

THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY
OF
ST. GREGORY THE DIALOGIST



AS CELEBRATED ON WEEKDAYS
DURING GREAT LENT

ST. LUKE ORTHODOX CHURCH
Anniston, Alabama



The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, informally known as the Presanctified Liturgy, is a liturgical service for the distribution of the Holy Gifts on the weekdays of Great Lent.

Because Great Lent is a season of repentance, fasting, and intensified prayer, the Orthodox Church regards more frequent reception of communion as especially desirable at that time. However, the Divine Liturgy has a festal character not in keeping with the season. Thus, the Presanctified Liturgy is celebrated instead; the Divine Liturgy is only performed on Saturdays and Sundays. Although it is possible to celebrate this service on any weekday of Great Lent, the service is prescribed to be celebrated only on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent.

During Lent, many Orthodox faithful fast sometimes from midnight and sometimes the entire workday, not eating anything after the morning meal until they break the fast with Holy Communion at this evening service. They have this anticipation to help them with this somewhat difficult ascetic discipline.

Presanctified Liturgy Service

The service consists of Daily Vespers combined with additional prayers and communion. The communion bread has already been consecrated and intincted with the precious Blood and reserved at the previous Sunday's Divine Liturgy. Unconsecrated wine is placed in the chalice.

The Divine Liturgy's opening blessing, *Blessed is the Kingdom...* is used at the start of the part of the service that resembles daily vespers. Psalm 103, *Bless the Lord, O my soul* is read. The Great Litany is then intoned and then Psalms 119–133 are read. Then the choir sings *Lord, I have cried unto Thee* with stichera. The priest makes an entrance with the censer. If the occasion is a feast, the entrance is with the Gospel Book and there is then an epistle and gospel reading for the feast day. The choir sings *O Gladsome Light*, and the first reading, from Genesis (or Exodus), is read with a prokeimenon. Then the priest intones *Wisdom, let us attend. The Light of Christ enlightened all men*, and those praying prostrate themselves. The second reading, from Proverbs (or Job) is read.

In the second part of the service, the choir chants *Let my prayer be directed as incense before Thee*. After a litany the choir sings *Now the powers of Heaven with us invisibly do worship*, and the Presanctified Gifts are brought into the holy altar in a procession resembling the Great Entrance at a Divine Liturgy but in complete silence. There is no anaphora because the gifts are pre-consecrated.

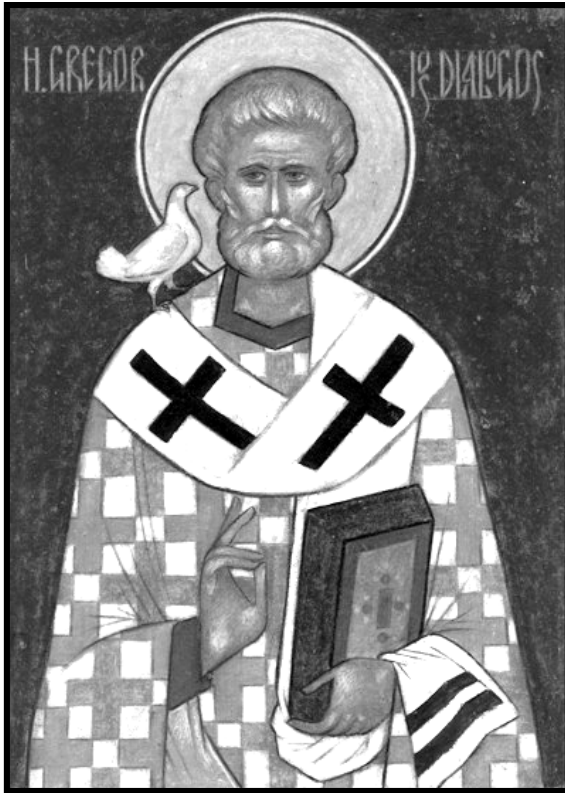
History

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts was first documented by St. Gregory the Dialogist (AD 540-604), who was the papal legate to Constantinople. At one time it was supposed that he had come up with the idea himself, but now it is generally supposed that he simply recorded what was already being practiced at Constantinople. In the Presanctified Liturgy itself, he is still commemorated as its traditional author.

This Liturgy is also mentioned in the Canons of the seventh century Quinisext Council:

On all days of the holy fast of Lent, except on the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, and the holy day of the Annunciation, the Liturgy of the Presanctified is to be served (Canon 52).

Enjoy this most solemn and beautiful of all liturgical services!



THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen!

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!

THE PSALM OF CREATION

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who covers thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, who hast laid the beams of thy chambers on the waters, who makes the clouds thy chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind, who makes the winds thy messengers, fire and flame thy ministers.

Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which thou didst appoint for them.

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,

they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From thy lofty abode thou waters the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and fodder for the animals that serve man,

That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan which thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to thee, to give them their food in due season.

