

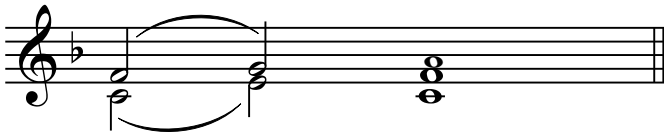
The Order of Great Vespers

For Saturday evening

When the service is to begin, the Priest (vested in epitrachil) and the Deacon (vested in stichar and orar) go before the Royal Doors. They make 3 reverences. The faithful STAND.

Deacon: Master, bless.

Priest: Blessed is our God, + now and ever and forever.

Response:  A - - - men.

The musical notation is a single staff in G-clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note G4, and then a whole note chord consisting of G4, B-flat4, and D5. The lyrics 'A - - - men.' are written below the staff, with the first 'A' aligned under the first quarter note and 'men.' under the final whole note chord.

During the Paschal season, "Glory... O Heavenly King..." is replaced with "Christ is Risen..." x3.

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

Response: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who are in all places and fill all things,
treasury of blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us, and cleanse us from every blemish,
and save our souls, O Blessed One.

Priest: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us!

Response: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us!

Priest: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us!

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

Priest: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Response: O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us, O Lord, cleanse us of our sins, O Master, forgive our transgressions, O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

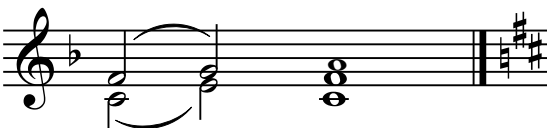
Priest: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

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

Priest: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Response: 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 Thine is the Kingdom and the power and glory of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and
forever.**

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: Lord, have mercy. *(6 times)*

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(6 times)*

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

Response: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

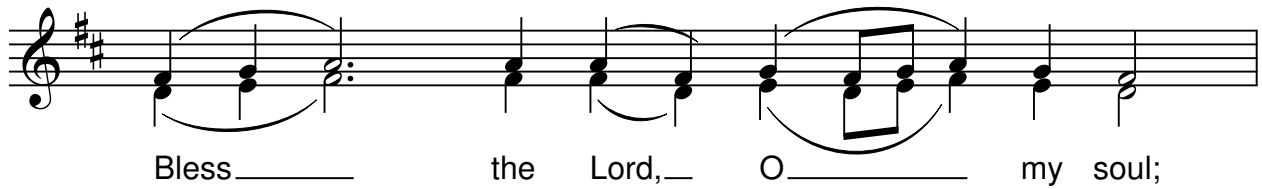
Priest: Come, let us adore God our King. *(reverence)*

Response: Come, let us adore Christ, our King and our God. *(reverence)*

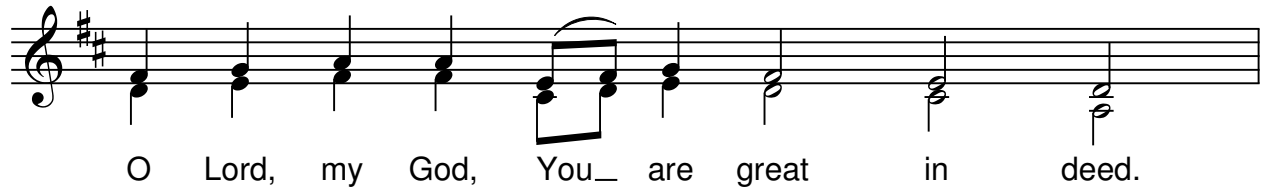
**Priest: Come, let us adore and bow down to Christ Himself, our
King and our God.** *(reverence)*

The Deacon remains standing in the center of the amvon, while the Priest goes before the icon of Christ and recites the Prayers of Light (page 21). If a Priest serves alone, he should go before the icon of Christ and say as many of the Prayers of Light as the singing of Psalm 103 (104) will permit.

