

LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

The priest, accompanied by the deacon, makes three small bows before the holy table, saying only. "O God be merciful to me a sinner". They kiss the holy Gospel, the holy table and the hand cross. Then having taken the priest's blessing, the deacon leaves via the northern door Standing in his customary place before the holy doors, the deacon makes three small bows (saying nothing) and then begins

BLESSING

Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

The priest, standing before the holy table and making the sign of the cross over it with the holy Gospel, exclaims in a raised voice:

Blessed be the kingdom † of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(At the same time, we make three small bows, reaching to the ground with our right hand and marking ourselves with the sign of the cross).

† Come, let us bow in worship* before the King, our God.

† Come, let us bow in worship* before Christ, the King, our God.

† Come, let us bow in worship and fall down* before the very Lord, Jesus Christ, our King and God.

The deacon returns to the Altar through the southern doors. While the faithful chant Psalm 103, the priest prays the Prayers of Light.

PSALM 103

God's boundless care for His creation

Bless the Lord, O my soul!* You are very great, O Lord, my God!

Clothed in pomp and brilliance,* arrayed with light as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,* covering your lofty halls with water.

You make the clouds your conveyance,* You surge on the wings of the wind.

You make spirits your messengers,* and flaming fires your attendants.

You settle the earth on its firm foundation,* it shall stand unmoved from age to age.

The abyss covers it, like a garment,* waters stand over the mountains.

At Your rebuke they will take flight,* at the peal of your thunder they will fear.

They hurdle the hills and run down the dales,* to the place You have chosen for them.

You have set up a boundary not to be passed,* they shall never return to cover the earth.

Down in the gullies You make springs to rise,* water shall go down between the mountains.

They shall give drink to the beasts of the field,* wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.

The birds of the sky will abide by them,* from among the rocks they will raise their song.

From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains,* the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.

You make green pastures for the cattle,* and food-plants for the service of man.

So that bread may be brought forth from the earth,* and wine that gladdens the heart of man.

So that oil may put a gleam upon his face,* and that bread may strengthen the heart of man.

The trees of the plain will be satisfied,* the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

The sparrows will build their nests in them,* and the herons will call them their home.

To the deer belong high mountains,* to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons,* the sun knows the time of its setting.

You establish darkness and it is night,* wherein the forest creatures prowl around.

Young lions roar for their prey,* and call out to God for their meat.

As the sun rises, they will come together;* and lay themselves down in their dens.

Man will go out to his labor,* and work until eventide.

How great are your works, O Lord,* in wisdom You have wrought them all.

The earth is filled with your creatures,* Even the wide and open sea itself.

Within it there are countless creeping things,* living beings small and large.

Upon it there are ships a-sailing,* and that great beast You made to have fun.

All of them look up to You,* to give them their food in due time.

**You provide and they gather up,* You open your hand and they are full.
You hide your face and they cringe,* You suspend their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
You send forth your breath and they live,* You renew the face of the earth.
May the Lord's glory endure forever,* may the Lord rejoice in His works.
He looks upon the earth and makes it quake,* He touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,* I will praise my God as long as I last!
Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him,* and I will rejoice in the Lord!
May sinners vanish from the earth, and may the wicked be no more.** Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

And again:

**You have made the moon to mark the seasons,* the sun knows the time of its setting.
How great are your works, O Lord,* in wisdom You have wrought them all.**

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and forever and ever. Amen.

✠ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God (x3).

THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy (after each petition).

For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace throughout the world, for the wellbeing of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our most holy universal Pontiff *N.*, Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

For our most blessed Patriarch *N.*, our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan *N.*, our God-loving Bishop *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

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

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

FIRST ANTIPHON

Psalm 120

In my distress I cry to the Lord,* that he may answer me:

'Deliver me, O Lord,* from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.'

What shall be given to you?* And what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue?

A warrior's sharp arrows,* with glowing coals of the broom tree!

Woe is me, that I am an alien in Meshech,* that I must live among the tents of Kedar.

Too long have I had my dwelling* among those who hate peace.

