THE SERVICES

OF THE

HOURS

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THE

GREAT

BOOK

OF THE

HOURS

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GREAT

HOROLOGION

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THE SERVICE OF THE THIRD HOUR

At about the third hour, the lamplighter sounds the iron semantron (or rings the bell slowly and deliberately) as the call-to-worship, and we gather in the Temple.

We each make three prostrations in front of the Holy Doors before the start, and we kiss the icons. Then we make one further prostration ; likewise one to each of the two Choirs.

When the time has come to begin, then the reader(s) stand(s) in the customary place, and they begin :

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.

***** 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.]

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, cleanse us from our sins.* O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's

sake.

*Be propitious to

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.

Reader : 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, [1] 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 16**

Hear, O Lord, my righteousness ; give heed to my supplication ; give ear to my prayer which is not on deceitful lips. May my judgement come forth from Your Face ; let my eyes see uprightness. You have proved my heart ; You have visited me by night ; You have tested me by fire, and unrighteousness was not found in me. That my mouth might not speak of the works of Men, because of the words of Your lips, I have kept hard ways.

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[1] When one service follows another immediately, then we begin the second service here. But in Pascha, if a service follow another immediately, we say, "Christ is risen ..." three times instead, at the beginning of the second service.

Strengthen my foot-steps in Your paths, lest my foot-steps slip. I cried out, for You have listened to me, O God ; incline Your ear to me, and hear my utterances. Show the wonders of Your mercies, O You, saving those hoping on You from those standing against Your right-hand. Watch over me, as the apple of the eye ; in the shelter of Your wings will You shelter me, away from the face of the impious, who are making me miserable. My enemies encompassed my soul. They shut up their fat ; their mouth spoke with pride. Having thrown me out, they have now encircled me ; they set their eyes to be bent down to the earth. They pounced upon me, just as a lion ready for its prey, and just as a lion's cub inhabiting hidden places. Arise, O LORD ; outrun them and trip them up. Rescue my soul from the impious, and Your sword from the enemies of Your hand. O LORD, from the few of the earth, divide them during their life. With Your hidden things their belly was filled. They were sated with swine-flesh, and they left the leftovers for their infants. But as for me, in righteousness I shall appear before Your Face ; I shall be sated when Your glory appears to me.

PSALM 24

To You, O Lord, have I raised my soul, O my God. In You do I trust. May I not be put to shame, nor let my enemies laugh at me. Indeed, all those waiting for You shall not be put to shame. Let them be put to shame – those uselessly doing lawlessness. Make Your ways known to me, O Lord, and teach me Your paths ; lead me on the way to Your truth, and teach me ; for You are God, my Saviour, and for You have I waited the whole day long. Remember Your compassions, O Lord, and Your mercies, for they are from the age. The sin of my youth and my ignorance, do not remember ; but do remember me, in accordance with Your mercy, for the sake of Your loving-kindness, O Lord. Gracious and

upright is the Lord. Because of this, He will give a law for those sinning in the way. He will lead the meek on the way in fair-judgement ; He will teach the meek His ways. All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth, to those seeking out His Covenant and His testimonies. For the sake of Your Name, O Lord, be propitious to my sin, for it is great. Who is the Man fearing the Lord ? He will give a law for him for the way which he has chosen. His soul shall abide amongst good things, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The Lord is the Strength of those fearing Him, and His Covenant shall show this to them. My eyes are always towards the Lord ; for He will draw my feet out of the snare. Look attentively upon me, and have mercy on me ; for I, myself, am an Only-begotten one, and poor. The afflictions of my heart have been multiplied ; O lead me out of my anguish. See my humiliation and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. See my enemies, for they have multiplied, and with an unrighteous hatred they hated me. Watch over my soul, and rescue me. May I not be put to shame, for I have hoped on You. The guileless and the upright were cleaving to me, for I waited for You, O Lord. O God, redeem Israel from all his afflictions.

PSALM 50[2]

Have mercy on me, O God, in accordance with Your great mercy, and in accordance with the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression of the law. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness, and from my sin cleanse me ; for I know my lawlessness, and my sin is before my face continually. Against You alone have I sinned, and evil have I done before Your Face ; so that You may be shown to be righteous in Your words, and to be victorious when You are judged ; for behold, I was

[2] This is the fixed psalm of the hour. On some occasions, such as the Royal Hours, the other psalms may vary.

conceived in lawlessness, and in sins did my mother crave to conceive me ; for behold, You have loved truth ; the unseen and hidden things of Your wisdom have You shown me. You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed ; You will wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You will make me hear exultation and gladness ; my humbled bones shall exult. Turn Your Face away from my sins, and blot out all my lawless acts. Build a pure heart in me, O God, and renew an upright spirit in my inward parts. Cast me not away from Your Face, and take not Your Holy Spirit away from me. Render to me the exultation of Your salvation, and with Your guiding Spirit set me fast. I shall teach the lawless Your ways, and the impious shall turn about to You. Rescue me from blood, O God, O God of my salvation. My tongue shall exult in Your righteousness. O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth shall announce Your praise ; for if You had wished for a sacrifice, I would have given it. With whole-burnt-offerings You will not be well-pleased. The sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit ; a shattered and humbled heart, God will not reckon as nothing. Do good, O Lord, to Sion in Your good-pleasure, and let the walls of Jerousalem be built. Then You will be well-pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, an offering and whole-burnt-offerings ; then they shall offer young bulls upon Your altar.

