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## *Christ's Victory over Death & The Harrowing of Hades*

THE DIVINE VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT  
(Served on the morning of Holy Saturday)

*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.

*All:* Amen.

*Reader:* O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. (*metania*)

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. (*metania*)

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

### 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.

**“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.

For the Resurrection in Tone One

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

Accept our evening prayers, O Holy Lord. Grant us forgiveness of our sins; for Thou alone hast made manifest the Resurrection unto the world.

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

Encompass Zion, O ye people, and surround it; give ye glory therein to Him Who arose from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered us from our transgressions.

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

O come, ye people, let us praise Christ and bow down before Him, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered the world from the wiles of the enemy.

*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.*

By Thy passion, O Christ, we have been set free from sufferings; and by Thy Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption. O Lord, glory to Thee.

For the Harrowing of Hades  
in Tone Eight

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

Today Hades groaneth and crieth out: It would have been good for me had I never received Him Who was born of Mary, for He came upon me and destroyed my power. He crushed the gates of brass, and, as God, He raised the souls that I once held captive. Glory be to Thy Cross and Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

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

Today Hades groaneth and crieth out: It would have been good for me had I never received Him Who was born of Mary, for He came upon me and destroyed my power. He crushed the gates of brass, and, as God, He raised the souls that I once held captive. Glory be to Thy Cross and Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

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

Today Hades groaneth and crieth out: Mine authority hath been destroyed; I received

this mortal as one of the dead; yet in no wise can I hold Him fast, but with Him I shall lose those over whom I ruled. I held the dead from the beginning of the world; but behold, this man raiseth them all. Glory be to Thy Cross and Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

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

Today Hades groaneth and crieth out: My dominion is swallowed up; the Shepherd was crucified, and hath raised up Adam. I am robbed of them over whom I ruled, and all those whom I had overpowered and swallowed up, I have vomited up again. He that was crucified hath emptied the tombs; the dominion of death prevaieth not. Glory be to Thy Cross and Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

DOXASTICON FOR HOLY SATURDAY  
IN TONE SIX

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

Great Moses mystically prefigured this day, saying: And God blessed the seventh day. This is the blessed Sabbath; this is the day of rest, whereon, through the dispensation of death, the Only-begotten Son of God rested from all His works, keeping Sabbath in the flesh. And through the Resurrection, He resumed again His former state, and granted us life everlasting, since He alone is good and the Friend of man.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION  
IN TONE ONE

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

The universal glory born of men, who hath given birth unto the Master, the heavenly gate: let us praise Mary the Virgin, the song of the bodiless hosts, and the adornment of the faithful. For she was shown to be a Heaven and a temple of the Godhead; destroying the wall of enmity, she ushered in peace and opened the Kingdom. Possessing, therefore, this anchor of faith, we have as

champion the Lord Who was born of her. Take courage, therefore, take courage, O ye people of God; for He shall fight thine enemies, since He is the Almighty One.

*As the clergy prepare for the **Entrance with the Gospel**, 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.*

*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.

THE PARAMIA<sup>1</sup>  
*No Prokeimenon*

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the book of Genesis (1:1-13).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon

the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Book of Jonah. (*The entire book*).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

(*Chapter 1*) The word of the Lord came to Jonah, the son of Amathi, saying: Arise and journey to Nineveh the great city, and preach in it, because the cry of its wickedness has gone up before me. And Jonah arose to flee to Tharsis from the face of the Lord; and he went down to Joppa and found

<sup>1</sup> Altogether, there are 15 readings appointed for this service, given in a separate file. Shown here are the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> readings. (The complete list is used when baptisms take place during the service.)

