The Service of the Paraklesis

(The Little Supplicatory Canon to the Most Holy Mother of God)



Holy Cross Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Melodies for the Canon, Hymns and Megalynaria arranged by Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, Massachusetts

Responses, God is the Lord (adapted by Fr. David Barr) and Anabathmoi arranged by Basil Kazan

Exaposteilaria arranged by His Grace Bishop BASIL Essey, adapted by Emily Lowe

The Service of the Paraklesis

The holy doors and curtain remain closed for this service, since everything takes place on the solea. The priest, vested in exorasson, epitrachelion and phelonion, stands in the center of the solea before an analogion upon which has been placed an Icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos. After making three metanias, he blesses himself, saying in a loud voice:

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

People: A - men.

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

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things: treasury of good things and giver of life; come and dwell in us and cleanse us of every stain and save our souls, O Good One.

The Trisagion Prayers

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(three times)*

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake. 2

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

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

- **Priest:** For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- People: A men.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (Twelve times)

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

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

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

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

Reader: Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: In Thy faithfulness answer me, and in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant: For in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; He hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto Thee: my soul thirsteth after Thee, as a thirsty land. Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit faileth: Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto Thee to hide me. Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy name's sake: For Thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. And of Thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: For I am Thy servant.

> O Lord, give ear to my supplications, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. O Lord, give ear to my supplications, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant.

Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

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

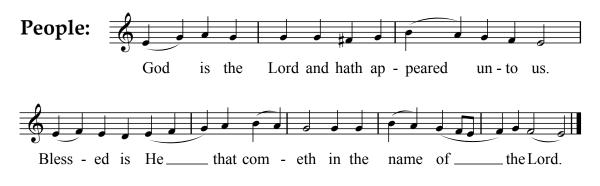
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia: glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia: glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia: glory to Thee, O God.

O God, our hope, glory to Thee.

God is the Lord

Chanter: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever!



(Repeat refrain after each verse)

Chanter: All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Troparia of the Paraklesis

Tone 4, to the melody "Thou who wast raised up"

Chanter: To God's birthgiver let us run now most earnestly, we sinners all and wretched ones, and fall prostrate in repentance, calling from the depths of our souls: "Lady, come unto our aid; have compassion upon us; hasten thou, for we are lost in a throng of transgressions. Turn not thy servants away with empty hands, for thee alone do we have as our only hope."

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

To God's birthgiver let us run now most earnestly, we sinners all and wretched ones, and fall prostrate in repentance, calling from the depths of our souls: "Lady, come unto our aid; have compassion upon us; hasten thou, for we are lost in a throng of transgressions. Turn not thy servants away with empty hands, for thee alone do we have as our only hope."

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

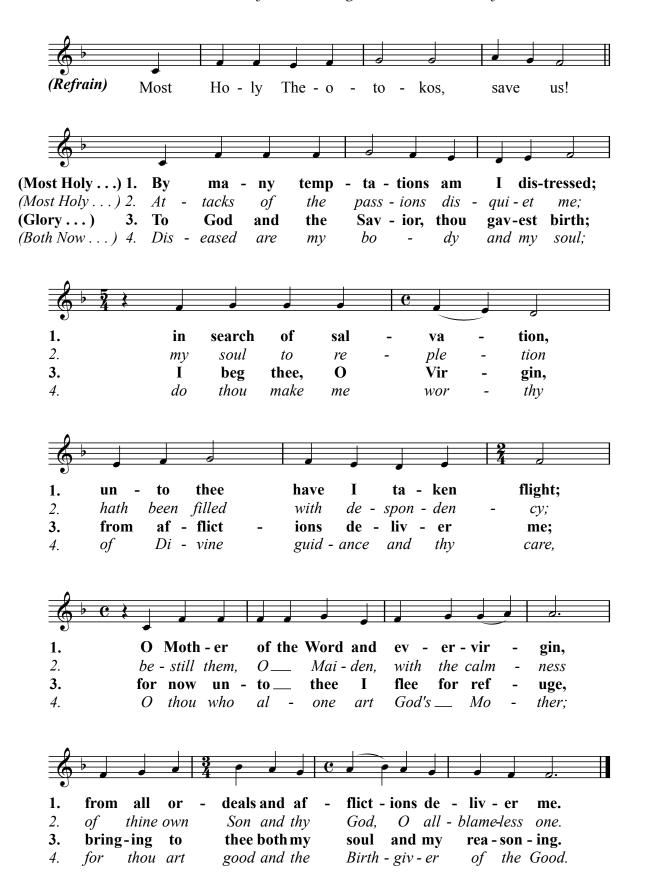
O Theotokos, we shall not cease from speaking of all thy mighty acts, all we the unworthy ones. For if Thou hadst not stood to intercede for us, who would have delivered us from such numerous dangers? Who would have preserved us all, until now, in true freedom? O Lady, we shall not turn away from thee, for thou dost always save thy servants from all manner of grief.

