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SATURDAY OF FIFTH WEEK IN GREAT LENT  
*Saturday of the Akathist Hymn*

**THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

THE OPENING

*Priest:* Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

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.

*The Prayer of the First Antiphon*

*Priest:* (*Quietly*) O Lord our God, whose might is beyond compare, whose glory is incomprehensible, whose mercy is boundless, and whose love toward mankind is ineffable: Do thou thyself, O Master, in thy tender compassion look down upon us and upon this holy house, and grant us and those who pray with us thy rich mercies and compassions.

(*Aloud*) 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.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON, IN TONE 2

*Verse:* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. (Ps. 102:1)

*Refrain:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

*Verse:* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that he hath done for thee. (Ps. 102:2)

*Refrain:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

*Verse:* The Lord in heaven hath prepared his throne, and his kingdom ruleth over all. (Ps. 102:19)

*Refrain:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

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

*Refrain:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

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.

*The Prayer of the Second Antiphon*

*Priest: (Quietly)* O Lord our God, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance; preserve the fulness of thy Church, sanctify those who love the beauty of thy house, glorify them in recompense by thy divine power, and forsake us not who hope on thee.

*(Aloud)* 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.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON, IN TONE 2

*Verse:* Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being. (Ps. 145:1-2)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in Thy saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*Verse:* Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God. (Ps. 145:5)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in Thy saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*Verse:* The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation. (Ps. 145:10)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in Thy saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

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

*Choir:* Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man; and wast crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled down death by death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

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.

*The Prayer of the Third Antiphon*

*Priest: (Quietly)* O thou who hast bestowed on us these common and united supplications and dost promise that when two or three are of one accord in thy name thou wilt grant their requests: do thou also now fulfil the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this age the knowledge of thy truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting.

*(Aloud)* 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.*

*As the clergy prepare for the Little Entrance, the priest recites the following prayer quietly:* O Master, Lord our God, who hast appointed in heaven orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of thy glory: Cause that with our entrance there may be an entrance of holy angels serving with us and glorifying thy goodness. 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.. Amen.

**THE THIRD ANTIPHON, IN TONE 8**

*Verse:* Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear; and forget thine own people and thy father's house. *(Ps.44:9)*

*Choir (Apolytikion of Akathist Saturday, in tone 8):* With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Virgin: Lo, He Who in His Descent did bow the Heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and I cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

*Verse:* The rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. *(Ps.44:11b)*

*Choir (Apolytikion of Akathist Saturday, in tone 8):* With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Virgin: Lo, He Who in His Descent did bow the Heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and I cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

*Verse:* I shall commemorate thy name in every generation and generation. *(Ps.44:16)*

*Choir (Apolytikion of Akathist Saturday, in tone 8):* With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Virgin: Lo, He Who in His Descent did bow the Heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and I cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

**THE EISODIKON**

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Stand upright!

*Verse:* O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

*Choir:* O Son of God, Who art wondrous in Thy saints, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Apolytikia & Kontakion*

**APOLYTIKION OF AKATHIST SATURDAY,  
IN TONE 8**

With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Virgin: Lo, He Who in His Descent did bow the Heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and I cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,  
IN TONE 1**

*(\*\*The soldiers standing guard\*\*)*

When Christ God had been born for our sakes from the Virgin, \* thou faithfully didst follow Him, keeping His statutes, \* and heeding His sacred laws, O august Mary Magdalene. \* Hence, as we today observe thy holy remembrance, \* we receive the loosing of our sins and transgressions \* through thy holy prayer(s) for us.

