

Bridegroom Matins - Great and Holy Monday

*The Holy Doors are opened. The **Priest** with the censer, and the **Deacon** with a candle, do a complete censuring of the Sanctuary (the Deacon walks in front of the Priest while the Priest censes).*

*After censuring the Sanctuary, the **Deacon** exits the Sanctuary, stands to the right of the Holy Doors, and says:*

Deacon: Arise! Bless, Master!

*The **Priest**, moving to the front of the Altar Table, makes the Sign of the Cross with the censer and says:*

Priest: + Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

They then complete the Lesser Censing.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fulfill all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 the evil one.

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 ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

Standing before the Altar Table, the Priest blesses with the censer:

Priest: + Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating, and undivided Trinity always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will. (3x)

The Holy Doors are closed.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. (2x)

The Six Psalms

Psalm 3

O Lord, why have those who trouble me increased?

Many are rising up against me.

Many are saying to my soul,
“There is no salvation for him in his God.”

But You, O Lord, are my Protector,
my glory and the One lifting up my head.

I cried out to the Lord with my voice,
and He answered me from His holy mountain.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

I will not be afraid of myriads of people
arranged on every side against me.

Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God,
for You have struck all who without cause are my enemies.
You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is the gift of the Lord,
and Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down to rest and slept.
I awoke and rose, because the Lord will always protect me.

Psalm 37 (38)

O Lord, rebuke me, but not in Your anger;
and correct me, but not in Your wrath.

For Your arrows are stuck in me
and You are pressing Your hand upon me.

There is no healing in my flesh from the face of Your wrath;
there is no peace in my bones from the presence of my sins.

For my sins have gone over my head;
they weigh upon me like a heavy burden.

My wounds stink and fester
because of my foolishness.

I became miserable and utterly dejected,
I went mourning all day long.

For my soul is filled with mockings
and there is no healing in my flesh.

I was afflicted and humbled exceedingly,
I roared from the groaning of my heart.

Lord, all my desire is before You,
and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength fails me;
and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and neighbors drew near
and stood opposite me,
and my nearest ones stood far away

Those seeking my life took to violence,
and those seeking evils for me spoke idle words
and planned treachery all day long.

But I, like a deaf man, do not hear,
and I am like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.

I became like a man who does not hear
and in his mouth has no rebukes.

For on You, Lord, I have set my hope;
You will answer me, O Lord my God.

For I said, "Let my enemies never rejoice over me
or boast over me when my feet are shaken."

For I am ready for scourges
and my pain is before me continually.

For I will confess my lawlessness
and I will be concerned about my sin.

But my enemies live and are stronger than me,
and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied.

Those who repay me evil for good, oppose me,
because I follow goodness.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not stay far away from me!

Attend to my help,
O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62 (63)

O God, my God, at dawn I rise to You!
My soul thirsts for You.

And how often my flesh longs for You,
in a desolate land, trackless and waterless!

So I appeared before You in the holy place,
to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life;
my lips shall praise You.

So I will bless You as long as I live
and lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled with delight,
and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

But those trying in vain to take my life
will go into earth's infernal regions.

They will be delivered to the hands of the sword,
they will be the portion of jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God,
all who swear by Him will be praised,
for the mouth of those who tell lies will be stopped.

I meditate on You in the morning watches.

For You have become my helper,
and in the shelter of Your wings I rejoice.

My soul is glued behind You
and Your right hand holds me tightly.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

*According to custom, during the next three Psalms the **Priest** comes out through the North door to stand before the closed Holy Doors, without head covering, and quietly reads the twelve Matins prayers, found in Appendix A.*

Psalm 87 (88)

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

For my soul is filled with evils
and my life has come near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit,
I became like a helpless man, free among the dead,

like those who have been killed and sleep in the grave,
whom You remember no more
and who are cut off from Your hand.

They put me in the lowest pit,
in dark places and in the shadow of death.

Your anger leans hard upon me,
and You have brought upon me all Your waves.

You have put my acquaintances far from me;
they have made me an abomination to them;
I was betrayed and did not escape.

My eyes grew weak from poverty;
I cry all day to You, Lord,
I spread out my hands to You.

Will You work miracles for the dead
or will physicians raise them up so they will praise You?

Will anyone in the grave tell of Your mercy,
or will they tell of Your truth in the place of destruction?

