THE SERVICES

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THE

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HOROLOGION

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THE SERVICE OF GREAT COMPLINE

That is, the Great After-supper Prayer

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.[1]

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, who are everywhere and fulfil 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.]

Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*three 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 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.

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.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

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[1] This invocation better refers to the persons present (not ancestors nor priests only), hence fathers for a male monastery, mothers for a female monastery, brothers and sisters for a usual parish situation.

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

✢ **First Nocturne**

Station 1

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. (*with three metanias*)

If it be the first week of Great Lent, we begin with **Psalm 69,**[2] *and the Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete.*

Otherwise (or after the Canon in Lent), we proceed with the psalms :

PSALM 4

When I call, You have heard me, O God of my righteousness. In my affliction You have set me at large ; have compassion on me, and hear my prayer. You sons of Men : how long shall you be heavy of heart ? Why do you love futility and seek after lies ? Know that the LORD has made wonderful His Holy One. The LORD will hear me when I cry out to Him. Be angry, and do not sin ; for what you say in your hearts feel compunction on your beds. Offer a sacrifice of righteousness, and hope on the LORD. Many say : "Who shall show us good things ?" The light of Your Face, O LORD, has been signed upon us. You have given gladness to my heart : because of the fruit of their wheat, wine and oil, have they multiplied. In peace, then, shall I lie down and sleep, for You made me settle alone, O LORD, and in hope.

PSALM 6

O LORD, do not reprove me in Your fury, nor in Your anger instruct me. Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak. Heal me, O LORD, for my very bones have been stirred up, and my soul, too, has been exceedingly stirred up. But You, O LORD, until when ? Turn about, O LORD, rescue my soul. Save me because of

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[2]

PSALM 69

O God, give heed to my help. O LORD, make haste to help me. Let them be put to shame and be disgraced – those seeking my soul ; let them be turned back and be put to shame – those wishing me bad things. Let them be turned back instantly and be shamed – those saying to me, "Well done, well done". But let them exult and be glad in You – all those seeking You, O God ; and let them continually say, "Let the Lord be magnified" – those loving Your salvation. But poor and needy as I am, help me, O God. My Helper and my Rescuer – it is You. O Lord, do not tarry.

Your mercy, for in death there is no-one to remember You. In Hadēs, who will confess You ? I have worn myself out in my groaning. Every night I shall soak my bed ; with my tears shall I bathe my couch. My eye was stirred up from Your fury. I have grown old in the midst of all my enemies. Stand away from me, all you that work iniquity, for the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD has heard my supplication. My prayer has the LORD accepted. May all my enemies be put to shame and stirred up greatly. Swiftly may they all be turned away, and be put to shame completely.

PSALM 12

How long, O Lord, will You forget me, even unto the end ? How long will You turn Your Face away from me ? How long shall I lay up counsels in my soul, and grief in my heart night and day ? How l ong shall my enemy be exalted over me ? Look down upon me and hear me, O Lord, my God. Illumine my eyes, so that I may never fall asleep unto death, so that my enemy may never say, "I have prevailed against him". Those who oppress me shall exult if I be shaken. But I have hoped in Your mercy ; my heart will exult at Your salvation. I shall sing to the Lord my benefactor ; and to the Lord Most High shall I chant.

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.

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

Reader : **PSALM 24** **Station 2**

To You, O LORD, I have raised my soul ; O my God, in You have I trusted, that I might not be put to shame forever, and that my enemies might not laugh at me. For all who wait upon You shall not be put to shame ; but let them be put to shame who idly work iniquity. Make Your ways known to me, O LORD, and teach me Your paths : lead me to Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Saviour, and upon You have I waited all the day long. Remember Your compassion, O LORD, and Your mercy, for they are from all ages. Do not remember the sins of my youth nor my ignorance ; but remember me in accordance with Your mercy, because of Your loving-kindness, O LORD. Gracious and upright is the LORD, therefore, He will give laws for those who sin in the way. He will guide the meek in judgement ; He will teach the meek His

