

PRESANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON MARCH 04, 2026

TONE 1; SECOND WEDNESDAY IN GREAT LENT

HIEROMARTYR KONON OF ISAURIA; MARTYRS ARCHELAOS AND HIS 152 COMPANIONS IN EGYPT

After making three metanoias in their respective places, the Deacon intones in a loud voice:

Deacon: Bless, Master!

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

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

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

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

The Deacon enters the Altar through the south door and closes the Holy Doors. The Priest reads quietly the lamp-lighting prayers listed below Psalm 103.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou

turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE GREAT LITANY

At the conclusion of the Psalm, the Deacon bows to the Priest and exits the Altar through the north door.

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, give ear to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Work upon us a sign for good. Lead us in thy way so that we may walk in Thy truth. Make glad our hearts so that we may fear Thy holy Name. For Thou art great and doest wonders. Thou alone art God, and among all the gods there is none like unto Thee, O Lord, mighty in mercy, gracious in strength, to aid and to comfort and to save all those who put their trust in Thy holy Name.

Priest: (*Aloud*) For unto Thee are due 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.

Choir: Amen.

PSALM 119

Reader: Unto the Lord in mine affliction have I cried, and He heard me. O Lord, deliver my soul from unrighteous lips and from a crafty tongue. What shall be given unto thee and what shall be added unto thee for thy crafty tongue? The arrows of the mighty one, sharpened with coals of the desert. Woe is me, for my sojourning is prolonged; I have tented with the tentings of Kedar; my soul hath long been a sojourner. With them that hate peace I was peaceable; when I spake unto them, they warred against me without a cause.

PSALM 120

Reader: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth. Give not thy foot unto moving, and may He not slumber that keepeth thee. Behold, He shall not slumber nor shall He sleep, He that keepeth Israel. The Lord shall keep thee; the Lord is thy shelter at thy right hand. The sun shall not burn thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall keep thee from all evil; the Lord shall guard thy soul. The Lord shall keep thy coming in and thy going out, from henceforth and forevermore.

PSALM 121

Reader: I was glad because of them that said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet have stood in thy courts, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city which its dwellers share in concord. For there the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord, as a testimony for Israel, to give thanks to the Name of the Lord. For there are set thrones unto judgment, thrones over the house of David. Ask now for the things which are for the peace of Jerusalem, and for the prosperity of them that love thee. Let peace be now in thy strength, and prosperity in thy palaces. For the sake of my brethren and my neighbors, I spake peace concerning thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I have sought good things for thee.

PSALM 122

Reader: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their masters, as the eyes of the handmaid look unto the hands of her mistress, so do our eyes look unto the Lord our God, until He take pity on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for greatly are we filled with abasement. Greatly hath our soul been filled therewith; let reproach come upon them that prosper, and abasement on the proud.

PSALM 123

Reader: Had it not been that the Lord was with us, let Israel now say, had it not been that the Lord was with us, when men rose up against us, then had they swallowed us up alive. When their wrath raged against us, then had the water overwhelmed us. Our soul hath passed through a torrent; then had our soul passed through the water that is irresistible. Blessed be the Lord Who hath not given us to be a prey to their teeth. Our soul like a sparrow was delivered out of the snare of the hunters. The snare is broken, and we are delivered. Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

(At the conclusion of Psalm 123, the Deacon bows to the Priest and exits the Altar through the north door.)

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (Quietly) O Lord, rebuke us not in Thy displeasure, neither chasten us in Thy wrath; but deal with us according to Thy mercy, O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us unto the haven of Thy will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of Thy truth, and vouchsafe that the remainder of this day and our whole life may be peaceful and without sin; through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos, and of all the Saints.

Priest: (*Aloud*) For Thine is the might, and Thine 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.

Choir: Amen.

PSALM 124

Reader: *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion; he that dwelleth at Jerusalem, nevermore shall he be shaken. Mountains are round about her, and the Lord is round about His people from henceforth and forevermore. For the Lord will not permit the rod of sinners to be upon the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous stretch forth their hands unto iniquities. Do good, O Lord, unto them that are good and unto the upright of heart. But them that turn aside unto crooked ways shall the Lord lead away with the workers of iniquity; peace be upon Israel.

