



Moleben (Prayer Service)

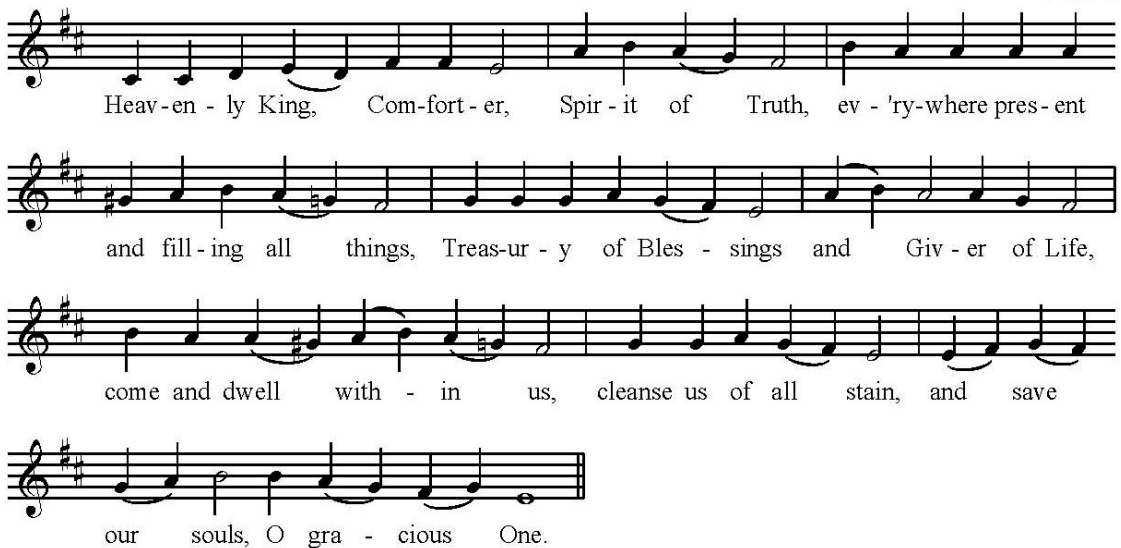
Invoking the Help of
the Holy Spirit

MOLEBEN

INVOKING THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before the service begins, an icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit is to be suitably decorated and prepared for a procession into the church. The icon is not placed beforehand, but is to be brought in procession at the beginning of the moleben. Inside the church, it is to be placed on the far right side of the icon screen (if possible). One person will carry the icon, accompanied by four candlebearers. As the procession is in progress, the following is sung as many times as needed:

Tone 6



Heav-en - ly King, Com-fort - er, Spir - it of Truth, ev - 'ry-where pres - ent
and fill - ing all things, Treas-ur - y of Bles - sings and Giv - er of Life,
come and dwell with - in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save
our souls, O gra - cious One.

The celebrant, vested in green, or other bright, epitachelion and phelonion, incenses the holy table, icon screen, the whole church, and the people. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The celebrant and deacon enters the altar area. The celebrant stands before the holy table.

The deacon exits the altar area and stands before the holy doors:

Deacon: Father, give the blessing.

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

Response: Amen.

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 of 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. *(3 times)*

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 by 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.

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

Response: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

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

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 33 (34)

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 remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

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.

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

Then three times, with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory to you, O God!

The congregation may be seated.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

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

For our Holy Father (*Name*), Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Special petitions may be inserted here.

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

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

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.

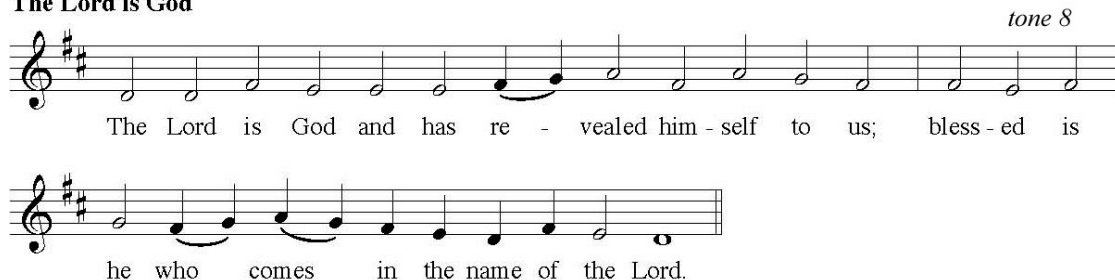
Celebrant: For you are a God of mercy and compassion, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

The congregation stands.

