



GREAT VESPERS

Tone 7 and the Leave-Taking of the Nativity of the
Mother of God (and the Hiero-Martyr Autonomous)

~ Please Stand

Priest: Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Then, in two choirs:

+ Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

+ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

+ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

+ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

+ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now and for ever and ever. 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, **+ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.**

All: **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. *Twelve times.*

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

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

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

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

PSALM 103

Chanted in two choirs, or recited on the reader on a single note

(1) Bless the Lord, O my soul! * You are very great O Lord, my God!

(2) Clothed in pomp and brilliance; * arrayed with light as with a cloak.

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

(2) You make the clouds Your conveyance. * You surge on the wings of the wind.

- (1) You make spirits Your messengers, * and flaming fires Your attendants.
- (2) You settle the earth on its firm foundation; * it shall stand unmoved from age to age.
- (1) The abyss covers it like a garment; * waters stand over the mountains.
- (2) At Your rebuke they will take flight; * at the peal of Your thunder they will fear.
- (1) They hurdle the hills and run down the dales, * to the place You have chosen for them.
- (2) You have set up a boundary not to be passed; * they shall never return to cover the earth.
- (1) Down in the gullies You make springs to rise; * water shall go down between the mountains.
- (2) They shall give drink to the beasts of the field; * wild asses will seek them to quench their thirst.
- (1) The birds of the sky will abide by them; * from among the rocks they will raise their song.
- (2) From Your lofty halls You refresh the mountains; * the earth shall be fed with the fruit of Your works.
- (1) You make green pastures for the cattle * and food-plants for the service of all,
- (2) So that bread may be brought forth from the earth, * and wine that gladdens the heart of man.
- (1) So that oil may put a gleam upon his face; * and that bread may strengthen the heart of all.
- (2) The trees of the plain will be satisfied, * the cedars of Lebanon that He planted.

- (1) The sparrows will build their nests in them; * and the herons will call them their home.
- (2) To the deer belong high mountains, * to rodents, the shelter of the rocks.
- (1) You have made the moon to mark the seasons; * the sun knows the time of its setting.
- (2) You establish darkness, and it is night * wherein the forest creatures prowl around.
- (1) Young lions roar for their prey, * and call out to God for their meat.
- (2) As the sun rises, they will come together, * and lay themselves down in their dens.
- (1) Man will go out to his labour* and work until eventide.
- (2) How great are Your works, O Lord, * in wisdom You have wrought them all.
- (1) 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.
- (2) Upon it there are ships a-sailing, * and that great beast You made to have fun.
- (1) All of them look up to You, * to give them their food in due time.
- (2) You provide and they gather up; * You open Your hand and they are full.
- (1) You hide Your face and they cringe; * You suspend their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
- (2) You send forth Your breath and they live; * You renew the face of the earth.
- (1) May the Lord's glory endure forever, * may the Lord rejoice in His works.

(2) He looks upon the earth and makes it quake; * He touches the mountains and they smoke.

(1) I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; * I will praise my God as long as I last.

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

(1) May sinners vanish from the earth, * and may the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, * O my soul!

(2) The sun knows the time of its setting. * You establish darkness, and it is night.

(1) 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 Spirit, now and for ever * and ever. Amen.

✙ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, * Glory be to You, O God. *Three times.*

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

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, *N.*, Pope of Rome, our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, the reverend priesthood, the 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, 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 travellers, 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.

All: To You, O Lord.

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

All: Amen.

BLESSED IS THE MAN FIRST STASIS OF THE FIRST KATHISMA

Verses from Psalms 1-3

Blessed is the man * who has not walked in the council of the wicked.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the just, * but the way of the wicked shall be lost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear, * exult in Him with trembling. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are those who trust in Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Arise, O Lord, save me, my God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salvation is of the Lord! * Upon Your people Your blessing! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

+ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

+ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God.

+ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God.

+ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.* Glory be to You, O God.

SMALL LITANY

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 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.**

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

All: **Amen.**

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED TO YOU”

Psalms 140, 141, 129, 116

Right choir: 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!