PSALM 125

Reader: When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion, we became as men that are comforted. Then was our mouth filled with joy, and our tongue with rejoicing. Then shall they say among the nations: The Lord hath done great things unto them. The Lord hath done great things among us, and we are become glad. Turn again, O Lord, our captivity, like streams in the south. They that sow with tears shall reap with rejoicing. In their going they went, and they wept as they cast their seeds. But in their coming shall they come with rejoicing, bearing their sheaves.

PSALM 126

Reader: Except the Lord build the house, in vain do they labor that build it. Except the Lord guard the city, in vain doth he watch that guardeth her; it is vain for you to rise at dawn. Ye that eat the bread of sorrow, rouse yourselves after resting, when He hath given sleep to His beloved. Lo, sons are the heritage of the Lord, the reward of the fruit of the womb. Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the sons of them that were outcasts. Blessed is he that shall fulfill his desires with them; they shall not be put to shame when they speak to their enemies in the gates.

PSALM 127

Reader: Blessed are all they that fear the Lord, that walk in His ways. Thou shalt eat the fruit of thy labors; blessed art thou, and well shall it be with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine on the sides of thy house, thy sons like young olive trees round about thy table. Behold, so shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord bless thee out of Sion, and mayest thou see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. And mayest thou see thy children's children; peace be upon Israel.

PSALM 128

Reader: Many a time have they warred against me from my youth, let Israel now say, many a time have they warred against me from my youth, and yet they have not prevailed against me. The sinners wrought upon my back, they lengthened out their iniquity. The Lord is righteous; He hath cut asunder the necks of sinners. Let them be put to shame and turned back, all they that hate Sion. Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which before it is plucked up is withered away. Wherefore the reaper filleth not his hand, nor he that gathereth sheaves his bosom. Nor have they that passed by said: The blessing of the Lord come upon you; we have blessed you in the Name of the Lord.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

At the conclusion of Psalm 128, the Deacon bows to the Priest and exits the Altar through the north door.

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O Lord our God, remember us sinners and Thine unprofitable servants when we call upon Thy holy Name, and put us not to shame in our expectation of Thy mercy; but grant us, O Lord, all our petitions which are unto salvation, vouchsafe that we may love and fear Thee with all our hearts, and do Thy will in all things.

Priest: (*Aloud*) For Thou art a good God Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

PSALM 129

Reader: *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness, that Thou mayest be feared. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

PSALM 130

Reader: O Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor are mine eyes become lofty. Nor have I walked in things too great or too marvelous for me. If I were not humble-minded but exalted my soul, as one weaned from his mother, so wouldst Thou requite my soul. Let Israel hope in the Lord, from henceforth and forevermore.

PSALM 131

Reader: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness. How he made an oath unto the Lord, and vowed unto the God of Jacob: I shall not go into the dwelling of my house, I shall not ascend upon the bed of my couch, I shall not give sleep to mine eyes, nor slumber to mine eyelids, nor rest to my temples, until I find a place for the Lord, a habitation for the God of Jacob. Lo, we have heard of it in Ephratha, we have found it in the plains of the wood. Let us go forth into His tabernacles, let us worship at the place where His feet have stood. Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness. Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice. For the sake of David Thy servant, turn not Thy face away from Thine anointed one. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, and He will not annul it: of the fruit of thy loins will I set upon thy throne. If thy sons keep My covenant and these testimonies which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit forever on thy throne. For the Lord hath elected Sion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself. This is My rest forever and ever; here will I dwell, for I have chosen her. Blessing, I will bless her pursuit; her beggars will I satisfy with bread. Her priests will I clothe with salvation, and her saints with rejoicing shall rejoice. There will I make to spring forth a horn for David, I have prepared a lamp for My Christ. His enemies will I clothe with shame, but upon Him shall My sanctification flourish.

