

The Order of Matins

*for the Procession of the Wood of the
Venerable and Life-creating Cross*

The Order of Matins



The procession of the Wood of the venerable and life-creating Cross. This feast was established in the reign of the Greek Emperor Manuel, as a memorial of Greek victory over the Saracens. The procession with the relic of the Precious Cross was made from the imperial palace to the church of Hagia Sophia; there the relic remained for fourteen days, and was then carried back in procession to the church in the palace grounds.

The holy seven Maccabees, their mother Solomonia, and the elder Eleazar at Antioch in Syria, under Antiochus Epiphanes the king. For the sake of keeping the law of the Lord with unconquered faith, they were cruelly handed over to death with their mother. She suffered with her sons as they were martyred, one by one, and was crowned with them, as it is written in the second book of the Maccabees [2 Mac. 7]. Likewise is commemorated St. Eleazar, one of the first scribes, a man of advanced age. In that same persecution, refusing to eat forbidden meat on account of his love for the Torah of the Lord, he achieved a most glorious death rather than a shameful life; he voluntarily went to his punishment, leaving an excellent example of virtue.

STAND

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.



Response: A - men.

Each time with a bow:

Glory to God in the highest

And to people on earth peace and good will (3 times)

O Lord, You shall open my lips,

And my mouth will declare your praise. (2 times)

The Lector, chants the Hexapsalmos without melody, holding a candle in the middle of the church.

HEXAPSALMOS

PSALM 3

Lector: How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!

How many are saying about me:
“There is no help for him in God.”

But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord.
He answers from his holy mountain.

I lie down to rest and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
you who strike all my foes on the mouth,
you who break the teeth of the wicked!

O Lord of salvation,
bless your people!

and again:

I lie down to rest and I sleep.

I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger;
do not punish me, Lord, in your rage.

Your arrows have sunk deep in me;
your hand has come down upon me.

Through your anger all my body is sick:
through my sin, there is no health in my limbs.

My guilt towers higher than my head;
it is a weight too heavy to bear.

My wounds are foul and festering,
the result of my own folly.

I am bowed and brought to my knees.
I go mourning all the day long.

All my frame burns with fever;
all my body is sick.

Spent and utterly crushed,
I cry aloud in anguish of heart.

O Lord, you know all my longing:
my groans are not hidden from you.

My heart throbs, my strength is spent;
the very light has gone from my eyes.

My friends avoid me like a leper;
those closest to me stand afar off.

Those who plot against my life lay snares;
those who seek my ruin speak of harm,
planning treachery all the day long.

But I am like the deaf who cannot hear,
like the dumb unable to speak.

I am like a man who hears nothing
in whose mouth is no defense.

I count on you, O Lord;
it is you, Lord God, who will answer.

I pray: "Do not let them mock me,
those who triumph if my foot should slip."

For I am on the point of falling
and my pain is always before me.

I confess that I am guilty
and my sin fills me with dismay.

My wanton enemies are numberless
and my lying foes are many.

They repay me evil for good
and attack me for seeking what is right.

O Lord, do not forsake me!
My God, do not stay afar off!

Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my God, my Savior!

and again:

O Lord, do not forsake me!
My God, do not stay afar off!

Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my God, my Savior!

PSALM 62

O God, you are my God, for you I long
For you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
In your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
My mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night

for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;
Your right hand holds me fast.

Those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down to the depths of the earth.

They shall be put into the power of the sword
and left as the prey of the jackals.

But the king shall rejoice in God;
(all that swear by him shall be blessed,)
for the mouth of liars shall be silenced.

and again:

On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

STAND

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

Each time with a bow:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (*twice*)

The third time, all sing:



LITANY OF PEACE

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



Response: 1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Response: 2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (1)**

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop, (Name), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (2)**

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (1)**

Deacon: For this city, [or: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (2)**

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (1)**

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (2)**

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. (1)**

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: 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.

Priest: We thank you, Lord, our God, for you have wakened us from our sleep, and have filled our lips with praise that we might worship you and call upon your holy name. We beg of your compassion that you have always shown towards us, hear us now and send help to those who stand before your holy glory, awaiting your abundant mercy. O Lord, grant that those who serve you in fear and love may praise your ineffable goodness.

For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

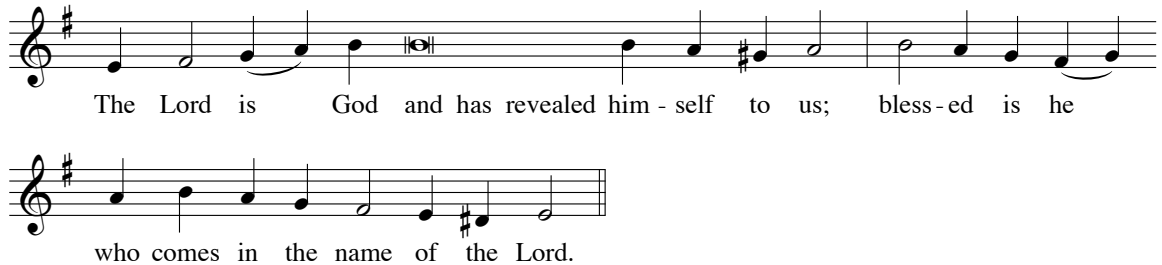


Response: A - men.

STAND

THE LORD IS GOD – (*Tone 1*)

Deacon: The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



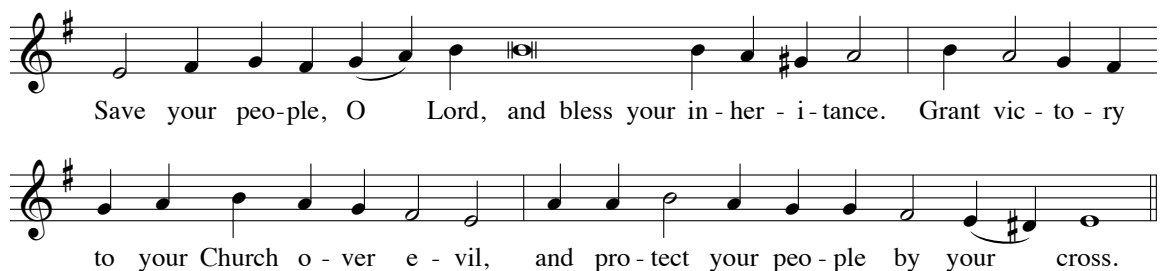
verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.

verse: They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.

