

THE FIRST HOUR

If this Hour is not appended to Matins, we begin with the blessing and Trisagion Prayers as follows. If this Hour is appended to Matins, we begin with the Call to Worship (“Come let us worship...” on page 4).

The priest, vested in epitrachilion, and deacon, fully vested, come before the Royal Doors.

Deacon: Reverend Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If a priest is not present:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Glory to you, our God,
glory to you!

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things.
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us,
cleanse us of all stain,
and save our souls, O gracious One.

*From Pascha until Pentecost, "Glory to you..." and "Heavenly King..." are not said.
From Pascha until Ascension, the following Paschal Troparion is sung three times:*

Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram - pled Death;
and to those in the tombs he grant - ed life.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. 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,
Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, now and ever
and forever.

Response: Amen.

If a priest is not present:

Leader: Through the prayers of
of our holy fathers,
O Lord Jesus Christ,
our God, have mercy
on us.

Response: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(Twice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

Making three reverences:

Come, let us worship our King and God.
Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.
Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord
Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

The priest and deacon return to the altar, and go to the presbyteral chairs behind the altar.

Psalm 5

To my words give ear, O Lord,
give heed to my groaning.
Attend to the sound of my cries,
my King and my God.
It is you whom I invoke, O Lord.
In the morning you hear me;
in the morning I offer you my prayer,
watching and waiting.

You are no God who loves evil;
no sinner is your guest.
The boastful shall not stand their ground
before your face.
You hate all who do evil;
you destroy all who lie.
The deceitful and bloodthirsty man
the Lord detests.
But I through the greatness of your love will enter your house;
I will bow down before your holy temple in awe.
Lead me, O Lord, in your justice;
because of my enemies direct my way in your sight.
No truth can be found in their mouths,
their hearts are vanity,
their throats are gaping graves,
with their tongues they flatter.
Condemn them, O God;
let them fall in their designs.
Drive them out for their many offenses,
for they have defied you.
Let all those you protect be glad and rejoice forever
and you shall dwell in them.
They who love your name shall rejoice in you;
for you will bless the just, O Lord.
You crown us with favor
as with a shield.

Psalm 89

O Lord, you have been our refuge
 from one generation to the next.
Before the mountains were born
or the earth or the world brought forth,
 you are God, without beginning or end.
You turn men back to dust
 and say: "Go back, sons of men."
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
 no more than a watch in the night.
You sweep men away like a dream,
 like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
 by evening it withers and fades.
So we are destroyed in your anger,
 struck with terror in your fury.
Our guilt lies open before you;
 our secrets in the light of your face.
All our days pass away in your anger.
 Our life is over like a sigh.
Our span is seventy years,
 or eighty for those who are strong.
And most of these are emptiness and pain.
 They pass swiftly and we are gone.
Who understands the power of your anger
 and fears the strength of your fury?
Make us know the shortness of our life
 that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?
 Show pity to your servants.
In the morning, fill us with your love;
 we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
 for the years when we knew misfortune.
Show forth your work to your servants;
 let your glory shine on their children.
Let the brightness of the Lord be upon us:
 give success to the work of our hands.
 Give success to the work of our hands.

Psalm 100

My song is of mercy and justice;
 I sing to you, O Lord.
I shall walk in the way of perfection.
 O when, Lord, will you come?
I shall walk with blameless heart
 within my house;
I shall not set before my eyes
 whatever is base.
I shall hate the ways of the crooked;
 they shall not be my friends.
The false-hearted must keep far away;
 the wicked I disown.
The man who slanders his neighbor in secret
 I shall bring to silence.
The man of proud looks and haughty heart
 I shall never endure.

I look to the faithful in the land
that they may dwell with me.
He who walks in the way of perfection
shall be my friend.
No man who practices deceit
shall live within my house.
No man who utters lies
shall stand before my eyes.
Morning by morning I shall silence
all the wicked in the land,
uprooting from the city of the Lord
all who do evil.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory to you, O God! *(Three times, each with a bow)*

Third time, with melody:



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

Troparion

If the Typikon appoints more than one Troparia, all but the final Troparion are sung before the "Glory..."

