THE SERVICES

OF THE

HOURS

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THE

GREAT

BOOK

OF THE

HOURS

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GREAT

HOROLOGION

Ottawa, Ontario
2002-2007-
2017-2025
USDAOC, ed

THE SERVICE[1] OF MIDNIGHT PRAYER (THAT IS, NOCTURNS)

Morning Prayer, or Matins, is preceded by the Midnight Service, of which there are three different forms : for weekdays, for Saturday, for Sunday. All three forms are provided here.

A : NOCTURNS THROUGH THE WEEK :

[*In parishes of cities, and villages, it is habitual, for brevity, that the priest read the specific Sessions of the Psalter, and perhaps Polyelei privately.*]

The presbyter, wearing the epitrahil, and standing in the usual place (outside the Altar), says quietly :

Presbyter : O God, be propitious to me, the sinner, and have mercy on me.

Then, aloud, he begins :

Presbyter : Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

–*or*– **Reader :** Through the prayers of our holy *fathers*, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.[2]

Reader : Amen.

In some places, it is the one presiding who reads Glory..., and O Heavenly King..., before the reader begins.

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

–*or*– : Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

***** O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and fulfilling all things ; Treasury of good things, and Provider of Life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

***** [We do not read "Heavenly King" in paschaltide. We say "Christ is risen..." (three times). From Ascension to Pentecost, we read the tropar of Ascension.]

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[1] The word "service" is derived from the older English usage, "office", which itself comes from the Latin "officium" which is something, a service, that one does for another. In this case, it is the Liturgical worship which we human beings offer to the Lord. "Service" implies a work, which is at the root of the meaning of "liturgy".

[2] This phrase may mean either the existing and present community, according to these present words, or it may mean the Fathers, meaning not only the patristic fathers, but also all the Faithful who have gone before us, and who have brought us to being – spiritually and physically.

Reader : Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.[3]
(*three times*) (*three metanias*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, be propitious to our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ; and bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.
Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O come, let us worship God our King ; come let us worship, and fall down before Christ, our King, and our God ; come let us worship, and fall down before Christ Himself, our King, and our God. (*with three metanias*)

Reader : **PSALM 50**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy, and according to the fulness of Your compassion, wipe away my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and from my sin cleanse me. For I know my iniquity, and my sin is always before my eyes. Towards You alone have I sinned, and evil have I committed in Your sight ; so that You have been shown as righteous in Your words, and victorious when You are judging. For behold, I was knit together in iniquities, and in sin did my mother conceive me. For behold, You have loved truth ; the unseen, and

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[3] For Greeks, the Trisagion itself is also not read during Paschaltide.
During the Trisagion there are three Metanias by all. The word "metania", when found alone, means the bowing of the head, without bowing the knees. It is also known as a lesser metania. The "great metania", which means "prostration", means bending the knees to the floor, and touching the forehead to the floor. This is done when there is "alleluia", that is in a fasting period.

hidden things of Your wisdom have You revealed to me. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed ; You shall wash me, and I shall be made white, even moreso than snow. You shall make me hear of joy, and gladness, and my shattered bones will rejoice. Turn Your Face away from my sins, and wipe away all my transgressions. Form a clean heart in me, O God, and dedicate an upright spirit in my insides. Do not cast me away from Your sight, and do not take Your Holy Spirit away from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and support me with Your guiding Spirit. I shall teach sinners Your ways, and the ungodly will turn to You. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongues shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth shall sound forth Your praise. For, if You had desired a sacrifice, I would have given it. You will not be well-pleased by whole burnt-offerings. The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit ; a broken, and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Do good, O Lord, to Sion in Your good-will, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then will You take pleasure in a sacrifice of righteousness, an offering, and whole burnt-offerings. Then they shall bring in young bullocks to Your sacrificial altar.

All the following prayers are found only in the Slavonic Book of the Hours. Others immediately begin to read Psalm 118.

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Reader : **FIRST PRAYER**

By Saint Macarius the Great

O God, cleanse me the sinner, for I have done nothing good before You. Deliver me from the evil one, and may Your will be in me, that I might open my unworthy lips without condemnation, and praise Your holy name, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **SECOND PRAYER**

By Saint Macarius the Great

Having risen from sleep, I offer You, O Saviour, the midnight canticle. Falling down, I cry out to You, “Let me not fall asleep in the death of sin. Be gracious to me, You that were willingly crucified. Raise me quickly as I lie in laziness, and save me, as I stand in prayer. After the sleep of night, O Christ our God, shine a sinless day on me, and save me”.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **THIRD PRAYER**

By Saint Macarius the Great

Having risen from sleep, I run to You, O Master ; for You love Man, and I

rush to accomplish Your work. Help me, I pray You, at all times, and in all things. Deliver me from every evil thing of this world, and from the works of the devil. Save me, and lead me into Your eternal Kingdom. You are my maker, the provider, and giver of everything good. All my hope is in You, and I glorify You, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **FOURTH PRAYER**

By Saint Macarius the Great

O Lord, through Your abundant goodness, and great generosity, You have allowed me, Your servant, to pass through the hours of this night untempted by any evil of the enemy. Grant also, O Master, and Creator of all, that I might accomplish Your will in Your true light, and with an illumined heart, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **FIFTH PRAYER**

