

Pentecost Kneeling Vespers
(Descent of the Holy Spirit)
(50 Days after Pascha)

GREAT VESPERS - SUNDAY EVENING

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

“Come Let Us Worship...”

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. /

You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest creep about.

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

Man goes out to his work / and to his labor until the evening. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.

The earth is full of Your possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them their food in due season.

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord rejoice in His works.

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in the Lord.

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the people here present who await the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For those who bow their heads and their knees before the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He may strengthen us so that we may bring to perfection those things that are well-pleasing to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He may send down His rich mercies upon us, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That He may accept the bending of our knees as incense before Him, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For those who are in need of His help, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

“O Lord, I Cry...” – Tone 8

Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)

O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear to my voice when I cry out unto You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o’er the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.

Psalm 142 (LXX 141)

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.

I cried out to You, O Lord. I said, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they are stronger than I.”

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name.

The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.

Psalm 130 (LXX 129)

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

(Tone 4) - Pentecost

All the peoples have seen wonders today in the city of David, when the Holy Spirit descended in tongues of fire, as told by the God-inspired Luke, who said: The disciples of Christ were gathered together; there was a sound like a mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And they began to speak in foreign tongues, teaching the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

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My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

The Holy Spirit was, is and always will be without beginning and without end, but always one with the Father and the Son. He is Life and Giver of life; He is Light and Giver of light, good by nature and source of goodness. It is through Him that the Father is known and the Son glorified; and all people have come to know the one power, and the one substance, and the same adoration of the Holy Trinity.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

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Psalm 117 (LXX 116)

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life, the Living Spring mystically gushing forth, the Spirit of Wisdom and Spirit of Knowledge, good, upright and understanding, majestic, and purifying from sin. He is God and deifies us; Fire proceeding from fire, speaking, acting, and distributing gifts. It is through Him that all the prophets and the apostles of God have received the crown, together with the martyrs. A strange report to hear and strange to see: the fire is divided for the sharing of gifts.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life, the Living Spring mystically gushing forth, the Spirit of Wisdom and Spirit of Knowledge, good, upright and understanding, majestic, and purifying from sin. He is God and deifies us; Fire proceeding from fire, speaking, acting, and distributing gifts. It is through Him that all the prophets and the apostles of God have received the crown, together with the martyrs. A strange report to hear and strange to see: the fire is divided for the sharing of gifts.

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

(Tone 6)

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are in all places and fill all things, the Treas'ry of good things and Giver of life: Come and abide in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

The Prayer before the Entrance

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord Who love mankind. Direct our prayer before You as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

“O Joyful Light”

PEOPLE: O joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For it is right at all times to worship You with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life. Therefore all the world glorifies You.

The Great Prokeimenon: Tone 7

Psalm 77 (LXX 76)

DEACON: The evening prokeimenon.

Who is so great a god as our God? You alone the God Who does wonders.

Verse: You have declared Your strength among the peoples. You have redeemed the people with Your arm.

Verse: And I said: “This is my anguish; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

Verse: I will remember the works of the Lord; I will remember Your wonders of old.

The First Kneeling Prayer

DEACON: Again and again, let us, on bended knees, pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

ALL KNEEL

PRIEST: O Lord, most pure, incorruptible, without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, unsearchable, unchangeable, unsurpassable, immeasurable, and longsuffering: You alone have immortality; You live in unapproachable light; You made heaven and earth and the sea and all things created in them. You grant to all their requests even before they ask. We pray to You, and we beseech You, O Master Who love all people, the Father of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who for our sake and for the sake of our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the ever-virgin Mary, the most glorious Theotokos. At first He taught us with words which were then later confirmed through deeds when He endured the saving Passion, giving us, Your humble, sinful, and unworthy servants, the example of offering supplications to You, with necks bowed and on bended knees, for our sins and for the people’s acts done in ignorance.

Hear us on whatever day we call upon You, for You alone are most merciful and the Lover of mankind! However, especially hear us on this present day of Pentecost on which, after our Lord Jesus Christ had ascended into heaven and was seated at Your right hand, O God and Father, He sent down the Holy Spirit

upon His holy disciples and apostles. The Holy Spirit came upon each of them with His inexhaustible grace, they spoke of Your grandeur in various tongues, and they prophesied.

