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GREAT VESPERS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER, 2022

*The holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt;  
the holy Martyrs Victor of Italy & Vincent the Deacon  
of Saragossa in Spain; the holy Martyr Stephanie;  
our Righteous Father Theodore the Confessor,  
Abbot of Studium*

*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 city 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.

### “BLESSED IS THE MAN”

(*A melodic abbreviation of 1<sup>st</sup> Stasis of Kathisma I, chanted in tone 5 or tone 8*)

*Choir:* Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

- For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Salvation belongs to the Lord, and Thy blessing be upon Thy people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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 EIGHT

*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. Menas in Tone Eight

(\*\*O strange wonder\*\*)

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

*Thou didst give thyself up like a lamb \* to willing slaughter and death, \* imitating the Passion of \* Him Who is dispassionate, \* O prizewinner, all-famed Menas. \* The wrath of rulers didst thou not fear at all, \* nor didst thou shrink back from torments of the flesh. \* O mighty fortitude \* of thy struggles and*

resistance, whereby thou \* threwest to the earth the haughty foe, O Martyr of 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.*

Thou wast scraped and torn with many wounds; \* thou, like the Master of old, \* wast stretched out on a wooden stock; \* all thy sides were ruthlessly \* crushed and beaten with iron rods. \* Yet thou didst never deny the Name of Christ, \* having the eyes of thy soul on Him alone; \* looking forth steadfastly \* unto Him, O Saint, thou bravely didst endure \* all the pain inflicted on thy flesh, O blest Menas.

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

All the darkness of idolatry, \* the murky gloom of the world, \* with the councils of godless men \* and the mortal soldiery \* thou forsookest for love of Christ; \* and thou wast numbered, O most renowned Menas, \* with that enlistment of His divine elect. \* Thence wast thou shown to be \* an unconquered Martyr in all truth when thou \* strovest most courageously in contest for His sake.

For St. Theodore in Tone Eight

(\**O strange wonder*\*)

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

Father truly worthy of thy name, \* from Heaven thou didst receive \* gifts transcending the mind of man, \* piously imparting them \* unto those who longed after them; \* having increased thus thy talent, O most blest, \* thou hast now heard that divine and blessed voice \* calling thee from within \* the bride-chamber, wherein thou dost now abide, \* standing, O wise Theodore, at the Almighty's throne.

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

Father of Fathers, wise Theodore, \* thou didst present unto Christ \* an august multitude of monks, \* which were saved because of thee, \* who didst imitate Christ in all, \* shining with teachings and beautifully adorned \* as a protector of souls, being shown forth \* as the mouth of the Lord, \* speaking as a Prophet by the grace of God; \* as thou standest in His presence now, remember us.

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

Sacred initiate Theodore, \* the Spirit's bounteous grace \* was poured forth on thy blessed lips, \* and it made a mighty stream \* of sound doctrines gush forth therefrom, \* making a champion of godly piety \* and a most mighty defender of the truth \* of thee, O man most wise, \* a most perfect canon of monastic life, \* and a ground and pillar of our Orthodox belief.

#### DOXASTICON FOR ST. MENAS AND THE MARTYRS IN TONE SIX

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

Once again the annual memorial of the luminaries of the whole world, Menas, Victor and Vincent hath dawned upon us, illuminating the hearts of the faithful with their contests for Christ through the Cross; wherefore, with hymns let us honor Christ our God, Who hath crowned them with glory and honor.

#### THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX<sup>1</sup>

*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,

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us attend!

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT  
THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

*Choir:* 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.

THE PARAMIA

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (43:9-14).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Thus saith the Lord: All nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them; who will declare these things among them? Or who will declare to you things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the truth. Be

ye My witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and My servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know, and believe Me, and understand that I am. Before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. I am God, and beside Me there is no savior. I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you. Ye are My witnesses, and I am a witness, saith the Lord God. Even from the beginning I am; and there is none that can deliver out of My hands. I will work, and who shall turn it back? Thus saith the Lord God that redeemeth you, the Holy One of Israel.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction, but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded; for God proved them and found them worthy for Himself As gold in the furnace hath He tried them, and received them as a burnt offering. And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge nations and have dominion over peoples, and their Lord shall reign unto the ages. They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth; and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him; for grace and mercy is in His Saints, and visitation among His elect.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon (5:15-6:3).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* The righteous live forever; and their reward is in the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. Therefore, shall they receive the kingdom of majesty and the crown of comeliness from the Lord's hand, for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. He shall take to Him His jealousy for complete armor, and make creation His weapon for the warding off of His enemies. He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate, and true judgment instead of a helmet. He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. His severe wrath shall He sharpen for a sword, and the world shall fight with Him against the unwise. Then shall the right-aiming thunderbolts go abroad, and from the clouds, as from a well-drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark. And as from a stone-bow shall hailstones full of wrath be cast forth, and the water of the sea shall rage indignantly against them, and floods shall cruelly drown them. Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away; thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. Hear, therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, ye that rule a multitude and vaunt yourselves in throngs of nations, for power is given you from the Lord and sovereignty from the Most High.