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

verse: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

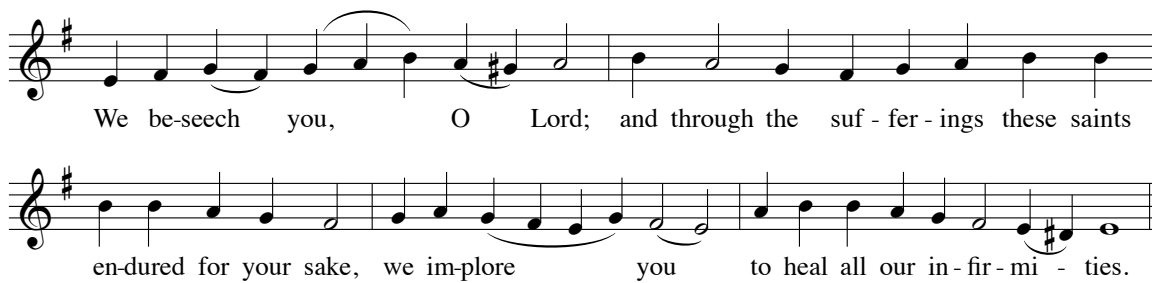
Troparion of the Cross - *Tone 1*



Cantor:



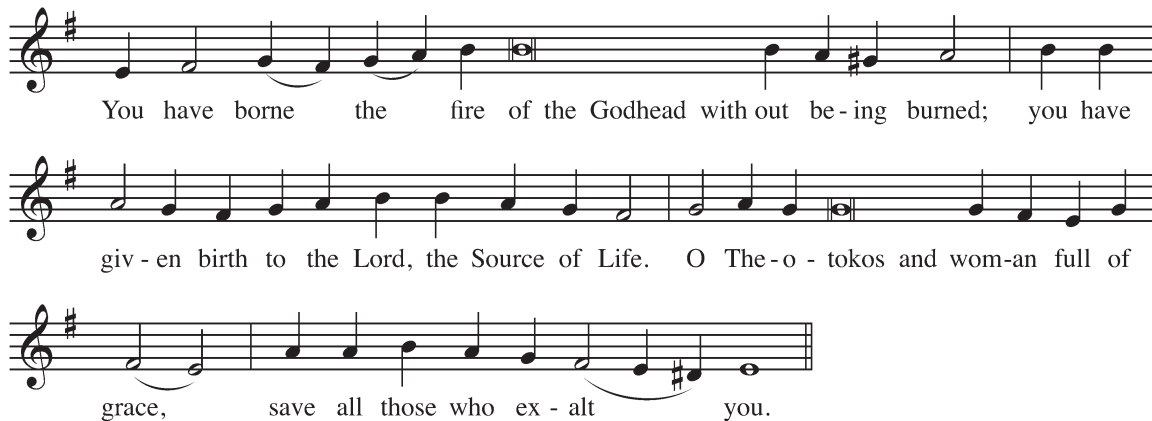
Troparion of the Martyrs - Tone 1



Cantor:



Theotokion:



PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my *offense*.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from *my* sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always *before* me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I *have* done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when *you* judge,

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I *conceived*.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach *me* wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter *than* snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed *may* thrill.

From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all *my* guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God;
put a steadfast spirit *within* me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your *holy* spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor *sustain* me,

that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return *to* you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out *your* goodness.

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare *your* praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would *refuse*,

my sacrifice, a contrite spirit,
a humbled, contrite heart you will *not* spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion:
rebuild the walls of *Jerusalem*.

Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed
then you will be offered your bulls on *your* altar.

Deacon:

Let us pray to the Lord.



Response:

Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest:

O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, O Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have

created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help.

Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath.

Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response:

A - - - men.

CANON

Ode 1

Irmos:

Traversing the deep on foot, * as though it were dry land, * and seeing the tyrant Pharaoh drowned, * Israel cried aloud: ** Let us chant unto God a hymn of victory!

Refrain



Glo - ry to your pre - cious Cross, O Lord!

I bow down before the Cross, the salvation of the faithful, and I kiss it fervently, and, embrace it, crying out: O most blessed Tree of Christ, illumine my soul and mind, I pray! ***Refrain***

Today the sign of the Cross has shown itself to be victorious over the passions and the demons. Wherefore, O you faithful, radiantly illumined in soul, let us all kiss it now. ***Refrain***

The precious Cross emits brilliant rays and illumines those who bow down before it with faith today, sanctifying our souls and bodies. *Refrain*

Lying, visible, before us, the life-giving Cross sends forth brilliant rays of grace. Offering praise to the Lord, let us approach and receive enlightenment, gladness, salvation and remission.

Refrain:

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Theotokion: O all-holy Virgin who gave birth in the flesh to Christ Who of His own will suffered for our sake on the Cross: by your entreaties save those who bless you with honor.

Refrain:

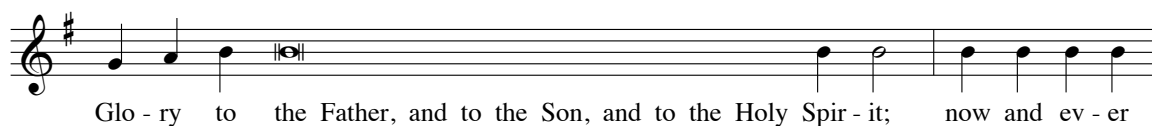
Holy martyrs, pray to God for us!

Appearing among the cruel ones with a single resolve, the choir of the seven athletes did not refuse to die, that they might confirm the law of their fathers.

Refrain

Disdaining glory on this earth, with their desire for the divine kingdom the godly Maccabees endured every pang; wherefore, they are honored today as is proper. *Refrain*

The preservers of the law of Moses, the truly valiant Maccabees, showed themselves to be brethren one to another when they trampled the ungodliness of Antiochus underfoot.





and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion: The ranks of angels and men praise you unceasingly, O unwedded Mother; for in your arms you bore the Creator of all as a babe.

