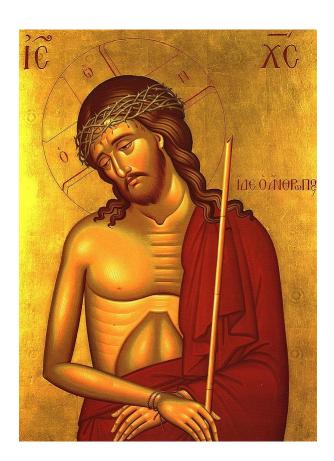
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy



St. Justin Martyr Orthodox Church 12460 Old St. Augustine Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32258

Prayers in Preparation for Holy Communion

First Prayer: of St. Basil the Great

O Lord and Master, Jesus Christ our God, the Fountain of life and immortality, the Creator of everything visible and invisible, the eternal and everlasting Son of the eternal Father: Thou hast come in these latter days because of the abundance of Thy goodness. Thou hast put on our human flesh and was crucified and buried for us thankless and graceless men, and through Thine own blood Thou hast renewed our human nature which is corrupted by sin. And now, O Immortal King, accept the repentance of me a sinner, and incline Thine ear to me and listen to my words:

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned before heaven and before Thy face, and I am not worthy to look upon the height of Thy Glory.

I have provoked Thy goodness, I have transgressed Thy commandments, I have not obeyed Thy statutes.

But, O Lord, since Thou dost not remember evil, but art longsuffering and of great mercy, Thou hast not given me over to destruction for my lawlessness, but hast ever awaited my conversion.

O Lover of mankind, Thou hast said by Thy prophets: "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live."

For Thou dost not wish, O Master, that the work of Thy hands should perish, neither dost Thou take pleasure in the destruction of men, but Thou desires that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Therefore, although I am unworthy both of heaven and of earth and of this passing life, having wholly yielded myself to sin and defiled Thine image, yet being Thy creature and of Thy making, I do not despair of my salvation in my wretchedness. But made bold by Thine infinite compassion, I draw near.

Receive me, O Christ Who loves mankind, as Thou didst receive the prostitute, the thief, the tax collector and the prodigal. Take away the heavy burden of my sins, for Thou takes away the sins of the world. Thou heals the infirmities of mankind. Thou calls to Thyself and gives rest to those who labor and are heavy laden.

Thou hast not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Cleanse me from every stain of flesh and spirit. Teach me to fulfill holiness in fear of Thee, that having the testimony of my own conscience clean, and having communion of Thy holy things, I may be united with Thy Body and Blood and may have Thee to dwell and abide in me, with the Father and Thy Holy Spirit.

O Lord Jesus Christ my God, may the communion of Thy most pure and life-creating mysteries not bring me into judgment, nor may I become weak in soul and body by partaking in an unworthy manner, but grant me to receive communion of Thy holy things without condemnation even to, my very last breath, and by them to receive communion of the Holy Spirit, provision for the journey of eternal life, and an acceptable answer at Thy dread judgment seat; that I, together with all Thy chosen ones, may also be a partaker of the incorruptible blessings which Thou hast prepared for those who love Thee, O Lord, in whom Thou art glorified forever. Amen.

Second Prayer: of St. John Chrysostom

O Lord my God, I know that I am not worthy nor sufficiently pleasing that Thou should come under the roof of the house of my soul, for it is entirely desolate and fallen in ruin, and Thou wilt not find in me a place worthy to lay Thy head. But as Thou didst humble Thyself for our sake, so now humble Thyself to my lowliness.

As Thou didst deign to lie in a cavern, in a manger of dumb beasts, so now deign to enter into the manger of my beastly soul, and into my soiled body.

As Thou didst not disdain to enter and to eat with sinners in the house of Simon the leper, so now be pleased to enter into the house of my soul, humble and leprous and sinful.

As Thou didst not cast away the sinful woman who came to touch Thee, so have compassion on me a sinner who comes to touch Thee.

As Thou didst not abhor the kiss of her sin-stained and unclean mouth, do not abhor my mouth, worse stained and more unclean than hers, nor my stained and shamed and unclean lips, nor my still more impure tongue.

But let the fiery coal of Thy most pure Body and Thy most precious Blood bring me sanctification, enlightenment and strengthening of my lowly soul and body, relief from the burden of my many transgressions, protection against every action of the devil, repulsion and victory over my wicked and evil habits, mortification of my passions, accomplishment of Thy commandments, increase of Thy divine grace, and inheritance of Thy Kingdom.

For I do not come to Thee in presumption, O Christ my God, but made bold by Thine inexpressible goodness, lest I stray far away from Thy flock, O Master, and become caught by the wolf of souls.

Therefore, I pray Thee, O Master, for Thou alone art holy: sanctify my soul and body, my mind and heart, my muscles and bones. Renew me entirely. Implant Thy fear in my fleshly members and let Thy sanctification never be removed from me.

Be my helper and defender, guide my life in peace and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand with all Thy saints.

By the prayers and supplications of Thy most pure Mother, of Thy spiritual servants, the most pure angelic powers, and of all the saints who have been well-pleasing to Thee. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Simeon Metaphrastes

O only pure and incorruptible Lord! Because of the inexpressible mercy of Thy love for mankind, Thou didst take to Thyself our entire human composition from the pure blood of the Virgin who gave birth to Thee beyond nature, by the descent of the Holy Spirit and the goodwill of the ever-existing Father.

O Christ Jesus, Wisdom of God and Peace and Power, through the human nature which Thou didst take to Thyself, Thou didst suffer the life-creating and saving passion: the Cross, the nails, the spear – death itself. Put to death in me the soul-destroying passions of the body.

Through Thy burial Thou didst capture the kingdom of death. Bury in me the evil devices of the devil with good thoughts, and destroy the spirits of evil.

Through Thy life-bringing Resurrection Thou didst raise up the first father who had fallen. Raise me up who am sunk down in sin and give me the image of repentance.

Through Thy glorious Ascension Thou didst deify the flesh which Thou didst assume, and placed it on the throne at the Father's right hand. Grant me to receive a place at the right hand with the saved through communion of Thy holy mysteries.

Through the coming of Thy Spirit, the Comforter, Thou didst make Thy consecrated disciples to be honorable vessels. Show me also to be the receptacle of His coming.

Thou hast promised to come again to judge the world in righteousness. Grant that I may go to meet Thee in the clouds, my Judge and Creator, with all Thy saints; that I may glorify and praise Thee without end, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy most holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer St. John of Damascus

O Lord and Master Jesus Christ our God, Who alone hast power to absolve men from their sins, for Thou art good and loves mankind: forgive all my transgressions done in knowledge or in ignorance, and make me worthy without condemnation to have communion of Thy divine, glorious, pure and life-creating mysteries. Let them not be for my punishment, or for the increase of my sins.

But let them be for my purification and sanctification, as a promise of the life and Kingdom to come, a defense and a help and a repulsion of every attacker and the removal of my many transgressions. For Thou art a God of mercy and generosity and love for mankind, and to Thee we ascribe glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Basil the Great

I know, O Lord, that I have communion unworthily of Thy most pure Body and Thy most precious Blood, and that I am guilty and drink condemnation to myself not discerning Thy Body and Blood, O my Christ and God. But daring upon Thy generous loving-kindness I come to Thee Who hast said: "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him." Be merciful, therefore, O Lord, and do not rebuke me, a sinner, but deal with me according to Thy mercy, and let Thy holy things be for my purification and healing, for enlightenment and protection, for the repulsion of every tempting thought and action of the devil which works spiritually in my fleshly members. Let them be for boldness and love for Thee, for the correction and grounding of my life, for the increase of virtue and perfection, for the fulfillment of Thy commandments, for the communion of the Holy Spirit, for the journey of eternal life, for a good and acceptable answer at Thy dread judgment, but not for judgment or condemnation. Amen.

Sixth Prayer: of St. Simeon the New Theologian

From lips defiled and a vile heart, from an impure tongue and a soul defiled, receive my prayer, O my Christ, and do not despise my words, my appearance, nor my shamelessness. Grant me the boldness, my Christ, to say what I desire.

Even more – teach me what to do and say. I have sinned more than the harlot who, on learning where Thou was, brought myrrh and came boldly to anoint Thy feet, my God, my Master and my Christ.

As Thou didst not turn her away when she came with her heart, so, O Word, turn me not away, but give me Thy feet to hold, to kiss, and to anoint boldly with a stream of tears as a precious ointment.

Wash me with my tears, O Word,

Wash me with my tears, O Word, and cleanse me with them!

Remit my transgressions and grant me forgiveness. Thou

knows the multitude of my evil:

Thou knows also my wounds!

Thou sees my scars:

Thou knows also my faith! Thou sees my intentions and hears my sighs.

Nothing is hidden from Thee,

my God, my Maker, my Redeemer

not even a tear-drop or part of that drop.

Thine eyes have seen

that which I have not yet done.

Thou hast inscribed in Thy book things yet to happen.

See my humility!

See each of my labors and all of my sins!

Absolve me, O God of all, that with a pure heart,

trembling thoughts and a contrite soul

I may partake of Thine undefiled and most holy Mysteries

which enliven and deify all who partake of them with a pure heart.

Thou hast said, O Master:

"Whoever eats My Body and drinks My Blood abides in Me and I in him.

True is every word of my Master and God!

When I partake of Thy divine and deifying Grace,

I am no longer alone.

I am with Thee my Christ, the Light of the Triple Sun

which enlightens the world.

May I not remain alone – without Thee, O Life-giver,

my Breath, my Life and my Joy,

the salvation of the world.

I approach Thee, therefore,

with tears, as Thou sees, and a contrite soul.

I beg to receive deliverance from my sins.

May I partake uncondemned

of Thy life-giving and spotless Mysteries,

that Thou mayest abide, as Thou hast said,

with me, the thrice-wretched.

May the Tempter not find me without Thy Grace

and seize me deceitfully, and lead me,

deceived, from Thy deifying words.

Therefore, I fall down before Thee and fervently cry:

As Thou didst receive the Prodigal

and the harlot who came to Thee, O Gracious One, receive me, prodigal and defiled.

With a contrite soul I approach Thee now.

I know, O Savior, that no one has sinned against Thee as I have,

nor done the deeds that I have done.

