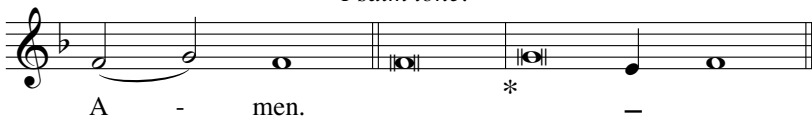


*The Order of Vespers
for the Sunday of Forgiveness
(Cheesefare Sunday)*

revised 2008

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Psalm tone:

Response: 
A - men. * -

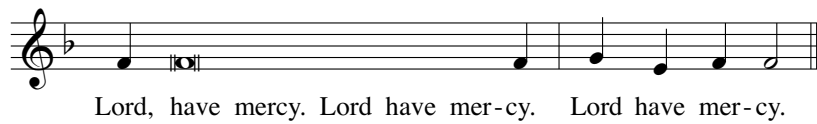
Glory to you, our God,
glory *to* you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us,
cleanse us from all stain,
and save our souls, O *gracious* One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy *on* us. (*3 times*)

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.

The Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness

The bishop/priest comes to the ambon, faces the faithful, and says:

Bishop: Good brothers and sisters,
(or Priest) grant me your blessing
and pardon me all the wrongs I have done this day,
in word or deed or thought,
with all my spiritual and bodily faculties.

Response: May God himself forgive you, Most Reverend Metropolitan, (*or Reverend Father,*) and have mercy on you!

Bless us, Most Reverend Metropolitan, (*or Reverend Father,*)
and forgive us the wrongs that we have done this day,
in word or deed or thought,
with each of our spiritual and bodily faculties.

Bishop: Through his grace, may God forgive you also,
(or Priest) and may he have mercy on you all!

After this exchange, the faithful come forward individually, make a reverence, and say to the priest:

Forgive me, a sinner.

to which the bishop/priest responds:

May God forgive you.

During the exchange of mutual forgiveness, the cantors and choir sing the Paschal Canon quietly.

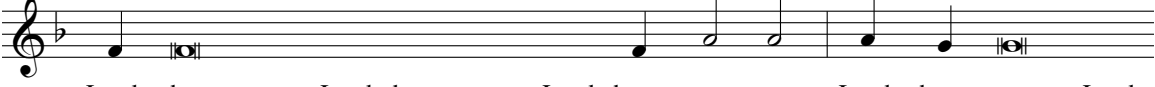
When the mutual exchange is finished, the bishop/priest sings:

Bishop: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ,
(or Priest) have mercy on us and save us.

Response: 
A - - - men.

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,

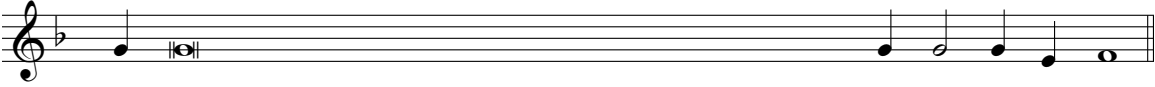

have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. (*sung twice*)

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

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

clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in *a* robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
Above the rains you build **your** dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of **the** wind;

you make your angels spirits
and your ministers a flaming fire.

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age **to** age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than **the** mountains.

At your threat they took to flight;
at the voice of your thunder **they** fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down
to the place which you had **appointed**.

You set limits they might not pass
lest they return to cover **the** earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between **the** hills.

They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
the wild asses quench **their** thirst.

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing **their** song.

From your dwelling they water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of **your** gift.

You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve **man's** needs,

that he may bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer **man's** heart;


oil, to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen **man's** heart.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us
through the prayers of his most pure Mother,
through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, bodiless powers;
through the prayers of the holy (*Name*), (*to whom this church is dedicated*),
and (*Name*), (*whose feast we celebrate today*)
and through the prayers of all the saints;
for he is gracious and loves us all.

Response: 
A - - - - men.

Having suffered (Preterpivyj)


Hav - ing suf - fered the pas - sion for us, Je - - - sus Christ,


Son of God, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.


Pre - ter - pi - vyj za nas stras - ti, I - su - se Chri - ste,


Sy - ne Bo - žij, po - mi - luj, po - mi - luj, po - mi - luj nas.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them *in* all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose *spirit* is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord *will* rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones *shall* be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate *the* good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in *him* shall not be condemned.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos,
the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the *Mother* of our God.
More honorable than *the* Cherubim,
and beyond compare more glorious *than* the Seraphim,
who, a virgin, gave birth *to* God the Word;
you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify!