ways. All the ways of the LORD are mercy and truth to those who seek out His covenant and His testimonies. For Your Name's sake, O LORD, be propitious to my sin, for it is great. Who is the Man who fears the LORD ? He will give laws for him for the way he has chosen. His soul shall abide in the midst of good things, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The LORD is the firm foundation of those who fear Him, and His covenant shall show this to them. My eyes are always towards the LORD, for He shall draw my feet out of the snare. Look upon me and have mercy on me, for I am an Only-begotten one, and poor. The afflictions of my heart have multiplied ; O lead me out of my necessities. See my humiliation and my toil, and forgive all my sins. See my enemies, for they have multiplied, and with an unjust hatred have they hated me. Guard my soul and rescue me, that I not be put to shame, for I have hoped on You. Guileless and upright people cleaved to me, because I waited upon You, O LORD. O God, redeem Israel out of all his afflictions.

PSALM 30

On You, O LORD, have I hoped, that I may not be put to shame forever. In Your righteousness rescue me and take me out. Incline Your ear to me, and hasten to take me out. Be to me a protecting God, and a house of refuge to save me. For it is You that are my firm foundation and refuge, and for Your name's sake shall You guide and nourish me. You shall lead me out of the snare which they have hidden for me, for You are my protector, O LORD. Into Your hands shall I commend my spirit : You have redeemed me, O LORD the God of truth. You have hated those who idly preserve their futility ; but as for me, I have hoped on the LORD. I shall exult and be glad in Your mercy, for You have beheld my humility, and saved my soul from its necessities. You have not shut me up in the hands of my enemy ; on a broad place have You set my feet. Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am oppressed ; fury has stirred up my eyes, and my soul and entrails also. My life has fainted in grief, and my years in groaning. My strength has grown weak in poverty, and I have been stirred up to my very bones. I have become a reproach to all my enemies, and even more so to my neighbours, and a source of fear to my acquaintances ; those who behold me went out and fled from me. I have been forgotten from the heart just like one dead ; just like a vessel destroyed have I become, for I have heard the blame of many who sojourn round about. When they have gathered together around me, they have taken counsel to seize my soul. But as for me, I have hoped on You, O LORD. I have said : "You are my God ;

in Your hand is my lot". Rescue me from the hand of my enemy, and from those who pursue me. Make Your Face shine on Your servant, and save me in Your mercy. O LORD, let me not be put to shame, for I have called upon You. May the impious be put to shame, and may they be hurled down to Hadēs. May the deceitful lips be speechless, which speak iniquity against the righteous in pride and contempt. How great is the abundance of Your loving-kindness, O LORD, which You have hidden for those who fear You, and brought about to those who hope on You in the face of the sons of Men. You shall conceal them in a secret place of Your Face, away from the stirring of Men ; You shall shelter them in Your tent, from the contradiction of tongues. Blessed is the LORD, for He has made wonderful His mercy in a fortified city. But as for me, I have said in my ecstasy : "I have been cast away from the sight of Your eyes". Because of this, O LORD, You have heard the voice of my supplication when I have cried out to You. Love the LORD, all you His holy ones, for the LORD seeks out truth, and those who are excessively proud does He reward. Take courage, and let your heart grow strong, all of you that hope on the LORD.

PSALM 90

The one who dwells in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say to the LORD, "You are my support and my refuge, O my God". I shall put my hope in Him. For He will rescue me from the snares of the hunters, and from the troubling word. With His shoulders He shall overshadow You, and beneath His wings you shall put your hope in Him. His truth shall surround you like a shield. You shall not be frightened by the terror of the night, nor by the arrow that flies by day ; nor by anything roaming in darkness, nor by any calamity, nor any noonday demon. A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not draw near you. If only your eyes should consider, you would see the reward of sinners. For You, O LORD, are my hope; you have made the Most High your refuge. Evil shall not come towards you, nor any scourge come near your habitation. For He will command His angels concerning you, that they guard you through all your ways. In their hands they shall raise you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You shall walk upon the asp and the basilisk ; the lion and the dragon shall you trample. For he has hoped in Me, and I shall rescue him. I shall shelter him, for he has known my name. He shall cry out to me, and I shall listen to him. I am with him in his oppression ; I shall take him away, and I shall glorify

him. I shall fill him up with length of days, and I shall show him my salvation.
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.
Reader : Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

God is with us[3] **Station 3**

We sing these verses slowly, with loud voice, in sweet melody. But on Friday, this is only read, together with other prayers through the Creed.

