

The Office of Daily Vespers

**Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh**

**Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

June, 2006

FOREWORD

The two forms of the Office of the Byzantine evening prayer called Vespers which are most commonly used are the (a) Sunday form and the (b) daily form. The Sunday form of the Office has been published previously by this office as "The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost." That book contains the Order used both on the eve of Sunday AND of the eves of great feasts of our Church, as well as the Ochtoechos for the Saturday evenings in all eight tones.

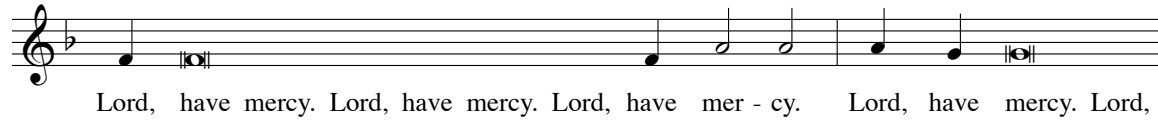
This booklet is actually the first pages of a larger book that will contain both the Order of the service AND the Ochtoechos for Sunday through Friday evenings in all eight tones. The present booklet is the order of the service, the parts that do not change (with the addition of the Evening Prokeimena assigned to each evening of the week, and the formulas of the eight samohlasen tones, given to the beginning of "O Lord, I have cried."). Before the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year, it is hoped to have the Ochtoechos portion of the book finished as well and ready for printing.

May this book be a blessing for all who use it to join themselves in the worship of our gracious God within the tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church.

June, 2006

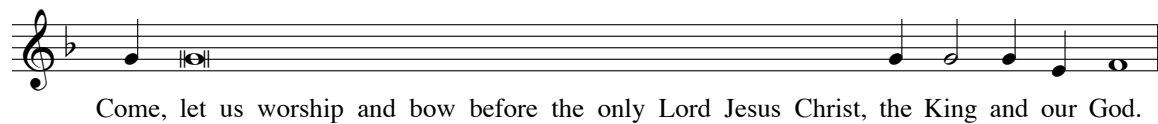
Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



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

Call to Worship



Psalm 103

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

clothed with 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.

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:




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

The musical notation is a single line of music on a five-line staff in G-clef (treble clef) and F major (one flat). It consists of 15 notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, B5, A5, G5, F5. The first three notes (G4, A4, B4) are quarter notes. The next three notes (C5, D5, E5) are quarter notes. The next three notes (F5, G5, A5) are quarter notes. The next three notes (B5, C6, B5) are quarter notes. The final three notes (A5, G5, F5) are quarter notes. The melody is simple and melodic, suitable for a hymn.

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, [*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 Lamplighting Psalms

(Settings in the Eight Tones begin on page 21)

- Psalm 140** O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord!
O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;
receive the voice of my pray'r when I call upon you.
Hear me, O Lord!
Let my prayer ascend to you like incense
and the lifting up of my hands
like an evening sacrifice.
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.
- 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.
- Psalm 141** 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 *within* 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.

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

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of *my* pleading.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

The stichera for the day are found in the supplement.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and ever and forever. Amen.

The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

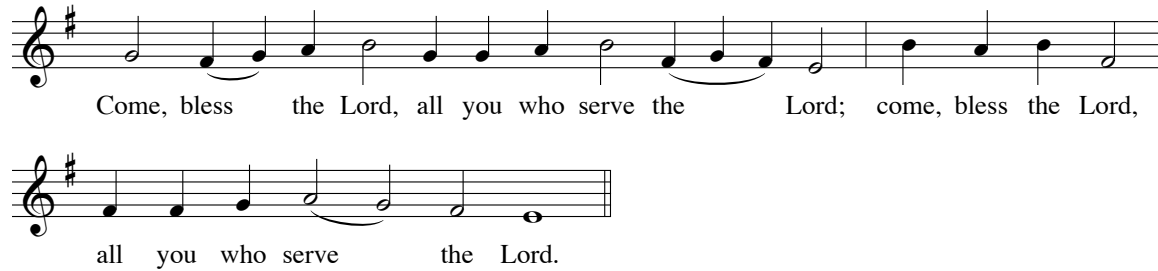
O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the
Deacon: Let us be attentive!
Priest: Giv - er of Life. ✠ Peace be to all! There - fore, the u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Weekday Prokeimena

After singing the Prokeimenon for the day of the week, the service continues on page 13.