a boat bound for Tharsis, and he paid the fare, and boarded it, to sail with them to Tharsis from the face of the Lord. And the Lord raised a great wind on the sea; and there came a great storm on the sea, and the boat was in danger of breaking up. And the sailors were afraid and each cried to his god, and they threw the cargoes that were in the boat into the sea to lighten it of them. But Jonah had gone down into the hold of the boat and was sleeping and snoring. And the captain approached him and said to him: Why are you snoring? Arise, and call on your God, perhaps God will save us, and we may not perish. And each one said to his neighbor: Come, let us cast lots, and let us find out for what reason this evil is upon us. And they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. And they said to him: Tell us for what reason this evil is upon us. What is your work? Where have you come from? And where are you going? And from what country and from people are you? And he said to them: I am a servant of the Lord, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. And the men feared with a great fear, and they said to him: Why did you do this? Because the men knew that he was fleeing from the face of the Lord, because he had told them; and they said to him: What are we to do with you, and so the sea will become calm for us? Because the sea was rising and raising an even greater storm. And Jonah said to them: Take me, and throw me into the sea, and the sea will become calm for you; because I know that it is because of me that this great storm is upon you. And the men were striving to return to land, and they could not, because the sea rose ever higher against them. And they cried out to the Lord and said: Let it not be, Lord; let us not perish because of the soul of this person, and do not bring on us just

blood; because you, Lord, have done as you wished. And they took Jonah and threw him into the sea and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord with a great fear, and they sacrificed a sacrifice to the Lord, and they vowed vows.

*(Chapter 2)* And the Lord had ordered a great whale to swallow down Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights. And Jonah prayed to the Lord his God and said: I cried to the Lord my God in my trouble: and he heard me; from the bowels of hell my cry; you heard my voice. You cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea: and rivers surrounded me. All your billows and your waves passed over me. And I said: I have been thrust from your eyes; shall I look again towards your holy temple. Water encompassed me, even to my soul: the final deep closed round me. My head went down to the clefts of the mountains. I descended into the earth, whose bars are eternal barriers. Let my life come up from corruption to you, O Lord my God. As my soul was departing from me I remembered the Lord; and let my prayer come to you, to your holy temple. Those who preserve vain and foolish things have forsaken their own Mercy. But I shall sacrifice to you with a voice of praise and confession; I will pay you. O Lord, whatever I have vowed, for my salvation. And the Lord ordered the whale; and it cast Jonah out upon the dry land.

*(Chapter 3)* And the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying: Arise and journey to Nineveh the great city, and preach in it in accordance with the previous word which I spoke to you. And Jonah arose and journeyed to Nineveh, as the Lord had told him. Now Nineveh was a great city to God, of about a three days journey. And Jonah began to journey into the city, about one

day's journey, and he preached and said: Still three days and Nineveh will be overthrown. And the men of Nineveh believed God and proclaimed a fast, and dressed in sackcloth from the greatest of them to the least. And the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he rose from his throne, and took off his robe, and out on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. And there was a proclamation and a declaration in Nineveh from the king and from his nobles, saying: Humans and beasts, oxen and sheep are not to eat, not to pasture and not to drink water. So humans and beasts put on sackcloth and cried out insistently to God; and they turned away each from their wicked way and from the injustice in their hands, saying: Who knows if God will repent and be entreated and turn back from the anger of his rage, and we may not perish? And God saw their works, and that they had turned from their wicked ways, and God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

*(Chapter 4)* And Jonah was very deeply grieved, and he was troubled, and he prayed to the Lord and said: Were not these my words when I was still in my land? Because of this I made haste to escape to Tharsis, because I knew that you are merciful, and pitying and long-suffering and full of mercy, and repent over evils. And now, Master, Lord, take my soul from me, for it is better for me to die than to live. And the Lord said to Jonah: Are you then so very grieved? And Jonah left the city, and sat down opposite the city, and made a tent for himself, and sat under it in the shade, until he should see what would happen to the city. And God gave orders to a gourd, and it came up over Jonah head, to be a shade for him above his head, to shade him from his troubles; and Jonah rejoiced with great joy at the gourd.

