

Or, if a bishop serves:

Give the bless-ing. Most reverend Metropolitan, [or: bishop,] give the bless - ing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; and of holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose feast we solemnly celebrate; of the holy (Name/s), the patron[s] [patroness] of this church; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:

A - - - - - men.

The Service of Great Vespers for Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

The deacon or celebrant, facing the faithful, intones the chant for long life:

To (Name/s) grant, O Lord, many years.

Response:

God grant ^{him}_{her}_{them} man - y years. God grant ^{him}_{her}_{them} man - y years.

God grant ^{him}_{her}_{them} man - y bless - ed years.

Added only after the final intonation:


In health and hap - pi - ness, in health and hap - pi - ness,


God grant ^{him}_{her}_{them} man - y bless - ed years.

*Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
November, 2010*

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest, then All: 
Bless-ed be the name of the Lord, now and for - ev - er,

All: 
Bless-ed be the name of the Lord, now and for - ev - er.

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on <i>my</i> lips;	This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his <i>distress</i> .
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and <i>be</i> glad.	The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere him, <i>to</i> rescue them.
Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise <i>his</i> name.	Taste and see that the Lord is good. He is happy who seeks refuge <i>in</i> him.
I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set <i>me</i> free.	Revere the Lord, you his saints. They lack nothing, those who <i>revere</i> him.
Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be <i>abashed</i> .	Strong lions suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack <i>no</i> blessing.

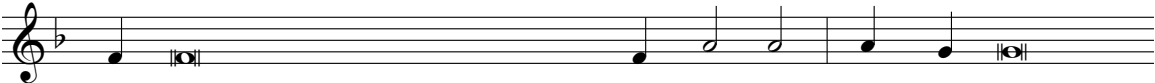
Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through his grace and loving-kindness, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.


Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,

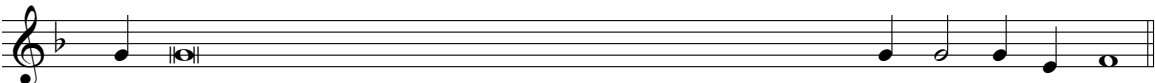

have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(sung twice)*

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

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:


Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.


Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

Psalm 103



1. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Lord my God, how great you are,



2. clothed with maj-es-ty and glo - - ry, wrapped in light as in a robe.



3. You stretch out the heav-ens like a tent. A-bove the rains you build your



dwell - ing. 4. You make the clouds your char - i - ot, you walk on



the wings of the wind; 5. you make your an-gels spir - - - its:



and your min-is-ters a flam - ing fire. 6. You found-ed the earth



on its base, to stand firm from age to age. 7. You make the grass grow for



the cat - - - tle and the plants to serve man's needs, 8. that he may



bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer man's heart;

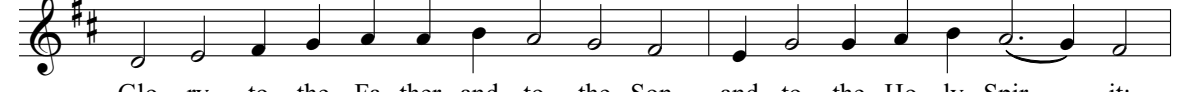


hu-mil - i - ty, and wealth through pov - er - ty. O fa - ther and arch-bish - op



Ni - cho - las, in - tercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Cantor



Glo - ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

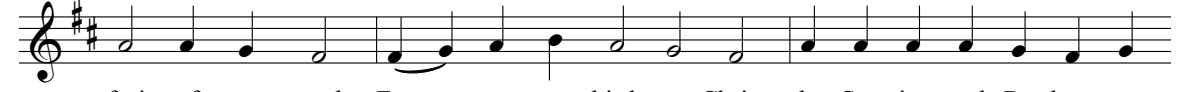
Theotokion



Re-joyce, O Vir-gin The - o - to - kos! Mar - y full of grace, the Lord is



with you! Bless - ed are you a-mong wo - men, and bless - ed is the



fruit of your womb. For you gave birth to Christ, the Sav - ior and Re-deem-er



of our souls.

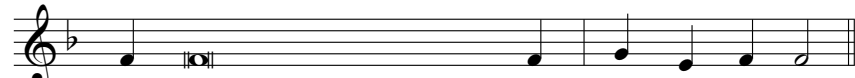
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.



Response: Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions,
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.



Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

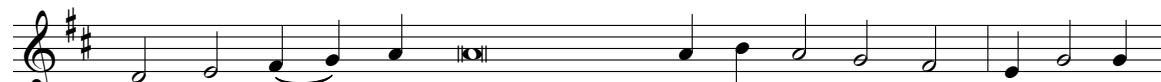
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

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 glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - men.

Troparion - Tone 4 - sung first by the priest, then by the faithful:



Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an im - age



of gentleness, and a teacher of mod - er - a - tion, You ac - quired great - ness through



9. oil, to make his face shine and bread to strength - en



man's heart. 10. I will sing to the Lord all my life, make mu - sic



to my God while I live. 11. You made the moon to mark the months;



the sun knows the time for its set - ting. 12. How man - y are your



works, O Lord! In wis - dom you have made them all. 13. Glo - ry to



the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



14. now and ev - - - er and for - ev - er. A - men.


