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DAILY VESPERS ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

The Conception of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

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

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee! O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the

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

All: Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover

the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their

spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), *N.*, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city¹ and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

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.

KATHISMA XV

PSALM 105

Reader: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever. Who shall tell of the mighty acts of the Lord? Who shall make all his praises to be heard? Blessed are they that keep judgement and do righteousness at all times. Remember us, O Lord, in Thy favour for Thy people; visit us with Thy salvation, That we may see it in the goodness of Thy chosen, that we may be glad in the gladness of Thy nation, that we may glory with Thine inheritance. We have sinned with our fathers, we have done iniquity, we have done unrighteousness. Our fathers in Egypt understood not Thy wonders, and they remembered not the multitude of Thy mercy. And they embittered Thee as they went up by the Red Sea. And He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make known His mighty power. And He rebuked the Red Sea, and it was dried up; and He led them into the deep as in a wilderness. And He saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of enemies. The waters covered their oppressors; not one of them was left. And they believed His word, and they sang His praise. They made haste, they forgot His works, they awaited not His counsel. And they desired a desire in the wilderness, and made trial of God in the waterless place. And He gave them their request, and sent forth fullness into their souls. And they provoked Moses in the camp, and Aaron the holy one of the Lord. The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered over the congregation of Abiron. And a fire was kindled in their congregation, a flame burned up the sinners. And they made a calf in Horeb, and they worshipped the graven thing. And they changed His glory into the likeness of a calf that eateth grass. And they forgot God Who had saved them,

¹ Or "countryside" or "village" or "island" or "holy monastery."

Who had done great things in Egypt, wonders in the land of Ham, terrible things at the Red Sea. And He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen stood in the breach before Him, to turn away His wrath, lest He should destroy them. And they set a nought the desirable land; they believed not His word. And they murmured in their tents; they hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord. And He lifted up His hand against them, to cast them down in the wilderness, To cast down their seed among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands. And they were made initiates of Baal-phegor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. And they provoked Him with their inventions, and destruction was multiplied among them. And Phineas stood up and made appeasement; and the plague was abated. And it was counted unto him for righteousness, unto generation and generation for evermore. And they provoked Him at the water of gainsaying, and Moses suffered hurt for their sakes; for they embittered his spirit, and he gave judgement with his lips. They did not destroy the heathen, concerning which the Lord had spoken to them. They mingled among the nations and learned their works; and they served their graven things, and it became for them a stumbling-block. And they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto demons. And they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the graven things of Canaan. And the land was befouled with the blood of murder, and it was defiled with their works; and they went a whoring with their own inventions. And with anger was the Lord wroth against His people, and He abhorred His inheritance. And He gave them into the hands of enemies, and they that hated them were lords over them. And their enemies afflicted them;

and they were humbled under their hands. Many times He delivered them; but they embittered Him with their counsel, and they were humbled in their iniquities. And the Lord saw when they were in affliction, when He hearkened unto their supplication. And He remembered His covenant and repented according to the multitude of His mercy. And He caused them to be pitied in the sight of all that had taken them captive. Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, That we may confess Thy holy name, that we may glory in Thy praise. Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting; and all the peoples shall say: So be it. So be it.

Stasis

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

PSALM 106

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. So let them say that have been redeemed by the Lord, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. From the lands hath He gathered them, from the east, from the west, from the north, and from the sea. They wandered in the wilderness, in a waterless land; they found not the path to a city of habitation. Hungering and thirsting, their soul within them fainted. And they cried unto the Lord in their affliction, and out of their distresses He delivered them. And He guided them into the right way that they might go to a city for habitation. Let them give thanks unto the