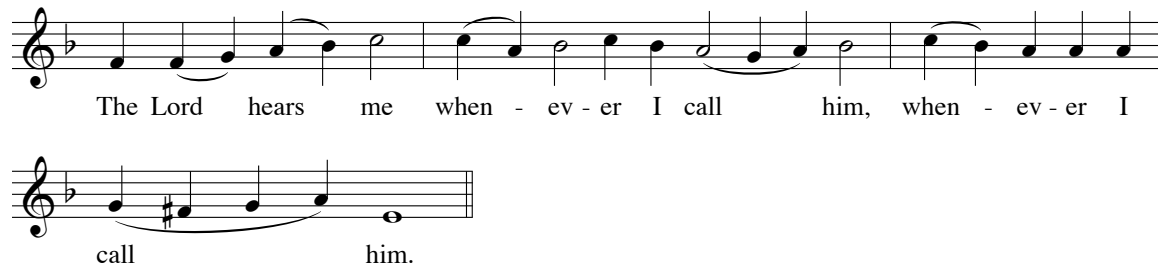
Sunday - Tone 8: (Psalm 133:1; 2)



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

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

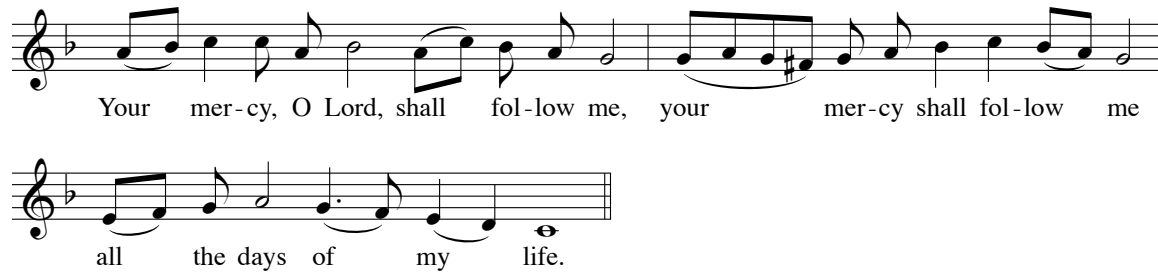
Monday - Tone 4: (Psalm 4:3;1)



The Lord hears me when - ev - er I call him, when - ev - er I
call him.

Deacon: When I call, answer me, O God of justice.

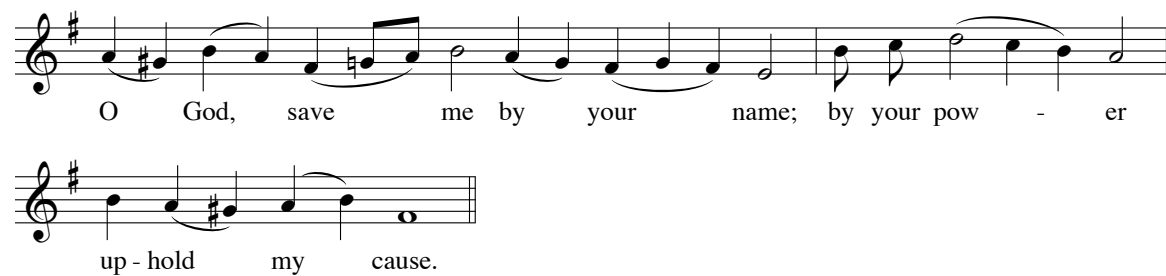
Tuesday - Tone 1: (Psalm 22:6; 1)



Your mer-cy, O Lord, shall fol-low me, your mer-cy shall fol-low me
all the days of my life.

Deacon: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want;
fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

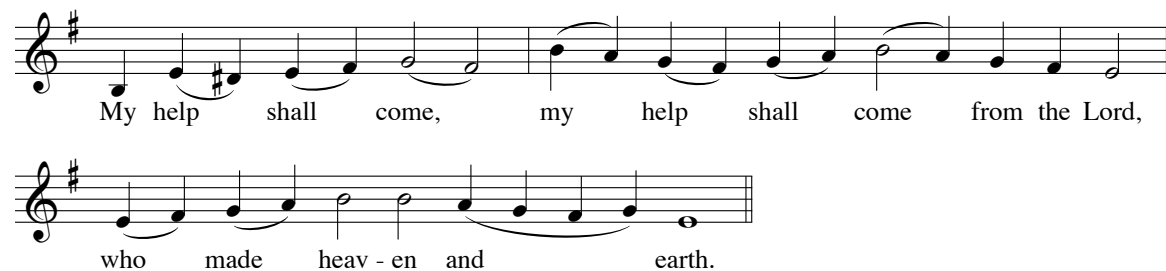
Wednesday - Tone 5 (Psalm 53: 1; 2)



O God, save me by your name; by your power
up - hold my cause.