Psalm 103 (104)



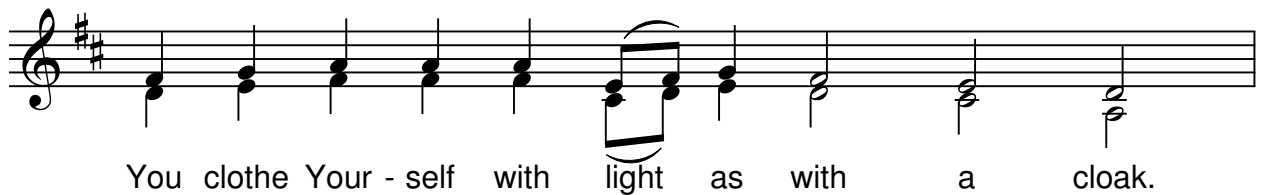
Bless the Lord, O my soul;



O Lord, my God, You are great in deed.



You are clothed with glory and majesty;



You clothe Yourself with light as with a cloak.



You stretch out the heavens like a canopy;



You lay the beam of Your chambers in the waters.



You make the clouds Your chariot;

You walk up - on the wings___ of the wind.

You___ make Your an - gels spi - - - - rits;

Your___ ser - vants a fla - ming fire._____

You___ laid the foun - da - tions of _____ the earth,

that it should not be re - moved for - e - - - - ver.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to _____ the Son

and___ to the Ho - ly Spi - - - - rit.

Now ___ and e - - ver and for - e - ver. A - men.

(3 times)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry___ to You, O God!

The Great Litany of Peace (SIT)

Priest/Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

1

Lord___ have mer - cy.

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

Response:

2

Lord___ have mer - cy.

Priest/Deacon: For peace throughout the world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God and for the union of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#1).

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

Response: Lord, have mercy (#2).

Priest/Deacon: For our Ecumenical Patriarch (name), the Archbishop of Constantinople, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#1).

Priest/Deacon: For our God-loving Bishop..., for our esteemed priesthood, for the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#2).

Priest/Deacon: For the honorable government of our country and all civil authorities and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#1).

Priest/Deacon: For this city and for every city, village and country, and for those who with faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#2).

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

Response: Lord, have mercy (#1).

Priest/Deacon: For those who travel by land, by sea, by air, for the sick, the suffering, for those who are held in captivity, and for their safety and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#2).

(Special petitions may be intoned here.)

Priest/Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath and want, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy (#1).

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

Response: Lord, have mercy (#2).

Priest/Deacon: Commemorating our ever-holy, ever-pure, ever-blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver 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.

Response: Musical notation for the response 'To You, O Lord.' It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The lyrics 'To You, O Lord.' are written below the notes.

Priest: For to You are due all glory, honor, and adoration, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Reponse: Musical notation for the response 'A - - - men.' It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The lyrics 'A - - - men.' are written below the notes.

The Priest enters the Altar and goes to the High Place if he has not already done so. The Deacon joins the Priest at the High Place.

From the First Kathisma (SIT)

Bles - sed is the man, al - le - lu - - - ia,
who fol - lows not the coun - cils of the wick - ed.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia - al - le - lu - - - ia.
For the Lord knows the way of the just,
and the way of the wick - ed will per - ish.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia - al - le - lu - - - ia.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the phrase 'Alleluia'. The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to G major.

"O Lord, I Have Cried..." with Stichera from the Tone of the week and for the Saint/Feast. (STAND during censing) The Priest remains at the High Place, while the Deacon prepares incense. After asking the blessing, the Deacon makes the Great Censing of the altar, the icon screen, and of the faithful and returns to the altar.

At the "Glory to the Father...", the Royal Doors are opened and the faithful STAND.

The Priest is vested in his phelon. The Deacon takes the censer. Preceded by the acolytes with candles and followed by the celebrating clergy, they make the entrance during the singing of the Stichera after "Now and ever and forever. Amen." When Deacon and Officiant arrive at the Royal Doors, the following is recited **quietly**:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Officiant: O Gracious King, You love mankind and bless all things. With contrite heart and humble spirit we pray to You, O Christ our true God, to bless our coming and our going. For Your coming and dwelling among us, and Your ascension are blessed, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Deacon: Master, bless the holy entrance!

