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The Office of Holy Unction

NOTE

The Sacrament of Holy Unction is offered for the healing of soul and body and for forgiveness of sins. At the conclusion of the service of the Sacrament, the body is anointed with oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person. In preparation for the anointing with the Holy Oil, a Christian is expected to prepare himself/herself by soul searching and Confession. The Sacrament is performed by a gathering of priests, ideally seven in number, however, it can be performed by a lesser number and even by a single priest. In (large) monastic communities, the Holy Unction is done several times a year. (In Greek and North American Antiochian parishes this Office is served on the afternoon of Holy Wednesday.)

Because Holy Unction is a Sacrament of the Orthodox Church, only Orthodox Christians may be anointed with the Holy Oil.

PREPARATION

The sacrament table is prepared on the solea, upon which is placed a bowl containing pure olive oil and another vessel with pure red wine. Several wands with cotton tips for the anointing shall be prepared. The gospel book and blessing cross are placed on the table.

In some communities seven candles are also placed on the table, lighting one candle after each successive gospel is read. Some communities place one, or three, floating wicks in the olive oil.

The priest(s) vests in exorasson, epitachelion and phelonion.

THE OPENING

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

Trisagion

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we

forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

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

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

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

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in thy truth; hearken unto me in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgement with thy servant, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all thy works, I pondered on the creations of thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt thou quicken me. In thy righteousness shalt thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in thy mercy shalt thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And thou shalt cut off them that afflict my soul, for I am thy servant.

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 LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To thee, O Lord. :

Priest: For 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.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 6

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in thine indignation, neither chasten me in thy displeasure.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PENITENTIAL TORAPARIA, IN TONE 6

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for we sinners, void of all defense, offer unto thee as Master, this supplication: have mercy on us.

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

Lord, have mercy on us, for in thee have we put our trust; be not very wroth against us, neither remember our iniquities; but look down upon us even now, since thou art compassionate, and deliver us from our enemies. For thou art our God, and we are thy people; we are all the work of thy hands, and we call upon thy Name.

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

Open the doors of mercy unto us, O Blessed Theotokos; in that we have set our hope in thee, may we not perish, but through thee be delivered from peril; for thou art the salvation of the Christian race.

While the following psalm is read, the priest censens the whole church.

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned and done this evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, thou has loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and with thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

THE CANON, IN TONE 4

Ode 1

Irmos: When Israel of old had crossed the Red Sea's depth with foot unwet, they overthrew the hosts of Amalek in the wilderness.

*Refrain:*¹ O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. O Master, who with the oil of compassion dost ever cheer both the souls and bodies of mortals, and dost guard the faithful with oil; be thou clement now to those who approach thee by means of oil.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. The whole earth is full of thy mercy, O Master; wherefore, we who today are mystically anointed with thine oil divine, ask in faith that thine inestimable mercy may be granted us.

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

O Lover of mankind, who in pity for thine ailing servants, didst command thine Apostles to perform thy sacred unction, do thou, through their entreaties, have mercy on all by thy seal.

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

Thou only Chaste one, who didst bear the bountiful sea of Peace; by thy constant intercession with God deliver thy servants from infirmities and griefs, that they may magnify thee ceaselessly.

Ode 3

Irmos: In thee thy Church is glad, O Christ, crying: thou art my fortress, O Lord, both refuge and support.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. Thou who alone art marvelous and merciful to faithful men; grant thy grace from above, O Christ, to those who are grievously afflicted.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. O Lord, who of yore for thy divine token that the flood had ceased, didst show forth an olive branch, by thy mercy save those who suffer.

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

With a lamp of light divine, in thy mercy, O Christ, illumine with anointing those who now with faith hasten to thy mercy.

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

Graciously look down from above, O Mother of the Creator of all, and through thine intercessions loose the bitter pangs of those who are ill.

KATHISMATA

In tone 8

Since thou art a divine river of mercy, like unto a fathomless gulf of plentiful sympathy, O Bountiful One; manifest the divine streams of thy mercy, and heal all men. Pour forth abundantly fountains of wonders and cleanse all: for resorting ever unto thee, we fervently implore thy grace.

In tone 4

Physician and Help of those in sickness, Redeemer and Saviour of the infirm; do thou, the Master and Lord of all, grant healing to thine infirm servants. Be clement, show mercy to those who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their iniquities, that they may glorify thy might divine.

