

## THE VIGIL SERVICE

JUNE 29 [JULY 12]: THE HOLY, GLORIOUS AND ALL-PRAISED LEADERS OF THE APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

### VESPERS

*Deacon:* Arise. Bless, O Lord.

*Priest:* **G**lory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-creating and Indivisible Trinity, always, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Clergy:* O come, let us worship our King and God.

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

THE PROEMIAL PSALM [VERSES FROM PSALM 103, WITH REFRAINS]

*Choir:* **B**less the Lord, O my soul.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

O Lord, my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Confession and majesty hast Thou put on.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Upon the mountains shall the waters stand.

How wondrous are Thy works, O Lord.

Between the mountains will the waters run.

How wondrous are Thy works, O Lord.

How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who hast created all!

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

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who hast created all!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

THE GREAT LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For them that travel by sea, land and air, for the sick, the afflicted, for captives, and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### ANTIPHON FROM FIRST KATHISMA [VERSES FROM PSALMS 1 - 3]

*Choir:* **B**lessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is the Lord's: Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

#### 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is the dominion, 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 the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### LORD, I HAVE CRIED [VERSES FROM PSALMS 140, 141, 129 AND 116 WITH HYMNS OF THE DAY]

*Choir:* **L**ord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; hearken unto me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; attend to the voice of my supplication when I cry unto Thee: hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice; hearken unto me, O Lord.

*Reader:* ***Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;***

*Choir:* ***O Lord, hear my voice.***

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul, who were separate in body yet united in spirit, the foremost of

the preachers of God, the one as leader of the apostles, and the other as the one who labored more than the rest? For Christ our God, Who hath great mercy, doth truly crown them with diadems of glory as is meet.

*Reader: Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

*(Repeat "What wreaths of praise ...")*

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

*(Repeat "What wreaths of praise ...")*

*For Thy Name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

With what beauties of song shall we hymn Peter and Paul? They are the wings of divine knowledge who soared above the ends of the earth and were upborne to the heavens, the hands of the grace of the Gospel, the rivers of wisdom, the arms of the Cross, wherewith Christ, Who hath great mercy, hath cast down the pride of the demons.

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

*(Repeat "With what beauties of song ...")*

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.*

*(Repeat "With what beauties of song ...")*

*O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye peoples.*

With what spiritual hymns shall we praise Peter and Paul? They have closed the ever-gaping mouths of the ungodly, they are the dreadful swords of the Spirit, the splendid adornments of Rome, the nurturers of the whole world, the noetic and divinely graven tablets of the new covenant, whom Christ, Who hath great mercy, proclaimed in Zion.

*For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.*

*(Repeat "With what spiritual hymns ...")*

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

By His thrice-repeated question, "Peter, lovest thou Me?", did Christ set aright the three denials. Wherefore, Simon said to the Author of mysteries: "Lord, Thou knowest all things, Thou understandest all things! Thou knowest that I love Thee!" Wherefore, the Savior said unto him: "Feed My lambs; feed My chosen ones; feed My sheep, which I have ransomed for salvation by My blood!" Him do thou beseech, O divinely blessed apostle, that He grant us great mercy.

*Choir: both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

*[Resurrection Theotokion]*

David, the prophet, forefather of God through Thee, gave voice beforehand in psalms concerning the great things done for Thee: Upon Thy right hand doth stand the Queen. For God Who was pleased without father to be made man of thee, has shown thee forth Mother of life and mediator, that He might restore His image corrupted by the passions; and that when He had found the stray sheep caught in the mountains, He might lay it upon His shoulder and bring it to His Father, and by His own wish that Christ, in Whom is great and bountiful mercy, might gather it to the heavenly hosts and save the world, O Theotokos.

#### THE SMALL ENTRANCE

*Deacon: Wisdom. Upright.*

#### EVENING SONG TO THE ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

*Choir: O joyous Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: we that come to the setting of the sun, when we beheld the evening light, praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with gladsome voices, O Son of God, Giver of life. Therefore, the world doth glorify Thee.*

*Deacon: Let us attend.*

*Deacon: Peace be to all.*

*Deacon: Wisdom. The prokimenon is in the eighth tone:*

*Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.*

*Choir: Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.*

*Deacon: Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.*

*Choir: Behold now, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord..*

*Deacon: Behold now, bless ye the Lord,*

*Choir: all ye servants of the Lord..*

#### THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURAL LESSONS

*Deacon: Wisdom.*

*Reader: The reading is from general epistle of Peter.*

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*(1Peter 1:3-9)*

*Reader:* **B**rethren, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen Him you love Him; though you do not now see Him you believe in Him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The reading is from general epistle of Peter.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*(1Peter 1:13-19)*

*Reader:* **B**eloved, gird up your mind, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He Who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you invoke as Father Him Who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The reading is from general epistle of Peter.

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*(1Peter 2:11-24)*

*Reader:* **B**eloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul. Maintain good contact among the Gentiles, so that, in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle, but also to the overbearing. For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if, when you do right and suffer for it, you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on His lips. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten; but He trusted to Him Who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

#### THE AUGMENTED LITANY

*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. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; and for all our brethren in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy orthodox patriarchs, and for the pious kings and faithful queens, and for the founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters gone to their rest before us and for all the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins for the servants of God, our brethren of this holy Temple.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for them that bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that labor and them that sing, and for all the people here present that await Thy great and abundant mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Reader:* Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, grant me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes. O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. Unto Thee is due praise, unto Thee is due song, unto Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

#### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our evening prayer 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 offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* For 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 dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art a gracious God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* Blessed and glorified be the dominion of Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

THE PETITIONS OF FERVENT DEVOTION (LITYA)

*Choir:* Come, ye assemblies of the faithful, and with fitting praises let us crown today Peter and Paul, the right laudable and beautiful company, the chosen artisans of grace, for they have abundantly sown the word for all. Therewith they have made rich the grace of the Spirit, and as branches of the true Vine they have put forth for us a ripe cluster which doth gladden our hearts. To them do we cry aloud with guileless countenance and a pure conscience, saying: Rejoice, destroyers of the irrational and servants of those endowed with reason! Rejoice, ye beauteous chosen ones of the Creator and Fashioner of all! Rejoice, mediators of good things and dispellers of that which is false! Let us beseech them, that they ever entreat the Creator and Teacher to grant sure peace unto the world and great mercy to our souls.