But I also know that neither the greatness of my transgressions,

nor the multitude of my sins surpass the great patience of my God and His extreme love for mankind.

Through Thy merciful compassion

Thou dost cleanse and brighten those who repent with fervor, making them partakers of Light and full communicants of Thy Divinity.

To the astonishment of angels and human minds,

Thou dost converse with them often as with Thy true friends.

This makes me bold, my Christ, this gives me wings!

Emboldened by the wealth of Thy generosity towards us,

with both joy and trepidation, I who am grass partake of fire.

O strange wonder!

I am sprinkled with dew and am not burned, as the bush burned of old without being consumed.

With grateful thoughts and a grateful heart,

with my grateful members, my soul and my body,

I now fall down and worship and glorify Thee, my God, for

blessed art Thou, now and forever.

A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

O God, absolve, remit and pardon me my transgressions – as many sins as I have committed by word or action or thought, willingly or unwillingly, consciously or unconsciously; forgive me everything since Thou art good and loves mankind. And by the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of Thy spiritual servants, the holy angelic powers and all the saints, who from all ages have been well-pleasing to Thee, be pleased to allow me to receive Thy most pure Body and Thy most precious Blood for the healing of my soul and body, and the purification of my evil thoughts. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

I am not worthy, Master and Lord, that Thou should enter under the roof of my soul; yet inasmuch as Thou desires to live in me as the Lover of mankind, I approach with boldness.

Thou hast commanded: Let the doors be opened which Thou alone hast made and Thou shalt enter with Thy love for mankind just as Thou art. Thou shalt enter and enlighten my darkened reasoning. I believe that Thou wilt do this. For Thou didst not cast away the prostitute who came to Thee with tears, neither didst Thou turn away the tax-collector who repented, nor didst Thou reject the thief who acknowledged Thy Kingdom, nor didst Thou forsake the repentant persecutor, the Apostle Paul, even as he was. But all who came to Thee in repentance

Thou didst unite to the ranks of Thy friends, Who alone art blessed forever, now and unto the endless ages.

Another Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

O Lord Jesus Christ my God, absolve, loose, cleanse and forgive me Thy sinful and useless and unworthy servant my errors, transgressions and sinful failings – as many as I have committed from my youth up to this present day and hour, consciously and unconsciously, in words or actions or reasonings, thoughts, pursuits and in all my senses. By the prayers of Thy Mother the most pure and ever-virgin Mary who gave birth to Thee without human seed, my only hope which will not put me to shame, my intercessor and salvation, grant me to have communion without condemnation of Thy most pure, immortal, life-creating and awesome Mysteries; for the remission of sins and unto life everlasting; for sanctification, enlightenment, strength, healing and health of soul and body; for the most perfect removal and destruction of my evil thoughts and reasonings and intentions, fantasies by night, brought by dark and evil spirits; for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory and the honor and the worship, with the Father and Thy Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Another Prayer of St. John of Damascus

I stand before the doors of Thy temple, and I do not forsake my wicked thoughts. But, O Christ my God, as Thou hast justified the tax-collector, and hast had mercy on the woman of Canaan and hast opened the gates of paradise to the thief, open to me the interior depths of Thy love for mankind and receive me as I come and repent before Thee. Receive me as Thou didst receive the sinful woman and the woman with the flow of blood. For the first embraced Thy most pure feet and received the forgiveness of her sins, and the second just touched the hem of Thy garment and received healing. But I who am lost, daring to receive Thy whole Body, may I not be burned; but receive me as Thou hast received them, and enlighten my spiritual senses, burning up my spiritual faults by the prayers of her who gave birth to Thee without human seed, and of the heavenly angelic powers, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Another Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own most pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore, I pray Thee: Have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, committed in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Behold: I draw near to the Divine Communion. Burn me not as I partake, O Creator, For Thou art a Fire which burns the unworthy. Rather, cleanse me of all defilement.

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

Be awed, O man, when you see the deifying Blood! It is a fire which burns the unworthy! The Divine Body both deifies and nourishes me. It deifies the spirit and wondrously nourishes the mind.

With love hast Thou drawn me, O Christ, and with Thy divine love hast Thou changed me. Burn away my sins with a spiritual fire and satisfy me with joy in Thee, that I may joyfully magnify Thy two comings, O Good One!

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body and the pledge of the future life and kingdom. It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

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

The Ninth Hour

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

Reader Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

> O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fills all things; Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest

For Thine is the Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader Amen

Come let us worship God, our King.

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

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

Psalm 83

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in thy house, ever singing thy praise!

Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look upon the face of Thine anointed!

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in thee!

Psalm 84

LORD, thou was favorable to thy land; thou didst restore the fortunes of Jacob. Thou didst forgive the iniquity of thy people; thou didst pardon all their sin. Thou didst withdraw all thy wrath; thou didst turn from thy hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away thy indignation toward us! Wilt thou be angry with us forever? Wilt thou prolong thy anger to all generations? Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee? Show us thy steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Yea, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and make his footsteps a way.

Psalm 85

Incline thy ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am godly; save thy servant who trusts in thee. Thou art my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to thee do I cry all the day. Gladden the soul of thy servant, for to thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on thee.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; hearken to my cry of supplication. In the day of my trouble I call on thee, for thou dost answer me.

There is none like thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Thine. All the nations thou hast made shall come and bow down before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great and doest wondrous things, thou alone art God. Teach me thy way, O LORD, that I may walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name. I give thanks to thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify thy name for ever. For great is thy steadfast love toward me; thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set thee before them. But thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and take pity on me; give thy strength to thy servant, and save the son of thy handmaid. Show me a sign of thy favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because thou, LORD, hast helped me and comforted me.

And Again:

Show me a sign of thy favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because thou, Lord, has helped me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee O God. (3x)

Troparion

Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sakes did taste of death in the flesh: Mortify our carnal mind, O Christ God, and save us. (*Prostration*)

Verse: Let my supplication draw nigh before Thee, O Lord; according to Thine oracle give me understanding.

Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sakes did taste of death in the flesh: Mortify our carnal mind, O Christ God, and save us. (*Prostration*)

Verse: Let my petition come before Thee, O Lord; according to Thine oracle deliver me.

Thou Who at the ninth hour for our sakes did taste of death in the flesh: Mortify our carnal mind, O Christ God, and save us. (*Prostration*)

Reader

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

O Thou who for our sakes was born of a Virgin, and suffered crucifixion, O Good One, and despoiled death by death and as God revealed the Resurrection: do not disdain them which Thou has fashioned with Thy hand; show us Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One, accept the Theotokos that gave Thee birth, who intercedes for us; and to Thou, our Savior, save a despairing people.

Deliver us not up utterly, for Thy holy Name's sake, neither disannul Thou Thy covenant, and cause not Thy mercy to depart from us, for Abraham's sake, Thy beloved, and for Isaac's sake, Thy servant, and for Israel's, Thy holy one.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (Thrice)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us

our debts, as we forgive those our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest

For Thine is the Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader

Troparion: Seeing the Author of Life hanging on the Cross, the thief said: If He Who is crucified with us were not God incarnate, the sun would not have hid his rays, nor would the earth have quaked and trembled. But do Thou Who endures all things remember me, O Lord in Thy Kingdom

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

In the midst of two thieves, Thy Cross was found to be a balance of justice; for the one was born down to Hades by the weight of his blasphemy, the other was raised up from his sins to the knowledge of theology. O Christ God, glory be to Thee.

Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: When she who bare the Lamb and Shepherd and Savior of the world beheld Him on the Cross, she said with tears: The world rejoices at receiving redemption, but my bowels burn as I see Thy crucifixion, which Thou endures for all, O my Son and my God.

Lord have mercy. (40x)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify Thee.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest

God be gracious unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

Reader Amen.

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust for power, and idle talk (prostration)

But give rather the spirit of humility, purity, chastity, patience, and love (prostration)

Yea O Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to judge my brother, for Thou art holy now and ever and unto ages of ages. (prostration)

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Deacon Bless, Master

Priest Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and

unto ages of ages.

Choir Amen.

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

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

Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 104

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who covers Thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, who makes the clouds Thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind, who makes the winds Thy messengers, fire and flame Thy ministers.

Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

Thou makes springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From Thy lofty abode Thou waters the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makes darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O LORD, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it.

These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season. When Thou gives to them, they gather it up; when Thou opens Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hides Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takes away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sends forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renews the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

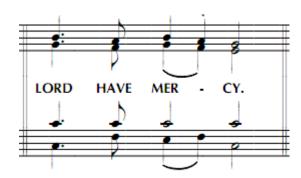
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee O God! (3)

The Great Litany

Deacon In peace let us pray to the Lord

Choir Lord have mercy



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

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For the holy Orthodox patriarchs, for our Metropolitan ______, for our Bishop

______, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy

and the people let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces

everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us

pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful

times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For travelers by land, sea, space, and air: for the sick and the suffering; for captive

and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to

the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy.

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

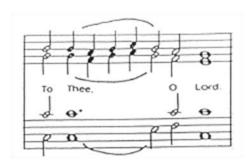
Choir Lord have mercy.

Deacon Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Theotokos

and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other,

and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir

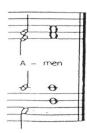


Prayer of the 1st Antiphon

Priest

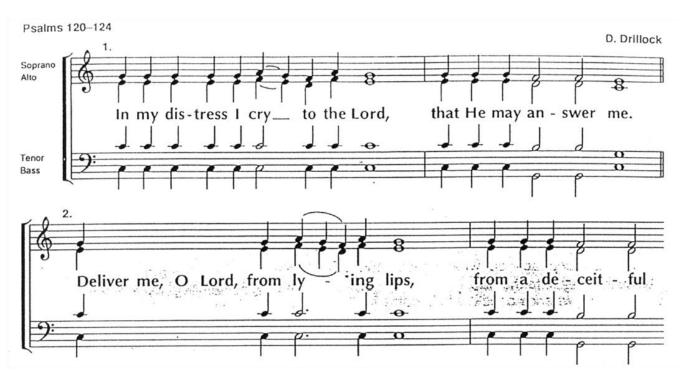
O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long- suffering and of great mercy, give heed to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Work upon us a sign for good. Guide us in Thy way, that we may walk in Thy truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Thy holy name. For Thou art great and works wonders. Thou alone art none like unto Thee, O Lord, powerful in mercy and good in might, to help and to comfort and to save all those who hope in Thy holy name.

