

THE PATRIARCHAL ORTHODOX CHURCH OF  
ROMANIA

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTERN EUROPE

THE OFFICE OF  
VESPERS

TYPIKON

( With Litiya & Artoklasia Service )

✠

*The priest vests with the epitachelion in the sanctuary.  
He opens the curtain and the Royal Doors  
Standing before the holy table facing East, he blesses  
himself saying loudly :*

Priest Blessed is Our God, always,  
Now and Forever, and to the  
Ages of Ages. +  
Choir Amen. Glory to Thee our God,  
Glory to Thee.

*The Choir Leader begins the  
Trisagion Prayers. The priest closes  
the Holy Doors and curtain*

Choir Come let us worship and bow  
down before God our King  
( + *metanie* )  
Come let us worship and bow  
down before Christ, our King  
and God ( + *metanie* )  
Come let us worship and bow  
down before Christ himself, our  
King, and our God ( + *metanie* )

O Heavenly King, the Paraclete,  
the Spirit of Truth, who are  
present everywhere filling  
all things, Treasury of good  
things, and Giver of Life, come  
and dwell in us, cleanse us  
of every stain, and save our  
souls, O Good One.  
+ Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy  
Immortal, Have mercy on us ( *three times* )  
+ Glory to the Father, and to  
the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
Now, and forever, and to the  
Ages of Ages, Amen.

All Holy Trinity have mercy on  
us. Lord forgive us our sins.  
Master pardon our  
transgressions. Holy One, visit  
and heal our infirmities for your  
name's sake.

Lord have mercy, Lord have  
mercy, Lord have mercy.  
+ Glory to the Father, and to  
the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
Now, and forever, and to the  
Ages of Ages, Amen.

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed  
be your name. Your kingdom  
come. Your 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 do not lead  
us into temptation, but deliver  
us from the evil one.

Priest. For Yours is the Kingdom and  
the Power and the Glory - of the  
Father, and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit, Now,  
and forever, and to the Ages of  
Ages. +

Choir Amen.

*Priest exits altar by N. door while  
theChoirLeader continues :*

Choir Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of  
Ages, Amen.

*The Choir Leader recites the Proemic Psalm ( Ps. 103)  
or sings the abbreviated form ( q.v. below)  
while the Priest stands on the Solea facing East and  
silently says The Seven Prayers at the Lighting of the  
Lamps ( Lychnapsia ).  
( Psalm 103 and the Lychnapsia are synchronous )*

Priest : [ **The 7 Lychnapsia Prayers** ]

1. O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-  
suffering and plentiful in mercy, give ear to our prayer,  
and attend to the voice of our supplication. Work upon  
us a sign for good. Lead us in your way, that we may  
walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts that we may  
fear your holy name. For you are great and work  
wonders. You alone are God, and among all the gods  
there is no other like you, O Lord, who are mighty in  
mercy, gracious in strength, to aid and to comfort and to  
save all those who put their trust in your holy name.

+ And to you are due all glory, honour, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

2. O Lord do not rebuke us in your wrath, and do not chastise us in your anger, but deal with us according to your clemency, O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us to the haven of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth, and grant that the remainder of this day, and our whole life, may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the Holy Mother of God and of all the saints. For yours is the might,

+ And yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Now and Forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

3. O Lord our God remember us sinners, your unprofitable servants, when we call upon your holy name, and do not take from us the expectation of your mercy, but grant us, O Lord, all our petitions which are to salvation, and grant that we may love and fear you with all our hearts, and

do your will in all things. For you are a good God who loves mankind

+ And to you we ascribe Glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

4. You who are celebrated by the never-silent hymns and unceasing doxologies of the Holy Powers : fill our mouths with your praise that we may magnify your holy name. And give to us a share and inheritance along with all those who fear you in truth and keep your commandments : through the intercessions of the holy Mother of God, and of all your saints ;

+ For to you are due all Glory, honour, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

5. Lord, Lord, who holds all things in the spotless hollow of your hand, and who are long-suffering to us all, and grieved at our wickedness : remember your compassions and your mercy. Look down on us in your goodness, and grant that through the remainder of this day, by your grace, we may avoid the varied subtle snares of the evil one. Guard our life from all dangers through the grace of your all-holy Spirit: Through the mercy and love toward mankind of your Only Begotten Son,

+ with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

6. O God who are great and wonderful; who govern all things in unspeakable goodness and bountiful providence, who have given us earthly benefits and even granted us a pledge of the promised Kingdom by already favouring us with its benefits ; you who have preserved us from all evil inclinations during that part of the day which is now past , grant now that we may complete the remainder of it blamelessly before your holy Glory, and hymn you, the only Good One, our God who loves mankind. For you are our God,  
+ And to you we ascribe Glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