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

The Troparion of the day, saint, or feast is sung as appointed by the Typikon.

Theotokion of the Hour

In the same tone as the Troparion:

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

What shall we call you, O Full of Grace?

A Heaven; for you have born the Sun of Justice?

A Paradise; for you have brought forth the Flower of Immortality?

A Virgin; for you have remained undefiled?

A Mother, holding in her holy arms the Son who is the God of all?

Intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls.

All: Let my way be straight according to your word; let no sin overcome me. Save me from the wickedness of men, and I will keep your commandments. Let your face shine upon your servants, and teach me your laws. Let my mouth be filled with your praise, O Lord, and let me sing your glory and magnificence all the day long.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. (*Three times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities
for your name's sake.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. 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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

If a priest is not present:

Leader: Through the prayers of of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

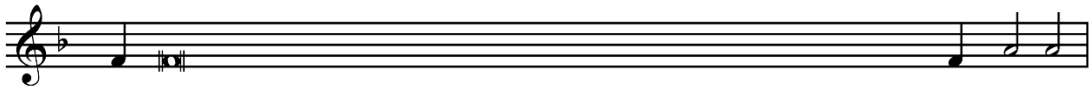
Response: Amen.

Kontakion

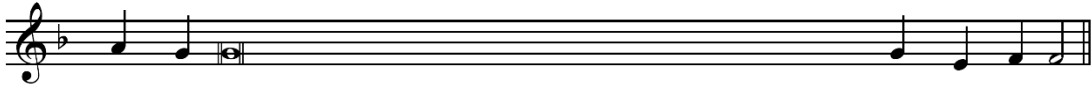
The kontakion of the day, saint, or feast is sung as appointed by the Typikon.

The priest and deacon, leaving the altar by the northern door, come in front of the Royal Doors.


“Lord, have mercy” is now sung forty times. It may be sung in several languages:




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



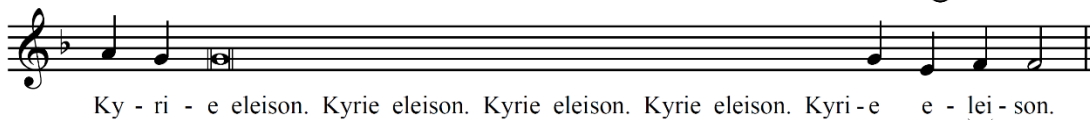
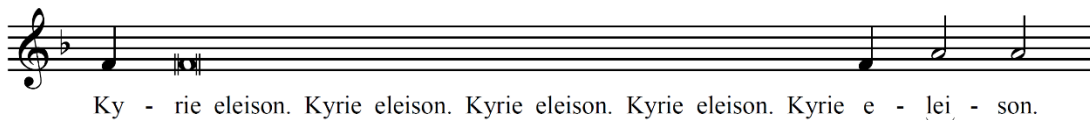
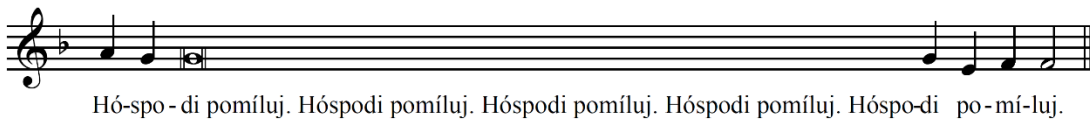
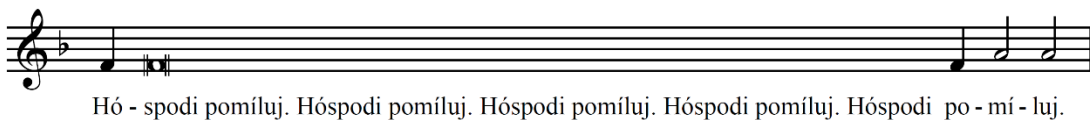
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer-cy.