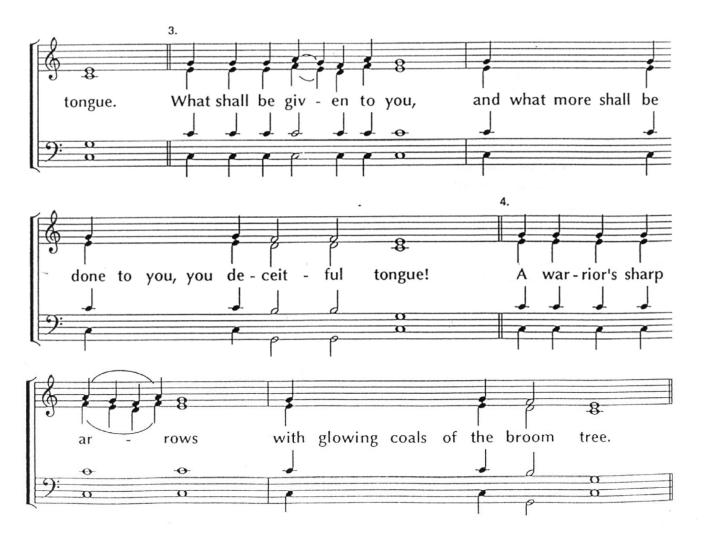
For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



Choir

1st Antiphon





Choir Woe to me that I sojourn in Meshech,

that I live among the tents of Kedar!

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

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

I lift up my eyes to the hills

From where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,

Who made <u>heaven</u> and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved

He who keeps you will not slumber;

Behold He who keeps Israel,

will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your Keeper

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

The sun will not smite you by day,

nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil

He will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your <u>coming</u> in From this time forth and forever more.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built like a city bound firmly together.

To which tribes go up

The tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel,

To give thanks to the name of the LORD.

There the thrones for judgment were set,

the thrones of the house of **David**.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you!

May there be peace within your walls and security within your towers"

For my brethren and companions' sake

I will say "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

To Thee, I lift up mine eyes,

O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens.

Behold, as the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,

as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,

So our eyes look to the LORD our God,

till he have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us,

for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of $\underline{\text{those}}$ who are at ease,

The <u>contempt</u> of the proud.

If had not been the LORD who was on our side let Israel say

if the LORD had not been on our side when men rose up against us,

Then they would have swallowed us alive

When their anger was kindled against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away

The torrent would have gone over us, the raging waters

Blessed be the Lord,

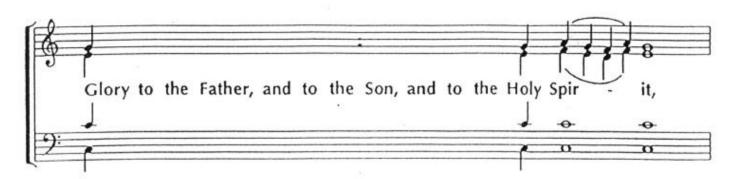
who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

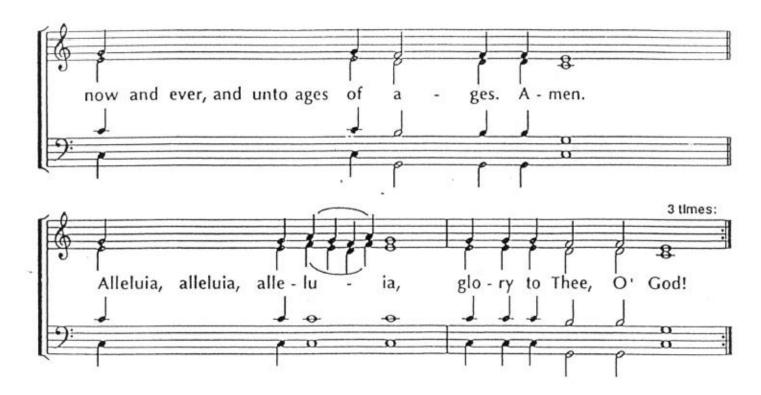
We have escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers

The snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made <u>heaven</u> and earth.

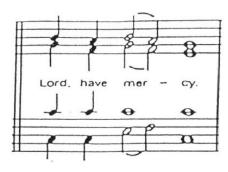




The Little Litany

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

Choir

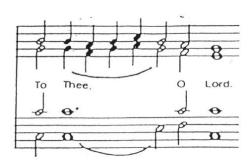


Deacon Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir Lord, have mercy.

Deacon Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir



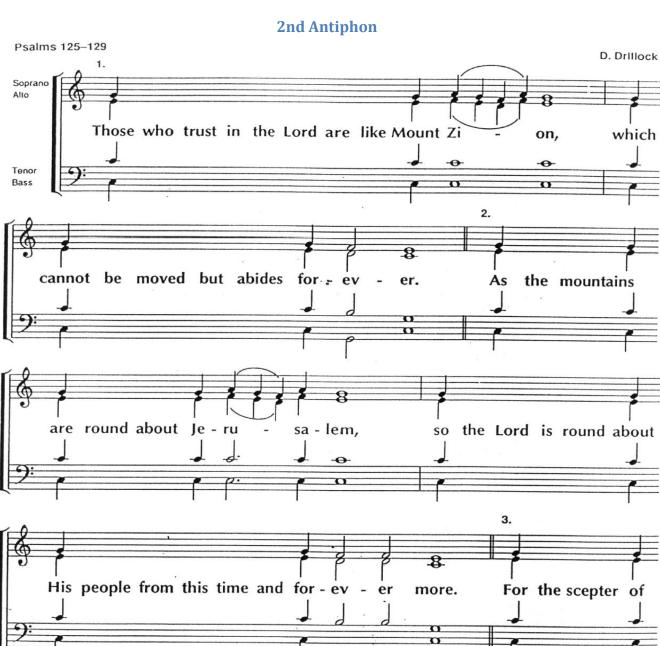
Prayer of the 2nd Antiphon

Priest

O Lord, in Thy displeasure rebuke us not, neither chasten us in Thy wrath, but deal with us according to Thy tenderness, O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us unto the haven of Thy will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts unto the knowledge of Thy truth, and grant unto us that the remainder of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and of all the saints.

For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir Amen.





Lest the righteous put forth their hands to do wrong

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,

And to those who are upright in heart.

But those who turn to crooked ways

The LORD will banish with the evildoers.

Peace be upon Israel.

When the LORD brought back those who returned to Zion,

we were like those who dreamed.

Then our mouths were filled with laughter,

And our tongues with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow tears reap with shouts of joy.

He that goes forth weeping, bearing seeds for sowing

Shall come home with shouts of joy,

Bringing his sheaves with him.

Unless the LORD builds the house,

Those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,

the watchmen stand awake in vain.

It is In vain you rise early and go late to rest

Eating the bread of anxious toil, so gives to His beloved sleep.

Lo sons are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his <u>quiver</u> full of them.

He shall not be put to shame when he speaks to his enemies in the gate.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,

who walks in his ways.

You will eat the fruit of the labor of your hands

You shall be happy and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house

your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blest

who fears the LORD.

May the LORD bless you from Zion

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children.

Peace be upon Israel.

Sorely have they afflicted me <u>from</u> my youth let Israel <u>now</u> say:

Sorely have they afflicted me <u>from</u> my youth

Yet they have not prevailed <u>against</u> me.

The plowers plowed <u>upon</u> my back

They made long their <u>furrows</u>.

The LORD is righteous;

he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.

May all who hate **Zion**

Be put to shame and turned backward

May they be like grass on <u>house</u> tops

which withers before it grows up

With it the reaper does not <u>fill</u> his hands

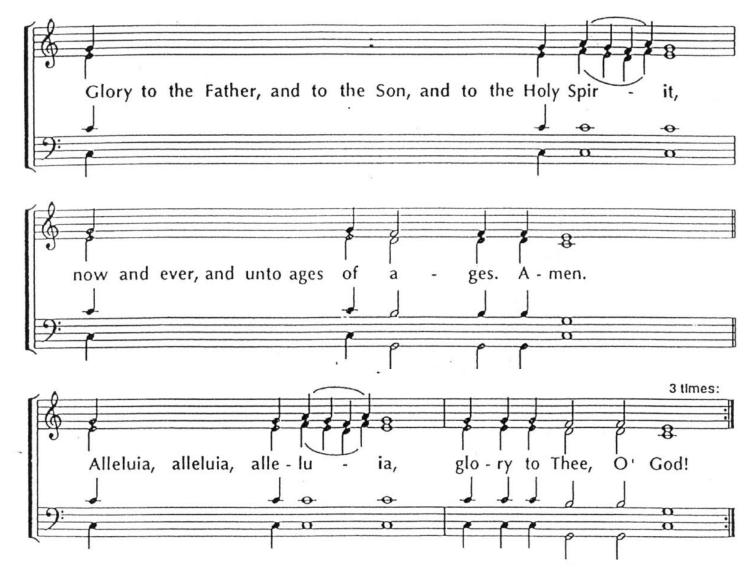
Or the binder of sheaves his bosom,

While those who pass by do not say,

"The blessing of the LORD be upon you;

We bless you

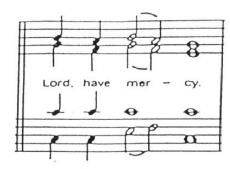
in the <u>name</u> of the LORD."



The Little Litany

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

Choir

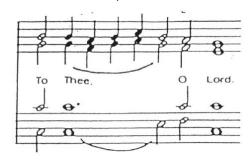


Deacon Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir Lord, have mercy.