I am for peace,* but when I speak, they are for war.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—* from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,* who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved,* he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel* will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;* the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,* nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;* he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in* from this time on and for evermore.**

Psalm 122

**I was glad when they said to me,* 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'
Our feet are standing* within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem—built as a city* that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,* the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,* to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there the thrones for judgement were set up,* the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:* 'May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,* and security within your towers.'
For the sake of my relatives and friends* I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,* I will seek your good.**

Psalm 123

**To you I lift up my eyes,* O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants* look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid* to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,* until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,* for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease,* of the contempt of the proud.**

Psalm 124

**If it had not been the Lord who was on our side* —let Israel now say—
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,* when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,* when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,* the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone* the raging waters.
Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us* as prey to their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird* from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,* and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,* who made heaven and earth.**

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and forever and ever. Amen.

✠ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God (x3).

Small Litany

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and rich in mercy, give ear to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Show us a sign of Your favor; lead us in Your way, so that we may walk in Your truth. Gladden our hearts, so that we may fear Your holy Name, for You are great, and You work wonders. You alone are God, and there is none like You among the gods, O Lord. You are mighty in mercy and benevolent in strength, to aid and to comfort and to save all those who put their trust in Your holy Name.

For Yours is the power and Yours is the kingdom, and power, and glory, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

SECOND ANTIPHON

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,* which cannot be moved, but abides for ever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem,* so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and for evermore.* For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,* so that the righteous may not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,* and to those who are upright in their hearts. But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways* the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,* we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter,* and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,* 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us,* and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord,* like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears* reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping,* bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy,* carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 127

Unless the Lord builds the house,* those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city,* the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early* and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;* for he gives sleep to his beloved. Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord,* the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior* are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has* his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame* when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,* who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;* you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine* within your house; your children will be like olive shoots* around your table. Thus shall the man be blessed* who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion.* May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children.* Peace be upon Israel!

Psalm 129

'Often have they attacked me from my youth'* –let Israel now say–
'Often have they attacked me from my youth,* yet they have not prevailed against me. Those who plough ploughed on my back,* they made their furrows long.'
The Lord is righteous;* he has cut the cords of the wicked. May all who hate Zion* be put to shame and turned back. Let them be like the grass on the housetops* that withers before it grows up, with which reapers do not fill their hands* or binders of sheaves their arms, while those who pass by do not say,* 'The blessing of the Lord be upon you! We bless you in the name of the Lord!'

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and forever and ever. Amen.

✠ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God (x3).

Small Litany

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: *Lord, do not rebuke us in Your anger, or discipline us in Your wrath, but deal with us in all Your kindness, O physician and healer of our souls. Bring us to Your desired haven. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of Your truth. And grant us that the completion of this day, and our whole life may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the holy Mother of God and of all the saints.*

For You are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever

All: Amen.

THIRD ANTIPHON

Psalm 130

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.* Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive* to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,* Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,* so that you may be revered.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,* and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord* more than those who watch for the morning,* more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!* For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.* It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

Psalm 131

**O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,* my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things* too great and too marvellous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,* like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child* that is with me.
O Israel, hope in the Lord* from this time on and for evermore.**

Psalm 132

**O Lord, remember in David's favour* all the hardships he endured;
how he swore to the Lord* and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
'I will not enter my house* or get into my bed;
I will not give sleep to my eyes* or slumber to my eyelids,
until I find a place for the Lord,* a dwelling-place for the Mighty One of Jacob.'
We heard of it in Ephrathah,* we found it in the fields of Jaar.
'Let us go to his dwelling-place;* let us worship at his footstool.'
Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting-place,* you and the ark of your might.
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,* and let your faithful shout for joy.
For your servant David's sake* do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
The Lord swore to David a sure oath* from which he will not turn back:
'One of the sons of your body* I will set on your throne.
If your sons keep my covenant* and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, for evermore,* shall sit on your throne.'
For the Lord has chosen Zion;* he has desired it for his habitation:
'This is my resting-place for ever;* here I will reside, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless its provisions;* I will satisfy its poor with bread.
Its priests I will clothe with salvation,* and its faithful will shout for joy.
There I will cause a horn to sprout up for David;* I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one.
His enemies I will clothe with disgrace,* but on him, his crown will gleam.'**

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is* when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,* running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,* running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,* which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,* life for evermore.

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,* who stand by night in the house of the Lord!
Lift up your hands to the holy place,* and bless the Lord.
May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth,* bless you from Zion.

