

Holy Unction

As Celebrated on Wednesday Evening of Holy Week

This service is celebrated in the Nave of the Church, at the foot of the Ambo. Upon a small table is set, a Cross, Candles, and a vessel in the middle, containing wheat; and on the wheat is placed an oil lamp filled with oil and a little wine. Seven wands with cotton tips, are thrust into the wheat around the lamp. these are used to anoint those who are repenting of their sins. Also, seven lit candles are thrust into the wheat around the lamp. At the completion of the service, the faithful come forward and are anointed with the Holy Oil by the Priest.

*The Holy Doors are opened and the **Priest** and the **Deacon** (with censer and candle) proceed with the Holy Gospel book to the stand upon which it will be placed, facing the People. Standing to the right of the Priest before the table, facing East, the **Deacon** begins:*

Deacon: Arise! Bless, Master!

*The **Priest** 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.

*The **Priest** with the censer, and the **Deacon** with a candle, do a Great Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and the table, the Sanctuary, etc. (the Deacon walks in front of the Priest while the Priest censes).*

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!

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 goes to stand before the icon of Christ 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)

The Deacon 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.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

The Alleluia

Tone 6

Deacon: The Alleluia in the sixth tone.

O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your sore displeasure.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deacon: Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Troparia

Tone 6

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to You, as to our Master, this supplication: have mercy on us..

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

O Lord, have mercy on us, for in You have we put our trust. Do not be angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since You are compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies. For You are our God, and we are Your people; we are all the work of Your hands, and we call upon Your Name.

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

O blessed Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in you, that we may not perish but be delivered from adversity through you who are the salvation of the Christian people.

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 CANON

Tone 4 (The Prayer of the Oil, a Song of Arsenius)

Ode I

Irmos: When Israel of old had passed through the Red Sea's abyss without getting wet, through the cross-wise stretching forth of Moses' hands, they overthrew the host of Amalek in the wilderness.

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Ode III

Irmos: Your Church, O Christ, rejoices in You, and cries aloud: "You are my fortress, O Lord, my refuge and my strength."

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Kathisma Hymn

Tone 8 (Special Melody: "The pastoral reed...")

Since You are like a divine river of mercy, like a bottomless gulf of great loving-kindness, O Compassionate One, show forth the godly streams of Your mercy, and heal all men. Pour forth abundant floods of wonders, and wash clean all men. For always resorting to You, we fervently implore Your grace.

Tone 4 (Special Melody: "O You that were lifted up...")

O Physician and Helper of the suffering, O Redeemer and Savior of those in sickness, O Lord and Master of all, grant healing to Your servants who are sick. Show compassion and have mercy those who have grievously sinned. Deliver them, O Christ, from their iniquities, that they may glorify Your divine power.

Ode IV

Irmos: Beholding You uplifted upon the Cross, O Sun of Righteousness, the Church, in Her dignity, stood, fittingly crying: “Glory to Your might, O Lord.”

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Ode V

Irmos: As a light You have come to the world, O my Lord, a holy light which turns from the darkness of ignorance those who with faith sing praises to You.

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Ode VI

Irmos: “I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving, O Lord,” the Church cries aloud to You, having purified herself from the blood offered to demons by the blood which flowed from Your side for the sake of mercy.

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Kontakion

Tone 2 (Special Melody: “Seeking the things from above...”)

O Fountain of mercy, exceedingly good: Deliver from every adversity these persons who, with fervent faith, adore Your ineffable mercy, O Compassionate One; and taking away their infirmities, grant to them divine grace from on high.

Ode VII

Irmos: The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace, consumed by love of godliness rather than by the flame, cried out: “Blessed are You, O Lord, in the tabernacle of Your glory.”

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Ode VIII

Irmos: Daniel stretched forth his hand and stopped the gaping mouths of the lions in the den. And the Holy Children, zealous in godliness, girding themselves with virtue, quenched the raging fire, as they cried: “O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.”

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Ode IX

Irmos: O Virgin, Mount unquarried, the Cornerstone unhewn by hands was hewn from you, even Christ Who has bound together Nature that had been divided. Therefore, rejoicing, we magnify you, O Theotokos.

Refrain: Glory to You, O our God, glory to You.

Hymn of Light¹

(Special Melody: “He has visited us...”)

People: In mercy, O Good One, look down with Your own eyes upon the petitions of us who today are come together in Your holy temple, to anoint Your penitent servants with Your holy Oil.

¹ Exapostilarion.