And God gave orders to a worm at dawn on the morrow, and it smote the gourd and it withered up. And it came to pass that as soon as the sun had dawned that God gave orders to a burning east wind; and the sun beat down on Jonah's head; and he fainted and despaired of his soul, and said: It were better for me to die than live. And God said to Jonah: Are you then so very grieved over the gourd? And he said: I am very grieved, even to death. And the Lord said: You had pity for the gourd, for which you had suffered no evil, nor did you rear it; it came into being before night, and perished before night. And I, shall I not have pity for Nineveh the great city, in which dwell more than one hundred and twenty thousand people, who do not know their right hand or their left, and many animals.

*Deacon:* Wisdom.

*Reader:* The Reading is from the Book of Daniel. (3:1-88).

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image; its height was sixty cubits and its breadth was six cubits; and he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the country of Babylon. And he sent to gather all the satraps, the prefects, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image. And they were gathered, the satraps, the prefects, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces for the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image. And the herald cried loudly: You are commanded, O peoples, nations and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp and bagpipe every kind of music, you shall fall down and worship the

golden image which Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. And anyone who does not fall down and worship, at that hour shall be cast into the burning furnace of fire. And it came to pass that when the people heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp and bagpipe every kind of music, all the peoples, nations and languages fell down and worshipped the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Then certain Chaldean men approached and accused the Jews and they spoke and said to king Nebuchadnezzar: O king, live forever! You, O king, have given an order that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp and bagpipe every kind of music and does not fall down and worship the golden image, shall be cast into the burning furnace of fire. There are certain Jews, whom you have placed over the works of the country of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego [in Hebrew Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael]—who have not obeyed your order, O king, and do not serve your gods and who do not worship the golden image which you have set up.

Then in rage and anger Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be brought; and they were brought before the king; and Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them: Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego that you do not serve my gods, and do not worship the golden image that I have set up? Now, if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp and bagpipe every kind of music, to fall down and worship the golden image that I have set up, well and good; and if you do not worship, in that hour you will be cast into the burning furnace of fire. And who is the god that will rescue you from my hands?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered king Nebuchadnezzar: We have no need to answer you over this matter; for our God, Whom we serve, is in heaven and able to rescue us from the burning furnace of fire and He will deliver us from your hands, O king, because we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden image that you have set up.

Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and his countenance was changed against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and he ordered the furnace to be heated sevenfold, so that it should burn to the uttermost; and he ordered his strongest men to fetter Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and to cast them into the burning furnace of fire. Then the men bound then with their coats, caps, leggings and other clothing were cast into the middle of the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was strict and the furnace was heated exceedingly, the flame of the fire slew those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fell bound into the midst of the burning furnace of fire, and they walked in the middle of the flame, praising God and blessing the Lord. Then Meshach stood and offered this prayer, in the midst of the fire he opened his mouth and said:

#### The Prayer of Meshach (Azariah)

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers: and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us. And all Thy works are true, and Thy ways are right, and all Thy judgments are true. And judgments of truth Thou hast executed in all that Thou hast brought upon us, and upon Jerusalem the holy city of our fathers. In truth Thou hast brought all these things upon us, because of our sins. Because we have sinned and com-

mited iniquity in departing from Thee, and we have sinned in all things, and we have not obeyed Thy commandments, nor kept them, nor have we done as Thou hast commanded us, so that it might be well with us. And all that Thou hast done to us, and all that Thou hast brought upon us, Thou hast done with true judgment; and Thou hast given us over into the hands of our lawless foes, hateful rebels, and to an unjust king, the most wicked in all the earth. And now we cannot open our mouths; we have become a shame and disgrace to Thy servants, and to those who worship Thee.

“Do not hand us over forever, for Thy Holy Name’s sake, and do not annul Thy covenant, and do not withdraw Thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and Israel Thy holy one, to whom Thou hast said that you would multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that is by the shore of the sea. Because, Master, we have become smaller than all the nations, we are humbled in all the earth today because of our sins. And at this moment there is neither prince, nor prophet nor leader; neither holocaust, nor sacrifice, not offering, nor incense; no place to make an offering before Thee and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite heart and with a spirit of humility may we be accepted, as though with holocausts of rams and bulls and tens of thousands of fat lambs, so may our sacrifice be acceptable before Thee today, and may we wholly follow Thee, because there is no shame for those who trust in Thee. And now we are following Thee with our whole heart; we fear Thee, and seek Thy face.

