THE SERVICES

OF THE

HOURS

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THE

GREAT

BOOK

OF THE

HOURS

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GREAT

HOROLOGION

Ottawa, Ontario
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THE SERVICE OF THE NINTH HOUR

The time for offering this service alone is the ninth hour of the day (that is, 3:00 p.m., 1500 hrs.). Otherwise, it may be offered just before the serving of Vespers.

At about the ninth hour, the Lamplighter (or other assigned person) rings the bell, and/or sounds the semantron for the beginning of the ninth hour. We assemble in the Temple.

Should the Ninth Hour follow immediately after the Sixth Hour, we begin the Ninth Hour with the Trisagion Prayers from "Holy God" to "Our Father", "Lord, have mercy" (12 times), Glory ... now, and ever ..., "O come, let us worship ..." and so on.

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 to read.

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.]

Reader : Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.[2]

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[1] This invocation generally refers to the persons present, not only to ancestors, hence fathers for a male monastery, mothers for a female monastery, brothers and sisters for a usual parish situation.

[2] 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. Such a bow can be also a deep bow, from the waist, and touching the floor with the hand. The great metania, which means 'prostration', means bending the knees to the floor, and touching the forehead to the floor. It is used when there is 'alleluia', that is, in fasting periods.

(*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.[3] 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.[4]

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, 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 83

How beloved are Your habitations, O LORD of hosts. My soul longs after, and faints for the courts of the LORD. My heart, and my flesh have exulted in the living God, for the sparrow has found a house for herself, and the turtle-dove a nest for herself, where she shall put her young – Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house ; even unto the ages of ages shall they praise You. Blessed is the one whose support is from You, O LORD ; in his heart he has set in order ascents, in the deep valley of weeping, to the place which he has set. For the law-giver shall give blessings ; they shall proceed from power to power. The God of gods shall be seen in Sion. O LORD, the God of hosts, hear my prayer ; give ear, O God of Jacob.

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[3] Slavonic text. Greek text : be propitious to

[4] The reader shall respond "Amen" to "Our Father" regardless of the presence of a presbyter.

O God, our Protector, behold, and look upon the face of Your christ. For one day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I have chosen rather to be an outcast in the house of God than to dwell in the habitations of sinners. For the LORD loves mercy, and truth ; God will give Grace, and glory. The LORD will not deprive of His good things those who walk in guilelessness. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the Man who hopes in You.

PSALM 84

O LORD, You have been well-pleased in Your earth ; You have turned back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven Your people their iniquities ; You have covered all their sins. You have put an end to all Your anger ; You have turned back from the fury of Your wrath. Turn us about, O God of our salvation, and turn away Your fury from us. Will You be angry at us forever ? Or will You stretch out Your anger from generation to generation ? O God, You will turn around, and give us life, and Your people shall be glad in You. O LORD, show us Your mercy, and grant us Your salvation. I shall hear what the LORD God speaks within me ; He shall speak peace for His people, and for His holy ones, and for those who turned their hearts around to Him. For His salvation is near to all those who fear Him, so that His glory might pitch its tent on our land. Mercy, and truth have met each other ; righteousness, and peace have kissed each other. Truth has arisen from the earth, and righteousness has stooped down from the heaven. For the LORD shall give His loving-kindness, and our earth shall give its fruit. Righteousness shall go before Him, and He will place His foot-steps in the way.

PSALM 85[5]

O LORD, incline Your ear, and listen to me, for I am poor, and needy. Guard my soul, for I am holy. O God, save Your servant, the one who hopes on You. Have mercy on me, O LORD, for to You shall I cry all the day long. Make glad the soul of Your servant, for to You, O LORD, have I raised my soul. For you, O LORD, are gracious, and gentle, and full of mercy to all those who call upon You. Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, and give heed to the voice of my supplication. On the day of my oppression have I cried out to You, for You have listened to me. There is no-one amongst the gods like You, O LORD, and there is nothing to compare to Your works. All the nations, as many as You have

[5] This is the **fixed** psalm of the hour. On some occasions the others vary.

made, shall come, and worship before Your Face, O LORD, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great, the One who does wonders ; You alone are God. Guide me, O LORD, in Your way, and I shall walk in Your truth. Let my heart be made glad, and fear Your name. I shall confess You, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I shall glorify Your name forever. For Your mercy towards me has been great, and You have rescued my soul from deepest Hadēs. O God, transgressors have risen up against me, and a gathering of the strong has sought after my soul, and they have not set You before them. You, O LORD, are compassionate, and merciful, longsuffering, greatly merciful, and trustworthy. Look down upon me, and have mercy on me ; give Your strength to Your child, and save the son of Your servant. Work in me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it, and be put to shame, for You, O LORD, have helped me, and consoled me.

