

**GREAT COMPLINE AND MATINS**  
**Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos**

*Priest:* Blessed is our God, always now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

*Choir:* O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

*Reader:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
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 our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest:* For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen. Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### **Psalm 4**

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! Thou hast given me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. O men, how long shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. Be angry, but sin not; commune with your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, O LORD!" Thou hast put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for thou alone, O LORD, makest me dwell in safety.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)  
Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

#### **Psalm 90**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place - the Most High, who is my refuge - no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. "Because he

holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Reader:* God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

*Choir:* God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

*Reader:* Hear this, all you ends of the earth!

*Choir:* For God is with us. (*repeated after each verse*)

*Reader:*

Submit yourselves, you mighty ones!

Even if your strength returns, you shall be overthrown once more. If you take counsel together, the Lord will scatter you.

If you speak a word, it will never stand, even among yourselves.

We do not fear your threats, nor are we troubled. For the Lord our God is holy, and him will we fear.

If I trust in Him, He will be my sanctification. I will wait for Him; He will save me.

Behold, I and the children God has given me.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, on them has light shined.

For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And of His peace, there shall be no end.

And His name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel. Wonderful, Counselor.

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The Father of the world to come.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us!

*Choir:* God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

*Reader:* Now that the day is over, I glorify You O Master, And I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without sin. Grant this, O Savior, and save me.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

Now that the day is over, I glorify You, O Master, And I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without giving offense. Grant this, O Savior, and save me.

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Now that the day is over, I praise You, O Holy One, And I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without temptation. Grant this, O Savior, and save me.

The bodiless Cherubim glorify You with never-ending songs. The six-winged Seraphim exalt You with ceaseless voices. All the hosts of Angels honor You with the thrice-holy hymn. For You, O Father, are from all eternity, with Your co-eternal Son, and with the Spirit of life, Who is equal to You; You have revealed the unity of the Trinity.

O most-holy Virgin and Mother of God, and you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, all you choirs of prophets and martyrs, who enjoy eternal life, fervently pray for us all, who are in fearful distress, that we may be delivered from the deceit of the Evil One, so that we may sing the song of the Angels: Holy, holy, holy, Thrice-holy Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

### **The Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from the heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered and was buried. And the

third day He arose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Now & ever ..., and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 these who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest:* For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory; of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

#### **TROPARION — TONE 4**

*Choir:* Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with You!

*Reader:* Lord have mercy. (*40 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption you gave birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify you. In the name of the Lord, bless, Master.

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

*Reader:* Amen.

*Prayer of Basil the Great:*

O Lord, Lord, Who deliverest us from every arrow that flieth by day, deliver us also from everything that walketh in darkness. Receive the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Vouchsafe us also to pass without reproach the course of night untempted of evil things, and redeem us from every disturbance and dread that cometh to us from the devil. Grant unto our souls contrition and unto our thoughts care concerning the trial of Thy fearful and righteous judgment. Nail our flesh to the fear of Thee, and mortify our earthly members, that, even in the quietness of sleep, we may be illumined by the contemplation of Thy judgments. Withdraw from us every unseemly fantasy and injurious desire. Raise us up at the time of prayer confirmed in the faith and progressing in thy commandments, through the favor and grace of Thine only begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

### **Psalm 50**

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight: that thou mayest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in

iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with a free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou delightest not in sacrifice; else would I give it: thou hast no pleasure in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou delight in the sacrifices of righteousness, in burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

*Prayer of Manasses, King of Judea:*

O Lord Almighty, Thou God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and of their righteousseed; Who hast made Heaven and earth with all the array thereof; Who hast bound the sea by the word of Thy command; Who hast shut up the deep and sealed it by Thy fearful and glorious Name; Whom all things fear, yea and before Whose power they tremble; for the majesty of Thy glory cannot be borne and the anger of Thy threatening toward sinners is intolerable; and yet Thy merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable; for Thou art the Lord most high, of great compassion, long-suffering, abundant in mercy, and repentest of the evils against me. Thou, O Lord, according to Thy great goodness, hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against Thee; and of Thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners, that they may be saved. Thou, therefore, O Lord of hosts, hast not appointed repentance to the just, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, who have not sinned against Thee; but Thou hast appointed repentance unto me, who am a sinner; for my sins are more in number than the sands of the sea. My transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied, my transgressions are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold and look unto the height of Heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities. I am bowed down with many iron bands, so that I cannot lift up my head by reason of my sins, neither have I any respite; for I have provoked

Thy wrath and done that which is evil before Thee; I did not Thy will, neither kept I Thy commandments; I have set up abominations and multiplied detestable things.

