

The Akathist of Thanksgiving

“Glory to God for all things!”



*attributed to
Metropolitan Tryphon (Prince Boris Petrovich Turkestanov) +1934
and
The Very Reverend Father Gregory Petroff (+1942)
who died in Soviet prison camp*

*November, 2005
Saint John Orthodox Cathedral
Eagle River, Alaska*

Akathist of Thanksgiving

“Glory to God for all things!”

PRIEST:¹ Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Prayer to the Holy Spirit

PRIEST: Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

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

The 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.

READER/PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

“God is the Lord...” – Tone 4

God is the Lord, Who has shown us light. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

God is the Lord...

¹ *If a lay person leads, begin:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All nations surrounded me; but in the name of the Lord will I destroy them.

God is the Lord...

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

God is the Lord...

The stone which the builders refused has become the head cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

God is the Lord...

(May sing Troparion during Festal Season)

Akathist: Tone 6 (Kievan²)

The choir and the people sing the Kontakion and repeat the refrain at the end of each Oikos. The Oikos is sung by the priest or a chanter.

Kontakion 1

3 In - cor - ruptible King of all a - ges, holding in Your hand
5 every path of hu - man life, through the power of
7 Your saving prov - i - dence, we thank You for all
9 the good things You do; those we know and those we don't know,
10 for _ earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Your King - dom to come.
12 Hold us in Your mer - cy now and ever we who sing:
Glo - ry to You, O - God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

² This music, based on traditional Kievan Chant, is adapted from that printed by St. Ignatius of Antioch Mission in Madison, Wisconsin.



Bless-ed is mother earth with her tran-sient beau-ty,
 longing for the homeland which is e-ter-nal and where an
 imperishable beau-ty rings out: Al-le-lu-ia.

Oikos 2

You brought me into this life as into an enchanting paradise. The sky is a deep blue vessel of azure out of which rings the sound of birds; there is the rustling sound of the forest and the sweet sounding music of the waters; the fragrant and sweet fruit and honey which we eat. It is good to be with You on earth, joyous to be Your guest:

Glory to You, for the festival of life,

Glory to You, for the fragrant lilies of the valley and the roses,

Glory to You, for the delectable variety of berries and fruits,

Glory to You, for the morning dew, shining like diamonds,

Glory to You, for the smile of awakening enlightenment,

Glory to You, for all that is heavenly, foreshadowing eternal life,

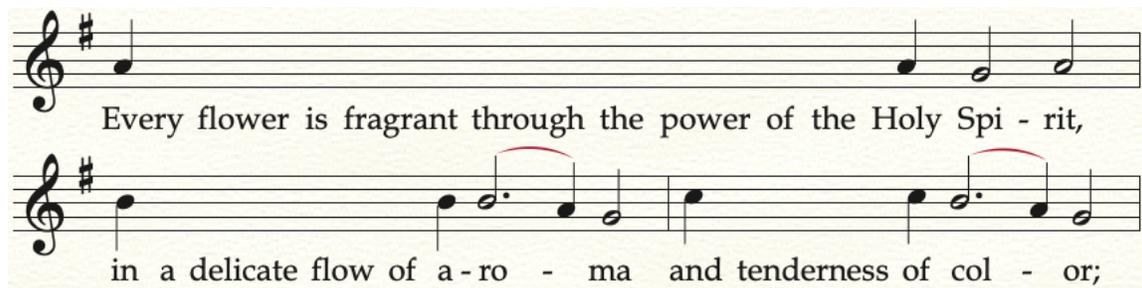
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Glo-ry to You, O God, un-to a-ges of a-ges.

Kontakion 3



Every flower is fragrant through the power of the Holy Spi-rit,
 in a delicate flow of a-ro-ma and tenderness of col-or;

the beauty of the Great contained in what is small. Praise and honor
to God Who gives life, Who spreads forth the meadows like a
flowering car - pet, Who crowns the fields with golden ears of wheat
and azure bas - i-lisks, and the soul with the joy of con-tem-pla-tion.
Let us rejoice and sing — to Him: Al - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 3

How beautiful You are in the triumphant festival of spring, when all creatures come to life again and in a thousand ways joyfully call out to You: You are the source of life; You are the victor over death. To the song of the nightingale, the valleys and forests stand in snow white bridal array by the light of the season. All the earth is Your bride, waiting for the immortal bridegroom. If You clothe even the grass in such a splendid way, how will You transfigure us in the future age of resurrection, how will our bodies be made light and our souls be made luminous:

Glory to You, Who brought out of the earth's darkness diversity of color, taste, and fragrance,