Officiant: Blessed + is the entrance of Your saints, now and ever and forever.

Deacon: Amen.

At the conclusion of the Stichera, standing before the Royal Doors, the Deacon (or Priest) makes the sign of the cross with the censer and intones:

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

(While the congregation sings "Joyful Light", the Deacon (or Priest) makes the Great Incensation.)

Joyful Light

The musical score for "Joyful Light" is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. The first three staves are in G major, and the fourth staff begins with a key signature change to A major (two sharps).

Joy - ful Light of the Ho - ly Glo - ry,
that shines from the im - mor - tal heav - en - ly Fa - ther,
the Ho - ly the Bles - - sed, O Je - sus Christ.
Now that we come to sun - - set;

now that we see the eve - ning light,
 we sing the praise of Fa - ther and Son,
 and Ho - ly Spi - rit, one God. Wor - thy are You
 to be praised at all times
 with voi - ces meet for ho - ly song,
 O Son of God, the Gi - ver of life,
 for which cause all the world
 does give You glo - - - ry.

The Priest and Deacon go to the high place for the Prokimen and Scripture Readings, if there are any.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokimen - Saturday - Tone 6



The _____ Lord is _____ King, _____ He is robed in _____ ma-jes - ty.

V. The Lord is robed with strength and has girded Himself. (*Psalm 93:1-2*)

V. For He has established the world which shall not be moved.

V. Holiness becomes Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

(On special Feast days, Old Testament lesson is read here.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the book of ...

Priest: Be attentive!

Reader: (*reads the appointed reading*)

Priest: Peace be + unto you Reader.)

The Deacon comes before the Royal Doors and the Priest goes to the Altar. The Deacon (or Priest) says the Triple Litany.

The Triple Litany (*SIT*)

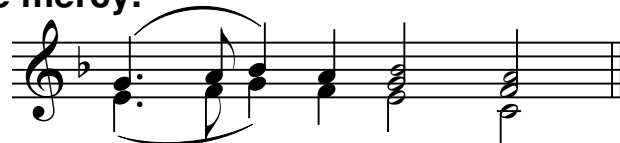
Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with all our mind, let us say.



Response:

Lord _____ have mer - cy.

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



Response:

Lord _____ have mer - cy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

Response:



Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy. Lord _____ have _____ mer - cy.

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for our Ecumenical Patriarch..., the Archbishop of Constantinople, for our Our God-loving Bishop..., for our spiritual fathers and all other clergy and for all our brethren in Christ; for their welfare, peace, health, salvation, and for the remission of their sins and that the Lord our God may prompt and help them in all things.

Response:



Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy. Lord_____ have mer - cy.

(Special petitions may be intoned here.)

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for those who give offerings and do good works in this holy and venerable Church, for those who labor in its service, for those who sing, and for all the people here present who await Your great and abundant mercy, for those who have shown us kindness and for all Orthodox Christians.

Response:



Lord_ have mercy. Lord_ have mercy. Lord_____ have mer - cy.

Deacon: O Lord our God, accept this fervent prayer from Your servants and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy, and bestow Your compassion upon us and upon all Your people who await the abundant mercies that come from You.

Priest: For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind and we give glory to You, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, always now and ever and forever.

Response: 

A - men.

The Priest and the Deacon remain where they are for the singing of the Evening Prayer

The Evening Prayer (STAND)



Grant us this evening O Lord to be pro-tec - ted from sin.



Bless - ed are You O Lord God of our Fa - thers



and praised and glo - ri - fied is Your Name for - e -



ver. A-men. Let Your mer - cy be up - on us, O Lord,



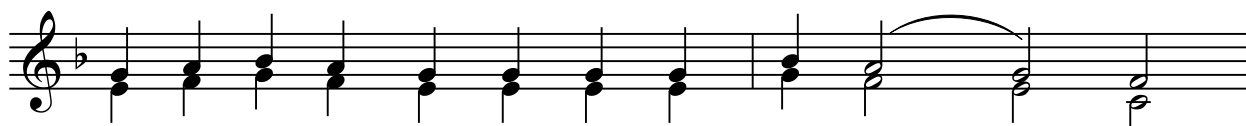
e - ven as we have put our ___ hope in You.