Lord for His mercies, and for His wondrous works for the sons of men. For He satisfied the empty soul, and the hungry soul hath He filled with good things. As for them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, fettered with beggary and iron, Because they were embittered against the sayings of God and provoked the counsel of the Most High, Yea, with labours was their heart brought low; they waxed feeble, and there was none to help. And they cried unto the Lord in their affliction, and out of their distresses He saved them. And He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and their bonds He brake asunder. Let them give thanks unto the Lord for His mercies, and for His wondrous works for the sons of men. For He shattered the gates of brass, and brake the bars of iron. He helped them out of the way of their lawlessness; for on account of their iniquities had they been brought low. All food did their soul abhor, and they drew nigh even unto the gates of death. And they cried unto the Lord in their affliction, and out of their distresses He saved them. He sent forth His Word and He healed them, and He delivered them from their corruption. Let them give thanks unto the Lord for His mercies, and for His wondrous works for the sons of men. And let them sacrifice to Him a sacrifice of praise, and let them proclaim His works with rejoicing. They that go down to the sea in ships, doing their work in many waters, These have seen the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep. He spake, and a wind of tempest arose, and the waves thereof were lifted up. They mount as high as the heavens, and they go down into the abysses; their soul was melted with evils. They were troubled, and they reeled like one drunken, and all their wisdom was swallowed up. And they cried unto the Lord in their affliction, and out of

their distresses He brought them. And He commanded the tempest, and it was calmed into a breeze, and the waves thereof fell silent. And they were glad, because they were quiet, and He guided them to the haven of His will. Let them give thanks unto the Lord for His mercies, and for His wondrous works for the sons of men. Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people, and in the seat of the elders let them praise Him. He turned rivers into a wilderness, and the coursings of waters into a thirsting land, A fruitful land into saltiness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. He turned a wilderness into pools of waters, and a parched land into streams of water. And He made the hungry to dwell therein, and they established cities for habitation. And they sowed field and planted vineyards, and they made fruits of increase. And He blessed them and they were multiplied greatly, and He diminished not the number of their cattle. And again they became few and were brought low by affliction, evils, and sorrows. Contempt was poured out upon their princes, and He caused them to wander in a land untrodden, where there is no way. And He helped the poor man out of his poverty, and made his kindred like a flock. The upright shall see it and shall be glad, and all iniquity shall stop its mouth. Who is wise and will keep these things, and will understand the mercies of the Lord?

Stasis

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

PSALM 107

Ready is my heart, O God, ready is my heart; I will sing and chant in my glory. Awake, O my glory; awake, O psaltery and harp; I myself will awake at dawn. I will confess Thee among the peoples, O Lord, I will chant unto Thee among the nations. For great above the heavens is Thy mercy, and even unto the clouds is Thy truth. Be Thou exalted above the heavens, O God, and Thy glory above all the earth. That Thy beloved ones may be delivered, save Thou with Thy right hand and hearken unto me. God hath spoken in His sanctuary: I will be exalted, and I will divide Sikima, and the vale of tabernacles will I measure out. Mine is Galaad, and Mine is Manasses, and Ephraim is the protection of My head. Judah is My king, Moab is the cauldron of My hope. Upon Idumea will I stretch out My shoe; the foreign tribes have been subjected unto Me. Who will bring me into a fortified city? Or who will lead me into Idumea? Wilt Thou not, O God, Who hast spurned us? And wilt Thou not, O God, go forth with our forces? Give us help from affliction, for vain is the salvation of man. In God we shall work mighty deeds, and He will bring to nought our enemies.

PSALM 108

O God, my praise do not pass over in silence; for the mouth of the sinner and the mouth of the deceitful man are opened against me. They have spoken against me with a deceitful tongue, and with words of hatred have they encompassed me, and they have warred against me without a cause. In return for my love, they have falsely accused me; but as for me, I gave myself to prayer. And they repaid me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Set Thou a sinner over him, and let the devil stand at his right hand.

When he is judged, let him go forth condemned, and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few, and his bishopric let another take. let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be vagabonds without a dwelling-place, and let them beg; let them be cast out from their ruined dwellings. Let his creditor search out all his substance, and let strangers plunder all his labours. Let there be for him no helper, nor anyone to pity his fatherless children. Let his children be given over to utter destruction; in a single generation let his name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the Lord, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the Lord continually, and let the memory of them perish from off the earth, Because he remembered not to show mercy; and persecuted a man that was poor and a beggar, and one broken in heart, that he might slay him. And he loved cursing, and it shall come upon him; and he delighted not in blessing, and it shall be far from him. And he put on cursing like a garment, and it went in like water into his bowels, and like oil into his bones. Let it be for him like a garment wherewith he is clothed, and like a girdle wherewith continually he is girded. This is the dealing of the Lord with them that slander me, and with them that speak evil things against my soul. But Thou, O Lord, O Lord, deal Thou with me for Thy name's sake; for Thy mercy is good. Deliver me, for a poor man am I and a pauper, and my heart is troubled within me. Like a shadow when it declineth am I taken away, I am shaken off as the locusts. My knees are grown weak through fasting, and my flesh is changed for want of oil. And I am become a reproach unto them; they saw me and wagged their heads. Help me, O Lord my God, and save me according to Thy mercy. And let them