Glory to You, for the warmth and caress of all nature,

Glory to You, for surrounding us with thousands of Your creatures,

Glory to You, for the depth of Your wisdom reflected in the whole world,

Glory to You, I kiss reverently the footprint of Your invisible tread,

Glory to You, Who kindled before us the bright light of eternal life,

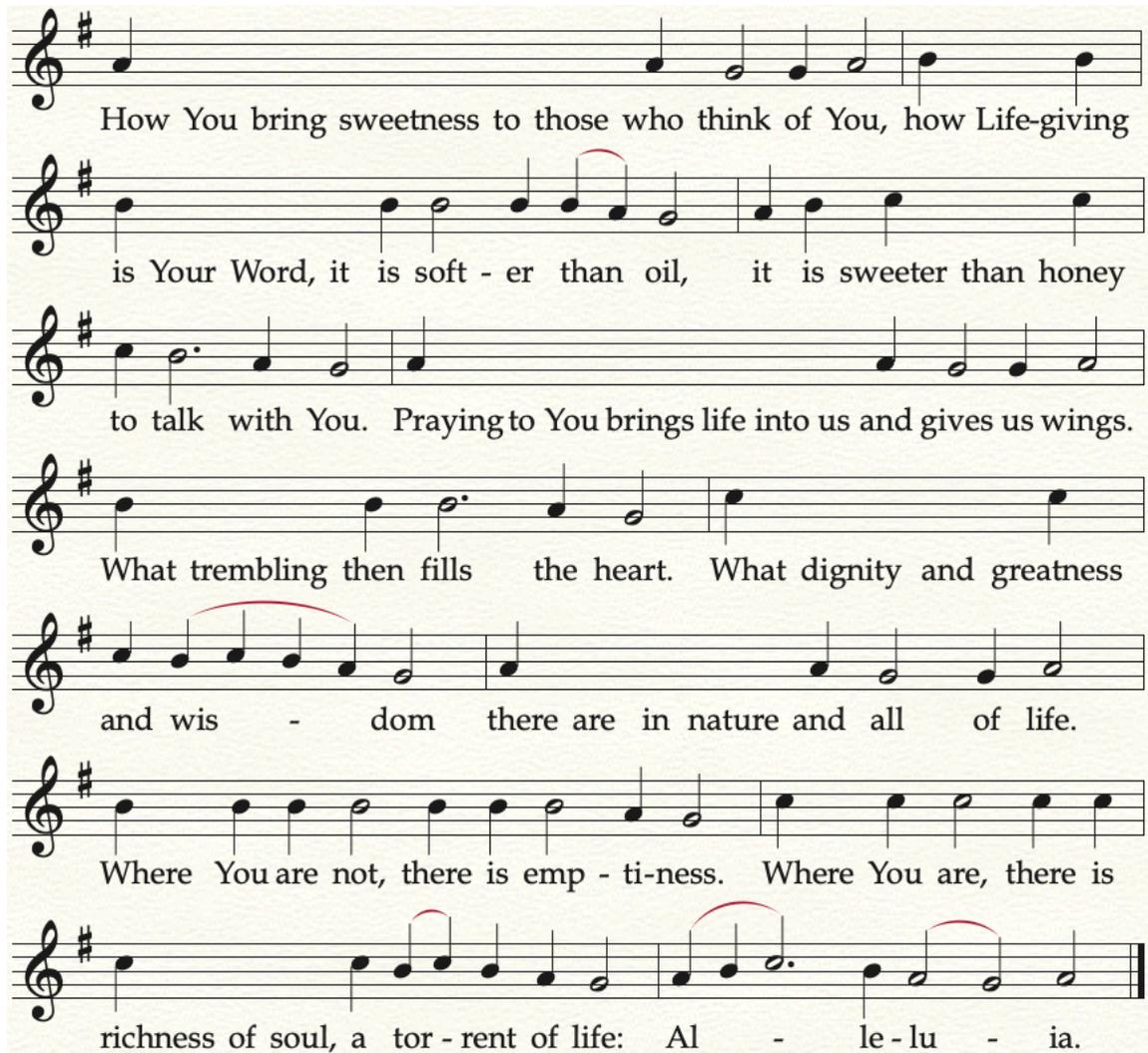
Glory to You, for the hope of immortal, ideal, incorruptible beauty,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O — God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 4



How You bring sweetness to those who think of You, how Life-giving
is Your Word, it is soft - er than oil, it is sweeter than honey
to talk with You. Praying to You brings life into us and gives us wings.
What trembling then fills the heart. What dignity and greatness
and wis - dom there are in nature and all of life.
Where You are not, there is emp - ti-ness. Where You are, there is
richness of soul, a tor - rent of life: Al - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 4

When sunset descends over the earth and the peace of eternal sleep and the stillness of the fading day come to reign, I see Your abode in the guise of glistening palaces and clouds hovering in the evening light. Fiery red, gold and azure speak prophetically of the unutterable beauty of Your world and cry out triumphantly: "Let us go to the Father!"

Glory to You, in the stillness of the evening,

Glory to You, Who have bestowed great peace to the world,

Glory to You, for the last rays of sunlight,

Glory to You, for rest and the gift of sleep,

Glory to You, for Your presence in darkness, when the world is so remote,

Glory to You, for prayer from the depth of a heart touched by You,

Glory to You, for the promise of awakening to the joy of the eternal, unending day,