Ode 4

Irmos: The Church, seeing thee, the Sun of Righteousness, uplifted upon the Cross, standeth in her stateliness, worthily calling out: Glory to thy might, O Lord.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee.

¹ In some texts, the refrain is "Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee" instead of "O merciful Lord..."

Thou, O Saviour, art as incorruptible myrrh, emptied of thy grace and cleansing the world: divinely show pity and mercy to those who with faith anoint their bodily wounds.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee.

Now that the senses of thy servants are signed with the seal of the joy of thy mercy, O Master, make inaccessible and impenetrable the entry of all adverse powers.

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

Thou who lovest man didst bid the ailing to summon thy godly priests, and by their prayers and anointing with thine oil to be saved; of thy mercy, save those who suffer.

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

O all-holy Theotokos ever-virgin, strong shelter and defense, thou haven and wall, both ladder and partition, have mercy and pity on the sick; for they have fled to thee alone.

Ode 5

Irmos: Thou, my Lord, art come into the world as light, a holy light, which converteth from the darkness of ignorance those who with faith praise thee.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee.

Thou who art Good, an abyss of mercy; of thy compassion, O Merciful One, show mercy through thy mercy divine, on those who suffer.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee.

O Christ, who hast ineffably sanctified our souls and bodies by thy divine impress of sealing from above, with thine own hand heal us all.

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

O Lord exceeding good, who through thine inexpressible tenderness didst accept myrrh anointing from the harlot, have pity on thy servants.

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

All-lauded, pure, most gracious Sovereign Lady, have mercy on those anointed with the oil divine, and save thy servants.

Ode 6

Irmos: I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of praise, O Lord, the Church crieth out to thee; having been cleansed of the blood of demons through the Blood that mercifully flowed from thy side.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee.

O Lover of mankind, who by thy word didst show anointing is for kings, and the same through High Priests didst perform: save also those who suffer, by the seal of thy compassion.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee.

Let no interposition of malignant demons, O Saviour, touch the senses of those signed with divine anointing; but hedge them about with the shelter of thy glory.

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

Stretch forth from on high thy hand, O thou who lovest man, and having sanctified thine oil, O Saviour, impart it to thy servants unto healing and deliverance from all ills.

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

O Mother of the Creator, in thy divine temple thou hast revealed thyself a fruitful olive tree, whereby the world is found filled with mercy. Therefore by the touching of thine intercessions save those who suffer.

KONTAKION

In tone 2 (may be read)

Thou that art the source of mercy, O exceeding Good One, do thou deliver from every calamity those who with fervent faith bow down before thine unspeakable mercy; and, Compassionate One, taking away their maladies, grant them thy divine grace from on high.

Ode 7 (Tone 4)

Irmos: The Abrahamic children in the Persian furnace, fired rather with love of piety than with the flame, called out: Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the temple of thy glory.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. Thou who in thy mercies and bounties, O Saviour, only God, dost heal the passions of soul and contritions of body of all men, be thou physician for those who suffer from infirmities, and restore them.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. When the heads of all are anointed with the oil of unction, grant those who seek the mercy of thy deliverance, O Christ, the delight of joy, bestowing upon them thy rich mercies, O Lord.

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

Thy seal, O Saviour, against the demons is a sword; the entreaties of priests are a fire consuming the passions of the soul; wherefore, we who receive healing, with faith praise thee.

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

O Mother of God, who within thy womb in god-like manner didst hold, and ineffably didst incarnate, him who holdeth all things in his grasp; propitiate him for those who suffer, we beseech thee.

Ode 8

Irmos: Daniel stretched forth his hands and closed the lions jaws in their den; and the force of the fire was quenched by the zealously pious children who girded themselves with virtue, and called out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. Thou showest mercy on all men, O Saviour, according to mercy mighty and divine: for which cause we all are gathered here, O Master, mystically representing the condescension of thy mercies, and have brought in faith the unction with oil unto the servants, whom also do thou visit.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. By the streams of thy mercy, O Christ, and through anointing by thy priests, wash away, in that thou art compassionate, O Lord, the ills and afflictions, and the assaults of maladies of those tormented by the stress of sufferings, that saved, they may glorify thee with thanksgiving.