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,* now and forever and ever. Amen.
✠ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God (x3).

Small Litany

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord, our God, remember us sinners, Your worthless servants, when we call upon Your holy Name; and let us not be put to shame in our hope of Your mercy; but grant us, O Lord, all our petitions which are for our salvation. And make us worthy to love and fear You with all our hearts, and to do Your will in all things.

For You are our God, the God to have mercy and to save, and to You we give glory, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

«O LORD, I HAVE CRIED TO YOU»

The Deacon takes up the censer, asks the Priest's blessing on the incense, and does the censuring.

Psalm 140

The first verses are chanted in the tone of the first sticheron:

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me,

Refrain: Hear me, O Lord.

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me.* Receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon You.

Refrain: Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer rise like incense before You.* The lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Refrain: Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth* and a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,* from finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,* let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me.* May the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare,* their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.* In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost.

Keep me from the snare that was set for me,* and from the stumbling blocks of the wicked.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets,* while I remain alone until I can escape.

Psalm 141

With my voice I cried to the Lord.* With all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplication.* Before Him I declare my distress.

When my breath was escaping me,* then You knew my paths.

On the road upon which I was walking,* they set up snares for me.

I looked to my right and observed,* there was no one friendly to me.

Even flight was denied me,* there was no one to take care of my life.
I cried out to You, O Lord, and said:* You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.
Listen to my supplication,* for I am laid very low.
Deliver me from my oppressors,* for they have overwhelmed me.

Here, the verses of Psalms are sung alternately with the singing of stikhera from the Octoechos and the Menaion. The lector sings the psalm verses, while the choir sings the stichera..

10 Lead my soul forth from prison,* that I may give thanks to your name.

9 The just shall gather around me,* when You have been good to me.

Psalm 129

8 Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord,* O Lord, hear my voice.

7 Let your ears be attentive,* to the voice of my prayer.

6 If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?* But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.

5 I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* for it has trusted in the Lord.

4 From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.

3 For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Psalm 116

2 Praise the Lord, all the nations* proclaim His glory, all you people.

1 Strong is the love of the Lord for us,* eternally will His truth endure.

✠Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy Spirit (*Doxasticon*).

Now and for ever* and ever. Amen (*Theotokion*).

ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

When the choir begins to sing the last stichera, the priest and the deacon come before the holy table. The holy doors are opened. The deacon takes the censer and receives the priest's blessing over it; preceded by candlebearers, the deacon and priest, they walk around the holy table starting from its right side, and then depart via the northern door. They stand before the holy doors: the candlebearers facing one another, one near the icon of the Theotokos and the other near the icon of the Saviour. The priest stands on the centre, with the deacon slightly in front of him to his right, facing north.

On feast days and the days of Holy Week, whenever there is a reading from the Gospel at the Presanctified Liturgy, the deacon carries both the thurible and the Gospel for the Entrance.

PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: O gracious King, You love humankind and bless all things. With contrite heart and humble spirit we pray to You, O Christ our true God: Bless our comings and our goings. For Your coming and ascension and dwelling among us are blessed, always, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Bless, Master, the holy entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance ✠of all Your saints, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright!

All: O Joyful Light, light and holy glory of the Father Immortal, the heavenly, holy, blessed One, O Jesus Christ, now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light, we sing to God, ✠Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to you, O Son of God, the Giver of Life. Behold, the universe sings your glory.

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Prokimenon I

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace ✠be with all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The first Lenten Prokimenon is sung from the Triodion, with the designated psalm verse. See propers for the day.

Reading I

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis (*or:* Exodus).

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The lector reads or chants the prescribed lesson.

Prokimenon II

The second Lenten Prokeimenon is sung from the Triodion.

The Light of Christ

Deacon: Command!

The priest takes the candle and censor in both hands and stands before the holy altar. Still facing east, he makes the sign of the cross and says:

Priest: Wisdom, stand aright!

The priest then turns and faces west, towards the people. Again, he makes the sign of the cross over the people and says:

Priest: ✠The Light of Christ illumines all!

✠Three prostrations.

Reading II

Lector: A reading from the Book of Proverbs (*or:* Job).

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The holy doors are closed; and the lector reads or chants the prescribed lesson from the Book of Proverbs (or Job).

Priest: Peace ✠be to you.