KONTAKION OF AKATHIST SATURDAY,  
IN TONE 8

(\*\*Own special melody\*\*)

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

*During the chanting of the Apolytikia, the priest recites the prayer of the Trisagion quietly: O holy God, who restest in the holy place, who art hymned by the seraphim with thrice-holy cry and glorified by the cherubim and worshipped by every heavenly power, who out of nothingness hast brought all things into being, who hast created man according to thine image and likeness and hast adorned him with thine every gift; who givest to him that askest wisdom and understanding, who despisest not the sinner but hast appointed repentance unto salvation, who hast vouchsafed unto us, thy humble and unworthy servants, even in this hour, to stand before the glory of thy holy altar and to offer the worship and praise which are due unto thee: Thyself, O Master, receive even from the mouth of us sinners the thrice-holy hymn and visit us in thy goodness. Pardon us every transgression both voluntary and involuntary; sanctify our souls and bodies; and grant us to serve thee in holiness all the days of our life, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints, who from the beginning of the world have been well-pleasing unto thee.*

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For holy art Thou, O our God, 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 TRISAGION HYMN

*Choir:* 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.

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

*Deacon:* Dýnamis.

*Choir:* Holy God, holy Mighty, holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

THE APOSTOLOS & THE GOSPEL

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Prokeimenon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> tone.

(*The song to the Theotokos*)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. (*Luke 1:46, 47*) {*twice*}

*Verse:* For He hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. (*Luke 1:48*)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

*Apostolos for Akathist Saturday*

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews §320 (9:1-7)

*Deacon:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been

made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

*Priest:* Peace to thee that rearest.

*Reader:* And to thy spirit.

*As the choir chants the Alleluia with verses, the priest recites the prayer of the Gospel quietly while the Gospel-Book, enthroned upon the Holy Table is censed: Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of thy gospel teachings; implant in us also the fear of thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto thee. For thou art the Illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thine unoriginate Father and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*  
*Additional instructions/prayers are found in the Liturgikon.*

*Alleluia, in tone 8*

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Verse 1:* Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness. (Ps.131:8)

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Verse 2:* The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, and He will not annul it (Ps.111:11a)

*Choir:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*The Gospel for Akathist Saturday*

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)

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

*Deacon:* Let us attend!

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As He said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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

*The Homily may be said here*

*In Antiochian usage, some (or all) three Litanies shown in the boxes below are often omitted.*

THE EKTENIA OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

*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 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, hiero-deacons 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 (*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 He 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: (Quietly)* O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of thy servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of thy mercy, and send down thy compassions upon us and upon all thy people, who await thy great and rich mercy.

*(Aloud)* 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 LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS

*Deacon:* Pray to the Lord, ye catechumens.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That he will teach them the word of truth.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That he will reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That he will unite them to his holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Save them; have mercy on them; help them; and keep them, O God, by thy grace.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* Bow your heads to the Lord, ye catechumens.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest: (Quietly)* O Lord our God, who dwellest on high and regardest the humble, who hast sent forth as the salvation of the race of men thine only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ: Look

down upon thy servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before thee; make them worthy in due season of the laver of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to thy holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and number them with thine elect flock:

*(Aloud)* That with us they may glorify thine all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Deacon:* As many as are catechumens, depart. Depart, catechumens. As many as are catechumens, depart. Let none of the catechumens remain.

#### THE FIRST LITANY OF THE FAITHFUL

*Deacon:* As many as are of the faithful, 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. Wisdom!

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest: (Quietly)* We give thanks unto thee, O Lord God of hosts, who hast made us worthy to stand even now before thy holy altar and to fall down before thy compassions for our sins and the ignorance of the people. Receive our supplications, O God; make us worthy to offer unto thee prayers and supplications and bloodless sacrifices for all thy people. And enable us, whom thou hast placed in this thy ministry, by the power of thy Holy Spirit, blamelessly and without offense, in the pure witness of our conscience, to call upon thee at all times and in every place, that hearing us thou mayest show mercy upon us according to the fulness of thy goodness:

*(Aloud)* 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.

#### THE SECOND LITANY OF THE FAITHFUL

*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. Wisdom!