The Praises

Psalm 148:1-2

Reader: 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;

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.

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

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

Tone 4 (Special Melody: "You have given a sign...")

People: You have given Your grace, O Lover of mankind Who are easy to be entreated, through Your apostles, by Your holy Oil, for the healing of the wounds, as also the transgressions of all men. Have mercy, therefore, upon them from every ailment, and grant them Your incorruptible food, O Lord.

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

People: Look down from heaven, O Ineffable One, in that You are of tender compassion, Who with Your invisible hand have sealed our senses, O Lover of mankind, upon those who in faith appeal to You, through Your holy Oil, and ask for remission of their transgressions. And grant healing for both soul and body, that with love they may glorify You, magnifying Your sovereign power.

Reader: Let every breath praise the Lord!

People: Through the anointing with Your Oil, and the touch of Your Priests, O Lover of mankind, sanctify from on high Your servants. Free them from their infirmities. Purge away the filth of their soul. Wash them, O Savior, and deliver them from skillfully woven temptations. Assuage their distress. Drive out all hindrances. Destroy all their afflictions, for You are merciful and compassionate.

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

People: O most pure Palace of the King, O greatly extolled One, purify, I implore you, my mind which is stained with all manner of sin, and make it the fair abode of the exceedingly Holy Trinity; that, being saved, I, your unprofitable servant, may magnify your power, and your boundless mercy.

The Deacon bows to the Priest and goes to stand before the icon of Christ.

Troparion

Tone 4

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Christ, Who alone hastens to defend, manifest Your speedy visitation from on high upon Your suffering servants. Deliver them from their infirmities and cruel pain. Raise them up again to sing praises to You, and without ceasing to glorify You, Who alone loves mankind.

The Litany

The Deacon lifts his Orarion and says:

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: For this oil, that it may be sanctified by the power, operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servants of God who are repenting of their sins, that they may receive the visitation by God and that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For their and 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.

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.

People: To You, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

The Prayer of the Oil

Priest: O Lord, Who heals the disorders of our souls and bodies, through Your mercies and compassion: As the same Lord, sanctify this oil, O Master, that it may be a means of cure for those anointed with it, for relief from all passions, defilement of flesh and spirit, and every evil; that in this may be glorified Your most holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The First Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the first tone:

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in You.

People: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in You.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; for praise befits the upright.

People: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in You.

Reader: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us,

People: ...as we have put our trust in You.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the catholic Epistle of Saint James.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (5:10-17) Brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord; that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Upon the completion of the Epistle, the Priest blesses the Reader.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the eighth tone.

I will sing of mercy and judgment, to You, O Lord.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The First Gospel

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 Saint Luke.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (10:25-37) At that time, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’” And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him,

he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O Holy of Holies, eternal and without beginning; Who sent down Your Only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and every wound of our souls and bodies: Send down Your Holy Spirit and sanctify this Oil and cause it to be, for Your servants, who are about to be anointed, perfect remission of their sins, and for inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

For Yours it is to be merciful and to save us, O our God; and to You we send up glory, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your All-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Second Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the second tone:

The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

People: The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Reader: The Lord has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

People: The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Reader: The Lord is my strength and my song,

People: ...and has become my salvation.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (15:1-7) Brethren, we then who are strong ought to bear with the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Upon the completion of the Epistle, the Priest blesses the Reader.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the fifth tone.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The Second Gospel

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 Saint Luke.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (19:1-10) At that time Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

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

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O great and Most High God, worshipped by all of creation, Fountain of Wisdom, unsearchable depth of goodness, and boundless Sea of compassion: O Master, Lover of mankind, and God of eternal and wondrous things, Whom no man contemplating is able to comprehend: Look down and hear us, Your unworthy servants. And wherever in Your magnificent Name we shall bring this Oil, send down the gift of

Your healing, and remission of sins, and heal them, out of the multitude of Your mercies. Yea, O Lord, easily entreated, and alone merciful and the Lover of mankind, Who repents over our evil deeds; Who knows how the thoughts of man are bent toward evil, even from youth; Who does not desire the death of a sinner, but that he should turn from his wickedness and live; Who, being God, for the salvation of sinners became incarnate as a created being for the sake of Your creatures; You sought the wandering sheep. You diligently sought out the lost piece of silver, and having found it, You said: "He that comes to Me I will not cast out." You did not disdain the harlot who washed Your precious feet with her tears. You said: "As often as you fall, arise, and be saved." You also said: "There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents." O Deeply-compassionate Master, look down from the heights of Your sanctuary, overshadowing us sinners, and Your unworthy servants, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, at this hour, and abide in Your servants, who acknowledge their own sins, and draw near to You in faith. Accept them because of Your love for mankind, forgiving them whatever sins they have committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought. Forgive them, cleanse them, make them pure from every sin. And always being present with them, preserve them all the remaining years of their life; that, ever walking in Your precepts, they may never again become a laughing stock for the Devil. And that Your most-holy Name may be glorified in them.