By Saint Basil the Great

O Almighty Lord, God of Powers, and of all flesh, You live in the heights, yet look down on the humble, searching the hearts, and reins[4], clearly standing above the hidden things of men. You are the Everlasting Light without beginning, in Whom there is no variation nor shadow of change. O Immortal King, accept the nocturnal supplications which we, finding courage in the multitude of Your compassions, now offer You from foul lips. Free us from our faults, of deed, word or thought, knowingly, and unknowingly. Purify us from every stain of flesh, and spirit, making us temples of the Holy Spirit. Grant us to pass through the entire night of this present life with a watchful heart, and sober reasonings, awaiting the coming of the bright, and manifest Day of Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, when the Judge of all shall come upon the earth, with glory, to reward each according to his deeds. May we not be found supine, and lazy, but watchful, and active in the labour of His commandments, prepared to enter into the joy, and the divine bridal chamber of His glory, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing, and indescribable is the delight of those who behold the inexpressible beauty of Your Face. You are the true Light enlightening, and sanctifying everything, and all creation hymns You unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **SIXTH PRAYER**

By Saint Basil the Great

We bless You, O Most High God, and Lord of Mercy, who always do great, and unfathomable things for us – glorious, and awesome things beyond

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[4] Reins=emotions (the kidneys being the seat of the emotions)

number. You grant us sleep for the repose of our infirmity, and relief from the labours of our over-burdened flesh. We thank You for not destroying all of us for our iniquities. Instead, You have shown us Your accustomed love for Man, and have raised us, as we lay about to give up, to glorify Your strength. Therefore, we implore Your incomparable goodness, enlighten the eyes of our reasonings, and raise our minds[5] from the heavy sleep of carelessness. Open our mouth, and fill it with Your praise, that we may unwaveringly sing, hymn, and confess You, God glorified in all, and by all, O Father without beginning, with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

[5] In Greek : "nous"

Reader : **SEVENTH PRAYER**

Midnight Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos

I hymn your grace, O Lady, and I pray that you grace my mind. Teach me to walk correctly on the path of Christ's commandments. Strengthen me to watch, in song, dispelling the despair of sleep. I am bound by fetters of sin ; free me by your prayers, O Bride of God. Keep me, in the night, and in the day, delivering me from warring enemies. As you bore the life-giving God, give life to me, who am wounded by passions. As you bore the unsetting Light, enlighten my blinded soul. O wondrous palace of the Master, make me to be a home of the divine Spirit. As you bore the Physician, heal my soul of its passion-filled years. I am tossed in the tempest of life ; direct me to the path of repentance. Deliver me from the eternal flame, from the evil worm, and from Tartary.[6] Make me not a joy for demons, though I am guilty of many sins. Make me new, O most uncorrupted one, for I am aged by senseless sins. Estrange me from all torments, and pray for me to the Master of all. Grant that, with all the saints, I may inherit the joys of Heaven. Hear, O most holy Virgin, the voice of your useless servant. Grant me a torrent of tears, most pure one, to wash the filth of my soul. The groans of my heart I bring you unceasingly ; open your heart, O Lady. Accept my prayerful service, and take it to the compassionate God. You that are far higher than the angels, raise me above the confusion of this world. O light-bearing heavenly cloud, direct spiritual Grace into me. O all-uncorrupted one, I raise in praise hands, and lips corrupted by sin. Deliver me from soul-corrupting harm, praying fervently to Christ, to Whom glory, and worship are due, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **EIGHTH PRAYER**

To our Lord Jesus Christ

O Lord Jesus Christ, my most merciful, and all-merciful God, in Your great love, You came down, and become flesh in order to save all. Again, I pray You, save me by Your Grace. If You save me because of my deeds, it would not be a gift, but merely a duty. Truly, You abound in graciousness, and are inexpressibly merciful. You have said, O my Christ, "He who believes in me shall live, and never see death". If faith in You save the desperate, behold, I believe. Save me, for You are my God, and my Maker. May my faith replace my deeds, O my God, for You will find no deeds to justify me. May my faith be sufficient for all. May it answer for me ; may it justify me ; may it make me a partaker of Your eternal glory ; and may Satan not seize me from Your hand, and fold. O Christ my Saviour, save me whether I desire it or not. Come

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[6] Tartary is considered to be the lowest part of Hadēs, perhaps equivalent to Hell. The origin of the term is in the name of a very deep Mesopotamian lake, to the bottom of which (in some cultures) *angry persons still wish to consign others.*

quickly, hasten, for I perish. You are my God from my mother's womb. Grant, O Lord, that I may now love You as once I loved sin, and that I may labour for You without laziness, as once I laboured for Satan the deceiver. Even more, I will labour for You, my Lord, and God Jesus Christ, all the days of my life, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **NINTH PRAYER**

To the Guardian Angel of Human Life

O Holy Angel, who keep guard over my despondent soul, and my passionate life, do not abandon me, the sinner, neither depart from me to my undoing. Leave no room for the crafty enemy to overcome me by the force of my mortal body. Strengthen my weak, and feeble hand, and instruct me in the path of salvation. Yea, O holy Angel of God, guardian, and protector of my hopeless soul, and body, forgive everything in which I have offended you every day of my life, and in what I have done amiss this past night. Protect me during this present day, and preserve me from every attempt of the enemy, that I may not anger God by any sin. Pray to the Lord for me, that He may establish me in His fear, and make me, His servant, worthy of His goodness.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **TENTH PRAYER**