Three times, each with a reverence:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

Litany of Peace

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

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

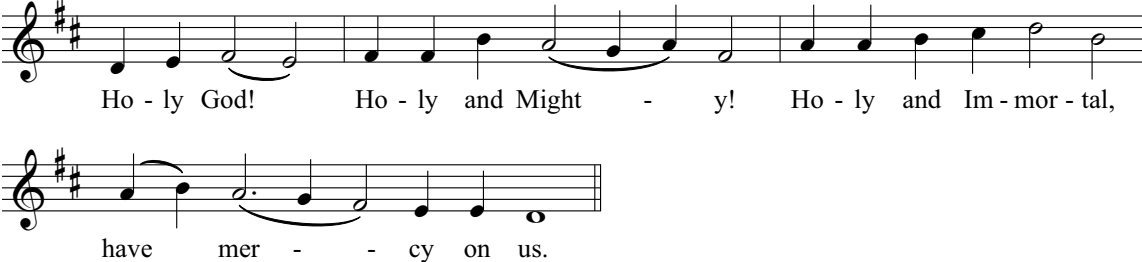
The Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon



Now you may dis-miss your serv - ant, O Lord,
in peace, ac - - - cord-ing to your word; for
my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all peo - ple:
a light for re - ve - la - tion to the Gen - tiles, and the glo - ry
of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The Trisagion Prayers

Three times:



Ho - ly God! Ho - ly and Might - y! Ho - ly and Im - mor - tal,
have mer - - cy on us.

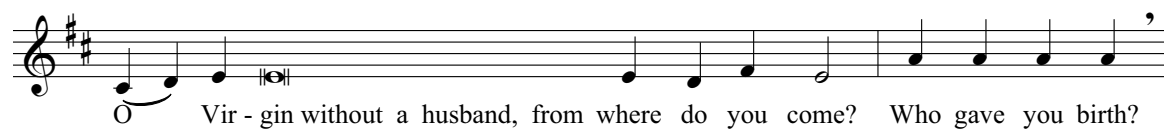


for us.



Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

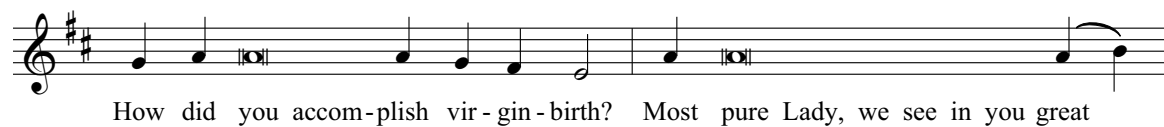
Theotokion



O Vir - gin without a husband, from where do you come? Who gave you birth?



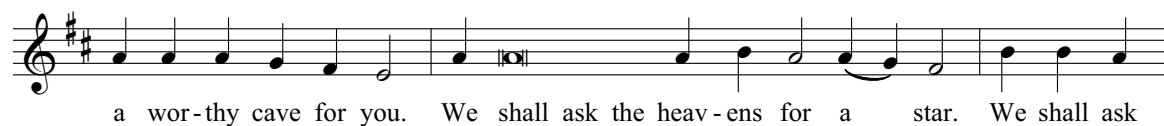
who is your moth - er? How can you cradle the Cre-a - tor in your arms?



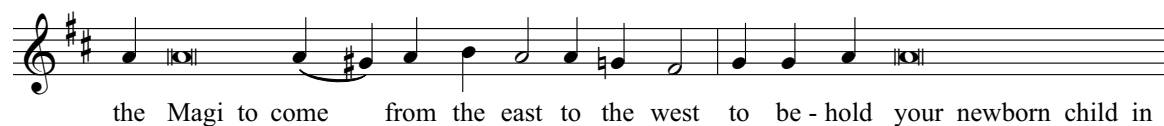
How did you accom-plish vir - gin - birth? Most pure Lady, we see in you great



won - ders, awe - some mys - ter - ies ful - filled on earth. We shall pre - pare



a wor - thy cave for you. We shall ask the heav - ens for a star. We shall ask



the Magi to come from the east to the west to be - hold your newborn child in



a man - ger, to be - hold the Sav - ior of all.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, [*or:* For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

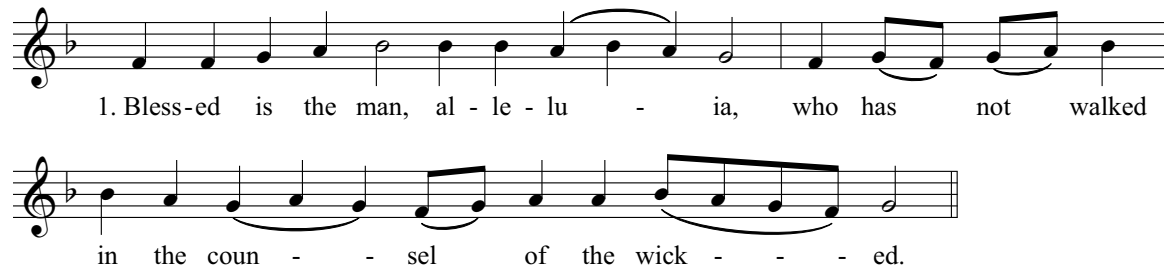
Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls.

For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - men.

