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The Service of Vespers

on the eve of Monday, June 9, 2014

Text in English

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PRIEST

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,
and to the ages of ages.

READER

Amen.

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

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

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

Psalm 103 (104).

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly; You clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and majesty, who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain; You are He who covers His upper chambers with water, who makes the clouds His means of approach, who walks on the wings of the winds, who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire. He established the earth on its stable foundation; It shall not be moved unto ages of ages. The deep like a garment is His covering; the waters shall stand upon the mountains; at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The mountains rise up, and the plains sink down to the place You founded for them. You set a boundary they shall not pass over; neither shall they return to cover the earth. You are He who sends springs into the valley; the waters shall pass between the mountains; they shall give drink to all the wild animals of the field; the wild asses shall quench their thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside them; they shall sing from the midst of the rocks. You are He who waters the mountains from His higher places; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are He who causes grass to grow for the cattle, and the green plant for the service of man, to

bring forth bread from the earth; and wine gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit, the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted; there the sparrows shall make their nests; the house of the heron takes the lead among them. The high mountains are for the deer; the cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night, wherein all the wild animals of the forest will prowl about; the young lions roar and snatch their prey, and seek their food from God. The sun arises, and they are gathered together; and they shall be put to bed in their dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your creation. There is this great and spacious sea: the creeping things are there without number; the living things are there, both small and great; there the ships pass through; there is this dragon You formed to play therein. All things wait upon You, that You may give them food in due season. When You give it to them, they shall gather it; when You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works: He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble: He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life: I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. (SAAS)

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our **(episcopal rank) (name)**, the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our country, the president, and all those in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the Holy and Great Church of Christ, for this Holy Metropolis, this parish and city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the people here present, awaiting the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For those who incline their hearts as well as the knee before the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That we may be strengthened to complete works well-pleasing to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That His mercies may be lavished upon us, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That He will accept our act of kneeling as incense before Him, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For all who stand in need of His help, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and the Son and the

Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. (*Amen.*)

CHOIR

Mode 4.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Mode 4.

If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness with You.

Today, all the nations in the city of David saw paradoxical things, when the Holy Spirit descended in fiery tongues, according to the utterance of Luke the theologian. For he said, when the Disciples of Christ were gathered together, a sound came like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they all began to speak with strange words, strange dogmas, strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.

Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in the Lord.

Today, all the nations in the city of David saw paradoxical things, when the Holy Spirit descended in fiery tongues, according to the utterance of Luke the theologian. For he said, when the Disciples of Christ were gathered together, a sound came like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they all began to speak

with strange words, strange dogmas, strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.

Mode 4.

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

The Holy Spirit forever was, and is and will be, never beginning, never ending, but forever ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son. It is life and life-giving, light and giver of light; goodness itself and the source of goodness; through whom the Father is known and the Son is glorified, and by all is known the one power, one order, one worship of the Holy Trinity.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He will redeem Israel from all his transgressions.

The Holy Spirit forever was, and is and will be, never beginning, never ending, but forever ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son. It is life and life-giving, light and giver of light; goodness itself and the source of goodness; through whom the Father is known and the Son is glorified, and by all is known the one power, one order, one worship of the Holy Trinity.

Mode 4.

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples.

The Holy Spirit is light and life, and a living noetic fount. Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding; good, upright, noetic, ruling, purging offences; God and deifying; He is fire issuing from fire, uttering, inciting, distributing the gifts of grace. Through Him

the Prophets and the Apostles of God and the Martyrs all were crowned. Strange to hear, strange to see, fire distributed for the apportioning of gifts.

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

The Holy Spirit is light and life, and a living noetic fount. Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding; good, upright, noetic, ruling, purging offences; God and deifying; He is fire issuing from fire, uttering, inciting, distributing the gifts of grace. Through Him the Prophets and the Apostles of God and the Martyrs all were crowned. Strange to hear, strange to see, fire distributed for the apportioning of gifts.