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

Then, in two choirs, or recited on the reader on a single note:

- (1) Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth, * and a portal around my
lips.
- (2) Incline my heart away from evil dealings, * from finding excuses
for sinful deeds.
- (1) In company with those who work iniquity, * let me not partake of
what they choose.
- (2) May the just chasten me with justice and reprove me; * may the oil
of the wicked never touch my head.
- (1) Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare. * Their rulers were
swallowed near the rock.
- (2) 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.
- (1) To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up. * In You have I hoped;
let not my soul be lost.
- (2) Keep me from the snare that was set for me, * and from the
stumbling-blocks of the wicked.
- (1) The wicked shall fall into their own nets, * while I remain alone
until I can escape.

Psalm 141

- (2) With my voice I cried to the Lord; * with all my voice I implored the Lord.
- (1) Before Him I pour out my supplications; * before Him I declare my distress.
- (2) When my breath was escaping me, * then you knew my paths;
- (1) On the road upon which I was walking, * they set up snares for me.
- (2) I looked to my right and observed * there was no one friendly to me;
- (1) Even flight was denied me; * there was no one to take care of my life.
- (2) I cried out to You, O Lord, and said: * You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.
- (1) Listen to my supplication, * for I am laid very low.
- (2) Deliver me from my oppressors, * for they have overwhelmed me.

(If 10 stichera are sung): Lead my soul forth from prison, * **that I may give thanks to Your name.**

The just shall gather around me * **when You have been good to me.**

(If 8 stichera are sung): Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; * **O Lord, hear my voice!**

Let Your ears be attentive * **to the voice of my prayer.**

(Tone 7) If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * **But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.**

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, * who destroyed the power of death * and enlightened the human race; * and let us cry out with the angels: * Glory to You, our Creator and Saviour!

I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* **for it has trusted in the Lord.**

O Saviour, for our sake You suffered crucifixion and burial;* and, as God, You destroyed death by Your death.* Therefore, we adore Your resurrection on the third day* and we sing: Glory to You, O Lord!

From the morning watch until night* **let Israel trust in the Lord.**

On seeing the resurrection of the Creator,* the apostles were amazed,* and they sang an angelic hymn of praise:* This is the glory of the Church,* this is the richness of the Kingdom!* O Lord, who suffered for our sake, glory to You!

(Tone 6): For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;* **and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

Today God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven* welcomes on earth the holy throne which He had prepared for Himself.* In His love for mankind,* He who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven.* From a barren stem He has brought forth for us His Mother* as a branch full of life.* O God of miracles and hope of those who have no hope;* O Lord, glory to You!

Praise the Lord, all the nations;* **proclaim His glory, all you people.**

This is the day of the Lord:* Rejoice, therefore, O nations!* Behold, the chamber of Light and the scroll of the living Word* has come forth from the womb.* The gate that opens to the Rising Sun* and is ready for the entrance of the High Priest, is here today.* She is the only one who introduced Christ, and Christ alone, into the world* for the salvation of souls.

Strong is the love of the Lord for us;* **eternally will His truth endure.**

Indeed some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God;* but the nativity of Mary surpasses all nativities* in honour and splendour* as it is worthy of the majesty of God.* For she was born in a miraculous way of a barren mother,* and she herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,* incarnate in her womb without human seed* against the laws of nature.* She alone is the door through which the only-begotten Son of God* has passed while leaving it sealed* as He had planned in His eternal wisdom.* Thus did He bring salvation to all.

(Tone 8): **✙** Glory be to the Father and to the Son ***and to the Holy Spirit.**

Today glad tidings go forth to the whole world.* Today sweet fragrance is sent forth* by the proclamation of salvation.* Today is the end of the barrenness of our nature;* for the barren one becomes a mother,* the mother of the one who will not cease to be a virgin,* even after giving birth to the One who by nature is Creator and God.* He it is who took flesh by which He brought salvation to the lost;* He is Christ, the Lover of Mankind,* and the Saviour of our souls.

Now and for ever *** and ever. Amen.**

(Tone 7): 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.

THE ENTRANCE

This dialogue takes place in a spoken voice.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: O gracious King, You love mankind and bless all things. With contrite heart and humble spirit we pray to You, O Christ our true God: Bless our comings and our goings. For Your coming and ascension and dwelling among us are blessed, always, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen. Master, bless the holy entrance.