Katavasia

Tone 6 simple



Mo-ses took his staff and marked a straight line be-fore him and di-vid-ed the sea,



there-by o - pen-ing a path for Is - ra - el, who walked a - cross dry - shod.



Then he marked a sec - ond line over the wa-ters and u - ni - ted them a - gain,



there-by o - ver-whelm-ing the chariots of Pha-raoh. Thus Mo - ses inscribed the



invincible weapon of the Cross up - on the wa-ters. There - fore, let us praise



Christ our God, for he has been glo - ri - fied.

Kontakion of the Martyrs - Tone 2



Sev-en pil-lars of di-vine wis - dom, sev-en bea-cons of di - vine light,



great mar-tyrs be-fore the age of mar - tyrs. pray to God for all of us,



O wise Mac-ca-bees, for we ob - serve your memo-ry with de - vo - tion.

Ikos: Praise your God with fervor, O Sion, for He has strengthened the chains of your gates and blessed your children; for, like an invincible army, a legion truly valiant and mighty of mind, they stood with divine wisdom against the wiles of the ungodly, receive together the wreaths of victory of the heavenly Sion, and stand before the throne of God, praying unceasingly for all. Ask that those who hymn you may be saved.

Kontakion of the Cross - Tone 4



Christ our God, who were willingly raised up - on the cross, grant your mercies to



the new peo - ple who bear your name. By your pow - er grant joy to the Church.



Give her vic - to - ry o - ver e - vil with your in - vin - cible tro-phy,



the weap - on of peace, as an al - ly.

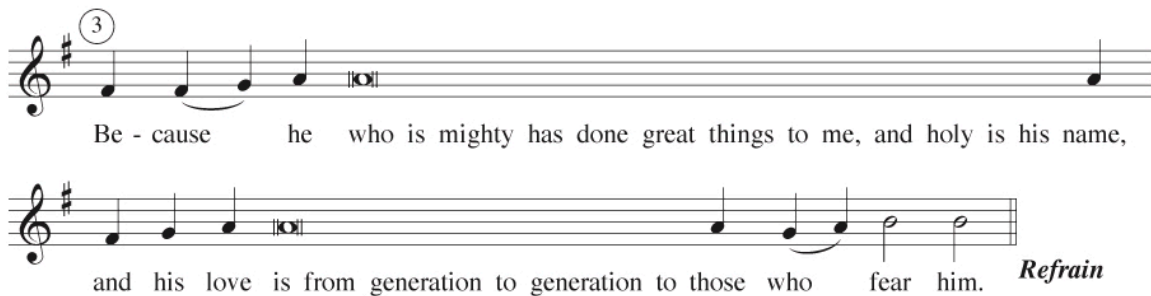
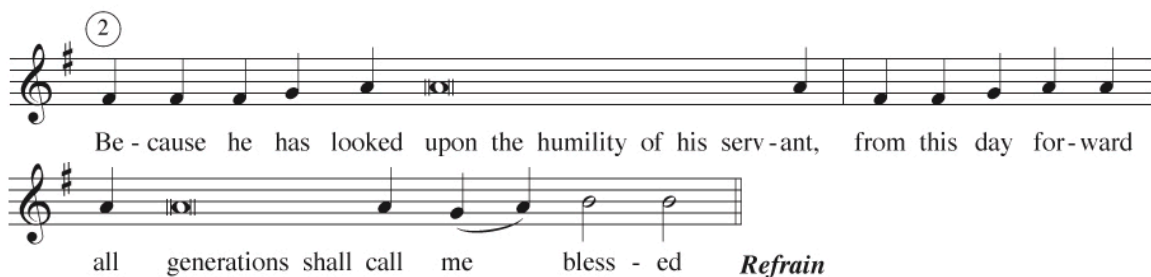
Ikos: He, who was caught up in the third heaven to Paradise and who heard unspeakable and divine words which human beings cannot express, wrote to the Galatians. Study the Scripture, and you will read and understand what he wrote: God forbid that I should glory in anything except the Cross of the Lord on which He suffered the passion. Therefore, let us continue to praise this Cross of the Lord with confidence, for it is the glory of us all. This Wood is our salvation, a weapon of peace, and an unconquerable sign of victory.

STAND

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns!



Refrain

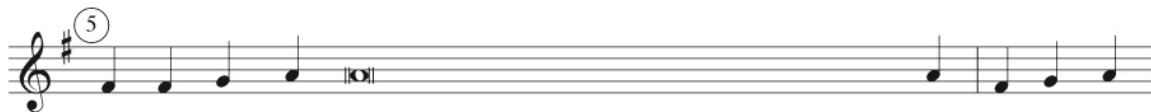




He has shown might in his arm; he has scat - tered the proud in the con-keit of



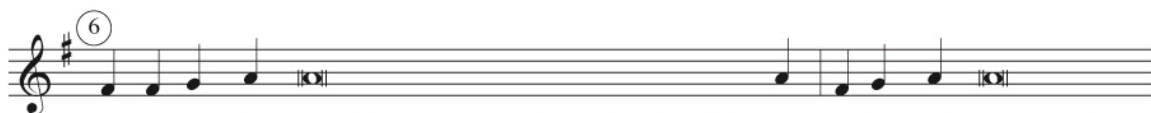
their heart. *Refrain*



He has put down the mighty from their seat and exalted the hum-ble; he has filled



the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty. *Refrain*



He has re-ceived Israel his servant, being mindful of his love, as he spoke to our fathers:



to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er. *Refrain*

Ode 9

Irmos: It is not possible for men to behold God, * upon Whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze; * but through you, O most pure one, * has the Word appeared incarnate to men; ** and magnifying Him with the armies of heaven, we call you blessed.

Refrain



Glo - ry to your pre - cious Cross, O Lord!

Through disobedience we became corrupt, being shown to be violators of the commandment of God; wherefore, death came upon men. For this cause immortality has blossomed forth today; the victorious Cross of Christ, which we venerate. *Refrain*

Lo! the all-holy Tree has appeared; the mighty hope of the faithful, the deliverance from the curse; and it sets joy before men, denouncing the prince of darkness. O you faithful, let us bow down before it with gladness. *Refrain*

The desired Tree, the invincible weapon, the origin of blessing, the confirmation and bulwark of Christians, the steadfast aid, the deliverance from the curse, has appeared to us; and it has illumined and sanctified us who bow down before it.