Deacon Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir



Prayer of the 3rd Antiphon

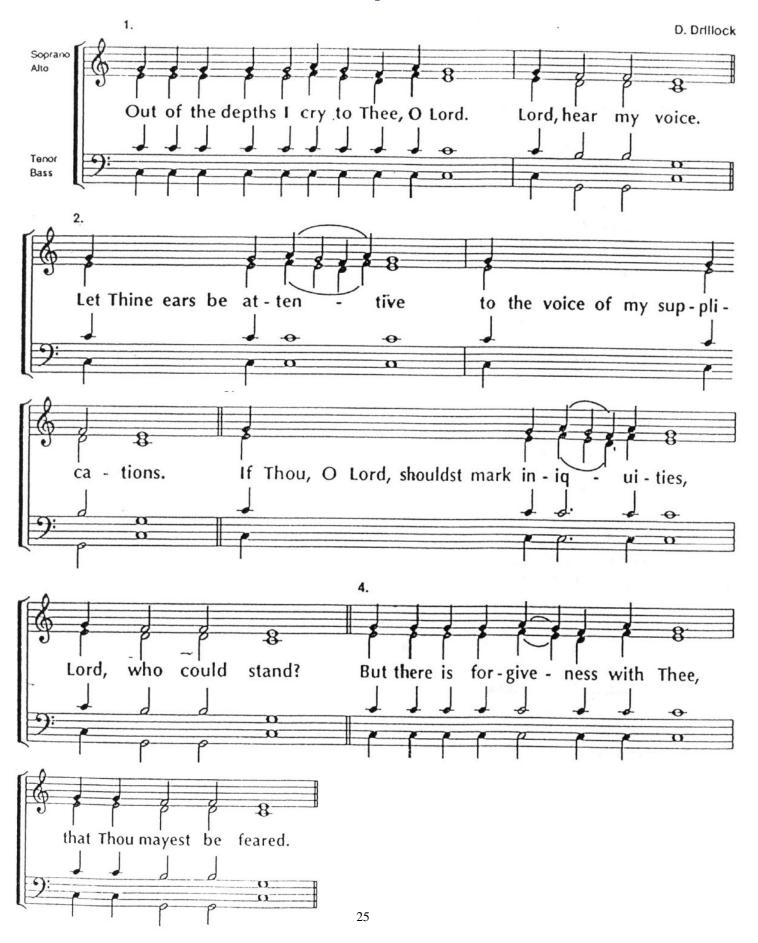
Priest

O Lord our God, remember us Thy sinful and unprofitable servants when we call upon Thy holy and venerable name, and put us not to shame in our expectation of Thy mercy, but grant us, O Lord, all our petitions which are unto salvation, and make us worthy to love and fear Thee with all our hearts, and to do Thy will in all things.

For Thou art a good God and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir Amen.

3rd Antiphon



I wait for the LORD,

My soul waits, and in his word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the <u>morning</u>, more than watchmen wait for the <u>morning</u>.

O Israel, hope in the LORD,

for with the LORD there is mercy

And with Him is plenteous redemption.

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up

Mine eyes are not raised too high

I do not occupy <u>myself</u> with things

Too great or too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul;

like a child quieted at its mother's breast

O Israel, hope in the LORD

From this time forth and forever more.

Remember, O Lord, in David's favor

all the hardships he endured.

How he <u>swore</u> to the Lord

And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

"I will not enter my house or get into my bed

I will not give sleep to mine eyes or slumber to mine eyelids

until I find a place for the LORD,

a dwelling for the Mighty One of <u>Jacob</u>."

Lo, we heard it in Ephrathah,

We found it in the fields of Jaar:

"Let us go to his dwelling place;

let us worship at his footstool

Arise, O LORD, and go to Thy resting place,

Thou and the ark of Thy might.

Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness;

And let thy saints shout for joy."

For Thy servant David's sake,

Do not turn away the face of Thine anointed one!

The LORD swore to David a sure oath

From which he will not turn back.

One of the sons of your body

I will set on your throne

If your sons keep my covenant

And my testimonies which I shall teach them,

Their sons also for ever

Shall sit upon your throne

For the Lord has chosen Zion,

He has desired it for His <u>habitation</u>

"This is my resting place for ever

Here I will dwell for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions

I will satisfy her <u>poor</u> with bread

Her priests I will clothes with salvation

And her saints will shout with joy

There I will make a horn to sprout for <u>David</u>

I have prepared a lamp for mine anointed

His enemies I will clothe with shame,

But upon himself his crown will shed its <u>luster</u>

Behold how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like precious oil <u>upon</u> the head

running down upon the beard

The beard of Aaron

Running down on the <u>collar</u> of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

Which falls on the mountains of Zion

For the Lord has commanded the blessing;

Life for evermore!

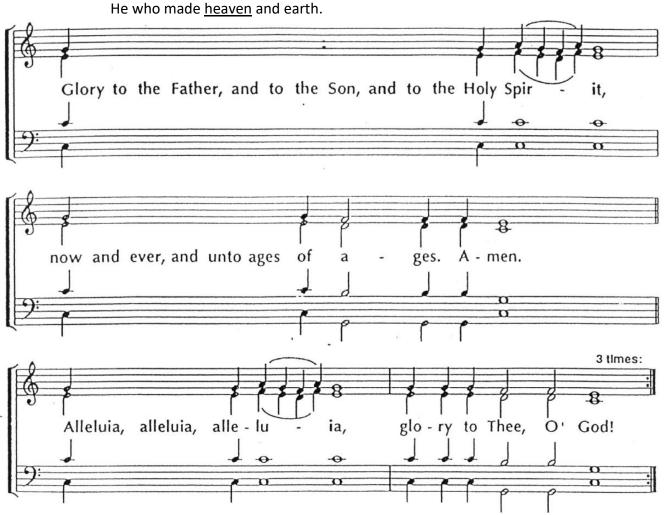
Come bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord.

Who stand by night in the house of the Lord

Lift up your hands to the holy place

And bless the Lord!

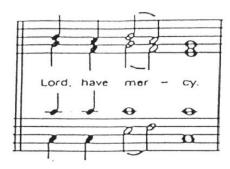
May the Lord bless you from Zion.



The Little Litany

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

Choir

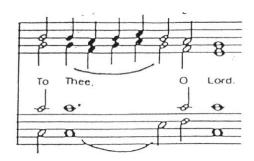


Deacon Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir Lord, have mercy.

Deacon Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir



Priest For Thou art a good God and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir Amen.

Lord I Call Upon Thee

Lord I Call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee! Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.











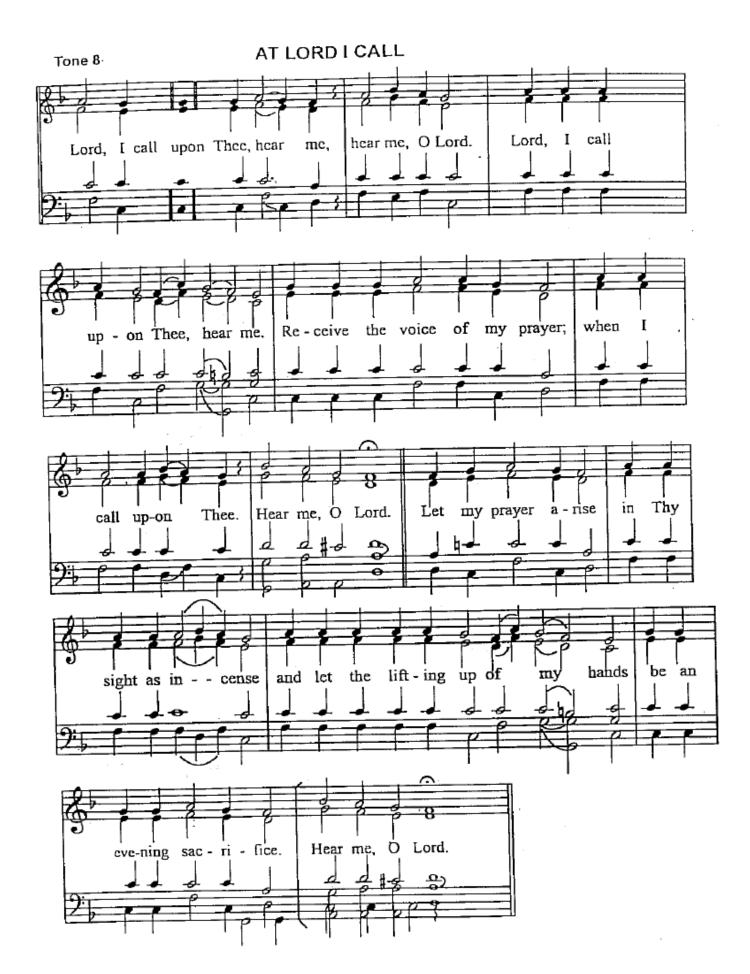






Tone 7





PSALM 140

Reader

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord Keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy my heart with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity and let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head. For my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. When they are given over to those who condemn them, they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true.

As a rock which one cleaves and be shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol, but my eyes are ever toward Thee, O Lord God; in Thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! Keep me from the trap which they have lead for me, and from the snares of evildoers! Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape.

PSALM 141

I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord, I pour out my complaint before Him, I tell my trouble before Him. When my spirit is faint, Thou knows my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains for me, no man cares for me. I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me!

(The following verses are chanted between the stichera of "Lord I Call" which are sung. The Reader inserts the following verses as needed.)

- v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!
- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
- v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.
- v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.
- v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!
- v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

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

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

Prayer of the Entrance

Priest

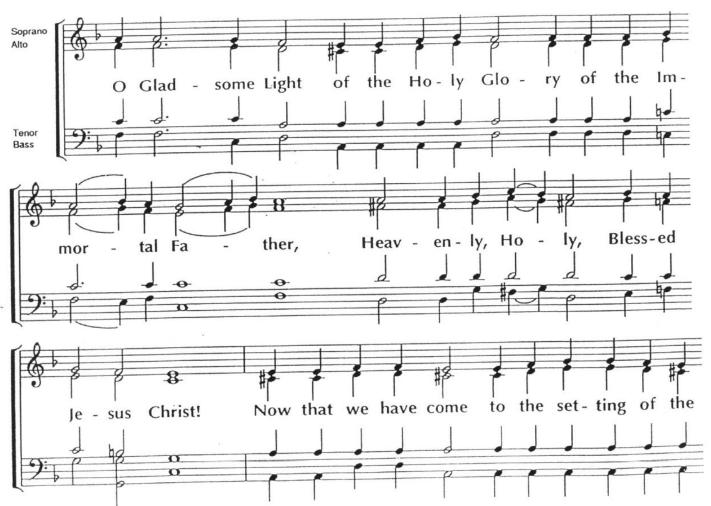
(Recited silently) In the evening, the morning, and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks and pray to Thee, O Master of all. Let our prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and do not give our hearts to words or Thoughts of evil. Deliver us from all who seek our souls for to Thee, O Lord, Lord, do we look and on Thee have we hoped, that Thou will not forsake us, O our God!