Priest (blessing towards the east): Blessed is the entrance of Your saints, always now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen.

Then, aloud, the Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright!

TRANQUIL LIGHT

Tranquil Light, of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: as we come upon the sunset, as we see the evening light, we sing to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At all times You are worthy of being hymned by joyful voices; O Son of God, You are the giver of life. For this the whole world glorifies You.

(Trans. Conrad Dachuk)

PROKEIMENON

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

The deacon intones the Prokeimenon and its verse, and in conclusion repeats the first half of the Prokeimenon.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6: **The Lord reigns, * He is clothed in majesty.**

Verse: Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

Verse: For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

Verse: Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

(Readings)

INSISTENT LITANY

Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

Deacon: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, *N.*, Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Patriarch, *N.*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *N.*, our God-loving Bishop, *N.*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Additional petitions may be added here.

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. (3x)

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.

All: Amen.

DEIGN, O LORD

Chanted by a single reader, or sung in tone 7

Deign, O Lord, to keep us this evening * without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, * and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, * because we have set our hope in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, * teach me Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master, * make me understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One, * enlighten me with Your laws.

O Lord, Your mercy endures forever; * do not despise the work of Your hands.

It is proper to praise You, * and hymns belong to You.

Glory belongs to You, * **+** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Now and for ever, * and ever. Amen.

EVENING LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Priest: O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance! In Your mercy and compassion visit this world of Yours and strengthen orthodox Christians everywhere: through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, patroness of this temple; by the power of the holy and life-giving Cross; through the intercessions of the holy bodiless powers of heaven; by the prayers of the honoured prophet and foreunner, John the Baptist; through the prayers of the glorious and illustrious apostles; by the prayers of our fathers among the saints, the great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our father among the saints, Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the great wonder-worker; of the holy Cyril and Methodius, equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavic nations; of the holy Vladimir the Great, Grand Prince of Kiev; of Olga, Grand Princess of Rus'; of our holy father, the bishop and martyr Josaphat of Polotsk; of all the holy and victorious martyrs, especially Demetrius, George, Panteleimon, Catherine, Barbara, Sofia and her three daughters, and the passion-bearers Boris and Hlib and Ihor; of the new martyrs who have suffered under the yoke of the godless: Nicholas of Volhyn, Theodore of Mukachevo,

Gregory of Stanislaviv, Josaphat and Gregory of Peremyshl, Nikita, first exarch of Canada, Vasyl of Winnipeg, and Simeon and John, bishops in the underground Church: of the priest-martyrs Leonid, Emilian, Clement, Roman, and Nicholas; of the holy nun-martyrs Tarsykia, Olympia and Lavrentia, and the cantor and martyr Volodymyr; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers Anthony and Theodosius and all the wonderworkers of the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev; of our holy father Charbel, wonderworker of Lebanon; of the holy and venerable martyrs Isaac and John and their companions, enlighteners of the Huron nation; of our holy mother Kateri; of our venerable father Andre of Montreal; of our venerable mothers Marguerite, Marie, and Marguerite; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our venerable fathers Hilarion and Stephen the Wonderworker, whose memory we keep this day, and of all the saints, we pray You, Lord, ever merciful: hear us sinners; accept this entreaty and have mercy on us!

All: Lord, have mercy! (twelve times)

Priest: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff Francis, Pope of Rome, and for our most blessed Patriarch Sviatoslav – that the Lord God grant them health and salvation, ever directing them and assisting them in all they do; and for our most reverend Metropolitan Lawrence, our God-loving Bishop Bryan, for our spiritual fathers and mothers, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and maltreated and in need of God’s mercies and help; for the protection of this city, and for those who live here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world; for the welfare of God’s holy Churches; for the salvation and assistance of

our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who, with diligence and in the fear of the Lord, labor and serve; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission of sins of our departed fathers and mothers of the orthodox faith who lie in this city and throughout the world; for the deliverance of captives; for all those taking part in these holy services, and for all who serve and have served in this holy church, let us pray:

All: **Kyrie, eleison! (twelve times)**

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of all bounds of the earth and those far away at sea. In Your graciousness be merciful to us sinners, O Master. For You are a merciful God and You love mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Peace ☩ be with all!