Refrain:

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

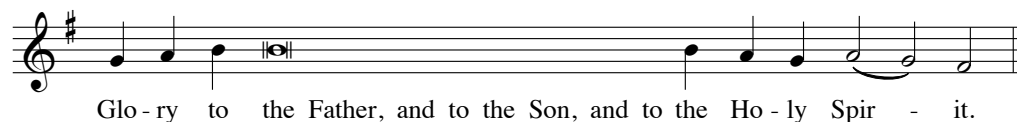
Theotokion: O temple and portal of sanctity, O throne of God, cloud and most radiant lamp, O most immaculate one, you ark of grace; protect and preserve those who offer veneration to the precious image of your only-begotten Son.

Refrain:

Holy martyrs, pray to God for us!

O most lauded martyrs, you have truly been shown to be a treasury of divine gifts and riches which cannot be taken away. *Refrain*

O valiant advocates before the Creator of all, ask for our souls a tranquil life. Preserve us who with divine zeal and ardor of soul celebrate your memory, undevoured by the evil one.



Let us worship the Father and the Spirit with the Son, crying out with the angels:
Glory to God in the highest!



Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion: Rejoice, O holy gate which opens to God Who alone is all-wise, O
you whom the all-holy Spirit overshadowed!

Katavasia



You are a mystical paradise, O The-o - to - kos; Christ has blos-somed forth from



you with-out till-ing. He plant-ed the life-bearing Tree of the Cross up-on the earth.



As we now ex - alt the cross and bow be-fore it, we pro-claim



your great - - - ness.



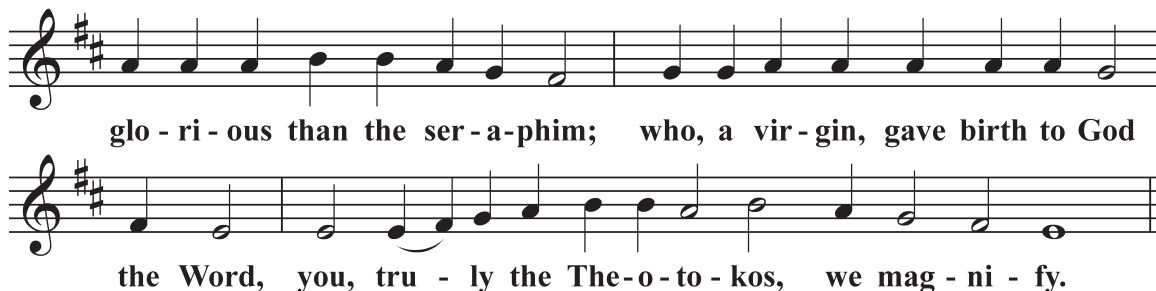
It is tru-ly prop-er to glo - ri - fy you, O The - o - to - kos,



the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mo - ther of our God.



More honora - ble than the che - ru - bim, and beyond compare more



glo - ri - ous than the ser - a - phim; who, a vir - gin, gave birth to God
the Word, you, tru - ly the The - o - to - kos, we mag - ni - fy.

SMALL LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.



Response: Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.



Response: Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: 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.

Priest: O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under your will, we pray and beg you: accept these hymns of praise which we offer to you according to our ability together with all your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of your goodness, for before you all beings in the heavens, or on earth and

The first measure of the exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains three notes: a half note on G4 (the second line), a half note on A4 (the second space), and a whole note on B-flat4 (the third line). A slur is placed under the first two notes.

A - - - men.

The Cross is the guardian of the universe; the Cross is the beauty of the Church. It is the power of kings, and it sustains the strength of our faith. It is the glory of the angels and the slayer of demons.

23



Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.

Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above *the* heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
He commanded; they *were* made.

He fixed them forever,
gave a law which shall not pass *away*.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and *all* oceans,

fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey *his* word;

all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees *and* cedars,

beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on *the* wing;

all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes *and* rulers.

young men and maidens,
old men together *with* children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is *exalted*.

The splendor of his name
reaches beyond heaven *and* earth.

He exalts the strength of his people,
he is the praise of all *his* saints,

of the children of Israel,
of the people to whom he *comes* close.

PSALM 149

Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of *the* faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Zion's sons exult in *their* king.

Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel *and* harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with *salvation*.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take *their* rest.

Let the praise of God be on their lips
and a two-edged sword in *their* hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all *the* peoples;

to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters *of* iron.

Cantor: (*Tone 1*)



our hearts, ** are ever saved by its might.

Cantor:



(3) Sticheron

The much-suffering mother, * calling her children to struggle, said: * "Follow after the gray hairs of Abraham, * that you may share in the sacrifice of Isaac!" * And, accepting this instruction, * they went before her who taught them, * watching as each of them, one by one, * underwent the torments of cruelty. ** Through their supplications, O God, have mercy upon us!

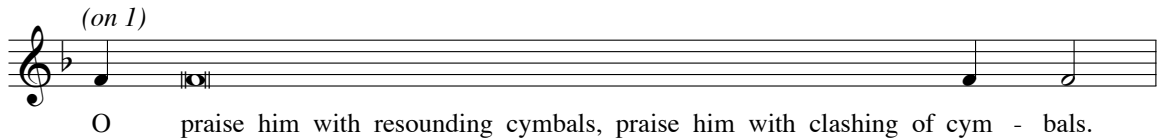
Cantor: (Tone 4)



(2) Sticheron

The seven chosen pillars * were hewn from a single noetic rock, * and were shown to be an unshakable pillar of the law. * Wherefore, be well- pleased, O Savior, ** to preserve our souls in peace.

Cantor: (Tone 5)



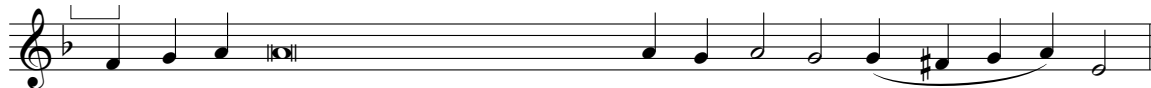
(1) Sticheron

The children of Solomonia, * the preservers of the law, * suffering at the tribunal of Antiochus, * cried out to him: * "O Antiochus, we are enduring all for the law of our fathers; * and neither fire, nor the sword, * nor wild beasts, nor wounds shall separate us from there. * We will die together, * with our aged mother and

our father and teacher, ** living and rejoicing together for endless ages!"