For Yours it is to be merciful and to save us, O Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Third Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the third tone:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is the [Defender] of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

People: ...whom shall I fear?

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (12:27-13:8) Brethren, you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Upon the completion of the Epistle, the Priest blesses the Reader.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the second tone.

In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The Third Gospel

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 Saint Matthew.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (10:1, 5-8) At that time, when [Jesus] had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

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

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O Master Almighty, Holy King, Who chastens but does not kill; Who strengthens the fallen, and raises them that are cast down; Who relieves the bodily afflictions of mankind: We implore You, O our God, that You will direct Your mercy upon this Oil, and upon all who shall be anointed with it in Your Name. Let it be for them healing of their souls and bodies, for cleansing, and for the putting away of every infirmity, and disease, and ailments, and every defilement of body and soul. Yea, O God, send down Your healing power from heaven. Touch the bodies; quench the fever; soothe the sufferings, and cure every ailment. Be the Physician of Your servants. Raise them up from their bed of sickness, and from their couch of suffering, and from their bed of wasting disease, completely cured, granting to them, through Your Church, those things which are well-pleasing to You, and which work Your will.

For Yours it is to be merciful and to save us, O our God; and to You we send up glory, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Fourth Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the fourth tone:

Answer me speedily, O Lord, in the day that I call.

People: Answer me speedily, O Lord, in the day that I call.

Reader: Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come to You.

People: Answer me speedily, O Lord, in the day that I call.

Reader: Answer me speedily, O Lord,

People: ...in the day that I call.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (6:16-7:1) Brethren, you are [temples] of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate," says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the LORD Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Upon the completion of the Epistle, the Priest blesses the Reader.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the second tone.

I waited patiently for the Lord, and He heard me.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The Fourth Gospel

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 Saint Matthew.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (8:14-23) At that time, when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them. When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses." And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

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

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O Gracious Lover of mankind, Deeply-compassionate and Greatly-merciful Lord, plentiful in mercies, and rich in benevolence, Father of compassion and God of all consolation, Who has empowered us through Your holy Apostles, to heal the infirmities of Your people by oil and prayer: Confirm this Oil for the healing of all those who will be anointed with it; for relief from every ailment, and all wounds, and for deliverance from evil for those hoping in salvation from You. Yea, O Master, Lord our God, we implore You, O Almighty One, that You will save us all. Only Physician of souls and bodies, sanctify us all. O Healer of every infirmity, heal also Your servants. Raise them up from their bed of sickness, through the mercies of Your goodness. Visit them with Your mercies and Your compassion. Cast out of them every sickness and weakness, that, being raised up by Your mighty hand, they may serve You with all thanksgiving, and that we also, who now partake of Your inexpressible love for mankind, may sing praises and glorify You, the performer of great and marvelous deeds, both glorious and transcendent.

For Yours it is to be merciful and to save us, O our God; and to You we send up glory, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your Most-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Fifth Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the fifth tone:

You, O Lord, shall keep us and protect us, from this generation and forever.

People: You, O Lord, shall keep us and protect us, from this generation and forever.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for the righteous are become few.

People: You, O Lord, shall keep us and protect us, from this generation and forever.

Reader: You, O Lord, shall keep us and protect us,

People: ...from this generation and forever.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (1:8-11) Brethren, we do not want you to be ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Upon the completion of the Epistle, the Priest blesses the Reader.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the fifth tone.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The Fifth Gospel

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 Saint Matthew.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (25:1-13) The Lord spoke this parable: “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