PSALM 132

Reader: Behold now, what is so good or so joyous as for brethren to dwell together in unity? It is like the oil of myrrh upon the head, which runneth down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, which runneth down to the fringe of his raiment. It is like the dew of Aermom, which cometh down upon the mountains of Sion. For there the Lord commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

PSALM 133

Reader: Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, in the nights lift up your hands unto the holies, and bless the Lord. The Lord bless thee out of Sion, He that made heaven and the earth.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

At the conclusion of Psalm 133, the Deacon bows to the Priest and exits the Altar through the north door.

THE LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints let us commend ourselves and each another, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O Thou Who, with never-silent hymns and never-ceasing songs of praise to Thy glory, art hymned by the holy powers: Fill our mouths with Thy praise, that we may magnify Thy Holy Name. And grant unto us part and inheritance with all those who fear Thee in truth and keep Thy commandments; through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all Thy Saints.

Priest: (*Aloud*) For Thou art our God, the God of mercy and salvation, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Altar through the south door.

“O LORD I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.

- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

For the Second Wednesday in Tone One

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

O brethren, as ye take up the spiritual Fast, speak no deceit with your tongue, neither put a stumbling block in the way of your brother as an occasion for him to fall; but in repentance let us make the lamp of our soul bright with tears, and let us cry unto Christ: Forgive us our trespasses, since Thou art the Friend of Man.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

O brethren, as ye take up the spiritual Fast ... *(repeat above)*

For the Second Wednesday in Tone One (***The original melody***)

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

O all-lauded Martyrs of the Lord, * lo, the earth concealed you not; but rather Heaven received you and the gates of Paradise * welcomed you and opened. * And as ye now dwell therein * ye joyfully partake of the Tree of Life. Thus, intercede, we pray, * with the Master, even Christ the Lord, * that He grant peace * and great mercy to our souls.

For the Second Wednesday in Tone Three

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

O Lord, by the supplications of the divine Apostles, count us worthy to complete the time of the Fast aright, with compunction of mind, since Thou art good, O Compassionate One; so that being saved, we may all glorify Thee.

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Great and dreadful is Thy coming, O Lord, wherein Thou shalt sit and execute just judgement. Wherefore, judge me not who am condemned; but, as God, spare me, through the well-pleasing intercessions of Thine Apostles.

For the Second Wednesday in Tone Six (***Having laid up all their hope***)

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O apostles of Christ God, * ye brilliant lights of the earthborn, * world-enriching treasures * of the wisdom-gendering * knowledge of our God; * by your most holy prayers, * rescue from temptations * us who sing your praise in tuneful hymns; * order with mighty care * this appointed time of the Fast for us, * while

granting us to live in peace, * so that with a well-pleasing way of life, * we might all attain to * the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ * and might with boldness all offer up * hymns of praise unto our God.

For St. Konon in Tone One (***O all-lauded martyrs***)

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

O martyr whose praise is sung by all, * undergoing tribulations and unbearable torments, thou didst bravely overcome * that most cunning serpent, * and didst cast him down in shame * beneath thy comely feet, O wise Konon, who art glorified of Christ; * and with fervor thou beseechest Him * that He grant peace * and Great Mercy to our souls.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

O martyr whose praise is sung by all ... (repeat above)

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Illumined resplendently in mind * with the Holy Spirit's light, thou, O all-laudable Konon, didst abate the heavy gloom * of the evil demons; * and rejoicing in thy God, * O Martyr, thou didst pass over unto the unwaning light on high; * intercede now with the Lord our God, * that He grant peace * and Great Mercy to our souls.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

As thou, wondrous Konon, didst become * a true temple of the Trinity, the all-holy temple where thy body was enshrined * with all godly rev'rence * hast thou clearly shown to be * a river pouring forth with an endless flood of cures, O blest of God. * Wherefore, intercede with Christ the Lord, * that He grant peace * and Great Mercy to our souls.