First Choir : God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.
Second Choir : God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.
(*The following refrain is sung alternately by each choir in turn, as the reader intones the verses, or after groups of verses.)*
Refrain: For God is with us.
Reader : Listen to this, even to the farthest ends of the earth.
Be overcome, O strong ones ; if you rise up again in your strength, you will be again overcome.
Even if you take counsel together, the Lord shall disperse.
And the word which you speak shall not abide with you, for we do not fear your fear, and we are not stirred up ;
but we will sanctify the Lord our God, and He will be fear for us.
And if I put my trust in Him He shall be my sanctification.
I will set my hope on Him and through Him shall I be saved, lo, I and the children whom God has given me.
You people who walked in darkness, behold, a great light.
We, who dwelt in the land and in deep darkness, on us shall light shine ;
For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given ;
and the dominion has been put upon His shoulder, and of His peace there is no end.
And His name shall be called the Great Council of the Angels ; Wonderful ; Counsellor ;
Strong God ; Mighty One ; the Prince of Peace ;

[3] This Canticle is excerpted from the Prophecy of Isaiah, chapters 8 & 9.

the Father of the Age to Come.

First Choir : God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.

Second Choir : God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.

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

First Choir : God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.

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

Second Choir : God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.

Both Choirs: God is with us. Acknowledge, all you nations, and be overcome, for God is with us.

First Choir : Having come through the day, I give thanks to You, O Lord. Grant me, I ask that, this evening and this night, I fall not into sin, and save me, O Saviour.

Second Choir : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Having passed through the day, I glorify You, O Master. Grant me, I ask that, this evening and this night, I may be without stumbling, and save me, O Saviour.

Both Choirs: Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
Having walked through the day, I hymn You, O Holy One. Grant me, I ask that, this evening and this night, I may not be assailed by treachery, and save me, O Saviour.

Both Choirs: The incorporeal nature of the cherubim glorify You with never silent hymns, and the six-winged seraphim greatly exalt You with never ceasing voices. All the hosts of angels shout triumphantly to You with thrice-holy hymns ; for You are Father before all things, having Your Son, also from everlasting, and bearing the Spirit of Life, co-equal in honour, showing the indivisible Trinity.
O most holy Virgin Mother of God, and eye-witness apostles, and servants of the Word, with the whole choir of prophets and martyrs who have attained to eternal life, intercede fervently for us all, for we are in great distress, that, being rescued from the deceit of the evil one, we may shout the Angelic Ode, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Thrice-holy Lord, have mercy on us and save us”.

Response : Amen.

Then, immediately :

Reader : **THE SYMBOL OF FAITH**

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.

Immediately, we sing the following with prostrations (except of a Friday when it is accompanied with bows) :

THE ALL-HOLY

Choir 1 : O all-holy, and Lady, Theotokos, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 2 : O all-holy, and Lady, Theotokos, intercede for us sinners.
Both Choirs: O all-holy, and Lady, Theotokos, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 1 : O all you heavenly hosts of holy angels and archangels, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 2 : O all you heavenly hosts of holy angels and archangels, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 1 : O holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 2 : O holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 1 : O holy, glorious apostles, prophets and martyrs, and all saints, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 2 : O holy, glorious apostles, prophets and martyrs, and all saints, intercede for us sinners.
Choir 1 : O our holy and God-bearing fathers, pastors and ecumenical

teachers, intercede for us sinners.