*Reader:* Let us praise the preeminent Peter and Paul as intercessors for the whole world: the disciples of Christ and foundations of the Church, the pillars and ramparts of truth, the divine clarions of the teachings and sufferings of Christ. For having traveled the breadth of the whole world, sowing the Faith as with a plough, they planted divine knowledge for all, revealing the word of the Trinity. O Peter, thou rock and foundation! O Paul, thou chosen vessel! Yoked together by the bonds of Christ, they have drawn all to the knowledge of God. Gentiles and Jews, cities and islands, they have led to Christ; and they pray that our souls be saved.

**O** Peter, preeminent among the glorious apostles, rock of faith! **O** wondrous Paul, rhetor and luminary of the Holy Churches! Standing before the divine throne, pray ye to Christ for us.

**O** blessed Paul, mouth of the Lord, foundation of doctrines, who wast once a persecutor of Jesus the Savior, thou art now among the foremost enthroned among the apostles. Wherefore, thou hast seen ineffable things, **O** wise one, ascending even unto the third heaven, and didst cry aloud: Come with me, and we shall not be deprived of good things!

The citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, the rock of faith, the rhetor of the Church of Christ, the two servants of the Trinity, the fishers of the world: Having forsaken that which is here on earth and departed unto God with suffering, beseech Him with boldness that our souls be saved.

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

As the Wisdom of God, the consubstantial Word of the Father foretold in the Gospels, **O** most lauded apostles, ye are exceeding fruitful vines bearing the ripe and comely Cluster upon your branches, and we the faithful, eating thereof, delight in its taste with gladness. **O** Peter, rock of faith, and Paul, boast of the whole world, make steadfast the flock which ye acquired by your teachings.

*Choir:* ***both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

We bless thee, **O** Virgin Theotokos, and we, the faithful, glorify thee as is meet, thou unassailable city, impregnable rampart, steadfast intercession and refuge of our souls.

*Deacon:* Save, **O** God, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; visit Thy world with mercy and bounties; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies: by the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the venerable, heavenly Bodiless Powers; by the supplications of the venerable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, the great Hierarchs and universal Teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our Father among the Saints Spyridon, bishop of Trimythun; of our Fathers among the Saints, wonder-workers of all Russia and Hierarchs Peter, Alexis, Jonah and Philip; of our Fathers among the Saints John the wonderworker of Shanghai, San Francisco and all America; ***(other Hierarchs among the Saints [especially Russian] may be mentioned here)***; of the holy Equal-to-the apostles Methodius and Cyril, evangelizers of the Slavs, prince Vladimir, evangelizer of Russia, Nina, evangelizer of Georgia and Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow and evangelizer of America; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Martyrs; of the Great-martyrs George, Panteleimon, Catherine, Barbara and Tatiana; of the holy Hierarchs Tikhon, Nicholas and all the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia; ***(here other Martyrs may be mentioned)***; of the holy Monks Sergius of Radonezh and Seraphim of Sarov, the wonderworkers of all Russia and Herman of Alaska, wonderworker of all America; ***(here other holy Monks may be mentioned)***; the holy righteous Father John of Kronstadt, wonderworker of all Russia and Xenia of St. Petersburg; ***(here other Saints may be mentioned ad lib,)***; of the holy leaders of the apostles Peter and Paul: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, **O** greatly merciful God, hearken unto us sinners, who pray to Thee, and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. ***(30 times)***

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; and for all our brethren in Christ; and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and weary in well-doing, in need of God's mercies and succor; for the protection of this holy Temple and for those who abide therein; for the peace and the quietness of the whole world; for the welfare of God's holy Churches; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers, mothers, brethren and sisters who, with diligence and in the fear of God, do labor and serve; for those who are absent and abroad; for the healing of those who lie in sickness; for the repose, refreshment, blessed memory and remission of sins of our devout fathers, mothers, brethren and sisters, Orthodox believers, departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord; for the deliverance of captives; and for our brethren who are taking part in these ministrations; and for all who minister and have ministered in this holy Temple; let us say:

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(50 times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore, we pray for the suffering land of Russia and for her people who are in the fatherland and in the diaspora, for this country, its government and its armed forces, and for every Christian country; let us say:

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore, we pray that He will preserve this city and this holy Temple, and every city and land, from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies and from civil strife; and that our good God, Who loveth mankind, will be graciously favorable and easy to be entreated, and will turn away from us all wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from all His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore, we pray that the Lord God will hearken unto the voice of petition of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Priest:* Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be merciful, be merciful, O Master, upon us sinners, and have mercy on us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, by the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the venerable, heavenly Bodiless Powers; by the supplications of the venerable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, the great Hierarchs and universal Teachers; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Martyrs; of the venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy leaders of the apostles Peter and Paul: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all Thy Saints: Make our prayers acceptable; grant us remission of our transgressions; hide us under the shadow of Thy wings; drive far from us every foe and adversary; make our life peaceful, O Lord. Have mercy upon us and upon Thy world, and save our souls, for Thou art gracious and lovest mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE APOSTICHA HYMNS OF THE DAY

*Choir:* Who can relate the bonds and tribulations thou didst endure in all cities, O glorious Apostle Paul, the labors, pangs and vigils, the oppression amid hunger and thirst, in winter-time and nakedness, the basket [in which thou madest thine escape], thy beating with staves and stones, thy journeys, and the time thou wast cast into the deep? Thou wast a spectacle for angels and men. Wherefore, thou didst endure all things for the sake of Christ Who strengthened thee, that thou mightest acquire the world for Jesus Christ thy Lord. Wherefore, we who honor thy memory with faith beseech thee: Pray thou unceasingly, that our souls be saved.

