

PRIEST'S
AMBO
BOOK

For the Departed:

O almighty God, Lord and Master, who do not reject Your servants, nor disdain those who pray to You: give rest now to the souls of Your departed servants in the bosom of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. Give them rest in a place of holiness, in a paradise of delight, where the light of life shines forth forever. Overlook their sins, whether of malice or of weakness, and deem them worthy of blessed repose in eternal joy. As for us who are still alive, bring us also into that happiness in due time, when and as You please, since it is You that provide for us and sustain us in this life, and forgive us all our sins which we commit over and over again in our weakness; through the prayers of the Theotokos and all Your saints who give thanks to You and glorify Your holy name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

VESPERS and PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

Priest: Blessed is our God/ the Kingdom... always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest or Reader: 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 104

People/ Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul...

While Ps. 104 is being sung, the priest says the following Lamplighting Prayers:

O You that are hymned by the holy Powers with unending songs and unceasing praises: fill our mouths with Your praise that we may magnify Your holy Name. Grant us a portion and an inheritance with all those who fear You in truth and keep Your commandments, through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and all Your saints for unto You are due all glory, honour and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, Lord, You uphold all things in the all-pure hollow of Your hand; You are patient with us all, and You turn away from our wickedness: remember Your bounties and Your mercy. Visit us with Your goodness, and grant that in the remainder of this day we may, by Your grace, avoid the various subtle snares of the Evil One. By the grace of Your all-holy Spirit, preserve our lives unassailed, through the mercy and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O God, great and wonderful, You order all things with unspeakable goodness and bounteous providence, granting us the good things of this earth, and pledging to us the promised Kingdom with blessings already given. You have made us shun all evil during this past day; grant that we may also fulfil the remainder of this day blamelessly before Your holy glory, hymning You, our only good God, the Lover of mankind, for You are our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O God, great and most-high, You alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You have fashioned all creation with wisdom, dividing the light from the darkness, appointing the sun to rule the day, the moon and stars to rule the night. You have enabled us sinners at this present hour to approach Your face with thanksgiving, and to offer our evening praise to You. O Lover of man, accept our prayer as incense before You, for an odor of spiritual fragrance. Grant that we may pass this present evening and the coming night in peace. Clothe us in the armor of light. Deliver us from the fear of the night and from everything which comes with darkness. Grant sleep, which You have given for the repose of our weakness, free from every phantasy of the devil. Yes, O Master, Giver of good things, may we be moved to compunction even on our beds and remember Your Name in the night. Enlightened by meditation on Your commandments, may we rise in joyfulness of soul to glorify Your goodness, offering prayers and supplications for our sins and for those of all Your people. Visit them in Your mercy, through the prayers of the holy Theotokos, for You are a good God and the Lover of mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls,
let us pray to the Lord.

August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos:

O Christ our God, through death You transferred Your incorrupt and spotless Mother from this life to the fullness of life, raising her to the heights in a manner beyond our understanding, although she had already been laid in a grave of corruption; and You gathered Your apostles to be at her side. We who celebrate today her dormition entreat You to ransom us by her prayers from all deadly thoughts and deeds. Preserve us from all spiritual corruption, and save us from the death of despair, ever protecting us from disbelief or any memory of bad faith. Put to nothing all our tendencies to indifference, to treachery against the truth; mortify the audacity of unfaithfulness, and humble scoffing at Your teaching. Since You desire that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, make us worthy of eternal life; for to You belongs all glory, honour and worship, O Christ our God, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

August 29: Beheading of St. John the Forerunner:

O Christ our God, You bowed down the heavens and came down to earth, and showed to all Your meekness and condescension. As an example of salvation, You gave us Your holy Forerunner and Baptizer, a herald of truth, an envoy of the call of repentance, and an inhabitant of the desert. You made him worthy to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and in the end to receive the crown of righteousness and truth, to spread in advance the good news of salvation and redemption to those held in Hades. Give us the grace to imitate his illustrious life and joyful citizenship in the Kingdom of God, by scorning earthly pleasures. Save us from the cosmic powers of this dark world. Guard us under the wings of Your goodness. Bless us, O Giver of blessings, and make us worthy of Your heavenly Kingdom; for through You, and with You, all glory, honour and worship are due: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

were the herald of repentance, the Baptizer of the Lord, and by grace a witness of the Holy Trinity. Rightly did the Lord greet you as greater than any born of woman. O Christ our God: by him were You baptized, and You enlightened the whole world. Now send forth Your help from heaven, and have mercy on us all; for to You is due all glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

June 29: Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (and for other apostles):

O Lord God, through Your holy apostles *Peter and Paul* You made known to us the mystery of Your Christ. Through *their* preaching You have enlightened us, and by the light of the grace of Your Son shining within *them*, You have led us to the truth. Shed Your grace upon us who honour *their* memory, that we may gain Your everlasting gifts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom You are blessed and glorified, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

August 6: Transfiguration of the Lord:

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God: lead us upon the all-holy mountain of love, just as You led Your chief apostles upon Mount Tabor. There, You surrounded Your bodily form with a marvellous brilliance, revealing the rays of Your divinity through Your body for the benefit of those three disciples. So now, open the eyes of our minds to the sight of Your ineffable beauty, and by Your powerful right hand guide us also to better things. Beyond our understanding You transfigured this limiting form; so raise our senses that we may perceive Your Lordship as did Moses and Elias. Give us a constant remembrance of the voice of Your eternal Father acknowledging You as His beloved Son, so that we may put Your commandments into practice and may shine forth with You to those worthy of Your immortal Kingdom, who see in You the eternal Father, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to Lord.

Deacon: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan___, for His Grace, our Bishop ___, for the honourable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, for the government of our country, for the public service, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and countryside and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For travellers by land, by sea and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their deliverance, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Priest: O compassionate and merciful Lord, long-suffering and of great goodness: hear 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. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy Name, for You are great and the doer of wonders. You alone are God and among the gods there is none like You, O Lord, strong in mercy and gracious in might, in order to help and comfort and save all those who trust in Your holy Name, for to You are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

(at the Presanctified Liturgy, enter altar)

At Vespers, the PSALMS are now chanted. Then

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. R/ Lord have mercy!