“Do not put us to shame, but deal with us according to Thy fairness, and according to the multitude of Thy mercy. Deliver us according to Thy wondrous works, and give

glory to Thy Name, O Lord. And let all who harm Thy servants be disgraced, and put to shame from all their power, and let their strength be smashed. And let them know that Thou, O Lord, alone are God, and glorious in the whole inhabited world.”

And the king’s servants, who cast them in, did not cease stoking the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow and brushwood. And the flame poured out above the furnace forty-nine cubits; and it spread out and burnt up those of the Chaldeans it found around the furnace. But the Angel of the Lord came down into the furnace with Meshach and his companions, and shook the flame of the fire out of the furnace. And He made the midst of the furnace as though a moist wind were whistling through it; and the fire did not touch them at all, nor hurt them, nor trouble them. Then the three youths as with one voice, hymned, blessed and glorified God in the furnace, saying:

THE HYMN OF THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. And blessed is Thy glorious, Holy Name: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou Who beholdest the deeps and sittest upon the Cherubim: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou on the glorious throne of Thy Kingdom: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou in the firmament of heaven: to be praised and exalted unto the ages.”

*Then the choirs sing the below refrain in Tone Six or Tone One, with the verses in between.*

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him more and more unto all the ages.

O all ye works of the Lord: bless ye the Lord; praise and exalt Him forever.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye Angels of the Lord, and ye Heavens of  
the Lord: bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O all ye waters that be above the Heavens,  
and all ye Powers of the Lord: bless ye the  
Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye sun and moon and ye stars of Heaven:  
bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye showers and dew and all ye winds:  
bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye dews and snows, ye frosts and cold:  
bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye frosts and snows, ye lightnings and  
clouds: bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye earth, mountains and hills, and all the  
things which grow in her: bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye fountains, seas and rivers, whales and  
all that move in the waters: bless ye the  
Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye fowl of Heaven, beasts and all cattle:  
bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye sons of men, bless ye and let Israel  
bless the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye priests of the Lord, servants of the  
Lord: bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye spirits and souls of the Righteous, holy  
and humble people of heart: bless ye the  
Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: bless  
ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
O ye Apostles, Prophets and Witnesses of  
the Lord: bless ye the Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
We bless the Lord: Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.  
We praise, we bless, and we worship the  
Lord.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, and exalt Him  
more and more unto all the ages.

*During the third reading, the priest recites the prayer of the Trisagion quietly: O holy God, who retest 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 ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

*Choir:* As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia. (*thrice*)

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

Have put on Christ: Alleluia..

*Deacon:* Dýnamis.

*Choir:* As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia.

#### THE APOSTOLOS & THE GOSPEL

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Prokeimenon in the 5<sup>th</sup> one.

Let all the earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee; let them chant unto Thy Name, O Most High. (*Ps. 65:3*) {*twice*}

*Verse:* Shout with jubilation unto the Lord all the earth; chant ye unto His Name, give glory in praise of Him. (*Ps. 65:1*)

Let all the earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee; let them chant unto Thy Name, O Most High.

#### *The Baptismal Apostolos*

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans §91 (6:3-11).

*Deacon:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Brethren, all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were buried, therefore, with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we, too, might walk in newness of life. For, if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Priest:* Peace to thee that readest.

*Reader:* And to thy spirit.

