# Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts





May this humble attempt at providing our seminarians with a practical bilingual edition of the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts enable them to sing God's praises and behold His ineffable love for us with as little confusion as possible.

My gratitude goes to all those who have helped in preparing this booklet by generously offering their time and talent. May God remember you in His Kingdom.

Melita Mudri-Zubacz

Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God March 25, 2004.



The priest and deacon reverence the holy table while the royal doors remain closed. The deacon then receives a blessing and goes to his usual place before the royal doors and intones the following:

Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

*Priest*: Blessed be the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.



Come, let us bow in worship before our King and God.

Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, our King and God.

Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord Jesus Christ, our King and God.

While the faithful chant the following Psalm, the priest prays the Prayers of Light before the Holy Doors, beginning with the fourth prayer (see pg. 58).

# PSALM 103 (104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul!\* You are very great O <u>Lord</u>, my God! Clothed in pomp and brilliance;\* arrayed with <u>light</u> as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,\* covering Your lofty halls with water.

You make the clouds Your conveyance.\* You surge on the wings of the wind.

You make spirits Your messengers,\* and flaming fires Your attendants.

You settle the earth on its firm foundation;\* it shall stand unmoved from age to age.

The abyss covers it like a garment;\* waters stand over the <u>mountains</u>.

At Your rebuke they will take flight;\* at the peal of Your thunder <u>they</u> will fear.

They hurdle the hills and run down the dales,\* to the place You have <u>chosen</u> for them.

You have set up a boundary not to be passed;\* they shall never return to <u>cover</u> the earth.

- Down in the gullies You make springs to rise;\* water shall go down between the <u>mountains</u>. They shall give drink to the beasts of the field;\* wild asses will seek them to <u>quench</u> their thirst.
- The birds of the sky will abide by them;\* from among the rocks they will <u>raise</u> their song.

  From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains;\* the earth shall be fed with the <u>fruit</u> of Your works.
- You make green pastures for the cattle\* and food-plants for the <u>service</u> of all, so that bread may be brought forth from the earth,\* and wine that gladdens the <u>heart</u> of man.
- So that oil may put a gleam upon his face;\* and that bread may strengthen the <u>heart</u> of all. The trees of the plain will be satisfied,\* the cedars of Lebanon that he <u>plan</u>ted.
- The sparrows will build their nests in them;\* and the herons will <u>call</u> them their home. To the deer belong high mountains,\* to rodents, the <u>shelter</u> of the rocks.
- You have made the moon to mark the seasons;\* the sun knows the time of its <u>set</u>ting.

  You establish darkness, and it is night\* wherein the forest creatures <u>prowl</u> around.
- Young lions roar for their prey,\* and call out to <u>God</u> for their meat.

  As the sun rises, they will come together,\* and lay themselves <u>down</u> in their dens.
- Man will go out to his labour\* and work until <u>even</u>tide.

  How great are Your works, O Lord,\* in wisdom You have <u>wrought</u> them all.
- The earth is filled with Your creatures.\* Even the wide and open sea itself,\* within it there are countless creeping things,\* living beings small and large.
- Upon it there are ships a-sailing,\* and that great beast You made to have fun.
- All of them look up to You,\* to give them their <u>food</u> in due time.

  You provide and they gather up;\* You open Your <u>hand</u> and they are full.
- You hide Your face and they cringe;\* You suspend their breath, and they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your breath and they live;\* You renew the face of the earth.
- May the Lord's glory endure forever,\* may the Lord rejoice in His works.

  He looks upon the earth and makes it quake;\* He touches the mountains and they smoke.
- I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;\* I will praise my God as <u>long</u> as I last.

  Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him,\* and I will rejoice in the Lord.

May sinners vanish from the earth,\* and may the wicked <u>be</u> no more. Bless the <u>Lord</u>,\* O my soul!

The sun knows the time of its setting.\* You establish darkness, and it is night. How great are Your works, O Lord,\* in wisdom You have wrought them all.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy <u>Spi</u>rit, now and for ever and <u>ever</u>. Amen.

And then, three times with a bow each time: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!\* Glory be to You, O God! (2)



## THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Deacon: For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy Churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our most holy universal Pontiff name, Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch name, our most reverend Metropolitan name, our God-loving Bishop name, the revered priesthood,

diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city (or for this village, or for this holy monastery), for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For favourable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace. All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.



Priest: For all glory, honour, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.



## KATHISMA XVIII

# The First Stasis: Psalms 119 (120) - 123 (124)

## Psalm 119 (120)

In my distress I cry to the Lord, that he may answer me: "Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue." What shall be given to you? And what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue? A warrior's sharp arrows, with glowing coals of the broom tree! Woe is me, that I am an alien in Meshech, that I must live among the tents of Kedar. Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

## Psalm 120 (121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

## Psalm 121 (122)

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

# Psalm 122 (123)

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

# Psalm 123 (124)

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side – let Israel now say – if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, who has not

given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy <u>Spirit</u>,\* now and for ever and <u>ever</u>. Amen.

And then three times, each with a bow: Alleluia! Alleluia!\* Glory be to You, O God!

If all three stase is are to be taken, we continue then with the small litary as follows. However, if only one stasis is taken, then after Glory... we continue with the small litary, following which we immediately sing O Lord, I have cried to You... (see pg. 20).

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

Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace. All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and evervirgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God. All: To You, O Lord.

#### The First Prayer of Light

O Lord, compassionate and loving, long-suffering and most merciful, hear our prayer and listen to the voice of our supplication. Make a favourable covenant with us, guide us along Your ways that we may live in Your truth, gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy name; for You are great and You perform wondrous deeds. You are the only God and none other is like You, O Lord. You are great in mercy and able, in Your power, to assist, support, and save all those who place their hope in Your holy name; and to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honour, and adoration, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Priest:* For Yours is the majesty, and Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

# The Second Stasis: Psalms 124 (125) - 128 (129)

# Psalm 124 (125)

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Sion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out heir hands to do wrong. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

## Psalm 125 (126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Sion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

## Psalm 126 (127)

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved. Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

# Psalm 127 (128)

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Sion. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

# Psalm 128 (129)

"Often have they attacked me from my youth" – let Israel now say – "often have they attacked my from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me. The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long." The Lord is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked. May all who hate Sion be put to shame and turned backward. Let them be like the grass on the housetops that withers before it grows up, with which reapers do not fill their hands or binders of sheaves their arms, while those who pass by do not say, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you! We bless you in the name of the Lord!"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy <u>Spi</u>rit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

And then three times, each with a bow: Alleluia! Alleluia! \* Glory be to You, O God!

If all three stase is are to be taken, we continue then with the small litany as follows. However, if only one stasis is taken, then after Glory... we continue with the small litany, following which we immediately sing O Lord, I have cried to You... (see pg. 20).

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

Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace. All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and evervirgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God. All: To You, O Lord.

The Second Prayer of Light

O Lord, in Your indignation do not rebuke us; in Your wrath do not chastise us; but deal with us according to Your loving-kindness. O Physician and Healer of our souls, guide us to the harbour of Your will; enlighten the eyes of our mind that we may know Your truth. Grant that the remainder of this day and all the days of our life may be peaceful and without sin, through the prayers of the holy Mother of God and through the prayers of all the Saints; for Yours is the might, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: For You are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

# The Third Stasis: Psalms 129 (130) - 133 (134)

## Psalm 129 (130)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

## Psalm 130 (131)

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvellous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul within me is like a weaned child.

## Psalm 131 (132)

O Lord, remember in David's favour all the hardships he endured; how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, "I will not enter my house or get into my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." We heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar. "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool." Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy. For your servant David's sake do not turn away the face of your anointed one. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I shall tech them, their sons also, forevermore, shall sit on your throne." For the Lord has chosen Sion; he has desired it for his habitation: "This is my resting place forever; here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread. Its priests I will clothe with salvation, and its faithful will shout for joy. There I will cause a horn to sprout up for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one. His enemies I will clothe with disgrace, but on him, his crown will gleam."

# Psalm 132 (133)

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Sion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

# Psalm 133 (134)

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord. May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless

you from Sion.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy <u>Spi</u>rit,\* now and for ever and <u>ever</u>. Amen.

And then three times, each with a bow: Alleluia! Alleluia!\* Glory be to You, O God!

#### SMALL LITANY

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



Deacon: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace. All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

# The Third Prayer of Light

O Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners, Your unworthy servants, as we call upon Your holy name, and put us not to shame for having placed our hope in Your mercy. Graciously grant us, O Lord, all the means of salvation; make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart and to accomplish Your will in all things. For You are a gracious Lord and You love mankind; and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: For You are our God, the God who has mercy and who saves, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

# PSALM 140 (141)

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me;\* Hear me, O Lord!\* O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me;\* receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon You.\* Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer rise like incense before You;\* and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.\* Hear me, O Lord!

The lector, standing at the centre of the Church, chants the following:

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth\* and a portal around my lips.

Incline my heart away from evil dealings,\* from finding excuses for sinful deeds.

In company with those who work iniquity,\* let me not partake of what they choose.

May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me;\* may the oil of the wicked never touch my head.

Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare.\* Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.

My words will be heard, for they were sweet.\* As a lump of clay broken on the ground, so their bones were strewn near the grave.

To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up.\* In You have I hoped; let not my soul be lost. Keep me from the snare that was set for me,\* and from the stumbling-blocks of the wicked.

The wicked shall fall into their own nets,\* while I remain alone until I can escape.

# Psalm 141 (142)

With my voice I cried to the Lord;\* with all my voice I implored the Lord.

Before Him I pour out my supplications;\* before Him I declare my distress. When my breath was escaping me,\* then you knew my paths;

On the road upon which I was walking,\* they set up snares for me. I looked to my right and observed\* there was no one friendly to me;

Even flight was denied me;\* there was no one to take care of my life.

I cried out to You, O Lord, and said: You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.

Listen to my supplication,\* for I am laid very low.

Deliver me from my oppressors,\* for they have overwhelmed me.

# STICHERA FOR "O Lord, I have cried to you"

- 10. Verse: Lead my soul forth from prison,\* that I may give thanks to Your name.
- 9. Verse: The just shall gather around me\* when You have been good to me.
- 8. Verse: Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;\* O Lord, hear my voice!
- 7. Verse: Let Your ears be attentive\* to the voice of my prayer.
- 6. Verse: If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?\* But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.
- 5. Verse: I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,\* for it has trusted in the Lord.
- 4. Verse: From the morning watch until night\* let Israel trust in the Lord.
- 3. Verse: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;\* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.
- 2. Verse: Praise the Lord, all the nations;\* proclaim His glory, all you people.
- 1. Verse: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;\* eternally will His truth endure.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.

On Glory... the deacon opens the royal doors, takes the censer (and the Holy Gospel if there is to be a reading from it), and together with the priest process around the holy table and stand before the royal doors. Then, they pray as follows:

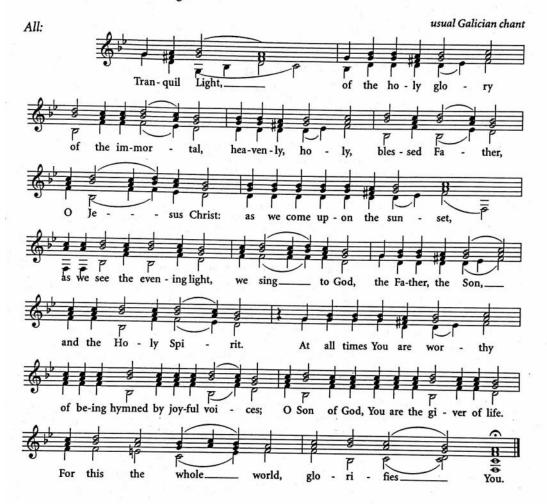
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Evening, morning and noon we praise You, we bless You, we thank You and we pray to You, Master of all, loving Lord. Direct our prayer like incense before You and do not turn our hearts aside to mere words or to evil thoughts, but save us from all those who want to ensnare our souls. Our eyes are turned to You, Lord, and upon You we have placed our hope. Do not cover us with shame, our God. All glory, honour and worship belong to You, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Deacon: Amen. Master, bless the holy entrance!

Priest: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy places, always, now and for ever and ever.

# Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright!



Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be with all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Lector: Prokeimenon in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ tone.
The congregation sings the FIRST prokeimenon.