Deacon: O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

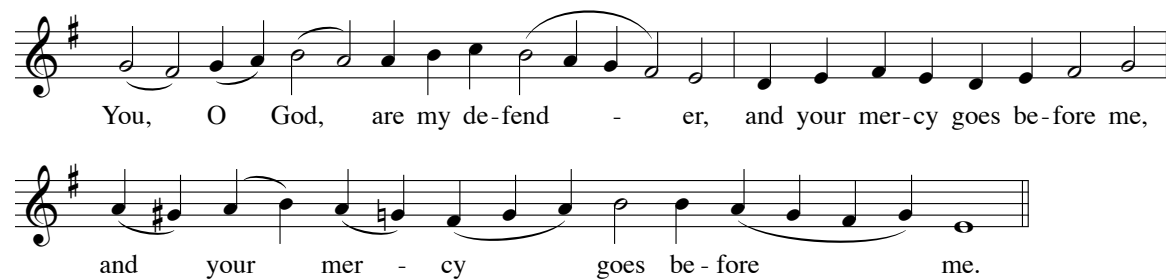
Thursday - Tone 6: (Psalm 120: 2; 1)



My help shall come, my help shall come from the Lord,
who made heav - en and earth.

Deacon: I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help.

Friday - Tone 7: (Psalm 58: 9-10; 1)



You, O God, are my de-fend - er, and your mer-cy goes be-fore me,
and your mer - cy goes be - fore me.

Deacon: Rescue me, O God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me.

Hymn of Glorification

Make us worthy O Lord
to be kept sinless *this* evening.
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
and praiseworthy and glorious is your name for ever. Amen.
May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us
who have placed our hope *in* you.
Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your *commandments*.
Blessed are you, O Master;
make me understand your *commandments*.
Blessed are you, O Holy One;
enlighten me with your *commandments*.
O Lord, your mercy is forever;
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 for ever. Amen.

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: 
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: 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 may 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 judgment 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.

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.

The service continues with the singing of the Aposticha, found in the supplement.

The Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon

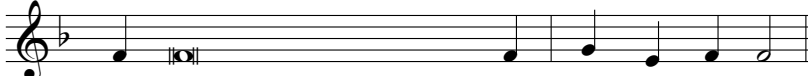
Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord,
in peace according to **your** word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared before the face of **all** people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your **people** Israel.

The Trisagion Prayers

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.

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


Response: 
A - - men.

The service continues with the singing of the Troparia, found in the supplement.

Litany of Daily Vespers

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

Response:


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 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.

Response:


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

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

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.

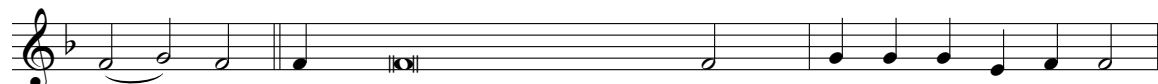
Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: 
Give the bles-sing.

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

Response:



A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for - ev - er and ev - er.

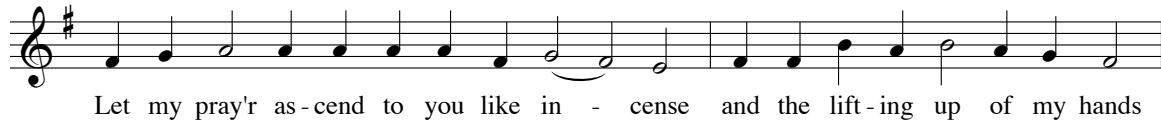
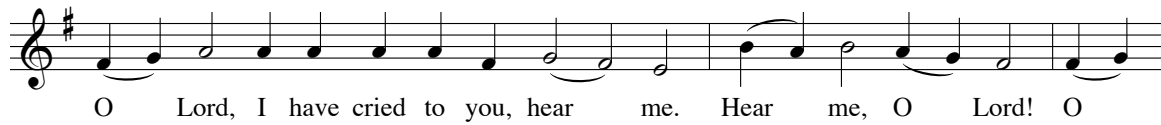
Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:



*"O Lord, I have cried"
in the Eight Tones*

Tone 1



Tone 2






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!

Tone 3




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 pray'r when I



call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r



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!

Tone 4



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 pray'r when I call up - on you.

Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r ascend to you like in - cense

and the lifting up of my hands like an eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear

me, O Lord!

