

Royal Hours of Holy Friday - First Hour

About the second hour of the day (eight o'clock on Friday morning.)

*The **Priest** vests in epitrachelion and phelonion. The lights are dimmed.*

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

Reader: Amen.

Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

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!

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: 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.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

Come, let us worship God, our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

*The Holy Doors are opened and the **Priest**, preceded by the **Deacon** who censens, carries the Gospel and places it on an analogion in the center of the Temple.*

*The **Priest**, preceded by the **Deacon** with a candle, does a Full Censing of the Temple, beginning around the Gospel Book.*

Psalm 5

Listen to my words, O Lord,
consider my cry.

Attend to the voice of my prayer.
my King and my God,
because to You I will pray, O Lord.

You will hear my voice in the morning.
In the morning I will stand before You
and You will visit and watch over me.

For You are not a God Who desires lawlessness;
and evildoers will not live with You,

nor will the violent remain before Your eyes.
You hate all who practice lawlessness.

You will destroy all who tell lies;
the Lord abhors a bloody and deceitful man.

But in Your great mercy
I will enter Your house, and in the fear of You
I will worship toward Your holy temple.

O Lord, guide me in Your righteousness,
direct my way before You
because of my enemies.

For there is no truth in their mouth;
their heart is empty.

Their throat is a yawning tomb,
with their tongues they deceive.

Judge them, O God,
let them fall by their own thoughts.
For the enormity of their godlessness cast them out,
because they have rebelled against You, O Lord.

But let all who hope in You be glad in You;
they will rejoice forever
and You will live in them.

All who love Your name will glory in You,

because You will bless a righteous person, O Lord.
You have crowned us with goodwill as with a shield.

Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples imagine futile¹ things.

The kings of the earth stood up
and the rulers were gathered together
against the Lord and against His Christ.²

“Let us break their chains³
and let us throw off their yoke from us.”

He who lives in the heavens⁴ will laugh at them
and the Lord will deride them.

Then He will talk to them in His anger
and in His rage He will trouble them.

But I am appointed King by Him
on Zion His holy mountain,

proclaiming the Lord’s commandment.
The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son.
Today I have begotten You.⁵

“Ask from Me and I will give you
the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

“You will rule them with a rod of iron⁶
and crush them like a potter’s vessel.”

¹Gk. *kena* and futile from Lat. both come from roots meaning “to pour out (junk)”.

²Ps. 2:1-2 = Ac. 4:25-26 verbatim.

³Kings, rulers, peoples see God & Christ as 2 enemies: “Let us throw off their...”

⁴Cp. Mt. 6:9, “Our Father in the heavens”.

⁵“You are...begotten You” is quoted in Ac. 13:33 verbatim (Gk.).

⁶Quoted: Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15.

And now you kings, understand!
Be corrected, all you judges of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear
and rejoice in Him with trembling.

Embrace correction
in case the Lord becomes angry
and you perish out of the right way.

When suddenly His anger is kindled,
blessed are all who trust in Him.

Psalm 21 (22)

O God my God, attend to me!
Why did You abandon me?
Far from my salvation are the subjects⁷ of my sins.

My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer me,
and by night, yet it is not foolish of me.

You live in the holy place,
the praise of Israel.

Our fathers hoped in You;
they hoped, and You delivered them.

They cried out to You and were saved,
they hoped in You and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man,
a reproach of men and a scorn of people.

All who see me sneer at me;
they say with their lips as they wag their heads:

⁷Gk. *logos* = word, explanation, etc.

“He hoped in the Lord. Let Him deliver him,
let Him save him, since He wants him.”

For You are the One Who drew me out of the womb,
You have been my hope from my mother’s breasts.

I have been cast on Your care from my birth;
You are my God from my mother’s womb.

Do not stay far from me, because trouble is near,
for there is no one to help me.

Many young bulls encircle me,
fat bulls surround me.

They open their mouth against me
like a ravenous and roaring lion.⁸

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are disjoined,
my heart is like melting wax inside me.

My strength has dried up like a potsherd
and my tongue sticks to my throat,
and You have brought me down to the dust of death.

For a pack of dogs encircle me,
and a gang of evildoers surrounds me;
They pierce my hands and my feet.

They count all my bones;
they stare and gloat over me.

They divide my garments among themselves
and for my robe they cast lots.

⁸Cp. Gen. 45:7 LXX & RSV.

But You, O Lord, do not delay my help;
attend to my defense.

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my only life⁹ from the power of the dog.

Save me from the mouth of the lion
and my humility from the horns of rhinoceroses.

I will tell Your name to my brothers,
in the midst of the church I will sing to You.

You who fear the Lord, praise Him;
all you sons of Jacob, glorify Him.
Let all the sons of Israel fear Him.

For He has not despised or disdained the poor man's prayer
or turned away His face from me,
but when I cried to Him He answered me.

From You comes my praise;
in the great church I will confess You,
I will pay my vows before those who fear You.

The poor will eat and will be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord will praise Him;
their hearts will live forever.

All the ends of the earth will remember
and they will return to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations will worship before Him.