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

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



The trees of the Lord drink their fill,
the cedars he planted *on* Lebanon;
there the birds build their nests;
on the treetop the stork has *her* home.

The goats find a home on the mountains
and rabbits hide in *the* rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for *its* setting.

When you spread the darkness it is night
and all the beasts of the forest *creep* forth.

The young lions roar for their prey
and ask their food *from* God.

At the rising of the sun they steal away
and go to rest in *their* dens.

Man goes out to his work,
to labor till *evening* falls.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of *your* riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great *and* small.

The ships are moving there,
and the monsters you made *to* play with.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in *due* season.

You give it, they gather it up;
you open your hand, they have *their* fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which *they* came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of **the** earth.

May the glory of the Lord last forever!
May the Lord rejoice in **his** works!

He looks on the earth and it trembles;
the mountains send forth smoke at **his** touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while **I** live.

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in **the** Lord.

Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.
Bless the Lord, O **my** soul.

And again:

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for **its** setting.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made **them** all.

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

Three times, each with a reverence:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God!

At the last, with melody:



The faithful are seated.

Psalm 33

The verses of this psalm are alternated between cantor and faithful.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise **always** on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The **humble** shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let **us** praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my **terrors** he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your **faces** not be abashed.
This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued **him** from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,
around those who revere him, **to** rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy **who** seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who **revere** him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord **lack** no blessing.

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you **the** fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy **his** prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips **from** speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek **and** strive after peace.

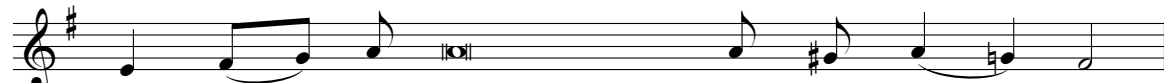
The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remem**brance** from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his **ears** to their appeal.

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.


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


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


Priest: All-holy Trinity, consubstantial power, indivisible Kingdom, and Cause of all good, be favorable even to me, a sinner. Give strength and understanding to my heart; cleanse me of all defilement, and enlighten my mind, that I may always glorify, praise and worship you, saying: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, amen.

Response: (sung three times)


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

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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, 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.

The faithful stand.

Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. 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.

Response: 
A - - - - men.

The Prayer of St. Ephrem

All Lord and Master of my life,
spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,
lust for power, and idle chatter. (*Prostration*)
Instead, bestow on me, your servant,
the spirit of integrity, humility,
patience, and love. (*Prostration*)
Yes, O Lord and King,
let me see my own sins
and not judge my brothers and sisters;
for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen. (*Prostration*)

Then, with a simple bow, the following is repeated four times:

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
O Lord, forgive me, for I have sinned without number.

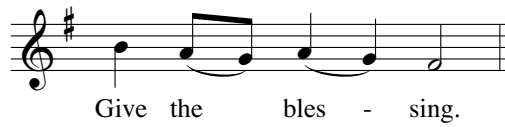
*Once more, the Prayer of St. Ephrem is recited, without the usual prostrations.
One prostration is made at the conclusion of the prayer.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and *Immortal*,
have *mercy* on us. (*3 times, each with a prostration*)

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



Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.



Priest: King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world and safeguard this city (*or* this holy monastery), grant those who have gone before us a dwelling place among the righteous, accept us in repentance and have mercy, for you are good and love us all.



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

More honorable than *the* Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious *than* the Seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth *to* God the Word, you, truly the *Theotokos*, we magnify.

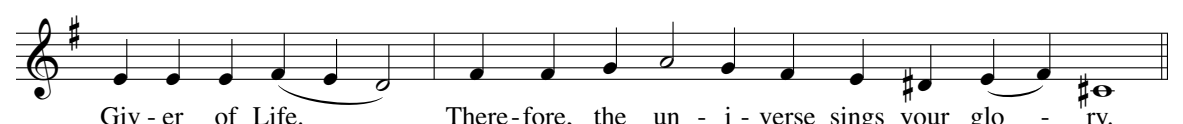
In *the* name of the Lord, Father, *give* the blessing.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Please turn to the insert for the Lamp-lighting psalms and the hymnody proper to this Sunday.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Hymn of the Evening