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

Deacon Wisdom! Let us attend!

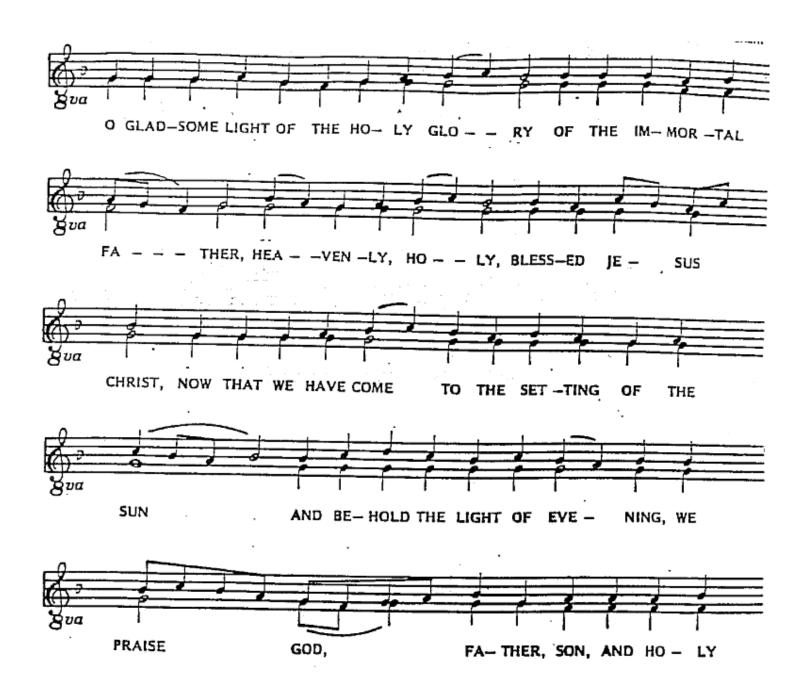
O Gladsome Light

Setting 1 - Traditional





"O Gladsome Light" - Setting 2





The Prokeimena and OT Readings

See Appendix II

Deacon Let us Attend

Priest Peace be unto all!

Deacon Wisdom

Reader Prokeimenon of the Day

Deacon Wisdom

Reader The Reading is from Genesis (or Exodus)

Deacon Let us attend (Royal Doors are closed)

Reader Does the Reading

Following the 1st reading

Deacon Wisdom

Reader 2nd Prokeimenon of the day

Priest Command!

Priest Wisdom, Let us Attend! The Light of Christ Illumines all people!

Reader (Immediately after the priest re-enters the altar)

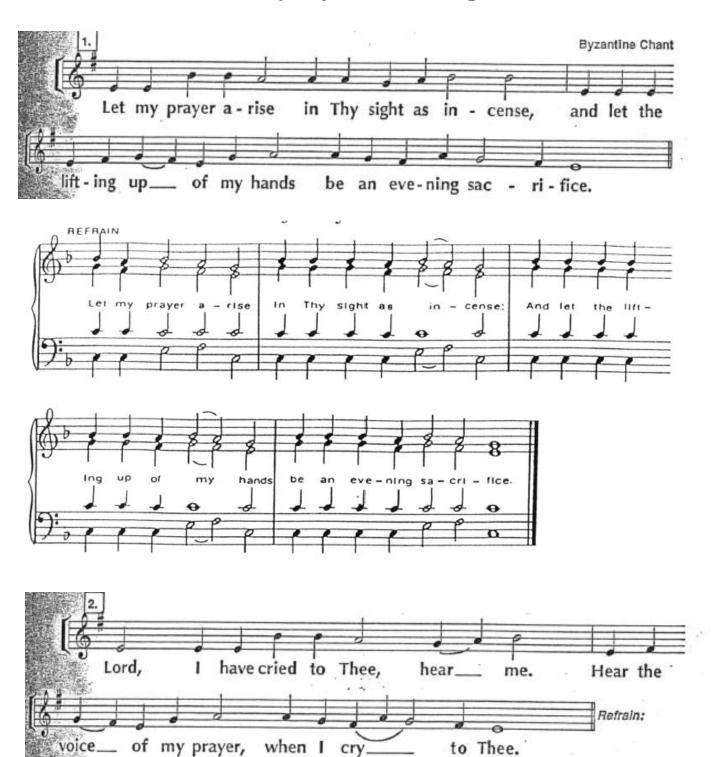
The reading is from Proverbs (or Job)

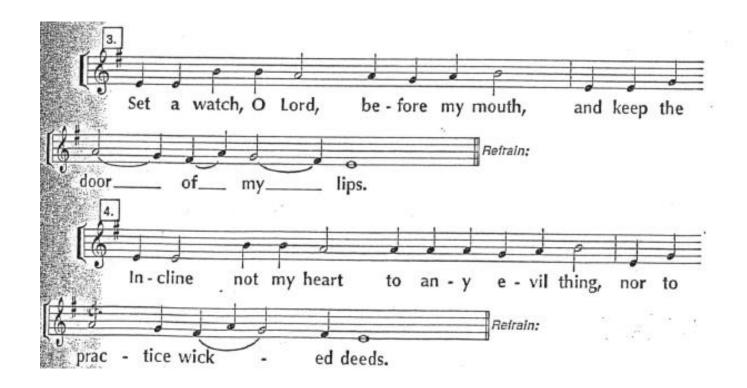
Deacon Let us Attend (Royal Doors are again closed)

Priest (after the reading) Peace be to you.

Deacon Wisdom

Let My Prayer Arise - Setting 1





Refrain followed by repeat of the first verse, once again...

"Let My Prayer Arise" - Setting 2









"Let My Prayer Arise" Setting #2 Refrain





Prayer of St. Ephraim

Priest

O Lord and master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. (*Prostration*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. (*Prostration*)

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and no to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. (*Prostration*)

If it is a special feast, or Holy Week a Gospel is read.		
Priest	Let us Attend! Peace Be unto All	
Reader	And to your Spirit	
Priest	Wisdom!	
Reader	The Prokeimenon in the Tone	
Choir	Sings the Prokeimenon	
Priest	Wisdom!	
Reader	the Reading is from the Epistle of	
Priest	Let us Attend!	

Reader	Chants the epistle
Priest	Peace be unto you, reader
Reader	And to your spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Choir	Sings Alleluia (3x) with the Reader's verse inserted between
Priest	Wisdom! Let us Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!
Choir	And to your spirit!
Priest	The reading is from the Holy Gospel, according to St
Choir	Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!
Priest	Let us Attend! (reads the appropriate Gospel lesson)
Choir	Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Augmented Litany

Deacon Let us say with all our souls and with all our mind, let us say.

Choir

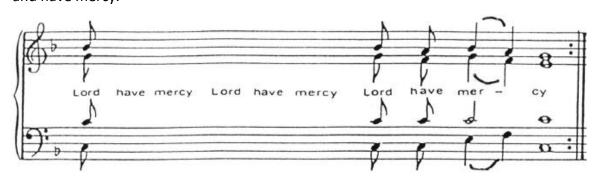


Deacon O Lord almighty, the God of our father, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir Lord have mercy.

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

Choir



Again we pray for our Metropolitan , for our (Arch)Bishop , for Deacon priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ. Choir Lord have mercy. (3x) Deacon Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces everywhere. Choir Lord have mercy (3x) Deacon Again we pray for the blessed and ever memorable founders of this holy house; for all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters, the Orthodox departed this life before us, for who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord. Choir Lord have mercy. (3x) Deacon Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, for the servants of God_____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins. Deacon Again we pray for the members of this community, that our hearts and minds may be opened to the knowledge of Thy Truth and to the service of Thy Holy Church; we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy. Choir Lord have mercy. (3x) Deacon Again we pray for those who bring tithes and offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy. Choir Lord have mercy. (3x) O Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication of Thy servants, and have mercy on Priest us according to the multitude of Thy mercy. Send down Thy bounties upon us and upon all Thy people, who await the rich mercy that comes from Thee. For Thou art a good God, and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Choir Amen. **Litany for the Catechumens** Deacon Pray to the Lord you catechumens

Choir



Continuous & Softly

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

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That He will teach them the word of truth.

Choir Lord have mercy

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

Choir Lord have mercy

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

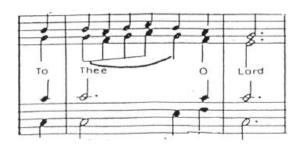
Priest Lord have mercy.

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

Choir Lord have mercy.

Deacon Bow your heads unto the Lord, you catechumens.

Choir



Priest

O God our God, the Creator and Maker of allthings, who wills that all men should be saved, and should come to the knowledge of the truth, look upon Thy servants the catechumens and deliver them from their former delusion and from the wiles of the adversary. And call them unto life eternal, enlightening their souls and bodies and numbering them with Thy rational flock, which is called Thy holy name.

That with us they may glorify Thine all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir Amen.

Dialogue may be omitted

Deacon 1st - All catechumens, depart.

2nd - Depart, catechumens

1st - All that are catechumens, depart 2nd - Let no catechumens remain

The extra petitions are added from the Wednesday of the 4th week on continued in the same pattern as for the Catechumens

Prayers for Illumination

Deacon As many as are preparing for illumination, draw near, pray you, who are preparing

for illumination.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon Let us the faithful pray for those who are preparing for Illumination

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That the Lord our God may establish and strengthen them

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That He may enlighten them with the light of knowledge and piety

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That He may vouchsafe unto them in due time the laver of regeneration, the

forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruptibility

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That He may beget them with water and the Spirit

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That He may bestow upon them the perfection of the faith

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That He may number them with His holy and elect flock

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon Save them, have mercy on them, help them, and keep them, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon As many as are preparing for illumination, bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir To Thee, O Lord.

Priest Reveal, O Master, Thy countenance to those who are preparing for holy illumination and who long to put away the pollution of sin. Enlighten their minds. Secure them in the faith. Establish them in hope. Perfect them in love. Show them to be honorable members of Thy Christ , who gave Himself as a deliverance for our souls.

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

Choir Amen.