For the Kingdom is the Lord's
and it is He Who rules the nations.

⁹Gk. *psyche* = soul, life; "only one" is feminine, agreeing with *psyche*.

All the rich of the earth have eaten and worshipped;
all who go down into the earth will fall down before Him.
But my soul lives for Him,

and my children will serve Him;
the coming generation will be declared for the Lord.

And they will declare His righteousness
to a people who will be born, whom the Lord has made.

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...

Troparion

Tone 1

The tyrant has been destroyed by Your crucifixion, O Christ.
The power of the enemy has been trampled down.
For not an angel, nor a man,
But You, Yourself, have saved us: O Lord, glory to You!

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

What shall we call you, O Full of Grace?
Heaven: for from you shone forth the Sun of Righteousness;
Paradise: for you have budded forth the flower of immortality;
Virgin: for you have remained undefiled;
Pure Mother: for you have held in your arms the Son, Who is God of
all.

Implore Him to save our souls.

Stichera

Tone 8

Today, the curtain of the temple is torn in two
To convict the transgressors,
And even the sun hides its rays,
Seeing the Master crucified.

Verse: Why do the nations rage
and the peoples imagine futile things?

You were led as a sheep to the slaughter, O Christ our king,
And as an innocent lamb
You were nailed to the Cross by transgressors,
Because of our sins, O Lover of mankind.

Verse: The kings of the earth stood up
and the rulers were gathered together
against the Lord and against His Christ.

You were led as a sheep... (*repeat above*).

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

While permitting transgressors to arrest You,
You cried out to them, O Lord:

“Though you smite the Shepherd and scatter the twelve sheep, my
disciples,

I am able to surround Myself with more than thirty legions of angels.

But I forbear,

So that the secret and hidden things might be fulfilled

Which were revealed to you by My prophets.”

O Lord, glory to You!

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

While permitting transgressors... (*repeat above*).

The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy

Deacon: Wisdom!

Psalm 40

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the fourth tone:

His heart gathered iniquity to itself; He went out and spoke of it.

People: His heart gathered iniquity to itself; He went out and spoke of it.

Reader: Blessed is He Who considers the poor and needy.

People: His heart gathered iniquity to itself; He went out and spoke of it.

Reader: His heart gathered iniquity to itself...

People: ...He went out and spoke of it.

The Old Testament Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Zech. 11:10-13*) And I shall take my staff, Beauty, and I shall cast it away, to break my covenant which I made with all the people. And in that day they will be scattered about. And the Canaanites shall know the flock is kept safe, for this is the word of the Lord. And I shall say to them, "If it is fitting in your judgment, give me my payment, or refuse it." And they established my wage at thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Drop them into the smelting furnace and see if it is

proven, as in the same manner I was proven for their sake.” And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the smelting furnace in the house of the Lord.

The Epistle

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Gal. 6:14-18*) Brethren, God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

The Gospel

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)

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

People: Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (Mt. 27:1-56) “When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*’ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ‘And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the LORD directed me.’”

Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ So Jesus said to him, ‘*It is as you say.*’ And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?’ But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, ‘Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?’ For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, ‘Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.’ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to

them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' They said, 'Barabbas!' Pilate said to them, 'What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' *They* all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified!' Then the governor said, 'Why, what evil has He done?' But they cried out all the more, saying, 'Let Him be crucified!' When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it*.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood *be* on us and on our children.'

Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted *it*, He would not drink. Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: 'They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.' Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.'

Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, "I am the Son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, 'This Man is calling for Elijah!' Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, 'Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.'

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God!' And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

People: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

Reader: Direct my steps according to Your word,
and let no lawlessness have dominion over me.

Deliver me from the accusations of men,
and I will keep Your commandments.

Let Your face beam on Your servant
and teach me Your requirements.

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise, O Lord,
that I may sing of Your glory and honor all the day long.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: 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.

The Kontakion

Tone 8

People: Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us,
For Mary said, when she beheld Him upon the Tree:
“Though You endure the Cross, You are my Son and my God.”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)¹⁰

The Prayer of the Hours

At every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, You are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; You love the just and show mercy on the sinner; You call all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

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.

¹⁰ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

Priest: + May God have compassion on us and bless us,
may He manifest His presence to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

The Prayer of the First Hour

Reader: O Christ, You are the true Light which enlightens and sanctifies every man that comes into the world. Let the light of Your countenance shine on us, that in it we may behold the unapproachable light, and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Your commandments; through the prayers of Your most pure Mother and of all Your saints. Amen.

Third Hour

Reader: Come, let us worship God, our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning around the Gospel Book.

Psalm 34 (35)

Judge those who are wronging me, O Lord,
fight those who are fighting me.

Take hold of shield and weapon
and stand up to help me.

Draw a sword and block the way
against those who persecute me.
Say to my soul: "I am your salvation."

Let those who seek my life be ashamed and confounded;
let those who plan evils for me be routed and ashamed.

Let them be like dust in the face of the wind,
and let an angel of the Lord afflict them.

Let their way be dark and slippery,
and let an angel of the Lord pursue them,

because for nothing they hid from me the deception of their trap,¹¹
they falsely accused my soul.

