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GREAT VESPERS ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026
*The Holy Myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene,
the Equal to the Apostles*
(Patronal Feast commemoration upgraded to Vigil rank)

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 1st 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 ONE

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. Mary Magdalene, in Tone One

(**O All-lauded Martyrs**)

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

Thou broughtest sweet myrrh to Christ our God, * Who was laid within a sepulcher and breathed Resurrection freely into all the dead; * and when thou didst see Him, * thou wast first to worship Him * while weeping tears of love, O God-bearing and pure Mary Magdalene. * Do thou therefore intercede with Him * that He grant peace *and great mercy to our souls.

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 broughtest sweet myrrh to Christ our God, * Who was laid within a sepulcher and breathed Resurrection freely into all the dead; * and when thou didst see Him, * thou wast first to worship Him * while weeping tears of love, O God-bearing and pure Mary Magdalene. * Do thou therefore intercede with Him * that He grant peace *and great mercy to our souls.

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

When thou didst behold the Saviour Christ * hanging nailed upon the Cross, O Mary Magdalene, thou didst weep with grief and cry aloud: * What means this strange sight? * How does Life Himself now die, * and, seeing it, creation is shaken and the heavens' lights grow dark? * Do thou therefore intercede with Him * that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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

When thou didst behold the Saviour Christ * hanging nailed upon the Cross, O Mary Magdalene, thou didst weep with grief and cry aloud: * What means this strange sight? * How does Life Himself now die, * and, seeing it, creation is shaken and the heavens' lights grow dark? * Do thou therefore intercede with Him * that He grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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

O glorious Mary, thou wast filled * with true knowledge and much wisdom, keeping company with thine own Creator; for this cause, * thou didst preach to all men * of His saving sufferings * and awesome condescension, O thou whose praise is sung throughout the world. * Do thou therefore

intercede with Him * that He grant peace * and great mercy to our souls.

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

O glorious Mary, thou wast filled * with true knowledge and much wisdom, keeping company with thine own Creator; for this cause, * thou didst preach to all men * of His saving sufferings * and awesome condescension, O thou whose praise is sung throughout the world. * Do thou therefore intercede with Him * that He grant peace * and great mercy to our souls.

DOXASTICON OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
IN TONE SIX

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

As the first to behold the divine Resurrection of Him Who is the First Cause of every good, Who has deified our nature in His compassion, O Mary Magdalene, thou wast also the first to proclaim the good tidings, when thou didst cry unto the Apostles: Cast off your faintheartedness and be of good cheer; and come and behold Christ, Who is risen and granteth great mercy to the world.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS
IN TONE SIX

*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.

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.

TUESDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON

Psalm 22, in Tone One

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life. (*twice*)

Verse: The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. In a place of green pasture, there hath He made me to dwell.

Choir: Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

THE PARAMIA

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the First Universal Epistle of St. John (3:21-4:6).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. And this is His commandment: that we should believe in the Name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. All who keep His commandments abide in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses

that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of anti-christ, of which you heard that it was coming, and now it is in the world already. Little children, you are of God, and have overcome them; for He Who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world, therefore what they say is of the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the First Universal Epistle of St. John (4:11-16).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the First Universal Epistle of St. John (3:21-4:6).

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Beloved, if anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God Whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and

every-one who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world: our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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 Chris-

tians 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.

Optional

THE SERVICE OF LITIA & ARTOKLASIA

The Litia and Artoklasia take place in the center of the solea, at a table prepared with five loaves of bread and vessels of wheat (in the middle), wine (on the left) and olive oil (on the right). Following the prayer at the bowing of the heads, the choir begins the chanting (very slowly) of the troparia of the Litia as the clergy reverence the holy table and exit the sanctuary through the north door or holy doors, the senior priest carrying the festal icon and the deacon carrying the censer. All process thrice around the table and then the icon is placed on an analogion near the table. The clergy, followed by all the people, may then reverence the icon.

LITIA TROPARIA

For St. Mary Magalene In Tone Eight

*(**O strange wonder**)*

Bearing myrrh with tears, * O Mary Magdalene, * on reaching the divine sepulcher * thou didst see an angel of glory * who proclaimed the divine resurrection of the Bestower of life * and the deliverance of all. * Wherefore, thou didst hasten to make announcement to the eleven, * saying joyfully: * "Leap up, for Christ hath arisen!"