Bless - ed are You, ___ O Lord, teach us Your com -



mand - - ments. Bless - ed are You, O Mas - ter,



al - low us to un - der - stand Your com - mand - - ments.

Bless - ed are You, O Ho - ly One, en - light - en us
 with Your com - mand - ments. Your mer - cy, O Lord, en - dures
 for - e - ver. Do not de - spise the works of Your hands.
 To You be - longs praise, to You be - longs song,
 to You glo - ry be - longs, to the Fa - ther and Son and
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, now and e - ver and for - e - ver. A - men.

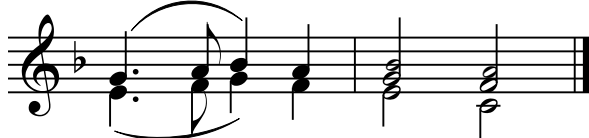
Litany of Supplication

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

Response:

Lord _____ have mer - cy.

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

Response:  **Lord** have mer - cy.

Deacon: For an evening that in all things will be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:  **Grant it, O Lord.**

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

Response:  **Grant it, O Lord.**

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

Response: Grant it, O Lord. (#1)

Deacon: For all that is good and profitable to our souls and for the peace of the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant it, O Lord. (#2)

Deacon: That we may pass the remainder of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant it, O Lord. (#1)

Deacon: For a Christian ending of our life without pain or shame, peaceful, and for a good account at the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant it, O Lord. (#2)

Deacon: Commemorating our ever holy, ever pure, ever blessed and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver 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.

Response: Musical notation for the response 'To You, O Lord.' It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics 'To You, O Lord.' are written below the notes.


Priest: For You are gracious God and You love mankind, and we give glory to You, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Musical notation for the response 'A - - - men.' It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics 'A - - - men.' are written below the notes.

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Response: Musical notation for the response 'And with your spi - - - rit.' It consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics 'And with your spi - - - rit.' are written below the notes.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Response: 
To__ You,_____ O_____ Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, You lowered the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads to You, the Judge both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ever ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams. May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - - - - men.

The Litiya

If the Litiya (Artoklasia) is to be served, on the eves of major feasts or a special commemoration, it is inserted at this point in the service. See page 23.

The Aposticha *is sung in from the Tone of the week and for the Feast/Saint.*

(SIT)

The Priest and Deacon go to the High Place for the singing of the Aposticha. At the "Glory...Now and Ever", the faithful STAND and the Priest and Deacon go to the Altar for the St. Simeon's Prayer. They remain there until the conclusion of the service.

St. Simeon's Prayer (STAND)

Luke 2:29-32

Now _____ let Your ser - - - vant
de - part in peace O _____ Mas - ter,
ac - - - cor - - - ding_ to Your Word.
For my eyes_ have _____ seen
Your _____ sal - va - - - - - - - tion,
which_ You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all peo - ple.
The Light of re - ve - la - tion for the Gen - tiles,
and_ the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Priest: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us!

Response: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us!

Priest: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us!

Response: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Priest: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Response: O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive our transgressions; O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Priest: Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Response: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Priest: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Response: 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 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 forever.

Response: 
A - - men.


Troparia *for the feast and saint of the day and the Birthgiver hymn are sung. If the Litiya was served, the Priest censens the Litiya Tray, encircling it 3 times as the Tropar of the Feast is sung, and we turn to page 25 for the **Blessing of Wheat, Wine and Oil**. Otherwise, the Priest and Deacon, facing the Altar, now make the Dismissal.*

The Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: Father, bless!

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing, is blessed, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - men.

Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians now and ever and forever.