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

Forasmuch as thy mercy divine hath been decreed to us from above, O Master, as a symbol of condescension and of joy; withdraw not thy mercy, neither despise those who ever cry faithfully: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.

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

Nature received thy divine child-bearing, O Pure One, as a crown most glorious which crushed the hosts of foes, and vanquished their dominion. Wherefore, crowned with the festal brightness of thy grace, we extol thee, O most lauded Sovereign Lady.

Ode 9

Irmos: A rock unhewn by hands from the unquarried mountain was hewn. O Virgin, even Christ the corner-stone, who hath conjoined the separate natures. Rejoicing therein we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. Look down from heaven, O Bountiful One, and show thy mercy unto all. Thine assistance and thy strength bestow on those who draw near to thee, through the divine unction of thy priests, O thou who lovest man.

Refrain: O merciful Lord, hearken to the prayer of thy servants supplicating thee. O Saviour most good, rejoicing have we seen the oil divine, which through thy godlike condescension thou hast received, and, above the merits of the recipients, hast symbolically imparted to those who have shared in the laver divine.

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

Be clement, have mercy, O Saviour, deliver from terrors and pains, deliver from the darts of the evil one the souls and bodies of thy servants; since thou art a merciful Lord, who healest by grace divine.

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

As thou receivest the hymns and supplications of thy servants, O Virgin, so do thou also deliver through thine intercessions, from harsh suffering and pain those who, through us, O all-immaculate one, flee to thy sacred shelter.

All: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever-blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos; we magnify thee.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. The 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 all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee do 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 EXAPOSTELARION, IN TONE 3

Chanter: In mercy, O Good One, cast thine eyes upon the prayer of us, who today are gathered in thy holy temple, to anoint with divine oil thine infirm servants. (*thrice*)

THE PRAISES (AINOI), IN TONE 4

Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God is due our song. Praise ye Him, all His angels; praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Verse: Praise him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise him with the psaltery and harp. Thou hast given thy grace through thine Apostles, O Good Physician, Lover of mankind, to heal the wounds and infirmities of all men through thy holy oil. Therefore, inasmuch as thou art

compassionate, sanctify, be merciful, and cleanse from every ailment, and make worthy of thy food incorruptible, those who now with faith approach thine oil.

Verse: Praise him with the timbrel and dance, praise him with stringed instruments and organs. O ineffable Lover of mankind, who with thine unseen hand, as being compassionate, sealest our senses with thine oil divine; look down from Heaven, and give to those who in faith hasten to thee, and ask pardon of iniquities, healing of soul and body, that they may glorify thee lovingly, and magnify thy might.

Verse: Praise him upon the loud cymbals, praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals; let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Through anointing with thine oil, and the touch of thy priests, O Lover of mankind, sanctify thy servants from on high. Free them from infirmities. Cleanse their spiritual defilements. Wash them, O Saviour, and deliver them from scandals manifold. Assuage their maladies. Banish their hindrances and destroy their afflictions; forasmuch as thou art Bountiful and Compassionate.

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

O most pure royal palace much extolled, purify, I implore thee, my mind defiled by every kind of sin; and make it a meet abode for the all-divine Trinity, that I, thine unprofitable servant, being saved, may magnify thy power and mercy measureless.

Trisagion

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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

TROPARION TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN TONE 4

Choir/Chanter: Do thou, O Christ, who alone dost speed to help, manifest thy speedy visitation from on high upon thy suffering servants; deliver them from their infirmities, and bitter pain; and raise them up again to praise and glorify thee unceasingly: through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O thou who alone lovest mankind.

THE GREAT EKTENIA

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 temple, and for those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this oil may be blessed by the power, and operation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the servants of God here present, and for the visitation of God upon them; and that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For their and 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE OIL

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:*² O Lord, who through thy mercies and bounties healest the disorders of our souls and bodies: do thou thyself, O Master also sanctify this oil, that it may be effectual for those who are anointed therewith, unto healing and unto relief from every passion, of defilement of flesh and spirit and every ill; and that thereby may be glorified thine all-holy Name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In some traditions, while the priest pours the wine into the olive oil, the chanters sing the troparia below. (In local parish practice, the troparia are omitted at this point, and may be sung during the Anointing of the Faithful, at the end of the service.)

TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN TONE 4

Do thou, O Christ, who alone dost speed to help, manifest thy speedy visitation from on high upon thy suffering servants; deliver them from their infirmities, and bitter pain; and raise them up again to praise and glorify thee unceasingly: through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O thou who alone lovest mankind.

TO JESUS CHRIST, THE SHINING LIGHT, IN TONE 4

² The senior priest reads the Prayer of Oil over the olive oil, blessing it with his right hand. If there are other priests, they likewise quietly read this Prayer with him.

Blind of my spiritual eyes, I come to thee:, O Christ, as did the man blind from his birth, and I cry to thee in penitence: Thou art the shining light of those in darkness.

TO JESUS CHRIST, THE COMPASSIONATE, IN TONE 3

By thy divine intervention, O Lord, raise thou up my soul, which by every kind of sin and unbecoming deeds so grievously is paralyzed, as thou of old didst upraise the paralytic; that, being saved, I may cry to thee: Grant healing unto me, O Christ Compassionate.

TO ST. JAMES, IN TONE 4

As the Lord's disciple, thou, O righteous one, didst receive the gospel; as a martyr thou dost possess that which unwritten is; thou hast boldness, as the brother of God; as hierarch, thou hast power in prayer. Intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

ANOTHER TO ST. JAMES, IN TONE 4

The only-begotten Word of God the Father, who in latter days hath come to us, declared thee, O divine James, the first pastor and teacher of those in Jerusalem, and a faithful steward of spiritual mysteries: wherefore, O Apostle, we all honor thee.

TO ST. NICHOLAS, IN TONE 3

In Myra, O Saint, thou didst show thyself a true priest; for in fulfilling Christ's Gospel, O venerable one, thou didst lay down thy life for thy people, and savest the innocent from death. Wherefore art thou hallowed as a great initiate in the grace of God.

TO ST. DEMETRIUS, IN TONE 3

The world hath found in thee a mighty champion in dangers, O endurer of pain, who overcame the heathen. For like as thou didst humble Lyaeus' pride, and in the strife make Nestor brave, so Saint Demetrius, entreat Christ our God to bestow on us great mercy.

TO ST. PANTELEIMON, IN TONE 3

O holy endurer of pain and physician Panteleimon, intercede with the merciful God that he may grant our souls remission of iniquities.

TO THE UNMERCENARY HEALERS, IN TONE 8

O holy Unmercenaries and Wonder-workers, visit ye our weaknesses; freely ye have received, freely give to us.

TO ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN, IN TONE 2

Thy grandeur, O virgin Saint, who shall declare? For thou dost overflow with wonders, and pourest forth healing; and as theologian and friend of Christ, thou intercedest for our souls.

THEOTOKION, IN TONE 2

Fervent supplicant and wall impregnable, source of mercy, refuge of the world; to thee we earnestly do cry: Theotokos, Sovereign Lady, beforehand come to us and deliver us from danger, thou who alone art quick to intercede.

THE FIRST APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 8. [Ps. 32]

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have put our trust in thee.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise becometh the righteous.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the General Epistle of St. James. §57 (James 5:10-16)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall under condemnation. Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 8 [Ps. 100]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: I will sing to thee of mercy and judgment, O Lord.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE FIRST GOSPEL

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

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. §53 (10:25-37)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE FIRST PRAYER³

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Thou who art unoriginate, Eternal, the Holy of Holies, who didst send down thine Only-begotten Son to heal every infirmity and all manner of disease, both of our souls and bodies: Send down thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this oil; and cause it to be for thy servants, who are anointed therewith, unto perfect deliverance from their sins, unto inheritance of the kingdom of heaven. §✠ *For thou art God, great and wonderful, who keepest thy covenant and thy mercy unto those who love thee; who givest deliverance from sins through thy holy Child, Jesus Christ; who regeneratest us from sin; who enlightenest the blind, raisest up those who art cast down; who lovest the righteous and showest mercy unto sinners; who leadest us forth again out of darkness and the shadow of death, saying to those in bonds, "Come forth;" and to those in darkness, "Be ye unveiled." For the light of the knowledge of thine Only-begotten Son shone in our hearts, since for our sakes he appeared on earth, and dwelt among men; and to those who accepted him, he gave power to become the children of God; granting to us sonship through the laver of regeneration, and made us to have no participation in the tyranny of the Devil.*