Psalm 51

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy: According to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out mine iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done evil in Thy sight: That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth: The unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made clear to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: The bones which Thou hast broken shall rejoice. Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and steady me with a guiding spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and the impious shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it thee: Thou delightest not in burnt offering. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good will unto Zion: That the walls of Jerusalem may be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offerings: Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The Canon: Ode One

Tone 8, to the melody "Traversing the waters as on dry land"



The Canon: Ode Three

Tone 8, to the melody "*Of the vault of the heavens*"





Ektenia

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.

(The people respond to each petition as follows:)



Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP and His Grace Bishop THOMAS.

Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, deacons, and monastics, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God (*Name[s]*), and all Orthodox Christians of true worship who live and dwell in this community.

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



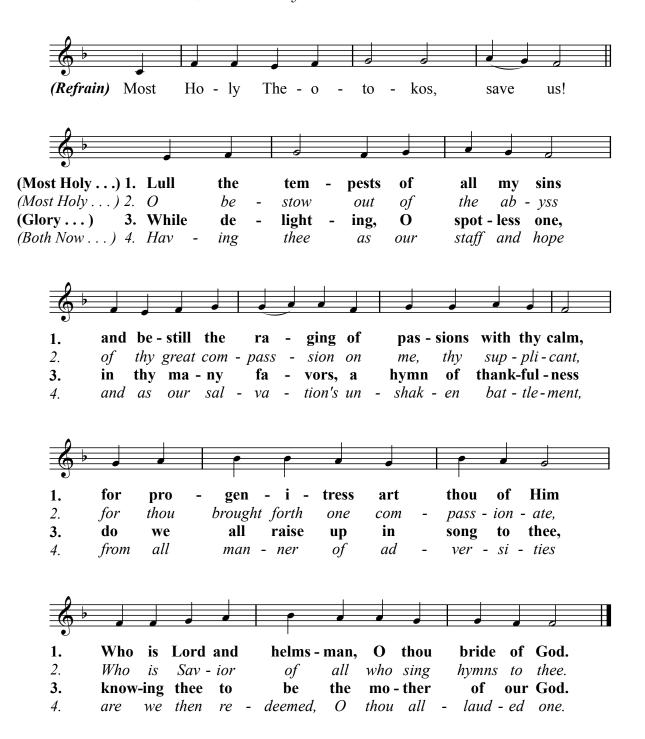
Kathisma

Tone 2, to the melody "Thou soughtest the heights"

Chanter: O fervent advocate, invincible battlement, fountain of mercy and sheltering retreat for the world, earnestly we cry to thee: Lady, Mother of God, hasten thou and save us from all imperilment, for thou alone art our speedy protectress.