Evening Prokeimenon

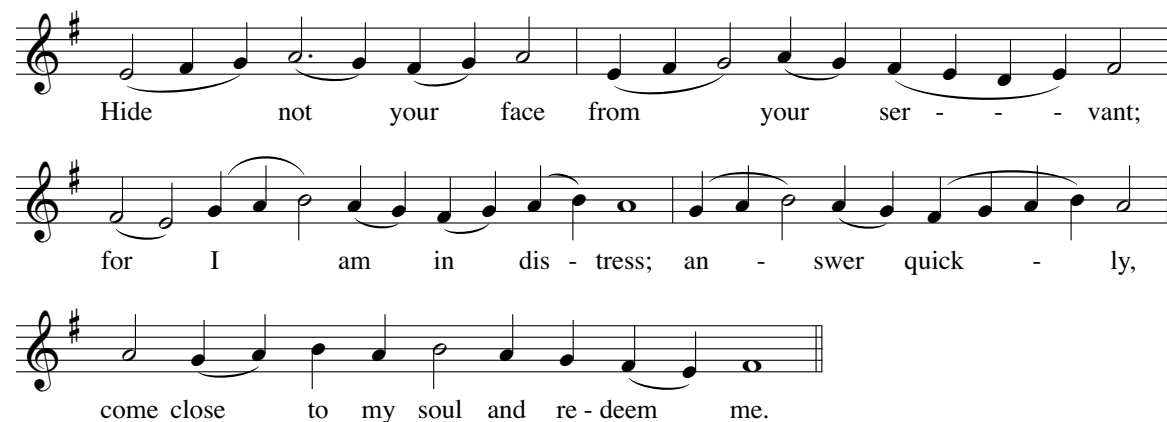
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace ✠ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The verses of the Prokeimenon are sung either by the Deacon or by the Priest.

Prokeimenon for Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday

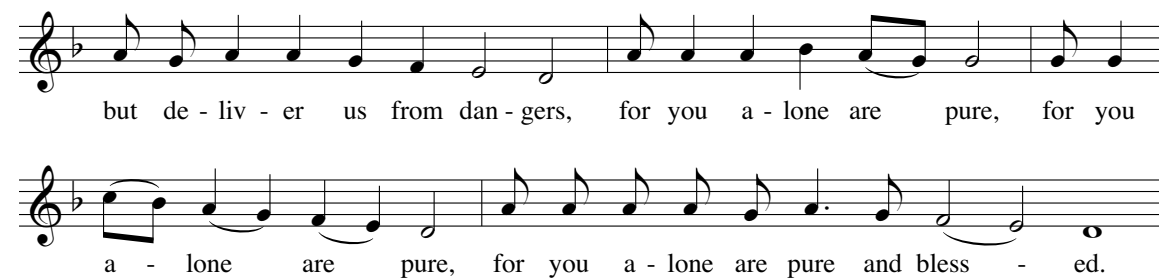


Hide not your face from your ser - - - vant;
for I am in dis - tress; an - swer quick - ly,
come close to my soul and re - deem me.

Verse: Let your saving help, O God, protect me.

Verse: See, you lowly ones, and be glad.

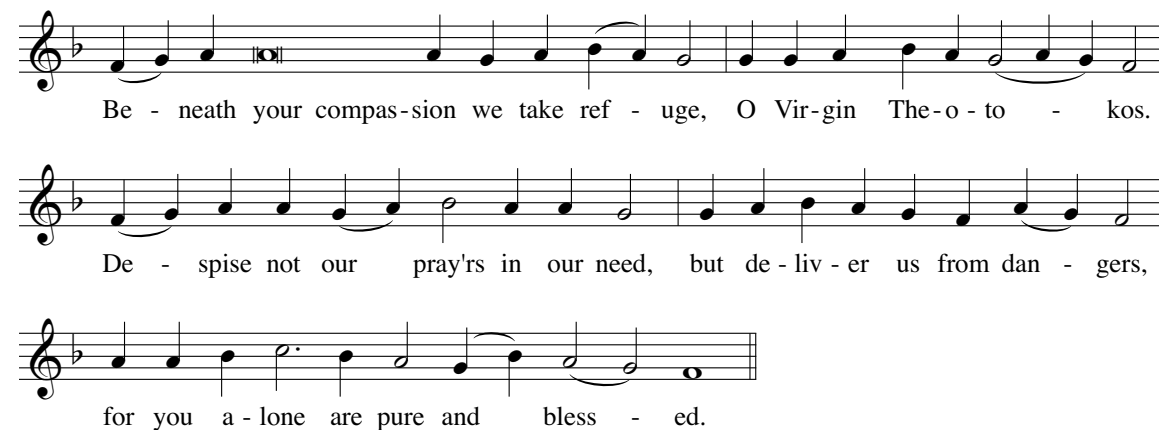
Verse: You who seek God, may your hearts be merry.



but de - liv - er us from dan - gers, for you a - lone are pure, for you
a - lone are pure, for you a - lone are pure and bless - ed.