THEOTOKION FROM THE MENAION IN TONE ONE (***O all-lauded martyrs***)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O pure one, rejoice, thou strange report; * O rejoice, thou holy tree divinely planted in Paradise; rejoice, thou blotting-out * of the wicked demons; * O rejoice, thou two-edged sword * that cuttest off the head of the enemy with thy strange bringing forth. * O all-holy and most blameless Maid, * O recall us * who have been estranged from God.

THE HOLY ENTRANCE

Deacon: (*Quietly*) Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: (*Quietly*) In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks unto Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O Master of all, Lord Who lovest mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto Thee, O Lord, Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in Thee have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. For unto Thee are due 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.

Deacon: (*Quietly*) Amen.

The Deacon, looking at the Priest, says quietly:

Deacon: (*Quietly*) Bless, father, the Holy Entrance.

The Priest blesses the entrance, saying:

Priest: *(Quietly)* Blessed is the entrance to Thy Holy Place, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

When the choir finishes the Theotokion, the Deacon intones:

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

The First Reading

Deacon: The evening prokeimenon!

Reader: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and glory, all ye that are upright of heart. Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Genesis. (4:16-26)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: So Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael the father of Methushael, and Methushael the father of Lamech. And Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. Zillah bore Tubalcain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubalcain was Naamah. Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, hearken to what I say: I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold." And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, for Cain slew him." To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of the Lord.

At the end of the first reading, the Priest holds a lighted candle and the censer in his right hand, and the reader reads the Prokeimenon for the second reading.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have put our hope in Thee. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

Command!

The people remain standing. The priest facing the holy table, elevates the censer and the candle, which are in his right hand at head level, and makes the sign of the cross, saying:

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Then standing in the Holy Doors, he bows to the Icon of Christ on the iconostasis and says:

Priest: The Light of Christ...

He then blesses the people, making the sign of the cross with the censer and the candle, and continues...

Priest: ...illumineth all!

The people stand and the Priest returns to the Holy Table and gives away the candle and censer as the Deacon says:

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs. (5:15-6:3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader: Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely hind, a graceful doe. Let her affection fill you at all times with delight, be infatuated always with her love. Why should you be infatuated, my son, with a loose woman and embrace the bosom of an adventuress? For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord; and he watches all his paths. The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is caught in the toils of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is lost. My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger; if you are snared in the utterance of your lips, caught in the words of your mouth; then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into your neighbor's power: go, hasten, and importune your neighbor.

LET MY PRAYER ARISE

At the end of the reading, the Priest takes up the censer as the Deacon, holding a lighted candle, goes to stand behind the Holy Table, opposite the Priest. On each of the following verses, the Priest moves to and continuously censers a side of the Holy Table; and the Deacon, holding the candle, moves to stand opposite him.

While standing, the people make one metanoia at "Let my prayer" and one at "evening sacrifice."

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

Priest: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The Priest moves to the south side of the Holy Table, censers and intones:

Priest: Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear me; attend to the voice of my supplication when I cry unto Thee.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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

Priest: Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The Priest moves to the north side of the Holy Table, censers and intones:

Priest: Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The deacon exits the sanctuary through the holy doors and stands in the center of the solea, facing the sanctuary as the Priest moves to the prothesis table, censers and intones:

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

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The priest returns to stand before the holy table, censuring as he slowly chants the following. While chanting, he turns to stand in the holy doors and censes the iconostasis and the people, as is customary.

Priest: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands,
Choir: as the evening sacrifice.

The Priest then returns to the Holy Table and gives up the censer and the Deacon enters the Altar through the Holy Doors.

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power, and idle talk. *(The clergy and people prostrate.)*

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to me, Thy servant. *(The clergy and people prostrate.)*

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. *(The clergy and people prostrate.)*

Priest: O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner. *(twelve times with a metanoia each time.)*

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

- *Only one prostration is made at the end of this reciting.*

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Deacon closes the Holy Doors, bows to the Priest and exits the Altar through the north door.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us say with our whole soul, and with our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan N., (and for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.).