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest: (Quietly)* Again and oftentimes we fall down before thee and beseech thee, O good One who lovest mankind, that looking down upon our petition thou wilt cleanse our

souls and bodies from every defilement of flesh or spirit, and grant us to stand blamelessly and without condemnation before thy holy altar. Grant also, O God, to those who pray with us growth in life and faith and spiritual understanding. Grant them always blamelessly to serve thee with fear and love and to partake without condemnation of thy holy mysteries and to be accounted worthy of thy heavenly kingdom:

*(Aloud)* That guarded always by thy might we may ascribe glory unto thee: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*During the chanting of the Cherubic Hymn, the priest recites the following prayer:* No one who is bound with the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach or to draw nigh or to serve thee, O King of glory, for to serve thee, is a great and fearful thing even to the heavenly powers. Nevertheless through thine unspeakable and boundless love toward mankind thou didst become man, yet without change or alteration, and as Master of all didst take the name of our High Priest and delivered unto us the ministry of this liturgic and bloodless sacrifice. For thou alone, O Lord our God, rulest over those in heaven and on earth, who art borne on the throne of the cherubim, who art Lord of the seraphim and King of Israel, who alone art holy and restest in the holy place. Wherefore I implore thee who alone art good and art ready to listen: Look down upon me, a sinner and thine unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and my heart from an evil conscience, and by the power of thy Holy Spirit enable me, who am endued with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this thy holy table, and perform the sacred mystery of thy holy and immaculate Body and precious Blood. For I draw near unto thee, and bowing my neck I pray thee. Turn not thy face from me, neither cast me out from among thy servants, but vouchsafe that these gifts may be offered unto thee by me, thy sinful and unworthy servant; for thou thyself art he that offereth and is offered, that accepteth and is distributed, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Additional instructions/prayers are found in the Liturgikon.*

#### THE CHERUBIC HYMN & THE GREAT ENTRANCE

*Choir:* We who mystically represent the Cherubic, and sing to the life-giving Trinity the thrice-holy hymn, let us now lay aside all earthly care.

*As the priest prepares to celebrate the dread ministry by reverent prayer, he censens the holy table, the altar area, the major icons and the faithful so that all are sanctified for their awesome ministry. As the holy gifts are carried to the Holy Table for the offering of the holy sacrifice in the Anaphora, the deacon and priest(s) intone the following petition:*

*Deacon:* All of you the Lord God remember in his kingdom, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*The priest(s), as they process then commemorate, first the hierarchs and clergy, then the offerers of the Liturgy and those for whom they offer and lastly the departed for whom prayers are sought. To each petition, the people chant as follows:*

*Choir:* Amen.

*The choir now concludes the Cherubic Hymn as the gifts are placed upon the holy table and suitably arranged:*

*Choir:* That we may receive the King of all, who comes invisibly upborne by the Angelic Hosts. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

*Deacon:* Let us complete our prayers unto the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the precious Gifts now offered, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God enter therein, 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:* That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Deacon:* Pardon and remission of our sins and 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 dread 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: (Quietly)* O Lord God Almighty, who alone art holy, who dost accept a sacrifice of praise from those who call upon thee with their whole heart: Receive also the prayer of us sinners, and lead us to thy holy altar, and enable us to offer unto thee gifts and spiritual sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorance of the people, and make us worthy to find grace in thy sight, that our sacrifice may be acceptable unto thee and that the good Spirit

of thy grace may rest upon us and upon these gifts here spread forth and upon all thy people:

*(Aloud)* Through the compassions of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE KISS OF PEACE

*Priest:* Peace be to all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Deacon:* Let us love one another, that with one accord we may confess,

*Choir:* Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and undivided.

*Deacon:* The Doors! The Doors! In Wisdom let us attend.

#### THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets;

And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THE ANAPHORA OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM  
*Deacon:* Let us stand aright; let us stand with fear; let us attend, that we may offer the Holy Oblation in peace.

*Choir:* A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Priest:* Let us lift up our hearts.