And inasmuch as it hath not pleased him that we should be purified by blood, but by holy oil, he gave us the image of his Cross, that we may be a flock of Christ, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; and didst purify us by water, and sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit. Do thou thyself, O Master Lord, give us grace in this ministration, as thou gavest it to Moses, thine accepted, and to Samuel, thy beloved, and to John, thine elect, and to all those who, from generation to generation, have been well pleasing unto thee. And so make us also to be ministers of the new Covenant of thy Son upon this oil, which thou hast made thine own through the precious Blood of thy Christ; that putting away worldly lusts, we may die unto sin and live unto righteousness, being clothed upon with our Lord Jesus Christ through the anointing of sanctification of this oil which we desire to use. Let this oil, O Lord, be an oil of gladness, an oil of sanctification, a royal raiment, an armor of might, an averting of every diabolical operation, an inviolable seal, a rejoicing of the heart, an everlasting gladness; that those also who are anointed with this oil of regeneration may be terrible to adversaries, and may shine in the radiance of thy Saints, having neither spot nor wrinkle; and that they may be received into thine eternal rest, and gain the prize of the calling from on high. ✠§

For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O God, our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, with thine Only-begotten Son, and thine all-holy, and good and life-creating Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

³ In this and subsequent prayers, the *italic text* between the symbols §✠ and ✠§ may be omitted by the priest.

Choir: Amen.

THE SECOND APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 2. [Ps. 117]

The Lord is my strength and my song, and is become my salvation.

Verse: Chastening, the Lord hath chastised me, but he hath not given me over unto death.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans. §116 (15:1-7)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of your Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 5 [Ps. 88]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: I will sing of thy mercy, O Lord, for ever.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE SECOND GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. §94 (Luke 19:1-10)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE SECOND PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, great and most high, who art worshipped by all creation, source of wisdom, abyss of goodness truly unfathomable, and boundless sea of benignity; do thou thyself, O Master who lovest mankind, the God of the eternal and the marvelous, whom none among men by thinking can comprehend, look upon us, and hearken unto us, thine unworthy servants, and wheresoever we bring this oil in thy great Name, do thou send down thy gift of healing, and the remission of sins, and heal thy servants in the plenitude of thy mercy. Yea, O Lord, thou good physician; who alone art merciful and lovest man; who repentest thee of our wickedness; who knowest that the intention of man inclineth unto evil from his youth up; who desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he should return and live; who for the salvation of sinners, being God, didst become incarnate, and didst become a Creature for thy creatures. Thou hast said, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance"; thou art he who sought the lost sheep; thou art he who diligently sought the lost drachma, and found it; thou didst say, "He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out"; thou art he who didst not loathe the harlot who rained her tears upon thy precious feet; thou didst say, "As often as thou fallest, arise, and thou shalt be saved"; thou art he who saith, "There is joy in Heaven over one sinner who repenteth". Do thou thyself, O Benign Master, look down from the height of thy sanctuary, overshadowing us sinners, and thine unworthy servants at this hour, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and abide in these thy servants who acknowledge their transgressions, and draw near to thee in faith; and accepting them in thine own love to man, whether they have transgressed in word or deed or thought, forgiving them, do thou cleanse them, make them pure from every sin; and, abiding ever present with them, preserve them all the remaining years of their lives; that walking in thy statutes, they may never become a derision to the Devil; and that by them thine all-holy Name may be glorified. For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy, and good and life-creating Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE THIRD APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 1. [Ps. 26]

The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Verse: The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. §153 (I Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8a)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readeest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 2 [Ps. 30]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be put to shame.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE THIRD GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. §34b (Matthew 10:1, 5-8)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time, Jesus called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE THIRD PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Almighty Master, Holy King, who chastenest and yet slayest not; who raisest up those who fall, and restorest those who are cast down; who relievest the bodily afflictions of men: We beseech thee, our God, that thou wilt direct thy mercy upon this oil, and upon those who are anointed therewith in thy Name, that it may be to them for the healing of soul and body, for the cleansing and removal of every passion, and of every infirmity and wound, and every defilement of flesh and spirit. ✠ *Yea, O Lord, send down from Heaven thy healing power; touch the body; quench the fever; soothe the suffering, and banish every hidden ailment. Be thou the physician of thy servants; raise them up from the bed of sickness, and from their couch of vexation whole and perfectly restored, granting them, through thy Church, to be well-pleasing unto thee, and to work thy will.* ✠§

For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, 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 FOURTH APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 4. [Ps. 101]

In the day when I shall call upon thee, speedily hear me.