The following is sung in troparion tone 8. The deacon remains at the amvon and chants the verses and the celebrant enters the sanctuary by way of the southern door and kisses the altar. If there is no deacon, the priest remains before the royal doors and chants the verses.

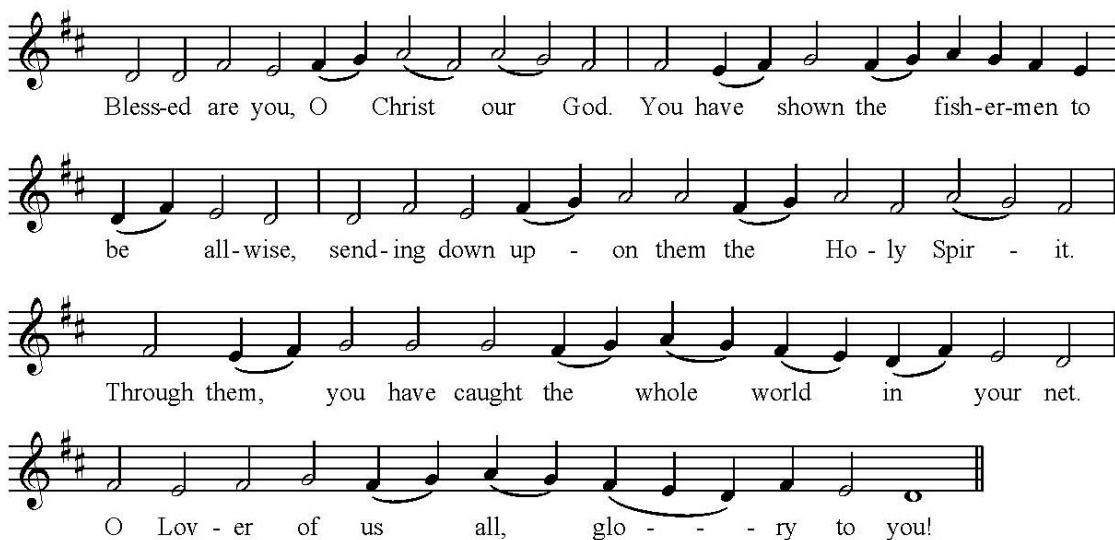
The Lord is God



- v. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.
- v. They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.
- v. I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.
- v. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

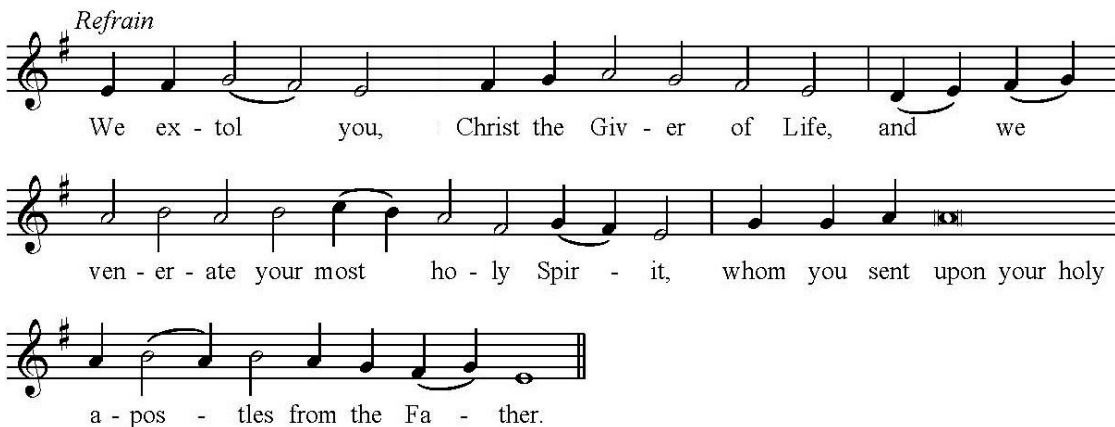
The deacon (or celebrant) enters the altar area and opens the holy doors. The celebrant goes behind the holy table during the singing of the troparion.

