

The Order of Matins

*for the Protection of the Theotokos
and Ever-virgin Mary*

The Order of Matins

THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. On October 1, 911, during the reign of emperor Leo the Wise, there was an all-night vigil in the Blachernae church of the Theotokos in Constantinople. Standing near the rear of the church was St. Andrew the Fool for Christ, and his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Theotokos appeared above the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands, as if to protect them. She was surrounded by angels and saints. Seeing this, Andrew asked his disciple, "Do you see the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?"

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)

SIT

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:



SIT

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 Sprit, now and ever and forever.



Response: A - men.

STAND

THE LORD IS GOD – (Tone 4)

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



The Lord is God and has re-vealed him-self to us; bless-ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord.

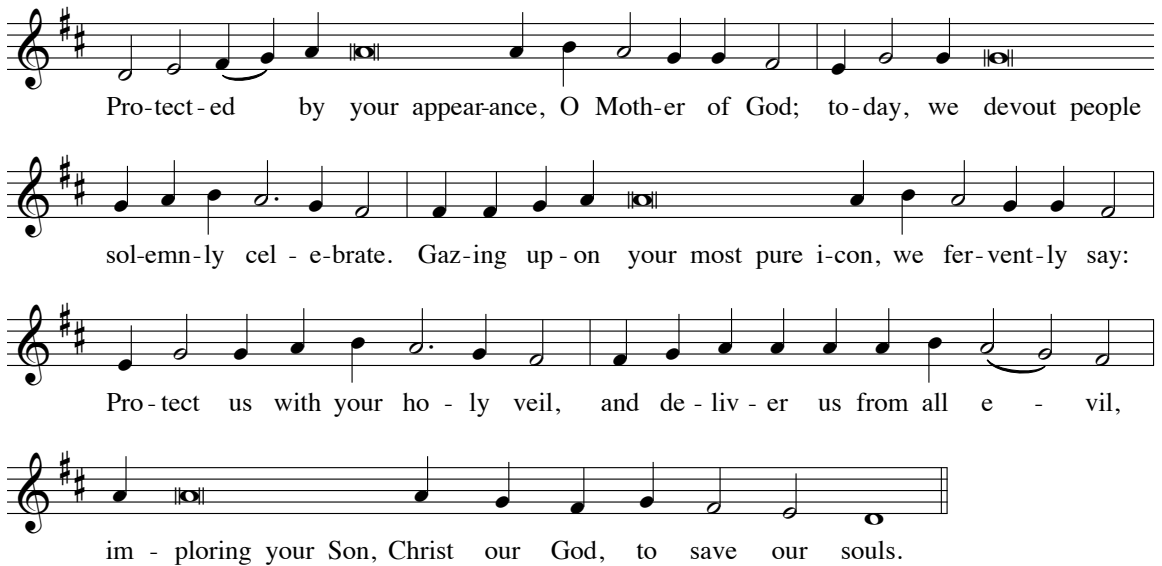
verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.

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.

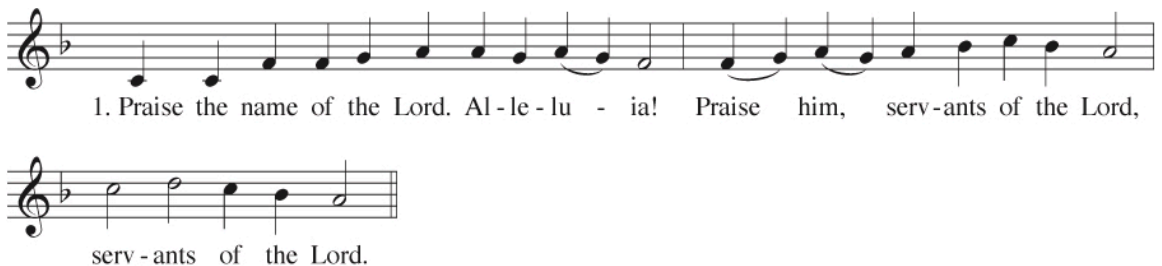
verse: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Troparion - Resurrection Tone 4 (sung three times)



Pro-tect-ed by your appear-ance, O Moth-er of God; to-day, we devout people
sol-emn-ly cel - e-brate. Gaz-ing up-on your most pure i-con, we fer-vent-ly say:
Pro-tect us with your ho - ly veil, and de - liv - er us from all e - vil,
im - ploring your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls.

POLYELEOS



1. Praise the name of the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise him, serv-ants of the Lord,
serv - ants of the Lord.