Priest: O Lord, rebuke us not in Your anger, nor chasten us in Your wrath. But deal with us according to Your leniency, 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. Grant that the remainder of this day and all the time of our life may be peaceful and sinless; through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints, for Yours is the majesty 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 ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

(at Daily and Great Vespers, enter altar)

PSALM 141 ("LORD I CALL")

People: Lord I call upon You, hear me...

February 2: Meeting of the Lord:

O Master and Lord, You sent Your Only-begotten Son and Word into the world, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those subject to the Law. Beforehand, by the Holy Spirit You announced His coming to Simeon the elder, and then revealed His presence to him. Bless us also, Your unworthy servants, by the dawn of His coming, and accept our prayers just as You accepted the acknowledgment of the prophetess Anna. Make us worthy to embrace and hold Your Incarnate Word in our hearts, and to become consecrated temples of Your Holy Spirit. By Your strength, give joy to our civil authorities and to all Your Church, that in us Your Name may be glorified, together with that of Your Only-begotten Son and that of Your venerable and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

March 25: Annunciation to the Theotokos:

O Lord our God, ruler of all, it was Your good will that Your Only-begotten Son take flesh from a Virgin and become man for our salvation. You sent Your archangel Gabriel to the holy Virgin Mary to proclaim the good news of this seedless conception. She was chosen before all ages to be the vessel of this fearful mystery, foreknown to You and to Your Word who is glorified together with You. Through her prayers, and the intercessions of all Your saints, You reveal the good news to us of the forgiveness of sins through Your grace, and of the joy that has appeared today. Speak peace to Your people, and make known to us the way of repentance, so that we may be accepted into Your heavenly Kingdom; through the mercies of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

June 24: Nativity of St. John the Forerunner:

O Forerunner, Prophet and Baptist of the Lord, you knew the Master while still in Your mother's womb, and leapt in worship. You were born from a womb that had been barren. From your conception you aspired to the summit of virtue and lived in the trackless desert. You

January 5: Eve of Theophany:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Source of our life: sanctify the sources of the waters. You made the waters a deliverance for those held captive, a remission of debts, a forgiveness of sins, a washing of rebirth, a gift of sonship, and a garment of incorruption. You manifest Yourself as our God; by water You enlighten and save Your people. Count us worthy to celebrate Your holy Theophany in joy, with a pure conscience; for to You belongs all glory, honour and worship, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

January 6: Theophany of the Lord:

O Lord our God: how ineffable is Your love for us; for it pleased You that Your Only-begotten Son be born of a pure woman, and that He be like us in everything except sin. So it was that at the hands of John the Forerunner He was baptized, although He had no need of purification, so that He might sanctify the very nature of water, and favour us with rebirth through water and the Holy Spirit. All this took place that we might recognize You, O eternal Father; that we might worship and praise Your beloved Son who had come down from heaven, and that we might glorify Your Holy Spirit who descended upon Him, and revealed Him to John. In Him, You sealed and anointed us through baptism and made us partakers of Your Christ. Do not abandon us, although we are sinners, but strengthen us against all evil powers through Him, and lead us all to Your Kingdom. In us may Your holy Name be glorified, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

THE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. R/ Lord have mercy.

Priest: In the evening, in the morning and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks and pray to You, O Master of all. Let our prayer arise in Your sight as incense and do not give our hearts to words or thoughts of evil. Deliver us from all who seek our souls, for to You, Lord, Lord, do we look and on You have we hoped, that You would not forsake us, O our God,
for to You are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen....

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

(Followed by Old Testament Readings on Feast Days)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

People: And to Your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

SATURDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the sixth tone:
THE LORD IS KING! * HE IS ROBED IN MAJESTY!

Verses: The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength!

For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved!

Holiness befits Your House, O Lord, forevermore!

SUNDAY EVENING (Tone 8)

BEHOLD NOW, BLESS THE LORD * ALL YOU SERVANTS OF THE LORD!

Verse: You who stand in the temple of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God!

MONDAY EVENING (Tone 4)

THE LORD HEARS ME * WHEN I CALL TO HIM!

Verse: When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me!

TUESDAY EVENING (Tone 1)

YOUR MERCY, O LORD * SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE!

Verse: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

WEDNESDAY EVENING (Tone 5)

SAVE ME, O GOD BY YOUR NAME * AND JUDGE ME BY YOUR STRENGTH!

Verse: Hear my prayer, O God, give ear to the words of my mouth!

THURSDAY EVENING (Tone 6)

MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD * WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH!

Verse: I will lift up my eyes to the hills; from where will my help come?

the wicked and the plots of the Evil One. On the day of His holy and light-bearing birth You shone both upon the flock of the shepherds and upon the flock of the celebrated hierarch Basil. Now, through the intercessions of Saint Basil, show us to be imitators of his wondrous life. Keep Your church in peace and concord. Hear us and have mercy on us all;

for You are the source of all good things, and to You we ascribe glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

OR:

O Christ our God, Lamb and Son of God: You accept this reasonable and bloodless sacrifice for a sacrifice of praise and well-pleasing worship. You take away the sin of the world. You are the blameless Calf who did not receive the yoke of sin, and was voluntarily sacrificed for us. You are divided yet not disunited, You are eaten yet not consumed, but sanctifying those who partake of You. And in remembrance of Your voluntary Passion and life-creating Resurrection on the third day, You have made us communicant of Your ineffable, heavenly, terrible Mysteries, Your holy Body and Your precious Blood. Keep us, Your servants and ministers, all civil authorities, our armed forces, and all Your people present here, in Your sanctification. Grant us to meditate on Your righteousness at every time and season, that as we are led according to Your will and do the things that please You well, we may become worthy of a place at Your right hand when You shall come to judge the living and the dead. Rescue our brothers and sisters who are captives; visit the sick; pilot those in peril on the sea and in the air; give rest to the souls of those who have gone to their rest in the hope of resurrection to everlasting life. Hearken to all who ask Your aid; for You are the giver of all good things, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

December 27: Archdeacon and Protomartyr Stephen:

O Christ God, You accepted the weakness of our flesh, strengthened it against the spiritual enemy, and by Your life-creating death, gave it courage against death. Therefore Your holy martyrs preferred to die for You, rather than to live apart from You. You revealed the man Stephen as the founder of the assembly of martyrs. You gave him such wisdom that, in proclaiming Your revelation, he was unconquerable by his adversaries. You endowed him with the power to work wonders, and made him a witness to Your indescribable glory. He was the first among Your martyrs and passion-bearers. Through his intercessions and the intercessions of all Your holy ones, especially of Your all-holy and pure Mother, our Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, count us worthy of Your mercy, and give us confidence in the face of Your enemies. Give us wisdom against all false teachings, and show us to be doers of Your commandments. Give peace to our nation and to all nations; and make us partakers in the joy which You have prepared for those who love You; for You are the source of all good, and to You belongs all glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

January 1: Circumcision of Christ; Feast Day of St. Basil:

O eternal and holy God, the Lover of mankind: You are tremendous in Your deeds and marvellous in Your works. You made the heavens, the earth, the seas and all that is in them. You have kept Your covenant and fulfilled all Your decrees. You did not utterly abandon man and keep him in the darkness of sin, but You sent Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from Your eternal bosom, that He might take flesh and be born, that He might be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger as a newborn child, that He fulfil all that was spoken through the prophets, that He be circumcised on the eighth day, in Your infinite wisdom, a bait to conquer the wisdom of

FRIDAY EVENING (Tone 7)

YOU O GOD ARE MY HELPER * AND YOUR MERCY SHALL GO BEFORE ME!

Verse: Deliver me from my enemies O God and protect me from those who rise up against me!

Then follow Old Testament readings or the Gospel.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION (later if Daily)

EVENING PRAYER

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord...

Priest: Peace be unto all! R/ And to Your spirit!

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord. R/ To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race: look upon Your servants and upon Your inheritance. For to You, the awesome Judge who loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks; not expecting help from men but hoping in Your mercy and looking for Your salvation. Protect them at all times, especially in this present evening and in the coming night, from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, from vain thoughts and from evil memories, for blessed and most glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

THE LITYA
(*on the Eve of Feasts*)

The Priest (or Deacon) prays the following Litany and Prayer:

O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world with mercy and bounties, exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on us Your rich mercy:

Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; by the prayers of the honourable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John; of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our fathers among the saints, hierarchs and ecumenical Teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of St. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker, patron of our community; of St. Juvenaly the martyred priest and St. Peter the Aleut and martyr; of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow and Enlightener of America; of St. Jacob, Enlightener of the Alaskan lands; of St. Tikhon, Metropolitan of Moscow and Confessor of the Faith; of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Defender of Orthodoxy; of St. John the Wonderworker of Shangai and San Francisco; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of St. ___ whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints.

We pray You, O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who entreat You and have mercy on us! R/ Lord have mercy! (12)

Again we pray for His Beatitude our Metropolitan ___, for His Grace our Bishop ___, for all our brethren in Christ and for every Christian soul that is afflicted and weary in well-doing, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this holy community; for the peace and quietness of the whole world; for the welfare of God's holy churches; for the salvation and assistance of our brothers and sisters who, with diligence and in the fear of God, do labour and serve; for those who are absent and

December 24: Christmas Eve:

Glory to You, O Christ our God, "without Father, without mother or ancestry, without beginning of days or end of life"; for in Your pure birth the Virgin remained a virgin, and You became flesh in these last days without the union of man and woman. Keeping the freedom of the spiritual divine nature, You took upon Yourself the form of a servant: although Master and Lord of all, You clothed Yourself as a man. A cave and a manger hid Him who sits at the right hand of the Father. The Magi honour You with their gifts. The angelic hosts glorify You in song. The shepherds dance in joy. The bodiless powers praise You with a loud voice. As we approach this brilliant and glorious feast of Your nativity, we sinners and Your unworthy servants join them as we offer You these hymns and spiritual songs: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will among men." O Lover of mankind: receive our lowly praise, and send down upon us in return the riches of Your mercy. Give us a peaceful life subject to Your will. Grant peace on earth to our nation, and to all nations. Make us all heirs of the Kingdom of heaven, through the prayers of our most pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; for You are the King of peace, and to You we ascribe glory, to Your Father who is from everlasting, and to Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

December 25: Christmas:

Before all ages, O Christ our God, You shone forth from the eternal Father, and You are not subject to suffering. Yet, in these last days, You took flesh from a holy Virgin and were born from her, becoming poor for our sake, that in Your poverty we might become rich. As a newborn child You were wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, although as God You encompass all things. O Master, receive this our humble praise, as You accepted the praise of the shepherds and the worship and gifts of the Magi. Grant that we may be made worthy to join the heavenly hosts in glorifying You, and of being shown to be heirs of the heavenly joy You have prepared for those who rightly celebrate Your Nativity; .O for You are full of love for mankind, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father who

November 21: Entrance of the Theotokos (and her other feasts):

O Lord: who can describe Your power, or who can give proper praise for all the good things You have done for our sakes? You desired to reveal the mystery hidden from the ages: the mystery of Your Only-begotten Son becoming man for the salvation of mankind. You desire to bring to its appointed end that which the prophet David announced. For this You chose Your Mother as a dwelling-place for Your manifestation according to the flesh. From her, You came among men as a man, and saved Your fellow man. From her, You assumed all that belongs to man, and made it new. Today we celebrate the feast of *her Entrance into the Temple*. We thank You, for You have given us all that is good. Through her, we pray that You reveal Your face to us, and make known to us that which is pleasing to You. Deliver us from the deceits of the Evil One, and show us the way to salvation through repentance. Keep us joyful as we celebrate this holy feast; for You are a God of mercy and compassion, and to You we ascribe glory, with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Sunday of the Fathers: the Sunday before Christmas:

O God of the holy and blessed Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: You are the All-holy, the Saviour of the martyrs, the boast of the righteous, the crown of those who have been pleasing to You from the beginning of time. Grant that we may commemorate all Your holy ones, and be partakers of their sufferings and joy. You have allowed Your holy athletes, the martyrs, to fight the good fight, to finish the godly race, and to keep the faith they confessed. Give us part and inheritance with them, that in imitating them, we may be made worthy to share in the good things You have prepared for them. Through the prayers of the all-pure and most holy Theotokos, of the three holy and glorious Youths: Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, of the most blessed prophet Daniel, and of all Your holy ones, whose memory we celebrate, have mercy on us, and help us. Account us worthy to venerate the glorious nativity of Christ our God, by the power of Your life-creating Spirit; for to You is due all glory, honour, and worship: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

abroad; for the healing of those who lie in sickness; for the repose, refreshment, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our devout brothers and sisters, Orthodox believers departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord; for the deliverance of captives; and for our brethren who are taking part in these ministrations and for all who minister and have ministered in this holy house, let us say: R/ Lord have mercy! (12)

