

LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Come, let us adore the King our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the king and our God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

You are very great, O Lord, my God;

clothed in pomp and brilliance;
arrayed with light as with a cloak.

Stretching out the sky as a tent-cloth,
covering Your lofty halls with water,

You make the clouds Your conveyance.

You surge on the wings of the wind.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

I will praise my God as long as I last.

Would that my thoughts be pleasing to Him:
and I will rejoice in the Lord.

The sun knows the time of its setting.

You establish darkness, and it is night.

How great are Your works, O Lord!

in wisdom You have wrought them all.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and for ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to You. O God! (3 times)

LITANY OF PEACE

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls,
let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy
churches and for the unity of all. let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence and
fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our most holy Pontiff, (N), Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our most blessed Major Archbishop (N), our most reverend
Metropolitan, (N), our God-loving Bishop, (N), the reverend priesthood. the
diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military,
let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord

Priest: (Silently) Lord, our God, Whose power is beyond comparison, Whose glory is beyond comprehension, Whose mercy is beyond measure, and Whose love for us all is beyond expression, in the kindness of your hear, O Master, look upon us and upon this holy church, and bestow on us and on those praying with us, the riches of Your mercy and compassion.

(Aloud)

For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

People: Amen

(During the reading of the Kathisma, the priest solemnly transfers the Sacred Gifts to the Proskomedia Table and prepared the vessels. The people kneel at this time.)

KATHISMA

PSALM 120

In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.
O Lord deliver me from lying lip from treacherous tongue.
What will he inflict on you, with more besides,
O treacherous tongue?
Sharp arrows of a warrior with fiery coals of brushwood.

Woe is me that I sojourn in Meshech,
that I dwell amid the tents of Kedar!
All too long have I dwelt with those who hate peace.
When I speak of peace, they are ready for war.

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains,
whence shall help come to me?
My help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you:
Indeed, he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel.

The Lord is your guardian;
the Lord is your shade,
He is beside you at your right hand.

The sun shall not harm you by day.
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord will guard you from all evil;
He will guard your life.
The Lord will guard your coming and your going
Both now and forever.

PSALM 122

I rejoiced because they said to me,
We will go up to the house of the Lord.”
And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem -
Jerusalem, built as a city
With compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,
The tribes of the Lord,
According to the decree for Israel,
To give thanks to the name of the Lord.
In it as set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David.

Pray for peace of Jerusalem!

May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.
Because of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will pray for your good.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and ever. Amen
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God (3X)

SMALL LITANY

Priest: Again, and again in peace let us pray to Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Priest: Again, and again in peace let us pray to Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Priest: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord

Priest: (Silently) O Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy name, and put us not to shame for having placed our hope in your mercy, but graciously grant us, O Lord, all the means of salvation; make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart and to accomplish your will in all things.

(Aloud)

For You are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

O LORD, I HAVE CRIED

(Tone1)

PSALM 140

O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me; Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer

When I call upon You Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer rise like incense before You;

And the lifting of my hands as an evening sacrifice

Hear me, O Lord!

(Special hymns, 'sticheras' found on your special sheet are sung between the verses)

**Praise the Lord all the nations,
Proclaim His glory, all you people.**

(tone 1)

The harlot mingled precious oil of myrrh with her tears
and poured it on your most pure feet, as she kissed them;
and you proclaimed her as one justified.

To us also grant forgiveness, O Lord, who suffered for our sake,
and save us.

**Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
Eternally will His truth endure**

While the sinful woman brought oil of myrrh,
the disciple came to an agreement with the transgressors.
She rejoiced to pour out what was very precious;
while he made haste to sell the One who is above all price.
She acknowledged Christ as Lord; he severed himself from the Master.
She was set free, but Judas became the slave of the enemy.
Grievous was his lack of love. Great was her repentance.
Grant such repentance also to me, O Saviour, who suffered for our sake,
and save me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever and ever. Amen**

(tone 8)

The woman who had fallen into many sins,
perceiving your divinity, O Lord,
fulfilled the part of a myrrh-bearer;
and with lamentations she brought sweet smelling oil of myrrh to you before
your burial.

She said: Woe is me!

for night surrounds me. dark and moonless,
and it stings my lustful passion with the love of sin.

Accept the fountain of my tears, O you, who draws down from the clouds the
waters of the sea.

Incline to the groanings of my heart,

O you who in you ineffable self-emptying have bowed down the heavens.

I shall kiss your most pure feet and wipe them with the hairs of my head,

those feet whose sound Eve heard at dusk in Paradise, and hid herself for fear.

Who can search out the multitude of my sins
and the abyss of your judgments, O Saviour of my soul?
Despise me not, your handmaiden,
for you have mercy without measure.
(ENTRANCE with candles and incense)

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!