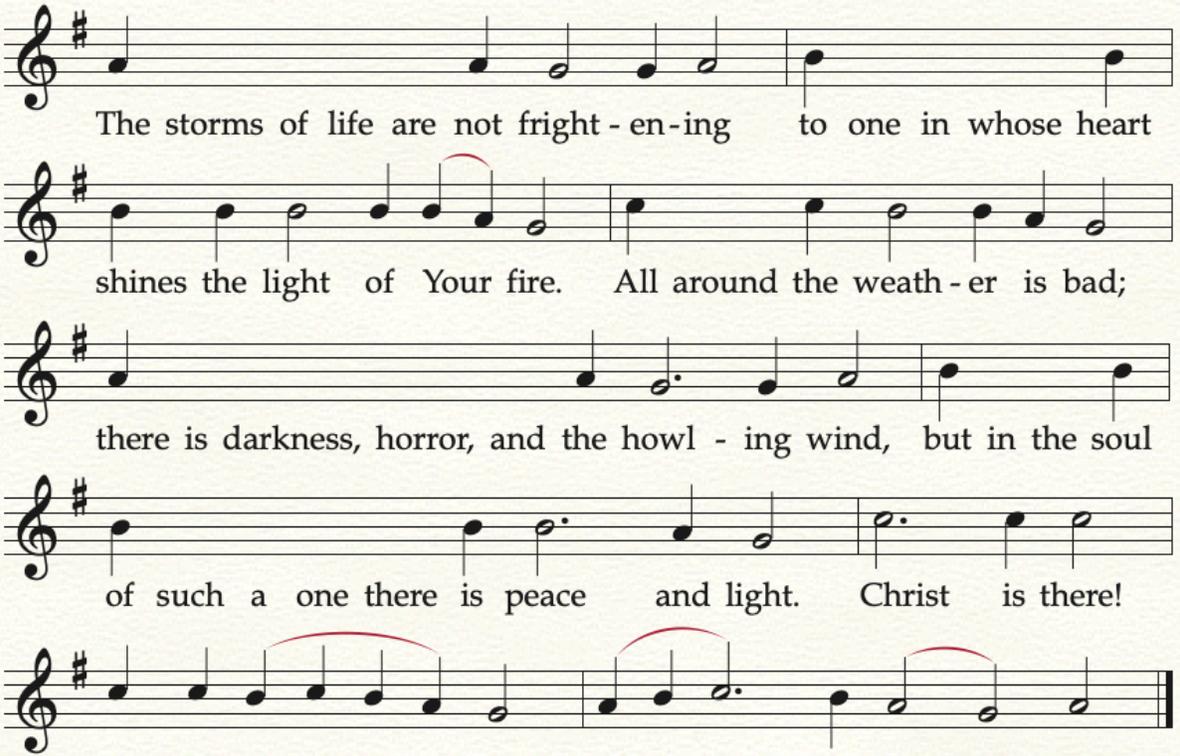
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O — God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 5



The storms of life are not fright - en - ing to one in whose heart
shines the light of Your fire. All around the weath - er is bad;
there is darkness, horror, and the howl - ing wind, but in the soul
of such a one there is peace and light. Christ is there!
And the heart _____ sings: Al - - - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 5

I see Your heavens glittering with stars. O how rich You are, how much light You have! Eternity looks at me through the rays of distant worlds; I am so small and inconsequential, but the Lord is with me, His loving hand is everywhere protecting me:

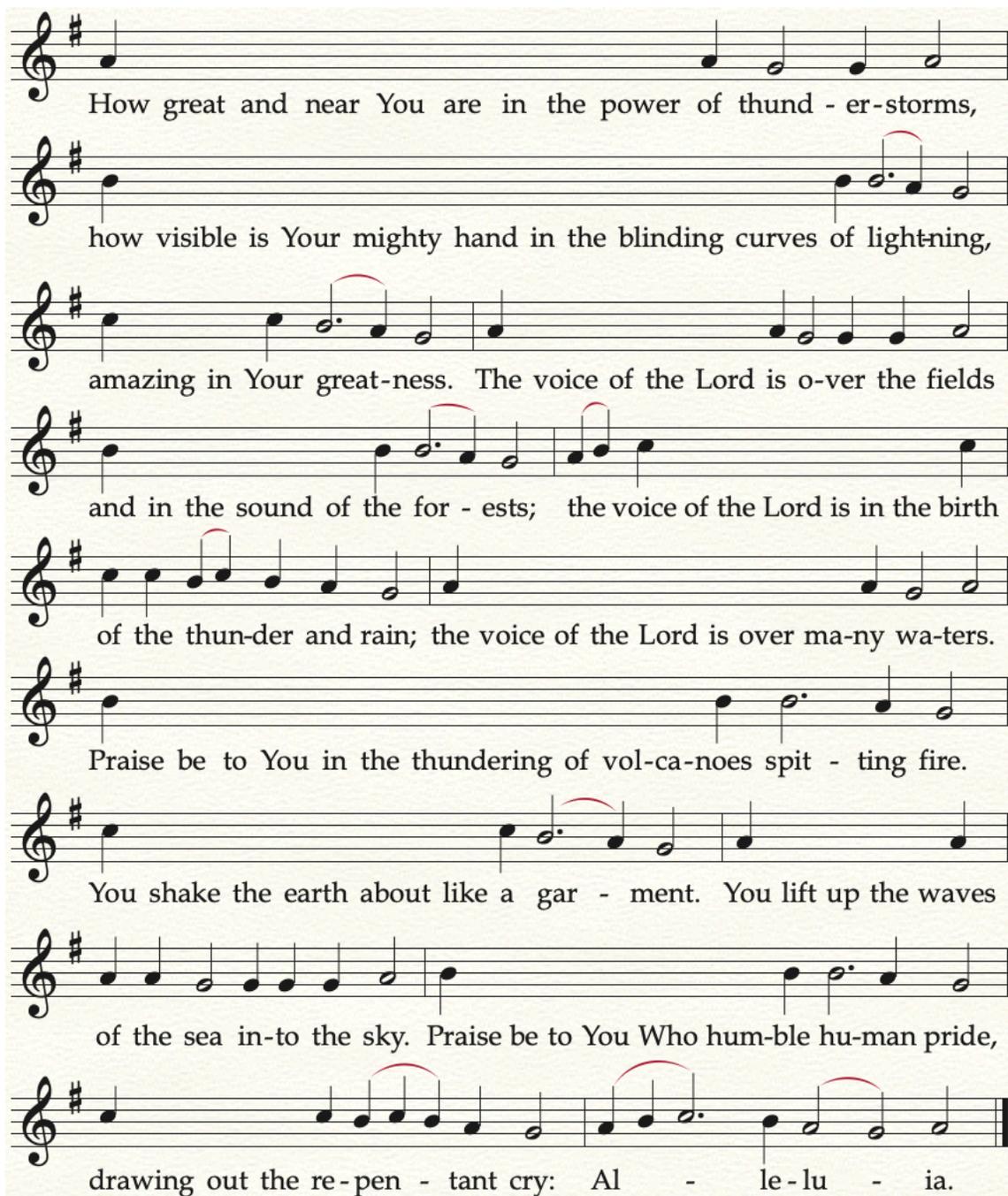
Glory to You, for Your constant care of me,
Glory to You, for providential encounters with people,
Glory to You, for the love of relatives, the devotion of friends,
Glory to You, for the gentleness of animals who serve me,
Glory to You, for the luminous moments of my life,
Glory to You, for the bright joys of my heart,
Glory to You, for the happiness of living, of moving and contemplating,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 6