STAND

Cantor (*Tone 4*):



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - - - it.

Doxasticheron:

Come, O you faithful, let us behold the force * assembled against the Maccabees,
* and the valor of the holy children! * For the tyrannical king who held sway over
all nations * was thwarted by an elderly man, * seven children and one woman!
** Through their supplications, O God, have mercy upon us!

Cantor (*Tone 4*):



Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Doxasticheron:

O Lord Who enabled the meek David to conquer the foreigner, * ally Yourself
also with our pious Orthodox hierarchs * and enable them to bring down all
proponents of heresy and schism * with the weapon of the Cross. * O
Compassionate One, * show forth upon us Your ancient mercies, * that they may
truly know that You are God, * and that we who set our hope on You may
triumph, * entreating Your all-pure Mother, as is our wont, ** that we be granted
great mercy.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Priest: Glory to you who show us the light!



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and to peo - ple on earth,



peace and good will. We praise you, we bless you,

we wor-ship you, we glo - ri - fy you, we thank you for your great

glo - ry. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, Fa - ther Al - might - y;

Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son, Jesus Christ, and Ho - ly Spir - it. Lord God,

Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sin of the world,

have mer - cy on us. You take a - way the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.

For you a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ,

to the glory of God the Fa - ther. A - men. I will bless you day aft - er

day, and praise your name for - ev - er. Make us wor - thy, O Lord,

to be kept sin - less this morn - ing. Bless - ed are you, O Lord,

the God of our fa - thers, and praise - wor - thy and glorious is your name for - ev - er.

A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us who have placed our
reverence

hope in you. Bless - ed are you, O Lord; teach me your com - mand - ments.

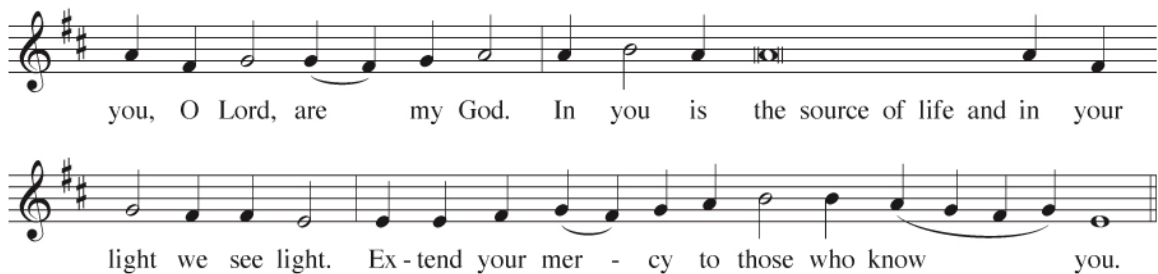
reverence
Bless - ed are you, O Mas - ter; make me understand your com - mand - ments.

reverence
Bless - ed are you, O Ho - ly One; enlighten me with your com - mand - ments.

O Lord, you have been our re - fuge from one gen - er - a - tion to the next.

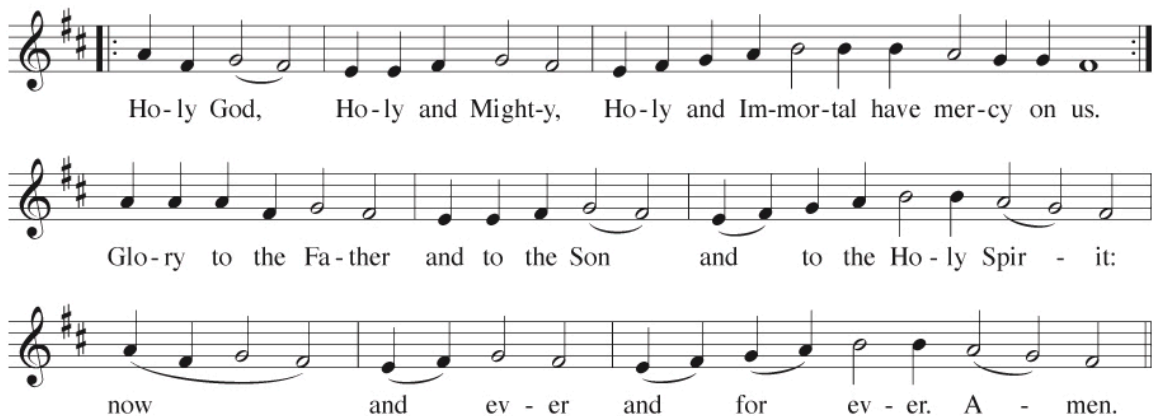
I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned a - gainst you.

O Lord, I have fled to you for re - fuge. Teach me to do your will, for



At the end of the Great Doxology, during the Trisagion, the priest incenses the Cross at the altar three times (around the altar). Then, taking the Cross and holding it towards the people, he processes around the altar, through the Northern Door, and stands in front of the Royal Doors (deacon precedes incensing).

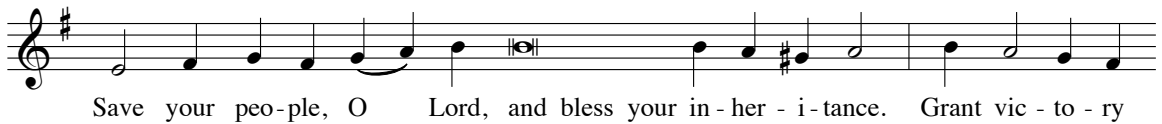
Three times, each with a bow:



Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

(Three times)

Troparion - Tone 1



While this is sung, the priest processes and places the Cross on the tetrapod, incensing it round-about three times.