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

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who chastens and again heals; Who raises up the beggar from the dust, and exalts the poor man from the dung-hill; O Father of orphans, and Haven of the storm-tossed; Physician of the sick, Who, without sickness, bore our weaknesses, and accepted our infirmities; Who shows mercy with gentleness, and passes over our transgressions, taking away our unrighteousness; Who is quick to help, and slow to anger; You breathed upon Your disciples and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit: whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them." You accept the repentance of sinners, and have power to pardon many and cruel sins, and bestow healing upon all who continue in weakness and long-enduring sickness. You have called me, also, Your humble, sinful, and unworthy servant, entangled in many sins, and wallowing in the pleasures of passions, to the holy and exalted degree of the Priesthood, to enter within the innermost veil, into the Holy of Holies, where also the holy Angels desire to enter, and to hear the voice

of the Lord God which announces glad tidings, to behold with my own eyes the presence of the Holy Offering, and to delight in the divine and sacred Liturgy: Grant that I may administer, as a Priest, Your Heavenly Mysteries, and to offer to You gifts and sacrifices for our sins, and for the ignorance of Your people, and to act as an intercessor for Your rational sheep, that You, through Your great and unspeakable love for mankind, may cleanse their transgressions. As the same truly gracious King, hear my prayer at this same hour and holy day, and at every time and place, and receive the voice of my supplication. Grant healing to Your servants, who are weak both in soul and in body, granting them remission of their sins, and pardon of their transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary. Heal their incurable wounds, and every ailment, and every sickness. Give health to their souls, as You touched the mother-in-law of Peter, so that her fever left her, and she arose, and served You. Likewise, O Master, grant healing to Your servants, and alleviation of every corrupting sickness, and remember Your rich compassions and mercies. Remember how perpetually the thoughts of mankind incline toward evil, even from his youth, and that not even one sinless man is to be found on earth; for You alone are without sin, Who came and saved the human race, and freed us from bondage to the enemy. For if You were to enter into judgment with Your servants, none would be found pure from stain, and every mouth would be sealed, having no answer; for in Your presence, all our “righteousness” is as filthy rags. Therefore, O Lord, do not remember the sins of our youth.

For You are the Hope of the hopeless, and the rest of those who labor and are heavy-laden with iniquities, and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Sixth Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the sixth tone:

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy.

People: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy.

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

People: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy.

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God,

People: ...according to Your great mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (5:22-6:2) Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Upon the completion of the Epistle, the Priest blesses the Reader.

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the sixth tone.

Blessed is the man that fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The Sixth Gospel

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 Saint Matthew.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (15:21-28) At that time, Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: We thank You, O Lord our God, gracious and the Lover of mankind, Physician of our souls and bodies, Who bore our infirmities without sickness, by Whose stripes we have all been healed; Good Shepherd, Who came to seek the wandering sheep; Who gives consolation to the faint-hearted, and life to those who are crushed. You healed the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. You freed the daughter of the Canaanite woman from the cruel demon. You forgave the debts of the two debtors, and granted remission of sins to the sinful woman. You granted healing to the Paralytic, and likewise the remission of his sins. You justified the Publican by Your word, and accepted the Thief at his last confession. You took away the sins of the world, being nailed to the Cross. We implore You, and entreat You: In Your goodness loose, remit, and forgive, O God, the sins of Your servants, and their transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary, whether in knowledge or in ignorance, whether of excess or of disobedience, whether of the night or of the day; whether they be under the ban of a Priest, or the curse of father or mother; whether through the sight of their eyes, or their sense of smell; whether through the union of adultery or the taste of fornication, or through whatever impulse of the flesh and of the spirit they have departed from Your will, and from Your holiness. If we, also, have sinned in like manner, forgive us; for You are a good God Who does not remember evil, and You love mankind. And do not let them or us fall into an impure life, nor run in destructive ways. Yea, O Lord and Master, listen to me, a sinner, in this hour, on behalf of Your servants,

and overlook all their transgressions, for You are a God Who does not remember evil. Free them from eternal torment. Fill their mouth with Your praise. Open their lips that they may glorify Your holy Name. Stretch forth their hands to the performance of Your commandments. Guide their feet rightly in the way of Your Gospel, strengthening all their members and thoughts, by Your grace. For You are our God, Who through Your holy Apostles commanded us, saying: “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.” And again, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” And as You listened to Hezekiah in the sorrow of his soul, at the hour of his death, and did not disdain his supplication, so also, listen to me, Your humble, sinful, and unworthy servant at this hour. For You are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, Who commanded us to forgive those who have fallen into sins, even to seventy times seven, through Your goodness, and love for mankind, and Who repents of our wickedness, and rejoices over the return of those who have gone astray.

For as is Your majesty, so also is Your mercy, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Seventh Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

The Reader chants the Prokeimenon, during which the Deacon takes up the censer and says to the Priest:

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

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

Deacon: Amen.

The Deacon does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the seventh tone:

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your sore displeasure.

People: O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your sore displeasure.

Reader: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.