Troparion of Pentecost - Tone 8



Bless-ed are you, O Christ our God. You have shown the fish-er-men to
be all-wise, send-ing down up - on them the Ho - ly Spir - it.
Through them, you have caught the whole world in your net.
O Lov - er of us all, glo - - - ry to you!

Exaltation



Refrain
We ex - tol you, Christ the Giv - er of Life, and we
ven - er - ate your most ho - ly Spir - it, whom you sent upon your holy
a - pos - tles from the Fa - ther.

Cantor: The heavens proclaim the glory of God,
and the firmament shows forth his handiwork. *Refrain*

By his word the heavens were made,
by the breath of his mouth all the stars. *Refrain*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord;
all families of the Nations shall worship before him. *Refrain*

A pure heart create for me, O God;
put a steadfast spirit within me. *Refrain*

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit. *Refrain*

The Lord will give strength to his people;
the Lord will bless his people with peace. *Refrain*

Glory...now and ever...

Three times, each with a reverence:

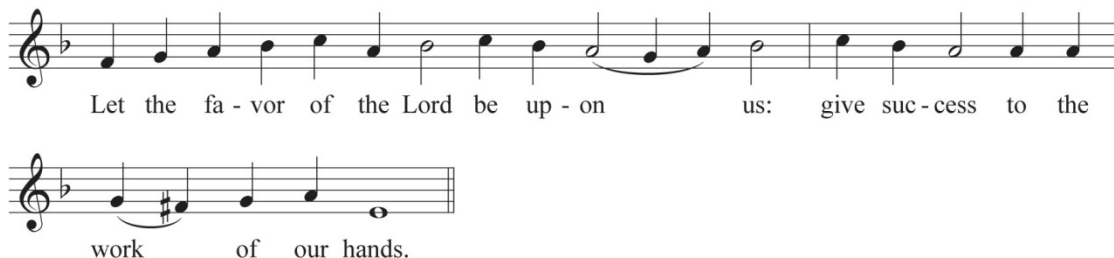


Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 89:17,16):



v. Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle of the holy apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The congregation may be seated. The reader now reads the holy epistle: Ephesians 1:16-23. (This is the reading for Saturday of the 28th week after Pentecost.)

Celebrant: + Peace be to you, reader!

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!!

Alleluia - Tone 8 (Psalm 94:1,2):



v. Redeem Israel, O God, from all its distress.

v. So let every good person pray to you in time of need.

Deacon: Wisdom, let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel!

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew!

Response: Glory to you, O Lord. Glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The celebrant now reads the holy gospel: Matthew 22:15-22. (This is the reading for the 13th Saturday after Pentecost.)

Response: Glory to you, O Lord. Glory to you.

After the Gospel the HOMILY is given.

The deacon goes before the holy doors. If there is no deacon, the celebrant remains at the holy table.

The congregation may be seated.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(Three times, and after each of the following)*

Deacon: We also pray for our Holy Father *(Name)*, Pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop *(Name)*;

[In a monastery: our most venerable hieromonks, our proto-archimandrite (Name), our archimandrite (Name), our proto-hegumen (Name), and our hegumen (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.

Deacon: We also pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Deacon: Loving Lord, look down with merciful eyes on your servants who, with faith, bow before your great kindness. Having heard their supplication, bless their good intention and their work. Grant that they may favorably begin and, without any obstacle, quickly complete it for your glory. We pray you, O most powerful King, hear and have mercy.

Deacon: Gracious Lord, appoint your angel as a guardian for this work to repel every obstacle of any visible or invisible enemy. Help in every way those who are engaged in this work to bring it to a favorable conclusion. We pray you, O good Savior, hear and have mercy.