*Choir:* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

*Choir:* It is meet and right to worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in Essence, and undivided:

*The Priest enters the Sanctuary while the choir is singing the above hymn and reads the following prayer:*

*Priest: (Quietly)* It is meet and right to hymn thee, to bless thee, to praise thee, to give thanks unto thee and to worship thee in every place of thy dominion; for thou art God ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, ever-existing and eternally the same, thou and thine only-begotten Son and thy Holy Spirit. Thou it was who didst bring us from non-existence into being and when we had fallen away didst raise us up again, and didst not cease to do all things until thou hadst brought us up to heaven and hadst endowed us with thy kingdom which is to come. For all these things we give thanks unto thee, and to thine only-begotten Son and to thy Holy Spirit; for all things of which we know and of which we know not and for all the benefits bestowed upon us, both manifest and unseen. And we give thanks unto thee also for

this ministry which thou dost vouchsafe to receive at our hands, even though there stand beside thee thousands of archangels and ten thousands of of archangels and ten thousands of angels, the cherubim and the seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring aloft, borne on their wings:

*(Aloud)* Singing the Triumphal Hymn, shouting, proclaiming, and saying:

*Choir:* Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of thy glory; Hosanna in the highest: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*While the choir is singing the above hymn, the Priest reads the following prayer:*

*Priest: (Quietly)* With these blessed powers we also, O Master who lovest mankind, cry aloud and say: Holy art thou and all-holy, thou and thine only-begotten Son and thy Holy Spirit; holy art thou and all-holy, and magnificent is thy glory, who hast so loved thy world as to give thine only-begotten Son, that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life, who, when he had come and had fulfilled all the dispensation for us, in the night in which he was betrayed or, rather, gave himself up for the hie of the world, took bread in his holy and immaculate and blameless hands; and when he had given thanks and blessed it and hallowed it and broken it, he gave it to his holy disciples and apostles, saying:

*(Aloud)* Take, eat. This is my Body which is broken for you, for the forgiveness of sins;

*Choir:* Amen

*Priest: (Quietly)* And likewise after supper, he took the cup, saying:

*(Aloud)* Drink of this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest: (Quietly)* Having in remembrance, therefore, this saving commandment and all

those things which have come to pass for us: the cross, the grave, the third-day resurrection, the ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand, and the second and glorious coming:

*(Aloud)* Thine own of thine own, we offer unto thee in behalf of all and for all.

*Choir:* We praise thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thee, O Lord, and we pray unto thee, O our God.

*While the choir is singing the above, the Priest standing in the center of the Altar Table, makes one (1) prostration and says:*

*Priest: (Quietly)* O God, be gracious unto me a sinner, and have mercy on me...

*and reverently continues with the prayer.*

*Priest: (Quietly)* Again we offer unto thee this rational and bloodless worship and beseech thee and pray thee and supplicate thee: Send down thy Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts here spread forth:

*Priest:* And make this bread the precious Body of thy Christ:

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* And that which is in this cup, the precious Blood of thy Christ;

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* Changing them by thy Holy Spirit:

*All:* Amen, Amen, Amen.

*Priest: (Quietly)* That to those who shall partake thereof they may be unto cleansing of soul, unto forgiveness of sins, unto the communion of thy Holy Spirit, unto the fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven and unto boldness toward thee, not unto judgment or unto condemnation. And again we offer unto thee this rational worship for all those who in faith have gone before us to their rest: forefathers, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics and every righteous spirit which has completed this life in faith:

*Censing the Gifts nine times, the priest says:*

*Priest: (Aloud)* Especially our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary:

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS, IN TONE 8

*Choir:* It is truly meet and right to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honourable 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.

*As the choir chants the above hymn to the Theotokos, the priest continues the intercessions of the Anaphora quietly:*

*Priest: (Quietly)* For the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; the holy glorious and all-laudable apostles; (*N. Saint, of the day*) whose memory we celebrate, and all thy saints, at whose supplications visit us, O God.

And be mindful of all those who have fallen asleep before us in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal, and grant them rest, O our God, where the light of thy countenance watcheth over them.

And again we beseech thee: Be mindful, O Lord, of every bishop of the Orthodox, who rightly divideth the word of thy truth, of all the presbytery, the diaconate in Christ and every priestly and monastic order.