Refrain 1



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God,



the house of our God. **Refrain 1**



3. Lord, your name stands for-ev - - - er, un-for-got - ten from age to age,



from age to age. **Refrain 1**



4. From Zi - on may the Lord be blessed, he who dwells in Je - ru - sa - lem,



in Je - ru - sa - lem. **Refrain 1**



5. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Refrain 2



Al - le - lu - ia! For his love en-dures for-ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



6. who fixed the earth firm - ly on the seas,

Refrain 2



Refrain 2



Refrain 2

EXALTATION

The priest sings once, then the faithful repeat:



The exaltation is repeated after each verse:

Verse: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty.

Verse: He will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge.

Verse: For there He keeps me safe in his tent in the day of evil.

Verse: He hides me in the shelter of his tent, on a rock He sets me safe.

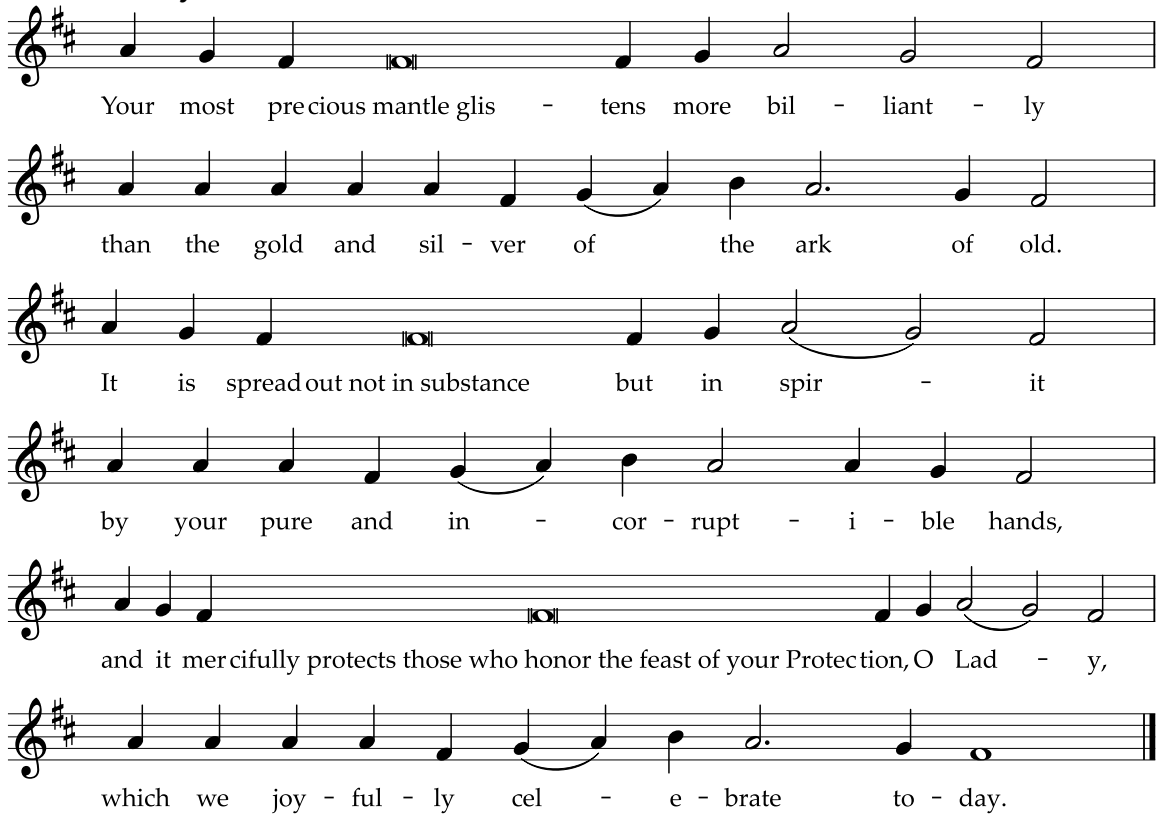
Verse: Glory...now and ever...

Three times:



SIT

Sessional Hymn – *Tone 4 Kontakion*



Your most precious mantle glis - tens more bil - liant - ly
than the gold and sil - ver of the ark of old.
It is spread out not in substance but in spir - it
by your pure and in - cor - rupt - i - ble hands,
and it mercifully protects those who honor the feast of your Protection, O Lad - y,
which we joy - ful - ly cel - e - brate to - day.