To the Most Holy Theotokos

O most Holy Theotokos, my Lady, through your holy, and all-powerful prayers, turn away from me, your humble, and unworthy servant, despair, forgetfulness, unreasonableness, indifference, and all unclean, evil, and blasphemous thoughts from my wretched heart, and darkened mind. Extinguish the flame of my passions, for I am poor, and wretched. Deliver me from my numerous, and wicked memories, and phantasies. Free me from all evil acts, for you are blessed by all generations, and your most honourable name is glorified unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : **ELEVENTH PRAYER**

Of the Optina Elders

O Lord, grant that I may meet all that this coming day brings to me with spiritual tranquillity. Grant that I may fully surrender myself to Your holy will. At every hour of this day, direct, and support me in all things. Whatsoever news may reach me in the course of the day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul, and the firm conviction that all is subject to Your holy will. Direct my thoughts, and feelings in all my words, and actions. In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is sent down from You. Grant that I may deal straightforwardly, and wisely with every member of my *brotherhood* (*sisterhood, family, community*), neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone. O Lord, grant me the strength to endure the fatigue of the

coming day, and all the events that take place during it. Direct my will, and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive, and to love.
Response : Amen.

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Through the week, we read the ***Seventeenth Session*** (*Psalm 118*) [*but on Saturday, we read the* ***Ninth Session*** (*Psalms 64-69*). *See page 19.*]

SEVENTEENTH SESSION
PSALM 118

FIRST STATION (vv 1-72)
Blessed are the blameless in their way … The law of Your mouth is good for me, more than thousands of gold, and silver.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God. (*three times*)
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

SECOND STATION (vv 73-131)
Your hands made, and fashioned me ; make me understand, … I opened my mouth, and I drew in the spirit, for I have longed for Your commandments.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God. (*three times*)
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THIRD STATION (vv 132-176)
Look down upon me, and have mercy on me, … I have gone astray like a lost sheep : seek Your servant, for I have not forgotten Your commandments.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God. (*three times*)

Reader : **THE SYMBOL OF FAITH**[7]

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible, and invisible ;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages ; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made ; of one essence with the Father ; through whom all things were made ; who, because of us Men and our salvation, came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became Man ; and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried ; and He arose on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father ; and He shall come again with glory, to judge the living and the dead ; whose Kingdom shall have no end ;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father ; who with the Father and the Son together, is worshipped, and glorified ; who spoke by the prophets ;

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church ; I confess one baptism for the remission of sins ; I wait for the resurrection of the dead ; and the life of the age to come.

Response : Amen.

Reader : Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(*three times*) (*three metanias*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, be propitious to our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive

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[7] NOTE TO READERS : Care must be taken to read carefully, with attention to punctuation. Running phrases together can give an opposite or heretical meaning.
Human=Man=Gk. Anthropos

our debtors ; and bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Through the Week :

These Tropars in Tone 8 :

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching ; and again unworthy is the servant whom He shall find careless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down with sleep ; lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But sober yourself crying out, "Holy, Holy, Holy, are You, O God". Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

[*The Wisdom, and the Word*]

Understanding that terrible day, watch, O my soul. Brightly light your lamp filled with oil, for you do not know when the voice will come upon you, and say, "Behold, the Bridegroom comes". Beware, O my soul, and do not slumber, lest you be left outside knocking as the five virgins ; but watchfully persevere, that you may come to meet Christ our God with your oil, and He will open to you the divine bridal chamber of His glory.

Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

We supplicate you, O Virgin Theotokos, the unconquered fortress, and stronghold of salvation, scatter the counsels of the enemy. Turn the sorrow of your people into joy, and wall around your city. Save your people, and our country, and encourage your world ; strengthen the pious, and intercede for the peace of the world, for you are our hope.

On the eves of feasts, on the days of post-feasts, as well as the leave-takings of the Feasts of the Lord, and of the Theotokos, we say the Tropar of the eve or of the feast itself.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*Forty times*)

Reader :

O Christ our God, at all times, and at every hour, in Heaven, and on earth, You are worshipped, and glorified. You are longsuffering, all-merciful, and all-compassionate. You love the righteous, and have mercy upon the sinner. You call all to salvation through the promise of good things to come – Yourself, O

Lord, in this hour receive also our petitions, and direct our lives towards Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, cleanse our bodies, make straight our thoughts, purify our reasonings ; rescue us from all tribulations, evils, and grief. Surround us with the wall of your holy angels, that guarded by their array, and guided by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith, and to the acknowledgement of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.
In the Name of the Lord, holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May God be bountiful to us, and bless us, show the light of His Countenance upon us, and have mercy on us.

– or –

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

Response : Amen.

If it be a time of Alleluia, that is in a period of fasting, with the prayer of Saint Eprhem, we make three prostrations with the prayer, twelve metanias after, and another prostration with the repetition.

