

Little Compline

With Akathist to the Mother of God - All Stases

Friday Evening - Week 5

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

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: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before 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.

The reader continues with the following Psalms:

Psalm 51 (LXX 50)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight - that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Psalm 70 (LXX 69)

Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life; let them be turned back and confused who desire my hurt. Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, "Aha, aha!" Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 143 (LXX 142)

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness, do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust;

cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

The Little Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every evening I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: "Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, 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 Nicene Creed

PEOPLE: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made;

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;

And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;

And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets;

And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead,

And the life of the world to come. Amen.

“It is Truly Right”

PEOPLE: It is truly right to bless you, O Theotokos, who are ever blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. 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.

Canon to the Theotokos (abridged)

The full Canon is comprised of eight odes, each having an opening hymn (irmos) and four or five verses with the refrain, Most holy Theotokos, save us! Printed below are the opening hymns from each of the odes 1-9. The chanters may also sing the verses from each ode.

Ode 1

Tone 4

Irmos *I shall open my mouth and the Spirit will inspire it, and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast and joyfully praising her wonders.*

Refrain *Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)*

Ode 3

Irmos O Mother of God, living and plentiful fount, give strength to those untied in spiritual fellowship, who sing hymns of praise to you; and in your divine glory grant to them crowns of glory.

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Ode 4

Irmos He Who sits in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, Jesus the true God, has come in a swift cloud, and with His pure and mighty hand He has saved those who cry: Glory to Your power, O Lord.

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Ode 5

Irmos The whole world was amazed at your divine glory, for you, O Virgin who have not known wedlock, have held in your womb the God of all, and have given birth to an eternal Son, Who rewards with salvation all who hymn your praises.

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Ode 6

Irmos As we, celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Mother of God, let us come, clapping our hands, O people of the Lord, and give glory to God Who was borne of her.

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Ode 7

Irmos The holy Children bravely trampled upon the threatening fire, refusing to worship created things in place of the Creator, and they sang in joy: "Blessed are You and praised above all, O God of our Fathers."

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Ode 8

Irmos The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the holy Children in the furnace. He Who was then prefigured has since been born on earth, and He gathers together all creation to sing: "O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever."

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Ode 9

Irmos Let every mortal born on earth, radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; and let the hosts of the angelic powers celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, and let them cry: "Rejoice! Pure and blessed ever-virgin, who gave birth to God.

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Through you, O maiden, have we faithful become partakers of joy; that we may further cry out to you "Hail!" deliver us from perpetual temptation, from attacks of enemies, and from all the multitude of evils which we mortals suffer for the number of our sins.

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

You have appeared to enlighten us and be our confirmation, therefore we shout aloud to you "Hail! unsetting star which introduced into the world the mighty Sun; Hail, pure maiden, who opened up tightly-closed Eden; hail, fiery pillar, which leads man's nature to the life above."

Refrain Most holy Theotokos, save us. (Bow)

Let us stand with reverence in the house of our God, and let us shout aloud: "Hail, mistress of the world; hail, Mary, Lady of us all; hail, you who alone are blameless among women and beautiful; hail, O vessel, which received into yourself the Myrrh which was never before outpoured.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

Hail, O ever-virgin, the dove who brought forth Him Who is merciful. Hail, boast of all the righteous saints and crown of those who strive. Hail, ornament divine of all the just, and of us the faithful our salvation as well.

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

Spare, O God, Your inheritance, and overlook now all our sins, because of her who is with You and entreats You, who on earth gave You birth, O Christ, when You desired through Your great mercy to take upon Yourself another form.

Kontakion: Tone 8 - "To You, the Champion..."

To you, the champion leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, you who have delivered me from terror; but since you have that power invincible, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free, from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto you, "Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!"