Deacon: Wisdom, let us be attentive!

LET MY PRAYER ARISE

The priest takes the censer and stands before the holy table facing east. The deacon takes a lighted candle stands with candle on the opposite side of the altar, facing the priest. While singing the first verse, the priest censures the west side of the holy table (facing east). During the singing of each refrain, the faithful stand, while the clergy kneel. At the singing of the verses, the faithful kneel and the clergy stand.

The Priest censures the front of the Holy Table as he slowly chants the following:

Priest: Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,* the lifting up of my hands* be an evening sacrifice.

All: Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,* the lifting up of my hands* be an evening sacrifice.

The Priest censures the south side of the holy table, censures and intones:

Priest: Lord, I have cried to You, hear me,* hear the voice of my prayer,* when I cry to You, hear me,* when I cry to You, hear me, O Lord.

All: Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,* the lifting up of my hands* be an evening sacrifice.

The Priest moves behind the Holy Table, censures and intones:

Priest: Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth,* and keep the door, the door of my lips.

All: Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,* the lifting up of my hands* be an evening sacrifice.

The Priest censures the north side of the holy table and intones:

Priest: Incline not my heart to any evil thing,* nor to practice wicked deeds.

All: Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,* the lifting up of my hands* be an evening sacrifice.

The Priest moves in front of the Holy Table and censures as he slowly chants:

Priest: Let my prayer arise in Your sight,* let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense.

All: The lifting up of my hands* be an evening sacrifice.

At the end, we make three ✠prostrations.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

If it be the feast of a saint, or if the feast of the temple occurs on a fasting day, then the deacon says, "Let us be attentive," and the lector reads the prokeimenon of the Epistle.

After he reads the Epistle, the "Alleluia" with the proper verses are sung.

Then the Gospel is proclaimed.

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Peace be † with all.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to *(name)*.

All: Glory be to You, o Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

The Gospel is proclaimed.

All: Glory be to You, o Lord, glory be to You.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Priest: Let us all say, with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say:

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy (3 times after each petition).

We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff *N.* Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch *N.*, our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan *N.*, our God-loving Bishop *N.*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brethren in Christ.

We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

(other requests may be added here)

We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

Priest: Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants. Take pity on us in the greatness of Your compassion. Let Your loving kindness descend upon us and upon all Your people who await Your abundant mercy.

For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, † Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS

Deacon: Let us the faithful, pray for the catechumens, that the Lord will have mercy on them.

All: Lord, have mercy (for every petition).

Deacon: That He will teach them the word of truth.

Deacon: That He will reveal to them the Gospel of truth.

Deacon: That He will unite them to His holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

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

Priest: O God, our God, the Creator and Maker of all things, Who wills that all people should be saved and should come unto the knowledge of the truth: Look down upon Your servants the catechumens, and deliver them from the ancient delusion and from the wiles of the adversary. And call them unto life eternal, enlightening their souls and bodies and numbering them with Your rational flock, which is called by Your Holy Name.

That with us they may glorify Your all-honorable and majestic Name: † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and for ever, and ever.

All: Amen.

In the fourth, fifth and sixth weeks of Great Lent, and in Holy Week, we offer the following litany:

THE LITANY FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT

Deacon: All the faithful, pray unto the Lord for the brothers and sisters who are preparing for Holy enlightenment and for their salvation.

All: Lord, have mercy (for every petition).

Deacon: That the Lord God will establish them and strengthen them.

Deacon: That He will enlighten them with the light of wisdom and of piety.

Deacon: That He will grant unto them, in His own good time, the laver of regeneration, the remission of sins, and the garment of incorruption.

Deacon: That He will beget them with water and the Spirit.

Deacon: That He will grant unto them the perfection of faith.

Deacon: That He will number them with His holy and chosen flock.

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

Priest: Show the light of Your countenance, O God, upon those who are preparing for Holy Enlightenment, and who desire to put away the defilement of sin. Enlighten their understanding. Establish them in the Faith. Strengthen them in Hope. Perfect them in Love. Make them honorable members of Your Christ, Who gave Himself for our souls.

For You are our enlightenment, and unto You do we ascribe glory: †Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; now and for ever, and ever.

All: Amen.