Prayer of Saint Eprhem [In Lent]

O Lord, and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of sloth, busyness [*or,* despondency], lust of power, and idle talk ; but rather, favour Your servant with the spirit of soberness, lowliness, endurance, and love.
Yea[8], O Lord, and King, grant me to see my own falls, and not to condemn my brother, for blessed are You, unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

And then this prayer : **By Saint Mardarios**

Reader : O Lord God, Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, one Divinity, one Power : have

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[8] "Yea" : pronounced "yei" or "yay" means, essentially, "yes". However, in the word's history, in other languages, it implies a strong affirmative.

mercy on me the sinner, and by the judgements You have established, save me, Your unworthy servant ; for blessed are You unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

The following prayers are used only from 22 September to Palm Sunday :

Reader : By Saint Basil the Great

O Almighty Lord, God of powers, and of all flesh, You live in the heights, yet look down on the humble, searching the hearts, and reins, clearly standing above the hidden things of men. You are the everlasting Light without beginning, in Whom there is no variation nor shadow of change. O Immortal King, accept the nocturnal supplications which we, finding courage in the multitude of Your compassions, now offer You from foul lips. Free us from our faults, of deed, word or thought, knowing, and unknowing. Purify us from every stain of flesh, and spirit, making us temples of the Holy Spirit. Grant us to pass through the entire night of this present life with a watchful heart, and sober reasonings, awaiting the coming of the bright, and manifest Day of Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ, when the Judge of all shall come upon the earth with glory, to reward each according to his deeds. May we not be found supine, and lazy, but watchful, and active in the labour of His commandments, prepared to enter into the joy, and the divine bridal chamber of His glory, where the voice of those who feast is unceasing, and indescribable is the delight of those who behold the inexpressible beauty of Your countenance. For You are the true Light enlightening, and sanctifying everything, and all creation hymns You unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : By Saint Basil the Great

We bless You, O most high God, and Lord of mercy, who always do great, and unfathomable things for us – glorious, and awesome things beyond number. You grant us sleep for the repose of our infirmity, and relief from the labours of our over-burdened flesh. We thank You for not destroying all of us for our iniquities. Instead, You have shown us Your usual love for Man, and have raised us, as we lay about to give up hope, to glorify Your strength. Therefore, we implore Your incomparable goodness : enlighten the

eyes of our reasonings , and raise our minds[9] from the heavy sleep of carelessness. Open our mouth, and fill it with Your praise, that we may unwaveringly sing, hymn, and confess You, God glorified in all, and by all, O Father without beginning, with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your All-holy, and Life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Then, for the departed :

Reader : O come, let us worship God our King ; come let us worship, and fall down before Christ, our King, and our God ; come let us worship, and fall down before Christ Himself our King, and our God.

PSALM 120

I have raised my eyes to the mountains ; from where shall my help come ? My help comes from the LORD, who made the heavens, and the earth. Do not let your foot be shaken, lest the one who guards you slumber. Behold : He who guards Israel, shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD will guard you : He will be a shelter on Your right hand. The sun shall not scorch you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall guard you from every evil : the LORD shall guard your soul. The LORD shall guard your coming-in, and your going-out, henceforth, and forever.

PSALM 133

Behold, now bless the LORD : all you servants of the LORD ; you that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God. At night lift up your hands to His holy place, and bless the LORD. May the LORD bless you out of Sion : He who created the heavens, and the earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
(*three times*)

Reader : Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(*three times*) (*three metanias*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, be propitious to our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and

[9] In Greek : "nous"

heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Our Father, who are in the heavens, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ; and bring us not to the test, but rescue us from the evil one.

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Reader : Amen.

Then these Tropars : *Tone 2* (*or, Tone 8*)

Remember, O Lord, Your servants, for You are good ; and forgive them any sins they have committed in life, for no-one is sinless, but You, and You are able to grant rest to the departed.

Tone 8

O only Creator who, in the depth of Your wisdom, and Your love of Man, govern all things, and distribute that which is useful to everyone, give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants ; for they have placed their hope in You, our Maker, and Fashioner, and our God.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Your servants, where there is no grief nor sorrow, and no more groaning, but life without end.
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokos-Hymn

All generations call you blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, for it is in you that Christ, our uncontainable God, was pleased to be contained. We too are blessed as we take you for our advocate ; for you intercede for us by night, and by day, by your intercession giving strength to the sceptre of the Kingdom. Therefore, singing praises, we cry out to you, "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you".

On the eves of feasts, on the days of post-feasts, as well as the leave-takings of the Feasts of the Lord, and of the Theotokos, we say the Tropar of the eve or of the feast itself.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

The following prayer is read either by a presbyter, or a reader, by custom.

Presbyter : Remember O Lord, our *fathers, and brethren* who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection to life eternal. Look upon all who have

completed their lives in piety, and faith. Forgive them their faults, willing or unwilling, of thought, word, or deed. Make their home in a place of light, verdure, and refreshment, from which all grief, sorrow, and groaning are banished, where the overseeing of Your Face gladdens all Your holy ones from all ages. Favour them with Your Kingdom, and the participation in Your inexpressible, eternal good things, and in the enjoyment of Your endless, and blessed life ;
for You are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Your servants who are fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father, who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Reader : O exceedingly glorious, and Ever-virgin Theotokos, bring our prayers before Your Son, and our God, and ask Him that, through you, He save our souls.

Response : Amen.

Prayer of Saint Ioannikius

Reader : My hope is the Father ; my refuge is the Son ; my shelter is the Holy Spirit ; O Holy Trinity, glory be to You.

Reader : All my hope I place in you, O Mother of God. Guard me under your shelter.