Fifth Week of Lent – All Stases

**** * Akathist Hymn - First Stasis * ****

Oikos 1

*An archangel was sent from heaven to say "Hail!" to the Theotokos. (3x)
And beholding You, O Lord, taking bodily form, he stood rapt in wonder, and with bodiless voice cried aloud to her in this way:*

Hail, you through whom joy shall shine forth;
Hail, you through whom the curse shall be destroyed.
Hail, restoration of fallen Adam;
Hail, redemption of the tears of Eve.
Hail, height unscaled by human minds;
Hail, depth hard to scan, even for angels' eyes.
Hail, you who are a kingly throne;
Hail, you who hold the Upholder of all.
Hail, star that showed the Sun;
Hail, womb of the divine incarnation.
Hail, you through whom creation is renewed;
Hail, you through whom the Creator becomes a babe.
Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion 2

Boldly the holy maiden spoke to Gabriel, conscious of her chastity: "To my soul your strange message seems hard to grasp; how can you speak of a virgin conception?" and she cried aloud: Alleluia.

Oikos 2

Craving to know knowledge unknowable, the Virgin cried out to him who ministered to her: "Tell me how may a son be born from a chaste womb?" To her he spoke in fear, and only cried aloud this:

Hail, initiate of the inexpressible counsel;
Hail, O faith of those who pray in silence.
Hail, beginning of the miracles of Christ;
Hail, crown of His decrees.
Hail, heavenly ladder, by which God came down;
Hail, bridge that leads us from earth to heaven.
Hail, you widely proclaimed wonder of angels;
Hail, much-lamented damager of demons.
Hail, you who ineffably bore the Light;
Hail, you who told no one how this was done.
Hail, you who surpass the knowledge of the wise;
Hail, you who enlighten the minds of the faithful.
Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 3

Divine power from on high then overshadowed the maiden that she might conceive, and revealed her fruitful womb as a fertile field to all who desire to reap salvation, as they sing: Alleluia.

Oikos 3

Enshrining God in her womb, the Virgin hurried to Elizabeth whose unborn babe at once perceived her greeting, and rejoiced; and with stirrings as if with voices, cried out to the Theotokos:

Hail, branch of unfading growth;

Hail, possessor of untouched fruit.

Hail, you who labor for Him Whose labor is love;

Hail, you who tend Him Who tends our life.

Hail, field with compassions harvest-rich;

Hail, table with abundance of mercies spread.

Hail, good-will of God towards men;

Hail, access of mortals to God.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 4

Floods of doubtful thoughts troubled the wise Joseph within, and he feared a furtive love as he beheld you unwed, O blameless one; but when he learned that your conception was of the Holy Spirit he said: Alleluia.

* * **Akathist Hymn - Second Stasis** * *

Oikos 4

Gloriously the angels hymned the incarnate presence of Christ, and the shepherds heard; and running as to a shepherd, they beheld Him as an unspotted lamb, being nurtured at Mary's breast, and her they hymned and said:

Hail, mother of the Lamb and of the Shepherd;

Hail, fold of reason-endowed sheep.

Hail, defense against foes invisible;

Hail, opener of the gates of paradise.

Hail, for all the heavens rejoice with the earth;

Hail, for all the earth dances for joy together with the heavens.

Hail, never-silent voice of the apostles;

Hail, invincible courage of those who strive.

Hail, firm foundation of the faith;

Hail, shining token of grace.

Hail, you through whom Hades was laid bare;

Hail, you through whom we are clothed with glory.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 5

High in the heavens the Magi beheld the divinely moving star, and they followed its rays; using it as a beacon, they sought the mighty King, and as they approached the Unapproachable, they rejoiced and cried out to Him: Alleluia.

Oikos 5

In the Virgin's hand the sons of the Chaldees saw Him whose hand had made man; and knowing Him as Master, even though he had taken on Himself the form of a servant, they hurried with their gifts to worship, and cried out to her who is blessed:

Hail, Mother of the unsetting star;

Hail, dawn of the mystic day.

Hail, you who quench the fiery furnace of error;

Hail, you who enlighten the initiates of the Trinity.

Hail, you who cast out the inhuman tyrant of old;

Hail, you who show forth Christ the Lord Who loves mankind.

Hail, you who redeem us from pagan superstitions;

Hail, you who rescue us from worlds unclean.

Hail, you who cause the worship of fire to cease;

Hail, you who quench the flame of suffering.

Hail, guide of the wisdom of the faithful;

Hail, joy of all generations.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 6

King's messengers did the Magi become when they returned to Babylon; they fulfilled Your bidding and preached You to all as the Christ, and they left Herod as a trifler who knew not how to sing: Alleluia.