Same tone and melody

Serving Christ God, * Who had become like unto us for our sake, O all-lauded one, * and setting thy soul and mind afire * with continual radiance, * thou becamest light. * And, be-holding the strange vision * of Him hanging upon the Cross, * thou didst say, weeping: * "How is it that Life * now accepteth a voluntary death?"

LITIA DOXASTICON FOR

ST. MARY MAGDALENE IN TONE EIGHT

Same tone and melody

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

We celebrate thy sacred memory, * O thou who learned of Christ * and who preached His precepts * for the deliverance of men's souls, * O most glorious Mary; * and we venerate with faith * the shrine of thy relics, * which poureth forth inexhaustible grace and enlightenment * upon those who have recourse to it with love, * O blessed of God.

LITIA THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT

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

I flee to thy protection, O holy Virgin Theotokos, for I know that through thee I shall obtain salvation; for thou art able to help me, O pure one.

At the conclusion of the troparia of the Litia, the clergy take their places at the table and the deacon, standing at the southwest corner of the table, lifts his orarion and intones the following ektenia.

THE EKTENIA OF THE ARTOKLASIA

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Deacon: Again we pray for our *(metropolitan or archbishop or bishop)*, N., and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Deacon: Again we pray for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this holy house and those who sing therein and the people here present; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for those who are gone away and those who are abroad; for those who travel by sea, by land and by air; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the deliverance of captives; for those brethren who are serving and who are remembered for their labor, and for all who await the mercies of God let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, the parishioners, members of the parish council and organizations, donors and benefactors of this holy temple and those who celebrate this holy feast, *(and for his servants, NN., who are offering these loaves)*.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Deacon: Again we pray that he may keep this holy church and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague,

earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times, in 4 sets of 10*)

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Saviour, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. 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 priest blesses the people with his right hand, saying:

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

The priest faces east as the deacon says:

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer in a loud voice.

*Priest:*¹ O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; 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, all-laudable and foremost of the apostles, Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints, Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous and Nektarios, bishop of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers; ◀ Nicholai of Zicha, who labored in America, Innocent, Evangelizer of Alaska and Enlightener of North America, John, Wonder-worker of Shanghai and San Francisco and Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn; ▶ of the holy, glorious and right-victorious great martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs, Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Haralampos and Eleftherios, ◀ Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America, and Juvenaly of Iliamna ▶; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; ◀ of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs, especially Peter the Aleut; ▶ of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, ◀ Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska; ▶ of the Holy Equal to the Apostles and Myrrh-Bearer Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of (N., the saint of the day), whose memory we celebrate and of all thy saints:

¹ Saints of local veneration may also be added, to the list in each category: hierarchs, great martyrs, hieromartyrs, great women martyrs, other martyrs of local veneration, and ascetic fathers. The ones shown here, enclosed between ◀ ▶ are from a list commonly used in the North American Antiochian Archdiocese.

Priest: Make our prayer acceptable;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Grant us forgiveness of our trespasses;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Shelter us under the shelter of thy wings;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Drive away from us every enemy and adversary;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Give peace to our life.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O Lord, have mercy on us and on thy world and save our souls, for thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind.

Choir: Amen.

THE ARTOKLASIA

*The senior priest now takes the censer and censens the four sides of the table, three times on each side. The deacon stands opposite him, carrying a candle, and bows as the priest censens toward him. While this is done, the following troparion is chanted **slowly***

In Tone Five

Clergy: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb;

The choir concludes the troparion:

Choir: For thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.

The censuring and troparion being completed, the priest gives up the censer, and the deacon lifts his orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The priest takes one of the loaves and makes the sign of the cross with it over the other loaves. After laying it aside, he says aloud the following prayer, pointing with his right hand to the loaves, wheat,

wine and oil when he says "thysself bless these loaves..."

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and didst satisfy the five thousand here-with, **thysself bless** these loaves, this wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this city, in the houses of those who celebrate this feast and in all thy world, and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For it is thou who dost bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto thee do 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.

Choir: Amen.

The priest kisses the top loaf of bread and breaks it cross-wise as the clergy chant the following verse once:

In Tone Seven

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

The preceding verse is then chanted twice by the choirs, as the clergy, carrying the bread, wheat, wine and oil, enter the sanctuary.

APOSTICHA FOR ST. MARY MAGDALENE IN TONE EIGHT

*(**O Strange Wonder**)*

Thou didst follow in the steps of Christ * when He appeared unto us, * and didst minister unto Him * with all zeal, O modest one, * in the uprightness of thy mind. * And when He died, thou didst not abandon Him, * but wentest forth and didst bring Him myrrh with tears * in thy great sympathy, * O all-famed Myrrh-bearer; wherefore, we observe * a most solemn feast on thine all-sacred memory.