Will Your wonders be known in the darkness
and Your justice in the land where all is forgotten?

But to You, O Lord, I have cried
and early in the morning my prayer will come before You.

Why, O Lord, do You reject my soul
and turn away Your face from me?

I am poor and in troubles from my youth;
but after being exalted, I am humbled and perplexed.

Your anger has passed over me,
Your terrors have troubled me.

They surrounded me like water all day long;
together they closed in upon me.

You have put far from me friend and neighbor
and my acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation,
I have cried day and night before You.

Let my prayer come in before You;
incline Your ear to my petition.

Psalm 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all His rewards:

who forgives all your sins,
who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from destruction,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,

who satisfies your desire with good things,
your youth will be renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord gives mercy and justice
to all who are being wronged.

He made known His ways to Moses,
His will to the people of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
most patient and most merciful.

He will not always be angry,
nor will He threaten forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our lawlessness,
nor rewarded us according to our sins.

For as high as heaven is from the earth,
so great is the Lord's mercy to those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He put our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

For He knows what we are made of,
He remembers that we are dust.

Man--his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field.

When the spirit in him has passed, he will not exist,
and he will know his place no more.

But the Lord's mercy is from age to age
for those who fear Him,
and His justice is for their children's children.

for those who keep His covenant
and remember to carry out His commandments.

The Lord has prepared His throne in heaven
and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, all you angels of His,
who are mighty in strength, who do His word
and listen for the sound of His words.

Bless the Lord, all His hosts,
His ministers who do His will.

Bless the Lord, all 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 (143)

Lord, listen to my prayer,
give ear to my need in Your truth.
Answer me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul,
he has humbled my life to the ground.
He has made me sit in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

And my spirit desponded over me,
my heart within me was troubled.

I remember the days of old,
I meditate on all Your works,
I meditate on the works of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You,
my soul like parched earth thirsts for You.

Answer me quickly, O Lord, my spirit grows faint.
Do not turn away Your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear Your mercy in the morning,
for on You I have set my hope.
Make known to me the way I should go, O Lord,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I come running to You.

Teach me to do Your will,
for You are my God;
Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake.
In Your justice You will bring my soul out of trouble,
and in Your mercy You will put an end to my enemies
and destroy all who afflict my soul,
for I am Your servant.

*The **Deacon**, standing at the Southwest corner of the Altar Table, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door and stands before the icon of the Theotokos until the conclusion of the Psalm.*

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Answer me in Your righteousness,
And do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

Your good Spirit will guide me in the straight land.

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

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

*At the conclusion of Psalm 142, the **Deacon** and the **Priest** bow to each other. The **Priest** returns to the Sanctuary through the South door and stands at his place before the Altar Table.*

*The **Deacon** moves to stand before the Holy Doors, lifts his Orarion and says:*

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: ¹For [his Beatitude] Metropolitan _____; for [his Grace] our Bishop _____; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President² and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, [*if a monastery: For this holy habitation,*] for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; the sick; the suffering; the captives; and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

¹ We pray for the bishop of the temple in which we are praying. When not in a temple, we pray for the bishop of the diocese in which we are located. If outside the territory of any Orthodox Church or mission, only then do we pray for the bishop of the celebrating priest.

² We pray for the Chief of State and the civil authorities of the place in which we are praying.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ³For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Alleluia

Deacon: The Alleluia in the eighth tone.

In the night my soul rises early for You, O God,
for Your commandments are a light on the earth.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deacon: Learn righteousness, you inhabitants of the earth.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deacon: Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deacon: Bring more evils upon them, O Lord, bring more evils upon those who are glorious on the earth.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

³ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 1 in Appendix A be read here.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

Troparion

Tone 8

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight,
and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching;
and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless.
Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep,
lest you be given up to death and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom.
But rouse yourself crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, are You, O our God!
Through the Theotokos have mercy on us! (2x)

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

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight... (*repeat above*)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Reader: ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Kathismata

Kathisma 4 is chanted. Following the third stasis:

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

People: ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Kathisma Hymn

Tone 1

People: Today, Christ's holy Passion draws upon the world as a saving light.
For He comes of His goodness to suffer.
He Who holds all things in His hand//
consents to be hung upon the Wood in order to save mankind.