Oikos 6

Lighting in Egypt the lamp of truth, You cast out the darkness of falsehood; for their idols, O Savior could not bear Your strength, and fell down; and those of them who were set free cried out to the Theotokos:

Hail, uplifter of mankind;

Hail, downfall of demons.

Hail, you who trample upon the delusions of error;

Hail, you who refute the frauds of idols.
Hail, sea which drowned the mystic pharaoh;
Hail, rock which refreshed those thirsting for Life.
Hail, fiery pillar guiding those in darkness;
Hail, shelter of the world, broader than a cloud.
Hail, sustenance in place of manna;
Hail, minister of holy joy.
Hail, land of promise;
Hail, you from whom flow honey and milk.
Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 7

Most near to his departure from this deceitful world was Simeon when You were presented to him as a new-born babe, but You were discerned by him as perfect God; overcome therefore by Your ineffable wisdom he cried out: Alleluia.

* * ***Akathist Hymn - Third Stasis*** * *

Oikos 7

New was the creation which the Creator showed to us His creatures, when He appeared blossoming from a virgin womb; and He preserved her just as she was, in purity, so that we, beholding this marvel, might cry aloud and sing:

Hail, flower of incorruption;
Hail, crown of chastity.
Hail, you who flash forth a type of the Resurrection;
Hail, you who mirror the life of the angels.
Hail, tree of lavish fruit, from which the faithful are nourished;
Hail, spacious shade-tree, beneath which many are sheltered.
Hail, you who bear the Guide of those who stray abroad;
Hail, you who bring forth the Redeemer of captives.
Hail, intercession before the righteous Judge;
Hail, forgiveness for many who stumble.
Hail, robe of liberty for the naked;
Hail, selfless love that vanquishes all mean desires.
Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 8

Our minds are transported to heaven when we behold this strange manner of birth, so let us be estranged from the world; for this cause indeed the most-high God

appeared on earth as humble man, that He might raise on high those who cry out to Him: Alleluia.

Oikos 8

Present and complete with those below, and in no way absent from those above was the uncircumscribed Word; for there took place indeed a divine descent and not simply a change of place; and the birth was from a God-chosen Virgin, who heard such words as these:

Hail, resting-place of the uncontainable God;

Hail, door of solemn mystery.

Hail, doubtful rumor of the faithless;

Hail, undoubted boast of the faithful.

Hail, all-holy chariot of Him Who rides upon the cherubim,

Hail, all-excellent chair of Him Who sits upon the seraphim.

Hail, you who make things that differ to agree;

Hail, you who join together virginity and motherhood.

Hail, you through whom transgression is annulled;

Hail, you through whom paradise was opened.

Hail, key of the kingdom of Christ;

Hail, hope of eternal good things.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 9

Quivering amazement seized all Your angels at the great work of Your Incarnation; for they saw the inaccessible God as man accessible to all, dwelling among us and hearing from us all: Alleluia.

Oikos 9

Ready-voiced orators we see become voiceless as fish before you, O Theotokos, and unable to say how you could give birth and yet remain virgin; but we, marveling at this mystery, cry out in faith:

Hail, vessel of the wisdom of God;

Hail, treasury of His foreknowledge.

Hail, you who show the learned to be fools;

Hail, you who prove logicians illogical.

Hail, for the subtle disputants are made fools;

Hail, for the makers of myths are made to fade away.

Hail, you who broke the webs of words woven by Athenians;

Hail, you who filled the nets of fishermen.

Hail, you who draw us up from the depths of ignorance;

Hail, you who enlighten many with knowledge.

Hail, raft for those who wish to be saved;

Hail, haven for those who swim in the sea of life.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 10

Salvation for the world the Architect of all desired, and for this purpose by His own will He came; as God from everlasting He is our Shepherd, yet as man He appeared among us for our sake, and although called like by like, still as God He hears: Alleluia.

*** * Akathist Hymn - Fourth Stasis - Fourth Week of Lent * ***

Oikos 10

Theotokos and Virgin, you are a protecting wall to virgins and to all who run to you; for the Maker of heaven and earth prepared you, O pure maiden, and dwelt in your womb, and taught all to sing out to you:

Hail, pillar of virginity;

Hail, gate of salvation.