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 :

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.

and then, instead of the usual tropars, the ***Tropar of the Ninth Hour****, with refrains, in* ***Tone 8*** *:*

Presbyter : O Christ our God, who at the ninth hour, tasted death in the flesh for our sake: put to death our intent for the flesh, and save us.

Response : (*repeat refrain*) …

Presbyter : Let my supplication draw near to Your presence, O LORD ; make me understand, according to Your teaching.

Response : (*repeat refrain*)

Presbyter : Let my request come into Your presence, O LORD ;

Reader : Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
(*If there be two tropars, then the first is sung now.*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The **TROPAR OF THE DAY** is sung
The Tropar of the day is 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

O Good One, who for our sakes were born of a Virgin, and have endured crucifixion, plundering death by death, and as God, revealing the Resurrection, disregard not those You have formed with Your hands ; but show Your love for Man, O Merciful One. Accept the intercessions made on our behalf by her who gave You birth, and save Your despairing people, O our Saviour.
(*At Royal Hours, verses, and readings follow at this time.*)
For Your holy Name's sake, do not surrender us to the end ; do not let go of Your covenant ; do not take Your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one.

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. [6] 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.

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[6] *Be propitious to*

The **KONTAK OF THE DAY** is sung
of the day, but in Lent, the fixed tropars

On Lenten weekdays, the appointed tropars in Tone 8 :

When the thief beheld the Author of life hanging upon the Cross, he said, "If it were not God made flesh that is crucified with us, the sun would not have hid its rays, nor would the earth have quaked, and trembled. But, O all-forbearing Lord, remember me in Your Kingdom".

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

In the midst, between two thieves, Your Cross was found to be a balance-beam of righteousness ; for the one was carried down to Hadēs by the burden of his blasphemy ; the other was lightened of his failings, and brought tou.

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

Cross-Theotokos-Hymn :

When she who bore Him saw u the knowledge of theology. O Christ our God, glory be to Yopon the Cross, the Lamb, and Shepherd, and Saviour of the world, she said in tears, "The world rejoices, for it receives redemption ; but inwardly I burn, seeing Your Crucifixion, which You suffer for all men, O my Son, and my God".

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, 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.

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

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.

– 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.

Prayer of Saint Ephrem 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, 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.

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 Master, and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, You are longsuffering in the face of our sins, and have brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-giving Wood, You have opened unto the grateful thief the way into paradise, and destroyed death by death. Be propitious to us, Your sinful, and unworthy servants, for we have sinned, and done iniquities. We are not worthy to lift up our eyes, and look at the height of Heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Your righteousness, and we have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But, we entreat You, of Your boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, in accordance with the abundance of Your mercy, and save us for Your holy Name's sake, for our days are consumed in futility. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary. Forgive us our sins, and kill our fleshly intents, that putting of the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live with You, our Master, and Guardian ; and that so, following Your ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest, in the habitation of all those who rejoice. For You, O Christ our God, are indeed the true exultation, and gladness of those who love You, and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Response : Amen.

* *and then, if the Inter-hour or the Typica should not follow :*

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.
In the Name of the Lord, Master (*Father*) bless.

Presbyter : *pronounces the dismissal of the day.*

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

– or – 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.

[**END OF THE NINTH HOUR**]

*The **Ninth Inter-hour**, or the **Typical Psalms** may follow this service immediately.*

THE NINTH INTERHOUR

Reader : O come,[7] 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 112

O children, praise the LORD ; praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be name of the LORD, henceforth, and forever. From the rising of the sun, unto its setting, may the name of the LORD be praised. The LORD is on high, over all the nations ; over the heavens is His glory. Who is as the LORD our God – He who dwells in the heights, and sets His eyes upon what is humble, in Heaven, and on earth ? He raises the poor from the earth, and the needy He lifts up from the dung-heap, in order to sit him down with the princes, with the princes of His people. He causes the barren woman to settle in a house, a mother who is glad over her children.