The First Kathisma

Cantor sings verses; faithful sing refrain

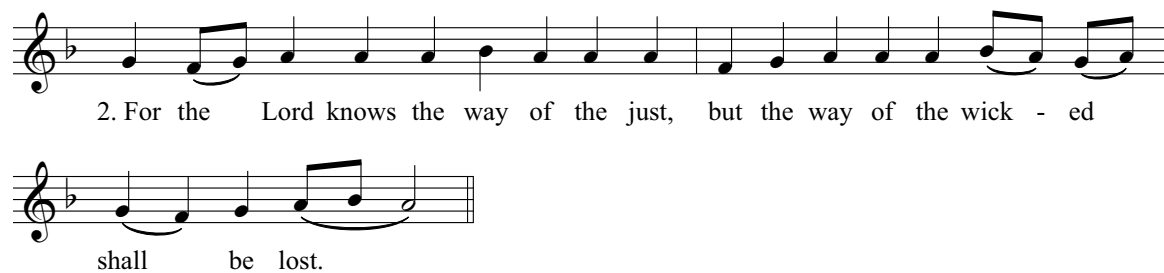


1. Bless-ed is the man, al - le - lu - ia, who has not walked
in the coun - - sel of the wick - - - ed.

Refrain:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia.



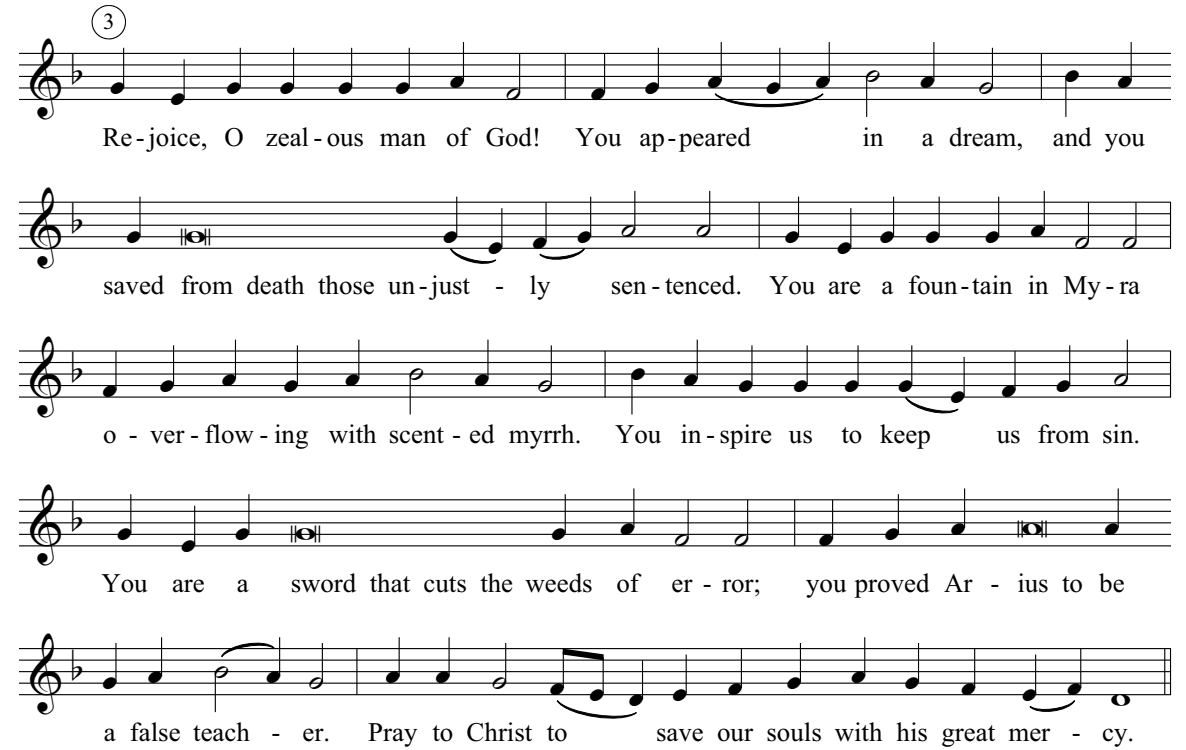
2. For the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wick - ed
shall be lost.

Refrain



3. Serve the Lord with fear, ex - ult in him with trem - bling.

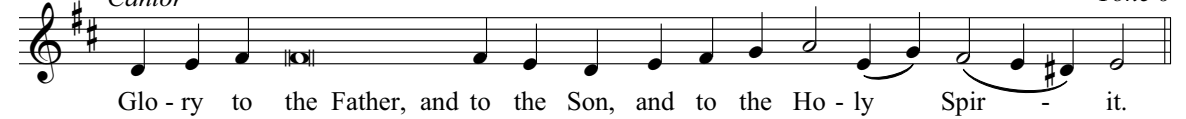
Refrain



Re-joyce, O zeal-ous man of God! You ap-peared in a dream, and you
saved from death those un-just - ly sen-tenced. You are a foun-tain in My-ra
o - ver - flow - ing with scent - ed myrrh. You in-spire us to keep us from sin.
You are a sword that cuts the weeds of er - ror; you proved Ar - ius to be
a false teach - er. Pray to Christ to save our souls with his great mer - cy.