7. O Great and Most High God, you who alone have immortality, and dwell in light inaccessible; you who have made all creation in wisdom, and have divided the light from the darkness, and appointed the sun to rule the day, the moon and the stars to rule the night; you who have granted to us sinners even at this present hour to come before you with confession, to offer you our evening praise : May you yourself, Lord and lover of mankind, direct our prayer as incense before you, and accept it as an odour of sweet fragrance. Grant that we may pass this present evening and the coming night in peace. Put on us the armour of light. Deliver us from the terror of the night, and from everything that walks in darkness, and grant that the sleep, which you have appointed for the repose of our weakness, may be free from every imagination of the devil. And Master, who give us every good thing, may we be moved to penitence even upon our beds and call to mind your name in the night, so that enlightened by meditation on your commandments, we may rise up in gladness of soul to glorify your goodness, presenting our prayers and supplications to your tenderness of heart, for our own sins, and for those of all your people ; that through the intercessions of the Holy Mother of God, you might look down on them with mercy. For you are a good God, who loves mankind ,  
+ And to you we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen,

( While the Priest is reciting the 7 Lychnapsia  
Prayers : The Choir Leader *recites* the Proemic Psalm  
or sings the abbreviated form given immediately below)  
[ **Proemic Psalm** (Ps. 103.) ]

Choir Bless the Lord my soul. Lord 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 the winds your messengers,  
and flashing fire your servants.  
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 you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle,  
and 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 his heart.  
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,  
the cedars he planted on Lebanon;  
there the birds build their nests :  
on the tree-top 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.  
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 forth to his work,  
to labour '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 of 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 out 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.  
O Bless the Lord, my soul.

[ When recited go now to :  
Alleluia ( x 3 ) below ]

[The Abbreviated form of The Proemic  
Psalm may be Sung : ]

*Bless the Lord my soul  
Blessed are you O Lord  
Bless the Lord my soul.  
O Lord my God how great you are !  
Clothed in majesty and glory  
The waters stood higher than the  
mountains.  
How wonderful are your works O Lord  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
Glory to you O Lord who have made them  
all.  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit, Now and forever and to the ages  
of ages. Amen.*

Reader. Alleluia, Alleluia , Alleluia,  
Glory to You O God +  
( three times - loudly )

( The priest makes three metanies with + [Lord open  
my lips etc.] in front of Royal Doors and begins litany)

#### **Litany**

Priest. In Peace, let us pray to the  
Lord. +  
Choir Lord have mercy. ( and again  
after each of 10 petitions that  
follow )  
Priest For the peace from above and  
the salvation of our souls,  
let us pray to the Lord +

Priest. For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. +

Priest. For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord. +

For our most blessed Archbishop [ ~ N ~ ] the honourable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all monks and nuns, and all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord. +

For our God-fearing Ruler -N- , all the people of our land, and all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.+

For this city and every city and village and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord. +

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. +

For travellers by sea, land, and by air ; the sick the suffering, for captives and their salvation let us pray to the Lord +

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. +

Help us; save us; have mercy on us ; and keep us, O God, by your grace. +

Remembering our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints .. [*+ bows to Virgin's icon*]

*Choir [ Most Holy Mother of God have mercy on us ]*

Priest ..... Let us commend  
ourselves, and one another, and  
our whole lives to Christ Our  
God. [ + bows to Xt icon ]

Choir To You O Lord.

Priest. For to you are due all glory,  
honour, and worship : to the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, Now, and forever, and to  
the Ages of Ages. +

Choir Amen.

*(After the Litany the priest enters the altar by S. Door.  
The Choir begins the First Cathism of the Psalter.  
Normally in parishes this amounts to singing only Psalm  
1 ( Blessed is the Man) to represent the whole Cathism..  
If the whole Cathism is said ( Monastic usage) it is  
recited amounting to Stasis 1, 2 & 3 with each stasis  
ended with [Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia, Glory to Thee O  
God] x 3. Then.... Glory.... Now & Forever  
[Stasis 1 = Psalms 1-3] ; [Stasis 2 = Psalms 4-6] ;  
[ Stasis 3 = Psalms 7-8 ].  
[ If Ps. 1 is sung the abbreviated form is used ]*

***Cathism : Psalm 1. Blessed is the Man.***

Choir Blessed is the Man who follows  
not the counsel of the wicked ;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
nor sits in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord,  
and who ponders his law day & night.  
He is like the tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
not so are the wicked ; Not so !  
For they, like winnowed chaff,  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
When the wicked are judged  
they shall not stand,  
nor find room among those who are just;  
For the Lord guards the way of the just,  
[Alleluia ]  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom  
[Alleluia ]

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Glory to You O God. ( three times )

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of  
Ages. Amen.

***Abbreviated Sung Form :***

Blessed is the man who follows not the  
counsel of the wicked.

Alleluia.

For the Lord guards the way of the just,  
But the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Alleluia.

Serve the Lord with awe and trembling,  
Pay him your homage.

Alleluia.

Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

Alleluia.

Arise Lord, save me my God.

Alleluia.

O Lord of salvation, bless your people.

Alleluia.

Glory to the Father... . +

Alleluia.

Now and Forever.....