Again we pray that He will preserve this city and this holy house and every city and land from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of enemies and from civil war; and that our good God who loves mankind, will be graciously favourable and easy to be entreated and will turn away from us all the wrath stirred up against us and deliver us from all His righteous chastisement which impends against us and have mercy on us! R/ Lord have mercy! (12)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hearken to the voice of petition of us sinners and show mercy on us! R/ Lord have mercy! (3)

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; and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners and be merciful to us, for You are a merciful God and the Lover of mankind and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. R/ Amen.

Peace be unto all! R/ And to Your spirit!

Let us bow our heads unto the Lord! R/ To You, O Lord!

O most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of all all-pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all Your saints, make our prayer acceptable; grant us remission of our transgressions; hide us under the shadow of Your wings, drive far from us every foe and adversary and make our life peaceful, O Lord. Have mercy upon us and upon Your world and save our souls, forasmuch as You are gracious and the lover of mankind. R/ Amen.

THE APOSTIKA

THE SONG OF SIMEON

TRISAGION PRAYERS

Reader: Holy God...

All: Our Father...

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. R/ Amen.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

THE BLESSING OF THE LOAVES

Let us pray to the Lord! R/ Lord have mercy!

O Lord Jesus Christ our God: You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and therefrom fed the five thousand: as the same Lord, bless these loaves, wine and oil and sanctify all the faithful who shall partake of them, for it is You, O Christ our God, who bless and sanctify all things and to You we ascribe glory, with Your Father who has no beginning and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. R/ Amen.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord henceforth and forever more.
(x3)

As the priest breaks the loaves, he chants thrice:

The wealthy are in want and hunger but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing!

The blessing of the Lord be upon You, through His grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. R/ Amen.

October 1: Protection of the Theotokos:

O Lord: who can describe Your power, or who can give proper praise of all the good things You have done for our sake? You desired to reveal the mystery hidden from the ages: the mystery of Your Only-begotten Son becoming man for the salvation of mankind. You desired to bring to its appointed end that which the prophet David announced. For this You chose Your Mother as a dwelling-place for Your manifestation according to the flesh. From her, You came among men as a man, and saved Your fellow man. From her, You assumed all that belongs to man, and made it new. Today we celebrate the feast of the revelation of her unfailing protection. We thank You, for You have given us all that is good. Through her, we pray that You reveal Your face to us, and make known to us that which is pleasing in Your sight. Deliver us from the deceits of the Evil One, and show us the way to salvation through repentance. Keep us joyful as we celebrate this holy feast;

for You are a God of mercy and compassion, and to You we ascribe glory, with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

November 8: Synaxis of St. Michael and All Angels:

O Lord our God: who does not praise the fearful Powers and hosts of heaven, Your archangels? For the sake of Your beloved servants, they always keep those worthy of themselves in unchanging good. Rightly are they praised, for they are mighty and powerful as they worship You, O Master of all creation. Without ceasing they hymn You with a threefold voice to proclaim clearly the co-essential Trinity. For men they are guides to the unapproachable radiance of the one Godhead as they lead in life the souls of those who reverently praise the fearful, glorious mystery of the incomprehensible Trinity. Through their intercessions, make joyful all who celebrate them; for You are God, blessed and most glorious, and to You is due glory, together with Your Only-begotten Son and Your life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

September 14: Elevation of the Holy Cross:

O Lord: You dwell in the heights and exalt all creation, for by Your own will You endured being lifted up upon the Cross, so that by Your pure outstretched hands You might draw all men to Yourself. You humbled Yourself, descending into Hades, that You might be exalted and lift up our souls beyond the falsehood of pride, and the vanity of conceit. As You are glorified by the lifting up of hands on high in sacrifices of praise to the Father, so by the teaching of truth You are exalted before the nations of the world. You were denounced by being raised upon the Cross; and by being taken down You destroyed the power of Hades, triumphed over death, and ransomed Your people from the original fall. Today we celebrate Your divine victory, and bow before the image of Your sign of victory. Hear our petitions, for we implore You, in Your compassion and mercy: be a strong help for us against the insidious powers which threaten to corrupt our souls. Be merciful to us as You were to the Israelites of old, who were healed from the bites of serpents by looking at the bronze serpent raised up by the hand of Moses. Humble those who in sin rise up against us, and lift us up in valour against him who would throw obstacles in our path. O Lord: quiet the uprisings of heresies; crush the weapons of hate, and the arrogance of tyrants on behalf of those whose only boast is in the Cross; for the uplifted hands of Moses were an image of the Cross, and when his hands were lifted up, the Israelites turned back the onslaughts of Amalek. Cast down all those who lift their hands against Your Church. Destroy all stirrings raised up against Your wisdom, silence all mouths opened in blasphemy, and enlighten all those darkened by ignorance. Open our minds to the word of Your truth, that strengthened by meditation upon Your heavenly and blessed good gifts, we may partake of that true exaltation of those who enjoy Your pasture, and life in the blessedness of Your Kingdom; for it is You that raise up and cast down, and to You we ascribe glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

People: Father, bless.

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the I AM, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages!

People: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement You gave birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify You.

Priest: Glory to You, Christ our God and our hope, glory to You!

People: 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! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!
Father, bless.