We sing the Compunctionate Tropars : Tone 6

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to You, as to our Master, this entreaty, "Have mercy on us".
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for in You have we put our trust. Do not be very angry with us, nor remember our iniquities, but look down on us even now, since You are compassionate, and redeem us from our enemies ; for You are our God, and we are Your people, we are all the work of Your hands, and we call on Your Name.
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O blessed Theotokos, to us whose hope is in you, that we may not perish, but through you be rescued from all the adversity surrounding us, for you are the salvation of the Christian race.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the Name of the Lord, holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May God be bountiful to us, and bless us, show the light of His Countenance upon us,, and have mercy on us.

– or –

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

Response : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

LITANY

Presbyter : Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hearken, and have mercy.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for pious, and Orthodox Christians.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for our (*Arch*)bishop *n*, for our *Abbot*, *n*, and for all our *brotherhood* in Christ.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for our country, and for those who govern it.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for mercy, life, health, peace, salvation, visitation, pardon , and remission of sins of the servants of God, *n*, of all pious,, and Orthodox Christians, of those who live or sojourn in this *place*, of all the leadership of this holy *temple*, (*or, of the brothers of this holy monastery*).

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for this *city* (*town, village, holy monastery*), and for every city, village, monastery, and country, that we may be preserved from famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, invasion by enemies, civil war, and sudden death ; that our good God who loves Man may be gracious, and favourable, and that He may turn away, and scatter all the wrath, and disease stirred up against us, and rescue us from His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray that the Lord may listen to the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The presbyter, bowing his head, continues :

Presbyter : Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those far off upon the sea*, and in the air* ; and be propitious, be propitious, O Master, towards our sins, and have mercy on us ; for

Your are a merciful God, and thr Lover of Man, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Presbyter : Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, and our hope, glory be to You.

Reader : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of our holy, and God-bearing Fathers, of *nn*, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us, for He is good, and loves Man.

Response : Amen.

We all make a metania or prostration.

The presbyter begins the Litany :[10]

Presbyter : Let us pray for the Holy Synod of Bishops ; for our Metropolitan *n*, for our father, Bishop *n*, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy, and the people.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

(*We repeat this slowly, quietly, and deliberately, to the end of the petitions.*)

Presbyter : For the *King/Queen*, for the government of our country, and for all in public service, and for this province, and *city*.
For those who hate us, and those who love us.
For those who are kind to us, and those who serve us.
For those who have asked us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them.
For the release of captives, and those in prison.
For those travelling by land, sea, and air, and for their salvation.
For all those suffering from sickness, and infirmity, *and especially for nn*.
For all in need of guidance, and strength from the Lord, for those who are weary in well-doing, in need of refreshment, *and especially for nn*.
For an abundance of the fruits of the earth.
For Orthodox Bishops, priests, and deacons, especially for all who have served , and cared for this holy *habitation*.
For our parents, family, and friends, and for all Orthodox believers departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord.
Let us say also for ourselves:

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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[10] If there be no presbyter, then instead of reading the "Lord have mercies" for this litany, the Intercession for the Living and the Departed may be read.

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

Response : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

We venerate the icons, and receive the blessing of the superior.

[THE END OF THE DAILY PRAYERS OF MIDNIGHT]

B : SATURDAY NOCTURNS :

The order is similar to that of weekday nocturns.
The presbyter, wearing the epitrahil, and standing in the usual place (outside the Altar), says quietly :

Presbyter : O God, be propitious to me, the sinner, and have mercy on me.

And then, aloud, he begins :

Presbyter : Blessed is our God, Always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

– *or* – **Reader :** Through the prayers of our holy *fathers*, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Reader : Amen.

In some places, it is the one presiding who reads Glory..., and O Heavenly King..., before the reader begins.

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

– *or* – Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

O Heavenly King....

Reader : Holy God....

Glory.... ; now, and ever....

O Most Holy Trinity....

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

Glory.... ; now, and ever....

Our Father....

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom....

Response : Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Glory... ; now, and ever....

Come, let us worship....

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God....

In certain books, the midnight rising prayers, otherwise read privately, are prescribed to be offered at this time. Most, however, immediately read the Session :

SESSION FOR SATURDAY NOCTURNS
NINTH SESSION
Psalms 64-69

FIRST STATION :

Psalms 64-66

To You, O God, is due a hymn in Sion, ... May God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth stand in fear of Him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
(*three times*)
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

SECOND STATION

Psalm 67

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered .... He will give power, and might to His people. Blessed be God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.
(*three times*)
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THIRD STATION

Psalms 68, 69

Save me, O God, for the waters .... for You are my help, and my rescuer. O LORD, do not tarry.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and

ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader : **THE SYMBOL OF FAITH**[11]

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible, and invisible ;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages ; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made ; of one essence with the Father ; through whom all things were made ; who, because of us Men and our salvation, came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became Man ; and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried ; and He arose on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father ; and He shall come again with glory, to judge the living and the dead ; whose Kingdom shall have no end ;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father ; who with the Father and the Son together, is worshipped, and glorified ; who spoke by the prophets ;

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church ; I confess one baptism for the remission of sins ; I wait for the resurrection of the dead ; and the life of the age to come.