*Reader:* ***Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.***

Who can tell of thine imprisonment and tribulations throughout all the cities, O glorious apostle? Or who can imagine the struggles and exertions wherewith thou didst labor to spread the glad tidings of Christ, that thou mightest obtain all and lead the Church to Christ? Yet pray thou that it preserve thy goodly confession even unto its final breath, O Paul, apostle and teacher of the Church.

***The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.***

Let us praise Peter and Paul, the luminaries of the Great Church, for they have shone forth in the firmament of the Faith more brightly than the sun, and with the rays of their preaching have led the nations up from ignorance. For the one, crucified upon a cross, made his journey to heaven, where he hath received from Christ the keys of the kingdom; and the other, beheaded by the sword, passed over to the Savior. Both are fittingly blessed, and both make proclamation unto Israel, who unjustly lifted up their hands against the Lord Himself. Wherefore, through their supplications, O Christ our God, cast down those who rage against us, and make steadfast the Orthodox Faith, in that Thou lovest mankind.

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

A joyous feast hath shone forth today upon the ends of the earth: the most honored commemoration of the all-wise and preeminent Apostles Peter and Paul. Wherefore, Rome, joining chorus, rejoiceth in hymns and songs; and we celebrate, O brethren, observing this most honored day, crying: Rejoice, O Apostle Peter, thou true friend of thy Teacher, Jesus Christ our God! Rejoice, O most beloved Paul, thou preacher of the Faith and teacher of the whole world! As ye have boldness, O ye two holy and chosen ones, entreat Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

*Choir:* **both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

**O** most-pure One, Christ, my Creator and Deliverer and Lord proceeded from thy womb and, clothing Himself in me, set Adam free from the ancient curse. Therefore, O all-pure one, we sing without ceasing to thee, as true Mother of God and Virgin, the Angel's greeting: "Hail, O Lady, intercessor and shield and salvation of our souls."

SONG OF SAINT SYMEON

*Reader:* **N**ow lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all the peoples: a light of revelation for the nations, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THRICE-HOLY, TO "OUR FATHER"

*Reader:* **H**oly God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*Three times*)

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

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

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

**O**ur Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Troparion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4*

*Choir:* **O** foremost of the Apostles and teachers of the world, intercede ye with the Master of all that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls. (*Twice*)

**O** Birthgiver of God and Virgin, rejoice, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee. Blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who didst bless the five loaves and didst with them feed the five thousand: Do Thou, the same Lord, bless these loaves, wheat, wine and oil; and multiply them in this holy Temple and in all Thy world; and sanctify all the faithful who partake of them. For it is Thou, O Christ our God, Who dost bless and sanctify all things; and unto Thee we ascribe glory, with Thy Father Who has no beginning and Thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

**B**lessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (*Three times*)

(*Psalm 33 is omitted in many parishes*)

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

PSALM 33

**I** will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. The poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you His Saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord come upon you, by His grace and love for mankind, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

THE SIX PSALMS

*Reader:* **G**lory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (*Three times*)

**O** Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. (*Twice*)

PSALM 3

**O** Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me, many say to my soul: "There is no salvation for him in his God". But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my

voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me roundabout. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who, without cause, are mine enemies; the teeth of the sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

**O** Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath, for Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath, and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen up higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My wounds are become foul and rotten in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face, for my loins are filled with mockings, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and deceit all day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth; and I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live, and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They, that rendered me evil for good, slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me; be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me, be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

**O** God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn; my soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy Name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips of rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee, for Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee, for Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee, Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

PSALM 87

**O** Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear before my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life to hell hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves; I have been delivered up, and have not come forth. Mine eyes are grown weak from poverty; I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Wilt Thou work wonders for the dead? or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to Thee? shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Why, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me; they came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances, because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear before my supplication.

## PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious to all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His way known to Moses, to the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Magnanimous and merciful is the Lord, long suffering and plenteous in mercy. Not to the end will He be angered, neither to eternity will He be wroth; not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon those that fear Him. For He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth; for when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him; and His righteousness is upon the sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in Heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

## PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear to my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath set me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord the way wherein I should walk, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me, in Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies; and Thou shalt cut off all of them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Hearken unto me in Thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

## THE GREAT LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For them that travel by sea, land and air, for the sick, the afflicted, for captives, and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all sorrow, wrath and need, 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### GOD IS THE LORD

*Deacon:* In the fourth tone:

**G**od is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

***O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***All the nations compassed me round about, and by the Name of the Lord I warded them off.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Deacon:* ***The stone that the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.***

*Choir:* God is the Lord, and hath appeared to us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

*Troparion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4*

**O** foremost of the Apostles and teachers of the world, intercede ye with the Master of all that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls. *(Twice)*

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

*Resurrection Theotokion, tone 4*

The mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the Angels is made manifest through thee, O Birthgiver of God, to those on earth: God took flesh in a union without confusion and for our sakes willingly accepted the Cross, whereby He raised up the first-fashioned man and hath saved our souls from death.

#### THE KATHISMA (READINGS FROM THE PSALTER)

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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

*(A psalm is read)*

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

*Choir:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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

*(A psalm is read)*

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

*Choir:* both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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

*(A psalm is read)*

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

#### 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is the dominion, 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 the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### SESSIONAL HYMN

*Reader:* Forsaking the fishing of the deep, having received from the heavenly Father the divine revelation of the incarnation of the Son, with boldness thou didst cry out with faith to thy Creator: "I know that Thou art the consubstantial Son of God!" Wherefore, as is meet, thou wast truly shown to be a rock of faith and the key-bearer of grace. O Apostle Peter, entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto those who with love celebrate thy holy memory.