PSALM 137

I shall confess You, O LORD, with my whole heart, I shall chant to You before angels, for You have heard the words of my mouth. I shall worship towards Your holy temple, and I shall confess Your name, because of Your mercy, and Your truth. For You have magnified Your holy name above everything. On the day when I call upon You, swiftly listen to me. You have taken much care of my soul by Your power. Let all the kings of the earth confess You, O LORD, for they have heard all the words of Your mouth. And let them sing in the canticles of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. For the LORD is exalted, and He sets His eyes upon the humble, and He knows the exalted ones from afar off. Whenever I walk in the midst of oppression, You shall make me live. Against the anger of my enemies You have stretched out Your hand, and Your right hand has saved me. The LORD shall reward them on my behalf. O LORD, Your mercy is everlasting ; do not despise the works of Your hands.

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[7] When the **Inter-hour** follows **immediately,** then we begin the second service here. Should it be followed alone, the Usual Beginning is taken first.

PSALM 139

Take me away, O LORD, from the evil Man ; rescue me from the unrighteous man. Those who contrive iniquity in their hearts have drawn up their ranks for wars the whole day through. They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent ; the poison of asps is under their lips. Guard me, O LORD, from the hand of the sinner ; take me out of the grasp of unrighteous Men, who consider how to trip up my steps. The proud have hidden a snare for me ; and they stretched out cords as snares for my feet, they laid a stumbling-block for me on the path. I said to the LORD, "You are my God ; give ear to the voice of my supplication. O LORD, LORD, the power of my salvation, You have stretched Your shadow over my head on the day of war. Do not give me over to the sinner, O LORD, because of my desire. They have plotted against me ; do not abandon me, lest they be exalted". The culmination of their encircling plots, the toil of their lips, shall cover them up. Coals of fire shall fall upon them, and You will cast them down into the fire in miseries they shall not be able to withstand. A man who babbles shall not be directed on the earth ; into corruption shall evils hunt down the unrighteous man. I know that the LORD will make His judgement of the poor, and defend the cause of the needy. Nevertheless, the righteous shall confess Your name ; the upright shall dwell with Your Face.

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.

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.

(*And these **tropars** in Tone 8 :*)

You illumined the earth through the Cross, and called sinners to repentance. Do not separate me from Your flock, O Good Shepherd, but seek me, the deluded one, O Master, and number me with Your holy flock, for You alone are merciful, and You love Man.

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

As the thief confessed, so I cry out to You, O Good One, remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom ; and number me with him, You that willingly deigned to suffer for our sake.

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

Come, let us praise Him who was crucified for our sake. When Mary saw Him on the Tree, she said, "Although You suffer crucifixion, You are my Son, and my God".

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

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.

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.

– or – 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

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

O Master, and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, You are longsuffering in the face of our sins, and have brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-giving Wood, You have opened unto the grateful thief the way into paradise, and destroyed death by death. Be propitious to us, Your sinful, and unworthy servants, for we have sinned, and done iniquities. We are not worthy to lift up our eyes, and look at the height of Heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Your righteousness, and we have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But, we entreat You, of Your boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, in accordance with the abundance of Your mercy, and save us for Your holy Name's sake, for our days are consumed in futility. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary. Forgive us our sins, and kill our fleshly intents, that putting of the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live with You, our Master, and Guardian ; and that so, following Your ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest, in the habitation of all those who rejoice. For You, O Christ our God, are indeed the true exultation, and gladness of those who love You, and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and 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, Master (*Father*) bless.

Presbyter : *pronounces the dismissal of the day.*

Response : Amen.

Presbyter : Through the prayers of our holy *fathers* (*if a monastery. If a monastery of women: mothers. If any other : brothers, and sisters*), O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.[8]

Response : Amen.

– or – 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.

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

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

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

The Service of Vespers may follow immediately.