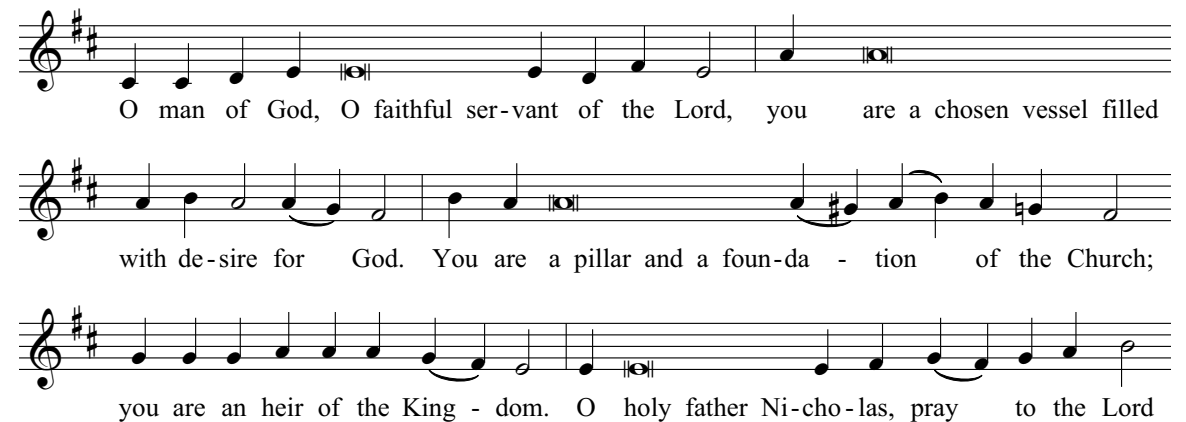
Cantor

Tone 6



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen



O man of God, O faithful ser-vant of the Lord, you are a chosen vessel filled
with de-sire for God. You are a pillar and a foun-da - tion of the Church;
you are an heir of the King - dom. O holy father Ni-cho-las, pray to the Lord

that he may show - er a - bun - dant mer - cy on the world.

Cantor

Pre - cious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faith - ful.

②

Re-joyce, O saintly father, temple of the Trin - i - ty; pil - lar of the Church, protect - or

of the faith - ful, help of all in trou - ble. You are a star

whose rays of prayer dispel the dark - est trou - ble. You are a qui - et har - bor

for the storm - tossed, for all those adrift in the sea of life.

Pray to Christ to save our souls with his great mer - cy.

Cantor

Your priests shall be clothed in ho - li - ness; your faith - ful shall ring

out their joy.

4. Bless - ed are those who trust in him.

Refrain

5. A - rise, O Lord! Save me, my God.

Refrain

6. Sal - va - tion is of the Lord! Up - on your peo - ple, your bles - sing!

Refrain

7. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Refrain

8. Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

Two times, each with a reverence:

Al - leluia, alleluia, allelu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

Last time, with a reverence:

Al - leluia, alleluia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - Tone 2

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re-ceive the voice of my prayer when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer

as-cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands

like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose feast we solemnly keep this day; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov, and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far from us every enemy and adversary and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and you love us all.

Response: A - men.

Aposticha

The faithful sing the aposticha as the clergy return in procession to the front of the church.

Tone 5 samohlasen

Re-joice, O priestly leader, spotless ves-sel of vir-tue, mod-el of divine priest-hood,

great shep-herd of your flock, bear-er of the torch of vic-t'ry; you hear

the prayers of those who call on you. You grant the pe-ti-tions of the poor;

you res-cue all who praise your name. Now we ask you to beg Christ

Deacon: Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop (*Name*); for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brothers and sisters who labor and serve with diligence and fear of God; for those who are absent and for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission and forgiveness of sins of all our true-believing fathers and brothers and sisters who have gone before us; and for all our brothers and sisters who are present at these services; and for all who have served and now serve in this holy church, let us say:

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*as above*)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable: through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way *unharm*ed.

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for *my* soul.

Psalm 141 I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Psalm 129

Cantor only (on 8)

Tone 2 samohlasen



Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!



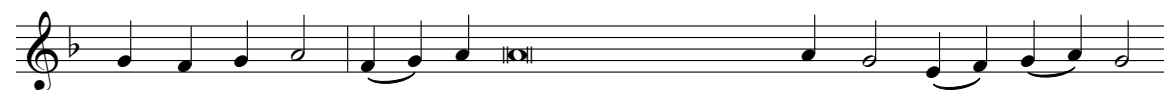
O ho-ly Ni-cho-las, bish-op of Christ, you lived your life with the peo-ple



of My - ra. But since your spir-it was a-noint-ed, your fra-grance of sanctity



was known by all. Now you a-noint the faith-ful who show



their love for you. O Fa-ther, deliver us from all dis-tress and sor-row



as you pray to the Lord for us.

Cantor only (on 7)

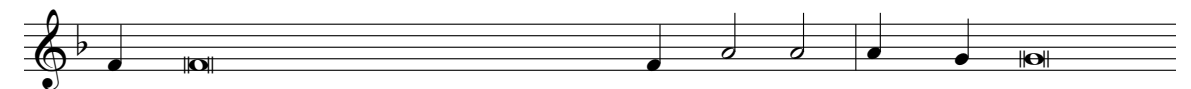


Let your ears be at-ten-tive to the voice of my plead-ing.

Litany of the Litija

Deacon: Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, whose feast we solemnly keep this day; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

Response:



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,



have mercy. Lord, have mer-cy.