Let a trap which he does not know come upon him
and let the net which he hid catch him,
and let him fall into his own trap.

¹¹Cp. 1 Sam. 18:21.

But my soul will rejoice in the Lord
and will delight in His salvation.

All my bones will say, “Lord, who is like You;
who delivers the poor from the hand
of those who are stronger than they are,
and the poor and needy from those who rob them?”

False witnesses rose up against me
and asked me things which I did not know.

They repaid me evil for good
and barrenness for my soul.¹²

But when they troubled me, I put on sackcloth
and humbled my soul with fasting,
and my prayer will return to my bosom.

As though he were our neighbor and brother
I tried to please him.
Like one who is mourning and gloomy-looking
I humbled myself.

But they were glad and were gathered together against me,
scourges were gathered together against me,
and I did not know it.

They were divided, yet they were not repentant.¹³

They tempted me, they scoffed and sneered at me,
they gnashed their teeth at me.

O Lord, when will You look upon me?
Rescue my soul from their malice,
my only one from the lions.

¹²Barrenness, result of the curse, was doomed (Mt. 21:43). Christ took the curse (Gal. 3:13).

¹³or “they felt no compunction”.

I will confess and thank You in a great assembly,
among a powerful people I will praise You.

Do not let those who are unjustly my enemies rejoice over me,
those who hate me and wink their eyes for no reason.

For they spoke peaceful words to me,
yet in anger they were plotting intrigues.

And they opened their mouth wide against me
and said: "Good, good! Our eyes have seen it."

You have seen it, O Lord, do not be silent.
O Lord, do not stand aloof from me.

Arise, O Lord, and attend to my judgment
and to my cause, my God and my Lord.

Judge me, O Lord my God, according to Your righteousness,
and do not let them rejoice against me.

Do not let them say in their hearts, "Good, good!
Just what we wanted."

Do not let them say, "We have swallowed him up."

Let those who rejoice over my troubles
be ashamed and confounded together.

Let those who boast against me
be covered with shame and confusion.

Let those who desire my justification
rejoice and be glad,
and let those who desire the peace of Your servant
say continually, "The Lord be magnified."

And my tongue will learn¹⁴ Your righteousness
and Your praise all day long.

Psalm 108 (109)

Do not pass over my praise in silence,
for the mouth of the sinner and the mouth of the deceiver
are opened against me.

They speak against me with a deceitful tongue,
and they surround me with words of hatred
and they fight against me for no reason.

Instead of loving me, they accuse me,
but I pray for them.

And they repay me evil for good
and hatred for my love.

Set a sinner over him,
and let the devil stand at his right hand.

When he is judged, let him go out condemned,
and let his prayer be turned into sin.

Let his days be few,
and let someone else take his leadership.¹⁵

Let his sons be orphans
and let his wife be a widow.

Let his sons wander as vagabonds and beg,
let them be outcasts from their ruined homes.

¹⁴or “study, meditate” (cp. learn by heart = Heb. learn by mouth).

¹⁵Gk. *episkope* = episcopate, bishopric, oversight, supervision, (Rev. 12:9-11).

Let his creditor ransack all that he has,
and let strangers plunder his labors.

Let there be no one to help him,
and no one to pity his orphans.

Let his children be born for destruction,
in one generation, let his name be wiped out.

Let the sin of his fathers be remembered before the Lord,
and let his mother's sin not be wiped out.

Let them be before the Lord continually,
and let their memory perish from the earth.

For it never entered his mind to show mercy,
but he persecuted the poor and needy person
and hounded the brokenhearted to death.

And he loved cursing, so that is what came to him;
and he took no pleasure in blessing, and so it was far from him.

And he put on cursing like a cloak,
and it went in like water into his body
and like oil into his bones.

Let it be like a cloak which he wraps round him
and like a girdle which continually binds him.

This is the work of those who accuse me before God,¹⁶
and of those who say evil things against my soul.

But You, O Lord God, deal with me for Your name's sake,
for Your mercy is good.

¹⁶Re. 12:9-10.

Deliver me, for I am poor and needy,
and my heart is troubled within me.

Like a vanishing shadow, I am taken away;
I am shaken out like locusts.

My knees are weak from fasting
and my flesh is changed for want of oil.

I have become a reproach to them;
when they see me, they shake their heads.

Help me, O Lord my God,
and save me in Your mercy.

Let them know that this is Your hand
and that You, O Lord, have done it.

They will curse, but You will bless.
Let those who rise up against me be put to shame,
but Your servant will rejoice.

Let my accusers be clothed with confusion,
and let them be covered with shame like a cloak.

I will greatly thank the Lord with my mouth,
and in the midst of many I will praise Him.

For He stands at the right hand of the needy,
to save my soul from my persecutors.

Psalm 50 (51)

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 iniquities¹⁷
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.

¹⁷ Lit. "lawlessnesses".

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.¹⁸

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.

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...

¹⁸ As Slavonic.

Troparion*Tone 6*

O Lord, the Life of all,
The Jews delivered you over to death.
You led them through the Red Sea by Moses' rod,
Yet they handed You over to be crucified.
You fed them with honey from the rock,
And they repaid You with gall and vinegar.
But You willingly endured these things to free us from bondage to the enemy.
O Christ God, glory to You!