Now, therefore, hear us who are praying to You, and remember us, lowly and condemned as we are, and return our souls from the captivity of sin, for we have your loving-kindness interceding for us. Accept us who fall down before You, calling out: We have sinned! To You we have been committed from birth. From our mother's womb, You are our God! But because we have spent our days in vain endeavors, we have been stripped of Your help, having been deprived of every defense. But trusting in Your generousities, we cry out: Do not remember the sins of our youth and of our ignorance, and cleanse us of our secret sins; and do not reject us when we become elderly, when our strength weakens.

Do not forsake us, and do not return us to the earth before You have made us worthy to return to You, and until You have prepared us, making us acceptable through grace. Appraise our iniquities by Your generousities. Against the multitude of our transgressions, place the abyss of Your abundant mercy. O Lord, look down from the heights of Your holiness upon Your people here present who are waiting for abundant mercies from You. Visit us with Your goodness. Deliver us from the assaults of the Devil. Organize our life around Your holy and sacred commandments. Assign to Your people an angel, a faithful guardian. Gather all of us into Your kingdom. Grant forgiveness to those who put their trust in You; pardon them and us from sins. Purify us by the operation of Your Holy Spirit. Abolish the schemes of the Enemy which are plotted against us.

Blessed are You, O Lord, Almighty Master, Who illuminate the day with the light of the sun and brighten the night with glowing flashes of light, and Who have enabled us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near to the beginning of the night. Hear our petitions and those of all Your people; and having forgiven all of our voluntary and involuntary sins, accept our evening prayers, and send down the multitude of Your mercies and Your generousities upon Your inheritance. Encompass us with Your holy angels. Arm us with the armor of Your righteousness. Surround us with Your truth. Support us with Your power. Deliver us from every assault and from every treacherous plot laid by the Adversary.

And grant to us, through the prayers of the most holy Theotokos and of all the saints who have been well-pleasing to You from the beginning of time, that this present evening and the approaching night and all the days of our lives may be perfect, holy, peaceful, without sin, without temptation, and without idle dreams.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

ALL STAND

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, an unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia

DEACON: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) *N.*; for our brethren: the priests, deacons, and monastics and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God. NN.*); and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and for pardon and forgiveness of sins for (*the servants of God NN., and*) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: [O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy; and send down Your compassion on us and on all Your people, who await Your great and rich mercy.]

For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Second Kneeling Prayer

DEACON: Again and again, let us, on bended knees, pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

ALL KNEEL

PRIEST: O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, You bestowed Your peace upon us and You granted us the gift of the Most Holy Spirit. And, while still yet being present with us in this life, You continue to bestow upon the faithful this inheritance that can never be taken away. On this day, in a vivid manner, You sent down this grace upon Your disciples and apostles, confirming their lips with fiery tongues so that, through them, we and the whole human race have received the knowledge of God through our own ears in our own language. We have been enlightened by the light of the Spirit and have been delivered from error, as though from darkness, by the distribution of visible and fiery tongues. Through this mysterious action, we have thereby been taught faith in You; and having been illuminated, we bless You together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as one Divinity and Power and Authority.

You are also the Splendor of the Father, the unchangeable and Immutable Image of His essence and His nature, and the Source of wisdom and grace. Open my sinful lips and teach me the manner in which and for what needs I should pray. For You know the great multitude of my sins, and yet their enormity can be vanquished by Your loving-kindness. For behold, I stand before You with fear, and I cast the despair of my soul into the depth of Your mercy. Guide my life along Your ways, for You govern all creation by a word with the ineffable power of Your wisdom; show me the way in which I should walk, O tranquil Haven of those who are turbulently perplexed. Grant the Spirit of Your wisdom to my deliberations, giving the Spirit of understanding to my ignorance. With the Spirit of Your fear, overshadow my deeds and renew a steadfast spirit deeply within me. And with Your Sovereign Spirit, stabilize the indecisiveness of my thoughts, in order that being guided every day by Your gracious Spirit toward those things that are profitable for me, I may be deemed worthy to fulfill Your commandments. Let me be constantly aware of Your coming in glory when You will judge our deeds. Protect me from the corrupting pleasures of this world; strengthen me with the desire to strive for the treasures of the world to come.