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia ( x 2 )

Glory to you O God. Alleluia ( x 3 )

Glory, Glory to you O God.

*(At the end of the Cathism, the priest from inside the  
altar begins the Litany. The curtain remains closed )*

***Little Litany***

Priest. Again and again, in peace, let us pray to  
the Lord. +  
Choir Lord have mercy.  
Priest. Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and  
keep us, O God, by your grace. +  
Choir Lord have mercy.  
Priest Remembering our most holy, pure,  
most blessed and glorious Lady, the  
Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary  
with all the saints .. [*+ bows to Virgin's icon*]  
Choir [*Most Holy Mother of God have  
mercy on us* ]  
Priest .....Let us commend ourselves, and  
one another, and our whole lives  
to Christ Our God. [*+ bows to Xt icon* ]  
Choir To You O Lord.  
Priest. For to you are due all glory, honour,  
and worship : to the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, Now, and forever,  
and to the Ages of Ages. +  
Choir Amen.

**[ Lord I Have Cried ]**

*The Choir begins to sing 'Lord I have Cried'  
( Psalms 140,141,129 & 116 ) in the proper Tone.  
Ps. 140 is usually abbreviated. Often in parishes only the  
first six lines of 'Lord I have cried' are sung to a melody,  
then the Stichera are begun in which are interspersed  
verses from Pss. 141, 129 & 116. After Ps. 140 there  
follow the Ten Stichera of Saturday Evening : seven  
appointed in the service books and three from the  
Menaion for the feast of the day. The Stichera end with  
the Theotokion. If the whole of Ps. 140 is required, it is  
normally recited after the opening sung verses; the  
Stichera then being chanted to the appointed Tone of the  
day. While the choir sings Psalm 140 and its Stichera,  
the priest blesses the incense, and on the second verse  
of  
Ps. 140 ( **Let my prayer arise like incense** ) he begins  
the Great Censing of the altar and church.  
Returning to the altar, and censing it and the Prothesis,  
he lays aside the censer and waits for the choir to finish.*

**Lord I have Cried. ( Ps. 140 )**

Lord I have cried to you , hear me O Lord !  
Lord I have cried to you, hear me O Lord !  
Attend to the voice of my prayer,  
Hear me when I call to you.  
*Let my prayer come before you like incense;*  
The raising of my hands like an evening oblation

***When this has been sung the Reader goes immediately  
to the Stichera of Resurrection below***

*If the full psaltic text is recited ( not sung ) the following  
verses continue it :*

Lord set a guard over my mouth;  
keep watch at the door of my lips !  
Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong,  
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.  
Never allow me to share in their feasting.  
If a good 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.  
Their 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 unharmed.

**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 left  
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.

*Stichera of the Resurrection*  
*Tone 1.*

1. Receive our evening prayers,  
O Holy Lord, and grant us forgiveness of sins.  
For you alone, in this world,  
have shown the resurrection.  
Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness to me. (Ps. 141)

2. Gather round Zion all you peoples,  
gather round her,  
And give glory in her  
for the resurrection from the dead,  
For he is our God who has redeemed us  
from our transgressions.  
Out of the depths I have cried to you, Lord. Lord hear  
my voice. (Ps. 129)

3. Come all you peoples, let us worship Christ and sing to  
him,  
Glorifying his resurrection from the dead,  
for he is our God, and has redeemed the world  
from the deceits of the enemy.  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (Ps. 129)

*[ Stichera of the Elevation ]*

4. Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad.  
Let the mountains cry out in gladness,  
for Emmanuel, as Lover of Mankind,  
has nailed our sins to the Cross.  
The Giver of Life has slain death  
and raised up Adam.

If you , O Lord, should mark our guilt ,  
Lord who would survive ?  
But with you is found forgiveness,  
for this we revere you. ( Ps. 129 )

5. Let us sing to Him who elected to be crucified in the  
flesh for us,  
Who suffered, and was buried,  
and rose again from the dead.  
Preserve, O Christ,  
the Orthodoxy of your church,  
and give us peace in our time,  
For you are good , and love mankind.

My soul is waiting for the Lord ,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord,  
more than the watchman for daybreak. ( Ps. 129 )

6. Though unworthy, we stand around  
your life-giving tomb, O Christ our God,  
and glorify your ineffable tenderness of heart.  
For you welcomed the Cross,  
and did not shrink from death,  
O Lover of mankind,  
That you might give the world the Resurrection.  
From the morning watch, even to the night,  
Let Israel hope in the Lord. ( Ps. 129 )

7. Let us sing to the Word who is Unoriginate and  
Eternal as the Father is,  
Who came ineffably from the Virgin's womb  
And freely welcomed the Cross & Death, for us  
and rose again in glory.  
Glory to you, Life-giving Lord  
and Saviour of our souls,  
Glory to you.  
For with the Lord there is mercy,  
and fullness of redemption.  
Israel indeed he will redeem,  
from all its iniquities. ( Ps. 129 )

8. *1st Sticheron of the Feast is said (Menaion).*  
*[This is as for a service of Hierarchs ]*

O consecrated Godbearer [ ~ N ~ ]  
holy chrism of God,  
clothed with the Holy Spirit,  
and illumined with God's splendour  
you entered the holy of holies

and shared in the mysteries of grace,  
boldly interceding for our souls.