(The Priest and Deacon come through the Royal Doors and face the Icon of the Virgin Mary)

Priest: O most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Response: More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who as a Virgin gave birth to God the Word, true Birthgiver of God, we magnify you!

During the Paschal Season: 'O Shine, O Shine, O New Jerusalem, for the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you. O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.'


Facing the Icon of Christ, the Priest says:

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God, our Hope, glory to You!

Response: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. Lord, have mercy (x3). Father, bless us!

Facing the faithful, the Priest says:

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, through the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the intercession of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, the venerable and divinely enlightened Fathers, and of ..., whom we commemorate this day, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is gracious and He loves mankind.

Response: 
A - - men.

VESPERS APPENDIX

The Prayers of Light

(The Priest reads these prayers during the singing of Psalm 103 at Vespers)

1. O Lord, compassionate and loving, long-suffering and most merciful, hear our prayer and listen to the voice of our supplication. Make a favorable covenant with us, guide us along Your ways that we may live in Your truth, gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy Name; for You are great and You perform wondrous deeds. You are the only God and none other is like You, O Lord. You are great in mercy and able, in Your power, to assist, support, and save all those who place their hope in Your holy Name; and to You, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and adoration, now and ever and forever. Amen.

2. O Lord, in Your indignation do not rebuke us; in Your wrath do not chastise us; but deal with us according to Your loving kindness. O Physician and Healer of our souls, guide us to the harbor of Your will; enlighten the eyes of our mind that we may know Your truth. Grant that the remainder of this day and all the days of our life may be peaceful and without sin, through the prayers of the holy Mother of God and through the prayers of all the Saints; for Yours is the might, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

3. O Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners, Your unworthy servants, as we call upon Your holy Name, and put us not to shame for having placed our hope in Your mercy. Graciously grant us, O Lord, all the means of salvation; make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart and to accomplish Your will in all things. For You are a gracious Lord and You love mankind; and we give glory to You, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

4. O Lord, You are praised by the holy Powers in hymns which are never silent, and in doxologies which never cease. Fill our mouths with Your praise that we may exalt Your holy Name. Through the prayers of the holy Mother of God and the intercession of all Your Saints, give us a part and an inheritance with those who fear You in truth and who keep Your commandments. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and adoration, now and ever and forever. Amen.

5. Blessed are You, O Lord, Almighty God, You know the mind of each person; You know what each needs even before they ask or are aware of it. Now, O King Who loves mankind and Who is gracious in everything, in Your great mercy

allow us to call upon Your holy Name with an unashamed conscience. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One; for to You, Father; Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and adoration, now and ever and forever. Amen.

6. O Lord, O Lord, You hold all things together in Your spotless hands; You are long-suffering toward us all; You grieve at our wickedness. Remember Your compassion and mercy, and look down upon us in Your goodness. Grant that for the rest of this day we may escape from the manifold deceits of the Evil One; and keep our life free from every assault of the enemy, through the grace of Your All-holy Spirit. Grant this through the mercies and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

7. O great and wonderful God, You govern all things with Your indescribable goodness and rich providence. You have provided us with the goodness of this world and have assured us, through Your kindness, of attaining the promised kingdom. O Lord, through all the blessings already received this day, You have kept us away from evil; grant that we spend its remaining hours without blame before Your holy glory, and that we may sing Your praise, O You, the only Gracious One Who loves mankind. For You are our God, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

8. O great and most high God, You alone are immortal and You dwell in a light which is unapproachable. You created all things in Your wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to govern the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have deemed us, poor sinners, worthy to reach this hour, to come into Your presence with our thanks, and to offer You our evening praise. O Lord Who loves mankind, let our prayers ascend to You as incense, and accept them as sweet fragrance. Grant that this evening and the coming night may be spent in peace; clothe us with the armor of light save us from the fears of the night and from things that lurk in darkness. Grant that the sleep You have given to refresh us from our fatigue may be free from every evil. Yes, O Lord and Giver of all good things, may we remember Your name throughout the night; and enlightened by the practice of Your commandments, may we rise in gladness of soul to praise Your goodness. offering prayers and supplications for our sins and those of Your people. Look down upon us with mercy, through the intercession of the Mother of God; for You are a gracious Lord Who loves mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever Amen.