The two sides of the antimimension are now unfolded, its lower third is opened and the priest kisses the signature of the hierarch at the mention of his name.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, [Names], and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church and for (the departed servants of God, [Names], and) all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of Thy servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Thy mercy, and send down Thy compassions upon us and upon all Thy people who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Priest: (*Aloud*) For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

THE LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS

Deacon: Pray to the Lord, ye catechumens.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will unite them to His holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord, ye catechumens.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Priest: (*Aloud*) That with us they may glorify Thine all-honorable and majestic Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: As many as are catechumens, depart. Depart, catechumens.

As many as are catechumens, depart. Let none of the catechumens remain

FIRST LITANY OF THE FAITHFUL

Deacon: As many as are of the faithful, again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: (*Quietly*) O God, great and worthy to be praised, Who through the life-giving death of Thy Christ hast translated us from corruption to incorruption: Deliver Thou 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 inaccessible to all idle words; and let our tongue be purged from unseemly speech. Purify our lips which praise Thee, O Lord. Make our hands to abstain from evil deeds and to work only such things as are acceptable unto Thee, establishing all our members and our minds by Thy Grace.

Priest: (*Aloud*) For unto Thee are due 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.

Choir: Amen.

The Priest kisses the Gospel Book, stands it before the tabernacle and then carefully, and with reverence, respect and fear, opens the Antimins.

SECOND LITANY OF THE FAITHFUL

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: (*Quietly*) O holy Master, exceeding good, we beseech Thee, Who art rich in mercy, that Thou wilt be gracious to us sinners and make us worthy to receive Thine Only-Begotten Son

and our God, the King of glory. For behold, His immaculate Body and His life-giving Blood, entering at this present hour, are about to be set forth upon this mystical table, invisibly escorted by a multitude of heavenly hosts. Grant us to partake of them without condemnation, that, the eyes of our understanding being enlightened thereby, we may become sons of the light and of the day.

Priest: (*Aloud*) Through the gift of Thy Christ, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Altar through the south door and opens the Holy Doors. The clergy recite the following dialogue THRICE while the choir sings "Now the Powers of Heaven."

Priest: (*Quietly*) Now the powers of heaven invisibly worship with us; for behold, the King of glory doth enter.

Deacon: (*Quietly*) Behold, the completed mystical sacrifice is escorted in. Let us with faith and longing draw near and become partakers of life everlasting. Alleluia.

NOW THE POWERS OF HEAVEN

Choir: Now the powers of heaven invisibly worship with us; for behold, the King of glory doth enter. Behold, the completed mystical sacrifice is escorted in. (*repeated as necessary*)

Priest: (*Softly*) Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen. (*repeated until reaching the Holy Table*)

When the Priest enters the sanctuary, the choir concludes the hymn:

Choir: Behold, the completed mystical sacrifice is escorted in. Let us with faith and longing draw near and become partakers of life everlasting. Alleluia.

THE LITANY BEFORE THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the precious Gifts which have been offered and Presanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That our Lord God, Who loveth mankind, receiving them upon His holy, heavenly, and ideal Altar for an odor of spiritual sweetness, will send down upon us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Asking for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O God of ineffable and unseen mysteries, with Whom are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, Who hast revealed unto us the ministry of this service and hast appointed unto us sinners through Thy great love toward mankind, to offer unto Thee gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorance of the people: Do Thou the same invisible King, Who doeth things great and inscrutable, glorious and marvelous, which cannot be numbered, look upon us, Thine unworthy servants who stand at this holy altar as at Thy cherubic throne, upon which lieth Thine only-begotten Son and our God, in the dread mysteries spread forth thereon; and having delivered us and all Thy faithful people from every impurity, sanctify all our souls and bodies with the sanctification which cannot be taken away. That partaking with a pure conscience with face unashamed, with heart illumined of these divine, hallowed things and, being enlivened through them, we may be united unto Christ Himself, our true God, Who hath said: Whosoever eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood abideth in Me, and I in him; that, Thy Word, O Lord, making an abode in us and sojourning among us, we may become a temple of Thine all-holy and adorable Spirit, redeemed from every wile of the devil, wrought either by deed or word or thought, and may obtain the good things promised unto us with all Thy saints who in all ages have been well-pleasing unto Thee.