*During the reading of the Apostolos, 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.*

*A joyful procession, symbolizing Christ's triumph and victory over death, with a large bowl of laurel or bay leaves, and/or flower petals, is made during the Anti-Alleluarion.*

*The people remain standing, blessing themselves with the sign of the cross as the priest, strewing the leaves and petals, passes them.*

*The procession takes place in this way:*

- 1. During the Anti-Trisagion Hymn "As many of you as have been baptized," the clergy and altar boys prepare for the procession.*
- 2. The procession follows this order: the torches and cross; the rest of the altar boys with icons if no extra torches are available; if there is a deacon, he carries the censer in front of the priest, otherwise an altar boy does this; the priest carrying the large bowl filled with the leaves and petals; and the fans.*
- 3. The procession begins immediately after the priest sings the first verse below.*

*The procession follows the normal route of the Great Entrance, except that the clergy and altar boys immediately reenter the sanctuary before the reading of the Gospel.*

THE ANTI-ALLELUARION IN TONE SEVEN

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*Verse 1. God hath stood in the congregation of gods, and being in their midst he judges gods.*

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*Verse 2. How long will ye judge unjustly and accept the persons of the wicked?*

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*Verse 3. Defend the needy and the fatherless. Do justice to the humble and poor.*

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*Verse 4. Rescue the poor, and deliver the needy out of the hand of the sinner.*

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*Verse 5. They have not known or understood; they walk in darkness. All the foundations of the earth shall be moved.*

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*Verse 6. I have said: Ye are gods and all sons of the Most High. But ye, like men, shall die; and shall fall like one of the princes. (Refrain)*

*Choir: Arise, O God, judge Thou the earth; for Thou shalt inherit among all the nations.*

*The Resurrection Gospel*

*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 Matthew §115-§116 (28:1-20)*

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

*Deacon: Let us attend!*

After the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." While they were going, behold, some of the

guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

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

*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 in the heavens and lookest down upon all thy works: Look upon thy servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before thee, and grant them the light yoke. Make them honorable members of thy holy Church, and make them worthy of the laver of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins and the robe of incorruption, unto knowledge of thee, our true God:

*(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)* Thou, O Lord, hast shown us this great mystery of salvation; thou hast made us, thy humble and unworthy servants, worthy to be ministrants of thy holy altar. Do thou enable us by the power of thy Holy Spirit for this service, that standing uncondemned before thy holy glory, we may offer unto thee a sacrifice of praise, for thou art he who worketh all things in all men; grant, O Lord, that our sacrifice may be acceptable and well-pleasing in thy sight for our own sins and for the ignorance of the people:

*(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)* O God, who in mercy and compassions hast visited our lowliness, who hast set us, thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants, before thy holy glory, to minister at thy holy altar: Strengthen us by the power of thy Holy Spirit for this ministry, and grant us utterance in the opening of our mouth to invoke the grace of thy Holy Spirit upon the gifts about to be set forth:

*(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 Anti-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 retest 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 ANTI-CHERUBIC HYMN & THE GREAT ENTRANCE

*Choir:* Let all mortal flesh keep silence and in fear and trembling stand, pondering nothing earthly minded. For the King of kings and Lord of lords cometh forth to be slain and given as food to the faithful. Before Him go the ranks of angels, with all the principalities and powers.

*As the priest prepares to celebrate the dread ministry by reverent prayer, he censes 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:* The cherubim many-eyed and the six-winged seraphim, covering their faces and chanting their hymn: 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 our God, who hast created us, and hast brought us into this life, who hast shown us ways of salvation, graciously bestowing upon us the revelation of heavenly mysteries: Thou art he who hath appointed us to this ministry by the power of thy Holy Spirit; graciously grant us, therefore, O Lord, to be servitors of thy new covenant, ministers of thy holy mysteries. Receive us who draw near to thy holy altar, according to the fulness of thy mercy, that we may be worthy to offer unto thee this rational and bloodless sacrifice for our own sins, and for the ignorance of the people, which do thou receive upon thy holy, most heavenly and spiritual altar as a savor of sweetness, and send down upon us in return the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Look upon us, O God, and behold this our worship, and receive it as thou didst receive the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah, the burnt-offerings of Abraham, the priestly offices of Moses and Aaron, the peace-offerings of Samuel. Even as thou didst receive at the hands of thy holy apostles this true worship, so also do thou in thy goodness, O Lord, receive from the hands of us sinners these gifts; that, having been accounted worthy to minister at thy holy altar, we may receive the recompense of wise and faithful stewards, in the fearful day of thy just requiting:

*(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.<sup>2</sup>

*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. BASIL THE GREAT  
*Deacon:* Let us stand aright; let us stand with fear; let us attend, that we may offer the Holy Oblation in peace.