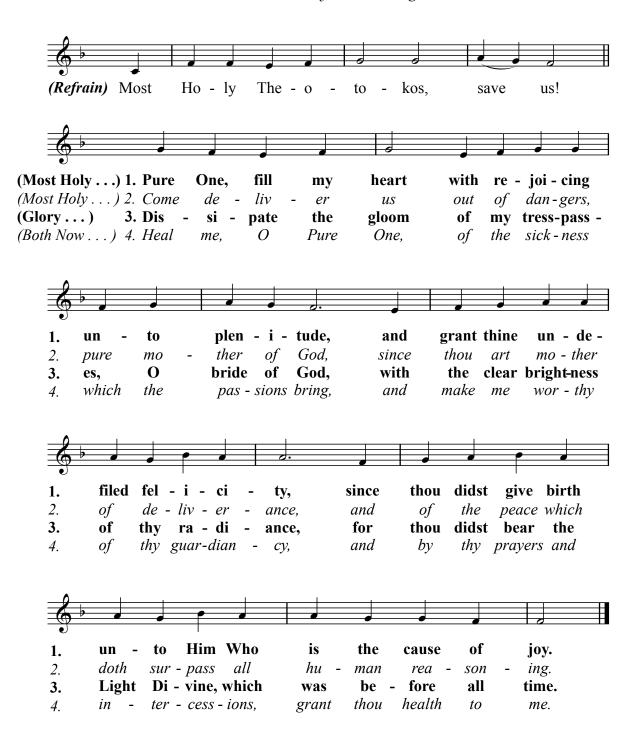
The Canon: Ode Four

Tone 8, to the melody "I have hearkened and heard"



The Canon: Ode Five

Tone 8, to the melody "Lord, enlighten us"

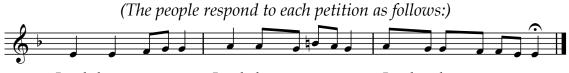






Ektenia

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP and His Grace Bishop THOMAS.

Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, deacons, and monastics, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God (*Name*[*s*]), and all Orthodox Christians of true worship who live and dwell in this community.

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



Kontakion

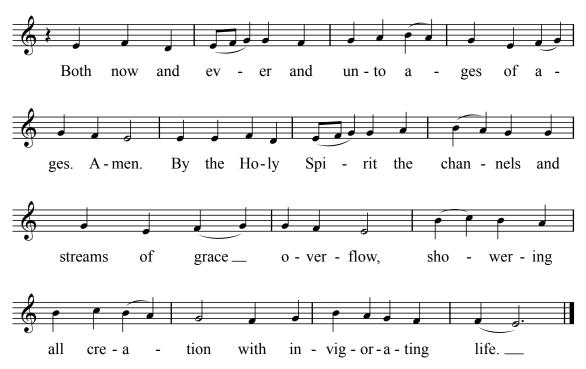
Tone 4

Chanter: O protection of Christians who cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned, but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.



Tone 4

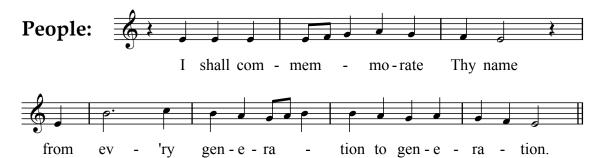




Prokeimenon

Tone 4

Chanter: The Prokeimenon: I shall commemorate Thy name from every generation to generation.



Chanter: Hearken, O daughter, and see and incline thine ear, and forget thy people and thy father's house, and the king shall greatly desire thy beauty.

People: (*Repeat Prokeimenon*)

- Chanter: I shall commemorate Thy name
- **People:** from every generation to generation.

17

Gospel

- **Priest:** And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.
- People:

Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy.

Priest: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. (1:39-49, 56)

Priest: In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.



Glo - ry to Thee, O Lord; Glo - ry to Thee.

Hymns following the Gospel

Tone 2, to the melody "Having laid up all their hope"

Chanter: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. O Father, Word and Spirit, the Trinity in unity, blot out the multitude of my offenses. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Merciful One, blot out the multitude of my offenses.

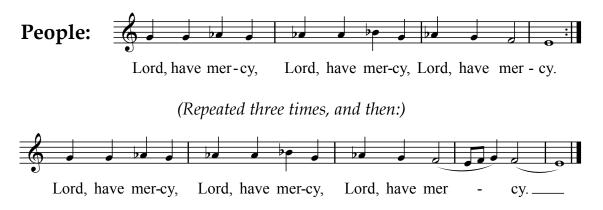
> Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions, blot out my transgressions. O entrust me not, I pray, to any human protection, O our Lady, holy one, but do thou accept the prayer of thy supplicant. Sorrow hath fettered me, and I am unable to endure and bear the demons' darts; a shelter have I not, nor a place to run, I, the wretched one; embattled from all sides am I, and no consolation have I but thee. Mistress of creation, protection and hope of faithful ones: Turn not away when I turn to thee; do that which will profit me.