Now, therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, beseeching Thee for grace, I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities; but I humbly beseech Thee, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities. Be not angry with me forever, by reserving my evils for me; neither condemn me to the lower parts of the earth; for Thou, O Lord, art the God of them that repent; and in me wilt Thou show all Thy goodness; for Thou wilt save me that am unworthy, according to Thy Great Mercy. I will praise Thee henceforth all the days of my life; for all the hosts of Heaven doth sing Thy praise, and Thine is the glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake. Lord have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, 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 the evil one.

*Priest:* For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory; of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.



## KONTAKION — TONE 8

*Choir:* O Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Hail, O unwedded Bride!

*Reader:* Lord have mercy. (*40 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the name of the Lord, bless, Master.

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

*Reader:* Amen. O Master God, the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and O Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power: Have mercy on me a sinner, and according to Thy judgment, save me, Thine unworthy servant, for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

### The Lesser Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our

prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **Litya**

*Choir:* In the sixth month the chief of the Angelic Hosts was sent to thee, O pure Virgin, to declare to thee the word of salvation, and to greet thee saying: “Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee! Thou shalt bring forth a Son, begotten before the ages from the Father, and He shall save His people from their sins!”

*Priest:* O God, save thy people,...

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

*Priest:* Again we pray for our Metropolitan Tikhon...

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

*Priest:* Again we pray for this country...

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

*Priest:* Again we pray that he will keep this city...

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

*Priest:* Again we pray that the Lord our God will hearken...

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy (*thrice*)

*Priest:* Hear us, O God our Savior...

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be unto all.

*Choir:* And to thy spirit.

*Priest:* Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*Choir:* To thee, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Master, great in mercy....

*Choir:* Amen.

#### **Aposticha – Tone 4**

*Choir:* In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin; and with his greeting “Rejoice,” he announced the good news that the Deliverer was to come forth from her. Therefore, having received the salutation with faith, she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God, Who wast well-pleased ineffably to become man for the salvation of our souls.

*Reader:* *Proclaim from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God!*

The Theotokos heard a tongue that she knew not, for the Archangel addressed to her the words of glad tidings; therefore, accepting the salutation with faith, she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God. And so, rejoicing exceedingly, we too cry aloud to Thee: O God, made flesh from her without change, grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls!

*Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done wonders!*

Behold, our restoration has now been revealed to us: in a manner beyond understanding, God is united to mankind; at the voice of the Archangel, delusion is destroyed, for the Virgin receives joy; things of the earth have become heaven; and the world is freed from the ancient curse. Let creation rejoice exceedingly and sing with voices of praise: “O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to Thee!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed, today is the festival of the Virgin; things below are joined together with things on high. Adam is made new; Eve is freed from the primal grief;

and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed, the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God. Oh, what a mystery! The manner of His emptying cannot be known; the manner of His conception is beyond speech. An angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son; the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased, and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass in which and through which we are saved. For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel's, crying aloud to the Virgin: "Rejoice, O Lady Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee! From thee is our salvation, Christ our God, Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself. Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!"

Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. 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 our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest:* For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory; of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

## STONE 4 TROPARION

*Choir:* Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!" (3x)

### Blessing of the loaves

*Priest:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God...

*Choir:* Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from henceforth and for evermore. (*thrice*)

*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord be upon you...

*Choir:* Amen.