Verse: O Lord, hear my prayer and my cry.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Second Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. §182 (6:16-18, 7:1)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 2. [Ps. 39]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: I waited patiently for the Lord, and he attended to me.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE FOURTH GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. §26 (8:14-23)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time, when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." And when he entered the boat, his disciples followed him.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE FOURTH PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O good and man-loving, compassionate and most merciful Lord, plentiful in mercy and rich in beneficence, the Father of bounties and God of every consolation, who through thy holy Apostles hast empowered us to heal the infirmities of the people by oil with prayer: Do thou thyself appoint this oil for the healing of those who are anointed therewith; for the alleviation of every infirmity and every malady; for deliverance from ills of those who await salvation that is from thee. Yea, Master, Lord our God, we beseech thee, who art Almighty, to save us all; thou who alone art the Physician of souls and bodies, sanctify us all. §✠ *Thou who healest every infirmity, heal also these thy servants; raise them up from their couch of sickness through the mercy of thy goodness; visit them with thy mercies and bounties; cast out of them every ailment and weakness; that, raised up by thy mighty hand, they may serve thee with all thanksgiving; and that*

now, participating in thine inexpressible love towards mankind, we also may hymn and glorify thee who performest great and wondrous, glorious and transcendent things. ✠§

For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, our God, and to 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 FIFTH APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 5. [Ps. 11]

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and protect us, from this generation and for ever.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the righteous are become few.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The readings is from the Second Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. §168 (1:8-11)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, we do not want you to be ignorant of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself, Why, we felt that we had received the sentence of death; but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead; he delivered us from so deadly a peril, and he will deliver us; on him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us in answer to many prayers.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 5 [Ps. 88]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: I will sing of thy mercies, O Lord, for ever.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE FIFTH GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. §104 (25:1-13)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: The Lord said this parable, "The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man will come."

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE FIFTH PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord our God, who chastenest and again healest; who raisest the poor man from the earth, and exaltest the beggar from the dunghill; the Father of orphans, and Haven of the tempest-tossed, and Physician of the sick; who painlessly bearest our weaknesses, and receivest our infirmities; who showest mercy with gentleness, who overlookest transgressions, and takest away unrighteousness; who art quick to help, and slow to wrath; who didst breathe upon thy disciples and say, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit; whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and takest away unrighteousness"; who acceptest the repentance of sinners, and hast power to forgive sins manifold and grievous, and grantest healing to all who continue in weakness and lingering illness; who also hast called me, thy humble and sinful and unworthy servant, entangled in manifold sins and wallowing in the lusts of pleasures, to the holy and sublime degree of the Priesthood, and to enter within the innermost veil, into the Holy of Holies,, whither the holy Angels desire to penetrate, and to hear the evangelic voice of the Lord God, and personally behold the presence of the Holy Oblation, and to take delight in the divine and sacred Liturgy; who hast counted me worthy to minister thy supracelestial Mysteries, and to offer unto thee gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorances of people, and to mediate for thy rational sheep, that, through thine abundant and unspeakable love towards man, thou mayest cleanse their iniquities: Do thou thyself, O most good King, attend to my prayer in this hour and on this holy day, and in every time and place, and hearken to the voice of my supplication, and grant healing to thy servants who are weak of soul and body, giving them remission of sins and forgiveness of their transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary. ✠§ *Heal thou their incurable wounds, and every ailment and every sore, bestow upon them, psychic healing. O thou who didst touch the mother-in-law of Peter, whereupon the fever left her, and she arose and ministered unto thee: Do thou thyself, O Master, grant healing to these thy servants, and alleviation of every emaciating illness; and be mindful of thy rich bounties and thy mercy.* ✠§ Remember that the thought of man inclineth constantly toward evil from his youth up, and that none is to be found sinless upon earth; for thou alone art without sin, who didst come and save the human race, and free us from bondage to the enemy. For if thou shouldest enter into judgment with thy servants, there is none that would be

found pure from stain, but every mouth would be sealed, having naught to answer; for all our righteousness is like unto cast-off rags before thee. Wherefore, O Lord, remember not the sins of our youth: For thou art the Hope of the hopeless, and the Repose of those who labor and are heavy-laden with iniquity, and to thee we ascribe glory, with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE SIXTH APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 4. [Ps. 50]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy.