Glory. Both now. **Mode pl. 2.**

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of good things and giver of life: come; take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every stain, and save our souls, O Good one.

DEACON (in a low voice)

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST (in a low voice)

Prayer of the Entrance

In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before You, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For to You, O Lord, O Lord, are our

eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

DEACON

Wisdom! Arise!

CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Mode 2.

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; and therefore the world glorifies You.

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who does wonders.

Verse: *You made known Your power among the peoples;*

Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who does wonders.

Verse: *I said, "Now I am beginning to see; this change is by the right hand of the Most High."*

Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who does wonders.

Verse: *I remembered the Lord's works, for I will remember Your wonders of old.*

Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who does wonders.

DEACON

Again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Prayer 1

Lord, pure and undefiled, existing before all eternity, invisible, incomprehensible, unsearchable, unchanging, surpassed by none, not to be calculated, long-suffering, the only immortal One, You abide in the unapproachable light. You created heaven and earth, and all the creatures that inhabit them, supplying all their needs even before they ask. To You we pray and You we entreat, loving Master, the Father of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven to be incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, the glorious Theotokos. At first You taught in words, but then showed us by deeds, when in enduring the saving Passion You gave to us Your humble, sinful and unworthy servants an example of how to offer our prayers in the bending of our heads and knees for our own transgressions and for the failings of the people.

All-merciful and loving Lord, hear us whenever we call upon You, but especially on this day of Pentecost, on which, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into the heavens, to be seated at Your right hand, God and Father, He sent the Holy Spirit on His holy disciples and Apostles. As He came to rest upon each of them, and all were filled with His overflowing

grace, they spoke in strange tongues of Your mighty works and prophesied.

As we now pray to You, hear us, and be mindful that we are lowly and deserving of judgment; recall our souls from the bondage of sin. Your own compassion interceding for us, accept us as we kneel before You crying the familiar, "I have sinned!" We have been dependent on You from our mother's womb; You are our God. But because our days have been vainly squandered, we are stripped of Your help, without any defense. Even so, encouraged by Your mercies, we cry: Remember not our sins committed in youth and ignorance, and purge our secret thoughts. Do not spurn us in old age; when our strength fails us, do not forsake us; before we are returned to the earth, make us worthy to return to You, and treat us with Your favor and grace. Measure out Your mercies against our transgressions; contrast the depths of Your pity to the multitude of our offenses.

From Your holy dwelling place look down upon the people present here in expectation of Your rich mercy; visit us in Your goodness; free us from the oppression of the Evil One; make our lives secure within Your holy and sacred laws. Entrust Your people to a faithful guardian angel; gather us all into Your kingdom; grant forgiveness to those who hope in You; remit them and us our sins; cleanse us through the work of Your Holy Spirit; put an end to the wiles of the enemy.

Prayer 2

Blessed are You, Master, Almighty Lord, for You light the day with the light of the

sun and brighten the night with the rays of fire. You enabled us to pass the span of the day and so come to the beginnings of the night. Hear our prayer and that of all Your people, and forgive us all our deliberate and unwitting sins; receive our evening petitions and send upon Your inheritance the abundance of Your mercy and compassion.

Encompass us with Your holy Angels; arm us with the weapons of Your righteousness; fortify us within Your truth; make Your strength our garrison, spare us all adverse circumstances and all assaults of the adversary. Finally, vouchsafe to us this evening, and the impending night, perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, free of disturbing visions, and all the days of our lives, through the prayers of the Holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have pleased You through the ages.

DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up and protect us, O God, by your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy; we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for our brethren, priests, hieromonks, deacons, and monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of all pious and Orthodox Christians living and visiting in this city, the parishioners, the members of the Parish Council and every Ministry of this Parish, and the donors and benefactors of this holy church.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us again pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and

sisters who are asleep here in the Lord and for the Orthodox everywhere.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us again pray for those who do charitable work, for those who serve in this holy house, for those who labor, teach, and sing, and for all the people here present who await your great and rich mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Prayer 3

Lord Jesus Christ our God, You have bestowed Your peace on humankind, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be with us even in this life as a perpetual inheritance to believers never to be taken away. On this day You have sent this grace upon Your disciples and Apostles in a way more manifest, giving utterance to their lips by means of fiery tongues, so that every human race, hearing in our own language received the knowledge of God, and, illumined by the light of the Spirit, emerged from error as from darkness, and in the distribution of visible tongues of fire, and by extraordinary power, were taught faith in

You, and were enlightened to speak of You, as of the Father and the Holy Spirit, as one Godhead, one power, one sovereignty.

As the reflection of the Father, the perfect and immutable likeness of His essence and nature, the source of salvation and grace, open the lips of this sinner and teach me how and for what I should pray. For You know the great number of my sins, yet Your compassion will overcome their enormity. For in fear I stand before You, casting my soul's despair into the sea of Your mercy. Govern my life, as You govern all creation by the unspoken word, the power of wisdom, calm haven of the storm-tossed, and make known to me the way in which I should walk.

Grant me the Spirit of wisdom in my thoughts, the Spirit of prudence in my ignorance. Let the Spirit of the awe of You overshadow my deeds. Renew a steadfast Spirit in my breast, and let Your guiding Spirit make firm my errant mind, so that each day, led by Your good Spirit towards that which is profitable, I may be worthy to keep Your commandments, ever mindful of Your glorious and soul-searching presence. Do not allow me to be beguiled by the world's treasures. For You, Master, have said, that whatever we ask in Your name, we shall without fail receive from Your co-eternal God and Father. Thus I, too, the sinner, at the descent of Your Holy Spirit, beseech Your goodness. All that I have asked, grant me for salvation. Yes, Lord, You are the lavish giver of everything good, giving far in excess of what we ask. You are the compassionate and merciful One Who, though sinless, became

sharer in our flesh, and bending in love towards those who bend the knee to You, You became the propitiation for our sins.

Now then, Lord, grant Your people Your mercies; hear us from Your heavenly dwelling place; sanctify them by the power of Your saving right hand; shelter them in the shadow of Your wings; do not spurn the work of Your hands. It is against You alone that we sin, but it is You alone we worship; we know no alien god to adore, nor to stretch out our hands to any other deity, O Master. Remit our offenses, and as You receive our petitions on bended knee, extend to us all a helping hand. Accept our common prayer as a pleasing fragrance, rising up to Your blessed kingdom.

Prayer 4

Lord, Lord, as You save us from every arrow that flies by day, protect us from everything that lurks in darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. And enable us to pass the course of the night blamelessly, untempted by evil, and rid us of all disturbance and fear induced by the Evil One. Grant contrition to our soul, and to our thoughts due concern for our trial on the day of Your awesome and just judgment. Transfix our bodies with awe of You, and deaden our earthly members, so that in the quiet of sleep we may be cheered by the contemplation of Your judgments. Distance from us every improper imagining and harmful desire. Instead raise us up at the hour of prayer strengthened in faith and growing in Your commandments.

DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up and protect us, O God, by your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

By the favor and grace of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

READER

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. (Amen.)

DEACON

Again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Prayer 5

The never-failing spring, bursting with life and light, creative power co-eternal with the Father, You fulfilled surpassingly the plan for the salvation of humankind, shattering the unbreakable bonds of death and the bolts of Hades and trampling the throngs of evil spirits. You presented Yourself as a blameless victim for us, offering Your pure body, chaste and untouched by sin, in sacrifice, and by that terrible and indescribable oblation granted us everlasting life. You descended into Hades and broke down its gates, and sojourning among those below, You showed them the way of ascent. As for the Prince of Evil, that dragon of the deep, You snared him in an inspired lure, binding him in circles of darkness, in Your infinite power held him fast in the nether world, in the eternal fire and the out darkness.