How great and near You are in the power of thund - er-storms,
how visible is Your mighty hand in the blinding curves of lightning,
amazing in Your great-ness. The voice of the Lord is o-ver the fields
and in the sound of the for - ests; the voice of the Lord is in the birth
of the thun-der and rain; the voice of the Lord is over ma-n-y wa-ters.
Praise be to You in the thundering of vol-ca-noes spit - ting fire.
You shake the earth about like a gar - ment. You lift up the waves
of the sea in-to the sky. Praise be to You Who hum-ble hu-man pride,
drawing out the re-pen - tant cry: Al - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 6

When the palaces of earth are suddenly lit up by lightning bursting forth, how paltry seem our ordinary lights afterward. In just such a way You suddenly light up my soul during the times of deepest joy in my life. And after the

brilliance of Your light, like lightning, how colorless, dark and unreal these moments seem. And my soul rushes in pursuit of You:

Glory to You, beyond the limit of the highest human dream!

Glory to You, for our tireless thirst for You,

Glory to You, Who have inspired in us dissatisfaction with earthly things,

Glory to You, Who have enveloped us in the delicate rays of Your light,

Glory to You, Who have broken the power of the spirits of darkness, and Who have doomed to annihilation every kind of evil,

Glory to You, for Your revelations, and for the happiness of feeling Your presence and living with You,

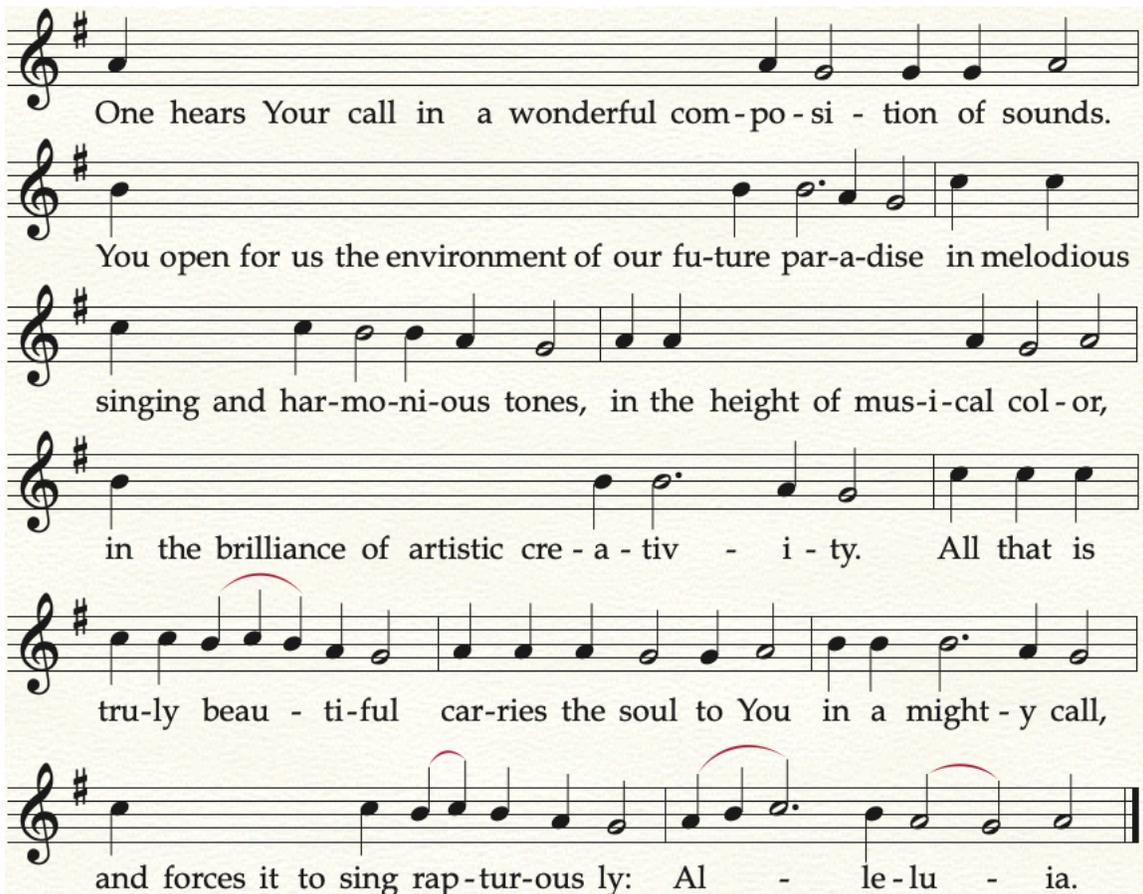
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O — God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 7



One hears Your call in a wonderful com-po-si-tion of sounds.
You open for us the environment of our fu-ture par-a-dise in melodious
singing and har-mo-ni-ous tones, in the height of mus-i-cal col-or,
in the brilliance of artistic cre-a-tiv-i-ty. All that is
tru-ly beau-ti-ful car-ries the soul to You in a might-y call,
and forces it to sing rap-tur-ous ly: Al-le-lu-ia.