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

Today, Christ's holy Passion... (*repeat above*)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Reader: ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kathisma 5 is chanted. Following the third stasis:

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

People: ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Kathisma Hymn*Tone 1*

People: O invisible Judge, how have You been seen in the flesh?
How have You been slain by lawless men,
condemning our condemnation by Your sufferings?
Therefore, with one voice, O Lord,//
we ascribe glory, dominion, and praise to Your power.

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

O invisible Judge... (*repeat above*)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Reader: ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kathisma 6 is chanted. Following the third stasis:

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

People: ... now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Kathisma Hymn

Tone 8

People: Today shines as the first-fruits of the Lord.
Come, then, all who love the feast and join together in hymns.
For the Creator comes to accept the Cross, the afflictions, the beatings,
and the judgment by Pilate.
A servant strikes Him on the head, but He endures all things that He
may save mankind.
Therefore, let us cry out to Him: “Grant remission of sins to those who
venerate Your holy Passion in faith, //
O Christ, our God, Who love mankind!”

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

Today shines... (*repeat above*)

The Gospel

The Holy Doors are opened.

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us
pray to the Lord God.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (Mt. 21:18-43) In those days, as Jesus was returning to Jerusalem, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John; where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him. Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug

a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?’ They said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.’

People: Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

The Holy Doors are closed.

Psalm 50 (51)

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God,
in Your great mercy,
and in Your abundant compassion
blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my sinfulness
and my sin is before me continually.

Against You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight,
that You may be justified in Your words
and win when You are judged.

For I was conceived in iniquities
and in sins my mother gave me birth.

But You love truth;
the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom
You have made known to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be clean.
You will wash me
and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness.
The bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen me with Your ruling Spirit.

I will teach Your ways to the lawless,
and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation.
My tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You desired sacrifice,
I would have given it.
You take no delight in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.

Gladden Zion, O Lord, with Your goodwill,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

Then You will delight in the sacrifice of righteousness,
in offering and whole burnt offerings.
Then they will offer young bulls on Your altar.

The Deacon bows to the Priest, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door, stands before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion and prays:

The Great Intercession

Deacon: O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down on us Your rich mercies; through the prayers of our most-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles, Mary Magdalen;

of our fathers among the saints, hierarchs and ecumenical teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons, Cyprian of Carthage, Ambrose of Milan, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Gregory of Rome, Augustine of Canterbury, and Theodore of Tarsus;

of Gregory the Enlightener of Armenia; Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia; Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland; Robert, Bishop of Salzburg and Enlightener of the Bavarians; the holy Methodius and Cyril, Evangelizers of the Slavs; the blessed Princess Olga and the holy Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles; Nahum, Enlightener of the Bulgarians; Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of Japan;

of our fathers among the saints: Innocent, the Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America; Jacob, Enlightener of the Upiic and Athabascan peoples; Nicholas of Zhicha and South Canaan; Tikhon, Enlightener of North America and Patriarch of Moscow; and John the Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco;

of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious Martyrs: the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen; the Great-Martyr and Healer Panteleimon; the Great-Martyrs Demetrius of Thessalonika, George the Victorious, and Theodore the Recruit; Alban, Protomartyr of Britain; the martyrs Adrian and Natalia of Nicomedia; the New Martyr Gorazd of Prague; the new Hieromartyr Nicetas the Albanian of Mount Athos; the New Hieromartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Cosmos of Aitolia;

of Juvenaly, Protomartyr of America and the martyred Aleut Peter; of the New-martyrs and Passion-bearers of Russia, especially the martyrs John of Chicago and Alexander of New York;

of the Protomartyr among women and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thekla; of the Great Martyrs Barbara, Katherine, Irene of Thessalonika, and Marina of Antioch; of Lucy of Syracuse; the martyrs Faith, Hope, and Love and their mother Sophia; the Virgin-Martyrs of Rome: Anastasia, Tatiana, Paraskeva,