Deacon: Wisdom!	
Lector: A reading from the Book of	
Deacon: Let us be attentive!	
Once the reading has been completed	the lec

Once the reading has been completed, the lector immediately intones the SECOND prokeimenon. Lector: Prokeimenon in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ tone.

Deacon: Command!

The priest, facing the holy table, makes the sign of the Cross with the candle and censer and exclaims:

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!

Then he turns to the people and blesses them by making the sign of the Cross while singing:

Priest: The light of Christ illumines all!

The whole congregation makes three prostrations, following which, the lector announces:

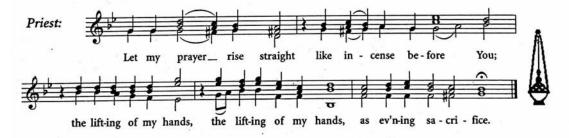
Lector: A reading from the Book of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

After the reading the priest says: Priest: Peace be with you.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Then the priest, having stood in front of the holy table, incenses and sings the following: (For an alternate melody see pg. 62)



All: Let my prayer rise straight like incense before you; the lifting of my hands, the lifting of my hands, as evening sacrifice.

The priest then sings the following verses in tone 8, samohlasny:

Priest: O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me\* receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you. All: Let my prayer rise straight...

Priest: Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth\* and a portal around my lips.

All: Let my prayer rise straight...

*Priest:* Incline my heart from evil dealings\* from finding excuses for sinful deeds. *All:* Let my prayer rise straight...

Priest: Let my prayer rise straight like incense before you.

All: The lifting of my hands, the lifting of my hands, as evening sacrifice.

The whole congregation now makes three prostrations while praying the prayer of St. Ephrem:

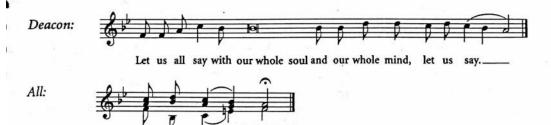
O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power, and idle chatter. (Prostration)

Instead, grant to me, your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. (*Prostration*)

O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brothers and sisters, for You are blessed, now and for ever and ever. Amen. (Prostration)

If it is a feastday, then the deacon says: Let us be attentive!, and the lector intones the prokeimenon of the Epistle. Then the lector reads the Epistle, the congregation sings Alleluia and the deacon reads the Gospel (see pg. 64). For the Gospel reading during the Passion week, see pg. 66.

## LITANY OF SUPPLICATION



Deacon: Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.



Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication from Your servants and in Your compassion have pity on us. Send down Your mercy upon us and upon all Your people who await Your rich mercy.

Deacon: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff name, Pope of Rome; our most blessed Patriarch name, our most reverend Metropolitan name, our God-loving Bishop name, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brethren in Christ. All: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military. All: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Special petitions may be inserted at this point in the litany.

Deacon: We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3)

*Priest*: For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.



Deacon: Again and again in peace let the faithful pray to the Lord. All: Lord, have mercy.

Great and praiseworthy God, who by the life-giving death of Your Christ transferred us from corruption to incorruption, free all our senses from death-dealing desires by placing our inner reason as a good governor

over them. May our eye refrain from every evil glance. May our ear be inaccessible to idle words and our tongue be cleansed of unbecoming speech. Purify our lips that praise You, Lord. Keep our hands from evil deeds, and may they do only what pleases You. Strengthen all our members and our understanding by Your grace.

Master, holy and most good, rich in mercy, we entreat You to be merciful to us sinners. Make us worthy to welcome Your only-begotten Son, our God, the king of glory, for behold, at this time His most pure Body and lifegiving Blood are coming escorted invisibly by a multitude of the heavenly host and are about to be placed upon this mystical altar. Let us receive Them without condemnation, and with the eye of our understanding enlightened by Them, let us become children of light and day.

Deacon: Wisdom!

*Priest:* Through the gift of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

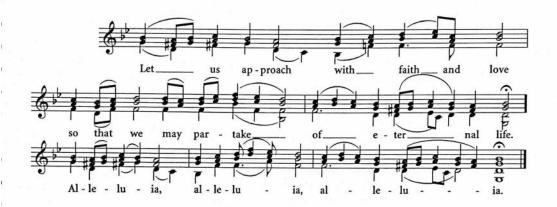
All: Amen.

#### "NOW THE POWERS"



The deacon incenses the holy table with three swings only from the front side, and then the table of prothesis. Then together with the priest they say: Now the Powers of heaven serve with us invisibly. For behold, the King of glory is entering. Behold, the completed mystical sacrifice is carried high! Let us approach with faith and love so that we may partake of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (thrice). Then they make the Great Entrance with the Presanctified Gifts in silence.

During the Entrance all the people prostrate in reverent adoration. After the Entrance they rise and sing the following and then make three prostrations while praying the prayer of St. Ephrem:



O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power, and idle chatter. (*Prostration*)

Instead, grant to me, your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. (*Prostration*)

O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brothers and sisters, for You are blessed, now and for ever and ever. Amen. (*Prostration*)

## LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.



*Deacon*: For the precious Gifts offered and presanctified, let us pray to the Lord All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That our God in His love for mankind may receive them on His holy, heavenly and mystical altar unto an aroma of spiritual fragrance and may send down upon us in return the divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

God of ineffable and invisible mysteries, in whom are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, You have revealed the mysteries of this liturgy to us. In Your great love You appointed us, sinners though we are, to offer gifts and sacrifices for our sins and the sinful ignorance of the people. Invisible king, You perform deeds without number, great and inscrutable, glorious and extraordinary. Look with favour upon us, Your unworthy servants, standing at this You holy altar as at the throne of Your cherubim upon which Your only-begotten Son, our God, rests in the awesome Mysteries present here. You freed us and Your faithful people from all impurity. Sanctify all our lives and bodies with Your sanctification which cannot be taken away, so that with clean conscience, unashamed face and enlightened heart we may receive these divine Gifts and be given life by Them. And may we be united to Your Christ Himself, our God, who said: "Who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him." With Your Word dwelling in us and sojourning with us, Lord, let us become a temple of Your all-holy, adorable Spirit, freed from every wile of the devil worked by deed, word or thought. Together with all Your saints who have pleased You through the ages, may we obtain the good things promised us.

*Deacon:* Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace. *All:* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.



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

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord. All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord. All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord. All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask.

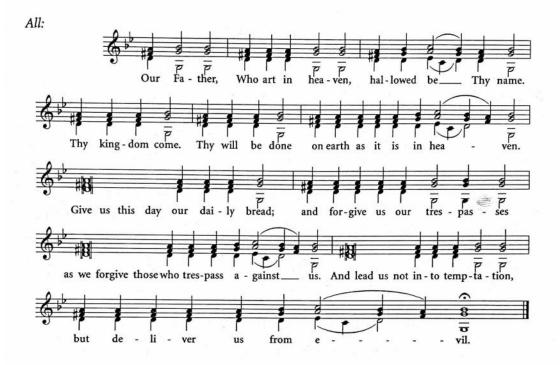
All: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Having asked for unity of the faith and for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.





*Priest*: Make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without condemnation to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father, and say:



*Priest:* For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.



Priest: Peace be with all.

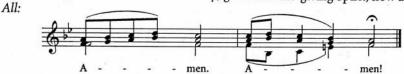


Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.



God, You who alone are good and merciful, who dwell on high and look with favour upon the humble, look with merciful eye upon all Your people and protect them. Make us all worthy of partaking of these Your lifegiving Mysteries without condemnation, for we have bowed our heads to You hoping for great mercy from You.

*Priest:* Through the grace, mercies and loving-kindness of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed together with Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.



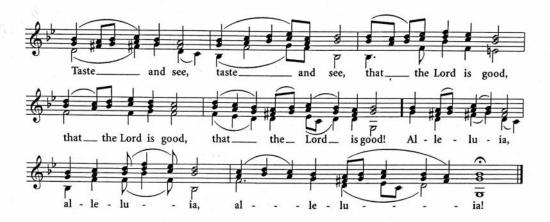
Lord Jesus Christ our God, hear us from Your holy dwelling place, from the throne of Your glorious kingdom and come to sanctify us, You who are seated on high with the Father, yet are invisibly present here with us. With Your mighty hand, may it please You to give us Your pure Body and precious Blood, and through us to all Your people.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Presanctified Holy Things for the Holy!



#### Communion Verse:



In the case that the Epistle and the Gospel of a feastday have been read earlier, then the communion verse of the feastday is taken also.

## PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMMUNION

I believe, O Lord, and confess that You are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first.

Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper. I will not tell the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief, I confess to You:

Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Master, when You come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Holy One, when You come into Your kingdom.

May the partaking of Your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, be unto me not for judgement or condemnation but for the healing of soul and body.

God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord.

Deacon: Master, break the holy Bread.

*Priest*: Broken and distributed is the Lamb of God – broken and not divided, always eaten and never consumed – but sanctifying those who partake.

Priest: Deacon, approach.

Deacon: Behold, I approach our immortal King and God. Master, give me the precious and holy Body of our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Priest:* The precious and holy and most pure Body of our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is given to the reverend deacon *name*, for the forgiveness of his sins and for life everlasting.

Deacon: I believe, O Lord, and confess...

*Priest:* The precious and most holy Body of our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is given to me *name*, a priest, for the forgiveness of my sins and for life everlasting. Amen. I believe, O Lord, and confess...

## Deacon: Approach!



Those who intend to receive Holy Communion come forward reverently and devoutly. In distributing Communion, the priest says:

The servant of God *name*, partakes of the precious, most holy and most pure Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of his/her sins and life everlasting. Amen.

During the distribution of Holy Communion the faithful sing lenten songs, or the following:



Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times;\*
His praise shall be constantly in my mouth.
My soul shall glory in the Lord;\*
let the meek hear and rejoice.

Magnify the Lord with me,\* and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He heard me,\* and delivered me from all my fears.

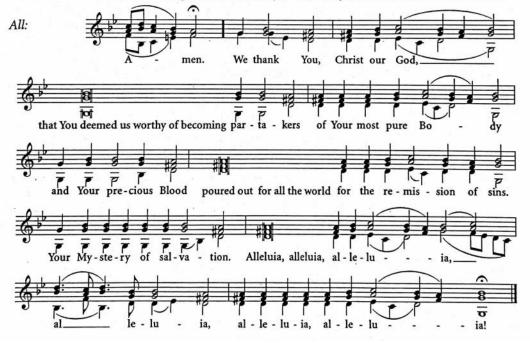
Approach the Lord and be enlightened,\*
and your face shall never be shamed.

The poor cried out and the Lord heard them\*
and delivered them from all their afflictions.

The angel of the Lord will set up camp\* around those who fear the Lord and save them. Taste and see how good the Lord is;\* blessed is the one who hopes in Him.

Fear the Lord, all you His saints,\*
for there is no privation for those who fear Him.
The rich have become poor and hungry\*
but those who seek the Lord shall not want any good.

Once the priest has incensed the Holy Gifts, he takes the chalice and diskos and turns to the people saying: Priest: Blessed is God who enlightens and sanctifies us, always, now and for ever and ever.



## LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Deacon: Stand aright! Having received the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, and life-giving, awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us rightly give thanks to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon*: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace. *All:* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Having asked that this evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ Our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

Saviour and God of all, we thank You for all the good things You have given us and for the communion of the sacred body and blood of Your Christ. We beseech You, loving Master, keep us under the protection of Your wing and grant that until our last breath we may worthily partake of Your holy Gifts for enlightenment of our souls and bodies, for inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

*Priest:* For You are our sanctification and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.



Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



Prayer Behind the Ambo

Almighty Lord, You made the whole world in wisdom. By Your ineffable foreknowledge and abounding goodness You brought us to these holy days for the purification of our souls and bodies, for the control of our passions and for the hope of resurrection. During the forty day period You gave the tablets in divinely inscribed letters to Your servant Moses. Grant also, good Lord, that we may fight the good fight, complete the course of fasting, keep the Faith intact, crush the heads of

unseen enemies, be victorious over sin and so, without condemnation, to be ready for the worship of Your holy Resurrection.

For blessed and glorified is Your most worthy and magnificent Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



Lord our God, You who brought us to these holy days and made us sharers of Your awesome Mysteries, join us to Your spiritual flock and make us inheritors of Your kingdom, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

It is not necessary to repeat Psalm 33 at this point, since it has been prayed already during the distribution of Holy Communion.

#### DISMISSAL

Here we resume singing the usual melodies for the responses.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you with His grace and love for mankind, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen.\* Lord, have mercy (3).\* Give the blessing.