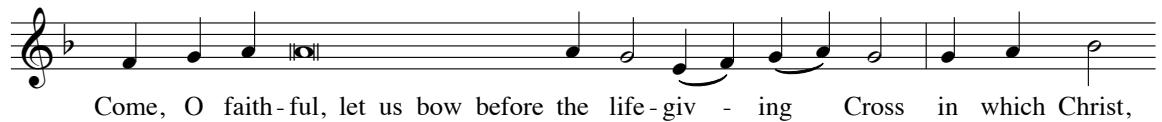
*"We bow to your cross..." is sung three times, once by the **priest** and twice by the faithful.*



All come forward to venerate the Cross. As many stichera as are needed to finish the veneration are sung. After the last person has venerated the Cross, the cantor may skip to the "Glory..."

STICHERA AT THE VENERATION

Tone 2 samohlasen





our for-mer hap - pi-ness, which we had lost because of the an-cient En - e - my



and the bit - ter pleas-ure that ex-iled us from God. Come, O faith-ful, let us bow



be-fore the Wood which lets us crush the head of the in - vis - i - ble En - e - my.



Come, all you fam-'lies of the na - tions, let us ven - er - ate the Cross of the



Lord with our hymns: Re - joice, O perfect redemption of the fall of Ad - am;



Re - joice, O ven-er - a - ble Cross. Filled with fear and awe we em-brace you;

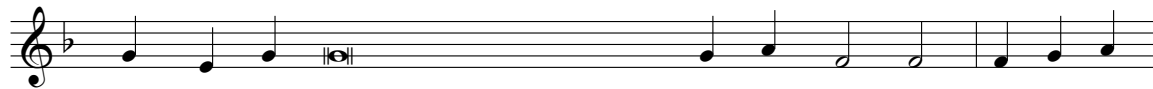


we glo - ri - fy our God, and we say: O Lord, you were nailed

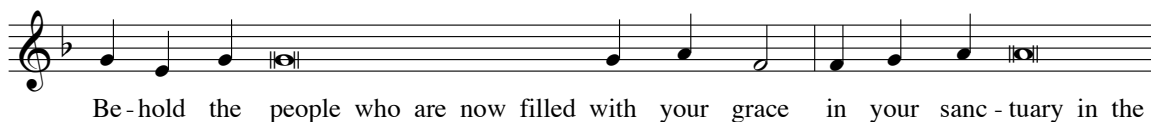
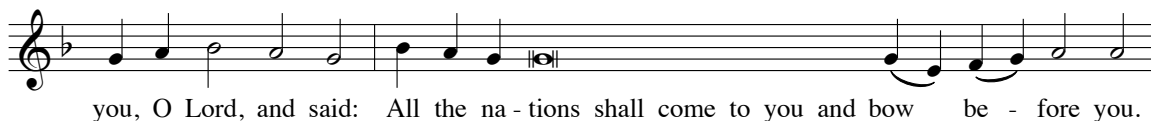
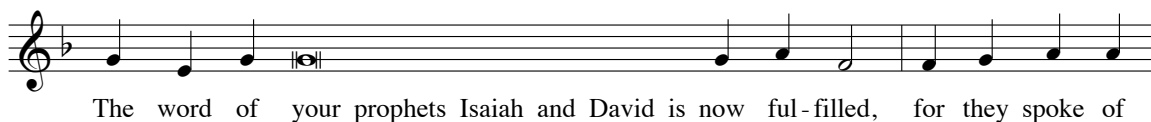
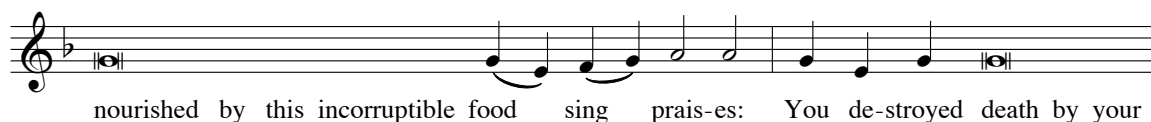
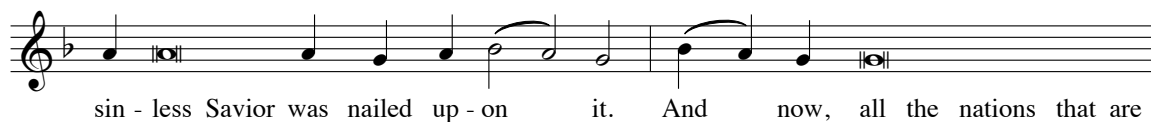
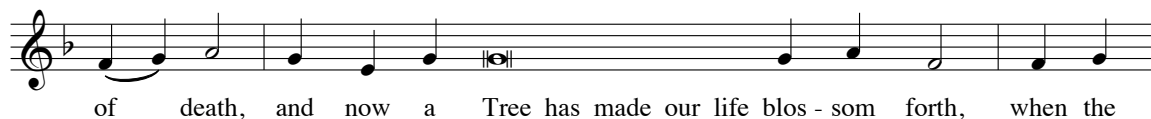
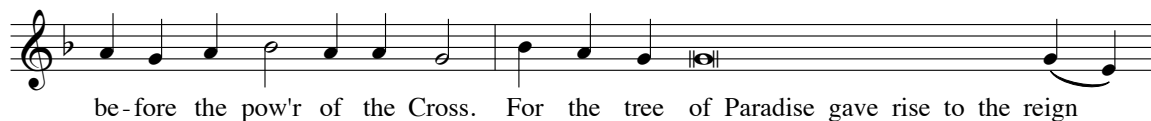


on the Cross; in your good - ness and love, have mer - cy on us.

Tone 5 samohlasen



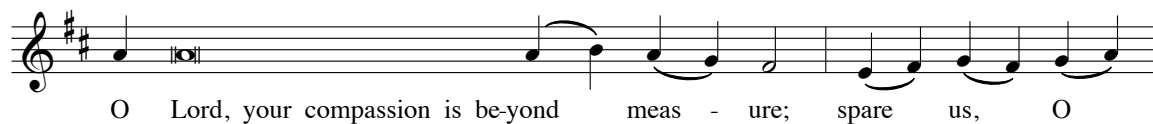
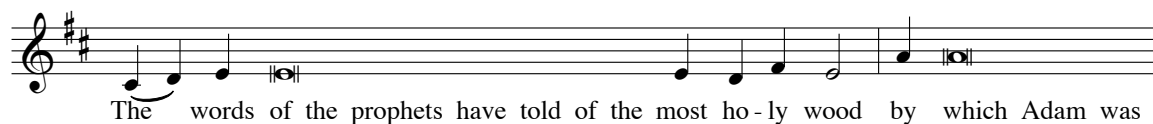
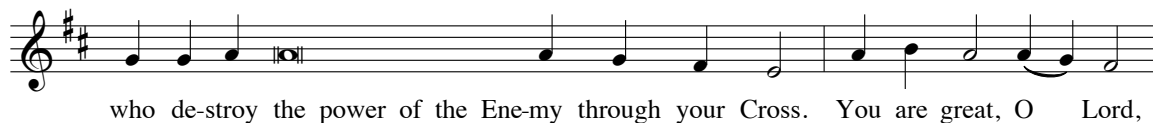
Come, O peo - ple, let us contemplate the mar-vel - ous won - der; let us bow