Choir 2 : O our holy and God-bearing fathers, pastors and ecumenical teachers, intercede for us sinners.

Choir 1 : O holy, ____(*name(s) of saints of day or others as desired*)____, intercede for us sinners.

Choir 2 : O holy, ____(*name(s) of saints of day or others as desired*)____, intercede for us sinners.

Choir 1 : O holy, ____(*name of the saint of the Temple*)____, intercede for us sinners.

Choir 2 : O holy, ____(*name of the saint of the Temple*)____, intercede for us sinners.

Choir 1 : O invincible, indissoluble, and divine power of the honourable and life-giving Cross, do not abandon us sinners.

Choir 2 : O invincible, indissoluble, and divine power of the honourable and life-giving Cross, do not abandon us sinners.

Choir 1 : O God, be propitious to us sinners.

Choir 2 : O God, be propitious to us sinners.

Both Choirs : O God, be propitious to us sinners, and have mercy on us.

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

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 if it be a Feast, we sing now the Tropar of the Feast (*and if it be Friday, we sing the Tropar of the Saturday Commemoration*).

On ordinary days we sing these tropars :

✢✢✢ MONDAY and WEDNESDAY : *Tone 2*

Readers : Illumine my eyes, O Christ our God, that I sleep not in death ; lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him".
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Be the supporter of my soul, O God, for I walk in the midst of many snares. Rescue me from them, and save me, O Good One, for You are the Lover of Man.
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
As there is no boldness in us because of the multitude of our sins, O Virgin Theotokos, importune the Son whom you have borne ; for the supplication of a Mother is strong to win the favour of the Master. Do not disregard the entreaties of sinners, O all-venerable Lady ; for He who accepted to suffer for our sake is merciful, and powerful to save.

✢✢✢ TUESDAY and THURSDAY : **Tone 8**

Readers : O Lord, my fashioner, You know the unsleeping watchfulness of my invisible enemies, and the debility of my wretched flesh. Into Your hands, therefore, I will commend my spirit. Shelter me with the wings of Your goodness, that I sleep not in death, and illumine the eyes of my mind, that I may delight in Your holy words. Raise me up, that at a suitable time, I may glorify You, as the only Good One who love Man.

V : Look down upon me, O Lord, my God, and have mercy on me, according to the judgement of those who love Your name.

How terrible is Your Judgement, O Lord, as Men are led before You, while the angels stand by. The books are opened, deeds are searched, and all thoughts are examined. What judgement shall then be for me, conceived in sins ? What shall quench the flame for me ? Who shall make my darkness shine, if not You, O Lord, who show mercy to me because of Your love towards Man.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Grant me tears, O God, as You once did to the sinning woman of old, and make me worthy, that I may wet Your feet which had freed me from the path of deceit, that I may offer You a pure life as a sweet-smelling myrrh, fashioned by repentance. Then shall I hear Your desirable voice, saying, "Your faith has saved you ; walk in peace".
Now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
O Theotokos, I shall be saved, having in you the hope which frees

from shame ; and possessing your advocacy, I will not fear, O all-pure One. I will pursue my enemies, and thrash them, surrounded only with your shelter as armour. I cry out, and fervently entreat you, "Save me by your intercessions, O Lady, and raise me up again from gloomy sleep, that I may glorify you, by the power of the Son of God, who was made flesh through you".

✝✝✝

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

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.
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, Master (*Father*) bless.

Presbyter : Through the prayers of our holy *fathers*, O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.[4]

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 : **Prayer of Saint Basil the Great**

O Lord, O Lord, You rescue us from all the arrows that fly by day. Rescue us also from everything moving through the darkness, and accept favourably the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Deem us worthy to go through this nocturnal period blamelessly, untempted by evil ; and rescue us from every disturbance and fright coming from the devil. Favour our souls compunction, and make our thoughts concerned for the examination on the Day of Your terrible and just judgement. Nail our flesh to the fear of You, and mortify our earthly members, so that, in the tranquillity of sleep, we may be enlightened by the contemplation of Your judgements. Take away from us all unbecoming imagination and harmful desire. At the time of prayer, raise us up again, steadfast in the Faith, and progressing in Your commandments ; through the good pleasure and goodness of Your Only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

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[4] As before, this invocation refers to the persons present.