Tone 5

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

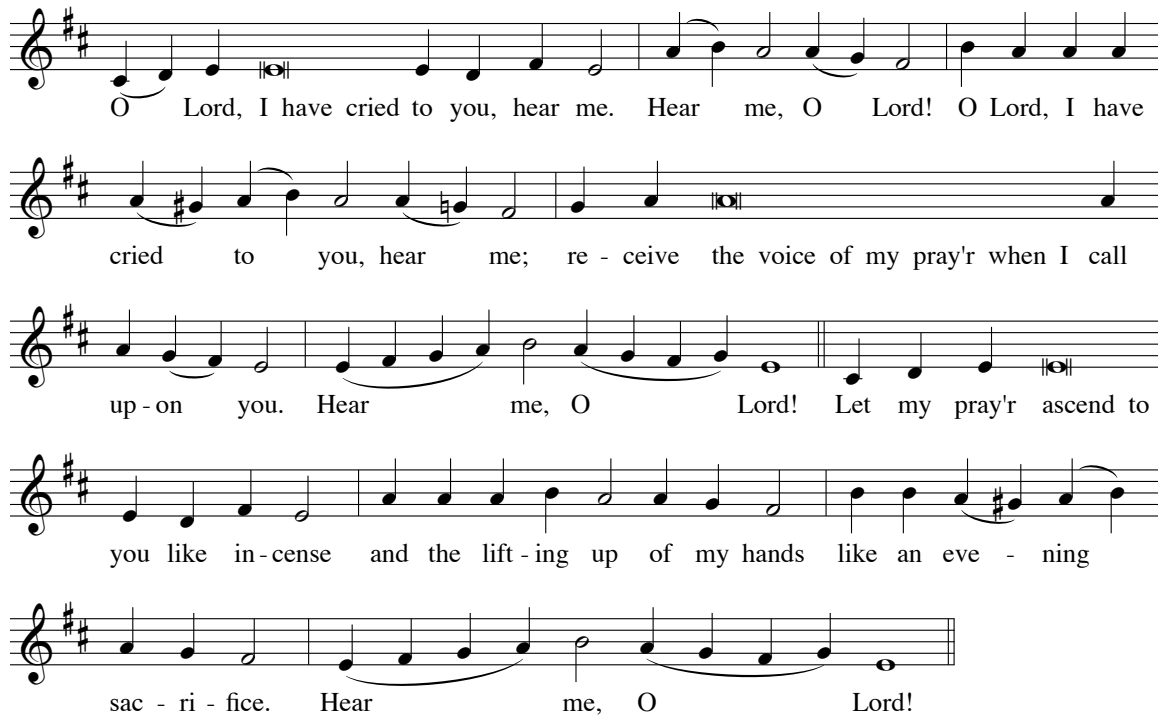
have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I call up - on you.

Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r ascend to you

like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

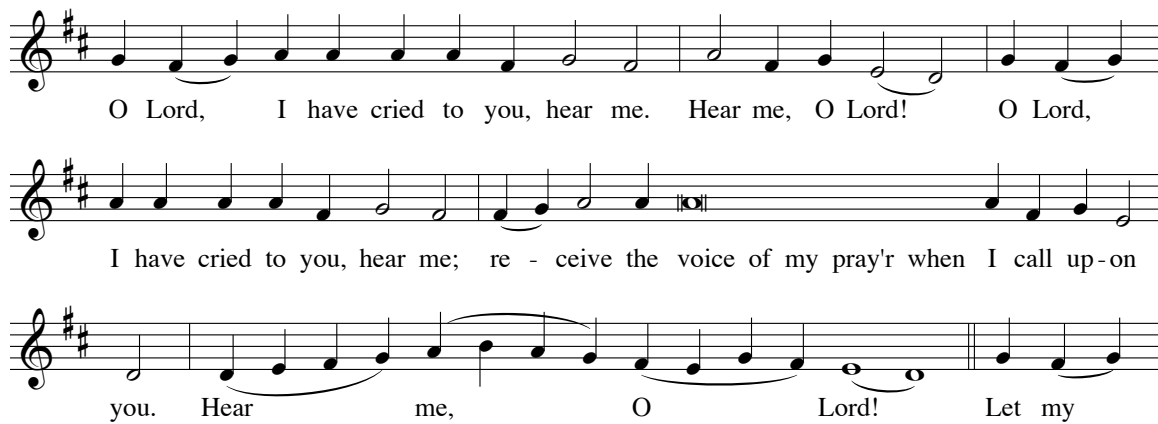
Hear me, O Lord!

Tone 6



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 pray'r when I call
up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r ascend to
you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands like an eve - ning
sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

Tone 7



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 pray'r when I call up - on
you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my

pray'r ascend to you like in-cense and the lift-ing up of my hands like an
eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

Tone 8

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 pray'r when I
call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my
pray'r ascend to you like in - - - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands
like an eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!