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<sup>2</sup> Or, if it be a con-celebration, we chant instead: I will love Thee, O Lord, my Strength; the Lord is my firm Foundation, my Refuge and my Deliverer.

*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)* O Existing One, Master, Lord, God, almighty and adorable Father: It is truly meet and right and befitting the majesty of thy holiness that we should praise thee, hymn thee, bless thee, worship thee, give thanks unto thee and glorify thee, the only truly existing God, and offer unto thee with contrite heart and spirit of humility this our rational worship; for thou art he that hath graciously bestowed upon us the knowledge of thy truth. And who is sufficient to speak of thy mighty acts, to make all thy praises to be heard, or to tell of all thy wonders at every season? O Master of all, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation both visible and invisible, who sittest upon the throne of glory and beholdest the depths, who art unoriginate, invisible, incomprehensible, uncircumscribed, immutable, the Father of our Lord: the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, our Hope, who is the Image of thy goodness, the Seal of equal type, in himself showing forth thee, the Father, the living Word, the true God, the Wisdom before all ages, the Life, Sanctification, Power, the true Light, through whom the Holy Spirit was manifested: the Spirit of truth, the Gift of adoption, the Pledge of the

inheritance to come, the First-fruits of eternal good things, the life-giving Power, the Fountain of Sanctification, by whom enabled every rational and intelligent creature doth serve thee and ascribe to thee perpetual praise, for all things are thy servants. Yea, angels and archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers and the many-eyed cherubim praise thee; round about thee stand the six-winged seraphim; with two they cover their faces, with two their feet and with two they fly, continually crying out to one another with unceasing praises:

*(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, O Master who lovest mankind, we sinners also do cry aloud and say: Holy art thou, of a truth, and all-holy, and there are no bounds to the majesty of thy holiness, and just art thou in all thy works, for in righteousness and true judgment hast thou ordered all things for us. When thou hadst fashioned man, taking him from the dust of the earth, and hadst honoured him with thine own image, O God, thou didst set him in the paradise of plenty, promising him life-eternal and the enjoyment of everlasting good things in keeping thy commandments. But when he disobeyed thee, the true God, who had created him, and was led astray by the guile of the serpent and rendered subject to death through his own transgressions, thou didst banish him, in thy righteous judgment, O God, from paradise into this world, and

didst turn him again to the earth from which he was taken, providing for him the salvation of regeneration, which is in thy Christ himself. Yet thou didst not turn thyself away forever from thy creature whom thou hast made, O good One, neither didst thou forget the work of thy hands; but thou didst visit him in diverse manners, through thy tender mercies. Thou didst send forth prophets; thou didst perform mighty works by thy holy ones who, in every generation, were well-pleasing unto thee; thou didst speak to us by the mouths of thy servants the prophets, who foretold unto us the salvation which was to come; thou didst give us the Law as an aid; thou didst appoint guardian angels. And when the fulness of time was come, thou didst speak unto us through thy Son himself, by whom also thou madest the ages, who, being the Brightness of thy glory and the express Image of thy person and upholding all things by the word of his power, thought it not robbery to be equal to thee, the God and Father. But though he was God before all the ages, yet he appeared upon earth and dwelt among men and was incarnate of a holy virgin and didst empty himself, taking on the form of a servant, becoming conformed to the body of our lowliness, that he might make us conformable to the image of his glory. For as by man sin entered into the world, and by sin death, so it seemed good unto thine only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of thee, the God and Father, to be born of a woman, the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; to be born under the Law, that he might condemn sin in his flesh, that they who were dead in Adam might be made alive in him thy Christ. And becoming a citizen of this world and giving commandments of salvation, he released us from the delusion of idols and brought us into a knowledge of thee, the true God and Father,