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.

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

✢*In Lent, on weekdays, there follows here the appointed Session of Psalms.* *After each Station, we make three prostrations.*

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.

✢ APPOINTED SESSION OF PSALMS ✢

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.

Then, instead of the usual tropars, the Tropar of the Third Hour, with refrains, in Tone 6 :

Presbyter : O Lord, who sent down Your all-Holy Spirit on Your Apostles at the third hour, do not take Him from us, O Good One, but renew Him in us who supplicate You.

Response : (*repeat refrain*)

Presbyter : Build a pure heart in me, O God, and restore an upright spirit in my inward parts

Response : (*repeat refrain*)

Presbyter : Cast me not away from Your Face, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Response : (*repeat refrain*)

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

Reader : Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. O Theotokos, you are the true vine ….✢

Reader : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(*If there be two tropars, then the first is read or sung now.*)

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

The Tropar of the day is read or sung (*except on Lenten weekdays*).

If there be more than two tropars prescribed, then the others are also sung now, together.

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

Theotokos-Hymn

Reader : O Theotokos, you are the true vine that has put forth the fruit of life. We entreat you, O Lady, intercede together with the apostles, and all the saints, that mercy may be granted to our souls.

(*At Royal, and Lenten Hours, Verses, and readings follow here, in particular "The Ladder" of Saint John of Sinai.*)
From the first day of Great Lent, the appointed monk begins to waken the brothers throughout the whole of the holy Lent. He goes quietly, and he searches out the sleepers and rouses them to listen in the traditional manner.

Reader : Blessed be the Lord God. Blessed be the Lord from day to day, and may the God of our salvation prosper us, for He is our God, the God who saves.

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, cleanse us from* our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

* be propitious to

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.

The Kontak of the day is read or sung

Or in Lent, the fixed tropars

✢*On Lenten weekdays, the appointed Tropars in Tone 8 :*

Blessed are you, O Christ our God, Who have revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit ; through them You drew the world into Your net. O Lover of Man, glory be to You.

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

Grant swift, and steadfast consolation to Your servants, O Lord Jesus Christ, when our spirit is in accidie. Do not depart from our souls in affliction, do not be far from our thoughts in time of trouble, but always be there before us. Draw near to us, draw near, You that are everywhere. As You are ever with Your apostles, so also, O Compassionate One, unite Yourself to those who long for You, that with one accord we may hymn You, and glorify Your most-Holy Spirit.

Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. O Lady, you are the hope, advocate, and refuge of Christians, the unassailable wall, and the haven untouched by storms for the weary. O Most-pure Theotokos, as you save the world by your unceasing intercessions, so call us also to remembrance, O Virgin worthy of all praise.

However, in Holy Week :

On Great Holy Monday

Prosomion : As the first-fruits (Tone 8 or 2)

Jacob lamented his deprivation of Joseph, who was seated on a chariot, and honoured as a king ; for when he refused to be made captive by the pleasures of the Egyptian woman, he was instead glorified by Him who beholds the hearts of Men, and distributes an incorruptible crown.

On Great Holy Tuesday

Prosomion : Seeking things on high (Tone 2)

Consider, O wretched soul, the hour of the end, and fear the cutting of the fig tree. Work diligently, therefore, at the talent given to you. Keep watch, and cry out, "Let us not remain outside the bridal chamber of Christ".

On Great Holy Wednesday

Prosomion : As You were voluntarily crucified (Tone 4)

Although my iniquities are greater than the harlot's, O Good One, I have not brought You showers of tears ; but

supplicating in silence, I fall down before You. With longing, I kiss Your most pure feet. As Master, grant me remission of my debts, as I cry out to You, O Saviour, "Rescue me from the mire of my deeds". ✢

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

Reader : **Prayer of the Hours**

O Christ our God, who at all times, and at every hour, in Heaven, and on earth, are worshipped, and glorified, who are longsuffering, all-merciful, and all-compassionate, who love the righteous, and have mercy upon the sinner ; who 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, keep undefiled our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our minds ; rescue us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Surround us with the wall of your holy angels, that guarded by their assistance, 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.

Reader : 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.

– or – if there be no presbyter :

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.

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 :** In Lent : **Prayer of Saint Ephrem**

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, 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.

With three prostrations during the prayer, followed by twelve bows, and a repetition of the prayer, and final prostration.

Response : Amen. ✢

Reader : **Prayer of Saint Mardarios**

O Master, 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 you unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

Then, we begin the Inter-hour ; or, if it does not follow, then the following.

The Lamplighter, making the customary bow to the Superior, goes out and strikes the semantron 6 times.

At once, we begin the Sixth Hour.