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

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the fruit of life. We implore you, O Lady: intercede together with the Apostles and all the saints, that mercy may be granted to our souls.

Blessed is the Lord God,
blessed is the Lord day by day;
the God of our salvation will prosper us.
Our God is the God Who saves.

Stichera*Tone 8*

For fear of the Jews, O Lord,
Your friend and companion Peter denied you.
In bitter grief, he cried aloud:
“O Compassionate Master,
Do not turn away in silence from my tears.
I said that I would keep faith, but have failed You.”
Accept also our repentance and have mercy on us, O Lord!

Verse: Give ear to my words, O Lord;
give heed to my groaning.

Before your crucifixion, O Lord,
As the soldiers were mocking You,
The angels hid their faces, unable to bear the sight,
For though You adorned the earth with flowers,
You were arrayed in a crown of thorns;
You have wrapped the heavens with clouds
But were clothed in a robe of mockery!
Yet all these things fulfilled Your saving plan,
By which Your compassion was revealed to us.
O Christ of great mercy, glory to You!

Verse: Hearken to the sound of my cry,
O my King and my God.

Before Your crucifixion... (*repeat above*).

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

Tone 5

When You were raised upon the Cross, O Lord,
You cried out to the Jews:
“For what deeds do you crucify Me, O My people?
Is it because I made your paralytics walk?
Because I raised the dead as from sleep?
Because I healed the woman with the issue of blood,
And took pity on the woman of Canaan?
For what deeds do you seek to kill Me?”
You shall look upon Him Whom you have pierced,
Upon your Messiah, O transgressors.

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

When You were raised... (*repeat above*).

The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy

Deacon: Wisdom!

Psalm 37

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the fourth tone:

I am ready for scourging, and my pain is ever with Me.

People: I am ready for scourging, and my pain is ever with Me.

Reader: O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath!

People: I am ready for scourging, and my pain is ever with Me.

Reader: I am ready for scourging...

People: ...and my pain is ever with Me.

The Old Testament Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (Is. 50:4-11) The Lord gives Me the tongue of the learned, so as to know when to speak a word at a fitting time; and He causes My ear to listen each morning. The Lord's instruction opens My ears, and I am not disobedient, nor so I contradict Him.

I gave My back to whips, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting. The Lord became My helper; therefore, I was not disgraced. But I made My face like a solid rock, and knew I would not be ashamed. For He who pronounces Me righteous draws near. Who is he who judges Me? Let him oppose Me

at the same time. Who is he who judges Me? Let him come near Me. Behold, the Lord will help Me. Who will harm Me? Behold, all of you will grow old like a garment, and old age will devour you, as a moth does a garment.

Who among you fears the Lord? Let him listen to the voice of His Servant. You who walk in darkness and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon God. Behold, all of you kindle a fire and feed a flame. Walk in the light of your fire and the flame you kindled. This happened to you for My sake, and you shall lie down in sorrow.

The Epistle

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Rom. 5:6-10*) Brethren, when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

The Gospel

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)

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

People: Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (Mk. 15:16-41) At that time, the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His *head*, and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.

And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take *it*. And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take. Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down." And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

People: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

Reader: Blessed is the Lord God,
blessed is the Lord day by day;
the God of our salvation will prosper us.
Our God is the God Who saves.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: 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.

The Kontakion

Tone 8

People: Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us,
For Mary said, when she beheld Him upon the Tree:
“Though You endure the Cross, You are my Son and my God.”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)¹⁹

¹⁹ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

The Prayer of the Hours

At every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, You are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; You love the just and show mercy on the sinner; You call all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

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: + Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

The Prayer of the Third Hour

Reader: O God, the Master, Father almighty; O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son; and You, O Holy Spirit: one godhead, one power: have mercy on me a sinner, and according to Your divine judgment, save me, Your unworthy servant, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sixth Hour

Reader: Come, let us worship God, our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning around the Gospel Book.

Psalm 53 (54)

O God, save me by Your name
and judge me by Your power.

O God, hear my prayer;
listen²⁰ to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen against me
and strong ones have tried to take my life
and have not set God before them.

For look, God is helping me,
and the Lord is the protector of my soul.

He will divert the evils to my enemies.
Destroy them by Your truth.

I will willingly sacrifice to You, O Lord,
I will give thanks to Your name, because it is good.

For You have delivered me out of all my trouble,
and my eye has kept watch on my enemies.

²⁰ or "give ear".

Psalm 139 (140)

Rescue me, O Lord, from an evil man;²¹
from an unjust man deliver me.

They plan wrongdoing in their heart,
and all day long they prepare for war.

They make their tongue as sharp as a serpent's,
the venom of vipers is under their lips.

Guard me, O Lord, from the hand of a sinner;
deliver me from unjust men,
who plan to trip my steps.

The proud hide a trap for me
and stretch cords as traps for my feet;
they set stumbling-blocks for me across my path.

I said to the Lord, "You are my God!"
Give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my prayer.