Priest: (*Aloud*) And vouchsafe, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, we may dare to call upon Thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

After the exclamation of the Priest, the Deacon goes to stand before the icon of Christ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 the evil one.

Priest: For Thine 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.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to Thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O God, Who alone art good and compassionate, Who dwellest in the heights and regardest the humble: Look with the eyes of Thy tenderness upon all Thy people, and preserve them. And make us all worthy to partake without condemnation of these Thy life-giving mysteries; for unto Thee have we bowed our heads in the hope of Thy rich mercy.

Priest: (*Aloud*) Through the grace and compassion and love toward man of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from Thy holy dwelling-place, and from the throne of the glory of Thy kingdom; and come to sanctify us, O Thou who sittest on high with the Father, and art here invisibly present with us; and vouchsafe by Thy mighty hand to impart unto us Thine immaculate Body and precious Blood, and through us unto all the people.

The Priest, standing before the Holy Table, along with the Deacon, standing on the solea before the Icon of Christ, makes three metanoias, saying quietly:

Priest: O God, be gracious unto me, the sinner. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Let us attend!

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

Priest: The Presanctified Holy Things are for the holy.

The Priest removes the Aer, folds it and places it to the side as the Deacon enters the Altar through the south door and stands at his place at the Holy table. Meanwhile the Choir sings the following Hymn.

Choir: One is Holy, One is Lord: Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE PRAYERS BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

People: I stand before the doors of thy temple, and yet I refrain not from my terrible thoughts. But do thou, O Christ God, who didst justify the publican and hadst mercy on the Canaanite woman and didst open the gates of paradise to the thief: open unto me the compassion of thy love toward mankind, and receive me as I approach and touch thee, like the harlot and the woman with the issue of blood; for the one, by but touching the hem of thy garment, received healing, and the other, by embracing thine immaculate feet, received the forgiveness of her sins. And I, who am pitiful, dare to partake of thy whole Body. Let me not be consumed, but receive me as thou didst receive them, and enlighten the senses of my soul, burning up the accusations of my sins, through the intercessions of her that without seed gave thee birth and of the heavenly powers; for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is truly Thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Wherefore I pray Thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thine immaculate Mysteries, unto forgiveness of my sins and unto life everlasting. Amen

Behold, I approach Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, for Fire art thou which burneth the unworthy. But purify thou me of every stain.

Of Thy Mystic Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant: for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

Tremble, O man, as thou beholdest the deifying Blood, for it is a burning coal consuming the unworthy. The body of God both deifieth and nourisheth me. It deifieth the spirit and wondrously nourisheth the mind.

Thou hast smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by thy divine love hast thou changed me. But with thine immaterial fire, consume my sins and count me worthy to be filled with delight in thee, that leaping for joy, O Good One, I may magnify thy two comings.

Into the splendour of thy Saints how shall I, the unworthy one, enter? For should I dare to enter the bridal chamber, my vesture doth betray me, for it is not a wedding garment; and as one bound, I shall be cast out by the Angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the defilement of my soul, and save me, since thou art the Friend of man.

O man-befriending Master, Lord Jesus my God, let not these holy Gifts be unto me for judgment through mine unworthiness, but for purification and sanctification of both soul and body, and as an earnest of the life and the kingdom to come. For it is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in the Lord the hope of my salvation.

Of Thy Mystic Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant: for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

Not unto judgment nor unto condemnation be my partaking of Thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

THE KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN)

Choir: O taste and see how good the Lord is. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PSALM 33

1. I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad.
3. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.
4. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations.
5. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.
6. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations.
7. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them.
8. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him.
9. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him.
10. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

Deacon: With fear of God and faith and love, draw near.

The Priest and Deacon exit the sanctuary through the holy doors as the choir sings:

Choir: Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord Who hath revealed Himself unto us.