Xenia, Agnes, Lucy, Susanna, and Eugenia; of Hripsime and Gayane of Armenia and Susanna of Georgia;

of our venerable and God-bearing fathers: Anthony the Great; Pachomias the Great; Sabbas; Euthymius; Benedict of Nursia; Colomban of Iona; Theodore of Studion; Anthony and Theodosius and the other wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev; Sergius of Radonezh; Paisius of Modavia; Seraphim of Sarov; Macarius of Corinth; Nectarios of Aigina; Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain; Sergius and Herman of Valaam; Ambrose, Elder of Optina; Silouan of Mount Athos;

and our venerable father Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska and all America;

of our venerable and God-bearing mothers: Pelagia; Theodosia; Anastasia; Eupraxia; Fevronia; Theodulia; Euphrosyne; Mary of Egypt; and Hilda of Whitby; and Xenia of Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ; of the Holy and God-crowned Emperor Constantine and his mother Helen; of the Righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham; the Righteous Hanna, mother of the Prophet Samuel; Emilia, mother of Saints Basil the Great, Macrina, and Gregory of Nyssa; Silvia, mother of Gregory the Dialogist; and Genevieve of Paris;

of St. John of Kronstadt; and our father-among-the-saints, Alexis of Minneapolis and Wilkes-barre, defender of the Orthodox Church in America;

of Saint (of the day) ; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, hear us sinners who pray to You, and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Priest: ⁴Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

⁴ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 10 in Appendix A be read here.

People: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

THE CANON

Tone 2 (by St. Kosmas)

Ode I

Irmos: Let us sing to the Lord!
By His divine command, He dried up the raging and impassible sea,
and led the people of Israel through on foot,
for gloriously has He been glorified!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Oh, the inexpressible condescension of the Word of God!
For Christ, Who is both God and man,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied Himself and appeared to His disciples in the form of a
servant.
Gloriously has He been glorified!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

“With the wealth of My Divine nature,
I came in order to minister to Adam in his poverty.
I fashioned his body and now willingly I put it on.
Though in My Divine nature I am not subject to passion,
I lay down My life to ransom his.”

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

Katavasia: Let us sing to the Lord... (*repeat above*)

The Deacon bows to the Priest, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door, and stands at his place on the solea, lifts his Orarion and says:

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ⁵For You are the king of peace and Savior of our souls, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

While the People sing the Kontakion, the Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

⁵ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 6 in Appendix A be read here.

Kontakion

Tone 8

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph
but his noble son was seated on a chariot and honored as a king.
For when he refused to be enslaved by the pleasures of the Egyptian
woman
he was glorified by the Lord, Who beholds the hearts of men//
and bestows upon them an incorruptible crown.

Ikos

Today, let us add lamentation to lamentation. Let our tears flow with those of Jacob, who weeps for his celebrated and sober-minded son; for though bodily Joseph was indeed a slave, he preserved the freedom of his soul and was lord over all Egypt.
For God prepares for His servants an incorruptible crown.

*At the 8th Ode, the **Deacon** receives the blessing from the Priest for the Great Censing. He begins in the Sanctuary and, emerging to the Solea by the North door, censes the right side of the Iconostasis. He then stands before the icon of the Theotokos awaiting the conclusion of the Katabasia of the 8th Ode.*

Ode VIII

Irmos: The relentless fire was fed by fuel in endless supply,
yet it shrank before the flesh of the Holy Youths, as pure as their souls,
and when the never-ending flame was quenched,
the singing of an everlasting hymn began:
“Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all
ages!”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

“By this will all men know that you are my disciples,”
said the Savior to His friends as He went to His passion.
“If you will keep My commandments.
Be at peace among yourselves and with all men.
Think humbly of yourselves and you will be exalted.
And knowing that I am the Lord,
you will sing and exalt Me throughout all ages.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

“Let your order be contrary to that of the Gentiles,
who hold power over their fellowmen,
for such is not My portion, but rather self-appointed tyranny.
He, then, who would be great among you,
must be the servant of all.
And knowing that I am the Lord,
he will sing and exalt Me throughout all ages.”

Refrain: Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Katavasia: The relentless fire... (*repeat above*)

The Deacon then censes the icon, the left side of the Iconostasis, the people and the icons in the remainder of the temple, and gives up the censer. He then returns to his place in front of the icon of the Theotokos.

Ode IX

Irmos: You have magnified the Theotokos who bore You, O Christ.
From her You have put on a body like our own, O our Creator,
which releases us from our errors.
Blessing her, we in all generations magnify You!

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

You warned Your Apostles, O Wisdom of all:
“Flee from all impure passion.
Seek, instead, wisdom worthy of the Kingdom of God.
Thus you will be glorified and shine more brightly than the sun.”