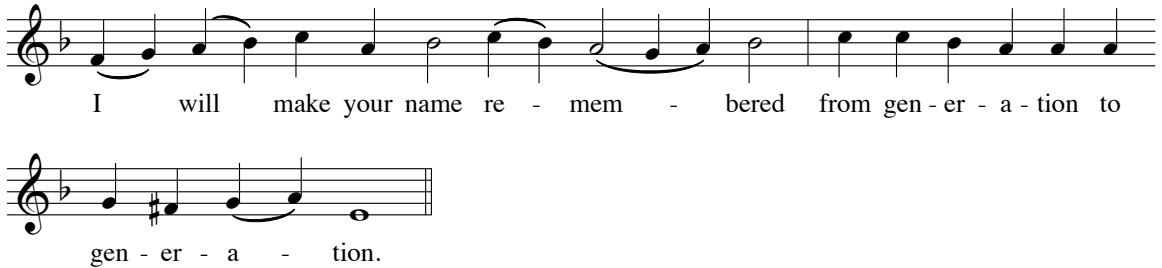
STAND

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace + be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4



I will make your name re - mem - bered from gen - er - a - tion to
gen - er - a - tion.

Verse: Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.

PREPARATION FOR THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

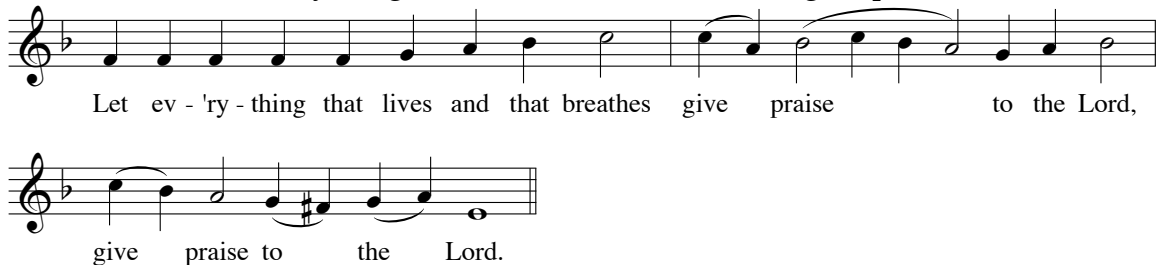
Response:

Priest: For you are holy, O our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response: A - - - men.

Deacon: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord!

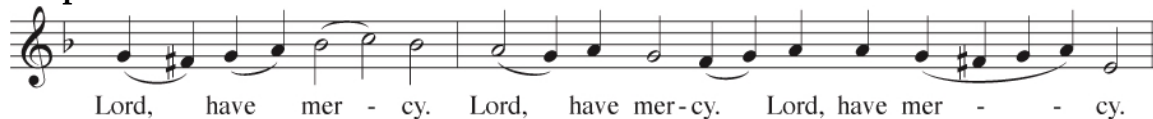


Let ev - 'ry - thing that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord,
give praise to the Lord.

Verse: Praise God in his holy place;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

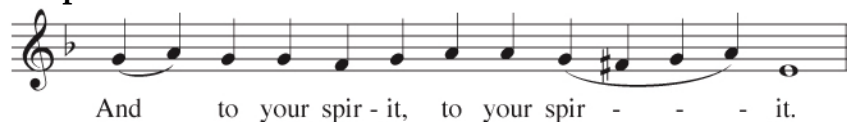
Response:



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

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response:



Priest: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist (*Name*).

Response:



After the Gospel, the faithful respond:

Response:



The faithful come forward to venerate the Gospel Book and Icon on the tetrapod.

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*.

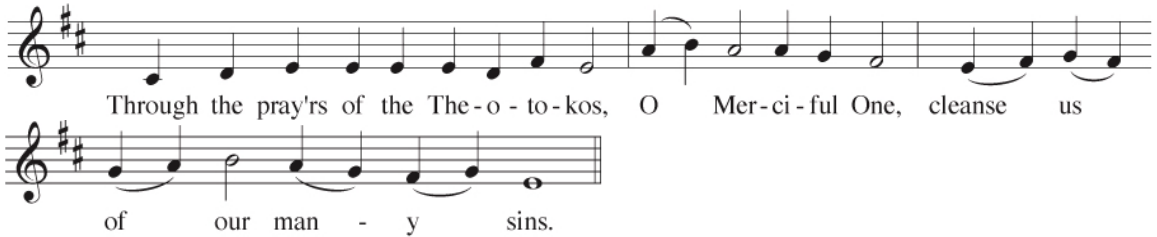
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed
then you will be offered your bulls on *your* altar.