Response : Amen.

We continue immediately with :

✢ **Second Nocturne**

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. (*with three metanias*)

PSALM 50

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 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.

PSALM 101

O LORD, hear my prayer, and let my cry come unto You. Do not turn away Your Face from me. On the day when I am oppressed, incline Your ear to me. On the day when I shall call upon You, swiftly listen to me. For my days have vanished like smoke, and my bones have caught fire like kindling. I have been struck like grass, and my heart has withered because I forget to eat my bread. From the voice of my groaning, my bones have cleaved to my flesh. I have been made like the solitary pelican ; I have become like the night-owl on a shanty. I have been keeping watch, I have become like a lone sparrow upon a roof. My enemies were reproaching me all the day long, and those who used to praise me swore against me. For I ate ashes like bread, and my drink I mingled with weeping, from the face of Your anger and Your fury ; for You have lifted me up and broken me down. My days have been declining like a shadow, and like grass I have withered up. But, as for You, O LORD, You endure forever, and Your remembrance from generation to generation. Having risen up, You will have compassion on Sion, for it is time to have compassion on her ; for the time is come. For Your servants have been well-pleased in her stones, and on her dirt shall they have compassion. The nations shall fear Your name, O LORD, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the LORD will build up Sion, and He shall be seen in His glory. He has looked upon the prayer of the humble, and He will not reckon as nothing their supplication. Let this be written for another generation, and the people to be established shall praise the LORD. For He has stooped down from His holy high place, from heaven has the LORD looked down upon the earth ; to hear the groaning of those who are bound in fetters, to loose the sons of those who are put to death, and to announce in Sion the name of the LORD, and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples shall gather as one, the kings to serve the LORD. He answered Him in the way of His strength ; announce to me the small number of my days. Do not lead me up in the midst of my days ; Your years are from generation to generation. From the beginning, O LORD, have You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They shall perish, but You will endure. All shall grow old like a garment, and like a mantle You will change them, and they shall be changed. But, as for You, You are the same, and Your years shall not fade away. The sons of Your servants shall pitch their tent, and their seed shall be directed unto the age.

Prayer of Manasses, King of Judæa

O God of our fathers, of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and of their righteous posterity ; O Lord Almighty, You have made Heaven and earth with all their order ; You have bound the sea by Your word of ordinance ; You have closed the abyss and sealed it with Your terrible and glorious name. All things shudder, and tremble before the Face of Your power ; for Your magnificence cannot be borne, and Your wrath towards sinners is irresistible. Yet, immeasurable and unsearchable is Your promised mercy ; for You are the Lord Most High, Compassionate, Long-suffering, and Greatly Merciful, and You repent over the evils of Men. You, O Lord, in accordance with the multitude of Your loving-kindness, have promised repentance, and forgiveness to those who have sinned against You ; and in the multitude of Your compassions, You have assigned repentance for sinners, that they may be saved. Therefore, O Lord, God of Powers, You have not appointed repentance for the righteous – for Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, who did not sin against You – but You have appointed repentance for me, who am the sinner ; for the sins I have committed are more in number than the sand of the sea ; my iniquities are multiplied, O Lord, my iniquities are multiplied. I am unworthy to gaze upon and see the height of Heaven, because of the magnitude of my unrighteousness. I am bent down with many bonds of iron, so that I cannot raise my head, and I have no reprieve ; for I have irritated Your fury, and have done what is evil in Your sight, not doing Your will, and not guarding Your ordinances. Now, I bend the knee of my heart, entreating Your loving-kindness. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know my iniquities. I earnestly ask You, "Absolve me, O Lord, absolve me. Do not destroy me with my iniquities. Do not be angry with me forever, beholding all the evils in me ; do not condemn me to the depths of the earth" ; for You, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, and in me You will show Your goodness ; for, unworthy as I am, You will save me in Your great mercy, and I will praise You continually, all the days of my life ; for all the host of Heaven sings Your praise, and Yours is the glory unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

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

We sing the Compunctionate Tropars : **Tone 6**

Readers : 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, open the doors of compassion 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.