THE KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN)

Choir: O taste and see how good the Lord is. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PSALM 33

1. I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad.
3. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.
4. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations.
5. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.
6. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations.
7. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them.
8. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him.
9. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him.
10. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

Priest: O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

THE LENTEN POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Choir: I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Taste ye the heavenly Bread, and the Cup of life, and see how good the Lord is. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

And turning to face the people, the Priest continues:

Priest: Always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O Lord that we may sing of Thy glory: for Thou hast permitted us to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal and life-giving Mysteries. Establish us in Thy Sanctification that all the day long we may meditate upon Thy righteousness. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Meanwhile the Priest places the Chalice upon the Prothesis Table, and returns to the holy table. He folds up the Antimins and makes the sign of the Cross above it with the Gospel Book. The Deacon bows to the Priest and exits the north door for the litany.

THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Deacon: Attend! Having partaken of the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, life-giving and dread Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Asking that the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Priest: We give thanks unto Thee, O God, the Savior of all, for all the good things which Thou hast granted unto us and for the communion of the Holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ. And we beseech Thee, O Master, Who lovest mankind, to keep us under the shelter of Thy wings. And grant that, even unto our last breath, we may worthily partake of Thy Holy Things unto the illumination of soul and body and unto the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Priest: For Thou art our sanctification, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.

After the exclamation of the Priest, the Deacon goes to stand before the icon of Christ.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.
Choir: In the Name of the Lord.
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest comes out through the holy doors and stands before the Icon of Christ, and says aloud the following Prayer:

THE PRAYER BEHIND THE AMVON

Priest: O almighty Master, Who hast made all creation in wisdom and by Thine inexpressible providence and great goodness hast brought us to these all-revered days, for the purification of soul and body, for the controlling of passions and for hope of resurrection, Who, during the forty days didst give into the hands of Thy servant Moses the tablets of the Law in characters divinely traced by Thee: Enable us also, O good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the fast, to preserve inviolate the faith, to crush under foot the heads of invisible serpents, to be accounted victors over sin; and, uncondemned, to attain unto and worship the holy resurrection. For blessed and glorified is Thine all-honorable and majestic Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (*thrice*)

The Priest returns to the holy table. The Deacon from the Sanctuary says:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.
Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you through His grace and love towards mankind, always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.
Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Gregory the Dialogist, pope of Rome, whose Presanctified Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of *Saint N., the patron and the protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Hieromartyr

Konon of Isauria, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Choir: Amen.

As the people come forward to reverence the Holy Cross, the Reader recites Psalms 33 and 144. Afterward, the priest concludes the Presanctified Divine Liturgy. As the people come forward to reverence the Holy Cross, the Reader proclaims the following Psalms.

PSALM 33

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

PSALM 144

I will exalt Thee, O my God, my King, and I will bless Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever. Great is the Lord and exceedingly to be praised, and of His greatness there is no end. Generation and generation shall praise Thy works, and Thy power shall they declare. Of the majesty of the glory of Thy holiness shall they speak, and they shall tell of Thy wonders. And the power of Thine awesome deeds shall they relate, and they shall tell of Thy majesty. The memory of the multitude of Thy goodness shall they pour forth, and in Thy righteousness shall they rejoice. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His compassions are over all His works. Let all Thy works, O Lord, give praise to Thee, and let Thy righteous ones bless Thee. Of the glory of Thy Kingdom shall they speak, and shall tell of Thy dominion: To make Thy dominion known to the sons of men, and the glory of the majesty of Thy kingdom. Thy Kingdom is the kingdom of all the ages, and Thy sovereignty is in every generation and generation. Faithful is the Lord in all His words, and holy in all His works. The Lord upholdeth all that are falling, and setteth up all that are broken down. The eyes of all look to Thee with hope, and Thou gavest them their food in due season. Thou openest Thy hand and fillest every living thing with Thy favor. Righteous is the Lord in all His ways, and holy in all His works. The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him, to all that call on Him in truth. The will of them that fear Him shall He do, and their supplication shall He hear, and He shall save them. The Lord preserveth all that love Him, but all the sinners shall He utterly destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever, yea, forever and ever.

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

Choir: Amen.