The glorious wisdom of the Father, You are the great help of those in peril, giving light to those in darkness and the shadow of death. Lord of everlasting glory, beloved Son of the Most High, eternal light of eternal light, Sun of righteousness, hear our supplications, and give rest to the souls of Your servants, our fathers and brothers and other kin by blood, and all of the household of faith who have since fallen asleep and whose memorial we keep this day. For in You is the strength of all and in Your hand You hold the far reaches of the earth. Almighty Master, God of our Fathers and merciful Lord of the living and the dead, Creator of all mortal nature, composed and again dissolved, of life and

of death, of earthly existence and of the departure hence, You measure out the years for the living and set times of death, bringing down to Hades and raising up, fettering in weakness and liberating in power; You provide aptly for the present and fittingly dispose what is to come, restoring those who are wounded by the sting of death with the hope of resurrection.

Master, Lord of all, our God and Redeemer, the hope of all, at the ends of the earth and far away at sea, on this latter great and saving day of Pentecost You disclosed to us the mystery of the holy, consubstantial, co-eternal and life-giving Trinity, indivisible yet distinct, and in the descent and presence of Your holy and life-giving Spirit poured out its grace upon Your holy Apostles in the form of fiery tongues, making them proclaimers and confessors of our holy Faith, of true knowledge of God. On this universal and salutary feast, deign to accept petitions for those imprisoned in Hades, thus giving us great hope, and relief to the departed from their grievous distress and Your comfort.

Hear us, humble and pitiable, as we pray to You, and give rest to the souls of Your Servants who have departed this life, in a place of light, a place of renewed life, a joyous place, shunned alike by pain and sorrow and sighing. And place their spirits where the Righteous dwell, counting them worthy of peace and repose; for the dead do not praise You, Lord, nor do those in Hades dare to offer You glory, but it is we the living who bless and entreat You and offer You propitiator prayers and sacrifices for their souls.

Prayer 6

O God, great and eternal, holy and loving, having deemed us worthy to stand at this hour in the presence of Your unapproachable glory, to sing in praise of Your wondrous acts, be gracious to Your unworthy servants and grant us grace to offer You in contrition of heart the thrice-holy doxology and thanksgiving for the great gifts You have bestowed on us and continue always. Lord, be mindful of our weakness, and do not let us be lost in our wrongdoing, but show mercy as we humble ourselves, so that, escaping the darkness of sin, we may walk in the day of justice, and girded with the armor of light, we may live free of the assaults of the Evil One, and so with courage glorify You the only true and loving God in all things.

Truly great is Your mystery, Master and Maker of all, of the temporary separation of Your creatures, to be united again in everlasting rest. We confess Your grace in all things, for our entrances into this world and our departures, of which our hope of resurrection and a life of bliss, according to Your certain promise, are the guarantee. May we enjoy it in Your future second coming. For You are both the pioneer of our resurrection and the just but compassionate judge of our lives and Master and Lord of our reward. In ultimate condescension You shared in our flesh and blood and in our passions, willingly assuming them in the depth of Your compassion so that having Yourself been tempted, You offered Yourself freely as helper to us who are tempted. Thus You united us all to You in Your freedom from passion.

Will You, then, Master, accept our prayers and entreaties, and give rest to everyone's fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and children, or of the same family or people, and all the souls that have gone before to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to everlasting life. And place their spirits and their names in the book of life, the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the land of the living, in the kingdom of the heavens, in the bliss of Paradise, Your angels of light leading all into Your holy mansions. And on the day You have ordained, raise up our bodies as well according to Your unfailing promises. In departing our bodies to dwell in You our God, there is no death for Your servants Lord, but rather a change from the more sorrowful to the better and more pleasing, to rest, to joy.

And if we have in any way sinned against You, be merciful to them and to us; for no man is free of stain in Your sight though he live but a day; only You, Who came sinless to earth, our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we all hope to find mercy and remission of sins.

Thus as good and loving God, remit and forgive them and us our failings, whether witting or unwitting, committed in knowledge or ignorance, intentionally or unaware, in deed or in thought, in word, in all goings about. Both to those who have gone before and to us who await, give release and repose, granting us and all Your people a good and peaceful end, opening up to us Your heart of love and mercy at Your terrible and awesome Coming and judging us worthy of Your kingdom.