#### THE AUGMENTED EKTENIA

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy, 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.

*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.

### 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.*

APOSTICHA FOR ST. MENAS &  
THE SAINTS IN TONE FOUR

*(\*\*As one valiant\*\*)*

Pierced with caltrops, O brave Menas, \* fiercely beaten with leathern whips, \* and with all thy body expended by the fire, \* thou yet didst never renounce the saving Name of the Saviour Christ, \* nor wast thou subdued in mind, \* nor to idols didst sacrifice, \* but thou didst become \* a pure sacrifice and a perfect voluntary victim, O Great Martyr, \* willingly slain for thy Master's sake.

*Verse 1. Wondrous is God in His saints.*

Thou forsookest the soldiery \* that is temp'ral, O wise Menas, \* giving up thyself unto torments of all kinds, \* and at the ruthlessness of the judge wast wounded unsparingly \* and beheaded with the sword, \* much-contending and glorious \* Martyr of the Lord; \* wherefore now, with the armies of the Angels, thou rejoicest in the Heavens, \* as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

*Verse 2. In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous.*

Martyr Victor most glorious, \* when thine eyes had been rooted out \* and thou wast suspended upon a wooden post, \* burnt on all sides by the torches at the savagery of the judge \* and thy sinews had been cut \* and the sword felled thy blessed head, \* thou wast filled with joy, \* O illustrious athlete of the Savior, who wast strengthened by the Spirit \* to overcome all the foe's arrays.

*Verse 3. The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.*

O much-suffering Stephanie, \* with the crown of the gifts of grace \* hath the Lord now crowned thee, who gavest up thyself \* to willing torments and pains in the nobility of thy soul: \* 'twixt two palm trees thou wast bound, \* and thereby thou wast rent in twain, \* spreading out thy wings, \* flying up unto God like a swift sparrow and forsaking to the fowlers \* thy mortal body, O wondrous one.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. MENAS IN  
TONE ONE

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

When thou hadst wondrously appeared, O Martyr, thou didst raise as from sleep the man slain at the inn by the innkeeper; and having thrashed the murderer for his chastisement, thou didst count both worthy of salvation. As for the woman that called out to thee by the wayside, thou didst save her from her lascivious assailant, causing him to live chastely thereafter. And we also, O all-glorious and all-famed Menas, pray thee to deliver us from the defilement of the passions, and to save our souls.

THEOTOKION FOR THE FOREFEAST  
OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR

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

Come, all ye people, let us praise her who alone is blameless, who was proclaimed beforehand by the Prophets, and is offered in the temple, the Mother foreordained before the ages and revealed in the last times as the Theotokos. O Lord, by her intercessions, grant us Thy peace and Great Mercy.

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 ST. MENAS IN TONE FIVE

(*\*\*Let us worship the Word\*\**)

With great valor of soul, thou didst strive in martyrdom, \* and having fought the good fight, O divine Great Martyr Menas, \* thou from Heaven hast received the gift of miracles; \* for God hath shown thee to the world \* as a worker of great signs, and He made thee our protector \* and a swift help in afflictions and ever-vigilant defense from harm.

### APOLYTIKION OF THE MARTYRS IN TONE FOUR

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

With songs of praise, let us hymn the steadfast athletes of Christ: \* divine Victor, Vincent, and the noble Stephanie, with Menas the all-glorious. \* Having crushed the foe in sundry ages and countries, \* they rejoice together, glorified in the Heavens. \* Have mercy, O Christ Savior, on all, by Thy Great Martyrs' prayers.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEODORE THE STUDITE IN TONE EIGHT

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

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of monastics, O wise Theodore, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

### THEOTOKION<sup>2</sup> IN TONE EIGHT

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

Thou Who for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O good One, and didst despoil death through death, and as God didst reveal resurrection. Despise not those Whom Thou hast created with Thine own hand, show forth Thy love for mankind, O merciful One. Accept the intercessions of Thy mother, the Theotokos for us, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* Father, bless.

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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:* 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 GREAT 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; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; 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 Menas of Egypt; Martyrs Victor and Stephanie in Damascus; Martyr Vincent of Spain; Venerable Theodore the Studite; Blessed Maximos the fool-for-Christ; Martyr Stephen of Dechani, king of Serbia, Stephen Urosh and Princess Milica; and Martin the merciful, bishop of Tours, 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.