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

O ye faithful, as is meet, let us praise the most lauded Peter, the ally of Paul, the net of the world, the rock of the Church, in that he holdeth the keys of heaven: for the whole world hath been enlightened by them with the Faith of the Trinity. Glory to Him Who hath glorified you! Glory to Him Who hath strengthened you! Glory to Him Who because of you hath given us everlasting life!

***both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Stretching forth thy hands, wherewith thou didst bear the Creator Who in His goodness became incarnate, O all-holy Virgin, beseech Him to deliver from temptations, passions and misfortunes us who praise thee with love and cry aloud: Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee! Glory to Him Who issued forth from thee! Glory to Him Who by thy birthgiving hath delivered us!

#### POLYELEOS [PRAISES FROM PSALMS 134 AND 135]

*Choir:* Praise ye the Name of the Lord; praise Him, O ye servants of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, Who dwelleth in Jerusalem.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O, give thanks unto the Lord of heaven: for His mercy endureth forever.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### MEGALONARION

*Clergy:* We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your teachings, and led all the ends of the earth unto Christ.

*Choir:* ***The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.***

We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your teachings, and led all the ends of the earth unto Christ.

***The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord.***

We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your teachings, and led all the ends of the earth unto Christ.

***The God of gods, the Lord hath spoken, and He hath called the earth.***

We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your teachings, and led all the ends of the earth unto Christ.

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

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (Twice)***

*Clergy:* ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.***

We magnify you, O apostles of Christ, who enlightened the whole world with your teachings, and led all the ends of the earth unto Christ.

#### 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### SESSIONAL HYMN

*Reader:* Let us praise Peter and the all-wise Paul, who were shown to be preeminent among the disciples, the great and radiant luminaries; for shining forth with the fire of the divine Spirit, they burned away all the gloom of deception. Wherefore, they have fittingly been shown to be warriors of the kingdom on high, equally enthroned in grace. For this cause we cry aloud: O apostles of Christ God, ask remission of transgressions for those who with love celebrate your holy memory.

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

As the most immaculate Bride of the Creator, as the Mother of the Deliverer, who knewest not wedlock, as the vessel of the Comforter, O all-hymned one, haste thou to deliver me, who am the vile abode of iniquity and have become in mind the plaything of the demons, from their machinations; and make me the splendid habitation of the virtues. O radiant and incorrupt one, dispel from me the cloud of the passions, and vouchsafe unto me communion on high and the never-waning light, through thy supplications.

#### HYMN OF ASCENT

*Choir:* From my youth up many passions have made war against me: but do Thou help and save me, O my Savior.

Ye that hate Zion, ye shall be put to shame by the Lord; as grass in the fire shall ye be withered up.

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

By the Holy Spirit is every soul filled with life: by purification it is raised on high and made bright by the three-fold Unity in a holy mystery.

#### THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

*Deacon:* Let us attend. Wisdom. Let us attend.

The prokimenon is in the fourth tone:

***Their voice is gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.***

*Choir:* Their voice is gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.

*Deacon:* ***The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.***

*Choir:* Their voice is gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.

*Deacon:* ***Their voice is gone out into all the earth***

*Choir:* and their words to the ends of the world.

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For holy art Thou, O our God, who restest in the holies, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon: Let every breath praise the Lord.*

*Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.*

*Deacon: Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.*

*Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord.*

*Deacon: Let every breath*

*Choir: praise the Lord.*

*Deacon: And that we may be deemed worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us beseech the Lord God.*

*Choir: Lord, have mercy. (Three times)*

*Deacon: Wisdom. Upright. Let us hear the holy Gospel.*

*Priest: Peace be to all.*

*Choir: And to thy spirit.*

*Priest: The reading is from the holy Gospel according to John.*

*Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.*

*Deacon: Let us attend.*

*(John 21:15-25)*

*Priest: At that time, Jesus, having risen from the dead, said to Simon Peter: "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him: "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him: "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time: "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him: "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him: "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time: "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time: "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him: "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him: "Feed My sheep. Most assuredly I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you, and carry you where you do not wish." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him: "Follow Me." Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said: "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus: "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him: "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but: "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.*

*Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.*

PSALM 50

*Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.*

*Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*By the intercessions of the apostles Peter and Paul, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.*

*both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

*By the intercessions of the Birthgiver of God, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.*

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy bounties, blot out my transgression.*

With hymns of praise let us honor the true preachers of piety, the all-radiant stars of the Church: Peter, the rock of Faith, and Paul, the teacher of the Truth and initiate of the mysteries of Christ. For both of them, having sown the word of truth in the hearts of the faithful, beseech Christ God Who giveth fruitfulness unto all, that our souls be saved.

*Deacon:* Save, O God, Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; visit Thy world with mercy and bounties; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies: by the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the venerable, heavenly Bodiless Powers; by the supplications of the venerable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, the great Hierarchs and universal Teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our Father among the Saints Spyridon, bishop of Trimythun; of our Fathers among the Saints, wonder-workers of all Russia and Hierarchs Peter, Alexis, Jonah and Philip; of our Fathers among the Saints John the wonderworker of Shanghai, San Francisco and all America; (*other Hierarchs among the Saints [especially Russian] may be mentioned here*); of the holy Equal-to-the apostles Methodius and Cyril, evangelizers of the Slavs, prince Vladimir, evangelizer of Russia, Nina, evangelizer of Georgia and Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow and evangelizer of America; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Martyrs; of the Great-martyrs George, Panteleimon, Catherine, Barbara and Tatiana; of the holy Hierarchs Tikhon, Nicholas and all the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia; (*here other Martyrs may be mentioned*); of the holy Monks Sergius of Radonezh and Seraphim of Sarov, the wonderworkers of all Russia and Herman of Alaska, wonderworker of all America; (*here other holy Monks may be mentioned*); the holy righteous Father John of Kronstadt, wonderworker of all Russia and Xenia of St. Petersburg; (*here other Saints may be mentioned ad lib*); of the holy leaders of the apostles Peter and Paul: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, O greatly merciful God, hearken unto us sinners, who pray to Thee, and have mercy on us.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