STICHERA AT PSALM 50

Cantor: (Tone 6)



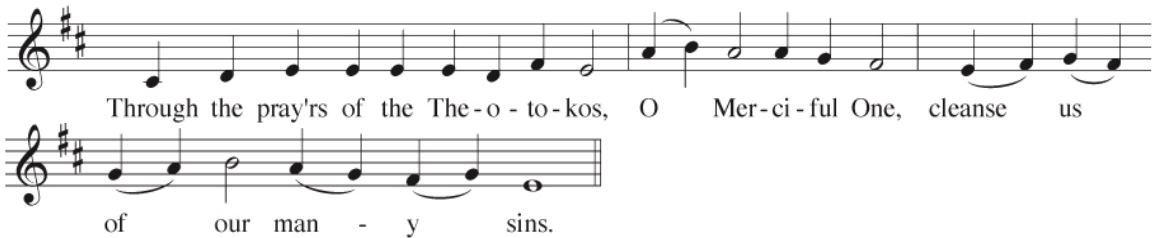
Sticheron:



Cantor: (Tone 6)

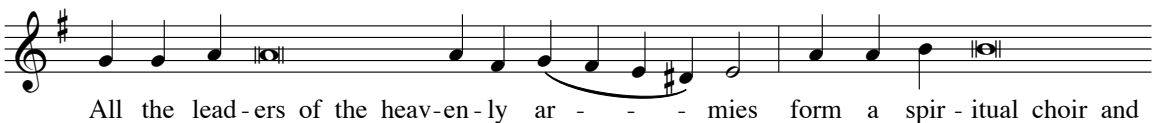


Sticheron:



Cantor: (Tone 8) Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.

Sticheron:



re-joyce with all of us when they see the faithful praising the Lady and Queen
of all. The spir - its of the just re-joyce al - so as they wit-ness
the vision of the Queen pray-ing with out-stretched arms. She asks for peace
in the world, pow - er and strength for our Church, and sal - va - - - tion
for our souls.

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.

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.



A - - - men.

CANON

Irmos:



I will o - pen my mouth; it will be filled by the Ho - ly Spir - it, and I



will offer my praise to the Queen Mother. I will celebrate in joy;

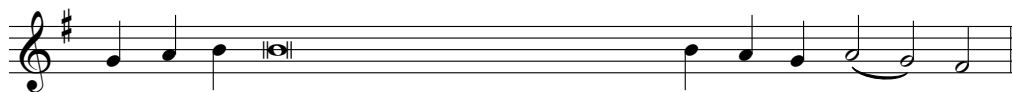


in my re - joic - ing I will sing of these won - ders.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us!

20

You have been called the Ark of Moses and the Rod of Aaron, for Christ the flower has blossomed forth from you, O Tree of Life. Entreat Him in behalf of those who honor you, O Queen, to deliver us from all evil that we may celebrate your feast.



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

In times past, David gathered his choirs together and made music before the ark. Now we on earth honor you with the angelic powers in the Church, saying: O Queen, intercede for us who extol you, that we may reverently celebrate and glorify the feast of your Protection.



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

Coming before you in the Church, the angelic powers offer you praise while the patriarchs and bishops glorify you, O Theotokos. Together with them the holy Andrew saw you praying to God for us sinners, interceding for mercy upon those who glorify the feast of your Protection.

Katavasia – Repeat: *“I will open my mouth...”*

Kontakion - *Tone 3*:



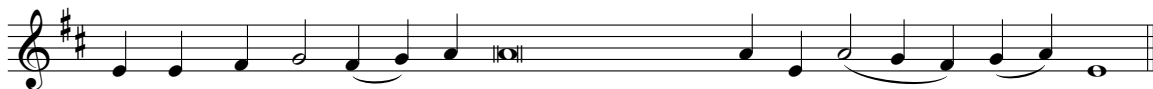
To - day the Vir - gin is pres - ent in the Church, and with the



choirs of saints, invisibly prays to God for us. The an - gels worship



with the hier - archs, the a - pos - tles re - joice with the proph - ets;



be-cause the The - o - to - kos prays for us to the e - ter - nal God.

Ikos: Come, believing people, let us delight in the glorious gifts of the Mother of God, because through her Adam was saved from corruption. Indeed, she is the ark built not by Noah, but by God. Of old, Moses was unable to see God in the burning bush. Today, however, all the world knows the Son of God, Christ incarnate, who was born of her and to whom she prays for us. Therefore, let us extol her as the Mother of God, for she implores the eternal God in our behalf.

STAND

Ode 9

The deacon (or priest) sings the Magnification

Magnification



Ex - tol, ex - tol, O my soul, O my soul,



the great - ness of the pro-tection of the ev - er - Vir - gin Moth - er of God.

All:

Let everyone on earth dance for joy in spirit. Let the heavenly ranks celebrate in honor of the sacred feast. O Mother of God, let them cry: Rejoice, ever-blessed Theotokos and ever-Virgin.