For You have said, O Master, that whatever anyone asks for in Your name, it will be received without hindrance from Your Father, the co-eternal God. Therefore, on this feast of the descent of Your Holy Spirit, I, a sinner, also entreat Your goodness so that You would grant me whatever I have asked that is for salvation. Indeed, O Lord, You are the bounteous Giver of all good things; and You are a gracious Provider Who give most abundantly those things for which we ask. You are the Compassionate One and the Merciful One Who sinlessly became a partaker of our flesh; and unto those who bend their knees to You, Who became the purifier of our sins, You extend Your infinite loving-kindness.

O Lord, grant then Your generousities to Your people. Hear us from Your holy heaven. Sanctify us by the power of Your saving right hand. Cover us beneath the

shelter of Your wings, and do not despise the works of Your hand. We have transgressed against You alone; against You only have we sinned, but only You do we worship. We do not know how to worship a strange god; neither do we stretch out our hands, O Master, to any other god. Pardon our transgressions and accept our prayers that we offer on bended knees. Extend the hand of Your help to all of us. Accept the prayer of all as if it were pleasant incense, acceptable before Your most gracious kingdom.

Lord, O Lord, Who deliver us from every arrow that flies by day, deliver us from all things that walk in darkness. Accept the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Deem us also worthy to pass blamelessly through the course of the night, untempted by evil things; and deliver us from every disturbance and apprehension that comes to us from the Devil. Grant compunction to our souls, and grant that we may meditate upon the trial at Your fearsome and righteous judgment. Nail the fear of You to our flesh, and mortify all of our earthy body members so that during the quietness of sleep we may be enlightened with the vision of Your judgments. Remove from us also every unseemly dream and detrimental carnal passion. Then raise us up again at the time for prayer, fortified in the faith and advancing in Your commandments.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

ALL STAND

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: Through the favor and grace 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 ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Evening Prayer

PEOPLE: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Third Kneeling Prayer

DEACON: Again and again, let us, on bended knees, pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

ALL KNEEL

PRIEST: O ever-flowing, living, and enlightening Source; O creative Power, co-eternal with the Father, Who most marvelously fulfilled the entire plan concerning our salvation; O Christ our God, Who shattered the indissoluble bonds of Death and the bolts of Hades: You trampled upon a multitude of the evil spirits, offering Yourself for us as a blameless offering and giving Your most pure Body, untouched and unapproachable by any sin, as a sacrifice. And, through this awesome and inscrutable sacred sacrifice, You have given us eternal life.

For by descending into Hades and smashing the eternal gates, and having shown the way to heaven to those who were sitting in darkness, You ensnared the Prince of evil and the snake of the Abyss with divinely-wise enticements. And You bound him with the chains of gloom by Your immeasurable power, and You shackled him in Tartarus, the deepest infernal region of Hades, and through Your might confined him to the unquenchable fire and the eternal darkness. Thus, O greatly eminent Wisdom of the Father, You manifested Yourself as the great Helper of the misfortunate, and You enlightened those who were sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

You, O Lord of everlasting glory and beloved Son of the most high Father; O everlasting Light of the everlasting Light; O Sun of righteousness: Hear us who are praying to You and grant repose to the souls of Your servants, our ancestors, our brothers and sisters who have already departed; to all of our relatives; and to all true members of the Faith, for whom we now make a remembrance. For the authority of all things is with You; and in Your hand, You control all the ends of the earth.

O almighty Master, the God of our ancestors and the Lord of mercy; O Creator of the race of mortals and of the immortals, and of all human nature – that which is still presently structured in the body and that which is, likewise, already released therefrom; O Creator of life and of its termination, of that life of being transferred into another world: You measure out the years for the living, and You appoint the time of death. You lead people down into Hades, binding them in impotency, and afterwards You raise them up, releasing them in power. You order present necessities and expediently secure those needed for the future. To those who have been wounded by the sting of death, You make them glad with the hope of resurrection.