Se - ñor ten piedad. Señor ten piedad. Señor ten piedad. Señor ten piedad. Señor ten pie-dad.



Se - ñor ten piedad. Señor ten piedad. Señor ten piedad. Señor ten piedad. Se-ñor ten pie-dad.



Prayer of the Hours

Priest: O Christ our God, in all times and places you are worshiped and
or Leader: glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come. At this very hour, O Lord, receive our supplications and direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set right our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

If a priest is not present, the Leader concludes with this "Amen," and the people do not respond "Amen" to this prayer.

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,
who, a virgin, gave birth to God, the Word;
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

If a priest is present:

In the name of the Lord,
Father,
give the blessing.

If a priest is not present:

Bless, O Lord.

Priest: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may he cause his
or Leader: countenance to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

*If it is a day of Alleluia on Monday through Friday, First Hour continues with the
Prayer of St. Ephrem.*

Priest: O Christ, the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies everyone in the world, mark us with the light of your countenance so that we may see the unapproachable radiance. Let our life be straight along the path of your commandments, through the prayers of your most pure mother and of all your saints.

If a priest is not present, this prayer of the priest is omitted, and First Hour continues with the Dismissal ("Glory..." on p. 15).

Response: Amen.

If the Third Hour is to follow immediately, begin the Hour with the Call to Worship ("Come, let us worship..."). Otherwise, the following Dismissal.

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ
our God, our hope;
glory to you!

Response: Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit,
now and ever,
and forever.
Amen.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Give the blessing

If a priest is not present:

Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit,
now and ever,
and forever.
Amen.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Bless, O Lord.

*Throughout **Pascha**, the following is sung
in place of "Glory to the Father."*

Response: Christ is risen from the
dead! By death he
trampled Death;
and to those in
the tombs he
granted life.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Give the blessing.

*Throughout **Pascha**, the following is sung
in place of "Glory to the Father."*

Christ is risen from the
dead! By death he
trampled Death;
and to those in
the tombs he
granted life.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Bless, O Lord.

Priest: May Christ our true God,
On Sunday & throughout

Pascha: risen from the dead,

Daily: have mercy on us and
save us through the
prayers of his most pure
Mother;

On Wednesday, Friday, &

Saturday: by the power of the
precious and life-
creating cross;

On Monday

& Saturday: through the protection
of the honorable and
heavenly angelic
powers;

On Tuesday

& Saturday: (through the prayers)
of the honorable and
glorious prophet,
forerunner, and baptist
John;

Daily: (through the prayers)
of the holy,
glorious, and illustrious
apostles;

Leader: O Christ our true God,
On Sunday & throughout

Pascha: risen from the dead,

Daily: have mercy on us and
save us through the
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Saturday: by the power of the
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& Saturday: through the protection
of the honorable and
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& Saturday: (through the prayers)
of the honorable and
glorious prophet,
forerunner, and baptist
John;

Daily: (through the prayers)
of the holy,
glorious, and illustrious
apostles;

Thursday

& Saturday: of our holy father
Nicholas the
Wonderworker,
archbishop of Myra

On Saturday: of the holy, glorious,
and victorious martyrs;
of our venerable and
God-bearing fathers; of
the holy and just
ancestors of God,
Joachim and Anna;

Daily: of the holy (*Name/s*),
the patron[s]
[patroness] of this
church; of the holy
(*Name/s of the saint/s*
whose day it is); and
through the prayers of
all the saints; for Christ
is good and loves us all.

Thursday

& Saturday: of our holy father
Nicholas the
Wonderworker,
archbishop of Myra

On Saturday: of the holy, glorious,
and victorious martyrs;
of our venerable and
God-bearing fathers; of
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Joachim and Anna;

Daily: of the holy (*Name/s*),
the patron[s]
[patroness] of this
church; of the holy
(*Name/s of the saint/s*
whose day it is); and
through the prayers of
all the saints; for you
are good and love us all.

Response:

