is prescribed at this point as the faithful receive the antidoron.

PSALM 33/34

READER: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever on my lips. My soul shall glory in the Lord: let the meek hear and rejoice. Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. Approach the Lord and be enlightened, and your face shall never be shamed. This wretched man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and delivered him from all his afflictions.

The angel will stand guard around those who fear the Lord and save them. Taste and see how good the Lord is. Blessed is the man who hopes in him. Fear the Lord, all you his faithful ones, for those who fear him shall want for nothing. The rich have become poor and hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good. Come, children, hear me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Which of you desires life, and loves to see the good days? Keep your tongue from wickedness, and your lips from deceitful speech; turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the just and his ears are open to their pleas; the face of the Lord is turned against sinners, to erase their memory from the earth. The just cried out and the Lord heard them, and he delivered them from all their trials. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and he will save the humble in spirit. Many are the trials of the righteous, but out of them all, the Lord will deliver them. He protects every bone in their body: not a single one of them will be broken. The death of sinners is painful; those who hate justice shall be damned. The Lord will redeem the souls of his servants, and none of those who hope in him shall be lost.

PSALM 144/145

I will exalt you, my God and my king, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. The Lord is great and greatly to be praised, and to his greatness there is no end. Age after age will praise your works, and proclaim your might. They will tell the glorious splendor of your holiness, they will recount your wondrous works; they will speak of the power of your awesome deeds, they will declare your greatness. They will recall your abundant goodness and will exult in your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful: he is long-suffering and abounding in love.

The Lord is good towards everyone, and his grace extends over all his works. Let all your works give thanks to you, Lord, and all your faithful ones bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known your might to the children of men, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages and your dominion is for all generations. The Lord keeps faith in all his promises and is hallowed in all his works. The Lord supports all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look up to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hands and satisfy all living beings; the Lord is just in all his ways, and faithful in all his works. The Lord is close to all who pray to him, those who call upon him in truth. He will meet the desire of those who fear him, and hear their pleas and save them. The Lord keeps watch over those who love him, but the wicked he will utterly destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name, forever and to all eternity.

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

CANTOR: Amen.