From thee is no one is turned away ashamed and empty who doth run to thee for refuge, O pure Virgin Theotokos; but he asketh the favor and receiveth the gift from thee, unto the profit of his own request. The transformation of the afflicted, and the relief of those in sickness, art thou in truth, O Virgin Theotokos; save thy people and thy flock, thou who art the peace of the embattled, and who art the calm of the stormdriven; the only protection of those who believe.

The Intercession

O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine **Priest:** inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies: through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and alllaudable Apostles; of our Fathers among the Saints, great Hierarchs and ecumenical Teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas the archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon the wonder-working bishop of Trimython; Sophronios of Jerusalem; Meletios of Antioch, Nectarios, the wonder-working bishop of Pentapolis, and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious great martyrs, George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streaming, Theodore of Tyre, Theodore the commander, Stephen the first-martyr: of the sacred martyrs Haralampos, Eleftherios, Polycarp, Cyprian, Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Milos of Babylon, Gurias and Simonas of Edessa, Ananias of Damascus; of the holy virgin martyrs, Thekla the firstmartyr, Fevronia of Mesopotamia, Irene, Katherine, Barbara of Baalbek, Anastasia, Evdokia, the penitent of Baalbek, Marina, Pelagia of Antioch, Vevia of Edessa, Theodosia of Tyre, Akylina of Byblos; of the holy, glorious and triumphantly victorious martyrs, the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste, Sergius and Bacchus, Lukianos of Antioch, Julian of Homs, Victor of Damascus, Aedesios and Amphian of Beirut, Trophymios, Savatios, and Dorymedon of Antioch, Domnina and her children, Berina and Prosdoki, Peter of Bosra, the children Asterios, Claudios, Neon and Neonilla, Galaction and Epistemia of Homs, Romanos the martyr, Antony of Damascus, Sylvanos, Luke and Makios of Homs,

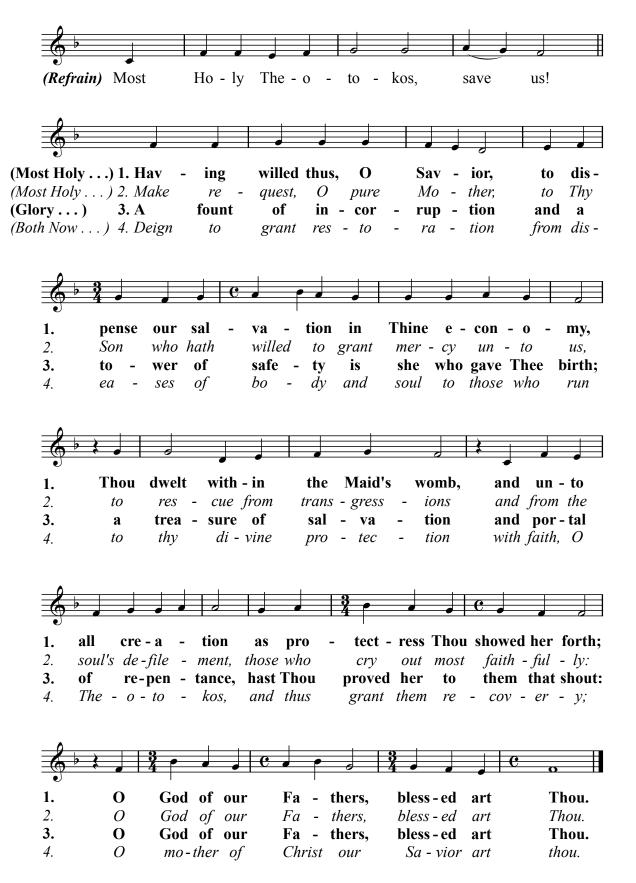
Joseph of Chalepon, Cyril, the deacon of Baalbek; Julietta and her son Kyriakos; Vasa of Mesopotamia, and Andrew the General; of our holy and God-bearing Fathers, Anthony the Great, Efthymios, Arsenios the Great, Sava the Sanctified, Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians, Makarios and Pakhomios the Great of Egypt, Simeon the Stylite, Alexios the Man of God, John of Damascus, Maximos the Confessor, Mark the Anchorite; John Cassian the Roman; Simeon the new Theologian; Peter, Athanasios and Paul of the Holy Mountain Athos, Seraphim of Sarov; of our holy and God-bearing mothers Mary of Egypt, Pelagia, and Thais, Kyra of Syria, Marana of Veria, Pansemne of Antioch; of the holy unmercenaries and healers Panteleimon, Cosmas and Damian, Cyrus and John, Anthimos of Arabia; of the holy, righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; of (*Name*[s] of the Saint[s] of the day) whose memory we celebrate, and of all Thy Saints: We beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petition of us sinners who make our supplication unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.