(Sung twice)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Holy Father ____, pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(as above)*

o - pened to you, and now you share in the joy of the Lord.

O ho - ly Ni - cho - las, pray for us.

Cantor

Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion

O Zi - on, be hap - py; re-joyce, O Je - ru - sa - lem, the cit - y

of Christ, our God; bid wel - come to the Creator who rests in a man - ger in a cave.

O - pen your gates, Jerusalem, and I will en - ter so that I may see him, who

holds all cre - a - tion in his hands, e - ven though he lies in a manger wrapped

in swad - dling clothes. The angels ever praise this life - giv - ing Lord, who is

the on - ly Sav - ior of all.

⁷
O ho - ly Ni - cho - las, true ser - vant of Christ, you are tru - ly

a protector of your faith - ful flock, and when - ev - er you were asked for help,

you glad - ly assist - ed those who sought your aid. Now you are al - so

read - y by day or night to de - liv - er us from all dis - tress and sor - row.

Cantor only (on 6)

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur - vive? But with you is

found for - give - ness; for this we re - vere you.

⁶
When you ap - peared in a dream to Con - stan - tine the King, you gave him this

warn - ing: Re - lease at once from prison those you have un - just - ly con - fined,

for they are in - nocent; no murder did they com - mit as you claim. O King,

lis - ten to me, or else I shall call up - on the Lord.

Cantor only (on 5)

My soul is longing for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for

the Lord, more than watch - man for day - break.

⑤

O ho - ly Ni - cholas, ho - ly preach - er of Christ, al - ways read - y to help

all on land or at sea: wheth - er they be near or far, you have com - pas - sion for all.

Thus, you are a pre - cious help - er; there - fore we who gath - er here ask

you to pray to the Lord that we be de - liv - ered from all dis - tress and sor - row.

Cantor only (on 4)

Let the watch - man count on daybreak and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

②

O ho - ly fa - ther Ni - cho - las, your re - lics poured out myrrh and

pro - tec - ted My - ra. While you lived you ap - peared in a

dream to the king; by this ap - pear - ance you freed from lash - es, pris - on,

and death, those who were con - demned un - just - ly;

now man - ifest yourself as then, im - plor - ing Christ to save our souls.

Cantor

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O good and faith - ful worker in the vine - yard of Christ, you endured the hardships of

dai - ly la - bors; you did not complain of those who worked less than you.


You in - creased the tal - ent giv - en you. There - fore, the gates of heav - en

Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love mankind. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Litija

The following hymns are sung as the clergy make their way in procession to the narthex (porch) of the church, where they will lead prayers for the needs of the whole world.

 Tone 2 Bolhar
 O ho - ly fa - ther Ni - cho-las, Christ has shown you to be the
 mod - el of faith. Your hu - mil - i - ty in - spired all in your flock.
 From My - ra, your pi - e - ty shines through - out the world.
 You are known as the pro - tec - tor of wid - ows and or - phans.
 Now we ask your unceasing prayer for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

 ④ ③
 What crowns of praise shall we con - fer up - on the saint - ly Ni - cho - las?
 Once pres - ent in the flesh in My - ra, he is pres - ent in spirit to all who love
 him pure - ly. He is the lead - er and de - fend - er of ev' - ry one,
 a com - fort - er in dis - tress, and a ha - ven of all in dan - ger;
 a pil - lar of pi - e - ty, and con - quer - or for be - liev - ers. For his
 sake, Christ o - ver - came en - e - mies and shows us great mer - cy.
Cantor only (on 3)
 Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp - tion. Is - ra - el
 in - deed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.
Repeat "What crowns of praise..."
Cantor only (on 2)
 Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; ac - claim him, all you peo - ples!

Psalm 116

②



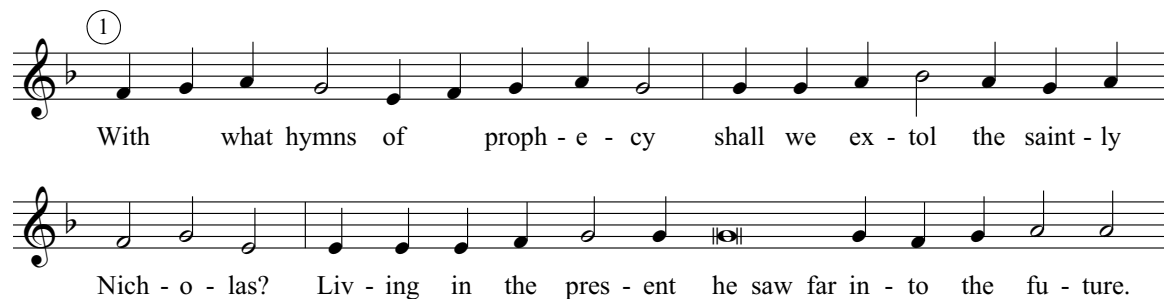
With what songs of praise shall we ex-tol the most saint - ly Ni-cho-las?
 He is the foe of wick-ed-ness. He is an out-stand-ing lead - er,
 a most pow - er - ful de-fend-er in dis-tress, and a great teach - er of the Church.
 He con-founds all those who show dis - hon - or. He is the re - fu - tor
 of Arius and his com-pan - ions. Be-cause of him, Christ put down their rag - ings
 and showed great mer - cy.