Response : Amen.
Response : Amen.
Reader : Holy God….
Glory…. ; now, and ever….
O Most Holy Trinity….
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory…. ; now, and ever….
Our Father….
Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom….
Response : Amen.

And these tropars : *Tone 2*

Readers : O uncreated Nature, Creator of all : open our lips that we may sing

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[11] NOTE TO READERS : Care must be taken to read carefully, with attention to punctuation. Running phrases together can sometimes give an opposite, incorrect, or heretical meaning.
Human=Man=Greek “Anthropos”

Your praise, crying out, "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God".
Through the prayers of Your Apostles, martyrs, and prophets, have mercy on us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
O Bountiful One, we who dwell on earth follow the example of the heavenly powers, and offer the triumphal hymn to You, crying out, "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God". Through the prayers of all Your saints, have mercy on us.[12]
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Now that You have raised me from my bed of sleep, O Lord, enlighten my mind, and heart ; open my lips that I may sing to You, "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God". Through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣

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

PRAYER OF THE HOURS

O Christ our God, who at all times, and at every hour....

Reader : Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory... ; now, and ever....
More honourable....
In the Name of the Lord, holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May God be bountiful to us....

– or –

Through the prayers....

Reader : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

And then this prayer :

Reader : O Lord God, Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and You O Holy Spirit, one Divinity, one Power, have mercy on me the sinner, and by the judgements You have established, save me, Your unworthy servant, for blessed are

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[12] In Greek books, this tropar comes first.

You unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

And then this Prayer of Saint Eustratius :

Reader : I magnify You, with magnification O Lord, for You have looked upon my humility. You have not shut me up in the hands of enemies, but You have saved me from the necessities of my soul. Let Your hand shelter me, O Master, and let Your mercy come upon me, because my soul is stirred up, and greatly grieved by departing from this wretched, and foul body, lest the evil counsel of the adversary meet her, and hinder her on account of my sins committed during this life, in ignorance or in knowledge. Be propitious to me, O Master, so that my soul may not see the gloomy, and dark sight of evil demons, but rather let Your radiant, and shining angels receive it. Give glorify to Your holy Name, and by Your power lead me before Your divine tribune. When I am being judged, may the hand of the prince of this world not seize me to pull me, the sinner, down into the depths of Hadēs ; but stand by me, and be for me a saviour, and support. Have mercy, O Lord, on my soul which has been fouled by the passions of life, and receive it purified through repentance, and confession, for You are blessed, O Lord, unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

and then, for the departed :

Reader : O come, let us worship God our King ; come let us worship, and fall down before Christ, our King, and our God ; come let us worship, and fall down before Christ Himself our King, and our God.

PSALM 120

I have raised my eyes to the mountains : from where shall my help come ? My help comes from the LORD, who made the heavens, and the earth. Do not let your foot be shaken, lest the one who guards you slumber. Behold : He who guards Israel, shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD will guard you : He will be a shelter on Your right hand. The sun shall not scorch you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall guard you from every evil : the LORD shall guard your soul. The LORD shall guard your coming-in, and your going-out, henceforth, and forever.

PSALM 133

Behold, now bless the LORD : all you servants of the LORD ; you that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God. At night lift up your hands to His holy place, and bless the LORD. May the LORD bless you out of Sion : He who created the heavens, and the earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory be to You, O God.

(*three times*)

Reader : Holy God….

Glory… ; now, and ever….

O Most Holy Trinity….

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

Glory… ; now, and ever….

Our Father….

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

And these Tropars : Tone 2 (or Tone 8)

Remember, O Lord, Your servants, for You are good ; and forgive them any sins they have committed in life, for no-one is sinless, but You, and You have power to grant rest to the departed.

Tone 8

O only Creator who, in the depth of Your wisdom, and Your love of Man, govern all things, and distribute that which is useful to everyone, give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Your servants ; for they have placed their hope in You, our Maker, and Fashioner, and our God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Your servants, where there is no pain nor sorrow, and no more groaning, but life

without end.
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokos-Hymn

We of all generations call You blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, for it is in you that Christ, our uncontainable God, was pleased to be contained. We too are blessed as we take you for our advocate, for you intercede for us by night, and by day, and by your entreaties is the sceptre of the Kingdom strengthened. Therefore, singing praises, we cry out to you, "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you".

On the eves of feasts, on the days of post-feasts, as well as the leave-takings of the Feasts of the Lord, and of the Theotokos, we say the Kontak of the eve or of the feast itself.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

The following prayer is read either by a presbyter, or a reader, by custom.

Presbyter : Remember O Lord, our *fathers, and brethren* who have fallen asleep ... unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Response : O exceedingly glorious....

Response : Amen.

Response : My hope is the Father....

Response : All my hope I place in you....

And we sing the Compuctionate Tropars : Tone 6

Have mercy on us, O Lord....
Glory....
Have mercy on us, O Lord....
Now, and ever....
O blessed Theotokos : open....

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)
Glory.... ; now, and ever....
More honourable....
In the Name of the Lord, holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May God be bountiful to us....

– or –

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

Reader : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

LITANY

Presbyter : Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hearken, and have mercy.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for pious, and Orthodox Christians.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for our (*Arch*)bishop __*n*__, for our *Abbot*, __*n*__, and for all our *brotherhood* in Christ.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for our country, and for those who govern it.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for mercy, life, health, peace, salvation, visitation, pardon, and remission of sins of the servants of God __*n*__, of all pious, and Orthodox Christians, of those who live or sojourn in this *place*, of all the leadership of this holy *temple*, (*or, of the brothers of this holy monastery*).