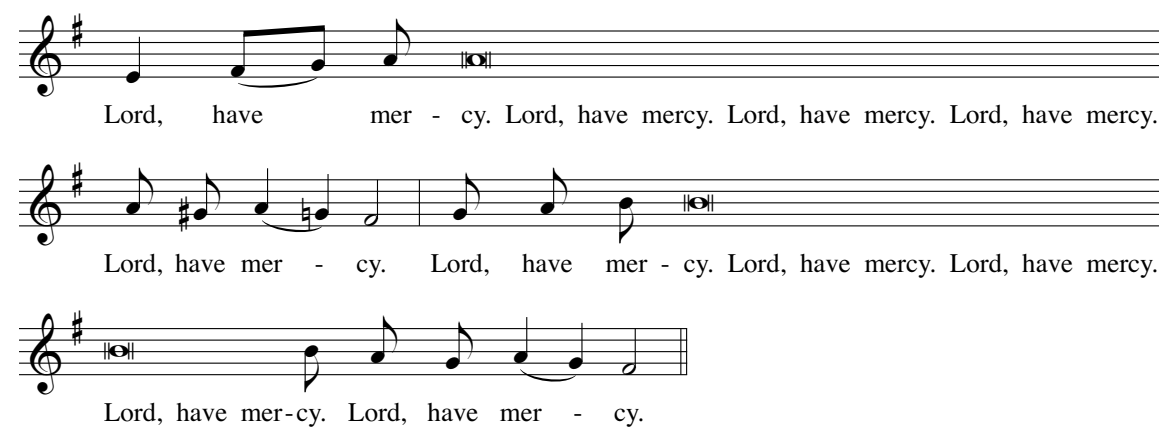
or

podobn: Pod tvoju milost' (2)



Be - neath your compas - sion we take ref - uge, O Vir - gin The - o - to - kos.
De - spise not our pray'rs in our need, but de - liv - er us from dan - gers,
for you a - lone are pure and bless - ed.

The following is sung four times:



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

Cantor: Glory...

O Bap - tiz - er of Christ, re - mem - ber us all, that we be delivered from
our trans-gres - sions; for you have been giv - en grace to in - ter-cede on
our be - half. *Prostration*

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Pray for us, O ho - ly apos-tles and all you saints, that we be delivered from
dan-ger and af - flic - tion, for we have you as our fervent interces-sors be - fore
the Sav - ior. *Prostration*

podobn: Pod tvoju milost' (1)

Be - neath your com - pas - sion we take ref - - - uge, O Vir - gin
The - o - to - kos. De - spise not our pray'rs, our pray'rs in our need,

Hymn of Glorification

Make *us* wor - thy, O Lord, to be kept sin - less this eve - ning.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of *our* fäthers,
and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Ämen
May your mercy, O Lord, be *upön* us
because we have *placed* our hope in you.

(each time with a reverence:)

- ✚ Blessed *are* you, O Lord,
teach me *your* commändments.
 - ✚ Blessed are you, *O* Mäster,
make me understand *your* commändments.
 - ✚ Blessed are you, *O* Holy One,
enlighten me with *your* commändments.
- O Lord, your mercy is *forëver*;
despise *not* the work of your hands.
To you is due praise, to you *is* due a hymn;
to *you* is glory due.
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and ever *and* forever. Amen.

The faithful are seated

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 God, by your grace.

Response: 

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

Response: 

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

Response: 

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)