*Then :*

Praise the Lord all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples. (Ps. 116)

9. *Second Sticheron of the Feast*

Resplendent with virtues  
O Blessed hierarch [ ~ N ~ ]  
you illumined the faithful  
and dispelled the darkness of error.  
You appeared as a bright sun  
and by the Holy Spirit became a child of day  
in the realm of eternal light.  
And so we celebrate your memory,  
and venerate you with love.

*Then :*

Strong is his love for us ,  
he is faithful for ever. ( Ps. 116)

10. *Third Sticheron of the Feast.*

Your pure mind dwelt in God through faith  
and while still in a mortal body  
sought after immortality.  
In your dispassion you acquired  
the impassivity of the Bodiless Powers,  
O wise and glorious Hierarch [ ~ N ~ ]  
radiant intercessor for those who honour you.

*Then the choir chants emphatically and quite slowly :*  
+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit.  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

*The choir now goes on to sing the Theotokion ( or says it  
very slowly while the censuring of the church is done )*

*At the beginning of the 'Glory..Now' the priest opens  
the Royal Doors. He is wearing the Phelonion. He kisses  
the Gospel and the Holy Table and takes the censer in  
his right hand and circles the table bowing at each face  
and censuring it quietly, and the same at the Prothesis. He  
exits by the N. door to the Solea saying the Prayer of the  
Entrance ( below ) and blessing the Royal Doors. On  
the Solea he censures the icons on the iconostasis, and  
then makes a Little Censuring of the church. Then he faces  
the Royal doors until the choir finishes the Theotokion  
whereupon he says [ Wisdom etc. as below].  
( On weekday Vespers the Phelonion is not worn )*

*Theotokion / Dogmatik in Tone 1.*

Let us sing the praises of the Virgin Mary ,  
The Gate of Heaven, and Glory of the world;  
Sprung forth from man,  
who bore the Lord of all;  
The song of the Bodiless Powers,  
And ornament of all the faithful.  
She has been revealed as Heaven,  
a Temple of the Deity.  
Tearing down the dividing-wall of enmity,  
She ushered in Peace, and opened the Kingdom.  
Holding fast to her, the Anchor of our faith,  
We have a strong Defender,  
the very Lord who was born of her.  
Take courage, then, take courage people of God,  
For He, the All-Powerful,  
will conquer all our foes.

***The Prayer of the Entrance :***

Priest. *(Silently as he leaves the altar)*

*In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise you, we bless you, we give you thanks, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord who loves mankind. Direct our prayer as incense before you, and do not incline our hearts to words or deeds of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. Lord, Lord, our eyes have looked to you. In you have we hoped. Do not put us to shame, Our God, For to you are due all Glory, honour and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.*

***( Blessing the Royal Doors )***  
*+ Blessed is the Entrance to Your Holy Place, Always, now and forever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen*

*( After the Theotokion is concluded he says loudly : )*

Priest. Wisdom ! Stand aright !

*The Choir immediately begins the Hymn of Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps*

*[ Phos Hilaron. ]*

*Clergy and faithful join in the singing.*

*The priest waits before royal doors until the name of the Trinity is mentioned below\**

***Phos Hilaron***

Choir Jesus Christ, The Gladdening Light  
of the Immortal Father's holy Glory ;  
The Heavenly, Holy, Blessed One;  
As the Sun declines  
we see the light of evening,  
and sing our hymn to God,  
the Father, \* Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Worthy are you, O Son of God,  
through each and every moment,  
that joyful songs should hymn you.  
You are the Giver of our Life ,  
and so the world gives glory.

*\* At the words 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' the priest censes the altar three times from the solea and moves in to the sanctuary where he censes the Prothesis and lays aside the censer. He takes the venerable cross in his hand and turns to face out the Royal Doors :*

Priest. Let us be attentive . Peace be with you  
all. ( + *blesses people with cross* )  
Choir. And with your spirit.  
Priest. Wisdom ! Let us be attentive !

*The Priest turns inside the altar and closes the curtain  
and Royal Doors. The Choir Leader begins the  
Prokeimenon (that for Sunday is given below ).*

### ***Prokeimenon***

Choir : The Lord reigns ( x 2 ).  
He is clothed with beauty

1.The Lord is clothed with majesty and has  
girded himself with might.  
The Lord reigns ( x 2 ).  
He is clothed with beauty.

2. Truly he has established the world  
so that it can never be shaken.

The Lord reigns ( x 2 ).  
He is clothed with beauty.

3. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord,  
to the end of days.

The Lord reigns ( x 2 ).  
He is clothed with beauty.