(Or, in Paschaltide:)

Christ is risen...(x3)

Priest: *(Sundays:)*

May He who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles, through the prayers of St. Herman of Alaska, of St. ___ whom we commemorate today, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints: have on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos:

O Lord Jesus Christ our God: You are without beginning and You surpass all being. You see and rule over all; You are the God who works wonders, and You make the unexpected come to pass; You alone accomplish great deeds. O Lord, who hear the petitions which are good for our salvation: You are the Saviour of those in despair and confusion; You reward fit petitions arising from prayer. For Your servants Joachim and Anna, who lived blamelessly together, You changed sorrow-filled barrenness into the joy of children. You gave them a wondrous posterity, a shoot growing forth from the root of Jesse, mystically foretold by God-inspired lips. From this shoot, You planned that the blossom guiding the world aright would be born according to the flesh. Now You have sprung up, O light-giving fountain of all goodness and bestower of riches. Born of a virgin, You filled Your Kingdom with grace, and revealed the birth of salvation. As we partake of Your divine Mysteries, Your deifying Body and Blood, deliver us in good works from a sterile barrenness, and deem us worthy always to make virtues of our offering to You, that we may have a place in the land of the righteous in Your Kingdom. Free us from bitter and continual warfare; relieve all oppression, and lift the yoke of slavery from the necks of all people, that all may be wholly free from tyranny and judgment. Save Your people and bless Your inheritance; save us from all temptations of the enemy, and from all afflictions. Increase the glory of people under the law of Christ, and exalt their estate. Give them earthly and heavenly good things, and an abundance of blessings, that they in turn may give to those in need; for You are indeed the source of all that is good; through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with whom we offer You adoration and worship, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

AMBO PRAYERS FOR THE FESTAL CYCLE:

September 1: Indiction:

O Master, Lord our God, source of life and immortality, author of all created things, both visible and invisible, who have placed all seasons and years in Your power, and who direct all things with Your most wise and all-gracious providence: we thank You for the bounties which You have poured out upon us during that portion of our life which is passed; and we entreat You, O all-bountiful Lord: bless the crown of this beginning year with Your goodness. Preserve us and multiply the days of our life in health, and grant us progress in all virtues. Bestow Your good things from above upon all people, as well as health, salvation and prosperity in all things which are food for our salvation. Deliver Your holy Church, this city, and all cities and lands from every evil assault, and grant them peace and tranquillity. Grant also that we may always offer thanksgiving to You:

O Father from everlasting, together with Your Only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, God glorified in one essence, and that we may sing praises to Your all-holy Name unto ages of ages.

MATINS

As the Six Psalms are being chanted, the Priest says the following prayers:

Priest: *(quietly):*

We thank You, O Lord our God, who have raised us from our beds and put into our mouths a word of praise, that we may adore and call on Your holy Name. We entreat Your bounties, which You have always used in our life: send down Your help even now upon those who stand before the face of Your holy glory and await rich mercy from You. Enable them, who serve You always with fear and love, to praise Your inexpressible goodness, for unto You are due all glory, honour, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O God, our God, who by Your will made all reasonable and understanding Powers, we pray You and supplicate You: accept the doxology which we offer with all Your creatures according to our power; reward us with the rich gifts of Your goodness. For every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth bends to You and every breath and creature sings of Your ineffable glory; only You are the true and most merciful God, for all the Powers of heaven praise You and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We praise, bless, sing and thank You, O God of our fathers, for You have led us through the shadows of night and showed us again the light of day. But we entreat Your goodness: cleanse us from our sins and accept our prayer in Your great tenderness of heart, for we run to You, the merciful and all-powerful God! Illumine in our hearts the true Son of Righteousness; enlighten our mind and guard all our senses, that walking uprightly as in the day in the way of Your commandments, we may attain to eternal life-- for with You is the fountain of life and we will be made worthy of enjoying Your unapproachable light, for You are our God and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Treasury of Blessings, ever-flowing fountain, holy Father, worker of wonders, almighty and all-powerful! We all worship You and pray to You, entreating Your mercies and Your compassion, to help and preserve our lowliness. Remember Your servants, O Lord, and accept our morning prayers as incense in Your sight. Let none of us be found guilty, but surround us all with Your bounties. Remember, O Lord, those who keep vigil and sing to Your glory, and to the glory of Your only-begotten Son and our God, and of the Holy Spirit. Be their helper and protector, and receive their supplications upon Your heavenly and ideal altar, for You are our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD”

Deacon: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

verse: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

verse: All nations surrounded me, but in the Name of the Lord I withstood them!

verse: I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord!

verse: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes!

People: *(repeat refrain and sing appointed Tropar)*

...followed by the rest of Matins

Pentecost:

O Christ our God: after Your passion, death and resurrection, You ascended into the heavens from which You had descended to take flesh of the holy Virgin for our salvation; and You kept Your promise to send Your Holy Spirit upon Your Apostles here on earth. You sustain in them a constant and all-holy unity and perseverance; and through them You sustain the Church, by faith in You and in the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit and His many gifts. Do not take His grace from us, although our sins deserve this, but instead put to death in us all the carnal desires that would hinder the coming of the Holy Spirit. Drive far from us every thought, word and deed that grieves Him, as well as every coarse and evil passion that darkens our souls with the loss of His light. Fashion us into pure and spotless vessels of His glory, that our lives may be like the upper room in Zion, filled with His brilliance. Show us to be thrones of His spiritual fire, imitators of Your Apostles who received His first-fruits; for by His strength will we be led into the fullness of Your immortal and blessed promise, while the whole world rejoices in You and ceaselessly glorifies You; for You are most glorious, together with Your co-eternal Father, and Your co-eternal, all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Sunday of All Saints:

O Lord, rightly glorified in the assembly of Your holy ones: You are the boast of the apostles, the joy of the prophets, the strength of the martyrs, the joy of the saints, and the crown of the Theotokos. Grant us Your peace. Guide and guard our lives by Your merciful goodness, that we may be found worthy to imitate their struggles, and, when we have pleased You, of sharing their joy; for it is You, O Christ our God, who give us everlasting gifts, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

captivity, and comfort those who are afflicted, persecuted, homeless, or in any need, or distress. Grant rest to our departed parents, brothers and sisters. Keep the faithful in peace and unity, and deliver them from slavery and domination by visible and invisible enemies; for You are the King of peace and the Saviour of our souls, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Ascension of the Lord:

O Master: lift up our minds towards heaven as we worship Your might, and from earthly cares raise up our understanding toward You, for in Yourself have You lifted up our lowly nature and enthroned it at the right hand of the Father. Make us worthy, on earth as in heaven, to be citizens who seek that which is above, where You are enthroned at the right hand of the Father. We await Your glorious and awesome coming, which You revealed through the angels to Your blessed Apostles--the witnesses of Your ascension into heaven. When You will come to judge the world in righteousness, number us among those who will be taken up into the clouds to meet You, that together with them we may rejoice forever; through the good will and love for mankind of Your eternal Father with whom You are blessed and glorified, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DIVINE LITURGY

**The Litany of the Catechumens
(St. John Chrysostom's and St. Basil's Liturgies)**

Deacon: Pray to the Lord, you catechumens!