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

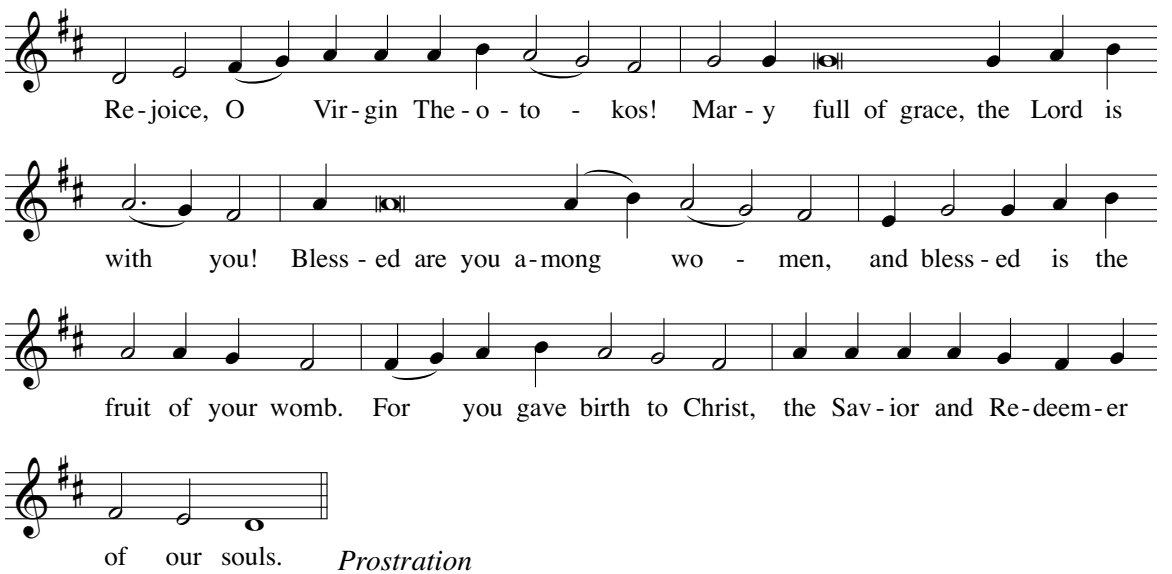
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into **temptation**, *
but deliver **us** from evil.

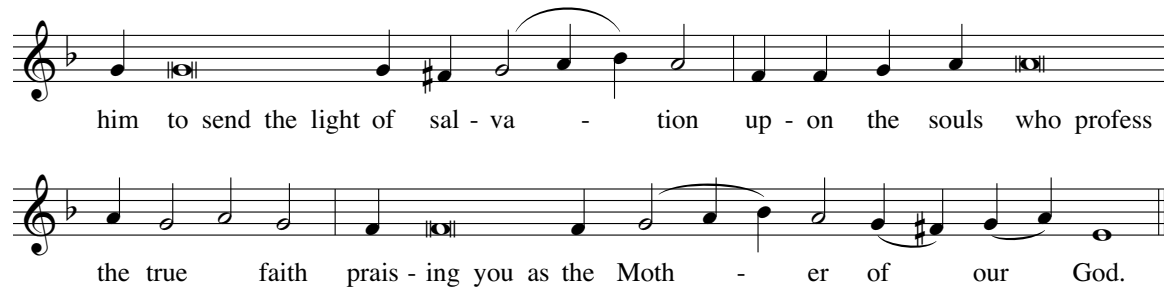
Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 

Dismissal for Fasts

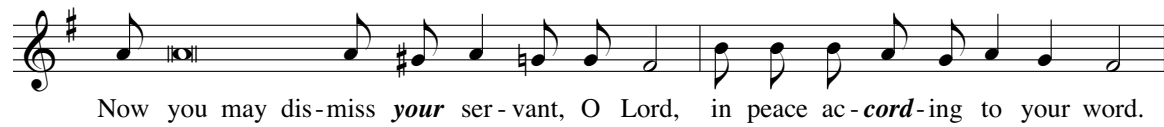
*After the Prayer of St. Simeon and the Trisagion Prayers,
the following Troparia are sung in Tone 4:*





him to send the light of sal - va - tion up - on the souls who profess
the true faith prais - ing you as the Moth - er of our God.

Prayer of St. Simeon



Now you may dis-miss *your* ser-vant, O Lord, in peace ac-*cord*-ing to your word.

for my eyes have seen your *salv*ation
which you have prepared before the face *of* all pöoples,
a light for revelation to *the* Gëntiles,
and the glory of your *people* Ísrael.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and *Imm*örtal,
have *mercy* ön us. (3 times)

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

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



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

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.

The faithful stand.

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 good and 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.

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.

Aposticha

Tone 4

The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Be - hold, this is the favorable time, the sea-son of con - ver - sion. Let us turn away from the works of dark - ness, and let us clothe ourselves with the ar - mor of light, so that cross-ing the o-cean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the

Resurrection on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior

of our souls.

Cantor:

To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy. Repeat "The light of your grace..."

Cantor:

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain.

You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God. Through their

in - ter - ces - sions, send up - on us great mer - cy.

Cantor:

Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion

The choir of angels glorifies you, O most pure Vir - gin, for you have given birth to our God, co - eternal with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, through whom the angelic armies were brought forth from noth - ing - ness. Be - seech