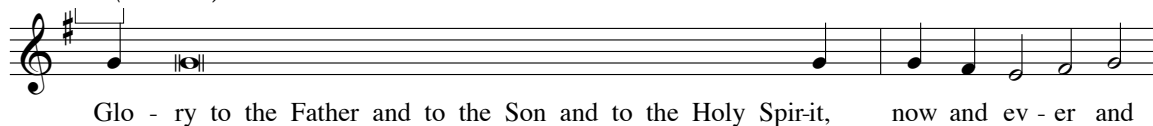
Cross for us and gave us life through your holy re - sur - rec - tion,
pro - tect us with your care, O Lord, and save us.

Tone 6 samohlasen

Ris-ing from the depths of the earth on this day, the Tree of Life strength-ens
our faith in the re - surrection of Christ who was nailed on it. His raised
hands announce his ascension in-to heav - en, which permitted him to dwell in
our nature in this fall - en world. We al - so cry out in thanks-giv - ing:
O Lord who was raised on the Cross and rais-es us with you, give heav'n-ly joy
to those who praise your name.
The four cor-ners of the earth are sanctified today, O Christ our God, by the four ends



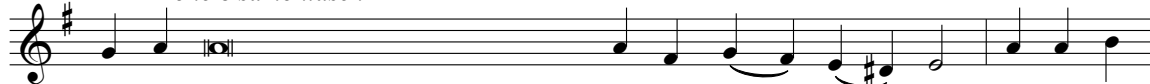
Cantor (Tone 8):





for - ev - er. A - men.

Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen



Be-hold the words of your prophet Moses are ful-filled, O Lord; for he said:



You shall see your life suspend-ed be-fore your eyes. To - day the Cross is



exalted, and the world is freed from er - ror. To - day the Resurrec-tion



of Christ is re-newed; the ends of the earth ex - ult with joy.



At the sound of the cymbals of Da - vid, they of - fer a hymn of praise



and say: In your good-ness and love for all, you have brought about your



salvation in the middle of the earth, O our God. Through your Cross and Resurrec-tion



you save us. O Lord all - pow - er - ful, glo - ry to you!

THE LESSER BLESSING OF WATER

The water is placed in a container and placed on the tetrapod and covered with a prepared cloth. The priest holds the hand cross with a sprig of basil. If basil is not available, use another green. The priest is accompanied by a deacon carrying the censer and by two candle bearers. He places the hand cross on the tetrapod and incenses around it in the form of a cross once.

Stichera for the blessing of water - Tone 6 samohlasen



The time that sanc-ti-fies us is at hand and the Just Judge is a-wait-ing us;
but turn to re-pent - ance, O my soul, and as the har-lot, cry out with tears:
Lord have mer - - - cy up - on me.
On this day in the Church of the Ho-ly Vir gin, O Christ, fountain of healing, you
rain down streams. By the sprink - ling of your grace, you cast
out the sickness of the in-firm, for you are the Phys-i - cian of our souls and
bod - - - ies.

You gave birth and yet re mained a vir-gin, O spouseless Mary, The-o - to - kos;
 pray to Christ our God to save our souls.
 All-ho - ly Vir-gin The - o - to-kos, di - rect the works of our hands and pray
 for the for-give - ness of our sins that we may ever sing the hymn of
 the an - gels: Ho - ly God, ho ly and Might - y, Ho - ly and Im mor - tal,
 have mer - cy on us.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 3 (Psalm 26:1):

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?



Verse: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

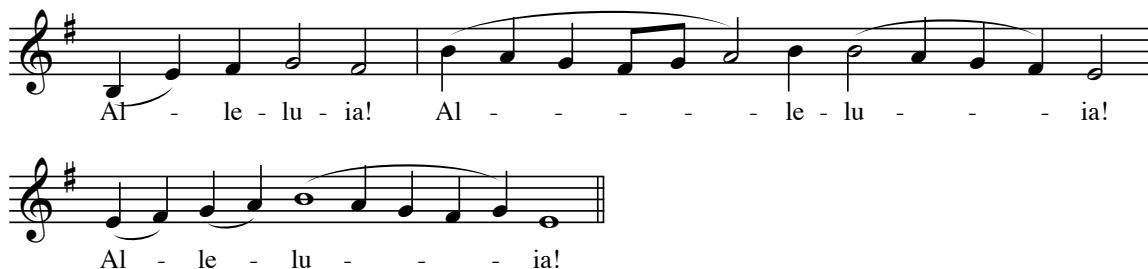
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The Reader reads the Letter for the Sixth Hour of Great Friday (Hebrews 2: 11-18) from the Epistles and Testament Readings for the Liturgical Year.

Priest: Peace be to you, Reader!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 44: 1)

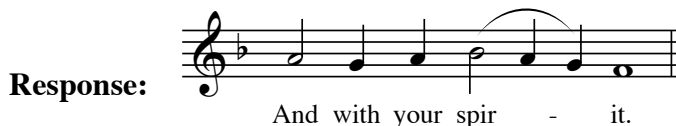


Verse: My heart overflows with noble words.

Verse: To the king I must speak the song I have made

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.
(or Concelebrant)

Priest: Peace ☩ be with all.



Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

Response:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The Celebrant reads the Holy Gospel (John 5: 1-4)

Priest: At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Pool there is a place with the Hebrew name Bethesda. Its five porticoes were crowded with sick people lying there blind, lame or disabled waiting for the movement of the water.

From time to time an angel of the Lord used to come down into the pool and the water was stirred up, so that the first one to get in after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease afflicted him.