Ex - tol, ex - tol, O my soul, O my soul,

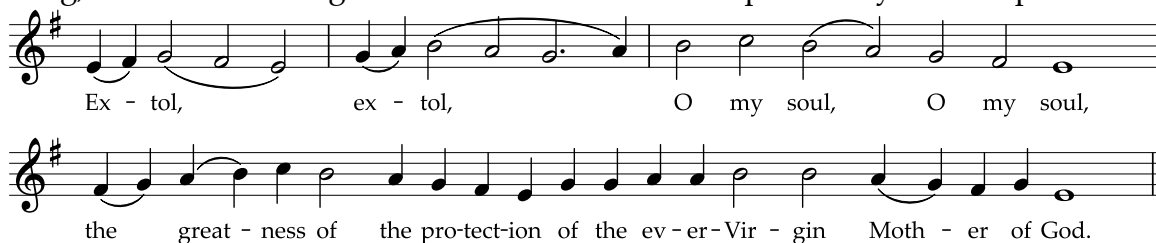


the prais - es of Ma - ry the Moth - er of God,



who prays un - ceas - in - gly to Jes - us Christ for us.

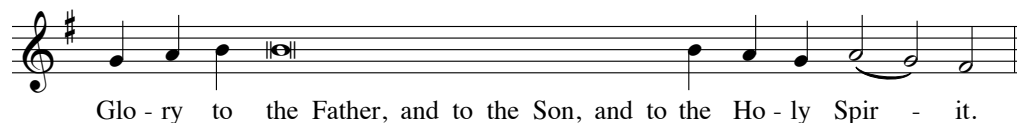
Heed the supplication which your Mother offers in behalf of us sinners, O High King, who sits at the right hand of the Father and is praised by the Seraphim.



Cleanse us from our sins, save our city from danger, and increase the faithful throughout our land by the prayers of the One who gave birth to You.



O Virgin chosen by God, we praise you in the words of the angel: Rejoice, for you have led Adam back to Paradise. Rejoice, O Hope of Christians who has routed the demons through your name. Rejoice, Enlightener of souls and Protectress of our city.



Holy Virgin Theotokos, receive the prayers of us all so that we may not be cast down by our many sins. Deliver us from all danger and tribulation, for we glorify you and honor the feast of your Protection.



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

O holy Mother of God, He has bestowed upon you the gift of healing the ills of all Christians, of delivering them from tribulation, of releasing them from sin, and of saving them from all danger. Do not turn away from us, O Lady, as we beseech you to grant us health of body and salvation for our soul.

Katavasia



May ev - 'ry child of the earth ex - alt in spir - it



and hold a - loft the burn - ing lamp, and may the an - gels in heav - en



praise with joy the ho - ly feast of the Moth - er of God



and sing: Re - joice, O The - o - to - kos,



ev - er - bless - ed and ev - er - Vir - - - gin.

SIT

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 under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives praise to your glory beyond reach, for you are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



Response: A - - - men.

STAND

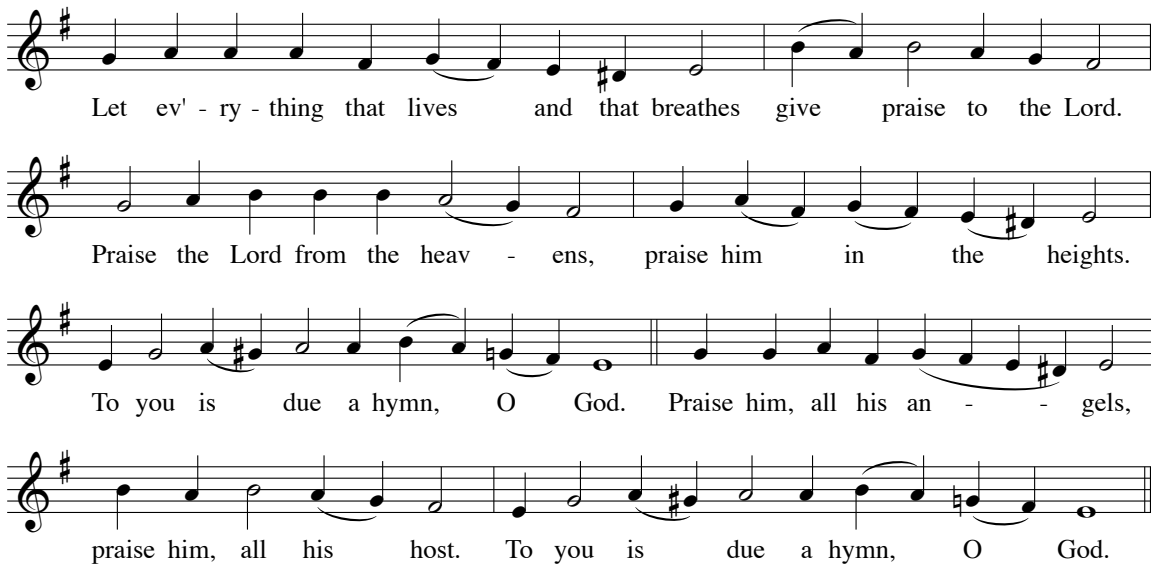
HYMN OF LIGHT

O most holy Lady, Virgin Mother of God, extend your holy mantle over us; guide and protect our rulers and all people from every evil. As the holy Andrew saw you in a vision while praying, so today, O holy Lady, show us your loving protection. (3 times)

SIT

THE PSALMS OF PRAISE

Psalm 148



Let ev' - ry - thing that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the heights.