*( On certain Festivals Old Testament Prophecies may be  
read here according to the canonical table)*

*After the Prokeimenon ( or Prophecies ) the priest  
begins the Ektenia from inside the altar [doors  
closed].*

*[ Note : On a weekday Vespers the Ektenia is not said at  
this point - but after the Apolytikia later]*

### ***Ektenia***

Priest. Let us say with our whole soul, and  
with our whole mind, let us say : +  
Choir. Lord have mercy.  
Priest. O Lord Almighty, God of our Fathers,  
we pray you hear us and have mercy. +  
Choir. Lord have mercy.

Priest. Have mercy on us O God according to your great kindness. We pray you, hear us and have mercy. +

Choir. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Priest. Again we pray for our most blessed Archbishop [ ~ N ~ ] and for all our brethren ; the priests, deacons, monks and nuns, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ. +

Choir. Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest. Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and protection, forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God – N -; the benefactors, supporters and members of this holy community. +

Choir. Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest. Again we pray for the blessed and ever-remembered founders of this holy house, and for all our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters fallen asleep in the Lord ; Orthodox Christians who rest here and elsewhere. +

Choir. Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest. Again we pray for those who bring offerings to this holy and venerable church ; for those who do good works ; for those who serve and those who sing ; and for all your people here present, awaiting your great and rich mercy. +

Choir. Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest. *[ Silently ]*  
*O Lord our God accept this fervent supplication from your servants and have mercy on us according to the multitude of your mercies. Send down your compassion on us and all all your people who are awaiting your great and rich mercy...* *[ then aloud ]*  
 For you are a merciful God who loves mankind + And to you we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit ; Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir Amen.

*The Choir Leader now recites the Evening Prayer*

Choir. Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.  
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen.  
Let your mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have placed all our hope in you.  
Blessed are you O Lord, teach me your statutes. +  
Blessed are you Master, make me understand your statutes. +  
Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes. +  
O Lord, your mercy is everlasting; do not despise the work of your hands.  
All praise belongs to you, and all worship, and all glory;  
+ To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever,  
and to the Ages of Ages, Amen.

*From inside the sanctuary the priest begins the*

***Litany of Supplication***

Priest Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord. +

Choir Lord have mercy.

Priest Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace. +

Choir Lord have mercy.

Priest That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless.+

Choir Lord have mercy.

Priest An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord. +

Choir Grant this O Lord.

Priest Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions. +

Choir Grant this O Lord.

Priest All things good and profitable for our  
souls, and peace for the world,  
let us ask of the Lord. +

Choir Grant this O Lord.

Priest That we may complete the remaining  
time of our life in peace and repentance. +

Choir Grant this O Lord.

Priest A Christian end to our life, painless,  
blameless, peaceful, and a good defence  
before the dread judgement seat of  
Christ, let us ask of the Lord. +

Choir Grant this O Lord.

Priest Remembering our most holy, pure,  
most blessed and glorious Lady, the  
Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary  
with all the saints .... [*+ bows to Virgin's  
icon*]

*Choir: Most Holy Mother of God have mercy on us*

Priest ...Let us commend ourselves, and one  
another, and our whole lives to Christ  
Our God. [*+ bows to Xt icon*]

Choir To You O Lord.

Priest. For you are a good God who loves  
mankind and to you are due all glory,  
honour, and worship + to the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Now, and forever,  
and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir Amen.

*The Priest opens the curtains and Doors and stands  
facing the people, blessing them with his hand saying :*

Priest Peace be with you all. +  
Choir And with your spirit.  
Priest Bow your heads to the Lord.  
(*bowing himself to the icon of Christ*)

*The priest enters the sanctuary while the choir makes the  
response. He closes the Royal Doors and curtain.*

Choir To you O Lord.

Priest     *Silently -  
O Lord God who bowed the heavens and  
came down for the salvation of  
mankind; look upon your servants and  
your inheritance, for to you, the fearful  
Judge who yet loves mankind, have your  
servants inclined and bowed down their  
heads before you, not waiting for any help  
from men, but looking to your mercy and  
confidently expecting your salvation.  
Guard them at all times, during this  
present evening, and in the approaching  
night, from every enemy, from all the  
powers of the devil that may assault  
them, and from all vain thoughts and evil  
imaginings.*

*And then aloud -*  
For Blessed and glorified is the power of  
your Kingdom +  
Of the Father, and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Now and Forever,  
And to the Ages of Ages.

Choir     Amen.

*On a Feastday a  
**Litiya & Artoklasia**  
may be celebrated here [ See Appendix A ]  
If there is no Litiya, the Choir immediately begins to  
chant the appointed Aposticha and Theotokion.*

***Aposticha and Theotokion***  
*(Those for Tone 1 are given )*

Choir

***Aposticha***

1.     By your sufferings, O Christ,  
we have been set free from suffering,  
And by your resurrection  
we are delivered from corruption.  
Glory to You, O Lord.  
The Lord reigns.  
He is clothed with beauty.
  
2.     Let creation rejoice,  
let the heavens be glad,  
Let the nations clap their hands with  
gladness,  
For Christ our Saviour  
has nailed our sins to the Cross,  
And has given us Life,  
by putting death to death.  
He has raised up fallen Adam,  
the father of us all,  
Out of his love for humankind.

