



# The Office of Holy Oil for Anointing of the Sick

“Is any among you sick?  
Let him call for the presbyters of the church,  
and let them pray over him,  
anointing him with oil  
in the name of the Lord.”  
James 5:14

based on *Office of Holy Oil for Anointing of the Sick*,  
Pittsburgh, PA: Byzantine Seminary Press 1973, 1-15.

*At the place of anointing, a table is prepared. If it is the custom, a vessel containing wheat is placed on the table. An empty shrine-lamp is laid upon the wheat for the oil of anointing. Again, if it is the custom, as many suitable instruments for applying the holy oil as there will be priests participating are placed around the container of wheat. A Gospel Book and a handcross are also placed upon the table. The priests, vested in epitrachilia and phelonias and holding lighted candles, stand around the table. The principle celebrant, after placing incense into the censer, incenses the table on each side and all those present.*

**Deacon:** Reverend Father, give the blessing.

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

**Response:** Amen.

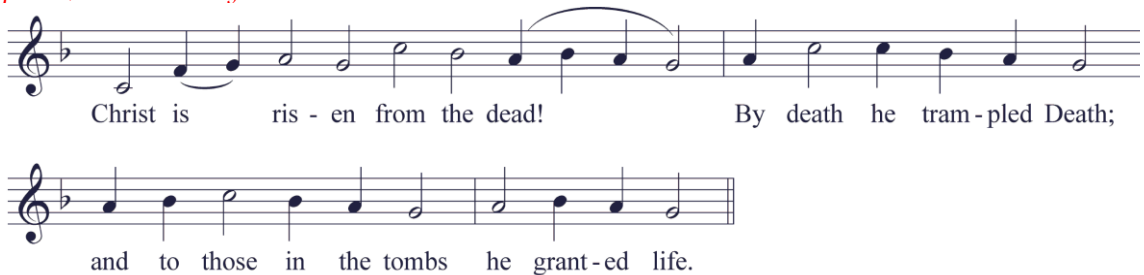
Glory to you, our God,  
glory to you!

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.

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*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, first by the priest, then twice by all:*



## 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.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

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

## Call to Worship

*each time with a bow:*

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.

## Psalm 142

O Lord, listen to my prayer; turn your ear to my appeal.

You are faithful, you are just; give answer.

Do not call your servant to judgment

for no one is just in your sight.

The enemy pursues my soul;

he has crushed my life to the ground;

he has made me dwell in darkness

like the dead, long forgotten.

Therefore my spirit fails;

my heart is numb within me.

I remember the days that are past:

I ponder all your works.

I muse on what your hand has wrought

and to you I stretch out my hands.

Like a parched land

my soul thirsts for you.

Lord, make haste and answer;

for my spirit fails within me.

Do not hide your face

lest I become like those in the grave.

In the morning let me know your love

for I put my trust in you.

Make me know the way I should walk:  
to you I lift up my soul.  
Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;  
I have fled to you for refuge.  
Teach me to do your will  
for you, O Lord, are my God.  
Let your good spirit guide me  
in ways that are level and smooth.  
For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;  
in your justice save my soul from distress.  
In your love make an end of my foes;  
destroy all those who oppress me for I am your servant, O Lord.

## Litany of Peace

**Deacon:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

*The deacon continues with the following petitions and the same response is given to each.*

For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.  
**R.**

For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

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

That this oil be blessed by the power, action, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

That God may visit his servant[s] (*Name/s*) and that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon (*him-her-them*), let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

That (he-she-they), together with us, be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

That (he-she-they), together with us, be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace. **R.**

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:** To you, O Lord.