Refrain: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

The Lord said to His disciples:
“As you look at Me, do not be haughty,
but be joined to the lowly.
The cup which I drink, drink also,
that you may be glorified with Me in my Father’s Kingdom.”

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

Katavasia: You have magnified... (*repeat above*)

The Deacon moves to stand before the Holy Doors, lifts his Orarion and says:

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady,
the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend
ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ⁶For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

The Exapostilarion

Tone 8⁷

People: Your bridal chamber I see adorned, O my Savior,
and I have no wedding garment that I may enter,
O Giver of Light, enlighten
the vesture of my soul, and save me. (2x)

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

Your bridal chamber... (*repeat above*)

The Praises

Tone 1

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
Praise Him in the heights,
To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all you angels of His,
Praise Him, all His hosts.
To You, O God, is due a song.

⁶ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 11 in Appendix A be read here.

Psalm 148:1-2

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise Him in the heights,

Praise Him, all you angels of His,
praise Him, all His hosts.

Psalm 148:3-14

Praise Him, sun and moon,
praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens
and you water that is above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for He spoke and they were born,
He commanded and they were created.

He has fixed them forever and ever.
He has made a law and it will not be bypassed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all depths,
fire, hail, snow, ice,
the storm wind, all obeying His word,

all you mountains and hills,
all you fruit trees and cedars,

you wild beasts and all cattle,
reptiles and winged birds,

you kings of the earth and all peoples,
all you rulers and judges of the earth;

⁷ In the Greek Triodion, this is sung in Tone 3.

young men and virgins,
old men and children,

let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name only is exalted;
His praise is above heaven and earth.

And He will exalt the power of His people.
This is a song for all His saints,
for the children of Israel,
for people drawing near to Him.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Let His praise be sung in the church of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in Him Who made him,
and let the children of Zion exult in their King.

Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them sing to Him with drum and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people
and will exalt the meek with His salvation.

The saints will exult in glory,
and they will rejoice on their beds.

The high praises of God will be in their throat
and two-edged swords in their hands,

to pass judgment on the nations
and give rebukes among the peoples,

to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

to pass judgment on them as God has written.
This glory will be for all His saints.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His saints,
praise Him in the expanse of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts,
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

Tone 1

People: As the Lord was going to His voluntary Passion,
He said to the Apostles on the way:
“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem,
and the Son of Man shall be delivered up, as it is written of Him.”
Come, therefore, let us also go with Him,
purified in mind!
Let us be crucified with Him and die through Him
to the pleasures of this life!
Then we shall live with Him and hear Him say:
“I go no more to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer,
but to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.
I shall raise you up to the Jerusalem on high//
in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

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

People: As the Lord was going to His voluntary Passion...(repeat above)

Reader: Praise Him with drum and dancing,
praise Him with strings and bells.

Tone 5

People: We have reached the saving Passion of Christ our God.
Let us, the faithful, glorify His ineffable forebearance,
that in His compassion He may raise us up who were dead in sin, //
for He is good and loves mankind!

Reader: Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,
praise Him with cymbals of victory!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

People: We have reached the saving Passion... (*repeat above*)

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

Tone 5

People: Going to Your Passion, O Lord,
You took Your Disciples aside and reassured them:
“How have you forgotten the words that I once spoke?
Is it not written:
‘A prophet cannot be killed but in Jerusalem?’
Now is the time of which I told you.
Behold, I am betrayed into the hands of sinners to be mocked!
They will nail Me to the Cross and deliver Me up to burial,
regarding Me, as a dead man, a thing of loathing.
Yet, take courage, for I will arise on the third day, //
giving to the faithful joy and life everlasting!”

Reader: To You, O Lord our God, belongs glory, and to You we send up glory:
to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and
unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Lesser Doxology

Priest: Glory to You Who have shown us the light!

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of His will.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty: O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ: and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Who take away the sins of the world, accept our prayer. Who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever, even unto ages of ages.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation.

I said, "Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You!"

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see light. Continue Your mercy unto those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.

The Deacon bows to the Priest, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door and stands at his place on the solea.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master, make me to understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures unto ages of ages. Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Deacon lifts his Orarion and prays:

The Morning Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: ⁸For You are a good God, and You love mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest turns toward the people and blesses:

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

⁸ Some ancient sources suggest Prayer 12 in Appendix A be read here.