+ Glory to the Father and to the  
Son, And to the Holy Spirit.  
Now and forever,  
and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

***Theotokion***

Choir. Behold the fulfilment of Isaiah's  
prophecy :  
For a virgin has given birth  
and yet remained a virgin,  
For her child was very-God;  
and thereby nature was made new.  
O Mother of God,  
intercede for the safety of your servants.  
Do not disregard the prayers of our  
devotion  
But as the tender-hearted One,  
bear us in your arms  
To the household of compassion,  
And intercede that our souls may be  
saved.

*In the sanctuary the Priest now removes his Phelonion,  
[ but not if there is a Litiya ]  
After the Theotokion the Choir Leader recites or sings:*

***The Hymn of Symeon***

Choir. Now, Master, let your servant  
depart in peace,  
according to your promise,  
for my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared before all  
your people, a light for the revelation of the  
gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

*The Trisagion prayers are begun immediately after this :*

Choir + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
Have mercy on us ( x 3 )

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of  
Ages, Amen.

All Holy Trinity have mercy on us.  
Lord forgive us our sins.  
Master pardon our transgressions.  
Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities  
for your name's sake.

Lord have mercy ( x 3 )

+ Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of  
Ages, Amen..

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your  
name. Your kingdom come.  
Your 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 trespass against us.  
And do not lead us into temptation, but  
deliver us from the evil one.

Priest. For Yours is the Kingdom and the  
Power and the Glory + of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir Amen.

*The Choir now sing three Troparia, that is the appointed  
Apolytikia and the Theotokion.  
( Those for Tone 1, & a Feast of a Hierarch are given )*

***Apolytikia & Theotokion***

*[ Apolytikion of the Resurrection. Tone 1. ]*

The stone was sealed by the Jewish leaders,  
and the soldiers stood guard  
over your spotless body.  
But on the third day, our saviour,  
You rose to give life to the world.  
And so the Heavenly Powers  
cry out to you, O Life-Giver :  
Glory to your Resurrection, O Christ,  
Glory to your Kingdom.  
Glory to your Economy of Salvation,  
Only Lover of Mankind.

+ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit.

*Apolytikion of the Day : [ e.g. All the Saints ]*

Through all the world  
your church is clothed  
With the blood of your martyrs,  
as if in purple and fine linen  
And cries out to you through them :  
Christ our God  
send down your compassion on your people;  
Gve peace to your state,  
and to our souls great mercy.

Now, and forever, and to the Ages of Ages. Amen.

*Theotokion Tone 1.*

When Gabriel's greeting flashed upon you,  
O Virgin,  
At the very sound  
the Lord of All took flesh in you,  
The Holy Ark, as righteous David said.  
And then you were revealed  
+ as Wider-than-the heavens  
For you carried your Creator.  
Glory to Him who dwelt in you.  
Glory to Him who came forth from you.  
Glory to Him who by your giving-birth,  
Has given us our freedom.

*[ On a weekday, after the singing is concluded, the Priest would begin the **Ektenia** at this point: see above ]  
During the final Theotokion, the priest opens the curtain and Royal Doors. After the singing ends, the priest, with the cross in his hand, faces the people from the Royal Doors and says 'Wisdom !' as below:*

*[\* Note : If there has been a Litiya and Artoklasion the Dismissal is different :The section on this page, from 'Wisdom !' to 'More Honourable' is omitted and the following is substituted:*

*Priest Let us Pray to the Lord.  
Choir Lord have mercy.  
Priest The Blessing of the Lord and his mercy come upon you through his divine grace and love towards mankind, always , now and forever, and to the Ages of Ages.  
Choir Amen.*

*Then the priest resumes with : Glory to You O Christ our God and our hope as below..*

*Priest Wisdom !  
Choir Father, give the blessing.  
Priest He Who Is , Christ Our God, is blessed always + ( blesses people with cross )  
Now, and Ever, and to the Ages of Ages.  
Choir Amen. Preserve O God the Holy Orthodox faith and all orthodox Christians, To the Ages of Ages. Amen.*

*The Priest bows to the Icon of the Virgin and says*

*Priest Most Holy Mother of God , save us. +  
Choir More Honourable than the Cherubim,  
and more glorious beyond compare  
than the Seraphim, incorruptibly you  
gave birth to God the Word.*

Truly the Mother of God,  
we magnify you.

*The Priest bows to the icon of Christ and says*

Priest     Glory to you, O Christ, our God and our  
              Hope; Glory to you. +

Choir     Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and  
              to the Holy Spirit,  
              Now and forever and to the Ages of  
              Ages. Amen.  
              Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
              Lord have mercy.  
              Father give the blessing.