## **Blessing of Oil**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

*The principal celebrant says the following prayer while pouring oil into the empty shrine lamp. He may also pour some water or wine into the shrine-lamp. (Concelebrating priests read this prayer silently).*

**Priest:** O Lord, through your abundant mercy and goodness, You heal our spiritual and bodily ills. Therefore, O Master, sanctify + this oil that those who are anointed with it be healed and released from every suffering and defilement of flesh and spirit, and from all evil. In this, may Your most holy Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glorified, now and ever, and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

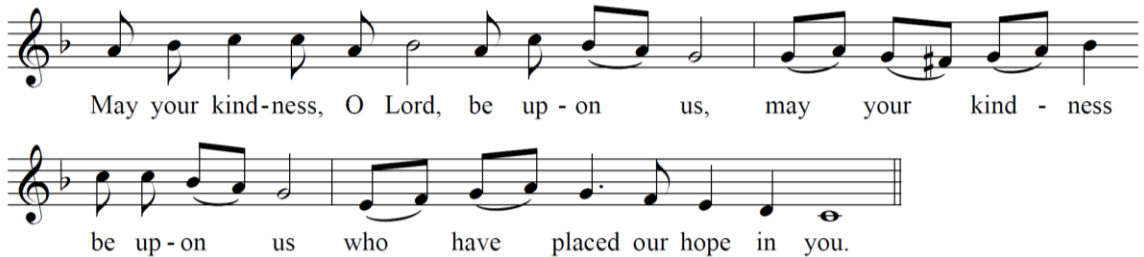
**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Priest:** + Peace be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

## Prokeimenon

*Tone 1 (Psalm 32:22,1)*



Verse: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

## Epistle

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** A reading from the Universal Letter of Saint James *(5:10-16)*.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

BRETHREN, as an example of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall under condemnation.

Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let

them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

*The celebrant blesses the reader, saying:*

**Priest:**    + Peace be to you, reader!

**Deacon:**    Wisdom! Be attentive!

## Alleluia

*Tone 8 (Psalm 100:1)*



Verse: To you, O Lord, I will sing of mercy and judgment.

## Gospel

**Deacon:**    Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

**Priest:**        + Peace be to all!

**Response:**    And to your spirit.

**Priest:**        A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*(Luke 10:25-37; 25th Sunday after Pentecost)*

**Response:**    Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

**Deacon:**        Let us be attentive!

*The priest reads the gospel even when a deacon is present.*

AT THAT TIME, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**Response:** Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

## Litany of Supplication

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (*three times*)

*The deacon continues with the following petitions and the same response is given to each.*

**Deacon:** Let us prayer for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, [God's] visitation, and forgiveness of sins for the servant[s] of God, (*Name/s*) and let us all say: **R.**

**Deacon:** [Let us also pray] that the Lord our God send upon (~~him-her-them~~) the grace of deliverance, free (~~him-her-them~~) from illness, and raise (~~him-her-them~~) from (~~his-her-their~~) sickbed; let us all say: O Lord, hear us and have mercy. **R.**

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

**Response:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**Celebrant:** O uncreated and eternal One, Holy of Holies, You sent You only-begotten Son to heal every infirmity and every wound of our souls and bodies. Send down your Holy Spirit and sanctify + this oil, making it for Your servants, about to be anointed, a perfect deliverance from their sins and an inheritance of the kingdom of heaven.

For it is You, our God, who shows us Your mercy and saves us; and we give glory to You, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your most holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If there will be many anointings:*

- *The cantor and people may repeatedly sing the Troparia for the Mystery of the Holy Oil on pages 13-16.*
- *Two priests or appointed persons may hold the open Gospel Book over the heads of those who approach to be anointed and touch the text to each of their heads.*

## **The Anointing**

*The celebrant dips his finger or a suitable instrument into the holy oil and anoints each sick person in the form of a cross on the forehead, eyes, ears, nostrils, lips, chest, hands, and feet, saying this prayer:*

**Priest:** Holy Father, physician of souls and bodies, You sent your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and to deliver us from death. [By this anointing], heal Your servant[s] of the spiritual and bodily ills which afflict (him-her-them) and restore (him-her-them) by the grace of Your Christ, through the prayers of our most holy Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and through the prayers of all Your Saints.