O Lord God, power of my salvation,
You overshadow my head in the day of battle.

Do not give me up to a sinner,²²
O Lord, on account of my desire.

They plot against me, do not leave me,
lest they should be exalted.

The head belongs to the one coiling around them;²³
the work of their lips will cover them.²⁴

²¹Mt. 13:28.

²²Ro. 1:24.

²³Ps. 11:8.

²⁴See Ps. 7:17.

Coals will fall on them,
You will cast them down in a fire,
in miseries they will not survive.

A talkative person will not prosper on the earth
evils will drive a wrongdoer to destruction.

I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the poor
and the justice of the needy.

But the righteous will confess Your name,
and those who are straight will live in Your presence.

Psalm 90 (91)

He who lives by the help of the Most High
will pass the night in the protection of the God of Heaven.

He will say to the Lord, “You are my protector and my refuge,
my God,” and in Him I will hope.

For He will deliver you from the trap of the hunters
and from the embarrassing word.

He will overshadow you with His shoulders,
and under His wings you will hope.
His truth will surround you with armor.

You will not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day--

of a thing going by in the dark,
of an accident or a noonday demon.

A thousand will fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

Only with your eyes you will look on,
and you will see the reward of sinners.

For You, O Lord, are my hope;
You made the Most High Your refuge.

No evils will come to you,
and no scourge will come near your dwelling.

For He will command His angels regarding you
to guard you in all your ways.

They will lift you on their hands,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will step on the asp and the adder;
the lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

“Because he has set his hope on Me, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows My name.

He will call to Me and I will answer him.
I am with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and glorify him.

With a long life I will satisfy him,
and I will show him My salvation.”

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...

Troparion*Tone 4*

You have wrought salvation
 in the midst of the earth, O Christ God.
 You stretched out Your all-pure hands upon the Cross;
 You have gathered together all the nations,
 who cry aloud to You: “Glory to You, O Lord!”

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

We have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins,
 but entreat Him Who was born of you, O Virgin Theotokos,
 for the prayer of a mother has great power to win the favor of the
 Master.

Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-pure one,
 for merciful and strong to save is He Who willed to suffer for us.

Stichera*Tone 8*

Thus says the Lord to the Jews:
 My people, what have I done to you?
 Or how have I offended you?
 To your blind I gave sight, your lepers I cleansed,
 The paralytic I raised from his bed.
 My people, what have I done to you,
 And how have you repaid Me?
 Instead of manna, gall; instead of water, vinegar;
 Instead of loving Me, you nail Me to the Cross.
 I can bear no more.
 I shall call the Gentiles Mine.
 They will glorify Me with the Father and the Spirit,

And I shall give them life eternal.

Verse: They gave Me gall for food,
and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

The choir of the Apostles cries out to you,
Law-givers of Israel, Scribes and Pharisees;
Behold the Temple Which you destroyed!
Behold the Lamb Whom you crucified!
You delivered Him to the tomb, but by His own power He arose.
Do not be deceived, O Jews.
He it is that saved you in the sea and fed you in the wilderness.
He is the life, the light, and the peace of the world.

Verse: Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck!

The choir of the Apostles... (*repeat above*).

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

Tone 5

Come, O Christ-bearing people!
Let us see what the traitor Judas and the lawless priests
Have plotted against our Savior.
Today they made the deathless Word subject to death.
They delivered Him to Pilate
And crucified Him on Golgotha.
Suffering these things our Savior cried aloud and said:
"Father, forgive them this sin,
That all nations may know My resurrection from the dead."

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

Come, O Christ-bearing people... (*repeat above*).

The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy

Deacon: Wisdom!

Psalm 8

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the fourth tone:

O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth!

People: O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth!

Reader: Your majesty is exalted above the heavens.

People: O Lord, our Lord, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth!

Reader: O Lord, our Lord...

People: ...how wonderful is Your name in all the earth!

The Old Testament Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (Is. 52:13-54:1) Behold, My Servant shall have wisdom, and He shall be exalted and glorified exceedingly. Just as many shall be astonished at You, so Your form and glory shall be dishonored by men. Thus many nations shall marvel at Him, and kings shall shut their mouth, because they to whom no report was brought concerning Him shall see; and they who did not hear shall understand.

O Lord, who has believed our report, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? We proclaimed His presence as a Child, as a Root in a thirsty land. He had no form or glory, and we saw Him; and He had no

form or beauty. But in comparison to all men, His form was lacking in honor. He was a man in suffering and knew how to bear sickness. His face was turned away, and He was dishonored and not esteemed. He bears our sins and suffers for us, yet we considered Him to be in pain, suffering, and ill-treatment. But He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruise we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Man has gone astray in his way, and the Lord delivered Him over for our sins. Although He was ill-treated, He opened not His mouth. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before his shearers, so He opens not His mouth. In His humiliation His judgment was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth, and because of the lawlessness of My people He was led to death. I will appoint evil men for His burial and rich men for His death, because He committed no lawlessness, nor was deceit found in His mouth. The Lord wishes to cleanse Him of His wound, and if You give an offering for sin, Your soul shall see a long-lived seed. The Lord wishes to take away the pain of His soul, to show Him light, to form Him with understanding, and to pronounce righteous the Righteous One who serves many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and will divide the spoil with the strong, because His soul was delivered over to death. He was considered among the lawless, and He bore the sins of many, and was delivered over because of their sins.