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: : O most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary; by the power of the holy and life-giving Cross; through the intercessions of the holy bodiless powers of heaven; by the prayers of the honoured prophet and foreunner, John the Baptist; through the prayers of the glorious and illustrious apostles; and of all the saints,

make our prayer acceptable. Grant us remission of our transgressions; protect us with the shadow of Your wings; drive far from us every foe and adversary; and make our life peaceful, O Lord. Have mercy on us and on Your world and save our souls, for You are gracious and You love mankind.

All: Amen! Amen! Amen!

APOSTICHA

(Tone 7) O Saviour of the world, You arose from the grave,* and together with Your own flesh You raised up mankind.* O Lord, glory to You!

The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.*

Come, let us worship Christ who arose from the dead* and enlightened all creation.* For by His resurrection on the third day,* He set us free from the oppression of Hades,* granting us life and His great mercy.

For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.*

O Christ, Lover of mankind,* You descended into Hades and destroyed death.* Then You arose on the third day;* and, together with Yourself You lifted up all of us* who glorify Your mighty resurrection.

Holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

O Lord, what a fearful sight it was to see You lying in the tomb as if asleep.* Yet on the third day You arose in great power,* and at the same time You raised up Adam who joyfully cried out:* Glory to Your resurrection, O Lover of mankind!

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit * Now and for ever and ever. Amen*

(Tone 8): Come all you faithful, and let us hasten to the Virgin;* for long before her conception in the womb,* the one who was to be born of the root of Jesse* was destined to be the Mother of God.* The one who is the treasury of virginity,* the flowering rod of Aaron, the object of prophecies,* the child of Joachim and Anne is born today,* and the world is renewed in her.* Through her birth, the Church is clothed with splendour* O holy Temple, vessel of the Godhead,* model of virgins and strength of kings,* in you the wondrous union of the two natures of Christ was realized.* We worship Him and glorify your most pure birth,* and the whole world extols you.

CANTICLE OF SIMEON

Now, * O Master, You have kept Your promise; * let Your servant go in peace. * With my own eyes, I have seen the salvation * which You have prepared * in the sight of every people: * a Light to reveal You to the gentiles * and the glory of Your people, Israel!

TRISAGION PRAYERS

Chanted by a single reader

✚ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.
(three times)

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

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

✝ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now and forever and ever. 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, ✝ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

TROPARIA

(During each Troparion the Priest incenses around the tetrapod with the festal icon and food that will be blessed)

(Tone 7): By Your cross You destroyed death;* You opened Paradise to the thief;* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,* and charged the apostles to proclaim* that You are risen, O Christ our God,* offering great mercy to the world.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit * Now and for ever and ever. Amen*

(Tone 4): Your nativity, O Virgin Mother of God,* has made joy known to all the world,* for from you dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.* He abolished the curse* and gave the blessing;* and by making death of no effect He bestowed on us eternal life.

Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine, and Oil

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, You blessed the five loaves and fed the five thousand. Bless ✚ these loaves, this wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and throughout the world; and sanctify all the faithful who shall partake of them; for it is You, O Christ our God, Who bless and sanctify all things, and we glorify You with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and ever.

All: Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever. (three times)

Psalm 33 (Sung to the melody of the Akathist)

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.* This poor man cried out and the Lord heard him* and delivered him from all his 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.

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.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

All: **Give the blessing!**

Priest: Blessed is the One-Who-Is, blessed is Christ our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen. O God, strengthen the orthodox faith for ever and ever!**

Priest: O most holy Mother of God, save us.

All: **More honourable than the cherubim * and by far more glorious than the seraphim; * ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, * O true Mother of God, we magnify you.**

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, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. * Give the blessing.**

Priest: Christ our true God, who in fiery tongues, sent down from heaven the Most Holy Spirit upon His holy disciples and apostles

for our salvation, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, patroness of this church; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: **Amen.**

After the dismissal, we may sing the Kontakion of the feast:

(Tone 4): By your birth, O immaculate one,* Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness,* and Adam and Eve* from the corruption of death.* And your people, redeemed from the guilt of their sins,* celebrate as they cry out to you:* “The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God* and nourisher of our life.”