Priest: Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of Saint name (patron of the temple) and Saint name (whose memory we celebrate), and all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.



# Upon the completion of the liturgy, the following may be sung:









THE END OF THE DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS
GLORY TO GOD!

## APPENDIX

#### PRAYERS OF LIGHT

The Fourth Prayer of Light

O Lord, You are praised by the holy Powers in hymns which are never silent, and in doxologies which never cease. Fill our mouths with Your praise that we may exalt Your holy name. Through the prayers of the holy Mother of God and the intercession of all Your Saints, give us a part and an inheritance with those who fear You in truth and who keep Your commandments. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honour, and adoration, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fifth Prayer of Light

Blessed are You, O Lord, Almighty God, You know the mind of each person; You know what each needs even before they ask or are aware of it. Now, O King who loves mankind and who is gracious in everything, in Your great mercy allow us to call upon Your holy name with an unashamed conscience. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One; for to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honour, and adoration, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The Sixth Prayer of Light

O Lord, O Lord, You hold all things together in Your spotless hands; You are long-suffering toward us all; You grieve at our wickedness. Remember Your compassion and mercy, and look down upon us in Your goodness. Grant that for the rest of this day we may escape from the manifold deceits of the Evil One; and keep our life free from every assault of the enemy, through the grace of Your all-holy Spirit. Grant this through the mercies and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The Seventh Prayer of Light

O great and wonderful God, You govern all things with Your indescribable goodness and rich providence. You have provided us with the goodness of this world and have assured us, through Your kindness, of attaining the promised kingdom. O Lord, through all the blessings already received this day, You have kept us away from evil; grant that we spend its remaining hours without blame before Your holy glory, and that we may sing Your praise, O You, the only Gracious One who loves mankind. For You are our God, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The Eighth Prayer of Light

O great and most high God, You alone are immortal and You dwell in a light which is unapproachable. You created all things in Your wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing

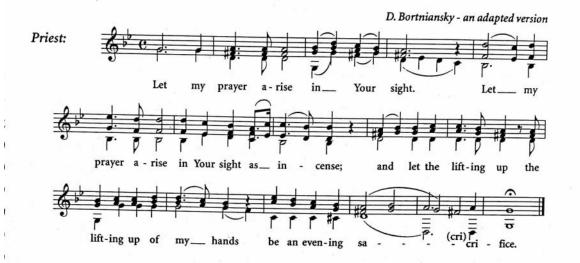
the sun to govern the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have deemed us, poor sinners, worthy to reach this hour, to come into Your presence with our thanks, and to offer You our evening praise. O Lord who loves mankind, let our prayers ascend to You as incense, and accept them as a sweet fragrance. Grant that this evening and the coming night may be spent in peace; clothe us with the armour of light; save us from the fears of the night and from things that lurk in darkness. Grant that the sleep You have given to refresh us from our fatigue may be free from every evil. Yes, O Lord and Giver of all good things, may we remember Your name throughout the night; and enlightened by the practice of Your commandments, may we rise in gladness of soul to praise Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications for our sins and those of Your people. Look down upon us with mercy, through the intercession of the Mother of God; for You are a gracious Lord who loves mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.



# VERSES SUNG BY THE CLERGY



# AN ALTERNATE MELODY FOR "Let My Prayer Rise"



All: Let my prayer arise in Your sight, let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense; and let the lifting up, the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

The priest then sings the following verses in tone 8, samohlasny:

Priest: O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me\* receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you.

All: Let my prayer arise...

*Priest:* Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth\* and a portal around my lips. *All:* Let my prayer arise...

*Priest:* Incline my heart from evil dealings\* from finding excuses for sinful deeds. *All:* Let my prayer arise...

*Priest*: Let my prayer arise in Your sight, let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense. *All*: And let the lifting up, the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

#### ON FEAST-DAYS WITH PRESCRIBED READINGS

Deacon: Let us be attentive! Priest: Peace be with all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Lector: Prokeimenon in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ tone
The faithful sing the prokeimenon of the Epistle.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the letter ...

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

After the reading the priest says:
Priest: Peace be with you.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

All: Alleluia! with verses

Make the pure light of Your Divine knowledge shine in our hearts, O loving Master. Open the eyes of our minds that we may understand the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us the fear of Your blessed commandments that we may subdue all carnal desires and follow a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all that pleases You. For You, O Christ our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Deacon: Master, bless the reader of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist name.

Priest: May God, through the intercession of the holy, glorious, all-praiseworthy apostle and evangelist name, grant that you proclaim the Good News with great power for the fulfillment of the Gospel of His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all.
All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to name.

All: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

After the Gospel has been read, the priest says: Peace be with you, proclaimer of the Good News.

All: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

## DURING THE PASSION WEEK

**Deacon:** That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all.
All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to name.

All: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

After the Gospel has been read, the priest says: Peace be with you, proclaimer of the Good News.

All: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

# Dismissal for the Passion Week

Lord, who hastens to His voluntary passion, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anne; and all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.



## STICHERA FROM THE LENTEN TRIODION

## FIRST WEEK OF LENT - WEDNESDAY

Tone 8 O faithful, while fasting bodily,\* let us also fast in spirit.\* Let us loosen every bond of injustice;\* let us tear apart the strong chains of violence;\* let us rip up all unjust assertions;\* let us give bread to the hungry\* and welcome the poor and homeless to our houses,\* that we may receive from Christ our God, His great mercy. (twice)

What honour and praise can fittingly be ascribed to the saints?\* They bowed their necks under the sword for You,\* the One who left the heavens and came down.\* They shed their blood for You,\* the One who took the form of a servant.\* By emulating Your poverty\* they humbled themselves unto death.\* By their prayers, have mercy on us, O Lord,\* according to Your compassion.

Tone 2 Jesus, the true spiritual Sun,\* sent you as lightning through all the world,\* to overcome the darkness of error\* by the brightness of your divine teachings;\* O holy apostles, who have seen the Lord,\* beseech Him to send His light and His mercy on us.

Elijah ascended in the divine chariot of his virtues,\* and by his fasting he was carried to the heights of heaven in glory.\* Strive, O my humble soul, as he did,\* fast and shed all evil, malice, envy, and corrupting luxury\* so that you may be delivered from all eternal pain of death\* and cry out to Christ:\* O Lord, glory be to You!

Tone 5 O divine apostles,\* fervent intercessors for the world and defenders of the faithful.\* You received from Christ our God the boldness to intercede for us.\* We beseech you that we may pass this solemn time of the Fast untroubled\* and receive the grace of the consubstantial Trinity.\* O great and glorious preachers, pray for our souls.

We now sing FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), and then Glory... now and for ever... with the Theotokion in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122).

## PROKEIMENON I

Tone 5 You, O Lord, will guard us, and will keep us,\* from this generation, and forever!

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

READING I: Genesis 1:24 - 2:3

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 6 Look at me and answer me\* O Lord my God!

Verse: How long, O Lord, will You forget me? How long will You hide Your face from me?

READING II: Proverbs 2:1-22

## FIRST WEEK OF LENT - FRIDAY

Tone 5 Come, O faithful, let us fulfill the works of God in the light;\* and let us walk with dignity as in the light of day;\* let us tear up every unjust contract,\* and let us cast aside every object of scandal for our neighbour.\* Let us turn away from the pleasures of the flesh,\* so that we may grow in our spiritual gifts.\* Let us give food to the poor;\* let us draw near to Christ, and in repentance, let us say:\* O our God, have mercy on us. (twice)

We now sing FOUR stichera for the Martyrs in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122). Then the following:

Tone 2 Come, all you friends of the martyrs,\* let us celebrate this feast in the joy of the Spirit;\* for, on this day, the holy martyr Theodore prepares a spiritual banquet for us,\* the lovers of the feast;\* he brings joy to our hearts,\* and we cry out to him:\* Rejoice, invincible warrior, who has vanquished powerful tyrants;\* and for the love of Christ our God,\* you have given over your body of flesh to torments.\* Rejoice, for in the midst of dangers,\* you showed yourself to be a valiant soldier of the heavenly army.\* Therefore, we pray to you, O glory of martyrs,\* intercede for the salvation of our souls.

O holy martyr Theodore,\* you generously grant the God-given grace of your miracles\* to all the faithful who hasten to you.\* We rejoice in this, and we sing:\* You are the liberator of captives and healer of the sick,\* the wealth of the poor and salvation of those who sail the seas,\* the defender of those who cherish your holy memory;\* now, for all of us who praise you,\* beseech Christ for His great mercy.

O holy martyr Theodore,\* you are truly the "gift of God,"\* for, being alive even after your death,\* you are attentive to the requests of those who come to you.\* A son was once seized from his mother\* and made a prisoner in the pagan army;\* the widow bathed your sanctuary with her tears;\* and you were moved with compassion.\* You mounted a white horse and mysteriously returned her child;\* and even now, you do not cease to work miracles.\* Beseech Christ our God to save our souls.

O Theodore, thrice-blessed,\* with your name, I praise the gift of God;\* you are a shining torch of the divine brightness.\* By your deeds you have illuminated the universe.\* You have shown yourself to be stronger than fire,\* and you crushed the head of the treacherous dragon.\* Therefore,

Christ has placed on your head the crown of victory.\* And now that you enjoy the divine favour,\* O holy and great martyr,\* beseech God for the salvation of our souls.

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

Tone 6 The enemy used the apostate emperor as his servant\* against the Christian people who were purified by the Fast;\* he tried to defile them with food polluted by the blood of sacrifices.\* But, you more wisely foiled his plan,\* by appearing in a dream to the bishop of that time\* and warning him of the danger.\* We also offer you our sacrifices of thanksgiving,\* and we honour you with the title of protector\* as we celebrate the annual memory of this event.\* We beseech you to preserve us from the evil designs of the enemy\* by interceding with God for us,\* O holy martyr Theodore.

We conclude with Now and for ever... and the Dogmatikon in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106-122).

### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 5 May the Lord answer in time of trial;\* may the name of Jacob's God protect you!

Verse: May He send you help from His shrine and give you support from Sion!

READING I: Genesis 2:20 - 3:20

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 6 O Lord, arise in Your strength;\* we shall sing and praise Your power.

Verse: O Lord, Your strength gives joy to the king; how Your saving help makes him glad!

READING II: Proverbs 3:19-34

## SECOND WEEK OF LENT – WEDNESDAY

Tone 1 O faithful, to undertake a spiritual fast,\* we must speak no deceit with our tongues\* nor place obstacles in the path of each other.\* But by repentance let us brighten the lamp of our souls,\* that with tears we may call out to Christ:\* Forgive our trespasses, for You love humankind. (twice)

O martyrs, worthy of praise,\* though the earth may not have covered you, heaven received you,\* opening to you the gates of Paradise, where you dwell,\* delighting in the Tree of Life.\* Beseech Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Tone 3 Through the prayers of the divine apostles, O righteous Lord,\* grant that this time of the Fast may be well spent.\* In Your kindness grant repentance to our hearts,\* that we all may be saved and give glory to You.

Your coming will be great and fearful, O Lord,\* when You shall sit in just judgment.\* Do not pass sentence on me,\* for I am already condemned;\* but show Your divine favour toward me,\* through the intercession of Your apostles.

Tone 6 O apostles of Christ who shine your light on all mortals,\* you are the treasuries of the holy knowledge of God.\* Through your prayers deliver from temptation those who praise you.\* Guide us successfully through the course of this Fast;\* direct our lives in peace,\* so that with our eyes lifted up to the Passion of Christ,\* we may with courage give praise to our God.

We now sing FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), and then Glory... now and for ever... with the Theotokion in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122).

### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 8 Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,\* exult, O you just!

Verse: Blessed are those whose offense is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.

READING I: Genesis 4:16-26

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 1 Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us\* as we have hoped in You.

Verse: Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

READING II: Proverbs 5:15 - 6:3

#### SECOND WEEK OF LENT – FRIDAY

Tone 4 Behold, this is the acceptable time,\* this is the day of salvation.\* Visit my soul in the abundance of Your love,\* and in Your unique goodness, lighten the load of my sins. (twice)

We now sing FOUR stichera for the Martyrs in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122), then FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), Glory... with the sticheron for the Departed in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122), and Now and for ever... with the Dogmatikon, also in the TONE of the WEEK.

#### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 Your merciful love and Your truth\* will guard me forever.

Verse: I waited, I waited for the Lord and He stooped down to me; He heard my cry.