“Be glad, O barren woman who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail, for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman,” says the Lord.

Alternate Reading:

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Amos.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Amos 8:9-12*) “And it will come to pass in that day,” says the Lord God, “the sun will set at noon, and the light of day will grow dark over the land. And I shall turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation. I shall place sackcloth on every waist and make every head bald. They shall be as one mourning a beloved one, and those with them as a day of grief.”

“Behold, the days will come,” says the Lord, “that I shall send a famine across the land; not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but famine to hear the words of the Lord. The waters will be unsettled as far as the sea. And from the north to the east men will scurry about seeking to find the word of the Lord, but will not find it.”

The Epistle

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Heb. 2:11-18*) Brethren, both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to

bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

The Gospel

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)

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

People: Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (Lk. 23:32-49) At that time, there were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear

God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come in Your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” Having said this, He breathed His last. So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!” And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

People: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

Reader: Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us,
because great is our need, O Lord.
Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of Your name;
O Lord, deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name’s sake.

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.

The Kontakion

Tone 8

People: Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us,
For Mary said, when she beheld Him upon the Tree:
“Though You endure the Cross, You are my Son and my God.”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)²⁵

The Prayer of the Hours

At every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, You are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; You love the just and show mercy on the sinner; You call all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our

²⁵ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

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: + Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Reader: Amen.

The Prayer of the Sixth Hour

Reader: O God, the Lord of hosts, and author of all creation, Who in Your boundless tender mercy have sent down Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human race, and through His holy Cross have torn up the record of our sins and by the Cross triumphed over the princes and dominions of darkness: O Master, Who loves mankind, accept these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to do us harm. Nail our flesh with the fear of You, and let not our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with Your love, that ever gazing on You, the eternal light that no man can approach, we may send up unceasing praises and thanks to You; the Father without

beginning, together with Your only-begotten Son and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

Ninth Hour

Reader: Come, let us worship God, our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

The Deacon does a Full Censing, beginning around the Gospel Book.

Psalm 68 (69)

Save me, O God,
for the waters have entered even my soul.

I am stuck in deep mud
and there is no standing ground;

I have come into the depths of the sea
and a storm is overwhelming me.

I am tired of shouting, my throat has grown hoarse,
my eyes fail with hoping for my God.

Those who hate me for no reason
are more numerous than the hairs of my head.
My enemies who were unjustly persecuting me grew strong.
I then repaid what I never robbed.

O God, You know my foolishness
and my faults are not hidden from You.

May those who wait for You
not be ashamed through me, O Lord God of hosts.
May those who seek You
not be confused through me, O God of Israel.

For Your sake I have borne reproach,
confusion has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my brothers
and an alien to my mother's children,
because zeal for Your house has consumed me,
and the insults of those who insult You have fallen on me.

Then I covered my soul with fasting,
but it became an occasion for insulting me.

And I put on sackcloth for my clothing,
and I became a byword to them.

Those sitting in the gates gossiped against me,
while those drinking wine sang songs about me.

But I look to You with my prayer, O Lord;²⁶
it is a time of goodwill.

O God, in the abundance of Your mercy
answer me with the truth of Your salvation.

Save me from the mud, lest I stick there;
deliver me from those who hate me
and from the deep waters.

May a storm of water never drown me,
nor the deep sea swallow me,
nor the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O Lord, for Your mercy is good;
in Your great compassion look upon me.

Do not turn away Your face from Your servant,
for I am in trouble; answer me speedily.

Attend to my soul and deliver me;
rescue me, because of my enemies.

²⁶Cp. Ps. 24:15.

For You know my reproach, my shame and my confusion;
all who trouble me are before You.

My soul expected rebuke and misery,
and I waited for someone to share my grief
and for comforters, but I found none.

And they gave me gall for food,
and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let their table become a trap to them:
a repayment and a stumbling-block.

Let their eyes be darkened so they do not see,
and bend down their back continually.

Pour out Your anger upon them,
and let the fury of Your anger convict them.

Let their homestead become deserted,
and let there be no one to live in their tents.

For they persecuted the one You struck,
and they added to the pain of My wounds.

Add lawlessness to their lawlessness,
and let them not come into Your righteousness.

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,
and let them not be written with the righteous.

I am poor and in pain;
may Your salvation, O God, help me.

I will praise the name of my God with a song,
I will magnify Him with praise.

And this will please God
more than a young bull that has horns and hoofs.

Let the poor see and be glad;
seek God and your soul will live.

For the Lord hears the needy,
and He does not despise His prisoners.

Let the heavens and the earth praise Him,
the sea and all that moves in it.

For God will save Zion and the cities of Judea will be built,
and people will live there and inherit it.

And the descendants of Your servants will possess it,
and those who love Your name will live there.

Psalm 69 (70)

O God, attend to my help;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confounded.
Let those who wish evils for me
be turned back and put to shame.