Oikos 7

Through the descent of the Holy Spirit You enlighten the thought of artists, poets and scientific geniuses. Through the power of the inmost mind, they are prophetically able to perceive Your laws, opening for us the abyss of Your creative wisdom. Their works involuntarily speak of You; of how great You are in Your creations, of how great You are in man:

Glory to You, Who have manifested the unfathomable force of the laws of the universe,

Glory to You, all of nature is full of the laws of Your being,

Glory to You, for all that has been revealed to us through Your goodness,

Glory to You, for all You have kept hidden in Your wisdom,

Glory to You, for the genius of the human mind,

Glory to You, for the life-giving strength of work,

Glory to You, for the fiery tongues of inspiration,

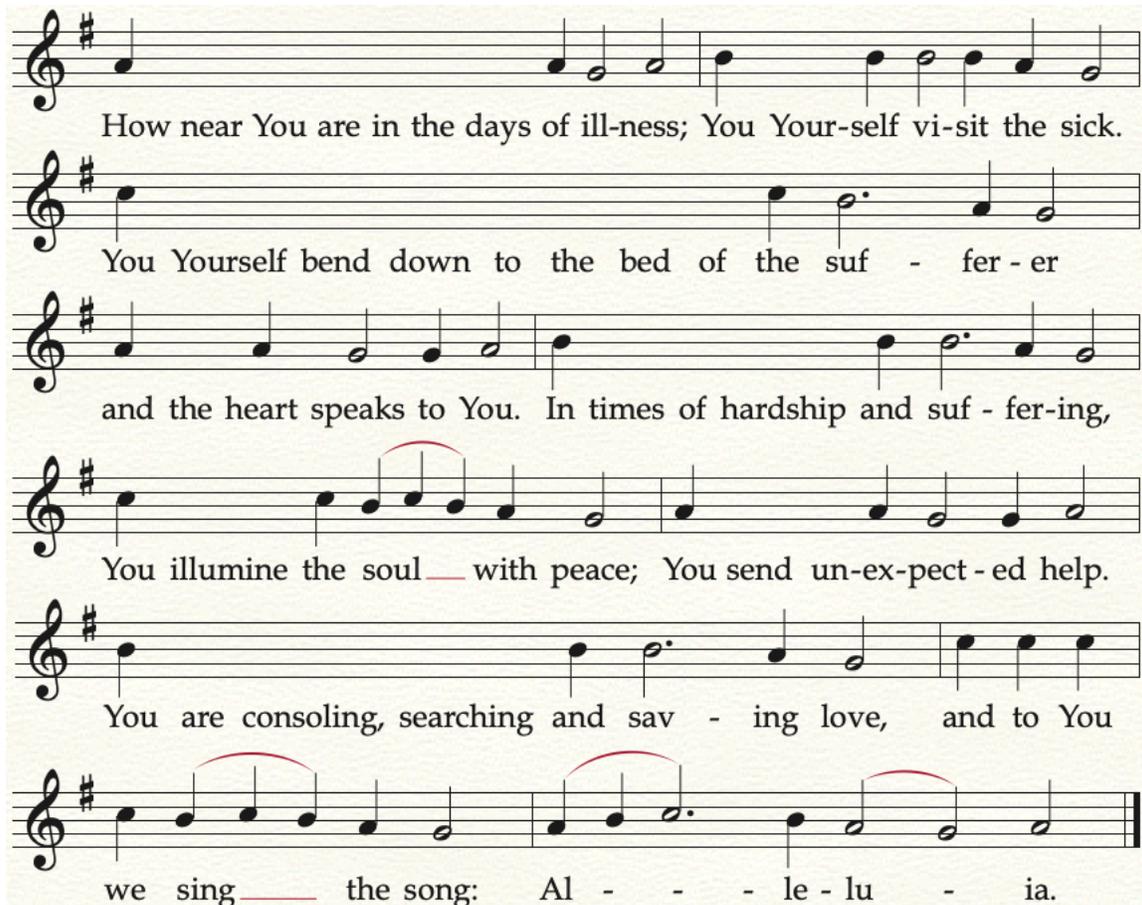
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O — God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 8



How near You are in the days of ill-ness; You Your-self vi-sit the sick.
You Yourself bend down to the bed of the suf - fer - er
and the heart speaks to You. In times of hardship and suf - fer-ing,
You illumine the soul — with peace; You send un-ex-pect - ed help.
You are consoling, searching and sav - ing love, and to You
we sing — the song: Al - - - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 8

When as a child I consciously called to You for the first time, You answered my prayer and my soul knew a wonderful peace. Then I understood that You are goodness; blessed are those who seek You. I began to call to You again and again, and call to You even now:

Glory to You, Who grant my wishes when they are good,

Glory to You, Who watch over me day and night,

Glory to You, curing hardships and losses with the healing course of time,

Glory to You, for Whom there is no such thing as a hopeless loss; You give eternal life to all,

Glory to You, Who have made immortal all that is good and lofty, Who have promised our desired reunion with those who have died,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