HYMN OF THE EVENING

O Joyful Light! Light and Holy Glory of the Father Immortal
The heavenly, holy the Blessed One, O Jesus Christ!
Now that we have reached the setting of the sun,
And see the evening light we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to You.
O Son of God, the Giver of Life. Behold the universe sings Your Glory.

Priest: Let us be attentive! Peace be with all. Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

PROKIMEN 1:

To the God of heaven give thanks,* for His love endures forever,
verse: Give thanks to the God of gods, for his love endures forever.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Exodus (2:11-22)

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: At that time, after Moses had grown up, when he visited his kinsmen and witnessed their forced labor, he saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew, one of his own kinsmen. Looking about and seeing no one, he slew the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out again, and now two Hebrews were fighting! So he asked the culprit, "Why are you striking your fellow Hebrew?" But the culprit replied, "Who has appointed you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses became afraid and thought, "The affair must certainly be known."

Pharaoh, too, heard of the affair and sought to put Moses to death. But Moses fled from him and stayed in the land of Midian. As he was seated there by a well, seven daughters of a priest of Midian came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. But some shepherds came and drove them away. Then Moses got up and defended them and watered their flock. When they returned to their father Reuel, he said to them, "How is it you have returned so soon today?" They answered, "An Egyptian saved us from the interference of the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock!" "Where is the man?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him there? Invite him to have something to eat." Moses agreed to live with him, and the man gave him his daughter Zipporah in marriage. She bore him a son, whom he named Gershom; for he said, "I am a stranger in a foreign land."

PROKIMEN 2:

Your love, O Lord, is eternal * discard not the work of your hands.

verse. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart. In the presence of the angels, I will bless you

(Then the celebrant taking a candle and the incense blessed the altar and the people.)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

(Blessing the people) **The Light of Christ enlightens all.**

(The people make three prostrations)

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Job (2:1-10)

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: At that time once again the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. And the Lord said to Satan, "Whence do you come?" And Satan answered the

Lord and said, "From roaming the earth and patrolling it." And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job, and that there is no one on earth like him, faultless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil? He still holds fast to his innocence although you incited me against him to ruin him without cause." And Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has will he give for his life. But now put forth your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and surely he will blaspheme you to your face." And the Lord said to Satan, "He is in your power; only spare his life." So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with severe boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. And Job took a potsherd to scrape himself, as he sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Are you still holding to your innocence? Curse God and die." But Job said to her, "Are even you going to speak as senseless women do? We accept good things from God; and should we not accept evil?" Through ail this, Job said nothing sinful.

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the holy Gospel. Peace be with all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. (26: 6-16)

People: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

Priest: Let us be attentive!

While Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman carrying a jar of costly perfume came up to him at table and began to pour it on his head. When the disciples saw this they grew indignant, protesting: "What is the point of such extravagance? This could have been sold for a good price and the money given to the poor." Jesus became aware of this and said to them: "Why do you criticize the woman? It is a good deed she has done for me. The poor you will always have with you but you will not always have me. By pouring this perfume on my body, she has contributed toward my burial preparation. I assure you, wherever the good news is proclaimed throughout the world, what she did will be spoken of as her memorial. ' '

Then one of the Twelve whose name was Judas Iscariot went off to the

chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he kept looking for an opportunity to hand him over.

People: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

THE GREAT INCENSING

(People kneel)

Priest: Let my prayer rise like incense before You, and the lifting of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.

(People stand)

People: Let my prayer rise like incense before You, and the lifting of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.

(People kneel)

Priest: O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon You.

(People stand)

People: Let my prayer rise like incense before You, and the lifting of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.

(People kneel)

Priest: Set a guard, O Lord before my mouth and a portal around my lips.

(People stand)

People: Let my prayer rise like incense before You, and the lifting of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.

(People kneel)

Priest: Incline my heart away from evil dealings from finding excuses for sinful deeds.

(People stand)

People: Let my prayer rise like incense before You, and the lifting of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.

(People kneel)

Priest: Let my prayer rise like incense before You,

(People stand)

People: and the lifting of my hands, like an evening sacrifice.

(All make three prostrations)

INSISTENT EKTENIA

Priest: Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy. (3X)

Priest: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, (N.), Pope of Rome; for our most blessed Major Archbishop (N.), our most reverend Metropolitan, (N.), our God-loving Bishop, (N.), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Lord have mercy. (3X)

Priest: We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and for all the military.

People: Lord have mercy. (3X)

Priest: We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

People: Lord have mercy. (3X)

Priest: For You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

Priest: Again, and again in peace for the faithful pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: (silently) Holy Mother, infinitely good, we beseech You who are rich in mercy to have pity on us sinners and to make us worthy of receiving your only Son and our God, the King of Glory. For behold, his spotless body and life-giving blood are about to make their entrance at this time and to be laid on the mystical table, escorted by angel hosts unseen. Make us receive them in blameless communion, that when the eyes our understanding are enlightened, we may become children of light and day.