Response:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Majestic God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you alone work wonders beyond number. Your voice is on the many waters; the waters saw and were afraid. The depths were troubled and great was the sound of the waters. Your way led through the sea, and your paths through the mighty waters and no one saw your footprints. By the baptism of your only-begotten incarnate Son, and by the descent of the all-holy Spirit on him in the form of a dove, and by your fatherly voice, you sanctified the streams of the Jordan.


Now we, your unworthy servants, humbly pray and beseech you: send the grace of your all-holy Spirit upon this water. Bless, purify and sanctify this water by your heavenly blessing. Grant it the grace and blessing of the Jordan, and the power to cleanse all defilements, to heal all illnesses, and to drive out evil spirits and their deceits and snares.

By the power, action, and grace of your all-holy Spirit, show this water to be for the forgiveness of sins, the calming of passions, the expulsion of all evil, the increase of virtue, the healing of illnesses, the sanctification of homes and of all places, the driving out of all destructive and evil-doing spirits, and the reception of your grace for those who drink this water in faith or receive it or are sprinkled with it.

For you bless and sanctify all, O God, and we give glory to you, with your only-begotten Son and all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: Peace ✝ be with all!

Response: 
And with your spir - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Incline your ear and hear us, O Lord, for you have accepted baptism in the Jordan and have sanctified the waters. Bless all of us who now bow our heads and show our servitude to you. Count us worthy to be filled with your sanctification through partaking of this water. May it bring us health of soul and body, O Lord, For you are the sanctification of our souls and bodies, and to you we give glory, thanksgiving and worship, with your

Response:



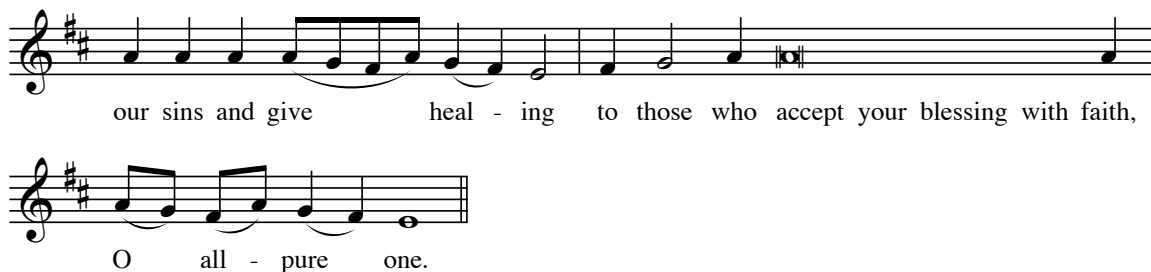
Troparion of the Holy Cross – *Tone 1*:



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Make us wor - thy of your gifts, O Vir gin The - o - to - kos; o - ver look



*The Celebrant then kisses the holy cross and sprinkles the faithful with the water.
The Church is then blessed with the water.*

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer the Lord



Response:

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.



Response:

Deacon: That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.



Response:

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.



Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.



Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.



Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.



Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.



Response:

Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon:

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.

Priest:

We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of the day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response:

A - men.

PRAYER OVER BOWED HEADS

Priest:

Peace be to all!



Response:

And to your spi - rit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!



Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all seeing eye watch over all creation. To you we bend our necks in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good and loving God who gives us earthly and heavenly gifts.

For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response: A - men.

DISMISSAL

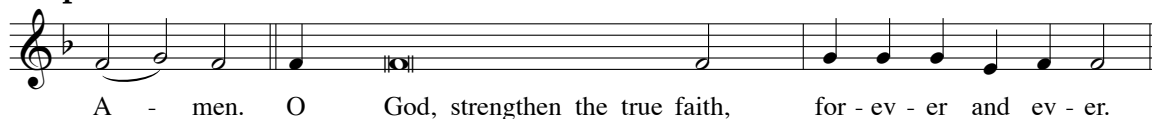
Deacon: Wisdom!



Response: Give the bless-ing.

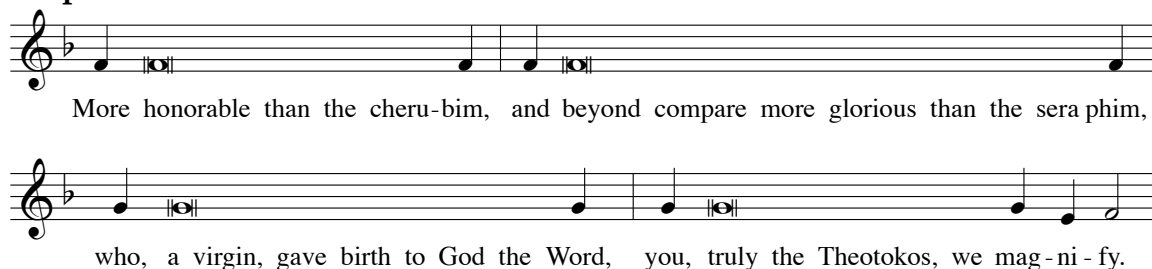
Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



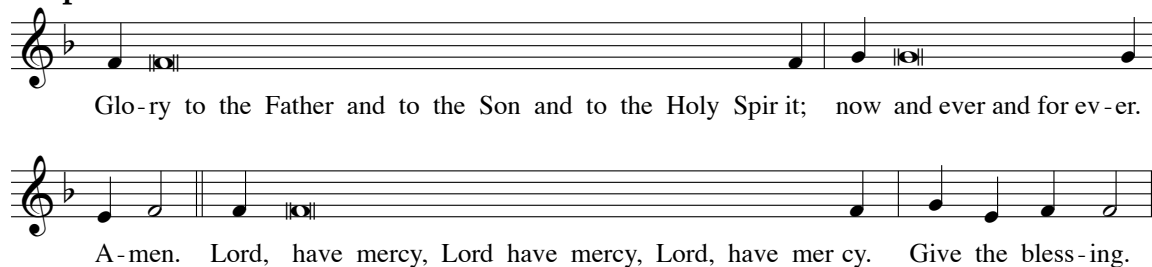
Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:



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

Response:



Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, ... through the prayers of the Holy Seven Maccabees, Solomone and Eleazar whose feast we commemorate, and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