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

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.
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, Master (*Father*) bless.

Presbyter : 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 of Saint Mardarios**

O Master, God, Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and You, O Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

✢ **Third Nocturne**

And we continue immediately with :

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. (*with three metanias*)

PSALM 69

We omit this psalm in the first week of Great Lent, when the Great Canon is read at this time.

O God, give heed to my help. O LORD, make haste to help me. Let them be put to shame and be disgraced – those seeking my soul ; let them be turned back and be put to shame – those wishing me bad things. Let them be turned back instantly and be shamed – those saying to me, "Well done, well done". But let them exult and be glad in You – all those seeking You, O God ; and let them continually, "Let the ord be magnified" – those loving Your salvation. But poor and needy as I am, help me, O God. My Helper and my Rescuer – it is You. O Lord not tarry.

PSALM 142

O LORD, hear my prayer ; give ear to my supplication in Your truth, hear me in Your righteousness. And do not enter into judgement with Your servant, for no-one living shall be found righteous in Your sight. For the enemy has pursued my soul ; he has humbled my life down to the earth. He made me sit in dark places, like those long dead ; and my spirit within me fell into accidie. Within me my heart was stirred up. I remembered days of old, and I meditated on all Your works, I meditated on the creations of Your hands. I spread out my hands towards You ; my soul is like a waterless land. Be swift to hear me, O LORD ; my spirit has fainted. Do not turn away Your Face from me, lest I become like those who go down into the pit. Make me hear Your mercy in the morning, for on You have I hoped. Make known to

me, O LORD, the way in which I shall walk ; for to You have I raised my soul. Take me away from my enemies, O LORD, for I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God ; Your good Spirit will guide me into the land of uprightness. For Your name's sake, O LORD, You will make me live ; in Your righteousness You will lead my soul out of oppression. And in Your mercy You shall exterminate my enemies, and You shall destroy all those who oppress my soul, for I am Your servant.

Lesser Doxology

Reader : Glory be to You, that have shown us the Light.

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will amongst Men. We hymn You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory – O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty ; O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and You, O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, who take up the sin of the world, have mercy on us, for You take up the sins of the world. Receive our petition, You that sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us ; for You alone are holy ; You alone are the Lord, You, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless You, and praise Your Name unto the age, and unto the ages of ages.

O Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, "O Lord, be merciful to me ; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You". O Lord, I take refuge in You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God ; for beside You is the fountain of life, and in Your light shall we see light. O prolong Your mercy unto those who know You.

Deem us worthy, O Lord, of guarding us sinless this day. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified be Your Name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, even as we have hoped on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes.[5] Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy

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[5] *Or :* "Law"

One, teach me Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, is eternal. O disregard not the works of Your hands.

To You is due praise, to You is due a hymn, to You is due glory, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

> *After this, we say the **Canon of a saint** from the Menaion, or of the Theotokos from the Octoechos. On some **Feast-days**, we use here the Litya, and the Apostikha sequence.*

Then, we sing this : **Tone 8**

Readers : It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.
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.

Then we sing in a loud voice, slowly, in **Tone 6** :

The Praises *Psalm 150*

> *However, on Friday, we omit this entirely, and we say the Kontak of the Saturday Commemoration instead.*

Refrain : O Lord of Hosts, be with us ; for in afflictions, we have no helper but You. Have mercy on us, O Lord of Hosts.

And if there be two choirs, then the second choir repeats this refrain, and the rest, alternately.