Verse 1. HER sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and HER words unto the ends of the world.

Mary, who shinest supremely bright, * longing to look on our Life * slain and laid in the sepulchre, * thou didst come forth in the night * and thou heardest the Angels say: * Lo, Christ is risen, as He foretold to you; * which thou didst tell His disciples with all speed, * O modest Magdalene, * and in casting off the sadness of thy soul, * thou wast granted joy untold instead of bitter tears.

Verse 2. Wondrous is God in His saints; (the God of Israel.)

As we the faithful delight today, * O holy bearer of myrrh, * on thy mem'ry, we glorify * Him that made thee glorious, * Christ our Lord, the supremely good. * Beseech Him ceaselessly, O all-ven'erable, * that we attain to the splendour of the Saints, * O Mary blest of God, * and to everlasting glory, since thou hast * boldness to speak freely unto Him at any time.

DOXASTICON OF ST. MARY
MAGDALENE IN TONE EIGHT

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

Having faithfully ministered as a disciple unto Christ God, Who in the excess of His compassion willingly became poor with my poverty, Mary Magdalene wept streams of tears when she beheld Him stretched out on the Tree and enclosed in a grave; and she cried out: What is this strange sight? How is He counted dead, Who gives life unto the dead? What sweet-smelling myrrh shall I bring to Him that has freed me from the stench of the demons? What tears shall I shed for Him that has robbed our first mother of her tears? But the King of all, appearing unto her as the Keeper of the garden, assuaged the burning heat of her grief with the cool dew of His words and said unto her: Go to my brethren, and cry out to them the good tidings of joy. I ascend unto My Father and

your Father, to My God and to your God, that I may grant great mercy unto the world.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS
IN TONE EIGHT

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

O Virgin without groom, blameless one, Mother of the high God; O thou who didst conceive in the flesh in an inexplicable way, receive the petitions of thy servants, O thou who bestowest on all the purification of sins; and in receiving our petitions beseech thou Him for the salvation of us all.

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. MARY
MAGDALENE IN TONE ONE

*(**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.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS
IN TONE ONE

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

As Gabriel cried aloud unto thee, “Hail, O
Virgin,” with that cry did the Lord of all be-
come incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake
the righteous David; and Thou wast re-
vealed, as more spacious than the heavens,
in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore,
glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to
Him Who came from thee; glory to Him,
Who through thy birth-giving hath set us
free.

Optional

**THE BLESSING OF THE
MEMORIAL BREAD/KOLLYVA**

*The Priest comes to stand before the table
upon which is set the memorial bread (or
kollyva), with a burning candle. He censes as
the above Apolytikion & Theotokion are
chanted. Once the chanting is completed, the
priest puts aside the censer and blesses the
memorial bread (or kollyva) and wine with the
following prayer:*

Deacon/Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

*Priest: O Lord, Who hast brought all
things to perfection through Thy word and*

hast commanded the earth to bring forth
all manner of fruits for our enjoyment and
food, Who through grain and vegetables
hast made the Three Youths and Daniel
fairer than the Babylonians who lived in
luxury: Do Thou Thyself, all-good King,
bless these gifts, and sanctify those who
shall partake of them, for they have been
offered by Thy servants to Thy glory, in
honor and memory of the Holy Myrrh-
Bearer and equal to the Apostles Mary
Magdalene, patron Saint of this communi-
ty, whom we commemorate today, and for
a memorial to those who have fallen
asleep in the true Orthodox Faith, *espe-
cially our Father in Christ the Hieromonk
David [Griffith] and the servants George
[Farha], Thekla [Stipp], Evgeny [Gurik],
Tamara [Nagy], Theodora [Cannelos]
and Gregory [Ehler], benefactors and
beautifiers of this Temple.* Grant, O good
One, to those who have prepared this of-
fering and who keep this memorial, all
their petitions that are unto salvation, and
count them worthy to rejoice in Thine
eternal blessings, through the intercessions
of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and
Ever-Virgin Mary, and of all Thy Saints.

For it is Thou Who dost bless and sancti-
fy all things, O Christ our God, and unto
Thee we ascribe glory together with Thy
Father Who is without beginning and
Thine all-holy and good and life-giving
Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ag-
es.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: 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 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; *the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene*, protector of our community, *whose memory we celebrate today*, 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.

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

All: Amen.