Priest: Through the mercy and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine All-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

The Canon: Ode Seven

Tone 8, to the melody "Once from out of Judea"



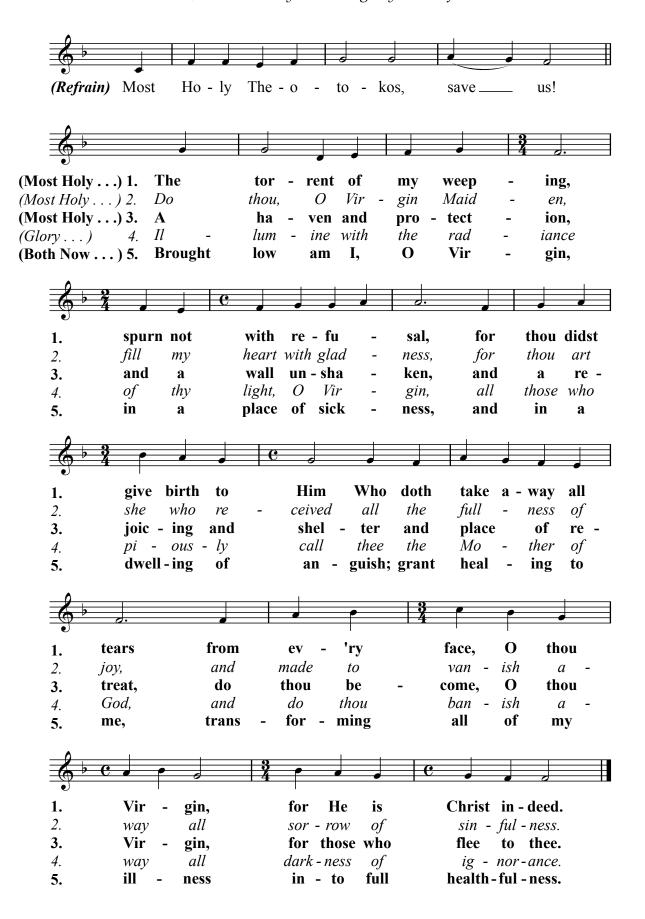
The Canon: Ode Eight

(Refrain) Most Ho - ly The - o - to - kos, us! save (Most Holy . . .) 1. Do not dis dain. those who -(Most Holy...) 2. On all who thee with hymn_ (Glory . . .) **3.** All the dis that ea ses (Both Now...) 4. All the as saul tings of the aid that thou dost grant, 0 1. seek for, faith, 0 Vir - gin, ex - alt2. and thy tru -3. plague my soul dost thou make well, and the the temp - ta - tions dost thou quell, the 4. and 1. Maid-en, they do hymn thee, and they Vir - gin 2. in eff a - ble Off - spring, thou poured ly _ 3. suff - 'rings of the flesh thou heal - est; where-fore, ban - ish; 4. on - slaughts of the pass-ions where - fore 1. all ex alt thee un - to ges for - ev - er. a -2. forth a great *a* - bun-dance of thy cures and heal - ings. 3. mai-den full 0 thou of grace, I glo - ri - fy ____ thee. 4. do hymn thee to ges, O Vir - gin. we all а _

Tone 8, to the melody "The King of Heaven"

The Canon: Ode Nine

Tone 8, to the melody "Most rightly we confess thee"