Choir 1 : Praise God in His holy ones ; praise Him in the steadfastness of His power. **R :**

Choir 2 : Praise Him for His mighty deeds ; praise Him according to the abundance of His majesty. **R :**

Choir 1 : Praise Him with the voice of the trumpet ; praise Him with the psaltery and harp. **R :**

Choir 2 : Praise Him with timbrel and dance ; praise Him with strings and instruments. **R :**

Choir 1 : Praise Him with loud-sounding cymbals ; praise Him with

cymbals of jubilation. **R :**

Choir 2 : Let every breath praise the Lord. **R :**

And then, both choirs having descended from the kliros to the midst, sing together :

Choirs : Praise God in His holy ones ; praise Him in the steadfastness of His power.

O Lord of Hosts, be with us ; for in afflictions, we have no helper but You. Have mercy on us, O Lord of Hosts.

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

O Lord, if we had not Your saints as intercessors, and Your sympathy and goodness, how would we dare to hymn You, O Saviour, whom the angels unceasingly bless ? O Lord, who know our hearts, spare our souls.

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

The number of my faults is very great, O Theotokos. Seeking salvation, I have fled for refuge to you, O Pure One. Visit my weakened soul, and intercede with Your Son and our God that He will grant me forgiveness for the fearful acts I have done, O only blessed one.

O all-holy Theotokos, do not abandon me all the days of my life. Do not entrust me to the advocacy of Men ; but be yourself my support, and have mercy on me.

I have put my whole trust in you, O Mother of God, guard me under your shelter.

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

Reader : **Prayer of the Hours**

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.

Reader : 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, Master (*Father*) 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.

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

We do not say this prayer on Friday night.

Reader : 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. ✢

Then,

✣ **Evening Supplication, Reconciliation, Dismissal** ✢

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

Reader : Amen.

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

Reader : **Prayer to the Theotokos**

by Paul, monk of the Monastery of Evergitidos

For some, this prayer is read by the presbyter.

O Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O undefiled, untainted, uncorrupted, most-pure, chaste Virgin Bride of God, and our Sovereign Lady, you united Man with God the Word of God by your astonishing birth-giving. Joining the fallen nature of our race to the heavenly, you are the only hope of the despairing, and the help of those who are under attack. You are the ready support of those who run to you, and the refuge of all Christians. Do not turn from me, the unclean sinner, who have made myself unprofitable with unworthy thoughts, words, and deeds, and by indolence of purpose have become a slave of the pleasures of this life.[6] Rather, as the Mother of God, the Lover of Man, and with this same love, have compassion on me, the sinner and prodigal, and receive my supplications offered from filthy lips. Using your maternal familiarity, entreat our Lord and Master, that He will open even to me also the bowels of His goodness, and His love for Man ; and disregarding my countless faults, He will turn me to back repentance, and make me a proven worker of His commandments.

Be always close to me in your mercy, your sympathy, and your love of the good. In this present life, be a fervent advocate and help, walling me around against all assaults of the enemies, guiding me towards salvation. In the time of my departure, take care of my miserable soul, and drive away from it the dark visions of the evil demons. In the terrible Day of Judgement, rescue me from eternal perdition, and show me to be an heir of the divine glory of your Son, and our God.

Grant this, O Lady Theotokos, by your mediations and support, through the mercy and loving-kindness of your Only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom are due all glory, honour and worship, with the Father who is eternal, and His all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages

[6] "This life" means simply the biological life.

of ages.

Response : Amen.

PRAYER TO CHRIST

Reader : And grant, O Master, to us now going to our sleep, rest for our souls and bodies ; preserve us from the gloomy slumber of sin, and from every dark and nocturnal love of pleasure. Calm the attacks of the passions ; extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one, which are cunningly directed against us. Still the revolts of the flesh, and put to sleep every earthly and material concern. Grant us, O God, a watchful mind, chaste thoughts, a sober heart, and a light sleep, free from every satanic imagination. Raise us up again at the hour of prayer, grounded in Your commandments, and keeping unshaken within us the memory of Your judgements. Grant us to spend the whole night in doxology, to hymn, bless, and glorify Your all-honourable and majestic Name, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

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

Response : Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

by Saint Joannicius

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

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, Master (*Father*) bless.