FIRST LITANY FOR THE FAITHFUL

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: O God, great and worthy to be praised, Who through the life-giving death of Your Christ has translated us from corruption to incorruption: Deliver all our senses from death-dealing, carnal desires, setting over them as a good ruler the understanding that is in us. Let our eye have no part in any evil sight. Let our hearing be in accessible to all idle words; and let our tongue be purged from unseemly speech. Purify our lips which praise You, O Lord. Make our hands to abstain from evil deeds and to work only such things as are acceptable into You, establishing all our members and our minds by Your Grace.

For all glory, honor and worship befit You, †Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

SECOND LITANY FOR THE FAITHFUL

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: O Master, holy and most good, rich in mercy, we entreat You to be merciful to us sinners. Make us worthy to welcome Your only-begotten Son, our God, the King of Glory, for behold, at this time His most pure Body and life-giving Blood are coming escorted invisibly by a multitude of the heavenly host and are about to be placed upon this mystical altar. Let us receive Them without condemnation, and with the eye of our understanding enlightened by Them, let us become children of light and day.

†Through the gift of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

NOW THE POWERS

The deacon enters the holy altar through the south door, and opens the holy doors. He then incenses the holy table (from the west side only), the Holy Gifts on the preparation table and the priest.

All: Now the Powers of Heaven* serve with us* invisibly.* For behold* the King* of glory* is entering.* Behold* the completed* mystical* sacrifice* is carried high.*

The priest incenses the Holy Gifts. He then takes the aer and places it on the deacons shoulder. He lifts up the Holy Gifts on high with his right hand. The chalice is held in his left hand, below the Gifts, close to his chest. The procession with the Holy Gifts takes place in silence. The priest is preceded by the deacon, who gently incenses the Holy Gifts.

All in the church prostrate themselves during the entrance.

When the priest comes to the altar we continue:

Let us* approach* with faith* and love,* so that we may* partake* of eternal life.* Alleluia,* Alleluia,* Alleluia.

All make †three prostrations.

The priest places the chalice on the right-hand side and the discos on the left. The covers are removed and the aer is placed over both the discos and chalice. The priest then incenses the Gifts.

The Royal Doors are closed. The deacon leaves the altar via the northern doors, and standing in the usual place, he continues:

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

For the precious Gifts which have been presented and presanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

That our loving God, Who has received them as a spiritual fragrance upon His holy, heavenly and mystical altar, may send down on us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

Help and save us, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord (for every petition).

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

For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask the Lord.

For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

Having asked for unity of faith and for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O God of ineffable and invisible mysteries in Whom are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, You have revealed the mysteries of this Liturgy to us. In Your great love for humankind, You have appointed us, sinners as we are, to offer gifts and sacrifices to You for our sins and the ignorance of the people. Invisible King, You perform deed without number, great and inscrutable, glorious and extraordinary. Look with favor upon us, Your unworthy servants, standing at this Your holy altar as at the throne of Your cherubim upon which Your only-Begotten Son, our God, rests in the awesome Mysteries present here. You freed us and Your faithful people from all impurity. Sanctify all our lives and bodies with Your sanctification which cannot be taken away, so that with clean conscience, unashamed face and enlightened heart we may receive these divine Gifts and be given life by Them. And may we be united to Your Christ Himself, our God, Who said: "Who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood abides in Me and I in him." With Your Word dwelling in us and sojourning with us, Lord, let us become a temple of Your all-holy, adorable Spirit, freed from every wile of the devil worked by deed, word or thought. Together with all Your Saints who have pleased You through the ages, may we obtain the good things promised us.

Make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without condemnation to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father, and say:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, †Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Peace †be with all.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: *God, You Who alone are good and merciful, Who dwell on high and look with favor upon the humble, look with merciful eyes upon all Your people and protect them. Make us all worthy of partaking of these Your life-giving Mysteries without condemnation, for we have bowed our heads to You hoping for great mercy from You.*

✠ Through the grace, mercies and loving-kindness of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed together with Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

Priest: *Attend, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, from Your holy dwelling and from the throne of glory in Your kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are seated on high with the Father and are invisibly present here with us. Deign to give to us with Your mighty hand Your most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us, to all the people.*

✠ God, be merciful to me, a sinner (x3)

Deacon: Let us be attentive.

The Priest reverently touches, but does not elevate, the life-giving Body with the fingers of both hands, reaching under the Aer and says: The Presanctified Holy Things for the holy!