*Facing the people from the Royal Doors the priest  
              blesses all the people with the cross  
( bowing to the icons of Christ and the Theotokos during  
              the relevant opening phrases of the blessing )*

Priest     May -  
              He who rose from the dead -  
[ *used on normal Sunday Vespers omitted weekdays* ]  
              Christ our true God + ,  
              Through the intercessions of his all-  
              immaculate and ever-blameless  
              holy Mother \* +

[ \* *The longer form of the blessing includes the brackets  
              the shorter form resumes at \* below* ]

[ by the might of the precious and life-  
giving cross;  
by the protection of the honourable  
bodiless powers of heaven;  
at the supplication of the honourable  
and glorious prophet, Forerunner,  
and Baptist, John ;  
of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable  
apostles;  
of the holy, glorious and right-victorious  
martyrs;  
of our venerable and god-bearing  
fathers;  
of (our patron) St. Gregory the Theologian,  
Archbishop of Constantinople ;  
of the holy and righteous ancestors of  
God, Joachim and Anna;  
of ( *N. saint of day* ) whose memory  
we celebrate ]

\* And of all the saints :  
have mercy on us and save us, in as  
much as He is good and loves mankind.

*The Priest turns to face the Icon of Christ and says*

Through the prayers of our holy fathers,  
Lord Jesus Christ our God,  
have mercy on us, and save us. +

Choir Amen.

***Vespers concludes.***

*The Priest enters the sanctuary, closes the royal doors.  
If there has not been a Litiya and Artoklasion he  
removes the holy vestments. If there has been a Litiya he  
distributes the blessed bread, and anoints the faithful  
with the holy oil before the Icon of the Mother of God.  
The faithful go home, giving thanks to God.*

*Confessions may be heard in preparation  
for a liturgy on the following day*



## APPENDIX A

### LITIYA AND ARTOKLASIA AT VESPERS OF GREAT FEASTS.

*A table is prepared in advance in the middle of the church. It contains five loaves in the centre, wine on the left, olive oil on the right. After the Prayer of the Bowing down of the heads in Vespers the choir begins to sing the appointed Stichera of the day. During the singing the procession with the festal icon is made.  
( for the proper stichera see the Menaion, or Hatherley pp. 151-170 ) with intervening verses as follows  
( as for a Hierarch ) :*

*Stichera 1*

O Hierarch ( ~ N ~ ) dawn of spiritual radiance  
light of the church, adornment of hierarchs  
and criterion of a monastic's life of fasting,  
defend and deliver our souls  
from the destroying enemy.

*Verse*

Praise the Lord all you nations; acclaim him all you peoples.

*Stichera 2:*

O Hierarch ( ~ N ~ ) with power from God  
you drive off hordes of hostile demons  
from those who seek your prayers.

*Verse*

Strong is his love for us, he is faithful for ever.

*Stichera 3:*

We cannot worthily praise the great Hierarch ( ~ N ~ )  
who being illumined by God  
Now illumines us with understanding;  
that confessor of divine mysteries  
to whom we sing :  
Rejoice O Father of Fathers.

+ Glory to the Father .... Now, and forever, and to the  
Ages of Ages. Amen.

*During the Stichera the clergy reverence the Holy Table  
and leave the sanctuary by the N. door. The priest  
carries the icon of the feast and the server carries the  
censer. A procession is made around the Litiya table  
three times during the singing. The priest then lays the  
Icon on an analogion near the table and the faithful  
reverence it after the clergy. When the singing of the  
Stichera is finished the priest begins the following Litany*

Priest Have mercy on us, O God, according to  
your great mercy. We pray you,  
Hear us and have mercy +

Choir Lord have mercy ( x 3 ).

Priest Again we pray for all righteous and  
orthodox Christians. +

Choir Lord have mercy ( x 3 )

Priest Again we pray for our God-fearing  
Ruler –N- , for their strength, victory,  
endurance, health and salvation that the  
Lord God will prosper them in all  
things and subdue their enemies and  
every adversary. +

Choir Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest. Again we pray for our most blessed  
Archbishop, (~ N ~ )  
and for all our brothers and sisters in  
Christ. +

Choir Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

*( The choir continuously & quietly sings :  
Lord Have mercy - as the petitions unfold )*

Priest Again we pray for every Christian soul,  
afflicted and weary, in need of God's  
mercies and help ;  
For the protection of this holy house and  
for all who sing herein and for all here  
present ;  
For the peace and stability of the whole  
world ;  
For the good estate of the holy churches  
of God;  
For the salvation and help of our fathers  
and mothers, brothers and sisters who  
with diligence and fear of God labour  
and serve ;  
For those who have gone away from us,  
and for those who are abroad;  
For those who travel by sea, by land or  
by air ;  
For the healing of those who lie in  
infirmity ;  
For the repose, forgiveness, and blessed  
memory of all our departed,  
For our orthodox brethren who lie  
asleep here and elsewhere ;  
For the deliverance of captives;

For those imprisoned and those in  
danger ;

For all our brothers and sisters who are  
with us in these present services and all  
who minister and have ministered in this  
holy house.