Prayer 7

Great and most high God, You alone are immortal, abiding in unapproachable light. In wisdom You created the world; You separated the light from the darkness, and set the sun, the greater light, to rule the day, and the lesser light, the moon, and the stars, to rule the night. You have judged us worthy, though sinners, at this present hour to come into Your presence, giving thanks and offering You our evening praise. Loving Lord, let our prayer rise as incense before You, and accept it as a fragrant offering. Make this evening and the coming night peaceful for us. Gird us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the terror of the night and from everything that lurks about in the darkness. And let our sleep, which You have given us for rest, given our weakness, be free of all demonic images. Yes, Master of all, source of all blessings, so that, even as we slumber in our beds, we may speak Your Name in the night, and so, enlightened by the contemplation of Your statutes, we may rise, our souls rejoicing, to glorify Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to Your compassion, for our own sins and for those of all Your people, asking that, at the intercession of the holy Theotokos, You will show them mercy.

DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, raise us up and protect us, O God, by your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the repose of our souls and bodies, and to You do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For a perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless evening, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For the completion of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good

account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For you are a good and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST (in a low voice)

O Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for to You, the fearful Judge who yet love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

PRIEST

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Aposticha.

Mode 3. Idiomelon.

Now the tongues have become apparent, as a sign for all. The Jews, from whom Christ came in the flesh, were sick with unbelief and thus they fell out of the grace of God. We who are from the Gentiles have been counted worthy of the divine light, for we were strengthened by the words of the Disciples, who declared the glory of God the benefactor of all. Let us join them, and bend our hearts along with our knees, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, let us in faith worship Him, the Savior of our souls.

Mode 3. Idiomelon.

Verse: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Now the Spirit, the Comforter, is poured out on all flesh. It started with the host of the Apostles, and from them It spread out the grace to the believers by participation. It's mighty coming is confirmed by distributing the tongues in the form of fire to the Disciples, to extol and glorify God. So, now that our hearts are noetically illumined, and we are fortified in faith by the Holy Spirit, let us earnestly pray for the salvation of our souls.

Mode 3. Idiomelon.

Verse: *Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

Now the Apostles of Christ are clothed with power from on high; for the Comforter renews them and is renewed in them, by a mystical renewal of knowledge. And preaching in those strange and exalted words, they instruct us to worship the eternal and simple nature in three hypostases of God the benefactor of all. Therefore, since we have been illumined by their teachings, let us worship Father, Son and Spirit, and let us earnestly pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory. Both now. **Mode pl. 4.**

Come, all people, let us worship the one God in three hypostases: the Son in the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Father, outside of time, begat the Son, co-eternal and sharing the throne, and the Holy Spirit was in the Father, glorified with the Son. One power, one essence, one Godhead, which we all worship and we say: "Holy God, You created all things through the Son by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit. Holy Mighty, through You we came to know the Father and the Holy Spirit came to the world. Holy Immortal, the Comforter Spirit, You proceed from the Father and rest in the Son. O Holy Trinity, glory to You!"

PRIEST

Song of Simeon.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light

for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel. *(RSV)*

PEOPLE

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

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

Glory to Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. *(Amen.)*

CHOIR

Apolytikion. Mode pl. 4.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made the fishermen all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them You drew the world into Your net. O Lover of mankind, glory to You. (3)

DEACON

Wisdom!

(Father, bless!)

PEOPLE

Amen.

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

READER

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

PRIEST

May Christ our true God, Who emptied Himself, leaving the bosom of the Father to assume our mortal nature and deify it, then ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of our God and Father; Who sent the Holy Spirit, co-eternal divine and of equal power and glory, upon His holy disciples and Apostles, thus illuminating them, and through them the whole universe, through the prayers of His all-holy and blameless holy Mother, the holy, glorious, illustrious, divine heralds and Spirit-bearing Apostles, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us in His goodness.