Verse: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. §213 (5:22-26; 6:1-2)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 6 [Ps. 111]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: Blessed is the man who feareth the Lord. In his commandments he rejoiceth exceedingly.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE SIXTH GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. §62 (15:21-28)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE SIXTH PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: We thank thee, O Lord our God, who art good and lovest man, the Physician of our souls and bodies, who painlessly bearest our infirmities, by whose stripes we have all been healed; thou good Shepherd, who earnest to seek the wandering sheep; who givest consolation to the fainthearted, and life to those who are shattered; who didst heal the flow of the woman who had an issue of blood twelve years; who didst free the daughter of the Canaanitish woman from the cruel demon; who didst release the two debtors from their debt, and give remission of sins unto the sinful woman; who grantest healing unto the Paralytic, with the remission of his sins; who didst justify the Publican by thy word, and didst accept the Thief at his last confession; who takest away the sins of the world, and wast nailed to the Cross: We beseech thee, and entreat thee, in thy goodness loose, remit, forgive, O God, the trespasses and sins of these thy servants, and their iniquities, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether of knowledge or of ignorance, whether of transgression or of disobedience, whether of the night or of the day; whether they be under the ban of a priest, or the curse of father or mother; whether by the glance of the eye, or a movement of the eyelid; whether through the contact of adultery or the taste of prodigality, or through whatsoever impulse of the flesh and of the spirit they have departed from thy will, and from thy holiness. And if they have sinned, and in like manner we also, forgive us; forasmuch as thou art a good God who rememberest not evil, and lovest mankind: and let not them or us fall into a dissolute life, neither to walk in the ways of destruction. Yea, O Master, Lord, hearken unto me a sinner, in this hour, on behalf of these thy servants, and overlook their trespasses, forasmuch as thou art a God who callest not evil to mind. Free them from eternal torment; fill their mouths with thy praise; open their lips that they may glorify thy holy Name; stretch forth their hands to the doing of thy commandments. Guide their feet aright in the way of thy Gospel, strengthening all their members and their thoughts, by thy grace. For thou art our God, who hast commanded us by thy holy Apostles, saying, "Whatsoever ye bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." And again, "Unto whomsoever ye remit sins, they shall be remitted, and if ye retain them, they shall be retained." And as thou didst hearken unto Hezekiah in the sorrow of his soul, at the hour of his death, and didst not despise his supplications, so also, in like manner, give ear unto me, thy humble, and sinful, and unworthy servant at this hour. For thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, through thy goodness and love towards man, didst bid

us to forgive the erring their sins, even unto seventy times seven, and repentest thee of our wickedness, and rejoicest over the return of those who have gone astray.

For as is thy majesty, so also is thy mercy, and unto thee we ascribe glory, with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE SEVENTH APOSTOLOS

Deacon: Let us attend.

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 4. [Ps. 6]

O Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath, neither chasten me in thine anger.

Verse: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians. §273 (5:14-23)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, we exhort you, admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 7 [Ps. 19]

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse: The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble. The Name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE SEVENTH GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. §30 (9:9-13)

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend.

Priest: At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

THE IMPETRATORY LITANY

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

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

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God here present, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

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

Deacon: Again we pray for the forgiveness of their every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

