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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

(Eve of 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

***The After-feast of the Exaltation of the Cross;  
The Great-Martyr Eustathios and His Family***

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

*Reader:* Amen.

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.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*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 REPLACEMENT

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

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## FIRST STASIS OF FIRST KATHISMA

### *Psalm 1*

*Reader:* Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the pestilent. But his will is rather in the law of the Lord, and in His law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like the tree which is planted by the streams of the waters, which shall bring forth its fruit in its season; and its leaf shall not fall, and all things whatsoever he may do shall prosper. Not so are the ungodly, not so; but rather they are like the chaff which the wind doth hurl away from the face of the earth. For this reason shall the ungodly not stand up in judgement, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

### *Psalm 2*

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

### *Psalm 3*

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

### *Stasis*

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

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

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

### “O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE SEVEN

*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.

For the Resurrection in Tone Seven

*Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord Who crushed the might of death and lighted mankind, crying to Him with the incorporeals, O Creator and our Savior, glory to Thee.

*Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

For our sakes, O Savior, Thou didst suffer crucifixion and burial. But Thou didst cause death to die, for Thou art God. Wherefore, do we worship Thy third-day Resurrection, O Lord; glory to Thee.

*Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.*

Verily, when the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Creator, they were surprised, shouting in angelic praise. This is the honor of the Church; this is the richness of the kingdom. Wherefore, O Thou Who didst suffer for our sakes, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Though Thou wast arrested, O Christ, by the transgressors of the law, Thou still remainest my God, and therefore I am not ashamed. And though Thou wast lashed on Thy back I shall not deny Thee; or nailed upon the Cross, I shall not hide it; for in Thy Resurrection do I glory; for Thy death is my life, O Almighty One and Lover of mankind. O Lord, glory to Thee.

For the Holy Cross in Tone Two (\*\*When he took Thee\*\*)

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

When the God-seer Moses long ago \* set a brazen serpent upon a pole, he completely destroyed \* deadly biting serpents; but, O Savior, when Thou didst \* lift Thy whole self upon the Tree, \* Thou truly didst quicken \* all the race of man by Thy divine life-giving Cross. \* As it now is

raised up, it burneth \* hordes of unclean demons, while conqu'ring \* all the bold presumption of barbaric tribes.

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

Thou wast clothed with my mortality \* and corruptibility from the pure Virgin Mother of God, \* making me, O Savior, to be incorruptible \* so Thou drewest me unto life \* and joy never-ending, \* unto which Thou ledest all that sing Thy praise, O Christ; \* and, O Word of God, Thou bestowest \* on Thy faithful priests Thy divine Cross \* as a mighty weapon against heresies.

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.* Shine Thy light, which no man may approach, \* on us, O Christ God, for, behold, we are all the works of Thy hands; \* crown our godly hierarchs with the weapon of Thy Cross; \* grant them victory over all \* heretical doctrines; \* for they have Thy Cross as strength and riches safe from thieves \* and a mighty wall and a stronghold, \* O Most High, my Savior, Who dweltest \* in the Theotokos' uncorrupted womb.

For St. Eustathios and his family in Tone Four

(\*\*Unto them that fear Thee\*\*)

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

Thou wast called by God above and not by man, O Eustathios; \* for Christ Jesus, the Friend of man, \* Himself appeared to thee, \* hunted thee and caught thee \* with the nets of faith; and when thou wast baptized in His Name, \* the Master cleansed thee of all thy former sins; \* and though He brought upon thee great ordeals in life, He bestowed on thee \* mighty patience and showed thee forth \* as a victor extolled by all.

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

While yet in the bosom of youth, thou undertookest the exercise \* of the virtues, O all-renowned \* and blessed Eustathios, \* steadfastly enduring \* the loss of thy sons and the taking-captive of thy wife; \* and thou didst bear with a hireling's lowly toil. \* But thy courageous manliness in wars inspired a great search for thee \* and from out of captivity \* brought thee back to thy former fame.

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

Bringing forth thy household as a harvest, thou, O Eustathios, \* wast through fire offered unto God \* as incense divine and sweet, \* as a whole-burnt offering \* utterly delightful, a very pleasing sacrifice, \* and as a living oblation pure and whole; \* for this cause thou, together with thy wife and sons, hast been now received \* in the heavenly dwelling-place \* by the armies of Saints on high.