To you is due a hymn, O God. Praise him, all his an - - gels,

praise him, all his host. To you is due a hymn, O God.

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 *sal*vation.

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.

to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honor is for all *his* faithful.

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

Cantor: (*Tone 8*)

(on 3)



O praise him with sound of trum - pet, praise him with lute and harp.

Sticheron:

③



O La - dy, we bow be - fore you,



and humb - ly pro - strat - ing, we pray to you.



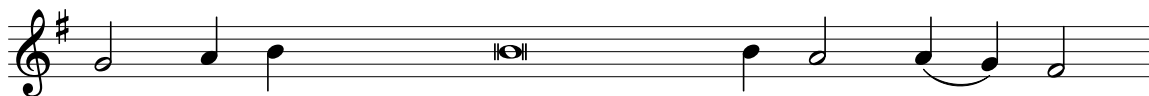
Re - joice, O glor - ious Vir - gin,



most blessed by God and hearald - ed by proph - ets,



for in you, Christ our God came down as the dew.



In your maidenhood, pure and undefiled, you gave birth to Him.



You carried in your arms the Lord and Cre - a - tor of all.

Im - plore Him now for us
who faith-ful - ly glo - ri - fy the feast of your Pro - tec - tion.

Cantor:

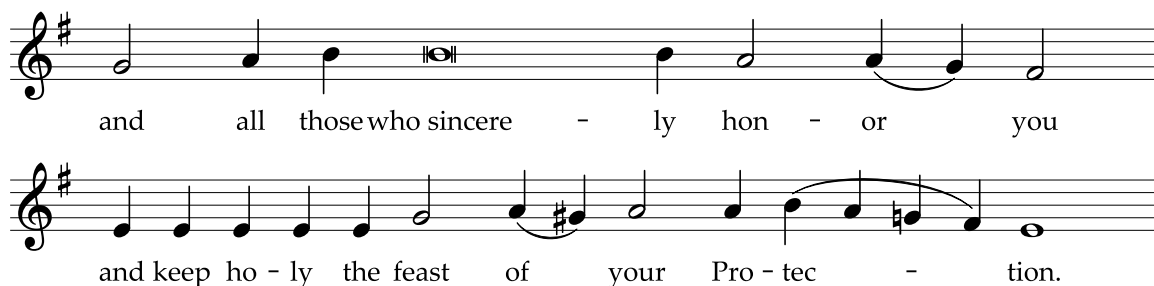
(on 2)

Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

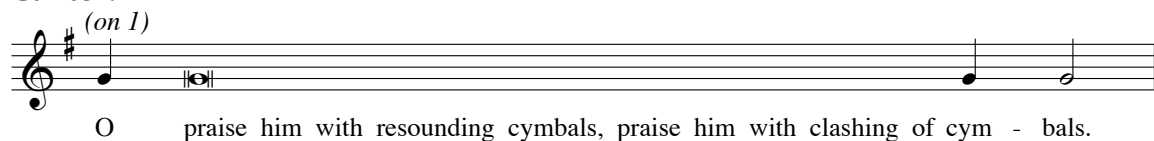
Sticheron:

②

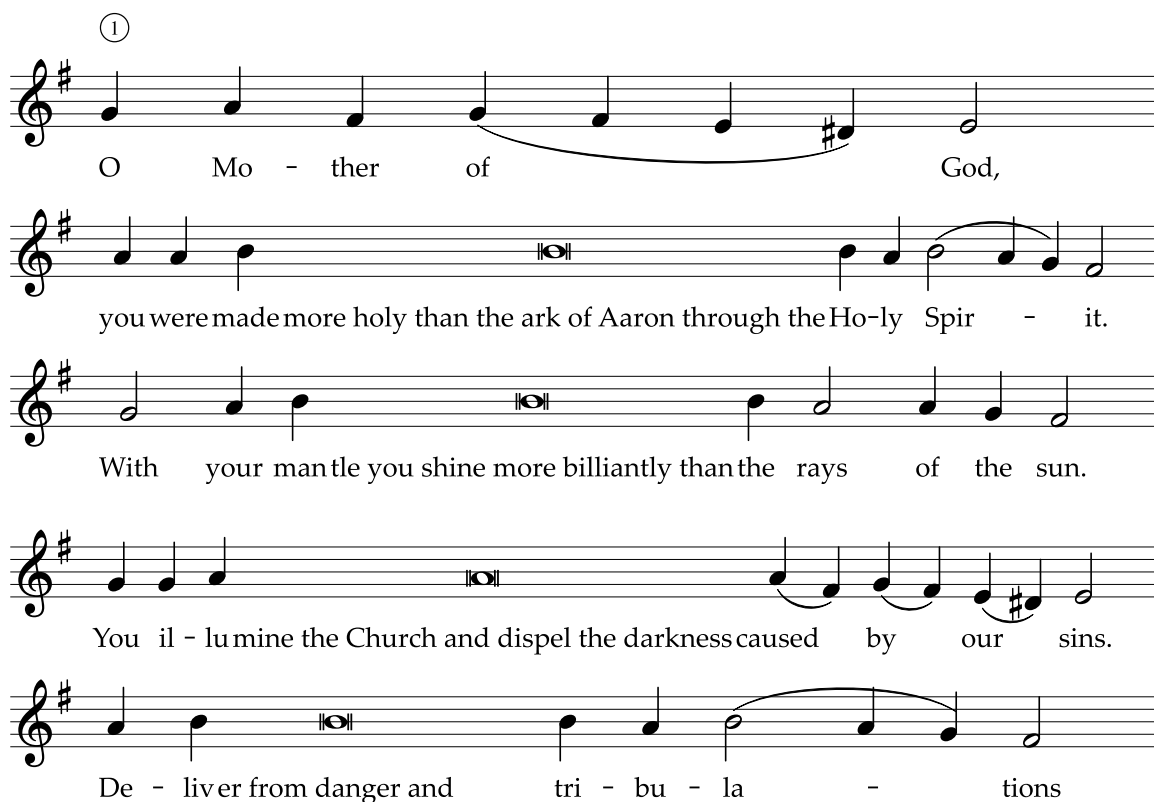
The angel choirs sing of you, O Vir - gin Mo - ther of God.
The patriarchs join the priestly ranks and holy apostles in prais - ing you.
They give service to you as to the Moth - er of God.
Hav - ing seen you pray to Christ our God, the Sav - ior of all,
they ask you to pray to Him to save the world

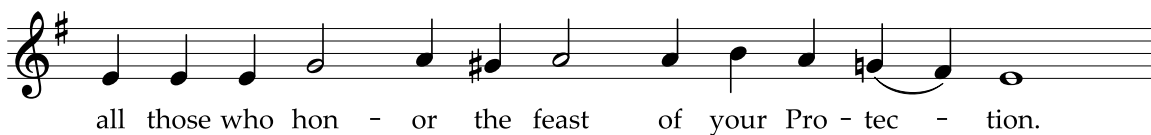


Cantor:



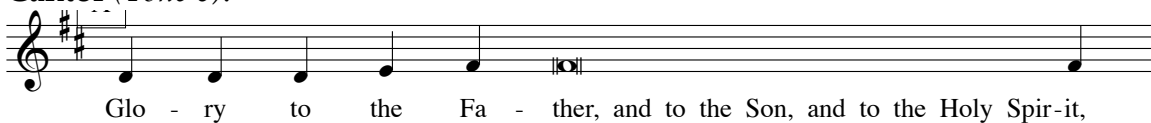
Sticheron:



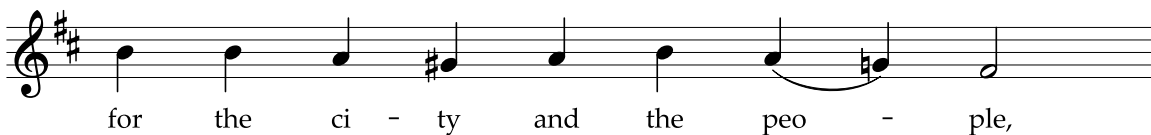
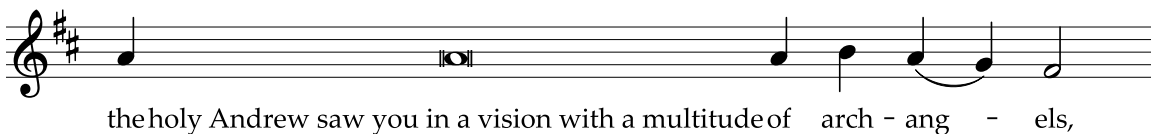
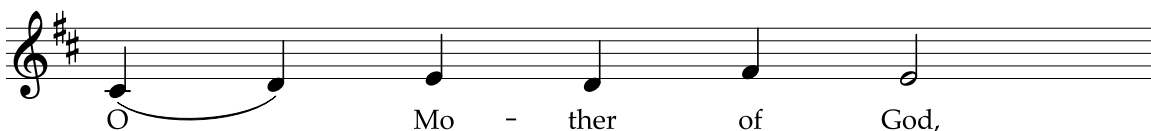


STAND

Cantor (Tone 6):



Doxasticheron:



cov-er-ing them with you ho-ly man - tle. So now, O most pure One,
do not for-sake the in - her - i - tance of your Son,
all those who keep holy the feast of your Protec - tion O most praised One.