## MATINS

*Reader:* Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men. (*thrice*)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (*twice*)

### Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes. Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord. Deliver me, O my God. For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

*And again:*

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

## Psalm 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes – it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God, Who wilt answer. For I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips.” For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord. O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

*And again:*

Do not forsake me, O Lord. O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

## Psalm 62

O God, Thou art my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy Name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given

over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

*And again:*

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand up-holds me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **Psalm 87**

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; Thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eyes grow dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee. Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee. O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

*And again:*

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry.

## Psalm 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the Pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He re-move our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remem-ber to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*And again:*

In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

## Psalm 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications. In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord. My spirit fails. Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my



trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies. I have fled to Thee for ref-uge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In Thy righteous-ness bring me out of trouble. And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

*And again:*

In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant.  
*(twice)*

Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. *(thrice)*

*Priest/Choir:* Great Litany

*Priest/Choir:* Tone 4: God is the Lord...*(thrice)*

#### **TROPARION TONE 4**

*Choir:* Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the Eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes The Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of grace. Together with Him let us cry to the Theotokos; rejoice, O full of Grace, The Lord is with You.

*Choir:* POLYELEION: "Praise ye the Name of the Lord..."

*Choir:* THE MAGNIFICATION

*Priest/Choir:* LITTLE LITANY

*Choir:* HYMN OF ASCENT "From My Youth..."

*Priest/Choir:* Matins Gospel PROKEIMENON, GOSPEL Reading

*Choir:* Post-Gospel STICHERA

*Priest:* Prayer of Intercession *(Exclamation)*

*Choir:* Amen.

**THE CANON**  
**Tone 4 (by John the Monk)**

**Canticle One**

*Irmos*

*Choir:* I will open my mouth, filled with the spirit; i will sing a song to the queen and mother! I will come, rejoicing in the feast, and i will extol her conceiving!

*Reader:* *Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Let the Forefather David sing to you, Lady, as he strikes upon the harp of the spirit: hear, daughter, and consider the glad voice of the angel, for he makes known to you ineffable joy!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

The Angel cried out to you in gladness: “Incline your ear and listen to me as I tell you of God’s conception without seed. For you, most pure one, have found favor before the Lord, such as no other woman has ever found.”

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Angel, help me to understand the meaning of your words! How shall what you say come to pass? Tell me clearly: how shall I, a virgin maid, conceive? And how shall I become the mother of my maker?

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

It seems that you think I speak words deceitfully; and I rejoice at your prudence. But take courage, O Lady! For when God Wills, strange wonders are easily accomplished!

**Canticle Three**

*Irmos*

*Choir:* In your divine glory, Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, spiritually establish your choir, assembled in chorus, and on this feast of your holy conceiving make them worthy of the crowns of glory!

*Reader:* *Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

There is no more Prince from Judah's line, but the time is at hand when Christ shall appear. He is the hope of the gentiles. But make plain to me, how I, a virgin, shall bear Him?

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

You seek to know from me the manner of your conceiving, virgin, but this is beyond all interpretation! The Holy Spirit will overshadow you in His creative power, and shall make this come to pass!

*Most holy Theotokos, save us!*

When she accepted the suggestion of the serpent, my mother Eve was banished from Divine delight. Therefore, I fear your strange greeting, for I take care that I not slip.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

I am sent as God's messenger to disclose the Divine Will to you. Why are you afraid of me, undefiled one? I rather am afraid of you! Why do you stand in awe of me, O Lady, who stand in reverent awe of you?

Lord, have mercy! (*thrice*) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **Sessional hymn** Tone 8

The Word of God is now come down upon the earth. The angel stood before the Virgin and cried aloud: Rejoice, Blessed Lady, who alone among women have preserved the seal of your virginity, while yet receiving in your womb the pre-eternal Word and Lord, that He as God may save mankind from error!

### **Canticle Four**

*Irmos*

*Choir:* He who sits in Glory of the throne of the Godhead, Jesus, the True God, is come in a swift cloud, and with His pure hand He has saved those who cry: Glory to Your Power, O Christ!