People: O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your sore displeasure.

Reader: O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger,

People: ...nor chasten me in Your sore displeasure.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: (5:14-23) Brethren, we exhort you to warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in

everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Upon the completion of the Epistle, the **Priest** blesses the Reader.*

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

The Alleluia in the seventh tone.

The Lord hear you in the day of trouble; the Name of the God of Jacob defend you.

The People sing the Alleluia.

The Seventh Gospel

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 Saint Matthew.

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (9:9-13) At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw

it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

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

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Physician of souls and bodies, Who heals the sufferings of this life, every infirmity and every wound of Your people. You desire that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. You do not desire the death of a sinner, but that he turn from his way and live: For You, O Lord, in the ancient Covenant, established repentance for sinners, for David and the Ninevites, and for those who went before them. Likewise at the coming of Your Incarnation, You called not the righteous but sinners to repentance. You accepted in repentance the Publican, the Harlot, the Thief, and great Paul the blaspheming Persecutor. You accepted in repentance Your chief Apostle, Peter, who had denied You three times, and You gave him a promise, saying: “You are Peter, and on this rock will I build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it; and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” Therefore, O Good One, the Lover of mankind, we entreat You and implore You, at this present hour: Hear our supplication, and receive it, as incense offered to You; and visit Your servants. And if they have sinned in word, or deed, or thought, either by night or by day; whether they have fallen under the ban of a Priest, or under their own anathema; or have been embittered by an oath, or have cursed themselves. We entreat You, and implore You: loose, pardon, and forgive them, O God, overlooking all their sins and transgressions, whether committed knowingly, or in ignorance.

And if they have transgressed Your commandments, or have sinned because they are in the flesh and dwell in the world, or through the wiles of the Devil, forgive them, for You are a good God and You love mankind, and there is no man who lives and does not sin. For You alone are sinless, Your righteousness is an eternal righteousness, and Your Word is truth.

For You did not create man for destruction, but for the keeping of Your commandments, and for the inheritance of incorruptible life; and to You we send up glory, together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

And the Priest, taking the book of the Holy Gospels, and opening it, with the writing down, raised above the heads of those attending, prays this prayer:

Priest: O holy King, Deeply-compassionate and Greatly-merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, Who does not desire the death of a sinner, but that he should turn from his way and live: I do not lay my sinful hand on the heads of those who have come to You in iniquities, and ask of You, through us, remission of their sins, but through Your strong and mighty hand, which is in this, Your Holy Gospels. And I also implore and entreat Your merciful compassion and love for mankind, which does not wish to remember evil, O God our Savior, Who by Your prophet Nathan granted remission of sins to the penitent David, and accepted Manasseh's prayer of repentance. As the same Lord, receive also with Your compassionate and forgiving love towards mankind, Your servants, who repent of their own sins, overlooking their transgressions. For You are our God, Who has commanded us to forgive, even to seventy times seven, those who fall into sin.

For as is Your majesty, so also is Your mercy: and to You are due all glory, honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the servants of God, for mercy, life, peace, salvation, and visitation, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the pardon of their every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: For You are a merciful 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 Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Then the Priest places the book of the Holy Gospels on the Table, and the faithful come forward to kiss it, and to be anointed with the Holy Oil, on their foreheads and on both sides of their hands. Meanwhile, the People sing:

Troparia

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

Tone 4

Since you have a fountain of healing, O Unmercenary Ones, Grant healing to all those who asking it, For you have been granted to be worthy of exceedingly great gifts, From the ever-flowing Fountain , our Savior. For the Lord has said to you, who are equal in zeal to the Apostles: “Behold, I have given you power over unclean spirits, So as to cast them out, And to heal every infirmity and wound.” Therefore you have nobly lived according to His commandments, For freely you have received, and freely you give, Healing the ills of our souls and bodies.

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

Look down on the prayers of your servants, O All-spotless One, And ceasing the fierce attacks which are upon us, Transform all our sorrows. For we have you alone as a firm and assured confirmation, And we have acquired your protection, That we who are calling upon you shall not be put to shame, O Lady. Quickly answer the petitions of those who with faith cry out to you: Hail, O Lady! O Help of all men! The Joy, and Protection, and Salvation of our souls!

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.

The Dismissal

Priest: May He Who is going to His voluntary passion on behalf of us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Most-pure Mother; by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; of the holy glorious and all-praised Apostle James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem and brother of God; and of all the Saints; save us and have mercy on us, for He is good, and He loves mankind.

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

People: Amen.