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

The Communion psalm: O taste and see* that the Lord is good.* Alleluia!* Alleluia!* Alleluia!*

Deacon: Father, break the holy Bread.

Priest: Broken and distributed is the Lamb of God -- broken, yet not divided, always eaten and never consumed, but sanctifying those who partake.

The priest places the particle into the chalice, saying nothing. The deacon pours the hot water into the chalice, saying nothing. Priest and deacon then communicate in the usual way. However, they do not drink from the chalice.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

All: I believe, O Lord, and confess that You are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not tell Your Mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief, I confess to You:

✠ Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

✠ Remember me, O Master, when You come into Your kingdom.

✠ Remember me, O Holy One, when You come into Your kingdom.

May the partaking of Your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, be unto me not for judgment or condemnation, but for the healing of soul and body.

✠ God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

✠ God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

✠ I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Deacon: Approach!

All: I will bless the Lord at all times.* Alleluia!

The faithful approach to receive Holy Communion with their arms crossed over their chest.

Priest while distributing the Holy Body and Blood of Christ says: The precious and most holy Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ is given to [N.], for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting.

The climax of the Liturgy, when we partake of the Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life." By partaking of Holy Communion we fulfill the purpose of our worship by uniting ourselves with Christ "for the

forgiveness of sins and unto life everlasting." After receiving the Eucharist, we express our thanks by worshipping the Trinity who saves us

After Holy Communion, the priest returns to the altar, saying nothing. He incenses the Holy Gifts, gives the discos and censor to the deacon, and then taking the chalice with the Holy Gifts, turns to the people and says.

Priest: Blessed be God who enlightens and sanctifies us, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen. We thank you, Christ our God,* that you deemed us worthy of becoming partakers* of Your most pure Body* and Your precious Blood* poured out for all the world* for the remission of sins.* Your Mystery of salvation.* Alleluia! Alleluia!* Alleluia!**

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Deacon: Stand aright! Having received the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, and life-giving, awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us rightly give thanks to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Having asked that this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: Savior and God of all, we thank You for all the good things You have given us, and for the Communion of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. We beseech You, O Master, Lover of Humankind, keep us under the protection of Your wings; and grant that even unto our last breath we may worthily partake of Your holy Gifts, for the illumination of soul and body, for the inheritance of the kingdom of God.

For You are our sanctification and we give glory to You, ✠Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

AMBO PRAYER

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

All: **In the name of the Lord.**

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Almighty Lord, You have fashioned all creation in wisdom. By Your ineffable foreknowledge and abounding goodness, You brought us to these holy days for the purification of our souls and bodies, for the control of our passions, and for the hope of resurrection. During the forty-day period You gave the tablets in divinely inscribed letters to Your servant Moses. Grant also, good Lord, that we may fight the good fight, complete the course of the fast, keep the faith intact, crush the heads of unseen enemies, be victorious over sin and so, without condemnation, to be ready for the worship of Your holy Resurrection;

For blessed and glorified is Your most worthy and magnificent Name, ✠Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

✠**Blessed be the name of the Lord,* now and for ever (x3).**

PSALM 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;* his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;* let the humble 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 delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant,* so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,* and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the Lord encamps* around those who fear him, and delivers them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good,* happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,* for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,* but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
Come, O children, listen to me;* I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Which of you desires life,* and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,* and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;* seek peace, and pursue it.
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,* and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against evildoers,* to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,* and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,* and saves the crushed in spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,* but the Lord rescues them from them all.
He keeps all their bones;* not one of them will be broken.
Evil brings death to the wicked,* and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
The Lord redeems the life of his servants;* none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

DISMISSAL

The Priest goes into the sanctuary through the holy doors followed by the Deacon, and they go to the Prothesis Table. The Priest quietly says the following prayer, after which the Deacon may consume the remaining Gifts.

Priest: Lord our God, You Who brought us to these holy days and made us sharers of Your awesome Mysteries, join us to Your spiritual flock and make us inheritors of Your kingdom, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: May the ✠blessing of the Lord be upon you with His grace and love for mankind, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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

All: Glory be to the ✠Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.* Give the blessing.*

Priest: Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, (and other appropriate commemorations of the holiday or saint whose church is and whose day is) and all the saints, ✠will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.