having won us unto himself for his own people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; and having purified us by water and having sanctified us by the Holy Spirit, he gave himself a ransom to death, whereby we were held, sold into bondage under sin. And having descended into hades through the cross, that he might fill all things with Himself, he loosed the pains of death and rose again on the third day, making a way for all flesh unto the resurrection from the dead, for it was not possible that the Author of life should be held by corruption, that he might be the First-fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the First-born from the dead, that he might be in all things the first among all. Ascending into heaven, he sat down at the right hand of thy majesty on high; and he shall come again to render unto every man according to his works. And he hath left with us, as memorials of his saving passion, these things which we have set forth according to his commandments. For when he was about to go forth to his voluntary and ever-memorable and life-giving death, in the night in which he gave himself up for the life of the world, he took bread in his holy and immaculate hands; and when he had shown it unto thee, the God and Father, and 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)* In like manner, having taken the cup of the fruit of the vine and mingled it and given thanks and blessed it and hallowed it, He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, 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)* Do this in remembrance of me; for as often as you shall eat this bread and drink of this cup, you do proclaim my death and confess my resurrection.

Wherefore, O Master, we also, having in remembrance his saving passion and life-giving cross, his three day entombment and resurrection from the dead, his ascension into heaven and sitting at the right hand of thee, the God and Father, and his glorious and fearful second 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)* Wherefore, O all-holy Master, we also, thy sinful and unworthy servants, who have been made worthy to minister at thy holy altar, not through our own righteousness, for we have done no good deed upon earth, but because of thy mercies and compassions which thou hast richly poured out upon us, have now boldness to draw near unto thy holy altar; and presenting unto thee the antitypes of the holy Body and Blood of thy Christ, we pray thee and implore thee, O Holy of holies, by the favor of thy goodness, that thy Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts here spread forth and bless them and hallow them and show,

*Priest:* This bread to be itself the precious Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* And this cup to be itself the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ;

*All:* Amen.

*Priest:* Which was shed for the life of the world and its salvation.

*All:* Amen, Amen, Amen.

*Priest: (Quietly)* And as for us, partakers of the one bread and of the cup, do thou unite all to one another unto communion of the one Holy Spirit, and grant that no one of us may partake of the holy Body and Blood of thy Christ unto judgment or unto condemnation, but rather that we may find mercy and grace with all the holy ones who through the ages have been well pleasing unto thee: forefathers, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, teachers 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:* In thee, O full of grace, all creation rejoices, the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a little child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb he made more spacious than the heavens. In thee, O full of grace, all creation rejoices. Glory to thee!

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

*Priest:* 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, NN., and grant them rest where the light of thy countenance watcheth over them.

And again we pray thee: Be mindful, O Lord, of thy holy, catholic and apostolic Church, which is to the ends of the world; and give peace unto her whom thou has purchased with the precious Blood of thy Christ; and establish thou this holy house, even unto the end of the age.

Be mindful, O Lord, of those who have set before thee these gifts, and those for whom and through whom and in behalf of whom they have offered them. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches and who remember the poor; requite them with thy rich and heavenly gifts; give them things heavenly for things earthly, things eternal for things temporal, things incorruptible for things corruptible.

Be mindful, O Lord, of those in the deserts, the mountains and in caverns and pits of the earth. Be mindful, O Lord, of all those who live in virginity and reverence, in asceticism and who lead a godly way of life.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all civil authorities and of our armed forces; grant them a secure and lasting peace; speak good things into their hearts concerning thy Church and all thy people, that we in their tranquility may lead a calm and peaceful life in all reverence and godliness. Establish the good in thy goodness, and make good the evil, by thy benevolence.