READING I: Genesis 5:32 – 6:8

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 6 As for me, I said: Lord, have mercy on me;\* heal my soul for I have sinned against You.

Verse: Blessed are those who consider the poor and the weak. The Lord will save them in the evil day.

READING II: Proverbs 6:20 - 7:1

#### THIRD WEEK OF LENT – WEDNESDAY

Tone 4 Like the prodigal I squandered my paternal inheritance,\* and now I am in desolation.\* I dwell in the land of the wicked.\* In my folly, I became like the unreasoning beasts,\* stripped of all divine grace.\* So I return and cry out to You:\* O merciful and compassionate Father,\* I have sinned, O God.\* Receive me as a penitent and have mercy on me. (twice)

O martyrs of the Lord,\* you are living sacrifices and spiritual offerings\* and perfect incense burnt to God.\* You are sheep that know God and are known to Him,\* and wolves cannot break into His fold.\* Pray that we may be led with you\* to pasture beside the still waters.

Tone 6 O apostles who have seen God,\* and who reflect the light of the spiritual Sun for us,\* pray for the illumination of our souls\* and deliver us from the gloomy darkness of suffering.\* Intercede that we may behold the day of salvation.\* Through your prayers and intercessions\* cleanse our heart which the Evil One has wounded,\* so that, saved by faith, we may ever honour you\* who brought the world salvation through your all-wise preaching.

Into an evil land I have wandered,\* prodigal that I am;\* the wealth You gave to me, O compassionate Father,\* I have squandered in a life filled with vice.\* And now in hunger I long for the good I lost;\* I am clothed with the shame of my transgression.\* I have been stripped of righteous deeds and of divine grace.\* Now I cry out that I have sinned.\* But I know Your righteousness, O Christ;\* in Your kindness receive me as Your hired servant,\* through the prayers of Your apostles who love You.

Apostles of the Lord and bright lights of the universe,\* you made us the recipients of salvation,\* and like the heavens you proclaim the glory of God;\* you are adorned with wonders and bright miracles.\* Intercede for us unceasingly before the Lord,\* that He may receive our prayers as a pleasing aroma,\* and grant that with love we may contemplate and kiss His life-giving Cross.\* In Your love for humankind,\* grant mercy to us who bow low before Your Cross, O Saviour.

We now sing FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), and then Glory... now and for ever... with the Theotokion in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122).

## PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 I trust in the goodness of God\* forever and ever.

Verse: I will thank You forevermore; for this is Your doing.

READING I: Genesis 7:6-9

### PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 When God delivers His people from bondage,\* then Jacob well be glad and Israel rejoice.

Verse: Fools have said in their hearts: There is no God above.

READING II: Proverbs 9:12-18

## THIRD WEEK OF LENT - FRIDAY

Tone 7 Like the prodigal, I have turned away from Your grace;\* I have wasted the riches of Your goodness, O Lord.\* I now run to You and cry out:\* I have sinned, O Lord, have mercy on me. (twice)

We now sing FOUR stichera for the Martyrs in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122), then FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), Glory.:. with the sticheron for the Departed in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122), and Now and for ever... with the Dogmatikon, also in the TONE of the WEEK.

#### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 Give us Your help against the foe,\* for human help is vain.

Verse: O God, You have rejected us and broken us. You have been angry; come back to us.

READING I: Genesis 8:4-21

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 6 O God, hear my cry!\* Listen to my prayer!

Verse: So I will always praise Your name; day after day I will fulfill my vows.

READING II: Proverbs 10:31 – 11:12

### FOURTH WEEK OF LENT - WEDNESDAY

Tone 4 The Fast that brings integrity has now run half its course.\* These past days have proved acceptable,\* and now we see the need of the days to come.\* Our perception of their value will make them yield more abundant fruit.\* Therefore, let us beseech Christ our Benefactor\* who fasted and endured the Cross for us:\* Grant that we might share in Your divine Pascha without condemnation\* and pass our lives in peace,\* worthily glorifying You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Tone 5 Those who do good deeds in secret\* and receive a spiritual reward,\* do not boast in public about their deeds,\* but they carry them in their hearts;\* and He who sees the secret deeds of all\* grants us the reward of self-control.\* Let us then complete this Great Fast without putting on a gloomy face;\* but while praying in the secrecy of our souls,\* let us cry out unceasingly:\* Our Father, who art in heaven,\* lead us not into temptation, we pray,\* but deliver us from evil.

With your souls filled with unquenchable love, O holy martyrs,\* you endured the most terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ;\* and you laid low the impudence of the torturers.\* You kept the faith unwavering and unharmed\* and have gone to dwell in heaven.\* Therefore, having the boldness to approach the Lord,\* beg Him to grant us His great mercy.

Tone 1 Let us all wash our souls in the water of the Fast\* and approach the precious and all-praiseworthy Cross of the Lord.\* Let us faithfully bow to it,\* drawing divine illumination from it\* and reaping the fruit of eternal salvation,\* which is peace and great mercy.

O precious Cross, the boldness of the apostles,\* You are revered by the Archangels, Powers and Principalities.\* Save from all evil those who bow before You,\* and make us worthy to pass through the course of the Fast in a holy way,\* that we may see Your salvation and holy Resurrection.

Tone 7 Bowing before the Cross of the Lord on this day, let us sing: \*Rejoice, O Tree of Life; \*You are the joy of the world who destroy Hades and Death; \*Your strength puts the demons to flight. \*You are the invincible weapon and support of believers; \*preserve and sanctify those who bow before You.

We now sing FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124-142). Then the following:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen. Tone 8 Today the inaccessible Lord draws me close to Him.\* He endures His Passion to free me from my passions.\* He who gives light to the blind, receives spitting from impure lips\* and permits Himself to be scourged to save the captives.\* When His Mother, the Virgin, saw Him on the Cross, she sighed and said:\* Alas, O my beloved Child!\* You surpass every mortal in beauty; yet You are

now without charm or attraction,\* having neither grace, nor form, nor life.\* Alas! O Light of my eyes,\* a sword pierces my heart, and I suffer inwardly to see You so.\* I sing and praise Your Passion,\* I venerate Your infinite mercy,\* O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,\* who alone does wondrous things.

Verse: O God, give Your judgment to the king, and to the king's son Your justice.

READING I: Genesis 9:18 – 10:1

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 To be near God is my happiness.\* I have made the Lord God my refuge.

Verse: How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure of heart!

READING II: Proverbs 12:23 – 13:9

## FOURTH WEEK OF LENT - FRIDAY

Tone 7 I have enslaved the dignity of my soul to the passions,\* and have become like the beasts;\* I can no longer raise my eyes to You, O God most high.\* But, like the Publican I bow to the earth,\* and I cry to You in supplication:\* Forgive me, O Lord, and save me. (twice)

We now sing FOUR stichera for the Martyrs in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122), then FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), Glory... with the sticheron for the Departed in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122), and Now and for ever... with the Dogmatikon, also in the TONE of the WEEK.

#### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 6 O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,\* You who lead Joseph's flock.

Verse: Shine forth from Your Cherubim throne.

READING I: Genesis 12:1-7

#### PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 Ring out your joy to God, our strength,\* shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.

Verse: Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the sweet-sounding harp and lute.

READING II: Proverbs 14:15-26

## FIFTH WEEK OF LENT - WEDNESDAY

Tone 3 Even more than all others, I have sinned of my own will,\* and for that, I am condemned;\* the arrogance of my flesh is the enemy of my soul.\* O guide for those who have lost their way\* and light for those without hope,\* save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

For the Prophet says,\* my soul shall live and shall praise You, O Lord.\* I am the lost sheep; call me back and number me among Your flock.\* Give me time to repent that I may sigh and cry out to You:\* Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Greatly despising Your commandments,\* I have sinned, O Christ our God.\* Spare me, O Benefactor, that my inner eye may be freed from darkness;\* and in fear I shall cry out to You:\* Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Having been encircled by wild beasts,\* I beseech You to deliver me from their clutches, O Lord.\* You wish that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth;\* save all Your people, O Creator,\* that I may be saved with them;\* save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

I am lying here in sin;\* heal me, O Redeemer and Benefactor;\* be not far from me, O Saviour.\* Raise me up, O Almighty One,\* that I may confess all my sins and cry out to You:\* Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Just as the foolish servant,\* I have hidden the talent You gave me;\* I have buried it in the ground.\* I have been condemned as useless,\* and I dare not ask for anything more.\* In Your goodness, spare me,\* that I may also cry out to You:\* Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Kindly, You dried up the marsh of her passions,\* when the woman with the flow of blood touched Your garment.\* I have received the forgiveness of my sins\* by drawing near to You in complete faith;\* receive me, as You accepted her, and heal me of my grief;\* save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Lord, Your word has made heaven and earth,\* and You shall come to sit upon a throne;\* and we shall all stand in Your presence and confess our sins.\* Before that day comes, receive my repentance;\* save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Mercifully look upon me and spare me, O Saviour;\* pour out the streams of healing upon my poor and afflicted soul.\* Purify it from all stain\* so that I may sing to You:\* Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Now my soul has been quickly assailed by the sword that the devil prepared;\* he has made me a stranger to the light of Your face, O Lord.\* But, by the power of Your arm,\* draw me up from his jaws;\* save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

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

Your love is beyond expression, O merciful and good Lord!\* You alone are without sin!\* Do not reject me far from Your face,\* that, with thanksgiving and with joy,\* I may sing and cry out to You:\* Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Now and for ever\* and ever. Amen.

Zealously, we sing of the ineffable condescension of God!\* It is a miraculous and wondrous birth!\* How has the Virgin carried You in her arms as a child,\* for You are her Creator and her God?\* O Benefactor, who willed to become incarnate from her,\* save me before I completely perish, O Lord.

## PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 O Lord, God of vengeance,\* show Yourself.

Verse: Rise up, O Judge of the earth; give the proud what they deserve!

READING I: Genesis 17:1-9

### PROKEIMENON II

Tone 6 O sing to the Lord a new song,\* sing to the Lord all the earth!

Verse: O sing to the Lord; bless His name.

READING II: Proverbs 15:20 - 16:9

#### FIFTH WEEK OF LENT - FRIDAY

Tone 6 Departing from Your divine precepts as from Jerusalem,\* and going down to the passions of Jericho,\* travelling by way of the cares of this life\* on the pathways of dishonour,\* I fell prey to the thievery of thoughts;\* they stripped me of my noble garment,\* which You gave me by the grace of adoption.\* I was left half-dead and covered with wounds;\* a priest passed by and saw my misfortune, but he paid no attention;\* a Levite felt nothing but disgust, and so he turned away from me;\* but You, O Lord, who were born ineffably from the Virgin,\* You poured as oil and wine,\* the blood and water which flowed freely from Your life-giving side,\* to dress and bind up my wounds.\* In Your compassionate love, O Christ our God,\* grant me a place in Your Kingdom. (twice)

Your martyrs did not reject You,\* nor did they renounce Your commandments.\* Through their prayers, have mercy on us.

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin,\* and revealed the pre-eternal plan to you.\* He greeted you and announced:\* Rejoice, O earth that had not been sown!\* Rejoice, O burning bush that was not consumed!\* Rejoice, O unsearchable depth!\* Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven;\* O high ladder which Jacob saw!\* Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna!\* Rejoice, O invocation of Adam!\* The Lord is with you. (thrice)

The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:\* You appear to me as a mortal,\* and your words go beyond human thought.\* You have said that God is with me,\* and that He shall take up abode in my womb.\* Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the infinite One,\* the Lord who rides on the Cherubim?\* Do not mislead me with deceit,\* for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock.\* Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child? (twice)

The Archangel then said to her:\* Whenever God wills, the order of nature is overcome,\* and that which is beyond human power is accomplished.\* Therefore, O most pure and ever-holy One, believe my true words.\* She then cried out, saying:\* Let it now be done to me according to your word,\* and I will give birth to the One who is without flesh.\* He will take flesh from me,\* so that by the union He may raise the human race to the original dignity,\* for He alone is all-powerful. (twice)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen. Tone 2 That mystery which is from all eternity\* is being revealed today.\* The Son of God becomes the Son of Man.\* He accepted the lowliest in order to give us the highest.\* In times of old, Adam was deceived;\* he desired to become like God and did not.\* Now God becomes human that He may make Adam God.\* Let all creation be happy:\* let nature dance with joy\* because the Archangel stands in awe before the Virgin and greets her.\* He brings the greeting which changes our grief into joy.\* Through the mercy of Your compassion, You became incarnate;\* O our God, glory to You!

## PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 The Lord is compassion and love,\* slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Verse: My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name.

READING I: Genesis 22:1-18

#### PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 How great are Your works, O Lord;\* You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are exceedingly great.

READING II: Proverbs 17:17 – 18:5

## SIXTH WEEK OF LENT - WEDNESDAY

Tone 5 I am rich in all sorts of passions,\* and I am clothed in a garment of hypocrisy,\* as I revel in the intemperance of sin.\* My lack of mercy is beyond measure,\* and I disregard my spirit lying before the gates of repentance.\* Starved of every good thing, I suffer from illness.\* But You, O Lord, make me like Lazarus who was poor in sin,\* so that I will not have to beg for a drop of water\* for my tongue suffering from thirst in the eternal fire.\* Make me dwell in the bosom of the patriarch Abraham, O Lover of humankind. (twice)

With your souls filled with unquenchable love, O holy martyrs,\* you endured the most terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ;\* and you laid low the impudence of the torturers.\* You kept the faith unwavering and unharmed\* and have gone to dwell in heaven.\* Therefore, having the boldness to approach the Lord,\* beg Him to grant us His great mercy.

As You walked in the flesh, O Jesus,\* in the land beyond the Jordan,\* You said to those who were with You:\* Our friend Lazarus has died and has been placed in the tomb.\* But I rejoice for you, my friends,\* for you will learn that I know all things,\* and that with God, I am one,\* even though by nature I appear in human form.\* Therefore, let us go and give life to Lazarus\* so that death may recognize this victory,\* and the perfect consummation I shall bring about\* by granting great mercy to the world.

O faithful, let us imitate Martha and Mary,\* and offer virtuous deeds as ambassadors before the Lord,\* that when He comes, He may uplift our minds full of misery which now lie dead in the tomb.\* Without life, they have no sense of what they are neglecting,\* and they are unaware of the awesomeness of God.\* Behold, O Lord, now give life to all and grant us Your great mercy,\* as once You had pity on Your friend Lazarus,\* and by Your awesome power, You raised him from the dead.

Tone 6 Now Lazarus has been in the tomb for two days,\* and he sees all generations of the dead.\* He beholds such strange and awesome things\* and a countless number held within the power of death.\* His relatives weep bitterly before his tomb;\* but Christ is on His way to give life to His friend,\* that He may stir up the same joy in the hearts of all.\* Blessed are You, O Saviour; have mercy on us.

We now sing FOUR stichera from the Menaion (see pp. 124–142), and then Glory... now and for ever... with the Theotokion in the TONE of the WEEK (see pp. 106–122).

## PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 I walk in the presence of the Lord\* in the land of the living.

Verse: I love the Lord, for He has heard the cry of my appeal.

READING I: Genesis 43:26-31 and 45:1-16

### PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 I will pay my vows to the Lord,\* in the presence of all His people.

Verse: I trusted, even when I said: I am sorely afflicted.

READING II: Proverbs 21:23 – 22:4

# SIXTH WEEK OF LENT – FRIDAY Lazarus' Saturday

Tone 8 Having come to the end of the forty days,\* we beseech You, O Lord and Lover of humankind:\* May we also behold the holy week of Your passion,\* and glorify in it Your lofty deeds\* and Your ineffable work of salvation,\* as we sing with one voice:\* O Lord, glory to You. (twice)

O martyrs of the Lord,\* we entreat you to be eech our God,\* and ask great mercy for our souls\* and forgiveness of our many offenses.

Tone 6 Desiring to see the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord,\* since You were soon going to dwell willingly in the tomb,\* You asked: Where have you placed him?\* And, when You learned that which You already knew,\* You called to the one whom You loved:\* Lazarus, come forth from the tomb!\* And death obeyed the Giver of life,\* the Saviour of our souls. (twice)

Having arrived at the tomb of Lazarus on the fourth day,\* You wept for Your friend, O Lord.\* You gave life to the one who had been dead four days;\* death was bound up by Your voice,\* and the grave-clothes were unbound by Your hands.\* Therefore, the company of apostles were filled with joy,\* and all the choirs sang with one voice:\* Blessed are You, O Saviour; have mercy on us. (twice)

The kingdom of Hades was demolished at the sound of Your voice, O Lord;\* Your powerful word awakened from the tomb one who had been dead four days.\* Lazarus becomes a saving prelude of our regeneration.\* Nothing is impossible for the King of the universe;\* O Lord, grant to Your servants forgiveness and great mercy.

Desiring to assure Your disciples of Your own Resurrection from the dead,\* You came to the tomb of Lazarus.\* And when You called him, Hades was despoiled,\* and it gave up the one who had been dead four days;\* and he cried out to You, O Saviour:\* Blessed are You, O Lord, glory to You!

Taking Your disciples with You, O Lord,\* You came to Bethany to awaken Lazarus from the dead;\* and, weeping over him in accordance with your human nature,\* as God, You raised the one

who had been dead four days;\* and he cried out to You, O Saviour:\* Blessed are You, O Lord, glory to You!

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

Tone 8 You have come to the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord,\* and You called the dead one to awaken as from his sleep.\* He shook off the dust of the tomb at Your immortal words;\* and, still bound by the grave-clothes,\* he came forth at the sound of Your voice.\* For You have power and lordship over all things,\* and You are the Master of the whole world, O Lover of humankind:\* O Lord, glory to You.

Now and for ever\* and ever. Amen.

Having come to the end of the forty days, we cry out:\* Rejoice, O city of Bethany, the home of Lazarus.\* Rejoice, Martha and Mary, for Christ shall come to you tomorrow;\* by His word, He shall give life to your departed brother.\* Hearing His voice, the cruel and insatiable Hades will give up Lazarus after four days.\* Struck with admiration, the Hebrew people will carry palms and branches,\* and they shall go before Him.\* The children shall praise the One whom their parents looked upon with envy:\* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

## PROKEIMENON I

Tone 6 Our help is in the name of the Lord,\* who made heaven and earth.

Verse: "If the Lord had not been on our side," this is the song of Israel.

READING I: Genesis 49:33 - 50:26

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 Those who put their trust in the Lord\* are like Mount Sion.

Verse: They cannot be shaken, for it stands unmoved forever.

READING II: Proverbs 31:8-31

# GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY

Tone 1 Going freely to His Passion,\* the Lord said to His disciples along the way:\* Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,\* and the Son of Man shall be delivered up, as it is written.\* Come, let us purify our thoughts that we may go with Him;\* let us be crucified with Him;\* in Him we shall die to the pleasures of this life,\* that we may live with Him and hear Him say to us:\* I am no longer going to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer,\* but I am going to My Father and your Father,\* to My God and your God;\* you shall go with Me to the heavenly Jerusalem\* in the Kingdom of Heaven. (twice)

Tone 5 O faithful, let us hasten to the saving Passion of Christ our God;\* let us glorify His long-suffering which is beyond expression,\* that He may save us from sin and death,\* and that He may also raise us in His goodness and love for humankind. (twice)

When You were going to Your Passion, O Lord,\* You reassured Your disciples by taking them aside and saying:\* How can You forget the words I have spoken to you?\* The Scriptures say that all the prophets die only in Jerusalem!\* Now the time of which I have spoken to you has arrived:\* Behold, I shall be delivered into the hands of sinners;\* they shall mock Me and nail Me to the Cross;\* and after burying Me, they shall number Me among the dead.\* Take courage, however, for I shall rise on the third day,\* to bring joy and eternal life to all the faithful. (twice)

Not understanding the depth of the ineffable mystery of Your plan of salvation,\* the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to You, O Lord;\* she asked You to grant them the places of honour in a temporal kingdom.\* But in place of these honours,\* You proclaimed to Your friends that they would drink from the cup of death,\* the same cup from which You shall first drink\* to cleanse us of our sins.\* Therefore, we cry out to You:\* O Saviour of our souls, glory to You! (twice)

When You taught Your disciples to seek that which is higher,\* You said to them, O Lord:\*
Do not imitate the pagans by lording over those who are weak;\* it shall not be that way with you.\*
For I have chosen to be poor;\* so the first among you shall become the servant of the rest;\* the one who commands shall be as the one who obeys;\* the most noble shall be as the lowest.\* For I Myself have come to serve the poverty of Adam\* and to give My life as a ransom for the many\* who now sing: O Lord, glory to You! (twice)

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

Tone 8 O faithful, let us fear the punishment of the fig tree\* which was dried up for not having borne any fruit;\* let us offer worthy fruits of repentance to Christ,\* who grants us His great mercy.

Now and for ever\* and ever. Amen.

The Serpent thought he found a second Eve in the Egyptian woman,\* who tried to make Joseph succumb to her words of flattery.\* But he avoided sinning;\* he left his garment behind, but was not ashamed of his nudity,\* as were our first parents after their disobedience.\* Through his prayers, O Christ, have mercy on us.

#### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 6 May the Lord bless you from Sion,\* and may you see prosperity of Jerusalem.

Verse: Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways.

READING I: Exodus 1:1-20

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 8 We bless you\* in the name of the Lord.

Verse: "They have oppressed me from my youth," this is the song of Israel.

READING II: Job 1:1-12 GOSPEL: Matthew 24:3-35

## GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY

Tone 1 How shall I enter the splendour of your saints,\* because of my unworthiness?\* If I dare to enter into Your bridal chamber,\* my garment shall give me away;\* for I do not have a wedding garment,\* and the angels shall cast me out.\* Purify my soul, O Lord, and in Your goodness, save me. (twice)

Tone 2 My slothful soul has fallen into sleep, O Christ, my Spouse,\* and I do not have a lamp shining with the fire of virtues.\* I have become like the foolish virgins;\* for, instead of labouring, I have wasted my time.\* Do not close off Your love and Your heart to me, O Master;\* but dispel my dark slumber;\* awaken me that I may enter Your palace with the wise virgins.\* There the choir of the just shall resound as they sing to You:\* O Lord, glory to You. (twice)

Tone 4 You have heard of the condemnation of the one who hid the talent;\* O my soul, do not hide the word of God.\* Proclaim His wonders and increase His gifts,\* that you may enter into the joy of your Lord. (twice)

Tone 6 Come, O faithful, let us zealously labour for the Lord;\* for He entrusts His riches to His servants;\* let each multiply the talent of grace.\* Let one gain wisdom by doing good;\* let another serve with splendour;\* let the faithful share the knowledge of faith with the unenlightened;\* let others share their goods with the poor.\* Thus we shall multiply the treasure that has been entrusted to us,\* and we shall be the faithful stewards of grace,\* and we shall be worthy of the joy of the Lord.\* Grant this to us, O Christ our God,\* in Your goodness toward humankind. (twice)

When You shall come in glory with the powers of heaven,\* to be seated on the throne of judgment, O Jesus,\* do not cast me far away from You, O Good Shepherd.\* On Your right are the paths that lead to You,\* and on Your left are those who turn away from You.\* Do not make me perish with the goats,\* even though I have been disfigured by sin.\* But place me on Your right with Your sheep,\* and in Your love for humankind, save me.

O Bridegroom, whose grace surpasses all human beauty,\* You invite us to the spiritual feast in Your palace.\* Strip me of the coarse garment of my sin,\* and make me a partaker of Your Passion.\* Clothe me in the glorious adornment of Your beauty.\* In Your mercy, accept me as a luminous guest\* at the banquet in Your Kingdom.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen. Tone 7 Behold, the Lord entrusts His talent to you;\* accept this gift with fear, O my soul.\* Multiply it for the One who granted it to you;\* share it with the poor and you shall have the Lord as your friend.\* Then you shall be at His right when He comes in glory,\* and you shall hear His blessed voice say to you:\* You are indeed my servant;\* enter into the joy of your Lord.\* Even though I have gone astray, O Lord,\* make me worthy of this joy.

### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 6 Arise, O Lord, and go to Your resting place,\* You and the ark of Your might.

Verse: O Lord, remember David and the many hardships he endured.

READING I: Exodus 2:5-10

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 How good and how pleasant it is,\* when people live in unity!

Verse: It is like precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron.

READING II: Job 1:13-22

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36 - 26:2

#### GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY

Tone 1 In You, born of the Virgin, the harlot recognized her God;\* ashamed of her sinful deeds, she sighed and wept, and said:\* O Lord, loosen my debt to You, as I loosen my hair.\* Grant Your love to the one who loves You, despite all my unworthiness;\* and I shall exalt Your love for all,\* harlots and publicans alike,\* O Lover of humankind and their Benefactor.