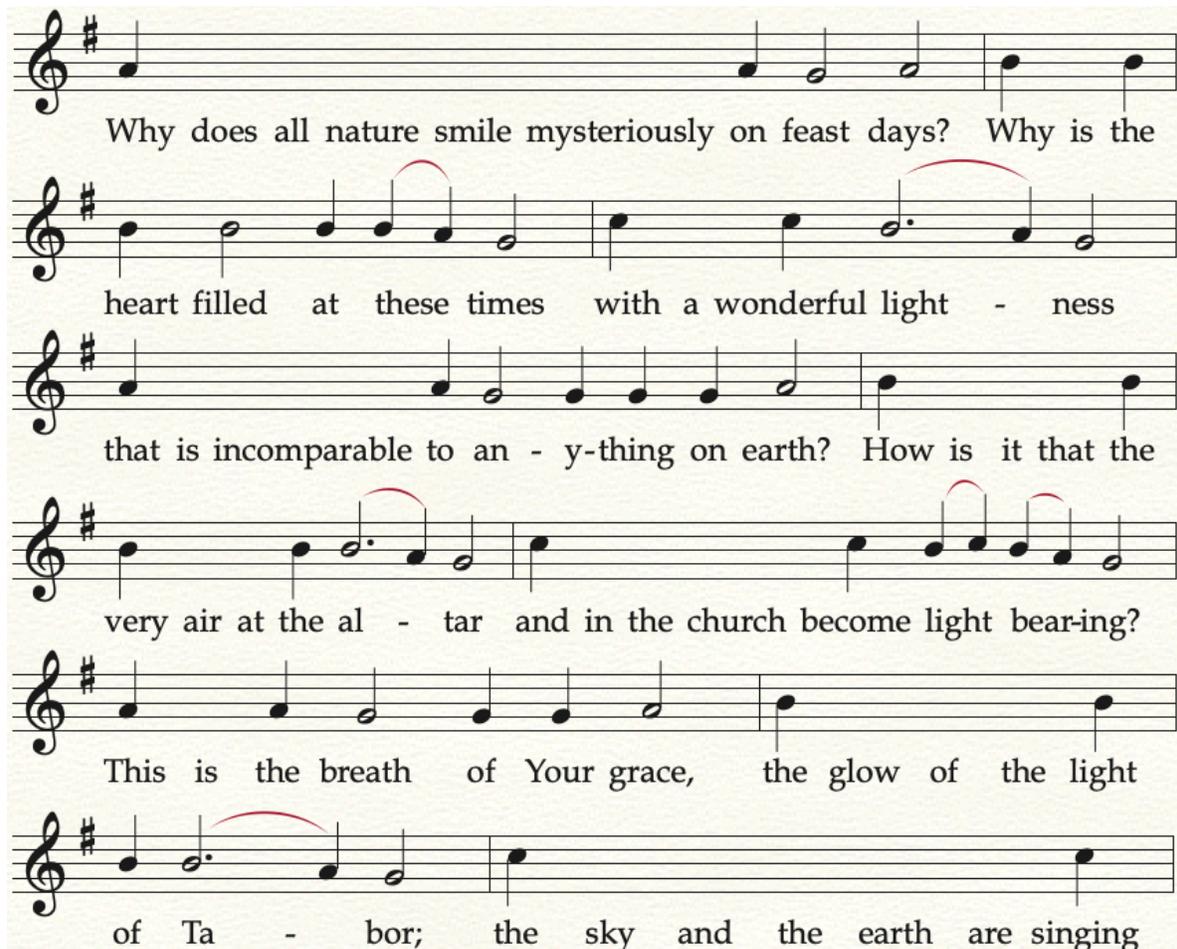
Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O — God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

The musical notation for the refrain is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp). It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a slur over the first four notes. The second measure contains the notes G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, with a slur over the last four notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Kontakion 9



Why does all nature smile mysteriously on feast days? Why is the heart filled at these times with a wonderful light - ness that is incomparable to an - y-thing on earth? How is it that the very air at the al - tar and in the church become light bearing? This is the breath of Your grace, the glow of the light of Ta - bor; the sky and the earth are singing

The musical notation for Kontakion 9 is written on six staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is a simple, stepwise line. The first staff has notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff has notes G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The third staff has notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The fourth staff has notes G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The fifth staff has notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The sixth staff has notes G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The piece ends with a double bar line.



Oikos 9

When You have inspired me to serve those around me and illumined my heart with humility, one of Your innumerable rays falls on my heart making it light bearing, as iron in fire; and I see Your mysterious, imperceptible Face:

Glory to You, Who have transfigured our life with the good things that we do,
 Glory to You, Who have imprinted an unutterable sweetness on every precept of Yours,

Glory to You, Who clearly abide where there is kindness and generosity of heart,

Glory to You, Who send failures and sorrows to us so that we might be sensitive to the sufferings of others,

Glory to You, Who have placed a great reward on the value of goodness in itself,

Glory to You, Who accept our moments of soaring,

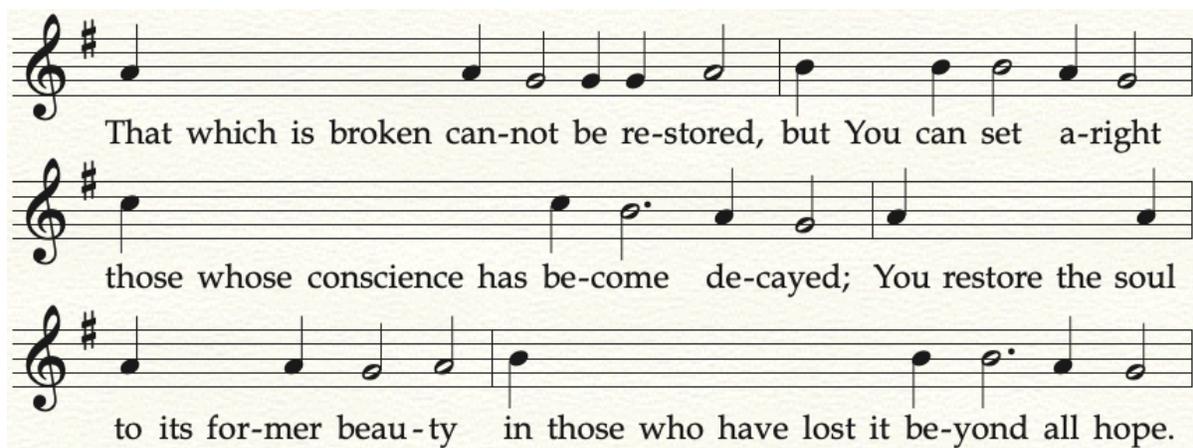
Glory to You, Who have raised love higher than anything on earth or in heaven,