Be mindful, O Lord, of the people here present and of those who are absent for reasonable cause, and have mercy upon them and upon us, according to the multitude of

thy mercy. Fill their treasuries with every good thing; maintain their marriage-bond in peace and concord; rear the infants; guide the young; support the aged; encourage the faint-hearted. Collect the scattered, and turn them from their wandering astray, and unite them to thy holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Set at liberty those who are vexed by unclean spirits; travel with those who journey by land and sea and air; defend the widows; protect the orphans; free the captives; heal the sick; and be mindful, O God, of those who are under judgment, in the mines, in exile, in bitter servitude, in every tribulation, necessity and danger, and all who beseech thy great loving-kindness; and be mindful, O Lord our God, of those who love us and those who hate us and those who have enjoined us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them, and of all thy people, and upon them all pour out thy rich mercy, granting to all their petitions which are unto salvation. And those whom we through ignorance or forgetfulness or the multitude of names have not remembered, do thou thyself remember, O God who knowest the time of life and name of each and knowest every man even from his mother's womb. For thou, O Lord, art the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the hopeless, the Saviour of the storm-tossed, the Haven of the voyager, the Physician of the sick. Be thou thyself all things to all men, O thou who knowest every man, his petition, his dwelling-place and his need.

Deliver, O Lord, this city and every city and countryside from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion and civil war.

(*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 every bishop of the Orthodox, who rightly divideth the word of thy truth.

Be mindful also, O Lord, of my unworthiness, according to the multitude of thy compassions; pardon me every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary, and withhold not, because of my sins, the grace of thy Holy Spirit from these gifts here spread forth.

Be mindful, O Lord, of the presbytery, the diaconate in Christ and every priestly order, and put not to confusion any one of us who stand about thy holy altar. Visit us with thy benevolence, O Lord; manifest thyself unto us in thy rich compassions; grant us temperate and healthful seasons; give gentle showers upon the earth unto fruitfulness; bless the crown of the year of thy goodness; make the schisms of the Churches to cease; quench the rag-ings of hostile nations; speedily destroy, by the power of thy Holy Spirit, uprisings of heresies; receive us all into thy kingdom, showing us to be sons of the light and sons of the day; and grant unto us thy peace and thy love, O Lord our God, for all things hast thou given unto us:

*(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)* O our God, the God of salvation, do thou teach us how we may worthily give thanks unto thee for thy benefits, which thou hast ever bestowed and yet dost bestow among us. Do thou, O our God who receives! these gifts, purify us from every defilement of flesh and spirit; teach us to perfect holiness in thy fear, that we, receiving a portion of thy holy things in the witness of a pure conscience toward thee, may be made one with the holy Body and Blood of thy Christ and that, having received them worthily, we may have Christ abiding in our hearts and may become a temple of thy Holy Spirit. Yea, O our God, cause also that none of us may be guilty of these thy dread and heavenly mysteries or infirm in soul or in body through an unworthy partaking; but enable us, even unto our last breath, worthily to receive a portion of thy holy things, as a support upon the road to life eternal and as an acceptable defense at the fearful judgment seat of thy Christ. That we also, together with all the saints who, in all the ages, have been well-pleasing unto thee, may be made partakers of thine everlasting good things, which thou hast prepared for those who love thee. O Lord.

*(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)* O Master Lord, the Father of compassions and the God of all comfort: Bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen, fortify those who have bowed their heads unto thee; withdraw from them every evil work; unite them to every good work; and graciously grant that without condemnation, they may partake of these thine immaculate and life-giving mysteries unto the forgiveness of sins and unto the communion of the Holy Spirit:

*(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 OF HOLY SATURDAY, IN TONE 8  
And the Lord was a wakened as one that sleepeth, and has arisen, saving us. (*Ps.77:70; as verses, use Ps.77:71, 72, 73, ...*). 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.

*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 OF HOLY SATURDAY IN TONE 2

*Choir:* Remember us also, O merciful One, even as Thou didst remember the thief in the Kingdom of the Heavens.

*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 Lord our God, for the participation in thy holy, immaculate, immortal and heavenly mysteries, which thou hast given unto us for

the welfare and sanctification and healing of our souls and bodies. Do thou, the same Master of all, grant that the communion of the holy Body and Blood of thy Christ may be for us unto faith unashamed, unto love unfeigned, unto increase of wisdom, unto the healing of soul and body, unto the turning aside of every adversary, unto the fulfillment of thy commandments, unto an acceptable defense at the fearful judgment seat of thy Christ:

*(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 He Who rose 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; 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, Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, 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 this holy 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.