– or –

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

We all prostrate ourselves to the floor, while the presbyter pronounces aloud the following dismissal (*however, on Friday, the lesser dismissal is used*) *:*

Presbyter : O Master, plenteous in mercy, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our immaculate Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary ; through the power of the precious and life-giving Cross ; through the advocacy of the honourable, heavenly Bodiless hosts ; through the entreaties of the holy, glorious, Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John ; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles ; of the holy, glorious and victorious martyrs ; of

our holy and God-bearing Fathers ; of the holy, righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna ; and of all the saints, make our supplication acceptable. Grant us remission of our transgressions ; shelter us with the shelter of Your wings. Drive away from us every enemy and adversary. Pacify our life. O Lord, have mercy on us, and on Your world, and save our souls, for You are good, and the Lover of Man.

Response : Amen.

If there be no presbyter, then the senior reader, making a prostration, 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.

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

He makes a prostration.

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

We make a bow or prostration, asking forgiveness also :

Bless me, holy father, and forgive everything in which I have sinned this day, in word, deed, thought, and in all my senses, and pray for me the sinner.

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

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

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

We venerate the holy icons from the right, and left choirs in order ; and, one-by-one, making a prostration, asking forgiveness from each other, and

receive the blessing from the Superior (Bishops)(Presbyter) ; and the presbyter remains until all have finished.
We begin the following litany :[7]

Evening Intercession

Presbyter : Let us pray for the Holy Synod of Bishops of the *Orthodox Church in America*, for our father, Metropolitan _n_, for our father, (*Arch*)Bishop _n_, for _n_, our *Superior*, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy, and the people.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

– We repeat this continually, slowly, and quietly. –

Presbyter : for the *King/Queen*, for the civil authorities of our country ; for the 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 in our unworthiness to pray for them ;
for the rescue of the imprisoned, and those in captivity ;
for our *fathers, and brothers* (*mothers, and sisters*)*, sisters, and brothers*) who have fallen asleep before us ;
for those who are travelling by land, by sea, and by air, and for their salvation ;
for those who are suffering from sickness, and infirmity, and especially for _n_ ;
for all those who are in need of guidance, and strength from the Lord, and those who are weary in well-doing, and in need of refreshment, *and especially for* _nn_.
Let us pray also for favourable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth ;
for Orthodox bishops, priests, and deacons, and especially all who have served, and cared for this holy *habitation*, who have fallen asleep in the Lord ;
for the founders of this holy *habitation* who have fallen asleep in the Lord ;
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 :

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

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

Having received forgiveness, we depart to our cells, while saying this prayer (said by every person) :

O Lord, pardon those who hate, and wrong us. Do good to those who do good. Grant to our brothers, and sisters, and kinsmen their petitions which are for salvation, and life eternal. Visit the sick, and grant them healing. Accompany those who travel by land, pilot those who travel by sea,, and by air. Grant peace to our rulers. Give remission of sins to those who minister to us, and are merciful to us. Pardon, and have mercy, in accordance with Your great mercy, on those who have commanded us unworthy ones to pray for them. Remember, O Lord, our *fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters* who have fallen asleep before us, and grant them rest where the light of Your Face looks upon us. Remember, O Lord, our *brethren* in prison or captivity, and redeem them from every occurrence. Remember, O Lord, those who bring forth fruit, and do good works in Your holy churches, and grant them their petitions, which are for salvation, and life eternal. O Lord, remember us also, Your humble, sinful, and unworthy servants, and illumine our minds with the light of Your knowledge, and guide us in the path of Your commandments ; through the intercessions of our most immaculate Lady Theotokos, and Ever-virgin Mary, and of all Your saints, for You are blessed unto the the ages of ages.

Amen.

[**THE END OF GREAT COMPLINE**]