Deacon: Let us the faithful pray for the catechumens, that the Lord may have mercy on them.

Deacon: That He may teach them the Word of Truth.

Deacon: That He may reveal to them the Gospel of Righteousness.

Deacon: That He may unite them to His Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Deacon: Help them, save them, have mercy on them and keep them, O God, by Your grace.

Deacon: Bow Your heads unto the Lord, you catechumens!

Prayer for Catechumens (for St. John Chrysostom's Liturgy)

Priest:

O Lord our God, You dwell on high and regard the humble of heart; You sent forth as the salvation of the race of men Your only-begotten Son and our God, our Lord Jesus Christ: look down upon Your servants the catechumens who have bowed their neck before You: make them worthy in due time of the washing of rebirth, remission of sins and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to Your Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and number them with Your chosen flock, that with us they may glorify Your all-honourable and majestic Name: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Prayer for Catechumens (for St. Basil's Liturgy)

Priest:

O Lord our God, You dwell in the heavens and regard all Your works: look down on Your servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before You. Grant them a light yoke; make them honourable members of Your Holy Church; make them worthy of the washing of regeneration, the remission of sins and the robe of incorruption-- for the knowledge of You, our true God, that with us they may glorify Your all-honourable and majestic Name: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Prayer for Catechumens (for Presanctified Liturgy)

Priest:

O God our God, the Creator and Maker of all things, who will that all men should be saved and should come to the knowledge of the truth: look upon Your servants, the catechumens and deliver them from their former delusion and from the wiles of the adversary. Call them unto life eternal, enlightening their souls and bodies and numbering them with Your rational flock, which is called by Your holy Name, that with us they may glorify Your all-honourable and majestic Name: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Litany and Prayer for those Preparing for Illumination
(for Presanctified Liturgy)**

(Beginning with the Wednesday of the fourth Week of Great Lent, the following Litany and Prayer is also said:)

Deacon: Pray to the Lord, as many as are preparing for Illumination.

Deacon: You faithful, for the brethren who are preparing for holy Illumination and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Thomas Sunday:

O Holy One: You have assembled us within Your dwelling-place; You have opened Your tent, and have put on our lips a hymn of victory. You have gladdened us with Your pure and holy Body. You have given us to drink from the ever-flowing fountain-- Your pure and life-creating side which Thomas saw, touched and worshipped, as he cried out in a loud voice: "My Lord and my God." O Master: how can we repay You for what You have given us? O Mighty King of all: clothe Your priests with righteousness, protect and give wisdom to our civil authorities, strengthen those who govern us, keep the people in peace, cause war to cease among the nations, free the captives, and give peace to the world, O God our Saviour; for to You are due all glory, honour, thanksgiving and worship, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Mid-Pentecost:

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God: it was Your good pleasure to become flesh of the holy Virgin, and to lie speechless in a manger, and to be baptized by John, although You had no need of purification. In the middle of the feast You went up to the Temple and taught the crowds, who said in amazement: "How did this man learn, when he had no teacher?" They did not know that You are the Wisdom of the Father, and the Creator of all. O Lover of mankind: on this day make us, Your sinful and unworthy servants, worthy to worship and glorify You, and in joy to partake of Your most pure Body and most precious Blood; and deem us worthy in blamelessness and free of condemnation to be presented to You at the glorious Second Coming. Inspire all who are in authority over us with wisdom and understanding, and lead them always to serve Your people in righteousness and love. Keep our Bishop in peace, safety, honour, health and length of days. Rescue our brothers and sisters who are in

Monday of Bright Week and for all Paschaltide:

Pascha, Pascha, and again we cry: Pascha, for Christ our Pascha has been sacrificed for us. He alone is immortal. He alone can neither be seen nor grasped. The angels, principalities, authorities, dominions, powers, cherubim and seraphim praise Him. With these heavenly Powers, we, Your unworthy servants, praise, bless and worship You, O Lord our God; for in these last days, You came into the world, taking flesh from our all-holy and pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and suffered crucifixion that You might free us from the curse of the tree. For all this, how can we adequately render thanks to You-- God by nature from all eternity, and Man in time by grace? We offer You praise from our unworthy lips: Glory to You, that were baptized; glory to You that were crucified; glory to You that were buried; glory to You, risen from the dead and raising us up with Yourself in glory. Glory to You, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Tuesday of Bright Week:

O Lord, our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: You shattered the gates of brass and the iron bars. You freed the holy souls held fast in the depths of Hades, and You let them appear to many after Your resurrection. Give us part and inheritance with all Your holy ones in Your Kingdom. O Lord: on this holy day of Your resurrection, remember those here present, and those absent for a cause worthy of a blessing, those travelling, those in affliction or distress, those who are oppressed, and those infirm in mind or body. Remember them all and heal them. Blot out all the sins of these, whether they be rich or poor, free or in bondage. Reveal Your newly-enlisted warriors to be children of light and heirs of Your everlasting good gifts. Pour out upon them the rich gifts of Your Holy Spirit, to raise up those who have come forth from the sun- surpassing radiance of the holy baptismal font. Increase our city, and every city and country, and the faithful living within them. Implant reverent fear of You in their hearts, that they may always do Your will, and be pleasing to You; for You, O God, are good, and love mankind, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your

Deacon: That the Lord our God may establish and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He may enlighten them with the light of knowledge and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He may grant unto them in due time the washing of rebirth, the forgiveness of sins and the robe of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He may beget them with water and the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He may bestow upon them the perfection of the Faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He may number them with His holy and chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: Save them, have mercy on them, help them and keep them, O God, by Your grace.

Deacon: As many as are preparing for Illumination, bow your heads unto the Lord.