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

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE SEVENTH PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Physician of souls and bodies, who curest temporal sufferings and healest every infirmity and every wound of men; who desirest that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth; who desirest not the death of a sinner, but that he should turn again and live: for thou, O Lord, in the ancient Covenant, didst ordain repentance unto sinners, to David and the Ninevites, and to those before and after these; and likewise, at the advent of thy dispensation in the flesh, thou calledst not the righteous but sinners to repentance; receiving even the Publican, the Harlot, the Thief, and great Paul, the blaspheming persecutor, through repentance. Thou didst accept in repentance Peter thy chief Apostle, who thrice denied thee; and gavest him a promise, saying, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it; and I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Wherefore, O Good One, who lovest mankind, being bold according to thine undeceiving promises, we beseech thee and implore thee in this present hour: Harken to our supplication, and receive it as incense offered unto thee; and visit these thy servants, and if they have done aught amiss, either by word, or deed, or thought, either by night or by day; if they have fallen under the ban of a priest, or under their own anathema; or hath been embittered by an oath, and have fore-sworn themselves: We beseech thee and supplicate thee; loose, pardon, forgive them, O God, overlooking their sins and wickednesses, and all which they have committed knowingly and in ignorance. And if they have deviated aught from thy commandments, or have sinned because they bear flesh and dwell in the world, or through the operation of the Devil, do thou, forasmuch as thou art a good God and lovest man, forgive; for there is not a man who shall live and sin not. For thou alone art sinless, thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy word is truth. For thou didst not create man for destruction, but for the keeping of thy commandments, for the inheritance of life incorruptible; and to thee we ascribe glory, with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy, and good and life-creating Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PRAYER WITH THE GOSPEL BOOK

The people kneel.

In some places, the people come forward to kneel as close as they can to the priest and the gospel book for the following prayer.

The priest takes the gospel book and holds it opened and with the text facing down, raised above the heads of those who are kneeling. He recites the prayer aloud. If several priests take part in the service, they all hold the gospel book and read the prayer silently.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Holy King, compassionate and multi-merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but, that he should be converted and live: I lay not my sinful hand upon the heads of those who approach thee in sins, and entreat of thee, through us, remission of their sins, but thy strong and mighty hand which is in this Holy Gospel which I (or my fellow ministers) hold upon the heads of these thy servants, and (if other priests are present holding the gospel book add: with them) I pray and entreat thy merciful and evil-forgetting love of mankind, O God our Saviour, who through thy Prophet Nathan didst grant remission unto David when he repented of his iniquities, and didst accept Manasses' prayer of penitence: Do thou receive also with thy wonted love for man these thy servants, who repent them of their iniquities, overlooking all their transgressions. For thou art our God, who hast bidden us to forgive those who fall in sin, even unto seventy times seven, for as is thy majesty, so also is thy mercy, and unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE ANOINTING OF THE FAITHFUL

The faithful come forward to receive the Mystery of Anointing. They first venerate the gospel book and then go forward to the priest(s), telling him their name. The priest(s) anoints their forehead, cheeks, chin and hands, saying as he does:

Priest: The blessing of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ: for the healing of the soul and body of the servant of God, N., always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

During the Anointing the choir sings the following troparion to the Unmercenary Healers and the Hymn to the Theotokos. These hymns may be repeated as many times as necessary during the Anointing. Optionally, the troparia shown on p.9 may also be sung at this time.

IN TONE 4

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

Since ye have a fountain of healing, O holy unmercenaries, give healing to all who are in need of it, for ye have been vouchsafed the greatest gifts from the ever-flowing source, our Saviour. For the Lord saith unto you, who are of like zeal with the Apostles: "Behold, I have given you power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every infirmity, and every malady." Therefore as good administrators of his commands, freely ye have received, freely give, healing the sufferings of our souls arid bodies.

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

Attend unto the entreaties of thy suppliants, O all-blameless One, quelling the fierce attacks on us, and releasing us from all affliction; for in thee alone have we a firm and certain confirmation, and we have gained thy protection. Let us not be put to shame, O Sovereign Lady, when we call upon thee; hasten to the supplication of those who cry to thee in faith: Hail, Sovereign Lady, thou help of all, the joy and refuge, and salvation of our souls.

When the faithful have all been anointed, the priest faces the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, and says:

THE LITTLE DISMISSAL

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

Choir: 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 [(insert only on Holy Wednesday) is going to his voluntary passion for our salvation and] through his great goodness didst bid his Apostles to heal the infirm by means of oil, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle James, the first hierarch of Jerusalem and the brother of God; and of all the saints: heal and save you who are sick, through the anointing of this oil, and have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

Then facing the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, the priest says:

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Before leaving the church, the faithful may blot the places they have received the anointing with the warm water and paper towels provided. The paper towels should be placed into a basket prepared for this purpose, so that the priest may reverently dispose of paper towels later. (In other traditions, the faithful may rub the oil completely into their skin.)