*Priest:* By the mercy and bounties and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## THE CANON

### CANTICLE 1

*Choir:* There is none like unto Thee, O all-glorious Lord; for with Thy mighty hand Thou didst deliver the people whom Thou hadst acquired, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

*Reader:* ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

With divinely inspired songs let us hymn today the preeminent of the apostles as the first called of Christ.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Having foreknown thee, O most blessed Peter, the Pre-eternal One ordained thee from of old as the leader of His Church, the first-enthroned.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father inspired thee to theologize Christ as the true Son of God Most High, O apostle.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

We hymn thee, the holy mountain, the most exalted chariot, the Mother of God and true Virgin.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

When Christ called things into being out of non-existence, O most blessed Paul, He chose thee from thy mother's womb to carry before the nations His divine name, which is above every name; for gloriously hath He been glorified.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Declaring to thee the imminent outpouring of piety and the cleansing away of falsehood, O Paul, Christ, Who showed Himself to be as bright as lightning on the mountain, dimmed thy bodily eyes while enlightening the eyes of thy soul with the understanding of the Trinity: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

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

Performing circumcision on the eighth day, as a zealot of the traditions of thy fathers, O Paul, and showing thyself to be a law-bound Pharisee, a Jew by birth, of the tribe of Benjamin, thou didst come to consider all such things as but dung, and didst acquire Christ: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

O Mistress, pure Mother of almighty God, who sprang forth from royal stock and gavest birth in the flesh, in manner transcending nature, to God Who alone reigneth over all: Save me from misfortunes, who chant unto thy Son: For gloriously hast Thou been glorified!

*Choir:* I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it, and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast and joyously praising her wonders.

## CANTICLE 3

*Choir:* Neither in wisdom, nor in power, nor yet in riches do we boast, but in Thee, O Christ, the hypostatic Wisdom of the Father; for none is holy save Thee, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

*Reader:* ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

The sweet mouth of Christ God showed thee to be blessed and a sure treasure of the kingdom; wherefore, we hymn thee, O Apostle Peter.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

On the rock of thy theology hath Jesus the Master established the Church unshakably, and therein we glorify thee, O Apostle Peter.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

How greater than the angels was Peter in the body! For Christ God said that at His radiant coming he would be a judge and would be equally enthroned.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

O thou who knewest not wedlock, who gavest birth unto God in the flesh: Render me steadfast and unshaken by the assaults of the passions, for we have none other helper than thee, O pure one.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Thou hast been set as a precious foundation stone for the souls of the faithful, a corner-stone of the Savior and Lord.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

O most blessed Paul, pray thou that on thy foundations the splendors of most laudable virtues may be set firmly.

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

Ever perfectly bearing the mortality of Jesus on thy body, O Paul, thou wast vouchsafed true life.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Thee have we all of us Christians acquired as our rampart and refuge, and glorify thee without ceasing, O thou who knewest not wedlock.

*Choir:* O Birth-giver of God, Thou living and plentiful fount, give strength to those united in spiritual fellowship, who sing hymns of praise to thee: and in thy divine glory vouchsafe unto them crowns of glory.

## 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## YPAKOE

*Reader:* What dungeon held thee not prisoner? What Church had thee not as an orator? Damascus extolleth thee, O Paul, for it knew thee blinded by the light; and Rome, which received thy blood, boasteth in thee; but Tarsus rejoiceth yet more and loveth thee, honoring thine infancy. O Peter, rock of the Faith, and Paul, boast of the whole world, coming together from Rome make us steadfast.

## CANTICLE 4

*Choir:* This is our God, Who became incarnate of the Virgin and hath deified our nature! And, hymning Him, we cry aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

*Reader:* ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

As He promised, Christ made thee a divine fisher of men for His Church, entrusting its helm to thee first.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Entreated by thee, O Peter, may Jesus, the Bestower of life, Who gaveth thee the authority to bind and to loose, be merciful unto me.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Pray thou earnestly, O Peter, that the kingdom of Christ be opened unto those who honor thy divine memory with

unwavering faith.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

O most hymned Lady Theotokos, having cleansed away mine evil thoughts by thy supplications, show me forth as fruitful, O Mother of the God of all.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Once Saul crouched like a lion, wrathfully destroying the Church of Christ; but he was seized by the divine voice of the Lamb of God, Whom he had persecuted, and Who entrusted His flock to him as shepherd.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

He who would enlighten the whole world was struck blind; but Ananias was sent to him, imparting unto him enlightenment of soul and body through divine revelation, and showing him to be a chosen vessel.

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

As is meet, Damascus is given drink by Paul; for from him, as from the garden of paradise, a great well-spring of divine waters once issued forth and irrigated the whole earth abundantly with knowledge divine.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

The Lord hath cast down the mighty from their thrones, as the Virgin Mother said, and with divine good things hath filled the hungry, who cry aloud with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

*Choir:* **He** Who sits in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, Jesus the true God, is come in a swift cloud and with His sinless hand He has saved those who cry: glory to Thy power, O Christ.

CANTICLE 5

*Choir:* **O** Lord Who acquired us, the chosen people, by Thy Blood, grant us Thy peace, preserving Thy flock in oneness of mind.

*Reader:* ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

He Who through love received boldness before God hath fittingly become wondrous, though he was an ignorant fisherman, and he now worketh all-glorious wonders through grace.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Thy godly apostle, O Christ, having acquired neither gold nor silver for Thy sake, but rather virtue, hath been enriched by the power of miracles.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

By thine effective word the feet and joints of the lame were set aright, for all-glorious things were accomplished by the divine Spirit.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

God became incarnate, O pure one, hypostatically united to the flesh He received from thee, yet remaining immutable, incorporeal in His divine nature.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Thou didst choose true praise, O Apostle Paul, ever bearing the Cross of Christ the King as a trophy.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

For thee to live is Christ, and to die is an excellent acquisition; for through love thou wast crucified with Him Who was crucified for our sake, O all-glorious Paul.