Priest:

Reveal, O Master, Your countenance to those who are preparing for holy Illumination and who long to put away the pollution of sin. Enlighten their minds. Secure them in the Faith. Establish them in hope. Perfect them in love. Show them to be honourable members of Your Christ who gave Himself as a deliverance for our souls for You are our Illumination and to You we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads
(for St. John Chrysostom's Liturgy)**

We give thanks to You, O King invisible, who by Your measureless power made all things and in the greatness of Your mercy brought all things from non-existence into being. Look down from heaven, O Master, upon those who have bowed their heads to You, for they have not bowed to flesh and blood, but to You, the awesome God. Therefore, O Master, make straight our path through what lies before us unto all of us for good, according to the individual need of each: sail with those who sail, travel with those who travel by land and by air; heal the sick, O You who are the Physician of our souls and bodies, through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads (for St. Basil's Liturgy)

O Master, Lord, Father of compassions and God of every consolation: bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen and confirm those who have bowed their heads to You. Withdraw them from every evil deed; apply them to every good work and make them worthy to partake without condemnation of these, Your most-pure and life-creating Mysteries, for remission of sins and for the communion of the Holy Spirit through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Pascha:

Today, O Lord, Jesus Christ, a brilliant, saving day has dawned upon us in Your glorious rising from the dead. Because of Your resurrection, the Church is honoured by men and women of good will everywhere. O King of the ages: after their valiant struggle to live the time of fasting as well as they could, the faithful stand here now with lighted candles, eagerly waiting to offer You their gifts on this great day, for the whole creation rejoices in Your resurrection. The world rejoices while the heavens are purified by the brilliance of divinity; the earth is clothed in a festal mantle, the seas are calmed, tyranny is ended, reverence grows, the catechumens are enlightened, those who have wandered away are led back, sinners are freed from their sins, all Your churches exult, and You, O Christ, are glorified. Mothers offer You their gifts nestled in their arms; the meadows *will soon be* in full flower, and the newly-baptized are filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, receive the sacrificial worship of Your unworthy priests and, in Your love for each of us, forgive the sins of all, both Young and old. O gracious Lord: preserve our God-loving bishop in his responsibility, in honour and in health; keep all the clergy and the people in oneness of mind and heart; and inspire and guide all those who serve our nation. Guard, preserve, keep and have mercy upon the people here present, and grant that they may enjoy Your divine, immortal, and life-creating mysteries all the days of their lives; through the intercessions of Your all-pure Mother, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, of the holy Apostles and the Myrrh-bearing Women; for You are the resurrection, O Christ our God, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Great and Holy Thursday:

We sing to You, we glorify You, and we thank You, O all-good and all-merciful Master, our sinless God; for by Your own will You took flesh and bore its pains for our sake. For while the glorious disciples were enlightened by the washing of their feet before the supper, the impious Judas was darkened by love of money. He took the thirty pieces of silver, the price that was set, and betrayed the Righteous Judge to the lawless high-priests and scribes. Although he tasted of the full joy of Your goodness and became a disciple, he closed the treacherous deal, and betrayed You, the immortal King and Lord of Glory, to the lawless wolves. He who had earlier dipped his hand in the bowl, took a rope to hang himself. He pointed You out to the lawless high-priests with a kiss, saying: "The one I kiss is our man; seize him." And the outlaw Judas, by his love of money, and by the last judgement of God, hanged himself. We, the faithful, share in love the pure and life-creating Body and Blood. In fear, in faith, and in love we worship and glorify the suffering on the Cross, the burial and the resurrection of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ; for Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Great and Holy Saturday:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, King of the ages: You have broken the gates of Hades, the Kingdom of death, and have crushed its iron bars. You have trampled down death in triumph and destroyed its chains. You have despoiled the Kingdom of death and have arisen, freeing Your holy ones from bondage to death. You have shone in the darkness and revealed that which lay hidden. You have put the Evil One to shame, and banished the treachery of his angels. O Lord Jesus Christ: You have made us partakers of joy through Your all-pure and life-creating Mysteries. Make us worthy also, during this night in which You brought about our salvation, to be loosed from the darkness of our ignorance, and to be loosed from the bonds of our sin, that we may rise from the tomb of dead works and walk in newness of life; that we may glorify, bless and exalt Your Name, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts:

O God, who alone are good and tenderhearted, who dwell on high and look upon the humble: look with the eye of Your tenderheartedness upon all Your people and keep them. Make us all worthy without condemnation to partake of these Your life-creating Mysteries, for unto You have we bowed our heads, awaiting from You Your rich mercy, through the grace and compassion and love toward mankind of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Ambo Prayer for Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil:

O Lord, You bless those who bless You and sanctify those who trust in You: save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; glorify them in return by Your divine power and forsake us not who put our hope in You. Give peace to Your world, to Your churches, to Your priests, to all those in civil authority and to all Your people, for all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You the Father of Lights and to You we ascribe glory, thanksgiving and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Ambo Prayer for Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts:

O Almighty Master, who in wisdom fashioned all creation and who through Your unspeakable providence and great goodness have led us to these all-revered days for purification of souls and bodies, for restraint of passions and for hope of the resurrection, who during the forty days put into the hands of Your servant Moses the tables of the Law in letters divinely inscribed: grant unto us also, O Good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the Fast, to preserve the Faith undivided, to crush the heads of invisible serpents, to be shown to be conquerors of sins and without condemnation also to attain to and to worship the holy Resurrection, for blessed and glorified is Your all-honourable and majestic Name: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

AMBO PRAYERS FOR THE PASCHAL CYCLE:**Ambo Prayer for Memorial Saturdays:**

O Master, Lord, Almighty God: You do not reject Your servants, nor do You despise the souls of those who pray to You. Give rest now to the souls of Your servants in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Give them rest in the holy place of the light of life, in the paradise of delight. Disregard their sins, whether committed knowingly or unknowingly. Deem them worthy of rest in the joy which is to come; and bring us, the living, into that joy when and as You will, for You alone provide for our lives and keep us in repentance; through the intercessions of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all Your saints, who glorify and give thanks to Your all-holy Name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Palm Sunday:

We praise and glorify Your incomprehensible humility, O Christ our God; for although You sit enthroned in heaven with the earth as Your footstool, You did not consider it beneath You to take flesh from a holy virgin, to become man, and to lie as a newborn child in a manger. Indeed, You sat upon the foal of a donkey, and by Your own will went forth to Your passion and death for love of us. In eternity, by inspiration, the bodiless Powers of heaven sing to You hymns worthy of Your Godhead, but now, a new hymn is being sung to You on earth. You taught the troublesome mob by perfecting praise from the mouths of infants and children. You taught those who stammer how to tell about the glory of heaven and peace on earth. Now also with these, accept the songs of Your unworthy servants who give praise to Your victory over death. Bless those who acknowledge that You come in the Name of the Lord without ever leaving the glory of the Father, and that You will come again to judge the whole world with righteousness. Make us worthy to receive You as You come. Arm us for a victorious battle against passions; and in return for our palms and branches, crown us with virtue, that we may joyfully meet You as You come upon the clouds in glory, and enter with You into Your Kingdom; for You are the lover of mankind, and You are glorified together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent:

O Christ God: You give strength to all who fall, and You rescue all who have been cast aside. Without leaving the bosom of the Father, You came to us and took flesh of the holy Virgin Mary. You came into the world to raise up our nature from its fall among the spirit-killing thieves. We were stripped of everlasting life, and cruelly wounded by them; yet You thought us worthy of Your care, and restored us to our ancient homeland. O Lord: by Your praiseworthy Blood poured out for us, and the holy anointing You have given us. Heal the hurts, and bind up the wounds of our spirit; deliver us from the constant blows of the powers of darkness which hasten to rob us of faith and hope in You, for they plot to wash Your grace from us. In Your love for mankind, deprive us not of Your healing salvation, so that after we are healed and cleansed of all stain, we may be made worthy of the Church of the first-born, inscribed in heaven; for You are the healer of our illnesses both of body and soul: You are our God, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Lazarus Saturday:

O Christ-God: by Your voice You loosed Lazarus from the chains of death, and brought him to life. Bring to life us who have been killed by sins, and give us that life which cannot be taken away. Give everlasting life to those who hope in You, and make us heirs of Your eternal Kingdom; for You are our Life and our Resurrection, and to You is due all glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Sunday of the Last Judgment:

O Christ our God: accept our humble prayer as You accepted the tears and anointing of the harlot. Be pleased with our hymns of praise, as You were pleased with her kisses. Give us a splendid conversion like hers, and deem us also worthy of the forgiveness of sins. You did not turn away from her as she clung to Your pure feet: do not reject us who throw ourselves at the unseen feet of Your love for mankind. Without words did she confess You, who know the hearts of men, and You did not send her away in shame: do not put us to shame when our hidden sins are revealed before angels and men in Your fearful judgment, but make us heirs of Your eternal forgiveness and incorruptible glory, for You are the Lover of mankind, and You are glorified together with Your eternal Father, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Forgiveness Sunday:

Blessed are You, O Lord, highly exalted, glorified and good: in Your divine Providence You have set the length of the year, and have anchored us in these days of inner peace. Give the good fruit of righteousness to Your servants in all their works. Give us might and power for the destruction of sin, and for the renewal of heart and soul and mind, that during the Forty Days we might overcome the crafty inventions of the intruder, for You are our God. Through prayer and fasting You made men equal to the angels, and to the fasting Moses You entrusted the tablets of the Law written by Your own divine hand. Now, O Lord, return us to the safe haven of the honourable Passion of Your Christ, that with the wood of the Cross as our weapon, we may be victors over sin and worthy of the joyful resurrection on the third day; through the intercessions and supplications of the most holy and pure Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and of all Your saints, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

First Sunday of Great Lent:

We give thanks to You, O Lord Jesus Christ, for You have brought us to this present time of fasting leading to salvation; and it is You that are able to restore Your image in us. We give thanks to You, for You cause the rejection of our many sins, and provide for the healing of the great wounds of our souls in this short time. O Good Master, we pray You: remove from us all pharisaical hypocrisy in fasting, and banish all false sadness. Drive far from us any pride in our self-moderation or self-denial in thought, word, or deed. Fill us with light and truth as You have prescribed. Strengthen us in the battle against passions and in the war against sin. By the rejection of our passions, prepare us to follow You. By fasting, You have shown us the way to victory over the devil, how to partake in Your life-creating death and resurrection, and to rejoice in the eternal joy which You have prepared for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; for You are the God of mercy, and to You is due all glory, together with Your Father, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Second Sunday of Great Lent:

O Master and Lord, our God: because You are all-good, we beseech You to listen to Your unworthy servants, and to enable us to reach the desired end of these days of fasting given to us for our correction. Lead us, who have started this present contest, to the hoped-for crowns of victory, filling us with Your Uncreated Light. Strip us of the covering of darkness, and clothe us with the armour of light. Grant us, O Lord, self-denial without hypocrisy; prayer in secret, which is more acceptable to You; and humble almsgiving, which is pleasing in Your sight; through the mercies of Your Only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Third Sunday of Great Lent:

O God and Father of glory: for our sake You gave us Your Only-begotten Son, and through Him You have made us again sons and daughters of Your Spirit. By the power of Your Cross, have compassion on us now, for we have broken Your commandments. Do not condemn us with those who have cut themselves off from You, nor leave us starved for Your spiritual gifts. Instead, make us worthy to draw near to You in our words and in our hearts, and to prove by our deeds that we are Your children as we imitate the conversion of the prodigal son, for to him You made known Your ineffable love for sinners. May we obtain the everlasting joy which You have already prepared for those who do Your will; through the grace and mercy and love for mankind of Your Only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent:

O Lord our God: although we are unworthy, You have deemed us worthy to stand in this holy place. Although we have nothing good to offer You, that have no need of anything of ours, we sacrifice a humbled heart and a contrite spirit to You. Although we have failed to ascend the ladder of virtues, we seek from You forgiveness of our sins, because You are good. As You did not turn away from the publican who humbled himself before You, but instead proclaimed him justified, so too, hear our unworthy prayers. Banish from our hearts the crass self-praise and boasting of the self-righteous pharisee. Grant us instead, the compunction of the publican, and the humility that draws us to You, for You exalt the humble, and humble the exalted. Make us worthy of the joys of Your Kingdom, which You have prepared for the poor in spirit; through the mercies of Your Christ, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.