*And for your servants NN.. who are  
offering these holy loaves )*  
Let us say : +

Choir Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest Again we pray that God may keep this  
holy church and this city and every city  
and village, from all violence, famine,  
plague , earthquake, flood, fire, civil  
strife, warfare, invasion, and sudden  
death ;

Choir Lord have mercy ( x 3 )

Priest That our good God who loves mankind  
will be gracious, favourable, and conciliatory,  
and turn away all wrath stirred up against us,  
and every sickness, and may deliver us from  
his righteous chastisement , which impends  
against us; And have mercy on us . +

Choir. Lord have mercy ( 12 times )  
(*or properly - 40 times.*)

Priest Again we pray that the Lord  
our God may listen to the voice of  
supplication of us sinners; and have mercy on  
us . +  
( *The priest here silently commemorates  
those who have requested special prayers )*

Choir Lord have mercy. ( x 3 )

Priest Hear us, O God our Saviour, the Hope  
of all the ends of the earth, and of those  
who are far off upon the sea.  
Be gracious, O Be gracious Master ,  
upon our sins, and have mercy on us.  
For you are a merciful God,  
and to you we ascribe all glory :  
+ To the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
Now, and forever, and to the Ages of  
Ages.

Choir Amen.

*The priest, facing the people, blesses them  
with his right hand saying :*

Priest Peace be with you all.

Choir And with your spirit.

Priest Bow your heads to the Lord.

Choir To you, O Lord.

*The faithful bow down their heads while the priest,  
facing East, says this prayer aloud :*

Priest O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus  
Christ, our God,  
Through the intercessions of our all-  
immaculate Lady the Mother of God  
and ever-Virgin Mary ;  
By the might of the precious and life-  
giving Cross ;  
By the protection of the honourable  
bodiless powers of heaven ;  
At the supplication of the honourable,  
glorious prophet and forerunner John  
the Baptist ;  
Of the holy, glorious and all-celebrated  
apostles ;  
Of the holy, glorious and victorious  
martyrs;  
Of our reverent and god-bearing fathers;  
Of our fathers among the saints, the  
great hierarchs and oecumenical teachers ,  
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and  
John Chrysostom;  
Of our father among the saints Nicholas,  
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia the  
wonderworker ;  
Of the holy, glorious great martyrs  
George the Trophy Bearer and Alban  
the Proto-Martyr of England ;  
Of the holy N.. ( *Saint of the Day* ) whose  
memory we celebrate ;  
Of the holy and righteous ancestors of  
God, Joachim and Anna ;  
And of all your saints :  
Grant that our prayer be made acceptable.

Choir Amen.

Priest Grant us forgiveness of our  
trespasses.

Choir Amen.

Priest Shelter us under the shadow of  
your wings.

Choir Amen.

Priest Drive away from us every  
enemy and adversary.

Choir Amen.

Priest Give us peace in our life.

Choir Amen.

Priest. O Lord, have mercy on us, and  
upon your world, and save our  
souls, For you are a merciful  
God, who loves mankind.

Choir Amen.

### ***The Artoklasia***

*The priest takes the censer and censens the table three  
times on each face as the Choir sings*

Choir Rejoice Mary, full of grace ;  
O Virgin Mother of God,  
The Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
For you have borne the Saviour of our  
souls.

*( repeat three times )*

*When the censening is complete the censer is  
laid aside and the priest continues :*

Priest Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir Lord have mercy.

*The priest takes one of the loaves and makes the sign of  
the cross with it over the other offerings in this form :*

***Bread  
Wine + Oil  
Wheat***

*Replacing the loaf he says the following blessing :*

Priest O Lord Jesus Christ, our God,  
who blessed the five loaves in  
the wilderness  
and from them satisfied the five  
thousand,

+ yourself bless these loaves  
this wheat, wine and oil,  
and multiply them in this city  
and through all the world,  
and sanctify the faithful  
who shall eat of them in faith.  
For you are the blessing  
and sanctification of all things,  
O Christ, our God,  
+ and to you we ascribe all  
glory, together with your  
Unoriginate Father,  
and your All-Holy, Good, and  
Life-giving Spirit :  
Now, and forever,  
and to the Ages of Ages.

Choir Amen.

*The priest kisses the top loaf and breaks it crosswise as  
the Choir says or sings (in Tone 7) Psalm 33 :  
( The psalm is normally abbreviated to the last stanza  
marked \* on the following page.  
If necessary for time - it may be sung x 3 )*

Choir I will bless the Lord at all times (Ps. 33 )  
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 ;  
Happy, whoever seeks refuge in Him.  
Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing,  
those who revere Him.  
**\* The rich have turned poor and gone  
hungry ;  
But those that seek the Lord lack no  
good thing.**

*While the singing is in progress the clergy carry the bread, wine, and oil into the sanctuary. It is prepared there for distribution according to the number of faithful. Before the end of the Vespers the wine is sprinkled over the loaves which have been cut up for the faithful present.*

*The oil is kept aside for anointings at the end of Vespers.*

*After the Cantic the Choir continues Vespers with the:*

***Aposticha.** ( see above*