Cantor only (on 1)



Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for - ev - er.

①



With what hymns of proph - e - cy shall we ex - tol the saint - ly
 Nich - o - las? Liv - ing in the pres - ent he saw far in - to the fu - ture.

Priest:

Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are gracious and you love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



A - men.

Priest:

Peace ☩ be to all!

Response:



And to your spir - - - it.

Deacon:


Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response:



To you, O Lord.

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

Response: 
4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.


Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgement seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.


Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.


Response: 
To you, O Lord.




He spoke tru - ly about faraway things as though they were near.



He ov - er - sees the whole world, and de - liv - ers the af - flic - ted.



He ap - peared in a dream to the God - wise king. He de - liv - ered



pris - oners who were unjustly ac - cused of mur - der To - day he




grants us the mer - cy of Christ.

Cantor only: *Tone 6 samohlasen*



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Doxastikon



We have gath - ered to celebrate and to praise with song the model of bishops and



a glory to the fa - thers, a foun - tain of miracles and a great help - er of



be - liev - ers. Let us sing to the saint - ly Ni - cho - las: Re - joice, O

Pro-tec-tor of My - ra who was re-vered as its leader and strong - est
 pil - lar. Re - joice, O radiant star, whose light of miracles shines through - out the
 world. Re - joice, O divine joy to those in sor - row. Re - joice, O defender of
 those who are op - pressed; for e - ven now, all-ho-ly Ni - cho - las,
 you still pray to God for us who cele-brate your feast with faith and who
 hon - or you with zeal and joy.

Cantor only:

Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion

O cave, pre-pare yourself to re-ceive the Moth - er who bears Christ with - in
 her womb. O man - ger, receive the Word who de - stroyed the sins of all.

en - light-en me with your com-mand - ments. O Lord, your mer-cy is for-ev - er;
 des - pise not the work of your hands. To you is due praise; to you
 is due a hymn; to you is glo - ry due, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,
 now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Litany of Supplication

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

Response: 1. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O Lord, by your grace.

Response: 2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 3. Grant this, O Lord.

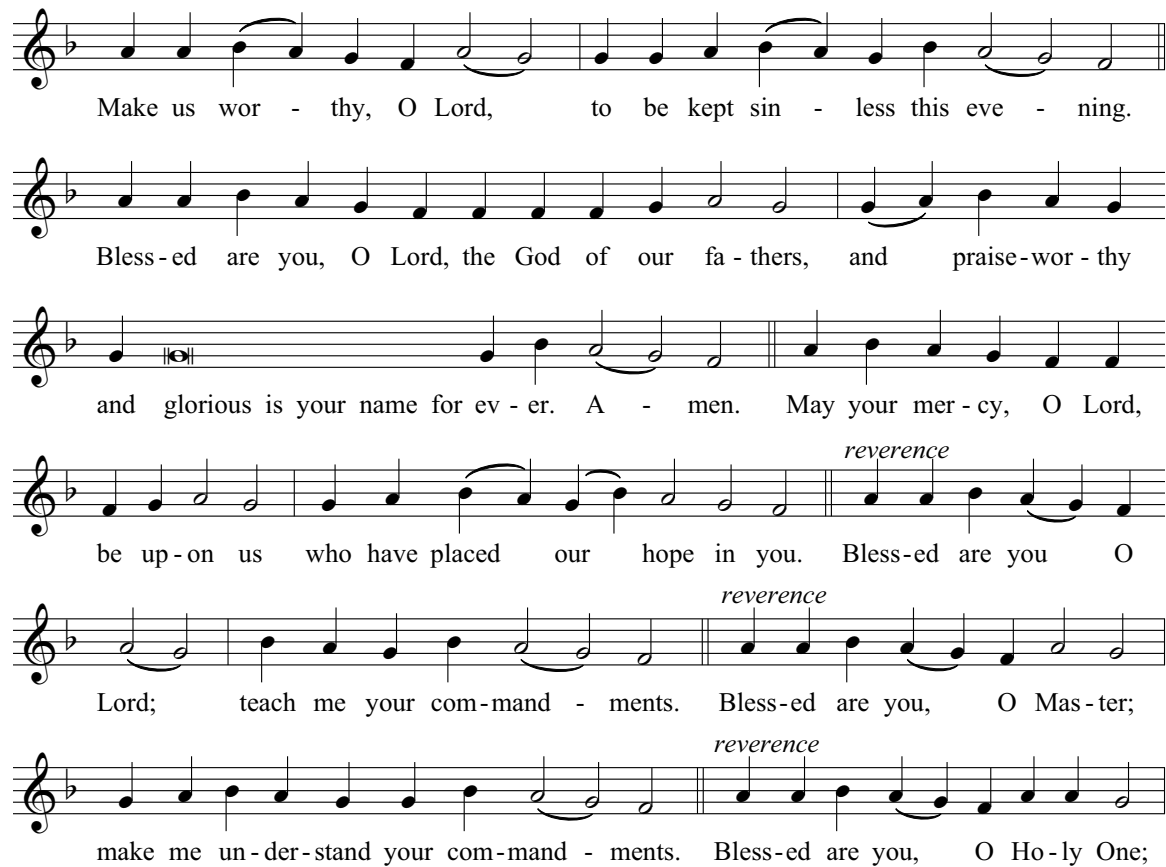
Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 3.*)

