



GREAT VESPERS

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the
Holy Fathers

~ 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 5) If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?* **But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.**

Let us glorify Christ, the Author of our Salvation;* for by His resurrection from the dead,* the world has been delivered from the deception of Satan.* The choirs of angels rejoice as the treachery of evil spirits vanishes.* Fallen Adam arises, and the devil is vanquished.

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

Those who guarded the tomb of Christ* were told by the evil men who hired them: * Take this silver and keep silent.* Tell no one of the resurrection of Christ;* rather tell everyone that while you were sleeping His body was stolen.* But who has ever heard of a body being stolen,* a body which had already been anointed?* Why would anyone take a body from the grave naked,* and leave the burial shroud in the tomb?* Do not deceive yourselves, O people of Judea.* Study the teachings of the prophets,* and you will come to understand that Jesus Christ is Almighty God,* and truly the Saviour of the world.

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

We offer to You our evening worship,* O Light whom the darkness of night can never extinguish.* For in these latter days Your radiance has appeared to the world,* shining in Your flesh as light reflected from a mirror.* Your brilliance has descended even to the depths of Hades and dissolved its gloom.* O Lord, Giver of Light, glory to You;* for You have shown the radiance of Your resurrection to all the nations.

(Tone 8): For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;* **and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

The commemoration of the holy Fathers* is manifested to the ends of the world.* It is truly full of splendour,* and it glistens with the rays of grace;* for Christ the splendid Sun has shone forth on high from afar.* He forms the assembly of stars which glisten with Him,* and the star reveals that the nativity of the God-man will be in Bethlehem.* Therefore, we piously and faithfully clap our hands* and leap for joy at this nativity,* and we give praise before the feast.

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

The Holy Fathers are adorned* by the glory of the divine sharing of our nature.* Adam rejoices today,* since he is the foundation and the strength of the wise Forefathers;* Abel leaps for joy as well.* Enoch is glad; Seth and Noah dance together.* The praiseworthy Abraham sings with the Patriarchs.* Melchizedek now sees from on high* the birth without a father.

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

The faithful and God-wise youths* are radiant with joy in the furnace.* They herald the nativity of Christ on earth.* As the precious dew which the Lord sent down,* He now preserves the Virgin without stain* and enriches her sublime with gifts.* Therefore, Daniel, inspired by God,* is also happy and full of joy* because he had a clear vision of the unhewn stone of the mountain.* He now zealously prays for our souls.

+ Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.

(Tone 6): Daniel was a beloved man.* He saw You, O Lord, as the Rock* which was hewn without the use of a hand.* He foretold that You, the Incarnate Word,* the Unchangeable God, and Saviour of our souls,* would be born without seed* as a Child of the Virgin.

Now and forever * **and ever. Amen.**

(Tone 5): 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!

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

On certain Sundays and feasts, three readings from the Old Testament are included here:

(1) Genesis 14:14-20; (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17; (3)
Deuteronomy 10:14-21

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

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

All: **Grant this, O 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 offences, 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 defence at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

All: **Grant this, O Lord.**

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 You, O God, are gracious and You love mankind, and we glorify You, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever 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 Lord our God, You lowered the heavens when You came down for the salvation of the human race. Now look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance; for they have bowed their heads to You, the Judge, both awesome and loving. They do not await human help, but look for Your mercy and are ready to receive Your salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and tonight, against all enemies, against the devil's assaults, against vain thoughts and evil dreams.

May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and exalted, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

APOSTICHA

Of the Resurrection or the feast. The verses for Saturday vespers are given below.

(Tone 5): O Christ our Saviour,* we lift up our voices in song to glorify You.* For, in Your love for mankind,* You became incarnate without leaving heaven;* You accepted the cross and death;* You cast down the gates of Hades;* and on the third day You arose from the dead* for the salvation of our souls.

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

O Giver of Life,* streams of forgiveness, life, and salvation* poured forth from Your pierced side upon us all.* By accepting physical death, You granted us immortality;* by lying in the tomb, You freed us from Hades,* and as God, by rising from the dead,* You raised us with Yourself in glory.* Therefore, we cry out to You:*

O Lover of mankind, glory to You!

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

O Lover of mankind,* Your crucifixion and descent into Hades are most wondrous.* For, as God, You thereby conquered the power of Hades,* and raised up in glory, with Yourself, those who were long imprisoned there.* You reopened Paradise and enabled them to enter.* Grant forgiveness of sins to us* who glorify Your resurrection on the third day,* for You alone are all-merciful.

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

O Lover of mankind,* You accepted suffering in the flesh* and rose from the dead on the third day.* Therefore, heal the passions of our flesh,* raise us from our dreadful iniquities, and save us.

† Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.

(Tone 2): Rejoice, O illustrious Prophets!*

You firmly established the Law of the Lord,* and you faithfully manifested yourselves* to be

invincible and unshakeable pillars.* You have been taken to heaven* and have shown yourselves to be mediators of the new Law of Christ.* Implore Him to give peace to the world* and to save our souls.

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

We now behold a new wonder* greater than the wonders of old.* For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man?* Who has known as mother to hold within her arms the Source of all creation?* It was God's own will to be born in this manner;* and you, O most Virgin, carried Him as an infant in your arms.* Because of this, you can approach God with the boldness of a mother.* Therefore, we venerate you and ask you to always beseech Him* to have mercy on us and save our souls.

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.
- ✚ 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 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

Of the Resurrection or the feast

(Tone 5): Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word,* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, to suffer death* and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

+ Glory be to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.

(Tone 2): Great are the achievements of faith!* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

*Now and forever * and ever. Amen.*

O Mother of God, the mysteries which surround you are exceedingly glorious* and beyond the power of understanding.* For you retained the seal of purity,* and your virginity remained inviolate;* yet you are acknowledged without doubt,* to be the Mother who gave birth to the true God.* We beg you, therefore, to entreat Him to save our souls.

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, risen from the dead, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, patroness of this church; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles; of Saint, *N.* (whose day it

is), and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.