However, if the Sixth Hour is not read at this time, then the conclusion :

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.

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

Presbyter : *pronounces the dismissal of the day.*

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.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

[**END OF THE THIRD HOUR**]



THE THIRD INTERHOUR

Reader : O come,[3] 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 29**

I shall exalt You, O Lord. for You have drawn me up, and You have not gladdened my enemies over me. O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me. O Lord, You led my soul up out of Hadēs ; You saved me from those going down into the pit. Chant to the Lord, you His holy ones, and confess the memory of His holiness ; for anger is in His fury, and life in His will. In the evening shall weeping abide, but exultation in the morning. But as for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall not be distressed unto the age". O Lord, in Your will, You granted power to my beauty ; but You turned away Your Face, and I was stirred up. To You, O Lord, I shall cry out ; to my God I shall make supplication, "What profit is there in my blood when I go down to corruption ? Surely the dirt shall not confess You, or announce Your truth ?" The Lord has heard, and He has had mercy on me ; the Lord has become my Helper. For me, You turned my lamentation into joy ; You broke asunder my sack-cloth, and You girded me with gladness, so that my glory may chant to You, and I shall not be pierced with compunction. O Lord my God, unto the age shall I confess You.

PSALM 31

Blessed are those whose lawless acts have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered up. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD will reckon no sin, nor is there any deceit in his mouth ; for I have been silent. My bones became old, because of my crying out the whole day long ; for by day and by night, Your hand weighed heavily upon me. I was turned into misery when a thorn was piercing me. My sin I have made known, and my lawlessness I have not covered. I said, "I shall declare against myself my lawlessness to the Lord", and it is You that have forgiven the impiety of my heart. Concerning this, every holy one shall pray to

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[3] When the Inter-hour follows immediately, then we begin the second service here. But in Pascha, if this service follow the Third Hour immediately, we say "Christ is risen ..." three times instead, at the beginning of the inter-hour.

You at the suitable time ; nevertheless, in a flood of great waters, they shall not draw near to him. You are my Refuge from the affliction encompassing me. O my Exultation, redeem me from those surrounding me. "I will make you understand, and advise you on this way in which you might walk ; I will fix My eyes upon you". Do not be like a horse and a mule, in which there is no understanding ; with bridle and bit may you hold in the jaws of those not drawing near to you. Many are the scourges of the sinner, but mercy shall surround the one hoping on the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and exult, O you righteous ; and boast, all you upright in heart.

PSALM 60

O God, hear my supplication ; give heed to my prayer. From the ends of the earth have I cried out to You, when my heart was in accidie. You lifted me up on a rock. You led me on the way, for You have become my hope, a tower of strength, from the face of an enemy. I shall sojourn in Your tent unto the ages ; I shall be sheltered in the shelter of Your wings ; for You, O God, You have heard my vows ; You gave an inheritance to those fearing Your Name. You will add days to the days of the king, his years until the days of generation and generation. He shall continue unto the age before the Face of God. His mercy and truth, who shall seek them out ? So I shall chant to Your Name unto the age of the age, that I may render my vows day after day.

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 : 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, cleanse us from* our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit, and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

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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.

(*And these tropars in Tone 4 :)*

Reader : O God of our fathers, who ever deal with us according to Your fairness, do not withdraw Your mercy from us, but through their entreaties, guide our life in peace.

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

Your martyrs, O Lord, through their labours have received their crowns of incorruptibility from You, our God ; for having Your strength, they destroyed the tyrants, and broke down the powerless insolence of demons. Through their entreaties, save our souls.

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

You are an unassailable wall for us Christians, O Virgin Theotokos, for having fled to you we remain invulnerable ; and although we still sin, we have you as an intercessor. Therefore in thanksgiving we cry to you, Rejoice. O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

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 – if there be no presbyter :

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.

If a bishop be present, then the presbyter says : "Through the prayers of our holy Master ...".

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.

✢ In Lent : **Prayer of Saint Ephrem**

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, 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. Once

Response : Amen. ✢

Reader : **Prayer of Saint Basil the Great**

O Lord our God, who gave Your peace unto Man, and sent down the gift of the Holy Spirit upon Your disciples, and apostles, and by Your power opened their lips by tongues of fire, open the lips of us sinners, and teach us what is fitting, and what we need to pray for. Direct our life, You Quiet Haven of the storm-tossed, and show us the way in which we shall walk, and renew a right spirit within us. With Your governing Spirit, establish us from sliding, that each day Your good Spirit will guide us towards what is profitable ; that we may be deemed worthy to do Your commandments, to be ever mindful of Your glorious Coming to examine the deeds of Man, and not to be seduced by the corruptible charms of this world, but to be strengthened in reaching out to receive the treasures to come ; for blessed are You, and praised by all Your saints, unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

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

Presbyter : *pronounces the dismissal of the day.*

Response : Amen.

Presbyter : Through the prayers of our holy *fathers*, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.
If a bishop be present, then the presbyter says : "Through the prayers of our holy Master …".

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.

Reader : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

[**END OF THE THIRD INTER-HOUR**]