Deacon Let us the faithful, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir



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

Choir Lord have mercy

The First Prayer of the Faithful

Priest

O God, great and praiseworthy, who by the life-creating death of Thy Christ, has translated us from corruption to incorruption, do Thou free all our senses from deadly passion, set over them as a good guide the understanding that is within us. And let our eyes abstain from every evil sight, our hearing be inaccessible to idle words, and out tongues be purges of unseemly speech. Make clean our lips which praise Thee, O Lord; make our hands refrain from base deeds, and to work only that

which is well-pleasing to Thee, fortifying our members and minds by Thy grace.

Deacon Wisdom!

Priest For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir Amen.

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.

The Second Prayer of the Faithful

Priest

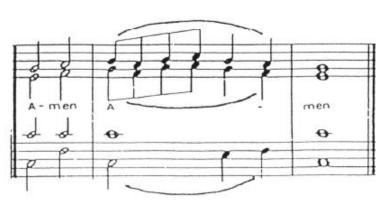
O Master, holy and exceeding good, we implore Thee, who art rich in mercy, be gracious to us sinners, and make us worthy of the reception of Thine only-begotten Son and our God, the King of glory. For, behold, His immaculate Body and lifecreating blood, entering at this present hour, are about to be set forth on this mystical table, by multitudes of heavenly hosts invisibly escorted. Grant us to partake of them without condemnation, that through them our mental sight be illumined and we may become children of the light and of the day

Deacon Wisdom!

Priest Through the gift of Thy Christ, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-

holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir



Everyone is SILENT during the entrance. Those who are able should kneel/prostrate during the Entrance.





"Now the Powers" - Setting 2

D. Bortniansky





"Now the Powers" - Setting 3





Prayer of St. Ephrem

Priest O Lord and master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of

power and idle talk. (Prostration)

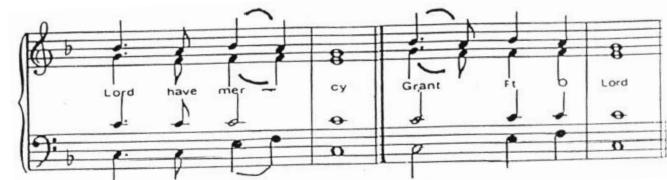
But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. (*Prostration*)

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and no to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. (*Prostration*)

Litany Before the Lord's Prayer

Deacon Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir



Deacon For the precious Gifts offered and presanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon That our God, who loves mankind, receiving them upon His holy, heavenly and ideal altar for an odor of spiritual fragrance, will send down upon us in return His divine

grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

Deacon For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to

the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy

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

Choir Lord have mercy

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

Lord.

Choir Grant it 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 it O Lord.

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

Choir Grant it O Lord.

Deacon All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us

ask of the Lord.

Choir Grant it 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 it O Lord.

Deacon A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense

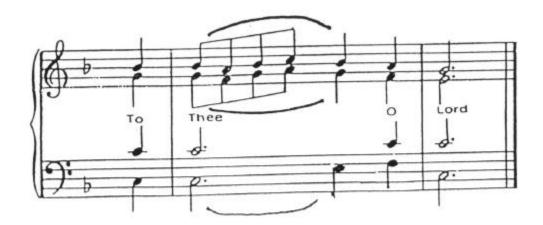
before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir Grant it O Lord.

Deacon Having asked for the unity of the Faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us

commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir



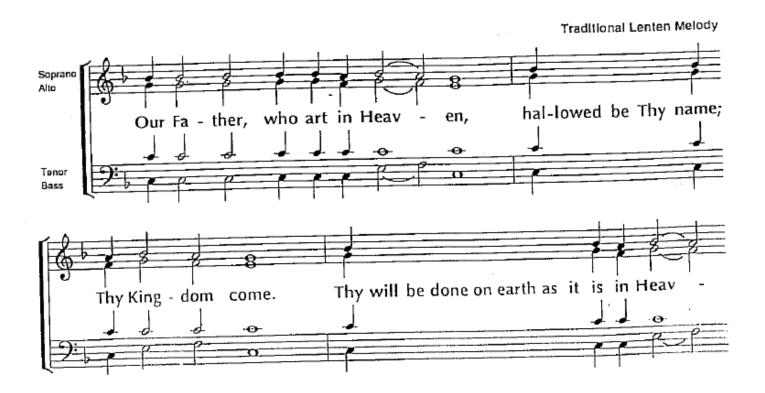
Priest

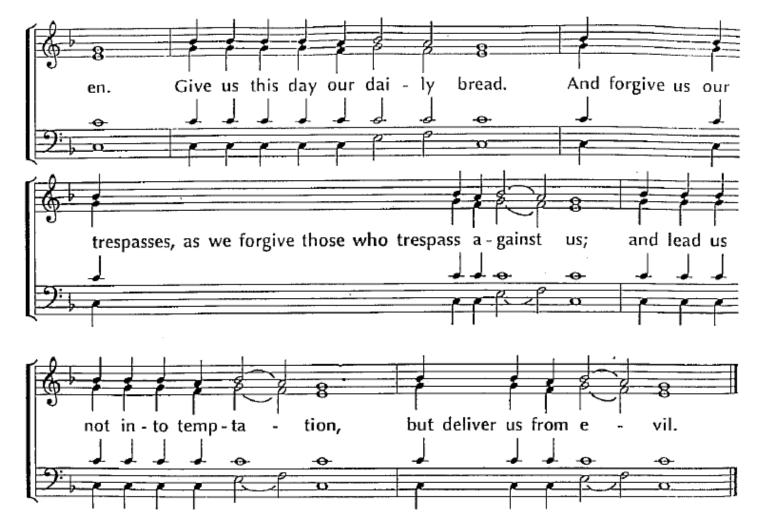
O God of unutterable and unseen Mysteries, with whom are the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, who has revealed the service of this liturgy to us, who has set us sinners, through Thy great love of man, to offer to Thee gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorance of the people, do Thou Thyself, O invisible King, who does things great and inscrutable, glorious and marvelous, which cannot be numbered, look upon us, Thine unworthy servants, who stand at this holy altar as at Thy Cherubic throne, upon which rests Thine only-begotten Son and our God, in the dreaded Mysteries that are set forth, and having freed us all and all Thy faithful people from uncleanliness sanctify all our souls and bodies with the sancti fication which cannot be taken away, that partaking with a clean conscience, with face unashamed, with heart illumined, of these divine, sanctified things, and by them being given life, we may be united to Thy Christ himself, our true God, who has said, Whoso eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him, that by Thy Word, O Lord, dwelling within us and sojourning among us, we may become a temple of Thine all-holy and adorable Spirit, redeemed from ever diabolical wile, wrought either by deed, or word, or Thought, and may obtain the good things promised to us with all Thy Saints, who always have been well-pleasing Thee.

And make us worthy O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call on Thee, the heavenly God as Father and to say:

People Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

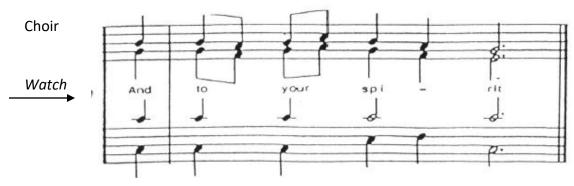




Priest For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.



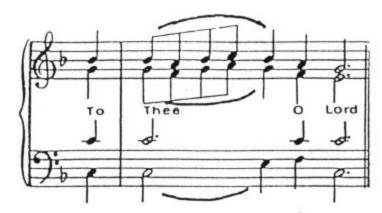
Priest Peace be unto all



Deacon

Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir



Priest

O God, who alone art good and tenderhearted, who dwells on high, who looks upon the humble, look with the eye of Thy tenderheartedness upon all Thy people and keep them. Make us all worthy without condemnation to partake of these Thy lifecreating Mysteries, for unto Thee have we bowed our heads, awaiting from Thee Thy rich mercy.

Through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir



Priest

Attend, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, out of Thy holy dwelling place, from the a throne of the glory of Thy Kingdom; and come to sanctify us, O Thou Who sits on high with the Father, and art here invisibly present with us; and by Thy mighty hand impart unto us Thy most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us to all the people.

O God, cleanse me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. (3x)

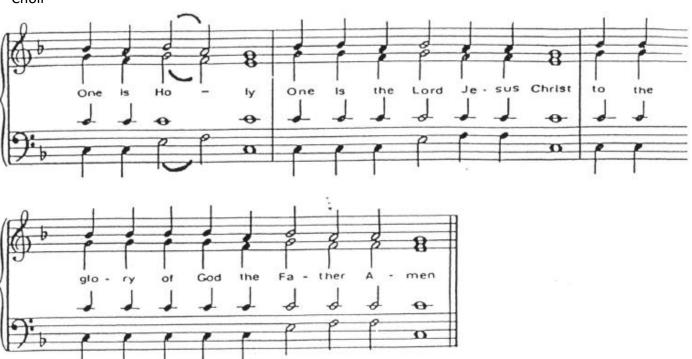
Deacon

Let us attend.

Priest

The presanctified Holy Things are for the holy.

Choir



Priest

Broken and divided is the Lamb of God, which is broken, yet not disunited; ever eaten, yet never consumed, but sanctifies those who partake thereof.

People

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own most pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious blood. Therefore, I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgression both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, committed knowingly and unknowingly, of knowledge and of ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

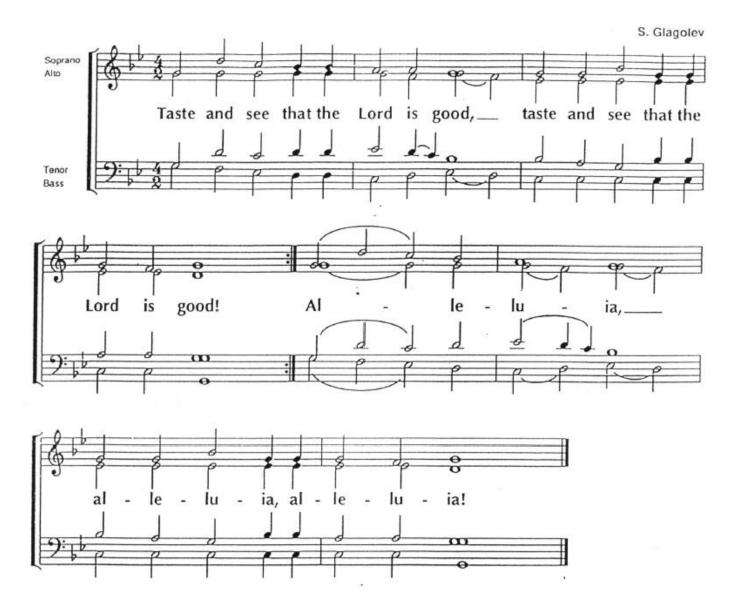
Watch---->

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

May the communion of Thy holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body.