## DOXASTICON FOR ST. EUSTATHIOS AND HIS FAMILY IN TONE TWO

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

Eustathios, the second Job, hath set before us his life, his contests, and his crowns, as an exhortation to virtue, and a monument of endurance; for he, together with his wife and children, hath verily surpassed Job in virtue. He was faithful in life, unshaken in temptations, and victorious in contest. Wherefore, let us put him forward as a mediator with Christ, that our souls may be granted enlightenment and forgiveness of offenses.

## THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE SEVEN

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

O pure Theotokos, thou wast known as a Mother in a supernatural way, and thou didst remain virgin in an indescribable and incomprehensible manner. Thus came about the wonder of thy birth-giving, ineffable for tongue, in that thy Conception appeared dazzling to the mind, and thy birth-giving incomprehensible; for where God willeth He overcometh the order of nature. Therefore, since we know thee as Theotokos, we beseech thee ceaselessly. Intercede then for the salvation of our souls.

#### 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.

#### SATURDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

*Leader:* The Evening Prokeimenon!

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (*twice*)

*Verse:* The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself;

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

*Verse:* For He established the world which shall not be shaken

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

*Verse:* Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

#### THE PARAMIA

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

Thus saith the Lord: All nations are gathered together, and princes shall be gathered out of them; who will declare these things among them? Or who will declare to you things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be justified; and let them hear, and declare the truth. Be ye My witnesses, and I too am a witness, saith the Lord God, and My servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know, and believe Me, and understand that I am. Before Me there was no other God, and after Me there shall be none. I am God, and beside Me there is no savior. I have declared, and have saved; I have reproached, and there was no strange god among you. Ye are My witnesses, and I am a witness, saith the Lord God. Even from the beginning I am; and there is none that can deliver out of My hands. I will work, and who shall turn it back? Thus saith the Lord God that redeemeth you, the Holy One of Israel.

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

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

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

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

#### AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

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

#### LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

*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.

#### APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou hast risen from the tomb, O Savior of the world, and hast raised mankind with Thy body, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Come, let us worship Him Who rose from the dead and lighted all; for He hath liberated us from the oppression of Hades by His third-day Resurrection, granting us life and the Great Mercy.

*Verse 2. For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*

When Thou didst descend to Hades, O Christ, Thou didst lead death captive, and when Thou didst rise on the third day, Thou didst raise us with Thee, glorifying Thine almighty Resurrection, O Lord and Lover of mankind.

*Verse 3. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*

Thou didst appear awe-inspiring, O Lord, whereas Thou wast placed in a grave like one that slumbereth, and didst rise in three days as a mighty one, and didst raise with Thee Adam, crying, Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Thou alone the Lover of mankind.

#### DOXASTICON FOR ST. EUSTATHIOS AND HIS FAMILY IN TONE SIX

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

O adamantine of soul, how shall we praise thee as is meet? For thou hast surpassed nature. When thou wast deprived of possessions and children and wife, thou didst cry out with that blessed and celebrated voice of Job: The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away. As it seemed good unto the Lord, so hath it come to pass. But God, Whom thou didst love, and for Whom thou didst fervently long, gave thee thy most beloved ones back again, and provided that they should become thy fellow athletes. With them thou hast attained to a blessed end by manifold torments. Taking them as thy fellow intercessors, O stout-hearted Eustathios, pray that we be delivered from our iniquities.

#### DOXASTICON FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE SIX

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

Today the Cross of the Lord goeth forth, and the faithful welcome it with longing, and they receive healing of soul and body and every malady. Let us kiss it with joy and fear: with fear, because of sin, for we are unworthy; with joy, because of the salvation granted to the world by Him Who was crucified thereon, Christ the Lord, Who hath Great Mercy.

#### THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

*Leader:* 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.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.



## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

## APOLYTIKION OF ST. EUSTATHIOS AND HIS FAMILY IN TONE FOUR

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

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

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. \* O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

## APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

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

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserve Thy community.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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.

*The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:*

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

*All:* 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. O Lord, bless.

*Leader:* O Thou Who rose again from the dead, 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—the Exaltation of which we now celebrate; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the Great-martyr Eustathios and his family; Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: *have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.*

*Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:*

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

*All:* Amen.