The Litiya

(STAND)

The Stichera of the Litiya for the Feast are sung at this time. The Icon of the Feast is taken in procession by the Priest from the Altar to the Tetrapod or another table prepared for it. The Priest remains at the Tetrapod for the following Litany until the blessing of the loaves, wheat, wine and oil.

Deacon: O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Look upon Your world with mercy and compassion. Raise all Orthodox Christians to glory, and shower Your abundant mercies upon us. Through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-Virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the intercession of the honorable and bodiless powers of heaven; of the honorable, glorious, prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy Apostles; through the intercession of our fathers among the Saints, the great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our father among the Saints, Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea; through the intercession of the holy Cyril and Methodius, equals to the Apostles and teachers of the Slavs; through the intercession of the glorious and victorious martyrs; through the intercession of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Caves, and of all our venerable and God-bearing fathers; through the intercession of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (N.), patron of this holy Church, and of Saint (N.), whom we commemorate on this day, and of all the Saints: we beseech You, O most merciful Lord, listen to the prayers that we sinners offer to You, and have mercy on us.

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Deacon: We also pray for our Ecumenical Patriarch..., the Archbishop of Constantinople; for our God-loving Bishop..., for our spiritual fathers, for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and maltreated, and is in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and for those who live here; for the welfare of God's holy churches and assistance of our fathers and brothers who, with diligence and in the fear of God, do labor and serve; for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of our departed loved ones; for the deliverance of captives; for all those who are taking part in these holy

services; and for all who have served and who are now serving in this holy church, let us say:

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Priest: Again we pray to You for this land and her armed forces and for our public servants, and for their strength, success, long life, health and salvation: that the Lord God, working always closely with them, may prosper them in all their endeavors for the good of all, let us say:

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, and health and for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of the servants of God who offer prayers and celebrate this feast, for the well-being of their ailing ones, and for the repose of the souls of all the members of their families, let us say:

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Priest: Again we pray that He will preserve this church (monastery, camp, center) and this village (city, countryside) and every village, city, and countryside from famine and pestilence, earthquake and flood, fire and sword, foreign invasion and civil war; that our loving and good God may be gentle, merciful and kind, and as the Lover of Mankind may forgive us our sins and hold back His just wrath and have mercy on us.

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Priest: Again we pray that the Lord God may listen to the voice of the supplication of us sinners and that He may have mercy on us.

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Priest: Hear us, O God our Saviour, Hope of all those who live at the far ends of the world, and of those far out at sea; be kind to us, O Master; forgive us our sins and have mercy on us, for You are gracious and You love mankind, and we send up glory to You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Priest: Peace be + unto all.

Response: and with your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Response: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God; through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-Virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; and of all the Saints; make our prayer acceptable. Grant us remission of our sins; protect us under the shadow of Your wings; drive far from us every foe and adversary, and make our life peaceful, O Lord. Have mercy on us and on Your world, and save our souls, for You are gracious and You love mankind.

Response: Amen.

Return to page 17 for the Aposticha.

Blessing of the Bread, Wheat, Wine and Oil

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and thus sustained five thousand men: Bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this city and for Your whole world; and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For You are the One Who sanctifies and blesses all things, O Christ our God, and we send up glory to You, and to Your eternal Father and to Your holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord from this time forth and forever, from this time forth and forever, and forever.

The Priest enters the altar at the singing of "Blessed be the Name". The following Psalm may be read if the Priest needs additional time prior to the dismissal.

All: I will bless the Lord at all times:
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul shall make her boast in the Lord:
the humble shall hear thereof, 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 fears.
They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
and saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him,
and delivereth them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.
The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger:
but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

The Priest gives the following blessing from the Royal Doors.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord+ be upon you, through His grace and love toward mankind, always now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

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