*Reader:* *Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

I have learned from the prophet who foretold in ancient times of the coming of Emmanuel, that a certain Holy Virgin should bear a child. But I long to know how the nature of mortal men shall undergo union with the Godhead.

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

The bush that burned with fire and yet remained unconsumed disclosed the Mystery that shall come to pass in you. For after child-birth, you shall remain Ever-Virgin, Pure Maiden, Full of Grace.

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Tell me truly, O Gabriel, herald of the Truth, shining with the radiance of Almighty God: how shall my purity remain untouched, and I bear in my flesh the Bodiless Word?

*Glory to the father and to the son and to the holy spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

I stand before you in fear, as a servant before his Mistress, and I am afraid to look at you now in my awe, O Maid. In His good pleasure the Word of God shall descend upon you, as dew upon the fleece.

## **Canticle Five**

*Irmos*

*Choir:* All creation was awed by your divine glory, for you, o virgin, knew no man, yet bore the god of all. You held in your womb the eternal son who grants peace to those who extol you in song.

*Reader:* *Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

I cannot understand the meaning of your words! For there have often been miracles: wonders worked by the Might of God, symbols and figures contained in the law, but never has a virgin borne a child without knowing a man!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

You are amazed, All-Blameless Virgin; and the wonder that comes to pass in you is amazing indeed: for you alone shall receive in your womb the King of All Who is to become Incarnate. It is you who are prefigured by the words and dark sayings of the prophets and by the symbols of the law!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

How can He whom nothing can contain, upon Whom no one is able to gaze, dwell in the womb of a virgin whom He Himself has formed? And how shall I conceive God the Word, Who with the Father and the Spirit, has no beginning?

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

He who promised your forefather David, that of the fruit of His body He would set upon the throne, He it is who has chosen you, the only pride of Jacob, as His spiritual dwelling place!

### **Canticle Six**

*Irmos*

*Choir:* Prefiguring Your three-day burial, the prophet Jonah cried out in the belly of the whale: deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King and Lord of Hosts!

*Reader:* *Most Holy Theotokos, save us.*

Receiving your glad tidings, O Gabriel, I am filled with Divine joy. For you speak to me of a joy that has no end!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Divine joy is given to you, Mother of God! All creation cries to you: Rejoice, Bride of God! For you alone, pure virgin, were foreordained to be the Mother of the Son of God!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

May the condemnation of Eve now be brought to naught through me, and through me, may her debt be repaid this day. Through me may the ancient account be rendered up in full.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

God promised to our forefather Abraham that the gentiles would be blest in His Seed, Pure Lady; and through you today the promise receives fulfillment.

Lord, have mercy! (*thrice*) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Ame

## Kontakion Tone 8

*Choir:* Victorious leader of triumphant Hosts! We your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to You, Theotokos! As you possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, unwedded Bride!

### *Ikos*

*Reader:* A Prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos, saying: Rejoice! Seeing You, Lord, take bodily form at His Bodiless Word, he stood in awe and cried: Rejoice, for through you joy will be kindled; Rejoice, for through you the curse will be quenched! Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam; Rejoice, deliverance of weeping Eve! Rejoice, height unattainable to human reason; Rejoice, abyss unsearchable by angelic eyes! Rejoice, for you are the throne of the King; Rejoice, for you bear Him who upholds all things! Rejoice, star giving rise to the sun; Rejoice, womb giving flesh to God! Rejoice, for through you, creation is renewed; Rejoice, for through you the Creator becomes a newborn child! Rejoice, unwedded Bride!

## Canticle Seven

### *Irmos*

*Choir:* The Godly youths worshipped the Creator, not the creature; manfully they trampled on the flames, singing in joy: Blessed are You, most praised Lord, God of our Fathers!