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 - mighty - 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

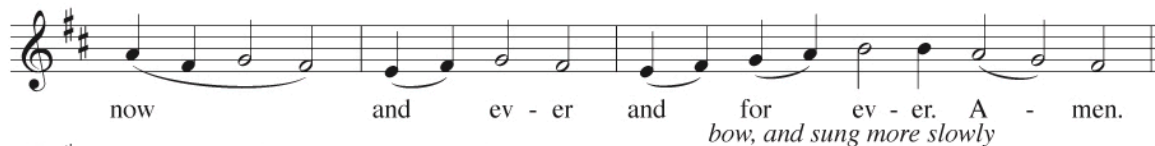
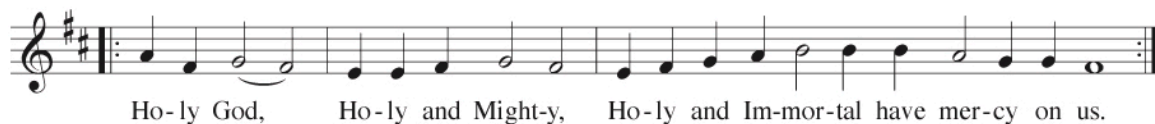


you, O Lord, are my God. In you is the source of life and in your



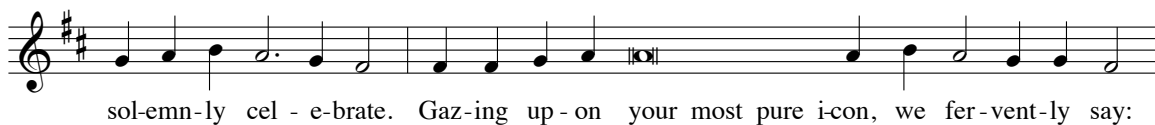
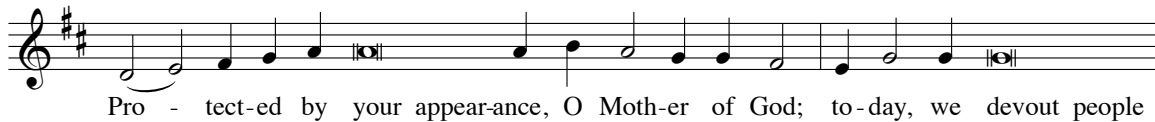
light we see light. Ex-tend your mer - cy to those who know you.

Three times, each with a bow:



TROPARION

Troparion - Tone 4:



LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

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



Response: Grant this, O Lord.

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!



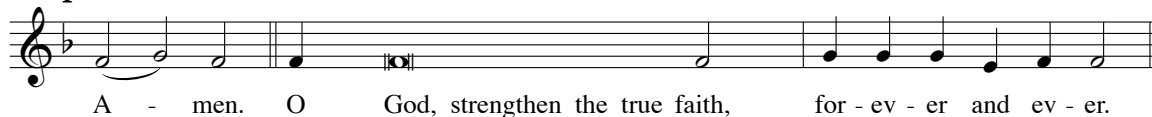
Response:

Give the bless - ing.

Priest:

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

Response:



A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for - ev - er and ev - er.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:



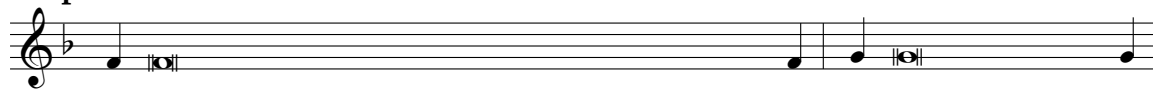
More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the sera-phim,



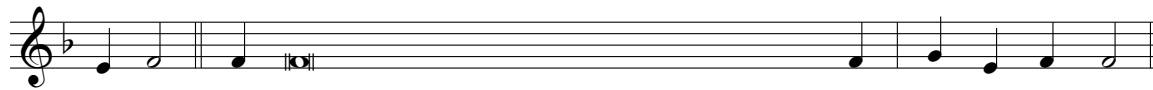
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag-ni-fy.

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

Response:



Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir it; now and ever and for ev-er.



A-men. Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord, have mer cy. Give the bless-ing.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, whose protection we gloriously celebrate today; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.



A - - - - - men.