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

Thou truly rejoicest in the Lord, O honorable Paul, having departed from the body and passed over to Christ God, the Bestower of life.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Ever beseech thy Son and our God, O pure Mary who knewest not wedlock, that He send forth His mercy upon us, the faithful.

*Choir:* **The** whole world was amazed at thy divine glory: for thou, O Virgin, who hast not known wedlock, hast held in thy womb the God of all and hast given birth to an eternal Son, Who grants peace to all who sing thy praises.

CANTICLE 6

*Choir:* **Jonah**, who was three days in the sea monster, prefigured Thee, the Immortal One, O Christ, for Thou didst die of Thine own will and wast three days in the heart of the earth.

*Reader:* ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

As of old with Thy right hand Thou didst save Peter who walked on foot upon the waters, O Christ, so do Thou save me, who am drowning amid the storm of cruel perils, in that Thou art full of lovingkindness.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Thou didst forsake things which were not essential, O Peter, and didst attain unto those things which are essential; and as a

certain merchant thou didst manifestly search for Christ: the Pearl beyond price.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

O Peter, thou didst slay those who mindlessly strove to tempt the all-holy Spirit, Whom before thou hadst theologized, openly confessing Him as God, O most blessed one.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

Thou gavest birth for us to the incarnate Word of God Who transcendeth all nature; wherefore, with lips and soul we profess thee to be the Theotokos.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Spurning all the beautiful things of the world, thou wast wounded by the love of the Master and by desire for the common salvation of man, wishing to bear witness unto Him, O blessed Paul. Pray thou now in behalf of the whole world.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

As an excellent emulator of the Master, clothed in Him, O Paul, thou wast truly all things to all men, that thou mightest acquire and save all the people; and pursuing the ends of the world for Christ, thou didst truly save them.

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

As is meet Christ hath given thee life in the heavens, O Apostle Paul; for thou didst not desire a city which abideth here, O blessed one, but wast a faithful minister and celebrant of His mysteries.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

The Lord looked down upon thee, restoring my nature, in that He is mighty; and doing mighty works, O most immaculate one, through thee my God hath saved me from corruption, in that He is full of loving-kindness.

***Choir:*** As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God Who was born of her.

#### 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

***Choir:*** To Thee, O Lord.

***Priest:*** For Thou art the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

***Choir:*** Amen.

#### *Kontakion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, tone 2*

***Choir:*** The steadfast and divinely eloquent preachers, the foremost of Thine apostles, O Lord, hast Thou received into the delight of Thy good things and into rest; for Thou hast accepted their pangs and death as greater than any whole burnt offering, O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

#### *Ikos*

***Reader:*** Fill my tongue with light, O my Savior, and having expanded my mouth and filled it, have pity on my heart, that I may speak, follow, and teach that which I first do: for Thou didst say that he who doeth and teacheth is great. For if I speak only, and do not act, I am accounted as sounding brass. Wherefore, grant that I may speak fitting things and do that which is profitable, O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

#### CANTICLE 7

***Choir:*** O unoriginate Word, only-begotten Son, Who existed in the beginning with the Father and the Spirit: blessed and supremely exalted art Thou, O God of our fathers!

***Reader:*** ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Chastised by the divine providence of Christ, thou wast permitted to emulate the Merciful One, O Peter, that thy distress over denying Him before His suffering might be assuaged.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Having risen from the dead, Christ appeared to thee, the first-called and exceeding beloved, as the right glorious one who was first to preside over the apostles.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

The Master, healing thy threefold denial before His suffering, O Peter, confirmed His love by a threefold divinely uttered question.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Thou didst call the all-seeing God the Word as witness to thy love for Christ, O Peter; wherefore, He entrusted the beloved flock to thee.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

We all bless thee as the Mother of the God of all, who conceived in the flesh of thy womb the pre-eternal Word Who shone forth from God the Father.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

He who in latter times was called and surpassed all others in zeal became the seal and crown of Thine apostles, O Christ. With him the people of the Church chant unto thee: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Even though Paul the prisoner first persecuted Thy Church, O Christ, yet did he later replace his former ferocity with zeal for Thee; and he hath gathered together the nations, who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Having from Jerusalem preached the Gospel unto all, thou didst take it round about the whole world, O Paul, and, teaching even unto the far ends of Illyricum, thou didst cry: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

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

Caught up in awe, thou didst attain unto the third heaven, O thou who art all-rich; and hearing ineffable words, thou didst cry aloud: Glory to the transcendent Father and the Son, and to the equally enthroned effulgence of the Spirit of God Who trieth the depths!

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Like rain upon the fleece did Christ God descend upon thee, O Virgin, and He issued forth from thee in the flesh, uniting those things that before were separate, and granting peace on earth and in heaven. O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

*Choir:* The holy children bravely trampled upon the threatening fire, refusing to worship created things in place of the Creator, and they sang in joy: "Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our fathers."

## CANTICLE 8

*Choir:* O Christ Who bearest all things by Thine unapproachable power, Thou didst bedew Thy venerable children who cried out amid the flame: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

*Reader:* ***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

"They shall stretch forth thine arms and bind thee to a cross," the Master foretold, commanding thee to follow Him; and thou criest aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Working wonders, by the word of grace thou didst heal Aeneas who was grievously paralyzed, and didst raise up Tabitha from the dead; and they cried: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

O Christ Who announced unto Peter that the nations were cleansed, by spiritual radiance purify my thoughts, for I cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

O most holy Virgin who gavest birth to God the Word in the flesh, driving the darkness away from my soul by thy supplications, illumine me who cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Paul was bound to thee by Thy love and underwent a goodly change; for the glorious one lived not for himself, O Compassionate One, but had Thee living within him forever.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Thou didst betroth the Church unto Christ, presenting it to Him as a bride; for thou wast shown to be its wedding-escort, O God-bearing Paul. Wherefore, it glorifieth thee for all ages.