You indeed are the Master of all, O God our Savior, the Hope of all those at the ends of the earth and of those far away at sea. On this last and great saving day of the Feast of Holy Pentecost, You showed us the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial and coeternal, without division or confusion, and You also showed us the descent and arrival of Your holy and life-creating Spirit being poured out in the form of fiery tongues on Your holy apostles, appointing them to be the

proclaimers of the Good News of our faith, and showing them to be confessors and preachers of the true, divine teaching.

Also, on this saving Feast on which everything was totally accomplished, You condescended, therefore, to accept supplications in behalf of those who are imprisoned in Hades; and to those being held in bondage, You promised great hopes for their release from the grievous bonds constraining them by sending down Your consolation.

Hear us, Your humble servants, beseeching You, and grant repose to the souls of Your servants who have already departed into a place of light and a place of refreshment and peace from which all illness, sorrow, and sighing have been taken away. Commit their souls to the places of the just, and make them worthy of peace and of repose. For the dead cannot praise You, O Lord, nor do those in Hades venture to offer confession to You. But we, the living, do bless You, and we do pray and offer You supplications and sacrifices for their souls.

O great and eternal God, Who are holy and love all people; Who have graciously considered us worthy at this hour to stand before Your unapproachable glory so that we might sing and praise Your wonders: Cleanse us, Your unworthy servants, and grant us grace in order that with contrite hearts, we may without presumption offer to You the thrice-holy hymn of glorification and thanksgiving for Your great gifts that You have created for us and always produce for us.

Remember, O Lord, our weakness, and do not destroy us for our transgressions; but because of our humility, show us Your great mercy, in order that fleeing from the darkness of sinfulness, we may walk in the day of righteousness; and having been clothed with the armor of light, remaining unhindered by any spiteful intrigue of the Evil One, we may with confidence extol You in all things as the only true God Who loves all.

For Yours is indeed the great and true mystery, O Master and Author of all – the temporary dissolution of Your creatures, and thereafter, their reintegration and repose for all ages. In all things, we acknowledge Your grace: For our entrance into this world and for our leaving it; likewise, for our hopes of resurrection unto an imperishable life, which You pledged by Your unfailing promises, that we would receive in the future at Your Second-coming. You are the Beginning of our resurrection and the One Who love all mankind; the impartial Judge of all who have lived, and the Master and Lord of recompense.

You joined Yourself to us in the very same flesh and blood by Your extreme condescension for our sake. Because of Your compassionate generosity, You accepted our passions and through them, by voluntarily enduring temptation, You became for us who are tempted the Helper that You Yourself promised to become. Therefore, through this action, You have given us the example of controlling our passions.

Accept, then, O Master, our entreaties and supplications, and grant repose to all the fathers, mothers, children, brothers, and sisters of each of us; to our relatives; to all the people in our country; and to all those souls who have already departed in the hope of resurrection and of eternal life.

Inscribe their names in the Book of Life, committing their spirits to the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the land of the living, in the heavenly kingdom, in the paradise of delights. With Your radiant angels guide all of them into Your holy dwelling place. Together with them, also raise up our bodies on the day that You have appointed according to Your holy and unfailing vows. Therefore, O Lord, there is no death for Your servants when we depart from the body and return to You, our God, passing over from things that are most sorrowful unto things that are most wholesome and delightful, and into repose and joyfulness.

If we have in any least way sinned against You, be merciful to us and also to them, because there is no one who is pure from stain before You, even if his life be for but a single day: You alone, O Jesus Christ our Lord, while on earth manifested Yourself to be sinless. Through You, we all trust in obtaining mercy and the remission of sins.

For this reason, because You are a gracious and loving God, pardon, remit, and forgive both us and them for having fallen into sin, both voluntary and through human frailty; those committed willfully or through ignorance; those that are evident and those that are unnoticed; those committed whether in deed, or through thought, or by word, or whether in any of our conversations and emotions.

To all those departed who have preceded us, grant freedom and pardon; and bless us who are still here present, granting to us and to all Your people a gracious and joyful end to our lives. Extend to us Your mercy and Your profound love at Your fearsome and dreadful coming in glory, making us worthy of Your kingdom.