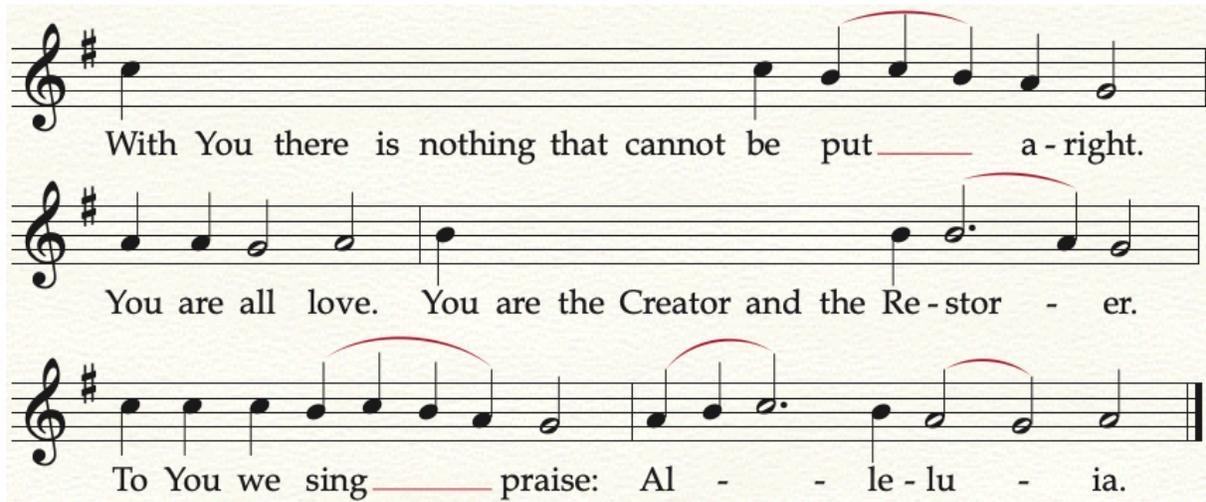
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Kontakion 10





With You there is nothing that cannot be put a-right.

You are all love. You are the Creator and the Re-stor - er.

To You we sing praise: Al - - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 10

My God, You Who know the fall of the proud angel, save me through the power of Your grace, do not let me fall away from You, do not allow me to doubt You. Sharpen my hearing so that every minute of my life I can hear Your mysterious voice, and call to You Who are everywhere present:

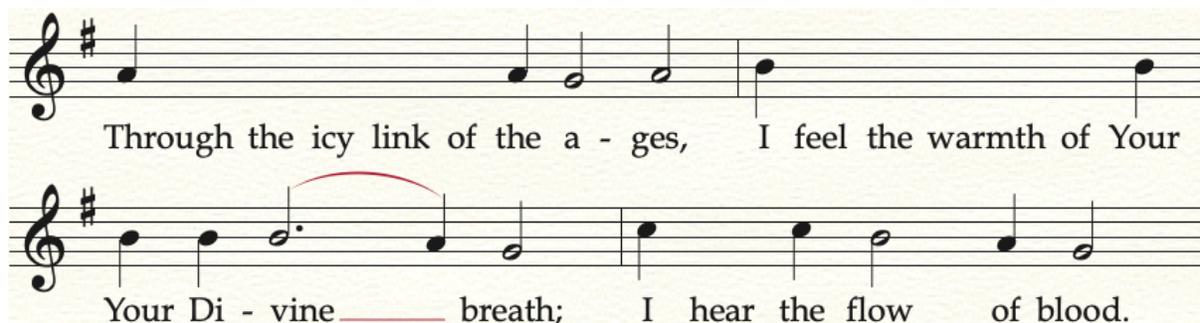
Glory to You, for providential coincidences,
 Glory to You, for the gift of premonitions,
 Glory to You, for the guidance of a secret inner voice,
 Glory to You, for revelations in dreams and when awake,
 Glory to You, Who destroy our useless plans,
 Glory to You, Who sober us from the heat of passions with suffering,
 Glory to You, Who humble pride of heart to save us,
 Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 11



Through the icy link of the a - ges, I feel the warmth of Your

Your Di - vine breath; I hear the flow of blood.

You are al-read - y near; time has part-ly van - ished.
 I see Your Cross; it is for - my - sake. My spirit is in
 ashes be - fore the Cross, where there is a triumph
 of love and sal - va - tion, and unceasing praise
 unto all a - - - ges: Al - - - le - lu - ia.