The harlot mixed her tears with the precious myrrh,\* as she poured them over Your most pure feet,\* which she covered with kisses;\* thus You showed her to be justified.\* O Lord, who suffered for us,\* grant us Your forgiveness and save us.

While the sinful woman was offering You her ointment,\* Your disciple conspired against You.\* She rejoiced to pour out the precious myrrh,\* while he hastened to sell the One who is beyond price.\* As she came to recognize her Lord,\* the disciple separated himself;\* she was set free,\* while Judas became enslaved to the enemy.\* She was ennobled through repentance,\* while he was disgraced by his vile actions.\* O Saviour, who suffered for us,\* grant us Your forgiveness and save us.

O the misery of Judas!\* He saw the sinful woman kiss the feet of the Lord, and he shamefully thought of his kiss of betrayal.\* She loosened her hair,\* while he let himself be bound up by passions;\* instead of the fragrance of myrrh, he bore the odour of his perverse and evil ways;\* for jealousy does no know how to seek what is good.\* O the misery of Judas!\* O Lord, keep our souls from falling like him.

Tone 2 The sinful woman hastened to buy the precious myrrh,\* in order to anoint her Saviour.\* She said to the merchant:\* Give me the myrrh that I might anoint the One\* who washed me of all my sins.

Tone 6 Drowning in the abyss of sin,\* the harlot found in You a harbour of salvation.\* She poured out myrrh with her tears, and said:\* O Lord, You can forgive sins,\* but You await the repentance of sinners.\* Behold me, O Master, for I am sinking in the storm of sin;\* in Your great goodness, save me.

Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee,\* and the sinful woman falls at His feet.\* She bows before Him and says:\* Behold, I am drowning in the abyss of sin;\* I have lost all hope because of my deeds.\* In Your goodness, do not turn away from me;\* but grant me forgiveness, O Lord, and save me.

The harlot loosened her hair for You, O Lord,\* while Judas reached out his hand to the godless ones.\* One acted to receive Your forgiveness, the other to gain money.\* Therefore, we cry out to You:\* O Lord, sold for our deliverance, glory to You.

Filled with the odour of sin, the woman drew near to You, O Saviour;\* she poured out her tears over Your feet and thus proclaimed Your Passion.\* "O Master, how shall I dare to raise my eyes to You," she cried.\* Yet You came to save the fallen;\* You raised Lazarus from the tomb;\* so lift me also from the abyss of death.\* O Lord, accept me in my misery and save me.

She who was rejected because of her life,\* and who was accepted because of her conversion,\* came to You, bearing myrrh, and saying:\* Do not cast me out, O Son of the Virgin, for I am a wretched one;\* O Joy of the angels do not despise my tears;\* but receive me in repentance, and in Your goodness, accept me a sinful one.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,\* now and for ever and ever. Amen. Tone 8 O Lord, the woman who had fallen into a multitude of sins,\* recognized Your divinity and thus joined the ranks of the myrrh-bearing women;\* before Your burial, she offered You myrrh with her tears:\* "Alas," she said, "Woe is me!"\* The stinging night of pleasure seizes me;\* the dark and moonless love of sin grasps me.\* Accept the stream of my tears and my copious weeping, O Lord,\* for You make the waters fall from the clouds into the sea.\* Incline Your ear to the cry of my heart,\*

for You incline the heavens in Your ineffable condescension.\* Allow me to kiss Your most pure feet,\* and to dry them with the locks of my hair;\* for these are the feet that Eve heard in Paradise,\* and, trembling at their approach, she hid herself.\* O Lord, who can search out the number of my sins?\* Who shall search the depth of Your judgments, O Redeemer and Saviour of our souls?!\* In Your infinite love, do not despise Your servant.

### PROKEIMENON I

Tone 4 To the God of heaven give thanks\* for His love endures forever.

Verse: Give thanks to the God of gods, for His love endures forever.

READING I: Exodus 2:11-22

## PROKEIMENON II

Tone 4 Your love, O Lord, is eternal,\* do not discard the work of Your hands.

Verse: I thank You, Lord, with all my heart.

READING II: Job 2:1-10

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:6-16



# STICHERA FROM THE OCTOECHOS

#### TONE 1

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

## Theotokion

We are caught in the stormy sea of temptations and sins,\* striving in the tempest to reach your tranquil haven.\* O Mother of God, we beg you, hear our cry;\* stretch out your steady hand to your servants,\* and rescue us from the raging of the enemy.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

## For the Martyrs

Through the supplication of all the saints and of the Theotokos,\* grant us Your peace, O Lord, and save us,\* since You alone are compassionate.

O saints, your confession of faith in the arena\* destroyed the strength of devils and set us free from delusion.\* When you were beheaded, you cried out:\* O Lord, may the sacrifice of our souls be acceptable in Your sight;\* for in our love for You, the Lover of humankind,\* we have despised this temporal life.

How beautiful is the manner of your exchange, O saints;\* for you have given your blood and received heaven.\* Truly, you have done well!\* You have obtained immortality by forsaking corruptible things.\* Making a single choir with the angels,\* you sing unceasingly the praises of the consubstantial Trinity.

O martyrs, worthy of praise,\* though the earth may not have covered you, heaven received you,\* opening to you the gates of Paradise, where you dwell,\* delighting in the Tree of Life.\* Beseech Christ to grant our souls\* peace and great mercy.

# For the Departed

What earthly delight endures unmingled with grief?\* What earthly glory remains immutable?\* All things are less than a shadow, more deluding than a dream.\* In a single moment all these are effaced by death.\* But in the light of Your countenance, O Christ, and in the enjoyment of Your beauty,\* grant rest to those whom You have chosen;\* for You love humankind.

## Dogmatikon

Let us sing a hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary,\* glory of the whole world!\* She was herself formed by human seed,\* yet she became the Mother of the Master,\* the Gate of heaven, the theme of the angels' hymn and the beauty of the faithful.\* She was seen as being heavenly and the Tabernacle of the Godhead.\* She indeed tore down the wall of enmity between God and man, and brought peace in its place.\* She opened the Kingdom of Heaven.\* Let us therefore cling fast to her for she is the anchor of faith,\* and let us receive as our stronghold the Lord who was born of her.\* Be of good cheer, then, and have confidence, O people of God,\* for He will fight our enemies for us;\* He is all-powerful!

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## TONE 2

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

## Theotokion

The Word of God, equal in honour to the Father and the Holy Spirit,\* has shone forth from the Virgin in these latter days as a mighty sun,\* illuminating heaven and earth from end to end.\* He has sent you, O glorious apostles, as light\* to illumine with the light of faith all nations living in the darkness of ignorance,\* and by divine teachings to lead them to the true faith.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

#### FRIDAY EVENING

# For the Martyrs

Since You did not love earthly delights, O martyrs,\* you were worthy of the blessings of heaven,\* and now you abide with the angels.\* O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us.

Through the prayers of the holy martyrs\* and their songs of praise to Christ,\* all error has come to an end,\* and all people are saved by faith.

As they withstood the tortures,\* the company of martyrs said:\* We serve in the forces of the King.\* Though you deliver us to fire and torment,\* we shall not deny the power of the Trinity.

Great is the glory you obtained by faith, O saints;\* for not only did you triumph over the Enemy in your sufferings,\* but after death you healed the infirm and drove out evil spirits,\* O physicians of souls and bodies.\* Intercede before the Lord,\* entreating Him to have mercy on our souls.

For the Departed

O what an ordeal must the soul endure\* when it parts from the body!\* O how profusely that soul weeps,\* and there is no one to show it pity.\* It turns its eyes to the angels and its prayer is in vain.\* It extends its hands to people and finds no one to help.\* Therefore, O beloved faithful,\* considering the brevity of our life,\* let us beseech from Christ mercy for our souls.

Dogmatikon

O Virgin, the shadow of the law passed away\* with the realization of grace.\* For as the bush had burned without being consumed,\* so you gave birth while a virgin\* and you remained a virgin.\* Instead of the pillar of fire there rose the Sun of Justice;\* instead of Moses Christ God came forth,\* the Saviour of our souls.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

### TONE 3

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

## Theotokion

By your great power, O pure one,\* deliver us from sorrows and save us from death!\* Protect us from every attack of the devil;\* free us from every affliction.\* Pray without ceasing to your Son,\* that He may deliver us from every oppression.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

# For the Martyrs

Great is the power of Your martyrs, O Christ.\* For, lying in their tombs, they drive out evil spirits\* and fight in defense of godliness;\* they subdued the power of the enemy by faith in the Trinity.

The prophets, apostles, and the martyrs of Christ\* taught us to sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity.\* They enlighten the nations that had gone astray,\* and made us companions of the angels.

Your martyrs, O Lord, have been confirmed by faith\* and strengthened by hope.\* By the love of Your Cross they have been spiritually fortified,\* and so have overcome the anguish of suffering.\* They have obtained the crowns,\* and, together with the angels, they pray for our souls.

Great is the power of Your Cross, O Lord,\* for though it was set in one place, it acts throughout the world.\* It made apostles of fishermen,\* and martyrs of Gentiles.\* We beg them to intercede for our souls.

# For the Departed

All human things are vain.\* They do not remain after death.\* Neither riches endure nor does glory survive;\* for with the coming of death all these are destroyed.\* Let us exclaim to Christ, the Immortal:\* Grant rest to the departed servants\* in the abode of those who rejoice in You.

## Dogmatikon

O Lady most honourable,\* how could we but be rapt in wonder at your giving birth\* to the incarnate God who without a mother was born of a Father before all ages.\* You gave birth to Him in the flesh without a father,\* without a man's instrumentality.\* He is God and man whose two natures are intact, neither one losing any of its properties.\* Therefore, O Virgin Mother, intercede with Him to save the souls\* of those who believe and profess in true faith that you are the Mother of God.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## **TONE 4**

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

## Theotokion

O Mother of Christ our God,\* you who gave birth to the Maker of all,\* deliver us from every danger,\* so that we may cry out to you with one accord:\* Rejoice, O only intercessor for our souls! We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

# For the Martyrs

You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God.\* Through their intercessions,\* send upon us Your great mercy.

O God, who has accepted the long-suffering of the holy martyrs,\* accept our song, O Lover of humankind,\* and, through their prayers, grant us Your great mercy.

O saints, who have the boldness to approach the Saviour,\* pray without ceasing for us sinners,\* asking remission for our transgressions,\* and great mercy for our souls.

O martyrs of the Lord,\* you are living sacrifices and spiritual offerings\* and perfect incense burnt to God.\* You are sheep that know God and are known to Him,\* and wolves cannot break into His fold.\* Pray that we may be led with you\* to pasture beside the still waters.

For the Departed

Where is the attachment to the world?\* Where is the allurement of all that is temporal?\* Where is silver and gold?\* Where is the multitude of servants and anxieties?\* All is dust, all is ashes, all is shadow.\* Come, let us cry out to the Immortal King.\* O Lord, deem worthy of Your eternal blessings those who have departed from us,\* granting them rest in Your ageless bliss.

Dogmatikon

O Mother of God,\* because of you David the prophet became an ancestor of God;\* he foretold and sang a joyous hymn of praise\* and cried out to Him who worked wonders in you:\* "The Queen stood at Your right hand."\* God revealed you as a life-giving mother, when He chose to be incarnate of you without a father.\* He renewed in man His image which the passions had corrupted.\* He found the lost sheep in the mountains,\* carried it on His shoulders, offered it to the Father,\* generously numbered it among the powers of heaven,\* and saved the whole world, since He is Christ of great and rich mercy.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## TONE 5

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

## Theotokion

Come, all faithful, and rejoice in the Holy Scriptures!\* Rejoice in the preaching of the apostles!\* Rejoice in the Virgin who gave birth to God!\* She is the Queen of Heaven.\* In her we exult with hymns and songs,\* for she is our fervent intercessor before God.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

# For the Martyrs

You were not concerned about all these earthly matters,\* and you courageously braved the tortures.\* You did not sin against hope,\* having confidence in God's love for humankind;\* thus you were made heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven,\* O most praise-worthy martyrs.\* Ask for peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Putting on the shield of faith\* and fortifying themselves with the symbol of the Cross,\* Your saints, O Lord, bravely went of their own accord to torture.\* They defeated the craft and insolence of the devil.\* By their supplications, O all-powerful God,\* send peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs,\* that we may be delivered from our iniquities;\* for the grace to pray for us is given to you.