know that this is Thy hand and that Thou, O Lord, hast wrought it. They will curse, and Thou wilt bless; let them that rise up against me be put to shame, but Thy servant shall be glad. Let them that slander me be clothed with confusion, and let them be covered with shame as with a mantle. I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth, and in the midst of many will I praise Him. For He hath stood at the right hand of the poor, to save my soul from them that persecute me.

Final Stasis

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

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

LITTLE LITANY

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

“LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE FOUR

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou

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

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

- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.

- Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.
- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.
- The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.
- Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.
- Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

For St. John the Baptist in Tone Four

(**Thou who wast called from on high**)

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

While executing as priest the sacred office * in the divine Temple, off'ring up the people's prayers * unto the Lord All-compassionate * and Benefactor, * the most divine Zacharias then beheld * a divine and holy Angel crying unto him: * Thy supplication and prayer is heard; * take heart, O Elder, * and doubt me not, for thou shalt beget a child, * the Lord's divine Forerunner, who in truth * is far greater than any of woman born; * in the pow'r of Elias, * he shall go before the promised Christ.

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

While executing as priest the sacred office * in the divine Temple, off'ring up the people's prayers * unto the Lord All-compassionate * and Benefactor, * the most divine Zacharias then beheld * a divine and holy Angel crying unto him: * Thy supplica-

tion and prayer is heard; * take heart, O Elder, * and doubt me not, for thou shalt beget a child, * the Lord's divine Forerunner, who in truth * is far greater than any of woman born; * in the pow'r of Elias, * he shall go before the promised Christ.

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

Thou seemest strange in thy countenance and manner; * strange to me be all these words and tidings thou hast brought; * so Zacharias replied to him. * For I came hither * to ask salvation for all the people's sake, * not indeed to have a child as thou hast said to me. * I find thee contrary to the things * which I have asked for; * and I surmise that thou tellest not the truth, * for how shall what thou sayest be confirmed? * For Elizabeth suffreth from barrenness; * as for me, as thou seest, * I am very far advanced in years.

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

Thou seemest strange in thy countenance and manner; * strange to me be all these words and tidings thou hast brought; * so Zacharias replied to him. * For I came hither * to ask salvation for all the people's sake, * not indeed to have a child as thou hast said to me. * I find thee contrary to the things * which I have asked for; * and I surmise that thou tellest not the truth, * for how shall what thou sayest be confirmed? * For Elizabeth suffreth from barrenness; * as for me, as thou seest, * I am very far advanced in years.

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

Wherefore dost thou doubt my words, O Zacharias? * Wherefore dost thou say I bring false tidings unto thee? * I am an

Archangel of our God, * and stand before thee * to tell thee all that hath been commanded me; * and since thou hast not believed but rather disbelieved, * thou shalt be dumb and shalt speak no more * till thou beholdest * that what I say, God Himself shall bring to pass; * and when Elizabeth shall bear for thee * the great voice of the Word, the Forerunner John, * with thy tongue speaking plainly, * thou shalt bless the God of Israel.

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

Wherefore dost thou doubt my words, O Zacharias? * Wherefore dost thou say I bring false tidings unto thee? * I am an Archangel of our God, * and stand before thee * to tell thee all that hath been commanded me; * and since thou hast not believed but rather disbelieved, * thou shalt be dumb and shalt speak no more * till thou beholdest * that what I say, God Himself shall bring to pass; * and when Elizabeth shall bear for thee * the great voice of the Word, the Forerunner John, * with thy tongue speaking plainly, * thou shalt bless the God of Israel.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE SIX

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

John the Forerunner, the fruit of prayer, hath budded from a barren womb today. Rejoice, O wilderness, and dance for joy, O mankind! Behold, the preacher of repentance beginneth to take flesh in his mother's womb. Come, as we rejoice over his glorious conception, O ye feast-lovers, let us form a choir, crying: O thou greatest of them that are born of women, cease not to intercede for us who with faith honor thy divine conception, that we may find forgiveness of sins and Great Mercy.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX²

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

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travailing and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS IS

READ (NOT SUNG!)