Oikos 11

Blessed is he who will have supper in Your Kingdom, but You have already admitted me to this bliss. How many times have You extended to me with Your Divine Hand, Your body and blood; and I, such a sinner, have taken this sacred gift and felt Your love - unutterable and beyond all being:

Glory to You, for the unfathomable, life-giving power of grace,

Glory to You, Who have raised up Your Church as a refuge of peace for an exhausted world,

Glory to You, Who breathe new life into us with the life-giving water of Baptism,

Glory to You, Who restore the purity of immaculate lilies to those who repent,

Glory to You, inexhaustible abyss of forgiveness,

Glory to You, for the cup of life, for the bread of eternal joy,

Glory to You, Who led us to heaven,

Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O - - God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 12

Many times I have seen the reflection of Your glo - ry
on the fa - ces of the dead. What unearthly beauty and joy
shown from them; how ethereal and immaterial were their fea - tures.
This is the tri - - umph of happiness and peace
re - ceived grace - ful - ly, as they silent - ly call up - on — You.
At the hour of my death also il - lu - mine my soul
as I call: Al - le - lu - - - ia.

Oikos 12

How can I give praise to You? I have not heard the songs of the cherubim. That is the gift of the highest of souls. But I know how nature gives praise to You: in winter I have beheld the moonlight stillness when the whole earth quietly prays to You, clothed in white and sparkling with diamonds of snow; I have seen how the rising sun rejoices in You and the choirs of birds resound in praise; I have heard the forest speak mysteriously of You, the waters murmur and the choirs of stars preach of You with their harmonious movement in infinite space. But what is my praise? Nature responds to Your laws, but I do not! Yet while I am alive I see Your love; I want to thank You, to pray to You, and call out:

Glory to You, Who have shown us light,

Glory to You, Who have loved us with love immeasurable, deep, Divine,

Glory to You, Who have surrounded us with light, and with hosts of angels and saints,

Glory to You, all Holy Father, Who have willed us Your Kingdom,
 Glory to You, all Holy Son, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
 Glory to You, all Holy Spirit and life-giving sun of the future age,
 Glory to You for everything, O Divine Trinity, all bountiful,
 Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O — God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 13

O all bountiful and life-giv-ing Tri - ni-ty, accept this gratitude
 for all of Your mer - cies and make us worthy of Your
 Di - vine — gifts so that having multiplied the tal - ents
 giv - en us we may en - ter into the eternal
 joy of our Lord with vic - to - ri - ous — praise:
 Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al - le-lu - ia.

When the Akathist is sung in its entirety, Oikos 1 is now repeated, followed by the Kontakion below.

Oikos 1

Into the world I was born as a weak, helpless child, but Your Angel spread wings of light over me, guarding my crib. Ever since then Your love lights all my paths, wonderfully guiding me towards the light of eternity. Gloriously, the generous gifts of Your Providence have been manifest from the very first day. I am thankful to You and with all who have come to know You, call out:

Glory to You, Who called me to life,
 Glory to You, Who have shown me the beauty of the universe,
 Glory to You, Who have opened before me the sky and the earth as an eternal
 book of wisdom,
 Glory to the eternity of You, in the midst of the world of time,
 Glory to You, for Your hidden and evident goodness,
 Glory to You, for every sigh of my sadness,
 Glory to You, for every step of my life, for every moment of joy,
 Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.

Refrain:

Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

Kontakion 1

3 Incorruptible King of all a - ges, holding in Your hand
 5 every path of hu - man life, through the power of
 7 Your saving prov - i - dence, we thank You for all
 9 the good things You do; those we know and those we don't know,
 10 for earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Your King - dom to come.
 12 Hold us in Your mer - cy now and ever we who sing:
 Glo - ry to You, O God, un-to a - ges of a - ges.

*A Prayer from the Akathist to the Holy Trinity*³

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Most holy Trinity, sovereign, one in essence, and Source of all good things: What will we give You for all that You have given us sinners and unworthy ones, even before we came into this world, for all that You give each of us every day, and for that which You have prepared for all of us in the age to come? For it is fitting, for such blessings and mercies, to thank You not only in words but also in deeds, keeping and fulfilling your commandments. From our youth, however, we have followed our passions and evil habits and fallen into innumerable sins and transgressions. Therefore, being impure and defiled, we would not be able to appear without shame before Your thrice-resplendent face; we would not even be able to pronounce Your most holy name if You Yourself had not been pleased to proclaim for our consolation that, loving the pure and the righteous, You also have mercy and compassionately receive sinners who repent. O most divine Trinity, look down from the heights of Your holy glory on us most sinful ones. Receive our good will in place of good deeds and grant us the spirit of true repentance, so that hating every sin we may live to the end our days in purity and righteousness, performing Your most holy will, and glorifying with pure thoughts and good works Your most pure and majestic name.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*The Blessing and Dismissal*⁴

DEACON: Wisdom.

PRIEST: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

PEOPLE: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim...

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, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother...and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

³ An alternative prayer is provided in the Appendix at the end of the Service.

⁴ If a lay person leads, in place of the Dismissal say only: O Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, through the intercessions of Your most-pure Mother, of Saint (*of the day*), and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for You are a merciful God and love mankind.

Appendix

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann †1983

Thank You, O Lord, for accepting our worship of the Holy Trinity, Father , Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with joy, peace, and righteousness.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself to us and for giving us the foretaste of Your kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another, in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, and temptations and for having restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You have bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and remind us of the “one thing needed: Your eternal kingdom.”

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.

Thank You, for our families, husbands wives and especially, children, who teach us how to celebrate Your holy name with joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for the abundance of good and drink of which we are about to partake.

Thank You, O Lord, for everything and everyone.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles. Amen.

Advent Carols

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

**REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO THEE, O ISRAEL**

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient time did give the Law
In cloud, and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads to Thee,
And close the path to misery.



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Lo, How a Rose

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

O Savior, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe.
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know.
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.