***Let us bless the Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,***

Thou didst fight the good fight, and finishing thy race lawfully, thou didst preserve the treasure of the Faith. Wherefore, thou hast been vouchsafed crowns of righteousness, O Paul.

***now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

Rejoice, O fiery throne of the Lord! Rejoice, O Virgin, unwedded Bride! Rejoice, cloud who shone forth the Sun of righteousness, Whom we exalt supremely for all ages!

*Choir: We praise, bless and worship the Lord, hymning and exalting Him above all unto all the ages.*

The Offspring of the Birth-giver of God saved the holy children in the furnace. He Who was then prefigured has since been born on earth. and He gathers together all the creation to sing: "O ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

CANTICLE 9: THE SONG OF THE BIRTHGIVER OF GOD

*Deacon: Let us magnify with hymns the Birthgiver of God and Mother of the Light.*

*Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***For he hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***For the Mighty One hath done great things to me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***He hath showed strength with His arm, He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their heart.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them that are lowly; He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent away empty.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

***He hath helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy, as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.***

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

CANTICLE 9

*Choir: Thee, the all-glorious Bride and most holy Theotokos, who gavest birth to the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, do we magnify with hymns.*

*Reader: Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.*

Thine excellent grace is rightly glorified, for thy very shadow dispelleth the sufferings of the sick, O Peter; wherefore, we magnify thee.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

Blessed is Peter, who with ineffable divine power cast down Simon Magus, who through sorcery had soared aloft into the air.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

By thy supplications grant remission of offenses, enlightenment of heart and gladness of spirit unto those who hymn thy memory, O apostle.

***Holy apostle Peter, pray to God for us.***

O Peter, all thy words, relics and dust are full of glory, sanctity and miracles for those who with faith bow down with love before thy divine chains.

***Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.***

The Fruit of thy womb caused the heavenly chorister, who announced "Rejoice!" with a loud voice unto thee who gavest birth to joy, to hymn thy name.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

We bow down before thy chains, which thou didst bear for Christ like a malefactor, O Paul, and we kiss the wounds which thou didst bear on thy glorious and victorious body.

***Holy apostle Paul, pray to God for us.***

Now thou hast departed unto Him Whom thou didst unceasingly desire, O apostle; and dwelling with him as a servant, with unceasing entreaties draw thou thy servants to thyself.

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

No longer is Christ visible to thee in shadows or in a reflection, but thou dost gaze upon Him face to face, and He perfectly revealeth to thee the understanding of the Godhead.

***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

O all-holy Mother of God, thou wast the boast of the apostles of Christ, the glory of the martyrs and the foundation of the prophets; wherefore, we all magnify thee as is meet.

*Choir:* Let every mortal born on earth, carrying his torch, in spirit leap for joy; and let the order of the angelic powers celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, and let them cry: "Hail, all-blessed Birth-giver of God, pure and ever-virgin."

## 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, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For all the Hosts of the Heavens praise Thee, and unto Thee do they send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## EXAPOSTILARION

*Reader:* Let us all hymn the foremost among the apostles, the godly Peter and Paul, the universal luminaries, the preachers of the Faith, the divinely sounded clarions, the speakers of dogmas, the pillars of the Church and destroyers of falsehood.

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

O divinely joyous Maiden, Mother of God and Virgin, great and all-glorious is the mystery of thy birthgiving, did the prophets proclaim, the apostles teach and the martyrs confess; the angels hymn it, and men bow down before it.

## THE LAUDS [VERSES FROM PSALMS 148, 149 AND 150 WITH HYMNS OF THE DAY]

*Choir:* Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the Heavens, praise Him in the highest. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him all ye His Angels; praise Him all ye His Hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God.

*Reader:* ***Praise Him for His mighty acts,***

*Choir:* ***praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.***

When the Savior questioned the twelve disciples and apostles, asking: "Who do men say that I am?", Peter, the foremost of the apostles, receiving grace from heaven, answered, theologizing, crying out clearly: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Wherefore, he is fittingly blessed as one who received revelation from on high, rightly receiving the authority to loose and to bind.

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

When Christ, the Word of God Who revealed Himself through the Father, asked "Who do ye suppose that I am?", then, speaking unto all with divine eloquence, thou didst straightway cry out: "Thou art the Son of the living God!" Wherefore, thou didst receive as thy reward the Savior's words: "Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonah!" For God doth glorify those who glorify Him and calleth them to rich delight; and He set thee as the rock unshamed, the foundation and ground of the Church.

***Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.***

Called from on high, and not by men, when earthly darkness covered thy bodily eyes, putting an end to thine ungodly plans, a heavenly light illumined thy noetic eyes, disclosing the beauty of piety. Wherefore, thou didst recognize Christ our God Who brought forth light out of darkness. Him do thou beseech, that He save and enlighten our souls.

***Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.***

As a preacher of Christ bearing the boast of the Cross, more than others thou didst discern the most ardent divine love which bindeth to the Desired One those who gaze upon it. Wherefore, thou didst call thyself a prisoner of Christ, who desired the burden of perils as something sweeter than any food, and who lived for thy Master. Him do thou beseech, that He save and enlighten our souls.

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

The most honored feast of the apostles hath arrived for the Church of Christ, bringing salvation unto us all. Wherefore, mystically plaiting hymns for them, let us say: Rejoice, O lamps unto those who are in darkness, shedding forth rays of the

noetic Sun! Rejoice, O Peter and Paul, ye unshakable foundations of the divine doctrines, friends of Christ, precious vessels! Come ye into our midst, vouchsafing immaterial gifts unto those who praise your feast with hymns.

*Choir:* ***both now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.***

○ Theotokos, thou art the true vine who hast budded forth for us the Fruit of life. With the holy apostles entreat Him, we pray thee, O Mistress, that He have mercy upon our souls.

#### THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the light.

*Choir:* **G**lory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, by reason of Thy great glory: O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: Thou, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Thou, that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou, that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father. Amen. Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name for ever, yea, for ever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God, for in Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light. Continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

#### *Troparion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4*

○ foremost of the Apostles and teachers of the world, intercede ye with the Master of all that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

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

#### *Resurrection Theotokion, tone 4*

The mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the Angels is made manifest through thee, O Birthgiver of God, to those on earth: God took flesh in a union without confusion and for our sakes willingly accepted the Cross, whereby He raised up the first-fashioned man and hath saved our souls from death.

#### THE AUGMENTED LITANY

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for our great lord and father, his holiness patriarch Cyril; for our lord the most reverend metropolitan Hilarion; for our lord the right reverend archbishop Cyril; for our lord the right reverend bishop Theodosius; and for all our brethren in Christ.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for the God-preserved land of Russia and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and the diaspora, and for their salvation.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for this country, its authorities, and all who in faith and piety dwell therein and in every country.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy orthodox patriarchs, and for the pious kings and faithful queens, and for the founders of this holy temple, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters gone to their rest before us and for all the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins for the servants of God, our brethren of this holy Temple.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

*Deacon:* Furthermore we pray for them that bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that labor and them that sing, and for all the people here present that await Thy great and abundant mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

*Priest:* For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our morning prayer 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 offenses, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* 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 dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, glorious Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ, our God.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For a God of mercies and compassions and love for mankind art Thou, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To Thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* For Thine is to have mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Choir:* Father, bless.

*Priest:* Blessed is He that is, even Christ our God, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

O God, make steadfast the holy Orthodox Faith of the Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

*Priest:* Most holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

*Choir:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God, 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

Father, bless.

*Priest:* **M**ay Christ our true God, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother; the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy leaders of the apostles Peter and Paul: whose memories we celebrate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen.

## THE FIRST HOUR

*Reader:* **O** come, let us worship our King and God.

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and God.

*(One psalm is said in most parishes, usually psalm 100)*

### PSALM 5

Unto my words give ear, O Lord; hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee, nor shall transgressors abide before thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee, for in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulcher, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall ever rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in thee that love Thy name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

### PSALM 89

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. Before the mountains came to be and the earth was formed and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting art Thou. Turn man not away unto lowliness; yea, Thou hast said: 'Turn back, ye sons of men.' For a thousand years in Thine eyes, O Lord, are but as yesterday that is past, and as a watch in the night. Things of no account shall their years be; in the morning like grass shall man pass away. In the morning shall he bloom and pass away, in the evening shall he fall and grow withered and dry. For we have fainted away in Thy wrath, and in Thine anger have we been troubled. Thou has set our iniquities before Thee; our lifespan is in the light of Thy countenance. For all our days are faded away, and in Thy wrath are we fainted away; our years have, like a spider, spun out their tale. As for the days of our years, in their span shall they be threescore years and ten. And if we be in strength, mayhap fourscore years; and what is more than these is toil and travail. For mildness is come upon us, and we shall be chastened. Who knoweth the might of Thy wrath? And out of fear of Thee, who can recount Thine anger? So make Thy right hand known to me, and to them that in their heart are instructed in wisdom. Return, O Lord; how long? And be Thou entreated concerning Thy servants. We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad. In all our days, let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants and upon Thy works, and do Thou guide their sons. And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hands do Thou guide aright upon us, yea, the works of our hands do Thou guide aright.

### PSALM 100

Of mercy and judgment will I sing unto Thee, O Lord; I will sing and have understanding in a blameless path. When wilt Thou come unto me? I have walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house. I have no unlawful thing before mine eyes; the workers of transgression I have hated. A crooked heart hath not cleaved unto me; as for the wicked man who turned from me, I knew him not. Him who slandered his neighbor in secret did I drive away from me. With him whose eye was proud and his heart insatiate, I did not eat. Mine eyes were upon the faithful of the land, that they might sit with me; the man that walked in the blameless path, he ministered unto me. The proud doer dwelt not in the midst of my house; The speaker of unjust things prospered not before mine eyes. In the morning I slew all the sinners of the land, utterly to destroy out of the city of the Lord all them that work iniquity.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Three times)*

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

*Troparion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, tone 4*

**O** foremost of the Apostles and teachers of the world, intercede ye with the Master of all that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

*both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

What shall we call thee, O thou who art full of grace? Heaven, for from thee shone forth the Sun of righteousness? Paradise, for thou hast budded forth the Flower of immortality? Virgin, for thou hast remained undefiled? Pure Mother, for thou hast held in thy holy embrace thy Son, Who is God of all? Beseech him that our souls be saved.

My steps do Thou direct according to Thy word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing Thy glory and Thy splendor all the day long.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

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

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, wash away our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

Our Father, Which art in the Heavens, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 the ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

*Kontakion of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, tone 2*

The steadfast and divinely eloquent preachers, the foremost of Thine apostles, O Lord, hast Thou received into the delight of Thy good things and into rest; for Thou hast accepted their pangs and death as greater than any whole burnt offering, O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

Lord, have mercy. *(Forty times)*

PRAYER OF "THE HOURS" BY SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Thou Who at all times and at every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, Who art long-suffering, plenteous in mercy, most compassionate, Who lovest the righteous and hast mercy on sinners, Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by their array, we may attain to the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Birthgiver of God, do we magnify.

In the Name of the Lord, father bless.

*Priest:* God, be bountiful unto us and bless us, show us the light of Thy countenance and have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Amen.

*Priest:* O Christ, the true Light, Which illumines and sanctifies every man who comes into the world, let the light of Thy countenance be impressed upon us, so that in it we may see the unapproachable Light; and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Thy commandments, through the intercessions of Thine all-pure Mother and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

*Choir:* To thee, the Champion Leader, we dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Birthgiver of God. But as thou art one with might that is invincible, deliver us from all dangers, that we may cry to thee: "Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded."

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ God, 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 the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Father, bless.

*Priest:* May Christ our true God, through the intercession of His all-pure Mother and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Choir:* Amen. Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*