Hail, source of spiritual reformation;

Hail, leader of divine goodness.

Hail, for you regenerated those conceived in sin;

Hail, for you gave understanding to those who had lost their mind.

Hail, you who annulled the corruption of hearts;

Hail, you who bore the sower of chastity.

Hail, bridal chamber of a virgin marriage;

Hail, you who join the faithful to the Lord.

Hail, fair nurse and mother of virgins;

Hail, bridesmaid of holy souls.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 11

Unworthy is every hymn that seeks to encompass the multitude of Your many mercies; for if we should offer to You hymns of praise as numberless as the sands, O holy King, we should still have done nothing worthy of that which You have given to us who cry out to You: Alleluia.

Oikos 11

Virgin all-holy, we behold you as a flaming beacon, shining for those in darkness: for by kindling the heavenly Light, you guide us all to divine knowledge; illumining our minds with radiance, and we honor you by this our cry:

Hail, ray of the living Sun;

Hail, flash of unfading splendor.

Hail, lightning-flash, shining upon our souls;

Hail, you who as thunder strike down our enemies.

Hail, for you caused the resplendent light to dawn;

Hail, for you caused the mighty, flowing river to gush forth.

Hail, you who are a living type of the baptismal font;

Hail, you who took away the stain of sin.

Hail, laver that purifies the conscience;

Hail, bowl for mingling the wine of joy.

Hail, fragrance of the sweetness of Christ;

Hail, life of mystic festival.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 12

When He who pays the ancient debts of all men desired to give grace, He came of His own will to dwell among those who had departed from His grace; and when He tore into pieces the written charge against them, He heard from all this cry: Alleluia.

Oikos 12

You we all hymn as a living temple, O Theotokos, while singing to Him whom you bore; for the Lord Who holds all things in His hand, by dwelling within you, hallowed and glorified you, and taught all to cry out to you:

Hail, tabernacle of God and of the Word;

Hail, holiest of all the holy ones.

Hail, ark made golden by the Spirit;

Hail, inexhaustible treasury of Life.

Hail, precious diadem of pious rulers;

Hail, venerable boast of devoted priests.

Hail, steady tower of the Church;

Hail, impregnable wall of the realm.

Hail, you through whom trophies are set up;

Hail, you through whom enemies are cast down.

Hail, healing of my body;

Hail, salvation of my soul.

Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

Kontakion 13

Zealously are you praised, O Mother who bore the most-holy Word of all the saints; when you receive this present offering, deliver us from every disaster and deliver from the wrath to come those who cry out to you; Alleluia.

Oikos 1

*An archangel was sent from heaven to say "Hail!" to the Theotokos. (3x)
And beholding You, O Lord, taking bodily form, he stood rapt in wonder, and with bodiless voice cried aloud to her in this way:*

Hail, you through whom joy shall shine forth;
Hail, you through whom the curse shall be destroyed.
Hail, restoration of fallen Adam;
Hail, redemption of the tears of Eve.
Hail, height unscaled by human minds;
Hail, depth hard to scan, even for angels' eyes.
Hail, you who are a kingly throne;
Hail, you who hold the Upholder of all.
Hail, star that showed the Sun;
Hail, womb of the divine incarnation.
Hail, you through whom creation is renewed;
Hail, you through whom the Creator becomes a babe.
Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

Kontakion: Tone 8 - "To You, the Champion..."

To you, the champion leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, you who have delivered me from terror; but since you have that power invincible, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free, from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto you, "Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!"

And the rest of Compline.

The Trisagion Prayers

Kontakion of the Day

With mystic apprehension of the commandment divine, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Maiden: Behold, He who in His descent did bow the heavens is housed unchanged and whole in you; as I behold Him in your womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and cry out to you: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

Forty-fold "Lord, have mercy"

The Prayer of the Hours

PRIEST: O Lord, Who at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, abundant in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to sinners; Who call all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all disaster, wrath, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for blessed are You unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

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.