(aloud)

Through the gift of your Christ with whom you are blessed, together with you holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

(People kneel)

GREAT AND SOLEMN ENTRANCE

Now the Powers of heaven minister with us invisibly.

For behold the King of glory is entering.

This is a mystical Sacrifice perfected being carried high.

Lest us approach with faith and love

So that we may be partakers of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

LITANY

Priest: Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For the precious gifts which have been presented and presanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That our loving God, Who has received them as a spiritual fragrance upon His holy, heavenly and mystical altar, may send down on us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, misfortune, Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

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

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful, and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Having asked for unity of faith and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: (silently) O God of ineffable and invisible mysteries with whom are the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, who have revealed to us, the service of this liturgy and who, through your great love for us all, have established us sinners for the offering of gifts and sacrifices to You for our sins and for the people's faults; O You, King invisible, who perform great works, inscrutable and glorious marvels which cannot be numbered: look upon us your unworthy servants who stand, as before your throne of the cherubim, at this holy altar where your only begotten Son, our God, reposes under these awesome mysteries offered here. And deliver us all and your faithful people from impurities; sanctify the souls and bodies of all of us with a sanctification that cannot be taken away, so that partaking of these divine mysteries with a pure conscience, faces unashamed and enlightened hearts, and being enlivened by them, we may to be united with your Christ Himself, our true God, who said "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in

me and I in him.” Thus, your Word having his abode in us and walking in our midst, O Lord, we become a temple of your all-holy and adorable Spirit, being delivered from every wile of the devil working in our acts, words, and thoughts: and we shall obtain the blessings you promised us, together with all the saints who pleased you since time began.

(aloud)

Make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without condemnation to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father and say:

People: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. They 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

Priest: Peace be with all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Bow you heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: (silently) O God, the only one good and compassionate, who dwell on high and look upon the humble: look with compassionate eyes upon your people and preserve them. Grant us all to partake without condemnation of these your life-giving mysteries, for it is before You that we bow our head in the hope of your abundant mercy.

(aloud)

Through the grace, mercies and loving-kindness of Your only begotten Son with Whom You are blessed together with Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

(All kneel)

Priest: (silently) Attend, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, from Your holy dwelling and from the throne of glory in Your kingdom, and come to sanctify us, You Who are seated on high with the Father and are invisibly present here with us. Deign to give us with Your mighty hand Your most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us, to all the people. God be merciful to me a sinner (three times)

COMMUNION SERVICE

(Aloud)

Let us be attentive! Holy Presanctified Things for the holy!

People: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Taste and see, taste and see how good is the Lord, how good is the Lord, how good is the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I believe, O Lord, and confess that You are truly Christ, the Sone of the Living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not tell the mystery of Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief, I confess to You:

Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Master, when You come into Your kingdom.

Remember me, O Holy One, when You come into Your kingdom.

May the partaking of Your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, be unto me not for judgment or condemnation but for the healing of souls and body.

God be merciful to me, a sinner.

God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord.

Priest: Approach

People: I will bless the Lord at all times, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

(The faithful approach with reverence to receive the most precious Body and Blood of our Saviour).

Priest: Blessed be our God, always now and for ever and ever.

People: We thank You, O Christ our God that you have made us worthy to be partakers of your most pure body and your precious blood which is poured out unto the whole world for the forgiveness of sins the mystery of your concern. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Priest: Stand aright! Having received the divine holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, and life-giving, awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us rightly give thanks to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Having asked that this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: (silently) We thank You, Saviour and God of the universe, for all the blessings You bestowed upon us and for our partaking of the holy body and blood of your Christ. And we pray You, Master who love us all: keep us under the shadow of your wings, and grant us to partake worthily, even until our last breath, of your holy mystery for the enlightening of our souls and body and the inheritance of your heavenly kingdom.

(aloud)

For You are our sanctification and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the name of the Lord.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Almighty Lord who created the whole universe in wisdom; who by your ineffable providence and great goodness have brought us to these salutary days for the purification of our souls and bodies, for the control of our passions and for hope in the resurrection; You who are forty days gave Moses, your servant, the tablets of the law inscribed by your divine hands: enable us also, O Good One, to fight the good fight, to run the course of the fast, to keep the faith, to crush the heads of the invisible dragons, to come out victorious over sin to attain without reproach unto the worship of your holy resurrection. For blessed and glorified is you most honorable and magnificent name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen

Blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever. (3X)

Priest: (silently) O Lord our God, who brought us to these most salutary days and permitted us to partake of your awesome mysteries: unite us to your spiritual flock and make us heirs of your kingdom, now and for ever and ever. Amen

Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you with His grace and love for us all, always, now and forever and ever.

People: Amen

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Priest: Christ our true God, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy apostles, of our father among the saints, Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, and of all the saints, will have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and love us all.

People: Amen