O great and most high God, You alone have immortality; You live in unapproachable light; You created all things in wisdom, dividing the light from the darkness and placing the sun to rule the day and the moon and the stars to rule the night. You have deemed us sinners worthy on this present day to come before Your sight in confession and to offer You our evening prayers. O Lord, Who love all people, let our prayer be directed like incense before You and accept it as a fragrant aroma. Grant that we may spend this present evening and the approaching night in peace. Clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from all things that walk in darkness. And grant that the sleep You have given to refresh us from our fatigue might be free from every evil.

Indeed, O Master of all and gracious Provider, may we be moved to compunction on our beds and remember Your most holy name throughout the night; and being illumined by the contemplation of Your commandments, may we rise up with joyfulness of soul to glorify with praise Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to Your loving-kindness for our sins as well as for those of all Your people whom You, through the prayers of the most holy Theotokos, visit with mercy.

The deacon stands, lifts his stole and says:

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

ALL STAND

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, an unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Evening Litany

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Seventh Prayer

PRIEST: For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord, our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for to You, the fearful Judge, Who love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, not awaiting help from men, but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every enemy, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Your kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Aposticha: Tone 6

(Tone 3)

Truly the tongues have become a clear sign for all;
for the people, from whom Christ came in the flesh, were divided by
lack of faith.

They fell from the divine grace and divine light *
which we the Gentiles have attained.

For we are strengthened by the words of the disciples,
who proclaim the glory of God, the Benefactor of all,
with whom we bend our hearts as well as our knees, *
and worship the Holy Spirit in faith, being strengthened by the
Savior of our souls.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a steadfast spirit
within me.*

The Comforting Spirit

has now been poured out on all flesh,
for beginning with the rank of the apostles, *

He extended grace through the communion of believers.

He confirmed the truth of His presence
by the distribution of the fiery tongues
to the disciples *

for the praise and glory of God.

With spiritual light that enlightens our hearts,
and strengthened in the faith
by the Holy Spirit, *

let us beseech Him to save our souls.

*Do not cast me away from Your presence, nor deprive me of Your
Holy Spirit.*

The apostles of Christ have been clothed with power from on high;
for the Comforter has renewed them,
and in them renewed the knowledge of the new mysteries *

which they proclaimed to us in songs and resounding words,
teaching us to worship the one God in three persons,
the all-bountiful and eternal One.

Therefore, in the light of their teachings, *

Let us worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, beseeching Them
to save our souls.

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

(Tone 8)

Come, all you nations of the world,
let us adore God in three holy persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: *

Three in one.

From all eternity, the Father begets the Son,
equal to Him in eternity and majesty,
equal also to the Holy Spirit, glorified with the Son in the Father, *

Three persons, and yet a single power and essence and Godhead.
In deep adoration,
let us cry out to God:

Holy is God Who made all things through the Son *
with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit.

Holy is the Mighty One
through Whom the Father was revealed to us,
and through Whom the Holy Spirit *
came to this world.

Holy is the Immortal One,
the Spirit and Comforter

Who proceeds from the Father and reposes in the Son. *

All-holy Trinity, glory to You!

Hymn of St. Simeon

Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Troparion of Pentecost: Tone 8 (Greek/Russian)

Bless-ed are You, O Christ our God. You filled the
fish-er-men with wis-dom, send-ing down on them the Ho-ly
Spi-rit. Through them You have caught the whole world in Your net.
O Lov-er of man-kind, glo-ry to You!

The Blessing & Dismissal

DEACON: Wisdom!

PEOPLE: Father bless.

PRIEST: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRIEST: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

PEOPLE: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, Who...His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother... at the supplication of (*N., patron of the church*), of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Pentecost Kontakion: Tone 8 (Greek Chant)

When the Most High de - scend-ed and con-fused the tongues, He
5 scat - tered the peo - ple; but when He dis - trib-ut-ed tongues of
10 fire, He called all to u - ni - ty. There-fore with
14 one voice, let us praise the most Ho - ly Spi - rit.

*Blessed are You, O Christ
Sending Your Spirit
Down upon fishermen
Making them wise
For through them You have caught
The world in Your net
O Lord Who loves man
Glory to You.*



Pentecost

*O heavenly King, O Comforter,
the Spirit of Truth
Who are in all places and fill all things,
the Treas'ry of good things and Giver of life:
Come and abide in us,
cleanse us from every stain,
and save our souls, O Good One.*