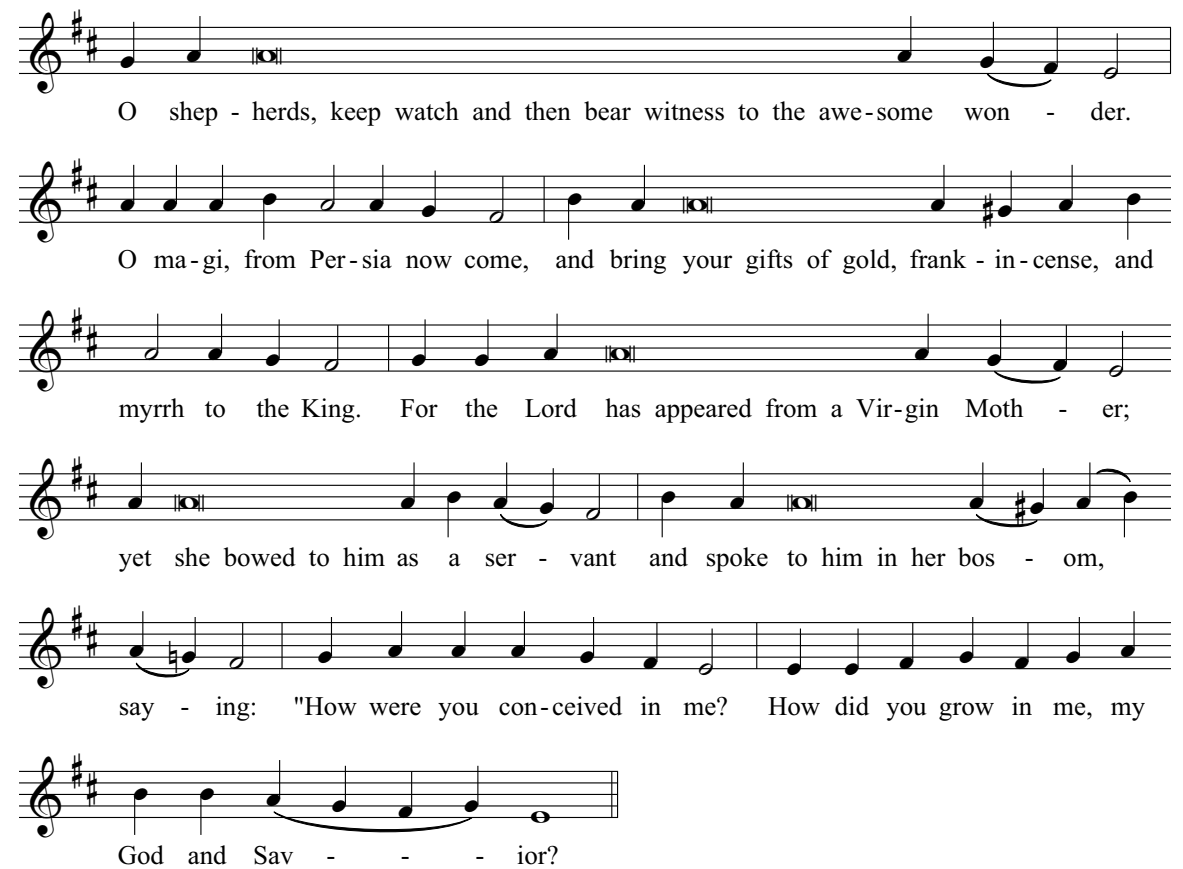
Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Hymn of Glorification



Make us wor - thy, O Lord, to be kept sin - less this eve - ning.
Bless-ed are you, O Lord, the God of our fa - thers, and praise-wor - thy
and glorious is your name for ev - er. A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord,
reverence
be up-on us who have placed our hope in you. Bless-ed are you O
reverence
Lord; teach me your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Mas-ter;
reverence
make me un-der-stand your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Ho-ly One;

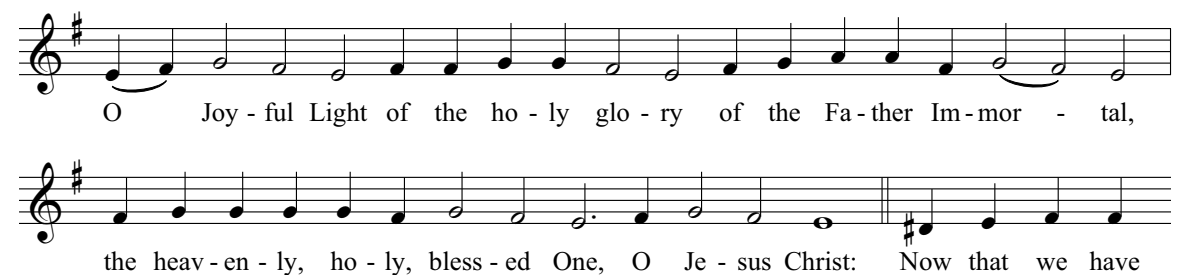


O shep - herds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awe-some won - der.
O ma-gi, from Per-sia now come, and bring your gifts of gold, frank - in-cense, and
myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Vir-gin Moth - er;
yet she bowed to him as a ser - vant and spoke to him in her bos - om,
say - ing: "How were you con-ceived in me? How did you grow in me, my
God and Sav - - - ior?"