As the priest prepares communion, the faithful sing the Communion Hymn

"Taste and See" - Setting 1



Reader's Verses

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

My soul makes its boast in the Lord. Let the afflicted hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

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

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

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

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him.

O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want.

The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who fear the Lord lack no good thing.



"Taste and See" - Setting 3



The Communion of the Faithful

Priest In the fear of God, and with faith, and love, draw near!

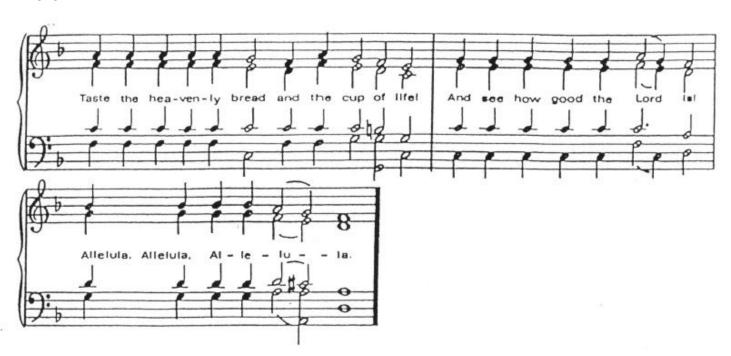
Choir



(The communion of the faithful takes place as usual during the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, during communion the people again sing
"O Taste and See how Good the Lord Is, Alleluia (3x))

Priest O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine in heritance.

Choir



Priest Blessed is our God

Always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.



The Litany of Thanksgiving

Deacon

Let us attend! Having partaken of the divine, holy, most pure, immortal, heavenly, life-creating, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

Choir

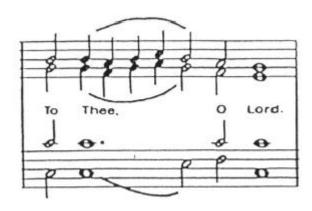


Deacon Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy Grace.

Choir Lord have mercy

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

Choir



Priest

We give thank unto Thee, O Savior, God of all, for all the good things Thou has granted unto us, and for the communion of the holy Body and Blood of Thy Christ, and we pray Thee, O Master, who loves man, keep us under the shelter of Thy wings. And grant that we even unto our last breath we may worthily partake of Thy holy things, unto illumination of soul and body, unto inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

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

Choir Amen.

Priest Let us depart in peace

Choir



Deacon Let us pray to the Lord

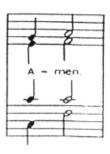
Choir Lord have mercy

The Prayer before the Ambo

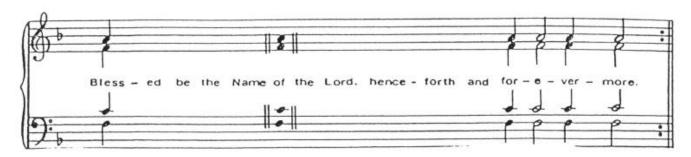
Priest

O Almighty Master, who in wisdom has fashioned all creation, who through Thine ineffable providence and great goodness has led us to these all-revered days for purification of souls and bodies, for restraint of passions, and for hope of the resurrection, who during the forty days dist put into the hands of Thy servant Moses the tables in letter divinely inscribed, grant unto us also, O Good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the fast, to preserve the faith undivided, to crush the heads of invisible serpents, to be shown to be conquerors of sins, and without condemnation also to attain unto and to worship the holy Resurrection. For blessed and glorified is Thine all-honorable and majestic name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir



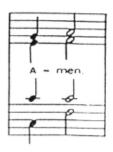
(1 & 2)



Bless-ed be the Name of the Lord, hence-forth and for -e - ver - more.

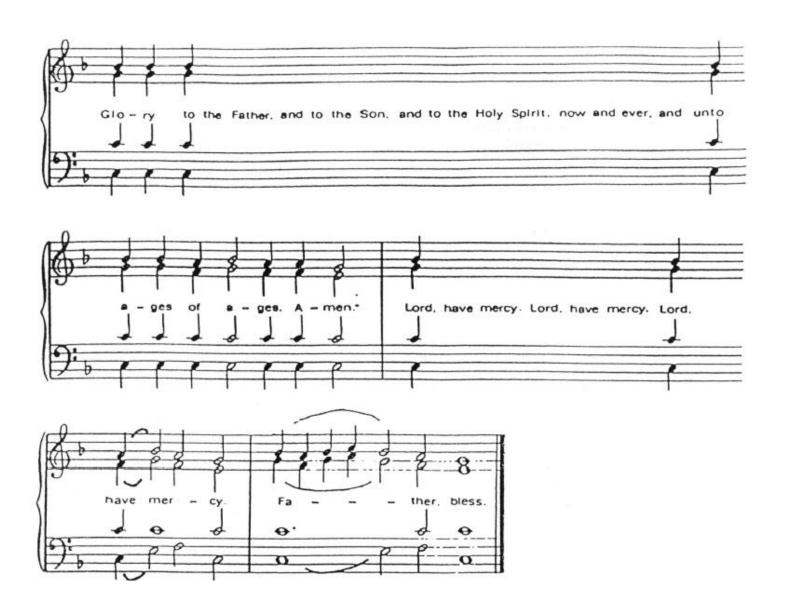
Priest The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir

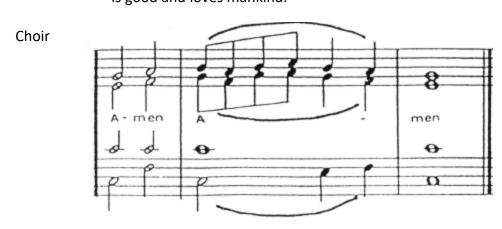


The Dismissal

Priest Glory to Thee O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee!



Priest May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, and of our father among the Saints, Gregory Dialogus; of Saint (Church); of Saint _____ whom we commemorate today, and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.



Appendix I - Prayers of Thanksgiving

Priest: Glory to Thee, O God. (3x)

- (1) I thank Thee, O Lord my God, for Thou hast not rejected me a sinner, but hast made me worthy to be a partaker of Thy holy things. I thank Thee, for Thou hast permitted me, the unworthy, to commune of Thy most pure and heavenly Gifts. But, O Master who loves mankind, who for our sakes didst die and rise again, and gave us these awesome and life-creating Mysteries for the good and sanctification of our souls and bodies; let them be for the healing of our soul and body, the repelling of every adversary, the illumining of the eyes of my heart, the peace of my spiritual powers, a faith unashamed, a love unfeigned, the fulfilling of wisdom, the observing of Thy commandments, the receiving of Thy divine grace, and the attaining of Thy Kingdom. Preserved by them in Thy holiness, may I always remember Thy grace and live not for myself alone, but for Thee, our Master and Benefactor. May I pass from this life in the hope of eternal life, and so attain to the everlasting rest, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing, and the gladness of those who behold the goodness of Thy countenance is unending. For Thou art the true desire and the ineffable joy of those who love Thee, O Christ our God, and all creation sings Thy praise forever. Amen.
- (2) O Master Christ our God, King of the Ages, Maker of all things: I thank Thee for all the good things Thou hast given me, especially for the communion with Thy most pure and life-creating Mysteries. I pray Thee, O gracious Lover of Man: Preserve me under Thy protection, beneath the shadow of Thy wings. Enable me, even to my last breath, to partake worthily and with a pure conscience of Thy holy things, for the remission of sins and unto life eternal. For Thou art the Bread of Life, the Fountain of Holiness, the Giver of all Good; to Thee we ascribe glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- (3) Freely Thou hast given me Thy Body for my food, O Thou Who art a fire consuming the unworthy. Consume me not, O my Creator, but instead enter into my members, my veins, my heart. Consume the thorns of my transgressions. Cleanse my soul and sanctify my reasonings. Make firm my knees and body. Illumine my five senses. Nail me to the fear of Thee. Always protect, guard, and keep me from the soul-destroying words and deeds. Cleanse me, purify me, and adorn me. Give me understanding and illumination. Show me to be a temple of Thy One Spirit, and not the home of many sins. May every evil thing, every carnal passion, flee from me as from a fire as I become Thy tabernacle through communion. I offer as intercessors all the saints: the leaders of the bodiless hosts, Thy Forerunner, the wise apostles, and Thy pure and blameless Mother. Accept their prayers in Thy love, O my Christ, and make me, Thy servant a child of light. For Thou art the only Sanctification and Light of our souls, O Good One, and to Thee, our Master and God, we ascribe glory day by day.
- (4) O Lord Jesus Christ our God: Let Thy holy Body be my eternal life; Thy precious Blood, my remission of sins. Let this Eucharist be my joy, health, and gladness. Make me, a sinner, worthy to stand on the right hand of Thy glory at Thine awesome second Coming, through the prayers of Thy most pure Mother and of all the saints.

(5) O most holy Lady Theotokos, the light of my darkened soul, my hope, my protection, my refuge, my rest, and my joy. I thank you, for you have permitted me, the unworthy, to be a partaker of the most pure Body and precious Blood of your Son. Give the light of understanding to the eyes of my heart, you that gave birth to the True Light. Enliven me who am deadened by sin, you that gave birth to the Fountain of Immortality. Have mercy on me, O loving Mother of the merciful God. Grant me compunction and contrition of heart, humility in my thoughts, and a release from the slavery of my own reasonings. And enable me, even to my last breath, to receive the sanctification of the most pure Mysteries, for the healing of my soul and body. Grant me tears of repentance and confession, that I may glorify you all the days of my life, for you are blessed and greatly glorified forever. Amen.

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our 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 ages of ages.

People: Amen.