Let those who say to me, "Fine, fine!"
be turned back immediately ashamed.

Let all who seek You, O God,
rejoice and be glad in You,
and let those who love Your salvation
say continually, "The Lord be magnified!"

But I am poor and needy;
O God, help me.

You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, make no delay.

Psalm 85 (86)

Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

Guard my soul, for I am holy;
my God, save Your servant who hopes in You.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for all day long I will call to You.

Gladden the soul of Your servant,
for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For You, Lord, are good and gentle,
and most merciful to all who call upon You.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,
and attend to the cry of my need.

In the day of my trouble I will call to You,
because You will answer me.

There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord,
and there are no works like Yours.

All the nations You have made will come and worship You, O Lord,
and will glorify Your name.

For You are great and do wonderful things,
You, alone, are God.

Guide me in Your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in Your truth.
Let my heart rejoice to fear Your name.

I will thank You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and I will glorify Your name forever.

For great is Your mercy to me,
and you have delivered my soul from the lowest Hades.

O God, lawbreakers have risen against me,
and a mob of strong ones have tried to take my life
and have not set You before them.

But You, O Lord my God, are compassionate and merciful,
most patient, most merciful and true.

Look upon me and have mercy on me;
give Your strength to Your servant
and save the son of Your handmaid.

Work with me a miracle for good²⁷
and let those who hate me see it and be ashamed,
because You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

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...

²⁷ v.17 read twice at 9th Hour.

Troparion*Tone 8*

When the thief beheld the Author of life hanging upon the Cross, he cried out:

“If You were not the incarnate God crucified here with us,
Then the sun would not have hid its rays,
Neither would the earth have shaken with trembling.
As You suffer for all men, remember me, O Lord,
When You come in Your kingdom!”

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

O Lord, Who for our sake were born of a virgin and have endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the Resurrection: Despise not the works of Your hands, but show Your love for mankind, O merciful one. Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave You birth, and save Your despairing people, O our Savior.

Stichera*Tone 7*

A strange wonder it was to see the Maker of heaven and earth suspended on the Cross.

The sun was darkened and the day was changed into night.
The earth gave up the bodies of the dead from their graves.
With them we worship You: save us, O Lord!

Verse: They divide My garments among them,
and for My raiment they cast lots.

Tone 2

When transgressors nailed the King of glory to the Cross,
He cried out to them:
“How have I caused you pain?
Or in what have I angered you?
Who before Me delivered you from affliction?
And how have you now rewarded Me?
By returning evil for good.
For the pillar of fire you nail Me to the Cross.
For the cloud you dig Me a grave.
Instead of manna you bring Me gall.
Instead of water you give Me vinegar to drink.
Henceforth I shall call the Gentiles,
And they will glorify Me with the Father and the Holy Spirit.”

Verse: They gave Me gall for food, and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

When transgressors... (*repeat above*).

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

Then the Reader, standing in the center of the temple, chants:

Tone 6

Reader: Today, He Who hung the earth upon the waters is hung on the tree. (3x)

The King of the angels is decked with a crown of thorns.
He Who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.
He Who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped on the face.
The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the Cross with nails.
The son of the Virgin is pierced by a spear.
We worship Your passion, O Christ.

We worship Your passion, O Christ.
We worship Your passion, O Christ.
Show us also Your glorious resurrection.

*Then the **People** sing the above:*

People: Today, He Who hung the earth... (*repeat above*).

The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy

Deacon: Wisdom!

Psalm 13

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the sixth tone:

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

People: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Reader: There is none that does good, no not one.

People: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Reader: The fool says in his heart...

People: ..."There is no God."

The Old Testament Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Jer. 11:17-12:5, 9-11, 14-15*) O Lord, teach me, and I will know. Then I saw their purpose. For I did not know I was like an innocent lamb led to be sacrificed. They plotted an evil device against me, saying, "Come,

let us put wood in his bread, and destroy him root and branch from the land of the living, so his name might not be remembered any longer.” But, O Lord, You who judge righteously who tests minds and hearts, let me see Your vengeance on them, for I have revealed my righteous plea to You.

Therefore thus says the Lord against the men of Anathoth, against those who seek my life, and who say, “Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, lest you die by our hands”—“Behold, I will visit them. The young men shall die by the sword, and their sons and daughters shall die by famine. There shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring calamities on the inhabitants of Anathoth in the year of their visitation.”

O Lord, You are righteous, that I may plead my case with You, to speak to You concerning judgments. Why does the way of the ungodly prosper, and all who deal treacherously flourish? You planted them, and they took root. They bear children and are fruitful. You are near in their mouth, but far from their mind. But You, O Lord, know me. You have proven my heart before You. Set them apart for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn and the grass of the field wither, because of the vices of those who dwell in it? The cattle and the birds are destroyed, because they said, “God will not see our ways.”

“Your feet run and grow weary. How then will you prepare yourself to run with horses? You are confident when the land is peaceful, but what will you do when the Jordan floods the land?