With your souls filled with unquenchable love,\* you endured the most terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ;\* and you laid low the impudence of the torturers.\* You kept the faith unwavering and unharmed,\* and have gone to dwell in heaven.\* Therefore, having the boldness to approach the Lord,\* beg Him to grant us His great mercy.

For the Departed

I recall the prophet crying out:\* I am ashes and dust.\* And again, I looked into the graves and saw bones laid bare and I said:\* Which is king or soldier, rich or poor, righteous or sinner?\* But, with the just, give rest, O Lord, to Your departed servants,\* since You are the Lover of humankind.

Dogmatikon

A symbol of the undefiled Virgin and bride was revealed in the Red Sea.\* There, Moses divided the waters;\* here, Gabriel is the messenger of the miracle.\* There, the Israelites crossed the deep and their feet were not even wet;\* here, the Virgin gives birth to Christ without human seed.\* There, the sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel;\* here the immaculate remained incorrupt after giving birth to Emmanuel.\* Therefore, O Immortal God, who appeared in the flesh as true Man, have mercy on us!

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

### TONE 6

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

#### Theotokion

O Theotokos, you are the true vine,\* who brought forth the fruit of Life.\* Therefore we entreat you, O Lady:\* intercede together with the apostles and all the saints\* that our souls be granted peace and great mercy.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

# For the Martyrs

Your martyrs did not reject You,\* nor did they renounce Your commandments.\* Through their prayers, have mercy on us!

Your martyrs, O Christ,\* have endured many sufferings for Your sake,\* and have received their heavenly crowns.\* Now they intercede for our souls.

The suffering martyrs, citizens of heaven,\* when taking part in the contest upon earth,\* endured manifold torments.\* By their intercessions and prayers, preserve us, O Lord.

Your Cross, O Christ, has been an invincible weapon for the martyrs;\* for beholding the approach of death\* and foreseeing the future life,\* they were made strong by the hope that lies in You.\* By their intercession, have mercy on us!

# For the Departed

Your creating command was my origin and formation,\* for You willed to fashion me, a living creature,\*out of visible and invisible nature.\* From the earth You formed my body\* and gave me a soul by Your divine and life-creating breath.\* Therefore, O Christ, give rest to Your servant in the place of the living,\* in the abodes of the just.

## Dogmatikon

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?\* Who would not sing a hymn of praise to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?\* The only-begotten Son Himself,\* begotten of the Father before all ages,\* was made flesh out of you in a manner that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!\* And for our sake He who is God by nature assumed the nature of man.\* He is not divided into two persons;\* He is understood to have two natures without commixion or confusion.\* O noble and blessed Woman,\* intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

#### TONE 7

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

## Theotokion

O Lady, we acknowledge you to be a virgin after birth-giving,\* for without knowing a man you brought forth the Saviour.\* Intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls!

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

# For the Martyrs

Glory to You, O Christ our God!\* You are the praise of the apostles,\* and the delight of the martyrs,\* who preached the consubstantial Trinity.

O holy martyrs who fought the good fight\* and have received your crowns,\* entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Not caring for any earthly things, O holy martyrs,\* you boldly preached Christ during your trials,\* and received your due reward from Him.\* But since you possess confidence before Him,\* we beseech you to entreat Him, as the Almighty God, to save our souls.

O martyrs, lofty praise is due to you,\* for you are lambs of the Spirit and spiritual offerings.\* You are pleasing sacrifices that have found favour with God;\* and though the earth may not have covered you, the heavens received you.\* We entreat you; for you have become partakers with the angels,\* to join with them in beseeching our God\* to give the world peace and to save our souls.

For the Departed

Grant repose, O God our Saviour,\* to our departed loved ones who cry out to You:\* O Lord and Giver of life, glory to You!

Dogmatikon

Immaculate Mother of God,\* you became a mother outside the laws of nature,\* remaining a virgin in a way that exceeds all description and human understanding.\* The wonder of your birth-giving could not be told in human language,\* for your conception of Christ blinded intelligence,\* and your birth-giving exceeded understanding:\* for whenever God so desires, the laws of nature are broken.\* Wherefore we all firmly believe that you are the Mother of God,\* and we eagerly beseech you to intercede for the salvation of our souls.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## TONE 8

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

#### Theotokion

Attend to the groaning of my broken heart, O Bride of God.\* Accept the lifting up of my hands.\* Do not reject me, O Mary, spotless Virgin, full of love,\* so that I may praise and magnify\* Him, who in you magnified the human race.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).

## FRIDAY EVENING

## For the Martyrs

O martyrs of the Lord,\* you sanctify all places,\* and you heal all diseases.\* Therefore, we implore you:\* Pray that our souls be delivered from the snares of the enemy.

O martyrs of the Lord,\* we entreat you to be seech our God\* and ask great mercy for our souls\* and forgiveness for our many offenses.

Your martyrs, O Lord,\* forgetting the things of this life\* and despising torture for the sake of the life to come,\* were shown to be inheritors of the eternal life.\* Therefore, they rejoice exceedingly with the angels.\* Through their supplications, bestow great mercy upon Your people.

What honour and praise can fittingly be ascribed to the saints?\* They bowed their necks under the sword for You, who left the heavens and came down.\* They shed their blood for You, who emptied Yourself taking the form of a servant.\* By emulating Your poverty, they humbled themselves unto death.\* By their prayers, have mercy on us, O Lord, according to Your great compassion.

## For the Departed

I weep and lament as I consider death,\* and behold our beauty fashioned in the image of God,\* resting in the tombs, disfigured and deprived of glory and expression.\* O, what a wonder!\* What is this mystery?\* Why have we been delivered to corruption?\* Why subjected to death?\* Indeed, as it is written, by the command of God,\* for He grants rest to the departed.

# Dogmatikon

Out of His love for mankind\* the King of heaven appeared on earth and dwelt with men,\* for He assumed a human body from the pure Virgin\* and was seen in the flesh He received from her.\* He is the One and only God having two natures but not two persons.\* Wherefore we profess and declare the truth that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man.\* O Mother, who knew not carnal union,\* intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

We then proceed to "Tranquil Light" (see pg. 26).



# STICHERA FROM THE GENERAL MENAION

# FEASTS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

### Tone 4

With the divine power, O most Pure One,\* you preserve and shelter us from the attacks of the enemy\* as we lovingly celebrate your all-glorious feast, and call to you:\* You are our strength and security,\* and Your Son and our God is the well-pleasing One whom we adore.\* O Jesus, all-powerful, save us,\* for You are the Compassionate One. (twice)

Today we are gathered together in a divine manner;\* let us praise the all-holy Virgin and Theotokos.\* Many are your glories and wonders;\* for you are our holy protection,\* our praise and glory.\* You are the source of healing for those who celebrate your holy feast.\* Therefore, we pray to your Son, and we say:\* O Jesus, all-powerful, save us,\* for You are the Compassionate One.

With your honourable supplications, O most Holy One,\* shelter and preserve us from our enemies.\* Grant strength and courage to those who celebrate your holy feast,\* that we may cry out to your Son:\* O Jesus, all-powerful, save us,\* for You are the Compassionate One.

### COMMON FOR A PROPHET

#### Tone 4

With a pure mind you received the brilliant God-sent light.\* You were the herald of divine words, a seer and prophet.\* You were shown to be a truly inspired messenger of God;\* you foresaw that which was revealed to you by Him,\* and you announced to all nations the promised salvation, and the coming of the Kingdom of Christ.\* O honourable (name), pray to God to save and enlighten our souls. (twice)

O God-inspired (name),\* you were rightly honoured with an illuminating knowledge of God,\* and with prophetic vision and grace,\* you were made worthy of divine happiness.\* You stand with boldness before the most Gracious One.\* Since you have obtained His mercy,\* we ask you to pray for us unceasingly,\* that we be delivered from all danger and that our souls be saved;\* for we faithfully praise and venerate you as an honourable evangelist\* and as one who has been united with God.

O Immortal One,\* You have shown Your Prophet (name) to be like a living cloud which pours out the water of eternal life.\* In sending him, You have richly endowed him with the all-holy Spirit,\* who is of one substance with You, the Father Almighty,\* and with Your Son, who shines forth from Your substance.\* Through the Spirit, O Prophet, you foretold the coming of Christ, our God and our Salvation.\* Pray to Him to enlighten and to save our souls.

# COMMON FOR AN APOSTLE

#### Tone 8

What shall we call you, O Apostle?\* Heaven, for you have confessed the glory of God?\* A River, since you mystically give drink to all creation?\* A Star that illumines the Church?\* A Chalice pouring out the holy drink?\* An Intimate of Christ, dwelling equally with the angels?\* Pray that our souls be saved. (twice)

O Apostle and Preacher of God,\* you came forth from Christ like a shining arrow.\* You wounded His enemies,\* and you manifestly healed our wounded souls.\* Therefore, we praise you fervently, and we celebrate your Feast-day today.\* Pray that our souls be saved.

O glorious Apostle who sees God,\* your feet have become beautiful, pursuing the path of preaching.\* You made narrow the way of the wicked by the width of your divine knowledge of the Word,\* Who is revealed in the coarseness of the flesh.\* The most glorious Lord chose you as His disciple, O blessed one.\* Pray to Him that our souls be saved.

## COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE APOSTLES

## Tone 4

O most fortunate Disciples, you are truly blessed,\* since you were eyewitnesses of the Incarnate Word.\* You have appeared to the world as flashes of lightning.\* As spiritual leaders you have poured out the sweetness of the Word.\* You shared your knowledge like the ever-flowing rivers of Paradise.\* You gave the drink of divine waters to the Church of the Gentiles. (twice)

You were sent into the world like spiritual rays of light.\* You have performed many miracles.\* O most sacred Mystics, you were ministers of the Mysteries of Christ\* and of the tables of divine grace\* inscribed with the Law of God.

Through divine teachings,\* the rod of the fishermen has put an end to the waverings of philosophers and the ceaseless talk of orators.\* They have clearly revealed doctrines and the Mysteries of grace.\* They have shown the communion of the eternal food,\* the delight of angels,\* and the everlasting glory.

# COMMON FOR A BISHOP

## Tone 6

Wholly consecrated, you have appeared as a God-bearer.\* As holy chrism of God, you are clothed with the Holy Spirit.\* You have always entered serenely into the holy of holies,\* and are illumined with the splendour proceeding from God,\* and you partake of the holy mysteries of grace, as a true and most glorious Bishop.\* With boldness, intercede for our souls. (twice)

Your life was resplendent with the radiance of virtue, O blessed Bishop (name).\* You truly appeared as a bright sun,\* thus you illumined the faithful and dispersed the darkness of deceit.\* Having become, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, a son of the day,\* you now live where the Neversetting Light shines.\* Therefore, we honourably celebrate your divine and light-bearing memory.\* O ever-memorable one, we lovingly venerate you.

Your mind has become deified,\* for it is directed toward God and is nourished by faith.\* You are wise in the ways of God.\* You learned about incorruption in a mortal and corrupt body, O all-glorious.\* You have acquired the serenity of the angels.\* Although you contain passions within you, you adorned yourself with impassivity,\* O Father (name), wisest of Bishops,\* you are a bright light and an intercessor for those who lovingly keep your memory.

# COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE BISHOPS

#### Tone 4

As the ever-shining stars standing watch in the heavenly firmament,\* O most glorious Bishops, you have adorned the whole world.\* You enlighten the universe with the doctrines of the true faith,\* and drive away the darkness of heresies.\* Pray that those who in faith keep your noble memory\* be delivered from corruption and danger. (twice)

O most blessed God-bearers,\* you have enlightened the world with the brightness of the Spirit.\* You have appeared as radiant suns,\* for your teachings spread out to the ends of the earth like rays of light.\* You illumine the hearts of the faithful and drive away the darkness of heretics\* by the power of Him who shines forth from the Virgin.

You have driven away the intellectual wolves from the Church of Christ\* with the staff of your teachings, O blessed Bishops.\* You have surrounded her with a solid wall of reasoning,\* and have presented her whole and unharmed to Christ.\* Pray to Him that those who in faith keep your noble memory\* be delivered from corruption and danger.