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

You were revealed as the sure foundation of the Church, granting all men lordship which cannot be taken away, sealing it with your precepts, O venerable and heavenly father.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator; do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, give the blessing Father.

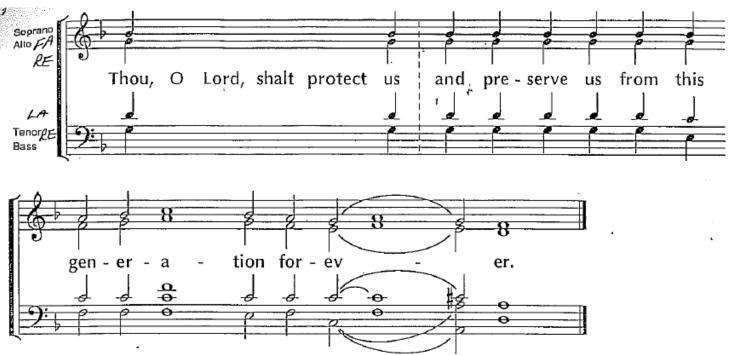
Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.

Appendix II - Prokeimenon & Readings

Wednesday of the 1st Week

First Prokeimenon in the 5th Tone



Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

First Reading: Genesis 1:24-2:3

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Second Prokeimenon - in the 6th Tone



Verse: How long, O Lord? Will Thou forget me forever? Will Thou hide Thy face from me?

Second Reading: Proverbs 2:1-22

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths; To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words, Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead; None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life — So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

Friday of the 1st Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: The name of the God of Jacob protect you.

First Reading: Genesis 2:20-3:20

So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord.

Second Reading: Proverbs 3:19-34

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew. My son, let them not depart from your eyes — Keep sound wisdom and discretion; So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it, "When you have it with you. Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety's sake. Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm. Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright. The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.

Wednesday of the 2nd Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.

First Reading: Genesis 4:16-26

Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son — Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech. Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous

Second Reading: Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend.

Friday of the 2nd Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: I waited patiently for the Lord: He inclined to me and heard my cry.

First Reading: Genesis 5:32-6:8

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: Blessed is he who considers the poor

Second Reading: Proverbs 6:20-7:1

My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts. The Wiles of a Harlot My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.

Wednesday of the 3rd Week

First Prokeimenon

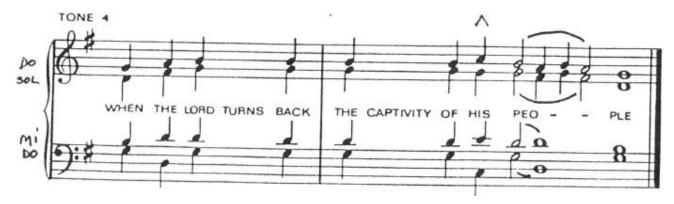


Verse: Why do you boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the Godly?

Gen 7:6-9

Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

Second Prokeimenon



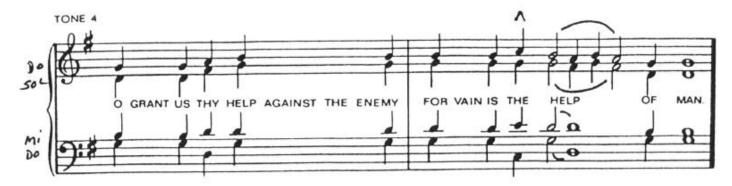
Verse: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God"

Second Reading: Proverbs 9:12-18

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone." The Way of Folly A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way: "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here"; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.

Friday of the 3rd Week

First Prokeimenon

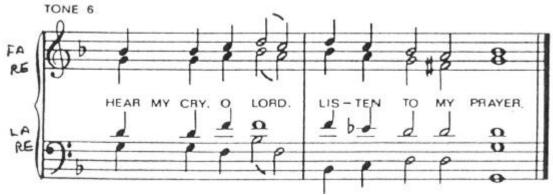


Verse: O God, Thou has rejected us, broken our defenses

First Reading: Genesis 8:4-21

Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: From the end of the earth, I will call to Thee.

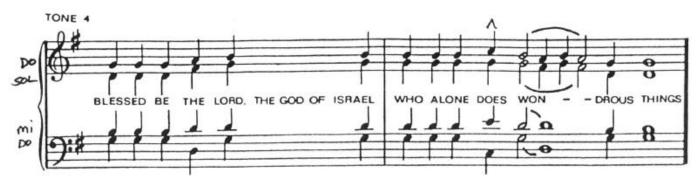
Second Reading: Proverbs 10:31-11:12

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse. Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight. When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust. When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes. The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead. The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, But a man of understanding holds his peace.

Wednesday of the 4th Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: Give the king Thy Justice, O God and Thy Righteousness to the royal son

First Reading: Genesis 9:18-10:1

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren." And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant." And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died. Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Second Reading: Proverbs 12:23-13:9

A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor. Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad. The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray. The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession. In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death. A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence. He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame. Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner. There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches. The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor does not hear rebuke. The light of the righteous rejoices, But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

Friday of the 4th Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: Thou who art enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-7

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Second Prokeimenon



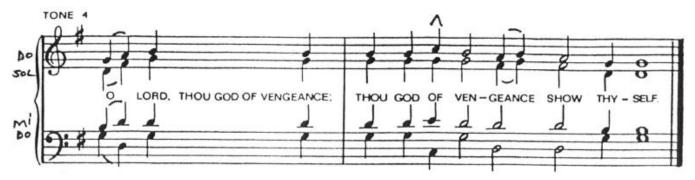
Verse: Raise a Song, Sound the Timbrel

Second Reading: Proverbs 14:15-26

The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps. A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident. A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated. The simple inherit folly, But the prudent are crowned with knowledge. The evil will bow before the good, And the wicked at the gates of the righteous. The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, But the rich has many friends. He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he. Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good. In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty. The crown of the wise is their riches, But the foolishness of fools is folly. A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies. In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

Wednesday of the 5th Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: Rise up, O Judge of the earth, render to the proud their deserts

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-9

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: Sing to the Lord, bless His name.

Second Reading: Proverbs 15:20-16:9

A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother. Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly. Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established. A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is! The way of life winds upward for the wise, That he may turn away from hell below. The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, But the words of the pure are pleasant. He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live. The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous. The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, And a good report makes the bones healthy. The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility. The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits. Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established. The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom. Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished. In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice. A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Friday of the 5th Week

First Prokeimenon



Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Second Prokeimenon



Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou art very great.

Second Reading: Proverbs 17:17-18:5

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity. A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, And becomes surety for his friend. He who loves transgression loves strife, And he who exalts his gate seeks destruction. He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil. He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy. A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones. A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back To pervert the ways of justice. Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him. Also, to punish the righteous is not good, Nor to strike princes for their uprightness. He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart. When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; And with dishonor comes reproach. The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

Wednesday of the Week of Palms

First Prokeimenon



First Reading: Genesis 43:26-31; 45:1-16

And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves. Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there. Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread." Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."

"And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

Second Prokeimenon:



Verse: I kept my faith, even when I am greatly afflicted.

Second Reading: Proverbs 21:23-22:4

Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles. A proud and haughty man — "Scoffer" is his name; He acts with arrogant pride. The desire of the lazy man kills him, For his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; How much more when he brings it with wicked intent! A false witness shall perish, But the man who hears him will speak endlessly. A wicked man hardens his face, But as for the upright, he establishes his way. There is no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the LORD. The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the LORD. A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all. A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished. By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life.

Friday of the Week of Palms

First Prokeimenon

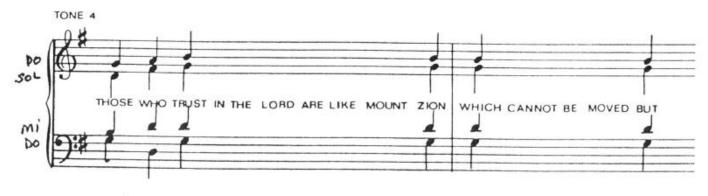


Verse: It it had not been the Lord who was on our side, let Israel now say.

First Reading: Genesis 49:33-50:26

And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him, and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. Now when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back." And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen. And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father. And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan. So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father. Joseph Reassures His Brothers When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." Joseph said to them," Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Second Prokeimenon:





Verse: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land allotted to the righteous

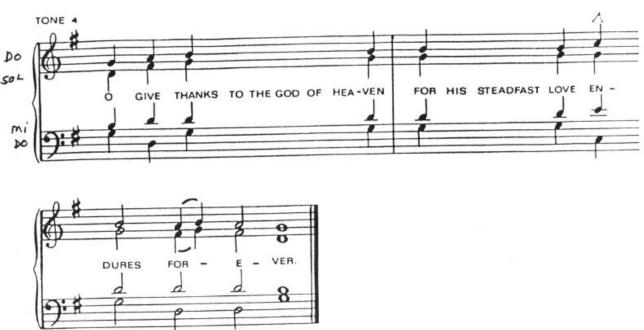
Second Reading: Proverbs 31:8-31

Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy. Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

Holy Week

Great and Holy Wednesday

First Prokeimenon

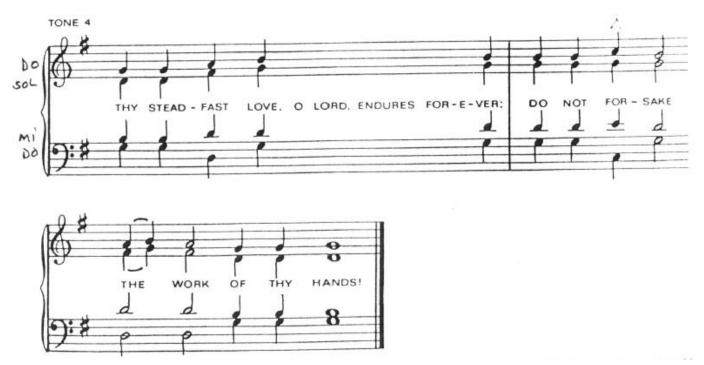


Verse: O Give thanks to the God of Gods, for His steadfast love endures forever.

First Reading: Exodus 2:11-22

Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?" And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock." So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. And she bore him a son. He called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

Second Prokeimenon:



Verse: I give Thee thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before gods I sing Thy praise.

Second Reading: Job 2:1-10

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come? "Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.