For You, our God, are the fountain of healing; and to You we give glory, together with Your only-begotten Son, and Your consubstantial Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*If there are concelebrating priests, as many additional prokeimena, epistles, alleluias, gospels, litanies, and prayers are offered as there are priests (up to seven). Each priest anoints the sick after each gospel and prayer with the above prayer ("Holy Father, physician of souls and bodies..."), which is repeated every time.*

*After the anointing, the sick person, if it is possible, approaches the priests and either stands or sits. Otherwise, the priests stand at the bedside. The celebrant opens the Gospel Book and places it over the head of the sick person so that the text touches the head. If there are concelebrating priests, they hold the Gospel Book on the head of the sick person.*

*If there were many anointings, the Gospel Book may be held open over the heads of all the infirm.*

*The celebrant says the following prayer:*

**Priest:** O Holy King, compassionate and most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Son and Word of the living God, You do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather, that he repent and live. I do not place my sinful hand upon the head of your servant[s] who come[s] to You in sins, asking from You, through us, the forgiveness of sins; rather, I place your strong and powerful hand which is in this holy Gospel (*which my concelebrants hold upon your servant[s]*).

O God, our Savior, I prayer and appeal to your merciful love for mankind – a love which does not remember evil. Just as through your prophet Nathan You granted forgiveness of sins to the repentant David, and accepted the penitential prayer of Manasseh, now, because of your constant love for mankind, receive (~~this-these~~) your servant[s] who (~~has-have~~) repented of (~~his-her-their~~) sins , and forgive all (~~his-her-their~~) transgressions.

For You are our God, commanding us to forgive even seventy times seven those who fall into sin. As You are great, so is your mercy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

*The celebrant presents the Gospel Book to the sick person to kiss.*

*If there were many anointings, all those who were anointed kiss the Gospel Book.*

## Dismissal

**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ 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.

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

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.

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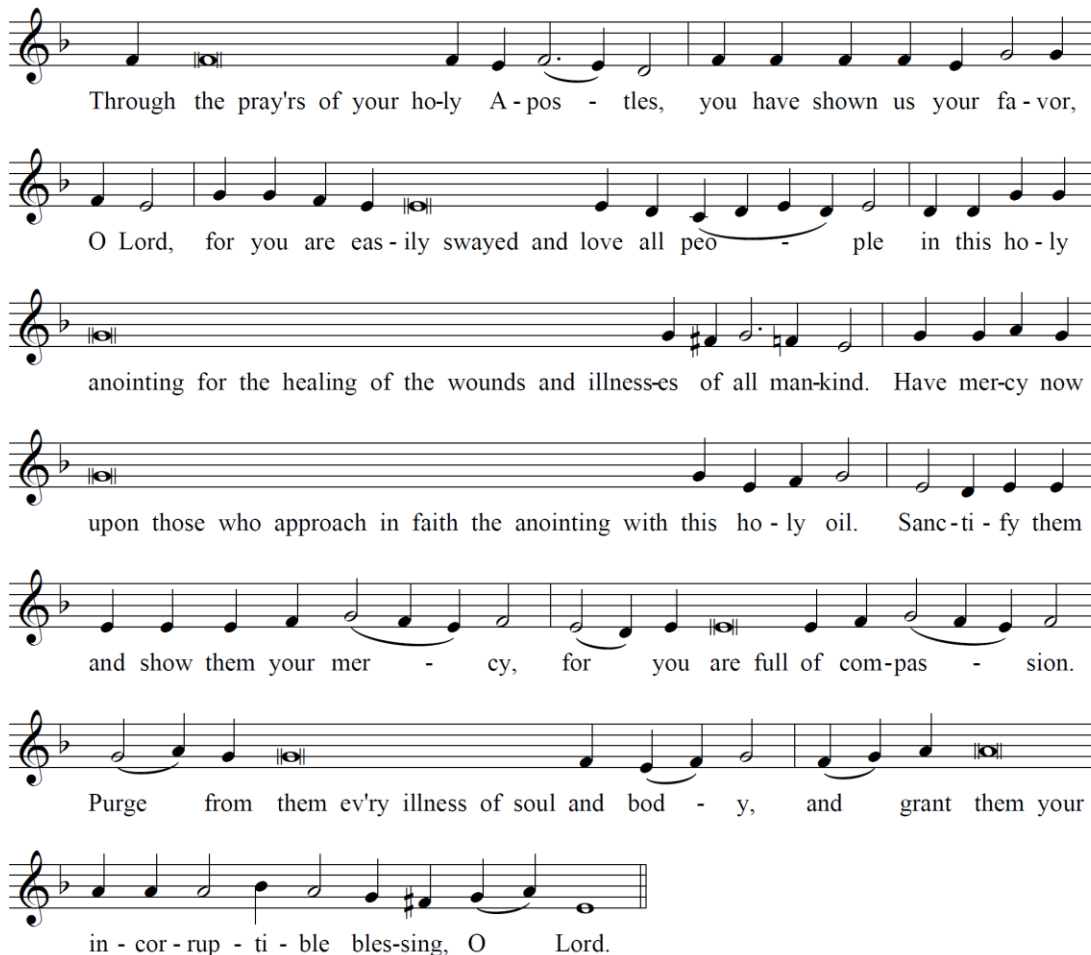
**Priest:** May Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; by the power of the precious and life-creating cross; through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious Apostle James, first bishop of Jerusalem and brother of the Lord, and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