People: To You, O Lord.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

Priest: O Holy Lord, Who dwell on high and look upon the humble, and Who with Your all-seeing eye do behold all creation: to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we implore You, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as You are good, and You love mankind, granting us Your good things in this age and in the age to come. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

The Aposticha

Tone 5

People: The mother of Zebedee's children, O Lord, could not understand the ineffable mystery of Your dispensation. She asked the honor of a temporal kingdom for her sons; but instead, You promised Your friends that they should drink the cup of death, a cup that You would drink before them for the cleansing of sins. Therefore we cry out to You://
"O Salvation of our souls, glory to You!"

Psalm 89 (90):14-16

Reader: Let us be satisfied with Your mercy in the morning, Lord,
and we shall be glad and rejoice all our days.

Let us be glad for the days in which You humbled us,
for the years in which we have seen evils.

And look upon Your servants and Your works,
and guide their children.

People: You taught Your Disciples, O Lord,
to desire what is perfect,
saying: “Be not like the Gentiles, who oppress the weak!
It shall not be so with you, O my Disciples.
for of my Own will I am poor.
Let the first among you, therefore, be the servant of all!
Let the ruler be like those who are ruled!
Let him who is first be like the last!
For I have come to serve Adam in his poverty,
and to give My life as a ransom for the many who cry to Me://
‘O Lord, glory to You!’”

Psalm 89 (90):17

Reader: And may the radiance of the Lord our God be upon us,
and direct the works of our hands for us,
and direct the work of our hands.

Tone 8

People: The fig tree was withered up because it was unfruitful.
We should fear the same punishment, O brethren,
and bring worthy fruits of repentance to Christ,//
Who brings to us great mercy.

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

People: The serpent found a second Eve in the Egyptian woman,
and plotted the fall of Joseph through words of flattery.
But, leaving behind his garment, Joseph fled from sin.
He was naked but unashamed, like Adam before the fall.//
Through his prayers, O Christ, have mercy on us!

Reader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O
Most High, to declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by
night. (2x)

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

All: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom
come. Your 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
the evil one.

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 ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Standing in the temple of your glory, we think we are in heaven. O Theotokos, Gate of Heaven, open to us the gates of your mercy.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)⁹

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father bless.

Priest: + Christ our God, The Existing One, is blessed always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and brethren in the tabernacles of the righteous, and accept us sorrowers and penitents, for You are good, and the Lover of mankind.

⁹ Technically 40x but, outside of Monasteries, usually 12x by custom.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. (*All make a prostration.*)

But give, rather, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. (*All make a prostration.*)

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. (*All make a prostration.*)

Then all make 12 lesser reverences, saying for each:

O God, cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim is repeated, with one prostration at the end.

The Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

The Deacon turns and goes to stand to the right of the Analoy.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

Standing in the Holy Doors, facing the people, the Priest says the Dismissal:

Priest: May the Lord Who is going to His voluntary passion for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of St. (of the temple.....) ; of St. (of the day) , whom we commemorate today; 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.

People: Amen.

APPENDIX A

THE TWELVE MATINS PRAYERS

I

We thank You, O Lord our God, Who have raised us from our beds and put into our mouths a word of praise, that we may adore and call on Your holy name. We entreat Your bounties, which You have always used in our life. Send down Your help even now on those who stand before the face of Your holy glory and await rich mercy from You. Enable those who serve You always with fear and love, to praise Your inexpressible goodness. For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

II

From the night our spirit wakes, O our God, for Your commandments are a light on the earth. Enlighten us now to perfect righteousness and holiness in fear of You, for we glorify You, our truly existing God. Incline Your ear and hear us. Remember by name, O Lord, all those who are with us and pray with us; save them by Your power. Bless Your people, and sanctify Your inheritance. Give peace to Your world, to the churches, to Your priests, to all those in civil authority, and to all Your people. For blessed and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

III

From the night our spirit wakes, O God, for Your commandments are a light. Teach us Your righteousness, O God, Your commandments and Your statutes. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, lest at any time we should fall asleep to death in sin. Drive all gloom from our hearts. Grant us the Sun of Righteousness, and, by the seal of Your Holy Spirit, preserve our life unassailed. Guide our steps to the way of peace. Enable us to behold the dawn and the day with joy, that we

may raise our morning prayers to You. For Yours is the majesty, and Yours are 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 ages of ages. Amen.