“Is not My inheritance the cave of a hyena to Me, or a cave it walks around? Gather together all the wild beasts of the field and let them come to devour her. Many shepherds destroyed My vineyard and defiled My portion. They turned My pleasant portion into an impassable desert. It was made a complete ruin. The whole land was utterly destroyed for My sake, because there was no man who took it to heart.”

For thus says the Lord: “Concerning all the evil neighbors who touch

My inheritance, which I divided to My people Israel—behold, I shall draw them away from their land and will cast out Judah from their midst. Then it shall come to pass, after I cast them out, that I will return them and have mercy on them. I will settle them, each in his inheritance and each in his land.”

The Epistle

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (*Heb. 10:19-31*) Brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

The Gospel

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)

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

People: Glory to Your Passion, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: (*Jn. 18:28-19:37*) At that time, they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again

to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify *Him*, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The Pavement*, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led *Him* away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the Place* of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, *and* Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews.””” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” Therefore the soldiers did these things. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they

might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not *one* of His bones shall be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

People: Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord.

The Clergy return to the Sanctuary. The Priest returns the Gospel Book to the Holy Altar, closes the Holy Doors, and removes his phelonion.

Reader: For Your holy name’s sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Your covenant; do not take Your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: 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.

Kontakion

Tone 8

People: Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, For Mary said, when she beheld Him upon the Tree:
“Though You endure the Cross, You are my Son and my God.”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)²⁸

The Prayer of the Hours

At every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, You are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; You love the just and show mercy on the sinner; You call all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed

²⁸ Technically 40x, but, outside of monasteries, commonly 12x by custom.

unto ages of ages. Amen.

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.

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: + May God have compassion on us and bless us,
may He manifest His presence to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

The Prayer of the Ninth Hour

Reader: O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who are long-suffering
towards our sins and have brought us even to this present hour, in
which, hanging upon the life-creating Cross, You have opened to the
good thief the way into Paradise, and destroyed death by death: be
merciful to us, Your humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we
have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes
and look upon the height of heaven, since we have forsaken the path of
Your righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own
hearts. But we implore You: in Your boundless goodness, spare us, O
Lord, according to the abundance of Your mercy, and save us for Your
holy name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from
the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of
the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new,
and may live for You, our master and protector; and that so, following
Your ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest in the place where all the
joyful dwell. For You, O Christ our God, are indeed the true joy and

gladness of those that love You, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*If the Typika will not be read, the Holy Doors are opened and the **Priest** pronounces the dismissal:*

The Dismissal

*The **Priest** bows toward the icon of Christ on the Iconostasis, saying:*

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

Reader: 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 front of the Holy Doors, facing the people, the **Priest** says the Dismissal:*

Priest: May He Who endured fearful sufferings, the life-creating Cross, and voluntary burial in the flesh, on behalf of us men, and 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 (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.

*The **Priest** bows to the People and enters the Sanctuary.*

The Typika

The Beatitudes are read quickly.

Reader: Remember us, O Lord, in Your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

The heavenly choirs sing Your praises, crying:

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!”

Draw near to Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings Your praises, crying:

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!”

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

The choir of angels and archangels with all the host of heaven sings
Your praises, crying:
“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Your
glory.”

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

The Nicene Creed

This may be sung or read.

People: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten,
begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true
God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all
things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and
suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to
the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of
the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and
the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from
the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one
baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world²⁹ to come. Amen.

²⁹ Literally “age”.

Prayer for Forgiveness

Reader: Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Kontakia

Tone 8

People: Come, let us all sing the praises of Him Who was crucified for us, For Mary said, when she beheld Him upon the Tree:
“Though You endure the Cross, You are my Son and my God.”

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

O All-Holy Trinity, the consubstantial dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every Good: Show Your good will even unto me a sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away my every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say:

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

People: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (3x)

Psalm 33 (34)

This may be sung or read.

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise shall be continually in my mouth.

My soul will be praised by the Lord;
let the meek hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me
and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He answered me,
and He delivered me out of all my troubles.

Come to Him and be radiant,
and your faces will not be ashamed.

This poor man called and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord will camp round those who fear Him
and will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

O fear the Lord, all you His saints,
because those who fear Him lack nothing.

The rich do become poor and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord
will not be in want of anything good.

Come, children, listen to me!
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is a person who wants life³⁰
and loves to see good days?

Stop your tongue from evil
and your lips from talking deceit.

Turn away from evil and do good,
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous³¹
and His ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against evildoers
to destroy their memory from the earth.

The righteous call and the Lord answers them
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted
and He will save the humble in spirit.

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

The Lord guards all their bones,
not one of them will be broken.

³⁰Mt. 20:14.

³¹1 Pet. 3:12 verbatim to 16a (Peter omits 16b).

The death of sinners is evil,
and those who hate a righteous man will sin.

The Lord will deliver the souls of His servants,
and none will sin who hope in Him.

The Holy Doors are opened.

People: It is truly right to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure,
and the Mother of our God.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

People: 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.

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

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.

Priest: May He Who endured fearful sufferings, the life-creating Cross, and
voluntary burial in the flesh, on behalf of us men, and 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
(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.

The Priest bows to the People and enters the Sanctuary.