All: Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

THURSDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON

Psalm 120, in Tone Six

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth. (*twice*)

Verse: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help.

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

² This Theotokion is the same one used at Saturday evening Vespers, in the tone matching the Doxasticon. It is always used at Great Vespers for high rank commemoration when served Sunday through Thursday evenings. (On Friday evening, we use the one from the Paraklitiki in the tone of the week; on Saturday evening, we use the one from the Octoechos matching the tone of the Resurrectional stichera.)

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:

Priest: O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and thine inheritance; for unto thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating thy mercy and looking confidently for thy 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.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE APOSTICHA FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE SIX

*(**Having laid up all their hope**)*

Entering in holiness * into the Holy of Holies * as the sacred Scripture saith, * the most sacred Prophet and * holy priest of God * was addressed with these words * by a holy Angel: * Thine entreaty hath been heard, he said, * for now the barrenness * of thy wife Elizabeth hath been loosed, * O Elder, and she shall bring forth * unto thee a son, the Forerunner John, * the lamp of the bright Sun, * the Prophet of the Most High, and the voice * of the Divine Word, Who shone on us * from the Virgin Mother of God.

Verse 1. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord, to prepare His ways.

The most blessed Elder spake * in answer unto the Angel: * Plainly now declare to me, * how shall I know certainly * this that thou hast said? * For I am full of days, * even as thou seest; * barren is my wife Elizabeth; * how canst thou tell me then * things beyond man's nature and never seen? * I am amazed and now suspect * thou by no means speakest the truth, O man. * Get thee hence, for I ask * salvation for the people of the Lord, * and not that I might receive a child, * which doth seem impossible.

Verse 2. That we might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

I am an Archangel of * God the Almighty and Most High, * and my name is Gabriel; * thus the incorporeal * to the elder spake. * Be thou dumb for a time, * exercising silence, * seeing thou hast disbelieved my words. * When thy wife beareth thee * the resounding trumpet of God the Word, * the Spirit then shall loose thy tongue * and thou

shalt most clearly cry unto all: * Thou, O child, shalt be called * the Prophet of the Most High, and in grace * thou in all truth shalt prepare His ways, * as it hath seemed good to Him.

DOXASTICON OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE SIX

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

O Baptist, thou camest forth as the Messenger from a barren woman's birth-pangs, and from thy very swaddling clothes thou madest thy dwelling in the wilderness; thou wast shown to be the seal of all the Prophets, for Him Whom they beheld in diverse manners, and foretold in dark sayings, the Same wast thou counted worthy to baptize in the Jordan. Thou heardest the voice of the Father from Heaven bearing witness to His Sonship, and thou beheldest the Spirit in the form of a dove drawing the Father's voice upon Him Who was being baptized, O thou that art higher than all the Prophets, cease not to intercede for us who faithfully celebrate thy memorial.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX

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

Thou art the true vine, O Theotokos, bearing the Fruit of life. Thee do we implore. Wherefore, O Lady, intercede thou together with the Forerunner and with all the saints for the salvation of our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

All: 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 lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

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

All: Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

Rejoice, O thou barren one who hadst not borne until now; * for lo, in all truth thou hast conceived the lamp of the Sun, and he shall send forth his light * over all the earth, which is afflicted with blindness. * Dance, O Zachariah, and cry out with great boldness: * The one to be born is the blest Prophet of God Most High.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS³ IN SAME TONE

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

The Mystery which was hidden from everlasting and was unknown of the angels, O Theotokos, wast revealed through thee, to those who dwell upon earth. In that God, having become incarnate—in unconfused union—of His own good will accepted the Cross for our sake. Whereby He raised again the first created, and hath saved our souls from death.

THE EKTENIA

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Deacon: Again we pray for our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), *N.*

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

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

³ This Theotokion is the same one used at Saturday evening Vespers, in the tone matching the final Apolytikion. It is always used at Great Vespers for high rank commemoration when served Sunday through Friday evenings.

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing, is blessed, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Choir/Reader: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

THE LITTLE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet,

Forerunner and Baptist John—whose conception we now celebrate; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyr Raidos of Egypt; New-martyrs Nicholas the Grocer and John of Brachorion; Venerable Xanthippa and Polyxena of Spain, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

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

All: Amen.