IV

O Master, God, holy and unsearchable, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness; Who refreshed us by the sleep of the night; and Who raised us for the glorification and supplication of Your goodness. Implored by Your own lovingkindness, accept now also us who bow before You and give thanks according to our ability. Grant us all our petitions which are for salvation. Show us to be sons of the light and of the day, heirs of Your eternal good things. Remember, O Lord, in the multitude of Your bounties, all Your people here present and praying with us; and all our brothers on land, on sea, in the air, and in every place of Your dominion who are in need of Your mercy and love for mankind; grant Your mercy to all of them. That being always preserved in safety of soul and body, we may with boldness glorify Your wondrous and blessed name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

V

Treasury of Blessings, ever-glowing Fountain, Holy Father Who work wonders, almighty and all-powerful! We all worship You and pray to You, entreating Your mercies and Your compassion, to help and preserve our humility. Remember Your servants, O Lord, and accept our morning prayers as incense in Your sight. Let none of us be found guilty, but surround us all with Your bounties. Remember, O Lord, those who keep vigil and sing to Your glory, and to the glory of Your only-begotten Son and our God and of the Holy Spirit. Be their helper and protector, and receive their supplications on Your heavenly and ideal altar. For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VI

We thank You, O Lord, God of our salvation, for You do all things which are good for life, that we may always look up to You, the Savior and Benefactor of our souls. You have refreshed us in the past night, and raised us from our beds, and set us in worship of Your honorable name. Therefore we entreat You, O Lord, grant us grace and power that we may sing to You with understanding, and pray without ceasing, working out our own salvation in fear and trembling through the help of Your Christ. Remember, O Lord, those who call out to You in the night; hear them and have mercy on them, destroying under their feet invisible and warring enemies. For You are the King of Peace, the Savior of our souls, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VII

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who have raised us from our beds, and gathered us at the hour of prayer. Grant us grace in the opening of our lips, and accept our thanks according to our ability. Teach us Your statutes. We do not know how to pray as we entreat You, pardon and forgive whatever sins we may have committed up to this present hour, by word or thought, voluntarily or involuntarily. If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. You only are holy, a mighty helper, the defender of our life; and our song shall always be of You. Blessed and most glorified be the majesty of Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VIII

O Lord our God, Who have driven the despair of sleep from us and assembled us by a holy call, that even in the night we might lift up our hands and give thanks to You for the judgments of Your righteousness, accept our prayers and petitions, the thanks of our nightly worship. Grant us, O Lord, a faith unashamed, a sure hope, a love unfeigned. Bless our comings and goings, our works and deeds, our words

and thoughts, and grant that we may begin this day, praising, singing, and blessing the goodness of Your ineffable beneficence. For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

IX

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who love mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Your blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing to You. For You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

X

O Lord our God, Who have granted men pardon through repentance, and set repentance unto forgiveness, for the prophet David as an example for us of acknowledgment of sin and confession. O Master, have mercy on us according to Your great goodness on account of the many and great iniquities into which we have fallen; and according to Your abundant mercy, blot out our transgression. For we have sinned against You, O Lord, Who know the secret and hidden things in the heart of man and Who alone have authority to pardon sins. Since You have created in us a clean heart; and put a new and right spirit within us; and made known to us the joy of Your salvation; cast us not away from Your presence. But since You are good, and You love mankind, graciously enable us, even to our last breath, to offer to You the sacrifice of righteousness, and an oblation on Your holy altar. Through the mercy and compassion and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

XI

O God, our God, Who by Your will have made all the powers endowed with reason and understanding, we implore and supplicate You: Accept the praise which we offer with all Your creatures according to our ability; reward us with the rich gifts of Your goodness. For every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth bends to You; and everything that breathes and every creature sings of Your ineffable glory; only You are the true and most merciful God. For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

XII

We praise, bless, sing, and thank You, O God of our Fathers, for You have led us through the shade of night and showed us again the light of day. We entreat Your goodness, cleanse us from our sins and accept our prayer in Your great tenderness of heart; for we run to You, the merciful and all powerful God! Make the true Sun of Your Righteousness dawn in our hearts. Enlighten our mind and guard all our senses; that walking uprightly as in the day in the way of Your commandments, we may attain to eternal life - for with You is the fountain of life, and we will be made worthy of enjoying Your unapproachable light. For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.