**Response:** Amen.

*If there will be many anointings, the cantor may sing the following troparia as people are being anointed:*

### **Troparia for the Mystery of Holy Oil**

**Troparion of Holy Anointing** - *Tone 4 podoben: Dal jesi znamenije*



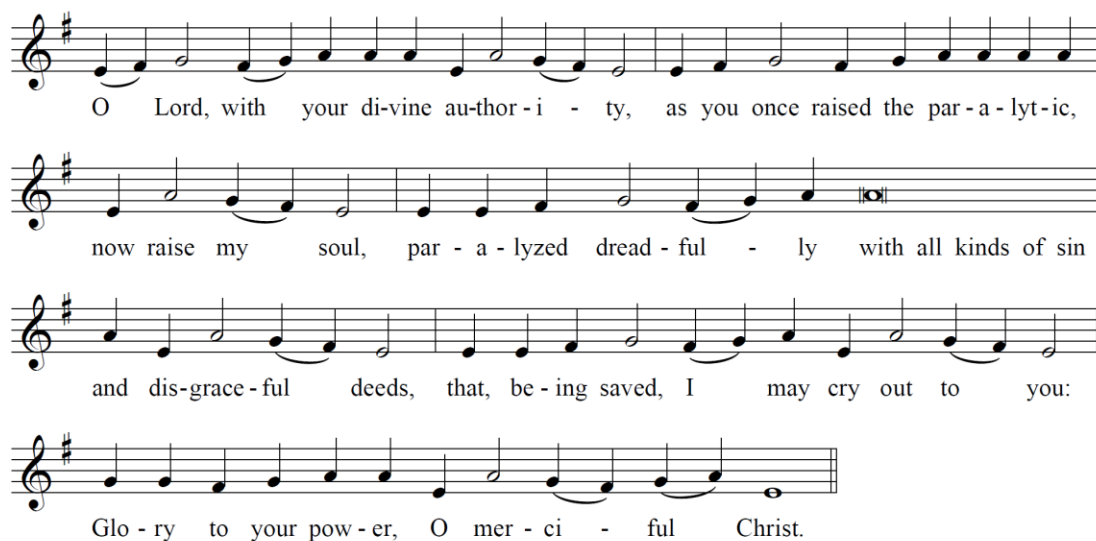
Through the pray'rs of your ho-ly A-pos - tles, you have shown us your fa - vor,  
O Lord, for you are eas - ily swayed and love all peo - ple in this ho - ly  
anointing for the healing of the wounds and illness-es of all man-kind. Have mer-cy now  
upon those who approach in faith the anointing with this ho - ly oil. Sanc-ti - fy them  
and show them your mer - cy, for you are full of com-pas - sion.  
Purge from them ev'ry illness of soul and bod - y, and grant them your  
in - cor - rup - ti - ble bles-sing, O Lord.