*Reader: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

You bring me good tidings of divine joy: that Immaterial Light, in His abundant compassion, will be united to a material body. And now you cry out to me: All-pure One, Blessed is the fruit of your womb!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Rejoice, Lady; Rejoice, most Pure Virgin! Rejoice, God-containing vessel! Rejoice, candlestick of the Light, the restoration of Adam, and the deliverance of Eve! Rejoice, Holy Mountain, Shining Sanctuary! Rejoice, Bridal Chamber of Immortality!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

The descent of the Holy Spirit has purified my soul; it has sanctified my body: it has made me a Temple containing God, a divinely adorned Tabernacle, a living Sanctuary, and the Pure Mother of Life.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

I see you as a lamp with many lights; a Bridal Chamber made by God! Spotless Maiden, as an ark of gold, receive now the Giver of the Law, who through you has been pleased to deliver mankind's corrupted nature!

### **Canticle Eight**

*Choir:* Let us bless the father and the son and the holy spirit, the lord, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Irmos*

He who was born of the Theotokos saved the Holy children in the furnace. He who was then Prefigured has now been born on earth, and He gathers all of creation to sing: All works of the Lord, Bless the Lord, and exalt Hove all forever!

*Reader: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Hear me, Pure Virgin Maid; let Gabriel tell you the Counsel of the Most High that is ancient and true! Make ready to receive God, for through you the incomprehensible comes to dwell with mortal men. Therefore I cry rejoicing: All works of the Lord, Bless the Lord!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

All mortal thought is overwhelmed, answered the Virgin, as it ponders the strange wonders you tell me. I am filled with joy at your words, and yet, I am afraid. I fear lest you deceive me, as Eve was deceived, and lead me far from God. But behold, you cry out : All works of the Lord, Bless the Lord!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

See, your fear is resolved, Gabriel answered to this. You have said well that this matter is hard to grasp. Obey then, the words of your own lips: do not doubt as though it were deceitful but believe in this thing as the very truth. For I cry rejoicing: All works of the Lord, Bless the Lord!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Childbirth comes from mutual love: such is the law that God has given to men, so replied the one who is above reproach! I do not know at all the pleasure of marriage. How then do you say that I shall bear a child? I fear that you are speaking in guile. But behold, you cry out: All works of the Lord, Bless the lord!

*Most Holy Theotokos, save us!*

Holy Virgin, replied the angel, you tell me of the usual manner in which men are born. But I tell you of the birth of the True God! In ways that He alone knows, beyond words and understanding, He shall take flesh of you. Therefore, I cry rejoicing: All works of the Lord, Bless the Lord!

*Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

You appear to me to speak the truth, answered the Virgin. For you have come as an angel messenger, bringing joy to all. Since then, I am purified in soul and body by the Spirit, be it unto me according to your word: May God now dwell in me. I cry aloud to Him with you: All works of the Lord, Bless the Lord!

### **Canticle Nine**

*(in place of the Magnificat, before the Irmos and troparia)*

#### **The Megalynarion**

*Choir:* Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy: Heavens, praise the glory of God!

*Irmos*

Let every earthborn mortal be radiant and spiritually leap for joy;

Let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate honoring the Holy Feast of the Mother of God and crying: Rejoice, Pure and Blessed Ever-Virgin, who gave Birth to God!

Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy: Heavens, praise the glory of God!

*Reader:* As you are a living temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, Theotokos! But let the lips of all believers sing, constantly magnifying you in joy with the angelic salutation: You are truly above all creatures, O Pure One!

*Choir:* Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy: Heavens, Praise the Glory of God!

*Reader:* Having conceived God in ways past understanding, maiden, you have escaped from the commands of nature. For though mortal by nature, you were not subject to the established laws



of motherhood. Therefore you rightly hear the salutation: Rejoice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

*Choir:* Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy: Heavens, Praise the Glory of God!

*Reader:* How do you give milk, Pure Virgin? This cannot be made plain by the tongue of mortal man. For you show forth a thing unknown to nature, utterly surpassing the usual laws of birth. Therefore you rightly hear the salutation: Rejoice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

*Choir:* Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy: Heavens, Praise the Glory of God!

*Reader:* The Holy scriptures speak of you mystically, Mother of the Most High. For Jacob said in days of old as he saw the ladder that prefigured you: this is the ladder on which God shall tread! Therefore you rightly hear the salutation: Rejoice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

*Choir:* Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy: Heavens, Praise the Glory of God!