It is Truly Meet

The Megalynaria

•
1 High on then the heav one ob ove ont they
1. High - er than the heav - ens ab - ove art thou, 2. From the great a - bun - dance of all my sins,
2. From the great a - bun - dance of all my sins, 3. O La - dy and Moth - er of Christour God,
4. Now we chant with ea - ger-ness un - to thee
5. Speech-less be the lips of the im - pi - ous
6. Thou art the my - stic - al par - a - dise,
7.0 all ye ar - ray of an - gel - ic hosts,
1. and thou art much pur - er than the rad - i - ance of the sun;
2. ill am I in bo - dy, ail - ing al - so am I in soul.
3. re - ceive supp - li - ca - tion from us sin - ners who beg of thee
4. with this hymn most joy - ful, The - o - to - kos, all-laud-ed one;
5. who re - fuse to rev-'rence the re - vered i - con which is known 6. O The - o - to - kos, in which bloss - omed Christ;
7.0 ye ho - ly Bap-tist, and ye ho - ly Ap-ost - les,
7.0 ye no iy bap-tist, and ye no iy Ap-ost i les,
• 1. for thou hast re - deemedus out of the curse that held us.
2. Thee have I as ref - uge; do thou, there-fore, help me,
3. that thou make en - treat - y un - to the One born from thee;
4. togeth-er with the Bap - tist and all the saints to - geth - er,
5. by the name Di - rect - ress, and which hath been de - pic - ted
6. thru him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was plant - ed up-onearth.
7. all the saints to - geth - er, as well as God'sbirth-giv - er,
1. O mist-ress of cre-a - tion, with hymns we hon - or thee.
2. O hope of all the hope - less, for thou art full of grace.
3.0 Mist-ress of cre-a - tion, pray_ thou to God for us.
4. be - seech, O The - o - to - kos, that we find clem-en - cy.
5. for us by the A - po - stle Luke, the E - van - gel - ist.
6. As we bow down be-fore it, we mag - ni - fy thee.
7. pray make ye in - ter-cess - ion for our de-liv - er - ance.

The Trisagion Prayers

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*three times*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (three times)

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

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

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

People: А - men.

(The Chanter chants the Troparion of the Day.)

Ektenia

(The people respond to each petition as follows:)

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.



Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP and His Grace Bishop THOMAS.

Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, deacons, and monastics, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God (*Name*[*s*]), and all Orthodox Christians of true worship who live and dwell in this community.

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



Final Blessing

Priest: Wisdom!

Chanter: Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.



- **Chanter:** Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.
- **Priest:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.
- **Chanter:** More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.
- **Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope; glory to Thee!
- **Chanter:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.
- **Priest:** May Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless holy mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of (*Name[s] of the Saint[s] of the day*) whose memory we celebrate; of the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Hymns of veneration are now sung, during which the priest reverences the icon of the Theotokos. The people then come foward to reverence the icon and receive a blessing from the priest. After all have done so, the priest says:

- **Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.
- **People:** Amen.

Exaposteilaria

Tone 3, to the melody "I behold Thy bridal-chamber"

0 far pos - tles, from a ye Α Thou art the sweet ness of An gels, --Me-di -I have thee as___ a tress Thou art а gold - en twined to wer ga be - ing thered to ther now ge glad - ness af flic the of_ ted ones, with___ the man -be friend ing God; -and twelve - wall cled cit en cir --- *V*, here in the of Geth - se ne, town_ ma and the pro tect ress ofChris tians, _ He not tions may cen sure my ac be throne sprink led with sun beams, а _ _ give bur - i al to_ my **bo** --- dy; Vir - \overline{O} - gin Мо ther of our Lord: fore the hosts of_ the be an - gels. а roy -al chair_ of the King. and Thou, my Son_ God,_ and_ my_ thou my hel be per, and____ me_ save _ thee, Ι sup - pli - cate___ **O**_ Vir gin, 0 in - ex - pli - ca - blewon -der, Thou_ rit. re ceive_ my spi from ofout е ter nal tor ments. come my aid_ __ most quick ly. un - to -feed _____ the that thou dost milk Mas ter! --