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray for this *city* (*town, village, holy monastery*), and for every city, village, monastery, and country, that we may be preserved from famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, invasion by enemies, civil war, and sudden death ; that our good God who loves Man may be gracious, and favourable, and that He may turn away, and scatter all the wrath, and disease stirred up against us, and rescue from His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Again we pray that the Lord may listen to the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

And the presbyter, bowing his head, continues :

Presbyter : Hear us, O God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those far off upon the sea, and in the air ; and be propitious, be propitious, O Master, towards our sins, and have mercy on us ; for Your are a merciful God, and You love Man, and to You we send up glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Presbyter : Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, and our hope, glory be to You.

Reader : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of our holy, and God-bearing Fathers, of *nn*, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us, for He is good, and loves Man.

Response : Amen.

We all make a metania or prostration.

The presbyter begins the Litany:[13]

Presbyter : Let us pray for the Holy Synod of Bishops, for our Metropolitan *n*, for our father, Bishop *n*, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy, and the people.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

(*We repeat this slowly, quietly, and deliberately, to the end of the petitions.*)

Presbyter : For the *King/Queen*, for the government of our country, and for all in public service, and for this province, and *city*.
For those who hate us, and those who love us.
For those who are kind to us, and those who serve us.
For those who have asked us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them.
For the release of captives, and those in prison.
For those travelling by land, sea, and air, and for their salvation.
For all those suffering from sickness, and infirmity, *and especially for nn*.
For all in need of guidance, and strength from the Lord, for those who are weary in well-doing, in need of refreshment, *and especially for nn*.
Let us pray also for an abundance of the fruits of the earth.
For Orthodox Bishops, priests, and deacons, especially for all who have served, and cared for this holy *habitation*.
For our parents, family, and friends, and for all Orthodox believers departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord.
Let us say also for ourselves :

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Response : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

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[13] If there be no presbyter, then instead of reading the "Lord have mercies" for this litany, the Intercession for the Living and the Departed may be read.

We venerate the icons, and we receive the blessing of the superior.

[THE END OF THE SATURDAY PRAYERS OF MIDNIGHT]

C : NOCTURNS FOR SUNDAY

Presbyter : Blessed is our God, Always, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

– *or* – **Reader :** Through the prayers of our holy *fathers*, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Reader : Amen.

In some places, it is the one presiding who reads Glory..., and O Heavenly King..., before the reader begins.

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

– *or* – Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

***** O Heavenly King....

***** [We do not read "Heavenly King" in paschaltide. We say "Christ is risen..". (three times). From Ascension to Pentecost, we read the tropar of Ascension.]

Reader : Holy God....

Glory... ; now, and ever....

O Most Holy Trinity....

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

Glory... ; now, and ever....

Our Father....

Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Glory... ; now, and ever....

O come, let us worship....

PSALM 50

Have mercy on me, O God....

Immediately we continue, offering the **Canon to the Most Holy Trinity, of the Tone of the Week**, *from the Octoechos.*

After the Canon is completed, the following Hymns to the Trinity in the same tone :

Reader : It is truly meet to hymn the most-divine Trinity, the Father without beginning, and omnipotent, with the Word also without beginning, born ineffably of the Father before all ages, and the Holy Spirit, who proceeds timelessly from the Father.

It is truly meet to glorify You, O Word of God, before whom cherubim shudder, and tremble, and whom the hosts of Heaven glorify. In fear let us glorify Christ the Life-giver, risen on the third day from the tomb.
With God-inspired songs, let us all hymn the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as befits Divinity – the tri-hypostatic Power, one in Kingdom, and one in lordship.
O undefiled Virgin, when the creation saw your Son rising from the dead, as befits God, then she was filled with an inexpressible joy, and she glorified, and honoured Him.

Reader : Holy God….
Glory… ; now, and ever….
O Most Holy Trinity….
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory… ; now, and ever….
Our Father….
Presbyter : For Yours are the Kingdom….
Response : Amen.

JERUSALEM TROPAR (Hypakoë) OF THE TONE OF THE WEEK :

TONE 1
By repentance the thief stole paradise, and by lamentation the Myrrh-bearing Women brought to light the joy that You are risen, O Christ, granting the world great mercy.

TONE 2
After the Passion, the women went to the grave to anoint Your body, O Christ our God. They saw angels in the tomb, and were afraid, for they heard them say that the Lord was risen, granting the world great mercy.

TONE 3
The Myrrh-bearing Women wondered when they beheld the radiant angel, and the dew of his words fell upon them as he said, "Why do you seek the living amongst the dead ? He that has emptied the tomb is risen, and as the changeless One has changed corruption". Sing to God, "How fearful are Your works", for He has saved Man.

TONE 4
The Myrrh-bearing Women hastened to proclaim to the apostles the glad tidings of Your all-glorious Resurrection, announcing that You are risen as God, O Christ, granting the world great mercy.

TONE 5
The sight of the angel dazzled the minds of the Myrrh-bearing Women, and their spirits were enlightened by Your divine Resurrection. They preached the

good tidings to the apostles, "Announce to the nations the Lord's Resurrection. He has wrought wonders, and grants us great mercy".