*Reader:* The bush and the fire showed a strange wonder to Moses, the initiate in sacred things. Seeking its fulfillment in the course of time, he said: I shall see it brought to pass in the Pure Virgin. As Theotokos, the salutation shall come to her: Rejoice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

*Glory to the father and to the son and to the holy spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.*

Daniel called you a spiritual Mountain; Isaiah the Mother of God; Gideon saw you as a fleece and David called you the Sanctuary; another called you the Gate which was sealed: and Gabriel in his turn cries out to you: Rejoice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

*Priest/Choir:* LITTLE LITANY

### **Hymn of light**

*Reader:* The captain of the Angelic Hosts was sent by God Almighty to the Pure Virgin to announce the good tidings of a strange and secret wonder: that God as man would be born a child of her without seed, fashioning again the whole human race! Proclaim, people, the good tidings of the re-creation of the world!

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Rejoice, Theotokos, deliverance from Adam's curse; Rejoice, Holy Mother of God, rejoice, Living Bush, the Lamp, the Throne, the Gate and Ladder, the Divine Chariot! Rejoice, Swift Cloud, the Temple, the Vessel of Gold, the Mountain, Tabernacle and Table! Rejoice, release of Eve!

### **The Praises**

*Choir:* Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the Highest. To thee is due praise, O God. Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God.

*Reader:* Praise Him for His mighty acts, Praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Gabriel flew down from the Vault of Heaven and came to Nazareth; Standing before the Virgin Mary, he cried to her: Rejoice! You shall conceive a Son more ancient than Adam, The Creator of all things and Savior of those who cry to you: Rejoice, Pure Virgin!

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today is reveal the Eternal Mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of man. By accepting the lowest, He grants me the highest. Of old, Adam was deceived: he sought to become God, but He did not receive his desire. Now God becomes man, that He may make Adam God. Let creation rejoice; let nature exult; for the archangel stands in fear before the Virgin and saying; Rejoice!, he brings her the greeting by which our sorrow is healed. Lord, who in Your compassion became a man, Glory to You!

*Reader:* Glory to Thee who hast shown us the light.

### **The Lesser Doxology:**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away

the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Priest/Choir:* THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION, THE PRAYER OF INCLINATION.

*Choir:* Amen.

### **Aposticha**

*Reader:* We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy, O Lord; we rejoiced and were made glad; in all our days let us be glad for the days wherein Thou didst humble us, for the years wherein we saw evils. And look upon Thy servants, and upon Thy works, and guide their children.

And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and the works of our hands do Thou guide aright upon us; yea the work os our hands do Thou guide aright.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Let the Heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! For the Son who is co-eternal with the Father, who shares His throne and is equally without beginning, has submitted Himself to emptying as the compassionate lover of mankind according to the good pleasure and counsel of the Father. He has gone to dwell in the Virgin's womb, sanctified by the Spirit. Wonder! God is come among men. He who cannot be contained, is contained in a womb; the timeless One enters time, and great Mystery: His conception is without seed, His emptying past telling! How great is this Mystery! God empties Himself, takes flesh, and is fashioned as a creature as the angel tells the Pure Virgin of her conceiving: Rejoice, Full of Grace, The Lord Who has great mercy, is with you!

It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing unto Thy name, O Most High. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth throughout the night.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. 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 our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

*Priest:* For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen.

#### **TOPARION TONE 4**

*Choir:* Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the Eternal Mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gariel announces the Coming of Grace. Together with him, let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Fully of Grace! The Lord is with you!

*Priest / Choir:* AUGMENTED LITANY

*Priest:* Wisdom

*Reader:* Master, bless.

*Priest:* Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Reader:* Amen. O Heavenly King, support the faithful; confirm the faith; guide the nations; give peace to the world and preserve well this Holy Church and this city. Grant repose to our departed fathers and brethren in the dwelling place of the righteous. Receive us in repentance and confession, for Thou art a good and merciful God who lovest mankind. Amen.

*Priest:* PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM (*with three prostrations*)

*Priest:* Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

*Choir:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Master, bless.

**Dismissal**