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.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God have compassion on us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance on us and be merciful to us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian is omitted on Friday Evening.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

READER: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The Evening Prayer to the Mother of God

READER: O Lady, Bride of God, spotless, blameless, pure, and immaculate Virgin, who without corruption, by Your glorious birth-giving, have united God the Word to man and joined the fallen nature of our race to heavenly things; who alone are the hope of the hopeless, the help of those who do battle; the ready help of those who flee to you and the refuge of all Christians: Despise me not, an accursed sinner, though I have rendered myself unworthy by my shameful thoughts, words, and deeds, and through habitual idleness have become a slave to the pleasures of life; but as the Mother of God who love mankind, mercifully have compassion on me, a sinner and a prodigal, and receive my prayer, though it be offered to you by

unworthy lips; and using your boldness as a mother, plead with your Son, our Lord and Master, that He may open to me also the tender compassion of His goodness so as to overlook my numberless transgressions and turn me to repentance and show me to be a zealous doer of His commandments. And because you are merciful, compassionate, and benevolent, be ever near me in this present life as an ardent help and protection, defending me from the assaults of adversaries and leading me to salvation. And at the time of my departure from this life, care for my miserable soul, and drive far from it the dark visions of evil demons; and in the fearful day of judgment, deliver me from eternal punishment, and present me as an heir of the ineffable glory of your Son, our God. May this be my lot, O Lady, most-holy Theotokos, through your mediation and help, through the grace and love toward mankind of your only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom are due all glory, honor and worship, with His unoriginate Father and His all-holy and good and life giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Evening Prayer to Christ

READER: And grant us, O Master, when we depart to sleep, repose of body and soul; and protect us from the murky sleep of sin and from all the dark pleasures of the night. Calm the impulses of passions, and quench the fiery darts of evil which are craftily thrown against us; check the turbulence of our flesh, and still all earthly and material thoughts. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, a prudent reason, a vigilant heart, a tranquil sleep free from all fantasies of Satan. Raise us up again at the time of prayer strengthened in Your commandments, holding steadfastly within us the remembrance of Your judgments. Grant us grace to glorify You all through the night, that we may praise and bless and glorify Your all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Concluding Prayers

PRIEST: O most glorious, ever-virgin, blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to your Son our God, and intercede with Him that through you He may save our souls.

The Father is my Hope;

The Son is my Refuge;

The Holy Spirit is my Protection;

O Holy Trinity: Glory to You.

In you, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under your protection.

The Prayer to the Guardian Angel

PRIEST: O holy Angel who accompany my wretched soul and lowly life, forsake me not, and depart not from me because of my extravagance and wickedness. Do not give access to the evil demon to rule with his might this mortal body of mine, but hold me by my wretched, feeble hand; lead me in the path of salvation. Indeed, O holy Angel of God, guardian and protector of my wretched soul and body, forgive me everything by which I have previously saddened you all the days of my life. And though this day I have sinned, still be my shelter this night. Keep me from all the wiles of the enemy, that I may not anger God with any sin. Intercede with the Lord for me, that He may confirm me in His fear and show me to be a worthy servant of His goodness.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Little Dismissal

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,...have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

Mutual Forgiveness

PRIEST: O God, be gracious to me, a sinner, and have mercy on me.

PRIEST: Forgive me, a sinner.

PEOPLE: God forgive you, father.

The Concluding Litany

PRIEST: Let us pray for the peace of the world.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for our father, (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), *N.*, and all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the civil authorities of this land.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the welfare of our armed forces.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for our fathers and brethren absent from among us.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who hate us and those who love us.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who are kind to us and minister to us.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who have requested our prayers, unworthy as we are.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the deliverance of captives.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for travelers by land and sea and air.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who lie in sickness.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And let us pray also for abundance of the fruits of the earth.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the soul of every Orthodox Christian.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Let us bless God-fearing leaders, Orthodox bishops, the founders of this holy church, our parents and teachers, and all our fathers and brethren gone before us, the Orthodox who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Let us also say for ourselves.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

Awed by the Beauty: Tone 3

*Awed by the beauty of your virginity,
and the exceeding radiance of your purity,
Gabriel stood amazed and cried to you, O Mother of God:
“What praise may I offer you that is worthy of your beauty?
By what name shall I call you?
I am lost and bewildered;
but I shall greet you as I was commanded.
Rejoice, you who are full of grace.”*



Our Lady of the Sign