### Kontakion of the Man Born Blind - *Tone 4*



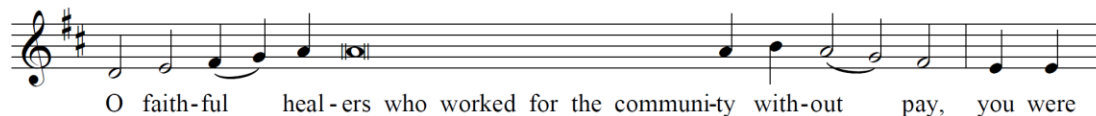
With eyes that are spiritually blind I come to you, O Christ; and, like the  
man who was blind since birth, I cry out to you with re-pent - ance:  
You are a shining light to those in dark - ness.

### Kontakion of the Paralytic - *Tone 3*



O Lord, with your di-vine au-thor-i - ty, as you once raised the par-a-lyt-ic,  
now raise my soul, par - a - lyzed dread - ful - ly with all kinds of sin  
and dis-grace - ful deeds, that, be - ing saved, I may cry out to you:  
Glo - ry to your pow - er, O mer - ci - ful Christ.

### Troparion of Unmercenary Healers - *Tone 4*

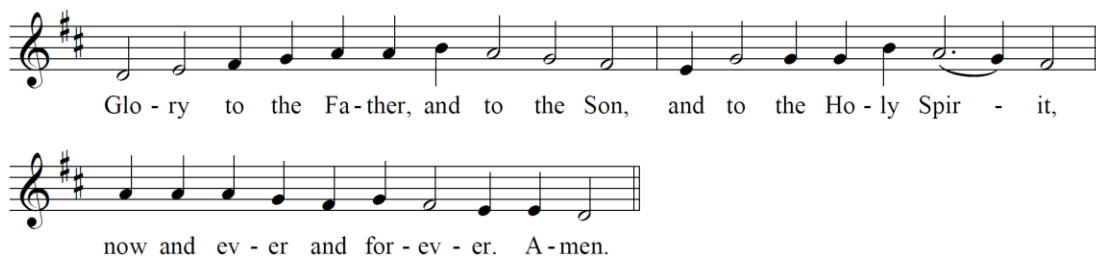


O faith-ful heal-ers who worked for the communi-ty with-out pay, you were



foun-tains of heal - ing, for you were deemed worthy of mighty gifts from our  
 Savior, the ever-last-ing foun - tain. As to the zeal-ous work-ers, the Lord  
 said to you: Look, I have given you power over un-clean spir - its,  
 to cast them out and to heal ev-'ry sick-ness and dis-ease. You were as zealous as  
 the a-pos - tles. As you lived up - rightly according to the com-mand - ments,  
 you re-ceived freely and gave free - ly, and healed the ills of soul and  
 bod - y.

*Tone 4*



Glo - ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A-men.

**Theotokion - Tone 4**



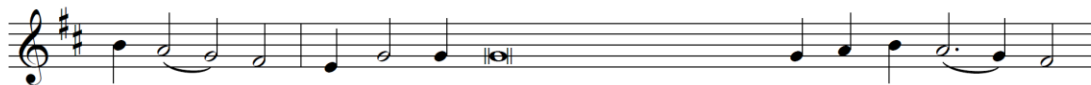
O all-pure La - dy, hear the pray'rs of your serv - ants, scat-ter the fierce at-tacks



made a - gainst us. Give us free-dom from our en - e - mies, for we



have you alone as a firm and cer - tain sup - port. We have been giv - en your



pro-tec - tion, that all who call upon you will not be put to con - fu - sion.



Quick-ly hear the pray'rs of those who cry to you: Re-joyce, O Lady! Re-joyce,



help of all man-kind! Re - joyce, joy and refuge and sal - va - tion of our souls!