And again we offer unto thee this rational worship for the whole world, for the holy, catholic and apostolic Church, for those who live in chastity and lead a godly way of life and for all civil authorities, and our armed forces; grant them, O Lord, peaceful times, that we in their tranquility may lead a calm and peaceful life in all reverence and godliness.

*(Aloud)* Among the first be mindful, O Lord, of our Metropolitan *N.*, and our bishop *N.*, whom do thou grant unto thy holy churches in peace, safety, honor, health and

length of days, and rightly dividing the word of thy truth.

*Choir:* And of all mankind.

*Priest: (Quietly)* Be mindful, O Lord, of this city in which we dwell, and of every city and countryside, and of those who in faith dwell therein. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who travel by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, captives and their salvation. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches and who remember the poor; and upon us all send forth thy mercies:

*(Aloud)* And grant us with one mouth and one heart to glorify and praise thine all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest: (Aloud)* And the mercies of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

#### THE EKTENIA BEFORE THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Deacon:* Having commemorated all the saints, again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* For the precious Gifts which have been spread forth and sanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That our God, who loveth mankind, receiving them upon His holy, most heavenly and spiritual altar as an odor of sweetness, may send down upon us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*In Antiochian usage, these petitions are omitted*

*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:* That the whole day/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:* Asking for the unity of the faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest: (Quietly)* Unto thee we commend our whole life and our hope, O Master who lovest mankind; and we beseech thee and pray thee and supplicate thee: Vouchsafe us to partake of thy heavenly and dread mysteries of this sacred and spiritual table, with a pure conscience, unto forgiveness of sins, unto pardon of transgressions, unto communion of the Holy Spirit, unto inheritance of the kingdom of heaven, unto boldness toward thee, not unto judgment nor unto condemnation:

*(Aloud)* And vouchsafe, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon thee, the heavenly God, as Father and to say:

*All:* 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.

*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.

*While the Choir is singing the above, the Priest says the following quietly:*

*Priest: (Quietly)* We give thanks unto thee, O King invisible, who by thy boundless power hast made all things and in the multitude of thy mercy hast brought all things from nothingness into being. Do thou thyself, O Master, look down from heaven upon those who have bowed their heads unto thee; for they have not bowed down unto flesh and blood, but to thee, the fearful God. Therefore, O Master, do thou thyself distribute these gifts here spread forth, unto all of us for good, according to the individual need of each: voyage with those who sail by sea; journey with those who travel by land and air; heal the sick, thou who art the Physician of our souls and bodies:

*(Aloud)* Through the grace and compassions and love toward mankind of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE ELEVATION

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*The priest says the following prayer quietly:*

*Priest: (Quietly)* Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from thy holy dwelling-place and from the throne of glory of thy kingdom; and come to sanctify us, O thou who sittest on high with the Father and art here invisibly present with us; and vouchsafe by thy mighty hand to impart unto us thine immaculate Body and precious Blood, and through us unto all the people.

*He then takes up the Lamb in both hands, elevates it slightly and makes therewith the sign of the cross over the diskos, saying:*

*Priest: (Aloud)* The Holy Things are for the holy.

*Choir:* One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### THE PRE-COMMUNION PRAYERS

*Priest & People:* I stand before the doors of thy temple, and yet I refrain not from my terrible thoughts. But do thou, O Christ God, who didst justify the publican and hadst mercy on the Canaanite woman and didst open the gates of paradise to the thief: open unto me the compassion of thy love toward mankind, and receive me as I approach and touch thee, like the harlot and the woman with the issue of blood; for the one, by but touching the hem of thy garment, received healing, and the other, by embracing thine immaculate feet, received the forgiveness of her sins. And I, who am pitiful, dare to partake of thy whole Body. Let me not be consumed, but receive me as thou didst receive them, and enlighten the senses of my soul, burning up the accusations of my sins, through the intercessions of her that without seed gave thee birth and of the heavenly powers; for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God,

Who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is truly Thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Wherefore I pray Thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thine immaculate Mysteries, unto forgiveness of my sins and unto life everlasting. Amen

Behold, I approach Divine Communion. O Maker, burn me not as I partake, for Fire art thou which burneth the unworthy. But purify thou me of every stain.

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

Tremble, O man, as thou beholdest the deifying Blood, for it is a burning coal consuming the unworthy. The body of God both deifieth and nourisheth me. It deifieth the spirit and wondrously nourisheth the mind.

Thou hast smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by thy divine love hast thou changed me. But with thine immaterial fire, consume my sins and count me worthy to be filled with delight in thee, that leaping for joy, O Good One, I may magnify thy two comings.

Into the splendour of thy Saints how shall I, the unworthy one, enter? For should I dare to enter the bridal chamber, my vesture doth betray me, for it is not a wedding garment; and as one bound, I shall be cast out by the Angels. Cleanse, O Lord, the defilement of my soul, and save me, since thou art the Friend of man.

O man-befriending Master, Lord Jesus my God, let not these holy Gifts be unto me for judgment through mine unworthiness, but for purification and sanctification of both soul and body, and as an earnest of the life and the kingdom to come. For it is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in the Lord the hope of my salvation.

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

Not unto judgment nor unto condemnation be my partaking of Thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body. (Amen.)

#### KOINONIKON<sup>1</sup> IN TONE 8

I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. (*Ps.115:4; as verses use Ps.115:4, 5, 6 ...*). Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*After the Priest and the Deacon have communed, standing in the holy doors facing west, the deacon elevates the chalice to the people, saying:*

*Deacon:* With fear of God and faith and love, draw near.

*The priest and deacon exit the sanctuary through the holy doors as the choir chants:*

*Choir:* Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us.

*The Deacon gives the Chalice to the Priest who, assisted by the Deacon, communicates the faithful saying to each one in an audible voice:*

*Priest:* The servant of God N. partakes of the precious and all-holy Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, unto the remission of sins and unto life everlasting.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the standard Wednesday Koinonikon.

*Choir:* Receive me today, O Son of God, as partaker of thy Mystical Supper: for I will not speak of thy Mystery to thine enemies, neither will I give thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess thee: Remember me, O Lord, in thy Kingdom.

*When all have been communed, the priest covers the chalice with the kalima and hands the chalice to the deacon. The priest blesses the people with his hand, saying:*

*Priest:* O God, save thy people and bless thine inheritance.

#### THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN

*Choir:* We have seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity, who hath saved us.

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, and aloud: Always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen. Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Thy glory; for Thou hast made us worthy to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal and life-creating Mysteries. Keep us in Thy holiness, that all the day we may mediate upon Thy righteousness. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

*Deacon:* Stand upright. Having partaken of the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, life-giving and dread mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks 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:* Asking that the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

#### THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

*Priest: (Quietly)* We give thanks unto thee, O Master who lovest mankind, Benefactor of our souls, for that thou hast vouchsafed this day to feed us with thy heavenly and immortal mysteries. Make straight our path; establish us all in thy fear; guard our life; make firm our steps; through the prayers and intercessions of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all thy saints:

*(Aloud)* For thou art our Sanctification, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Let us depart in peace.

*Choir:* In the name of the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

#### THE PRAYER BEHIND THE AMVON

*Priest:* O Lord, who blessest those who bless thee, and sanctifiest those who put their trust in thee: save thy people and bless thine inheritance; preserve the fullness of thy Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of thy House; glorify them in recompense by thy divine power, and forsake us not who hope on thee. Give peace to thy world, to thy Churches, to the priests, to all civil authorities, to our Armed Forces, and to all thy people: for every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from thee, the Father of Lights, and unto thee we ascribe glory, thanksgiving, 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 be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. *(thrice)*

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord and his mercy come upon you through his divine grace and love toward mankind, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*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.

*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 our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; 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 our community, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

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

*Choir:* Amen.