Deacon: Lord, you commanded that everything be done for your glory. Now bless your servants who are beginning their work for your glory and give them the ability to complete it. Grant them health and happiness. We pray you, O generous Creator, hear and have mercy.

Deacon: We also 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.

Celebrant: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of all bounds of the earth and of those far away from home. In your graciousness be merciful to us sinners, O Master. For you are a merciful God and you love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

The deacon enters the altar area and celebrant and deacon stand before the holy table.

All kneel (During the Paschal season we stand.)

Deacon: Again and again on bent knees (*or during Paschal season: with bowed heads*), let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

Celebrant: O God our God, you have honored humanity with your image and have granted us a free will. O most compassionate Master, you entered the temple when the feast was half completed. you instructed the people and they marveled at your teaching. David says, "Come, children, hear Me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." You taught Solomon wisdom. Look now, O Creator and Maker, upon your people here; grant them wisdom and knowledge that they may discern your holy will. Warm their heart so that they would love you and their neighbors and direct them on the way of truth and justice. Drive away hypocrisy and bribery from their heart and unite them in their thoughts and feelings. Implant mutual love into them and bless them for every good and useful work. Grant to all of us, especially the holy church, the benefit resulting from wise decisions. O most merciful Lord, our God, the God of compassion and all comfort, do not turn your face away from us and do not put us to shame in our expectation. Trusting in you we pray, give us peace, calmness, unity of spirit, harmony, success, good weather, a fruitful harvest and all that is necessary for our temporal and eternal life. You alone know our needs. You give even before we ask and you do not revoke your gifts.

For you are a God powerful in mercy and kind in strength and to you is due all glory, honor and worship. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

*The Great Doxology and Pentecost Monday Procession may be taken.
If they are not taken, turn to page 23.*

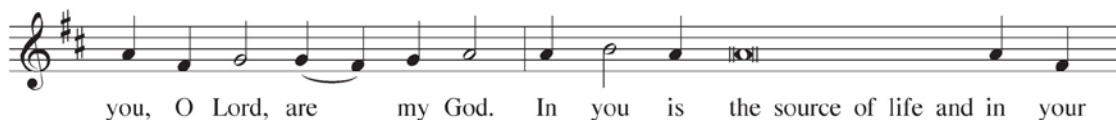
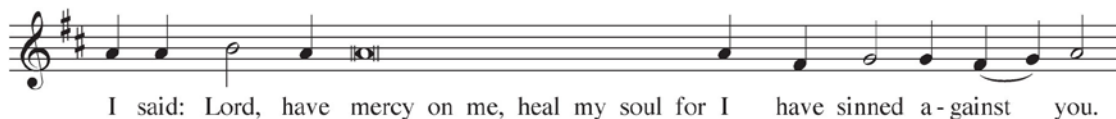
The congregation stands. There immediately begins the Great Doxology.



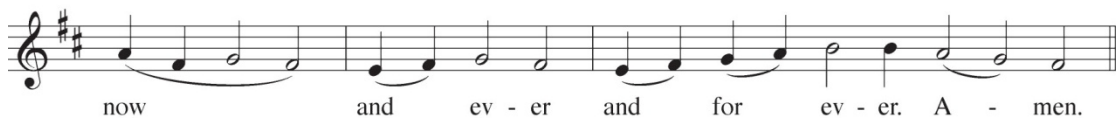
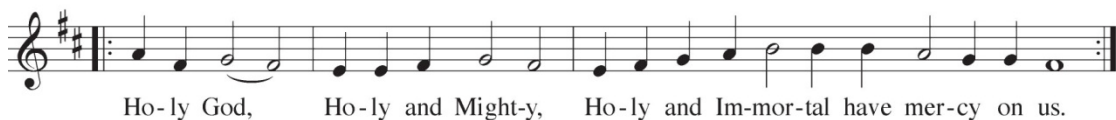
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and to peo - ple on earth,
peace and good will. We praise you, we bless you,
we wor - ship you, we glo - ri - fy you, we thank you for your great
glo - ry. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, Fa - ther Al - might - y;
Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son, Jesus Christ, and Ho - ly Spir - it. Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy on us. You take a - way the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.