TONE 6

As God, You have shattered the gates of Hadēs, O Christ, and by Your voluntary, and life-giving death You have opened to us the former paradise. By rising from the dead, You have delivered our lives from corruption.

TONE 7

Save me by Your Resurrection, O Christ our God, who have put on our human form, and suffered on the Cross in the flesh, because You love Man.

TONE 8

Before the dawn Mary, and the women came, and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice, "Why do you seek amongst the dead as a man the One who is everlasting light ? Behold the clothes in the grave. Go, and proclaim to the world, ' The Lord is risen. He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men"'.

The Hypakoë is read quickly.
If it be an afterfeast of the Lord or the Theotokos, or if it be the commemoration of a saint, then instead of the Hypakoë, we read the Apolytikion.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. (*Forty times*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
More honourable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.
In the Name of the Lord, Holy Master, bless.

OR

Through the intercessions of Your saints, O Lord, bless.

Presbyter : May God be bountiful to us, and bless us, show the light of His Countenance upon us, and have mercy on us.

OR

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

Reader : Amen.
If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

Reader : PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

By the Monk Mark

O all-powerful, and life-giving Holy Trinity, Source of light, out of pure goodness have formed all the creatures of this world, and of the heavenly order from nothing, providing for them, and sustaining them all. With Your other ineffable benefits, You have given repentance before death to those who dwell on the earth, because of the weakness of our flesh. Do not leave us to die wretchedly in our evil deeds, nor to be tormented by the envious destroyer, the prince of evil ; for in Your compassion, You see the greatness of his hostile attacks against us, and our own enslavement to passions, weakness, and forgetfulness. However, although we provoke You to anger every day, and every hour, transgressing Your precious, and life-giving commandments, we beseech You to pour Your unending goodness upon us. Forgive us, and put away from us all our offences in thought, word, and deed, which we have committed throughout our lives, up to this present hour ; and grant that we may complete the rest of this life in repentance, compunction of heart, and obedience to Your holy ordinances. Although we may have committed every sort of sin ; been enticed by pleasure, spent our time in foul, unseemly, and harmful lusts ; offended our *brothers* by unreasonable wrath, and displeasure ; let our tongues be caught in unyielding, and hostile traps with no escape ; stumbled in our folly through one or all of our senses – willingly or unwillingly, knowingly or unknowingly, through beguilement or false teaching ; corrupted ourselves with evil thoughts, and a dead conscience ; or offended in any other way, harassed by the habitual working of evil, O all-compassionate, most good, and most merciful God, forgive us, and put all our sin far from us. Grant us the desire, and the strength to do Your good will in all ways that are pleasing, and perfect to You for the rest of our lives ; that, changed from the dark night of evil by the bright light of repentance, we may appear as gods walking in the day, unworthy though we be, cleansed by Your love for Man, praising, and magnifying You forever.

Response : Amen.

Presbyter : Glory be to You, O Christ, our God, and our hope, glory be to You.

Response : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Holy Master, bless.

Presbyter : May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of our holy, and God-bearing Fathers, of *nn*, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us, for He is good, and loves Man.

Response : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing

fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

Then the presbyter makes a bow or prostration to the superior, and to the brethren, saying :

Presbyter : Bless, (*holy Master, and*) holy *fathers, and brothers*, and forgive me, the sinner, all wherein I have sinned this day in word, deed, and thought, and in all my senses.

And the brotherhood/sisterhood/congregation reply :

Response : May God forgive you, and have mercy on you, holy father.

And then they make a bow or prostration to the presbyter, saying :

Bless me, holy father, and forgive all wherein I have sinned this day in word, deed, and thought, and in all my senses.

And the presbyter says :

Presbyter : Through His Grace, may God forgive, and have mercy on us all.

Response : Amen.

And the presbyter begins the Litany (but if there be no presbyter, then it is not taken) :

Presbyter : Let us pray for the Holy Synod of Bishops, for our Metropolitan *n*, for our father, Bishop *n*, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy, and the people.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

(*We repeat this prayer slowly, quietly, and deliberately, to the end of the petitions.*)

Presbyter : For the *King/Queen*, for the government of our country, and for all in public service, and for this province, and *city*.
For those who hate us, and those who love us.
For those who are kind to us, and those who serve us.
For those who have asked us, unworthy though we be, to pray for them.
For the release of captives, and those in prison.
For those travelling by land, sea, and air, and for their salvation.
For all those suffering from sickness, and infirmity, *and especially for nn*.
For all in need of guidance, and strength from the Lord, for those who are weary in well-doing, in need of refreshment, *and especially for n*.
Let us pray also for an abundance of the fruits of the earth.
For Orthodox Bishops, priests, and deacons, especially for all who have served, and cared for this holy *habitation*.
For our parents, family, and friends, and for all Orthodox believers departed this life before us, who here, and in all the world, lie asleep in the Lord.
Let us say also for ourselves,

Response : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Presbyter : Through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of (*saint of the Temple*), and of all the saints, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader says :

Reader : O Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, of our venerable, and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us, and save us.

Response : Amen.

Then we kiss the holy icons, and receive the blessing from the priest (superior/ bishop).

[**THE END OF THE NOCTURNS OF SUNDAY**]