## COMMON FOR A MONK

### Tone 1

Your Feast-day has arrived, O God-bearer.\* Brighter than the sun, your memory enlightens all who come to you in faith.\* O (name), Intercessor for our souls,\* your soul is fragrant with immortality: and you pour out healing for our souls. (twice)

O Wonder-worker (name),\* you subdued the sensual and bodily passions with the bridle of abstinence.\* On earth you displayed angelic zeal\* in subjecting bodily lusts to the spirit.\* In the heavenly courts where you now dwell,\* offer prayers for our souls.

O blessed (name),\* by discarding the old self and its urges,\* and by truly clothing yourself with Christ,\* you laid a foundation for virtue.\* And so, after repelling many hostile attacks,\* you became a guide for monks, O venerable one.\* Offer your prayers\* for the salvation of our souls.

## COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE MONKS

## Tone 8

You give light to the blind, O noble and spiritual Fathers;\* you also give health to the sick and healing to the lame.\* You reach out in mercy to those who in faith come to your shrine and implore your help.\* We have found in you true intercessors and protectors;\* for this reason we offer you praise. (twice)

Entering the chariot by means of your virtues, holy Fathers,\* you have ascended to God to receive the honours of victory.\* As a favour to us you have left your bodies lying in th grave\* to pour out healings and drive away evil spirits.\* For this reason we bless you, O praiseworthy ones.

You have joined the choirs of ascetics, O blessed monks,\* having been adorned with the life of fasting.\* Now you joyfully dwell in heaven where angels rejoice;\* the divine Light truly deifies you.\* Remember those who lovingly bless you on earth\* and who celebrate you festive day.

## COMMON FOR A MARTYR

## Tone 4

O wise and glorious Marty (name),\* you robed yourself in the purple of divine grace,\* reddened by the blood of your own body.\* You crowned yourself with the incorruptible crown of life.\* In your right hand you hold the scepter of the victorious cross.\* You reign with Christ in everlasting joy. (twice)

Renowned as an invincible warrior, O glorious Martyr (name),\* you armed yourself with the cross as a weapon,\* and engaged the hostile enemy in battle and defeated him.\* Therefore, O radiant Martyr, you received the crown of glory from the Only Champion,\* the Master who reigns forever.

O Martyr (name),\* in your noble suffering, you reflected the Holy Passion.\* Wearing the victor's robes, you joyfully live in the city on high,\* and are sanctified by sharing in divinity.\* Therefore, we celebrate your holy and honoured feast.

#### COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE MARTYRS

#### Tone 8

O praiseworthy Martyrs of Christ,\* you considered attacks by persecutors and violent death to be as nothing.\* Boldly you armed yourselves with courage for battle,\* and robed yourselves in glorious victory.\* You were numbered with all the just\* with whom we bless you in constant praise. (twice)

O most blessed Martyrs of Christ,\* you gave yourselves up freely to be sacrificed.\* With your blood you sanctified the earth,\* you brightened the air by your departure from this life.\* Now you live in heaven, in a Never-setting Light.\* O Martyrs, who see God, always pray for us.

O invincible Martyrs of Christ,\* with the dew of divine grace you pass through the pain of fire without harm.\* You are considered worthy to live by the waters of peace, since you received a crown of victory.\* With joy we celebrate your holy feast,\* and we give glory to Christ.

## COMMON FOR A PRIEST-MARTYR

#### Tone 1

O blessed, wise (name),\* you have brightened your sacred and divine garment with the crimson of your blood.\* You have gone piously from earthly power to Power,\* from earthly glory to Glory.\* Now ask that our souls be granted peace\* and great mercy. (twice)

As a most righteous priest, you first offered the unbloody sacrifice to God.\* With your own blood you then offered yourself, like first-fruits, as a pleasing sacrifice.\* As a true martyr, you followed after Christ.\* O honourable Teacher,\* pray to Him for those who sing to you.

You have brought to Christ, O Father, an army of martyrs\* by your teaching and precepts.\* Not only did you instruct with words, O wise Father,\* but you showed them an example by offering yourself.\* Pray with them that our souls be granted peace\* and great mercy.

## COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE PRIEST-MARTYRS

#### Tone 4

Through priestly anointing and martyr's blood,\* you were drawn close to God, O glorious Priest-Martyrs.\* You are flowers of nature, spiritual ornaments,\* summits of wisdom, theologians of righteousness,\* norms of faith, most excellent guides,\* and adornments of the Church. (twice)

O divinely-inspired Priest-Martyrs,\* you glorified suffering and praised martyrdom.\* This, you have confirmed by nobly enduring all types of torture:\* shackles and dungeons,\* nakedness, confinement, and bitter cold\* and, finally, scourging and death.

O all-powerful Martyrs,\* you brought honourable service and spotless sacrifice to Christ, the Master.\* Then you offered yourselves to Him as martyrs for perfect holocausts.\* Pray to Him to save us from danger and corruption,\* for we commemorate, in faith, your holy memory.

## COMMON FOR A MONK-MARTYR

#### Tone 6

Let us, the faithful, praise the struggles of the wise ascetic,\* and the pains of the soldier of Christ.\* Let us cry out to the Lord:\* Through his intercessions, O Christ, deliver us from all dangers. (twice)

O holy Father (name),\* you will be given by God an abundance of enduring peace;\* for you have passed through the storm of torture,\* O invincible Warrior and Intercessor for our souls.

O wise Martyr, you suffered for a righteous cause,\* and became wise in the ways of God;\* you are a second dwelling of the Creator of all.\* O God-bearer, you have been shown to be a light of the Church,\* and the ornament of ascetics.

## COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE MONK-MARTYRS

#### Tone 8

You have struggled greatly, O Ascetics;\* you courageously suffered the brutality of the torturers,\* giving up your lives to the sword with love.\* Crowned with martyrdom, you fittingly rejoice with the angels.\* Great were your sufferings,\* greater still were your rewards.\* We ask you to pray for our souls. (twice)

You have lived worthily, O holy Monks,\* emulating the deeds of the martyrs;\* for you have courageously treated torture with contempt.\* By fasting, you sanctified your bodies,\* and in love you shed your blood;\* and so you were crowned for both ordeals.\* Pray for the salvation of our souls.

O ascetic Martyrs of Christ,\* you have fought well without regard for temporal life;\* you willingly and bravely overcame the wisdom of the flesh.\* Ending your earthly life in Christ, you worthily dwell with the angels.\* And so, we honour your holy memory,\* and entreat you to pray to the Lord that He have mercy on our souls.

## COMMON FOR A WOMAN-MARTYR

#### Tone 2

Richly illumined with spiritual light,\* you scorned the world for love of the only Kingdom.\* By encountering immeasurable suffering,\* you defeated the enemy.\* O glorious Martyr (name),\* you wove a wreath of victory for yourself. (twice)

You suppressed the lusts of the flesh and extinguished the fire of sin\* with the dew of the divine Spirit as your help, O noble Martyr.\* Then you tamed the wild beast in the arena,\* and with courage you submitted your body to beatings.\* By this, blessed (name), you brought down the enemy\* and you wove a wreath of victory for yourself.

Neither sword, nor fire, nor scourging,\* anguish, hunger, or any kind of torture\* could break your desire for the Lord, O Martyr (name),\* in seeking Him with a fervent heart, you renounced all visible things,\* and entered into the divine chamber\* to become the bride of the King of all.

## COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE WOMEN-MARTYRS

### Tone 4

The young virgins, though bound by the law of nature,\* were truly strengthened by the Creator's love,\* and were freed from bodily ties by faith.\* Heroically they trampled the powerless enemy underfoot.\* Gloriously they adorned themselves with the laurels of victory,\* and they found their abode in the spiritual bridal-chamber. (twice)

The noble virgins endured fire, various tortures and death,\* possessing, in faith, the beauty of the Bridegroom.\* Having been adorned with many wounds,\* they were counted as belonging to the Lord.\* Therefore, Jesus, the Lover of mankind and Saviour of our souls,\* has crowned them with many gifts.

O good virgins,\* you have brought to Christ a virginity both inviolate and wondrous.\* With strength of heart and by the power of the Cross,\* you subdued unruly passions and godless deceit.\* Therefore, the Church of Christ celebrates your holy, bright, and glorious memory.

#### COMMON FOR A NUN

#### Tone 1

Desiring the true glory of the fathers,\* you loved incorruptible glory.\* O (name), you turned away from pleasures,\* and gave your body over to repentance.\* You received your reward for your endeavours,\* and now you reign with Christ. (twice)

O (name), you desired the splendid beauty of the Bridegroom;\* you yearned to become the bride of Christ.\* Through mortification, you adorned yourself with every virtue.\* Therefore, in His chamber,\* you now reign with Christ.

By your monastic life you illumined many ascetics,\* and like a lamp you gave light to all.\* You were glorified with them and now you delight in divine glory.\* O honoured (name),\* pray for the salvation of our souls.

## COMMON FOR TWO OR MORE NUNS

## Tone 8

O glorious wonder!\* These holy nuns set aside earthly cares to pursue supernatural perfection.\* They desired the Fountain of Goodness itself,\* and so came to the True Beloved.\* Blessed women, you were made radiant in His light;\* by your prayers deliver us from the darkness of sin. (twice)

In forsaking the world's beauty,\* all-praised and honoured women,\* you adorned your noble spirits with the jewels of a higher nobility.\* You observed the rule of grace, the serene life.\* Therefore, noble women, you became flowers of nature\* and invincible guardians of the ascetic life.

We are assembled in faith to honour you,\* for you are the ascetics of Christ;\* you lived joyful lives as nuns,\* and became faithful guides for many.\* And so we cry out to you:\* O blessed women, who are the boast of nuns,\* pray to the Redeemer of all to save us.

## COMMON FOR A NUN-MARTYR

#### Tone 4

First, you lived a life of penance,\* striving to control bodily appetites by patient endurance.\* Then, (name), O blessed of God,\* you defeated the wiles of the enemy, and so obtained the crown of victory.\* You were crowned for your double fight\* by Jesus, the Lover of mankind, and Saviour of our souls. (twice)

O praiseworthy (name),\* the divine seed was sown on the tablets of your heart\* as on soil made fertile by divine grace.\* The fruits of your sufferings truly multiplied a hundredfold,\* and were gathered in spiritual storehouses.\* By the power and grace of the Spirit, your ways were changed to a better life.

Ohonoured (name),\* you worked wonders through life-giving precepts.\* You wisely died to bodily passions through penance.\* Now you live in heaven with the martyrs,\* having completed the good course of a martyr;\* for you were inspired by the Spirit.\* Do not cease to intercede for us who pray to you in faith.

# COMMON FOR A CONFESSOR, A PRIEST-CONFESSOR, OR A MONK-CONFESSOR

## Tone 4

Holy and inspired (name),\* we know you as a foundation of truth and a confirmer of the faith.\* Your understanding of the dogmas was exceptional.\* You were a composer of piety, and an abode of purity;\* a chosen vessel, and the sweet fragrance of the Spirit.\* You were a great treasury of teaching\* and a pillar of the Church of Christ. (twice)

You were a successor to the throne of the apostles;\* you are of one mind with the martyrs.\* And you emulate ascetics zealously.\* Therefore we honour you, O praiseworthy God-bearer;\* for you are the seal of teachers and the image of God.\* You were initiated into the mysteries of Christ.\* O wise (name), you are the river of understanding\* that drowns the schemes of the lawless blasphemers.

You multiplied the talent of wisdom, O glorious Confessor,\* and became worthy of the joy of your Lord.\* O (name), adorned with divine rays of grace,\* you shone with the light of spiritual wisdom,\* and now stand before the Life-bringing Right Hand\* from which we also receive the light.

## COMMON FOR CHARITABLE WORKERS AND WONDER-WORKERS

#### Tone 4

Like rivers overflowing with spiritual waters,\* you water creation with divine signs, and with the most famous gifts of healing.\* Dry up the passions which corrupt the soul,\* cure all ailments, and drive away evil spirits.\* O God-bearing Unmercenaries,\* you are intercessors for our souls. (twice)

Subduing senseless passions by spiritual strength,\* O holy Wonder-workers,\* you bear good gifts to all creation;\* for you were enriched by Christ with the gift of healing.\* As we celebrate your illustrious feast,\* we implore cleansing for our souls.

Your holy shrine, has become, like heaven, a splendorous place of salvation.\* Like the sun, it shines with the workings of divine healings.\* Saving miracles are now acquired like stars.\* O blessed (name), and renowned (name),\* you are servants of the Lord and intercessors for our souls.





Український католицько-пастирський округ Росберн