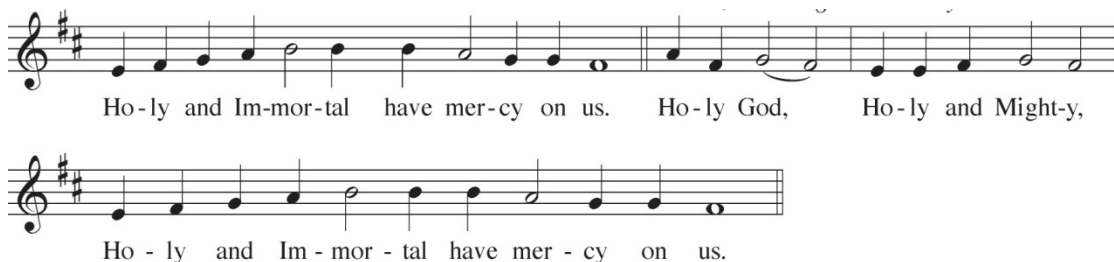
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.
 For you a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ,
 to the glory of God the Fa - ther. A - men. I will bless you day aft - er
 day, and praise your name for - ev - er. Make us wor - thy, O Lord,
 to be kept sin - less this whole day 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, be up - on us who have placed our
reverence
 hope in you. Bless - ed are you, O Lord; teach me your com - mand - ments.
reverence
 Bless - ed are you, O Mas - ter; make me understand your com - mand - ments.

reverence



Three times, each with a bow:

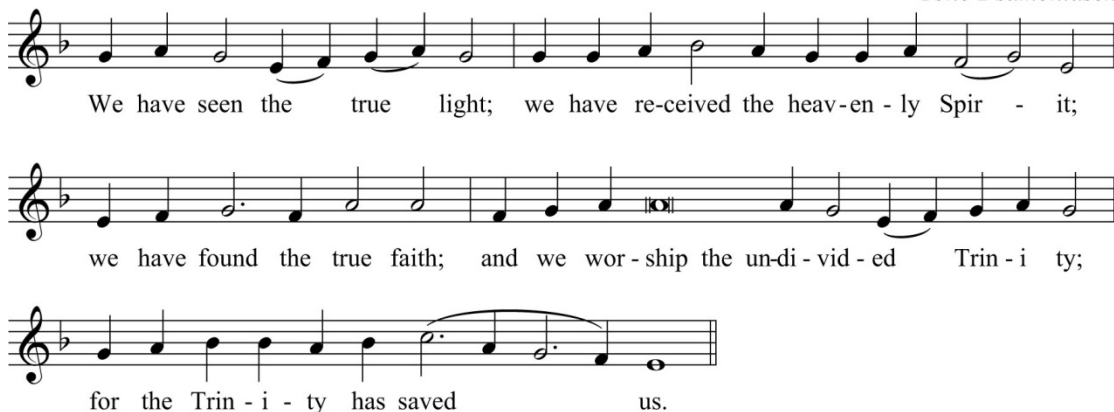




A procession now takes place outside the church (if possible). The order of procession is as follows: cross-bearer, candlebearers, servers, icon bearers, clergy, cantors and faithful. The deacon or priest carries the Gospel book. At each side of the church a Gospel is chanted. The readings are the same as for the procession on Pentecost Monday. In some Gospel books, these readings are listed under this procession in a special section.

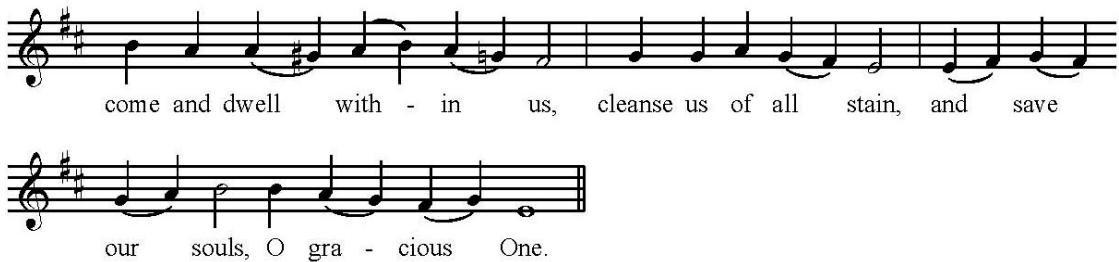
As the procession begins the following is sung according to the samohlasen tones:

Tone 2 samohlasen



Tone 6





The procession stops, the celebrant or deacon incenses the icon, Gospel book and people. Then he intones:

Deacon: That we be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Response: And with to spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

(The holy Gospel is now chanted: Matthew 12:30-36, which is for the 8th Saturday after Pentecost)

Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

The procession now resumes, while the following are sung:





when the Holy Spirit descended in tongues of fire, as told by the God-inspired



Luke, who said: The dis - ci - ples of Christ were gath - ered to - geth - er;



there was a sound like a might-y wind, and it filled the whole house where they were



sit-ing. And they be-gan to speak in for-eign tongues, teach-ing the doc-trine



of the Ho - ly Trin - i - tv.

Tone 6



Heav-en - ly King, Com-fort - er, Spir - it of Truth, ev - 'ry-where pres - ent



and fill-ing all things, Treas-ur - y of Bles - sings and Giv - er of Life,



come and dwell with - in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save



our souls, O gra - cious One.

The procession stops, the celebrant or deacon incenses the icon, Gospel book and people. Then he intones:

Deacon: That we be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Response: And with to spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

(The holy Gospel is now chanted: Mark 13:9-13, which is for the 34th Monday after Pentecost)

Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

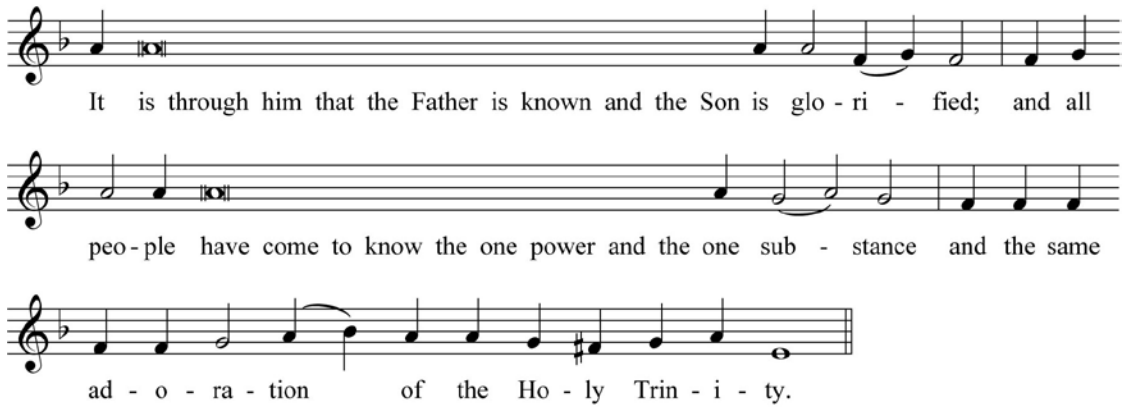
The procession now resumes, while the following are sung:

Tone 4

The Holy Spirit was, is, and al-ways will be with-out beginning and with-out end,