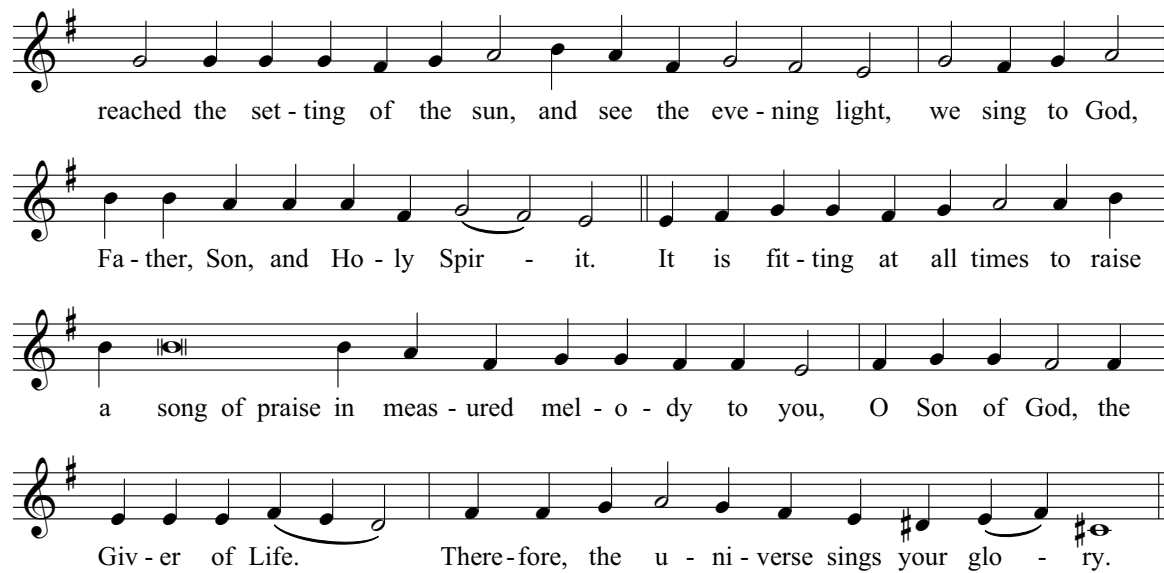
The Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Hymn of the Evening



O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa-ther Im-mor - tal,
the heav-en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have



reached the set-ting of the sun, and see the eve-ning light, we sing to God,
 Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it. It is fit-ting at all times to raise
 a song of praise in meas-ured mel-o-dy to you, O Son of God, the
 Giv-er of Life. There-fore, the u-ni-verse sings your glo-ry.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

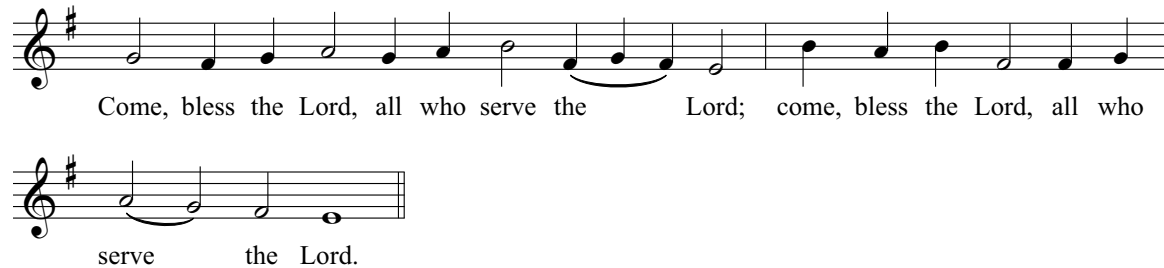
Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Evening Prokeimenon

Prokeimenon for Sunday evening - Tone 8

Psalm 133:1; 2



Come, bless the Lord, all who serve the Lord; come, bless the Lord, all who
 serve the Lord.

Deacon: Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

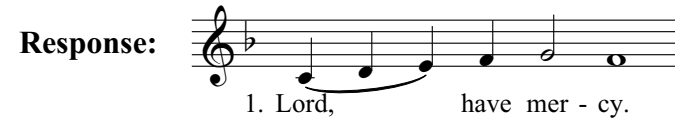
The prokeimena for other evenings (Monday through Friday) can be found on pages 119-121 of the Divine Liturgies book.

Readings: Composite 1, from Proverbs
 Proverbs 10: 31 through 11: 12
 Wisdom 4: 7-15

(Festal Menaion, p. 486)
(Epistle book, p. 312)
(Epistle book, p. 308)

Litany of Fervent Supplication

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



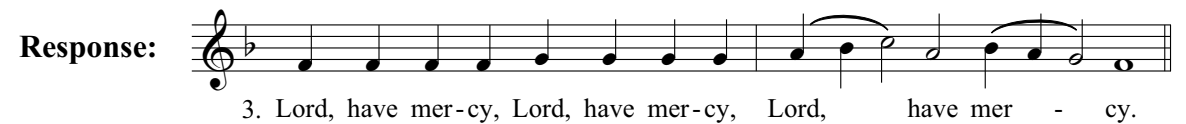
1. Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.



2. Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.



3. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, *(Name)*, pope of Rome, and for our most reverend archbishop and metropolitan, *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop, *(Name)*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.



4. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(three times, using response 4.)*