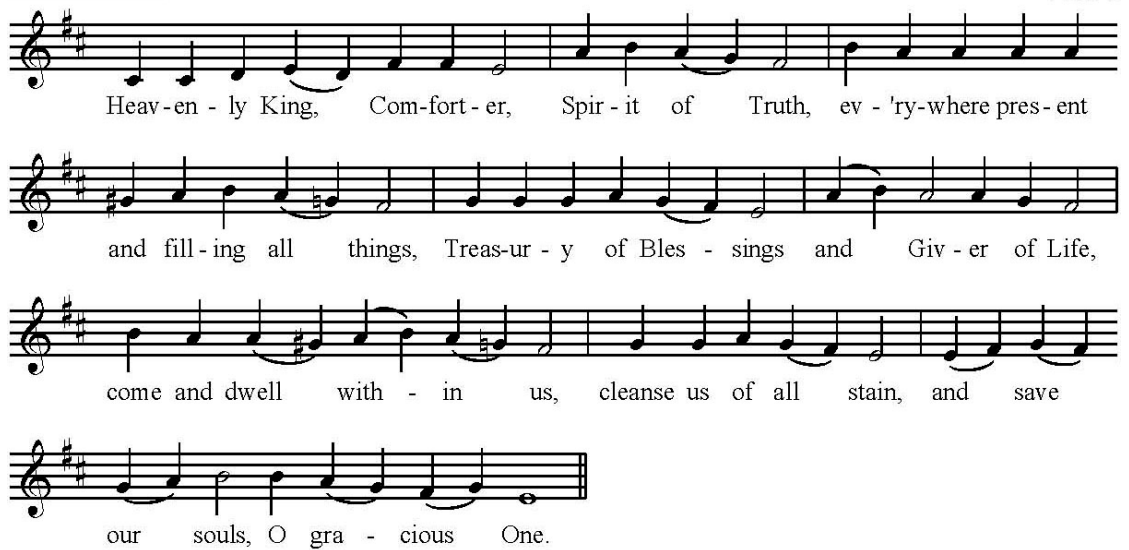
but always one with the Fa-ther and the Son. He is Life and Giv-er of Life;

he is Light and Giv-er of Light, good by nature and source of good-ness.



It is through him that the Father is known and the Son is glo - ri - fied; and all
 peo - ple have come to know the one power and the one sub - stance and the same
 ad - o - ra - tion of the Ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

Tone 6



Heav - en - ly King, Com - fort - er, Spir - it of Truth, ev - 'ry - where pres - ent
 and fill - ing all things, Treas - ur - y of Bles - sings and Giv - er of Life,
 come and dwell with - in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save
 our souls, O gra - cious One.

The procession stops, the celebrant or deacon incenses the icon, Gospel book and people. Then he intones:

Deacon: That we be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Response: And to spirit.

3rd Gospel
(Luke)

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Response: Glory be to you, O Lord; glory be to you!

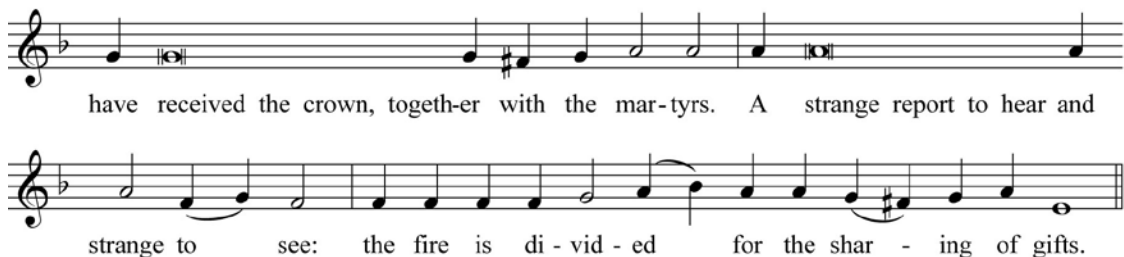
(The holy Gospel is now chanted: Luke 11:9-13, which is for the 23rd Wednesday after Pentecost)

Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

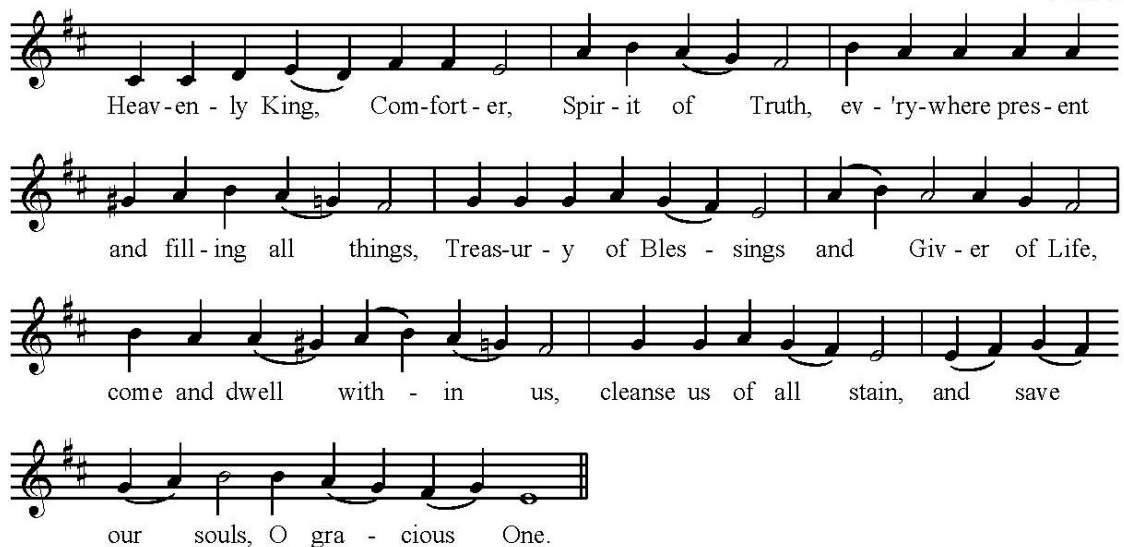
The procession now resumes, while the following are sung:

Tone 4

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life, the Living Spring mystic-ly gush-ing forth,
the Spirit of Wisdom and Spirit of Knowl - edge, good, up-right and
un - der-stand - ing, maj-est - ic, and puri-fy - ing from sin. He is God and
de - i - fies us; Fire pro-ceed-ing from fire, speak-ing, act-ing, and dis-trib - ut-ing gifts.
It is through him that all the prophets and the apos - tles of God



Tone 6



The procession stops, the celebrant or deacon incenses the icon, Gospel book and people. Then he intones:

Deacon: That we be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

Celebrant: + Peace be to all!

Response: And to your spirit.

4th Gospel
(John)

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.


Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

(The holy Gospel is now chanted: John 16:2-14, which is for the 7th Tuesday after Pentecost)


Response: Glory to you, O Lord; glory to you!

As the procession re-enters the church, the following are sung:

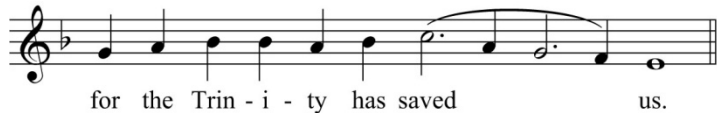
Tone 2 samohlasen



We have seen the true light; we have re-ceived the heav-en - ly Spir - it;




we have found the true faith; and we wor-ship the un-di - vid - ed Trin - i ty;




for the Trin - i - ty has saved us.


Tone 6




Heav-en - ly King, Com-fort - er, Spir - it of Truth, ev - 'ry-where pres - ent



and fill - ing all things, Treas-ur - y of Bles - sings and Giv - er of Life,



come and dwell with - in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save



our souls, O gra - cious One.

The celebrant and deacon now go before the holy icon of Pentecost.

All kneel (During the Paschal season we stand)

Deacon: Again and again on bent knees (*or during Paschal season: with bowed heads*), let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

Celebrant: O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, you bestowed your peace upon us and you granted us the gift of the Most Holy Spirit. And, while still yet being present with us in this life, you continue to bestow upon the faithful this inheritance that can never be taken away. For you have said, O Master, that whatever anyone asks for in your name, it will be received without hindrance from your Father, the co-eternal God. Therefore, we entreat your goodness to enlighten us with your Holy Spirit. Indeed, O Lord, you are the bounteous Giver of all benefits; and you are a gracious provider who gives most abundantly those things for which we ask. You are the Compassionate One and the Merciful One who sinlessly became a partaker of our flesh; and to those who bend their knees (*or heads*) to you, who became the purifier of our sins, you extend your infinite loving-kindness.

For you are our God, and we give glory to you together with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: 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.

Celebrant: 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing!

Celebrant: May Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and illustrious apostles, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, of *(name of patron(s) of the church)*, of *(name of saint of the day)*, and through the prayers of all the saints, for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.