When thou givest to them, they gather it up; when thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good things. When thou hidest thy face, they are dismayed; when thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth. May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works,

who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness and it is night. O Lord how manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast thou made them all!

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!

THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For our Archbishop _____, for the honorable priesthood, the deacons in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air, for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto 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.

FIRST Antiphon

The reader then chants from the first stasis of the 18th kathisma

Reader: In my distress I cry to the LORD/ that he may answer me:

Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips,/from a deceitful tongue.

What shall be given to you?/ And what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue?

A warrior's sharp arrows,/with glowing coals of the broom tree!

Woe is me, that I sojourn in Meshech,/ that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace./ I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war!

PSALM 121

I lift up mine eyes to the hills./ From whence does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,/ who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved,/ he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep./ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day,/ nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;/ he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in,/ from this time forth and for evermore.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" / Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Jerusalem, built as a city which is bound firmly together, / to which the tribes go up,

the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, / to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

There thrones for judgment were set, / the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! / "May they prosper who love you!

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!" / For my brethren and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, / I will seek your good.

To thee I lift up my eyes, / O thou who art enthroned in the heavens!

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, / so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, / for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, / the contempt of the proud.

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, let Israel now say / if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us,

then they would have swallowed us up alive,/ when their anger was kindled against us;

then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;/ then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD,/ who has not given us as prey to their teeth!

We have escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers;/ the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

Our help is in the name of the LORD,/ who made heaven and earth.

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! (3x)

THE LITTLE LITANY

Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours in 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.

SECOND STASIS

The reader then chants from the second stasis of the 18th kathisma

Reader: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,/ which cannot be moved, but abides for ever.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem,/ so the LORD is round about his people, from this time forth and for evermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land allotted to the righteous,/ lest the righteous put forth their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,/ and to those who are upright in their hearts!

But those who turn aside upon their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers!/ Peace be in Israel!

PSALM 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,/ we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;/ then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us;/ The LORD has done great things for us, we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,/ like the water-courses in the Negeb!

May those who sow in tears/ reap with shouts of joy!

He that goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,/ shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

PSALM 127

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain./ Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,/ eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Lo, sons are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them!/ He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

PSALM 128

Blessed is every one who fears the LORD,/ who walks in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; / you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;/ your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed/ who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion!/ May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children!/ Peace be upon Israel!

PSALM 129

"Sorely have they afflicted me from my youth,"/ let Israel now say --

"Sorely have they afflicted me from my youth,/ yet they have not prevailed against me.

The plowers plowed upon my back;/ they made long their furrows."

The LORD is righteous;/ he has cut the cords of the wicked.

May all who hate Zion/ be put to shame and turned backward!

Let them be like the grass on the housetops,/ which withers before it grows up,

with which the reaper does not fill his hand or the binder of sheaves his bosom,/while those who pass by do not say, "The blessing of the LORD be upon you!

We bless you/ in the name of the LORD!"

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! (3x)

THE LITTLE LITANY

Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: To You, O Lord.

For You are a good God, Who loves 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.

People: Amen.

THIRD STASIS

The reader then chants from the third stasis of the 18th kathisma

Reader: Out of the depths I cry to thee, O LORD!/ Lord, hear my voice!

Let thy ears be attentive/ to the voice of my supplications!

If thou, O LORD, shouldst mark iniquities,/ Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with thee,/ that thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the LORD,/ my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning,/ more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!/ For with the LORD there is mercy,

and with him is plenteous redemption./ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

PSALM 131

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up,/ my eyes are not raised too high;

I do not occupy myself with things/ too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,/ like a child quieted at its mother's breast;

O Israel, hope in the LORD/ from this time forth and for evermore.

PSALM 132

Remember, O LORD, in David's favor,/ all the hardships he endured;

how he swore to the LORD/ and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,

"I will not enter my house or get into my bed;/ I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the LORD,/ a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

Lo, we heard of it in Ephrathah,/ we found it in the fields of Ja'ar.

"Let us go to his dwelling place;/ let us worship at his footstool!"

Arise, O LORD, and go to thy resting place,/ thou and the ark of thy might.

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness,/ and let thy saints shout for joy.

For thy servant David's sake/ do not turn away the face of thy anointed one.

The LORD swore to David a sure oath/ from which he will not turn back:

"One of the sons of your body/ I will set on your throne.

If your sons keep my covenant/ and my testimonies which I shall teach them,

their sons also for ever/ shall sit upon your throne."

For the LORD has chosen Zion;/ he has desired it for his habitation:

"This is my resting place for ever;/ here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions;/ I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Her priests I will clothe with salvation,/ and her saints will shout for joy.

There I will make a horn to sprout for David;/ I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

His enemies I will clothe with shame,/ but upon himself his crown will shed its luster."

PSALM 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is/ when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil upon the head,/ running down upon the beard,

upon the beard of Aaron,/ running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon,/ which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,/ life for evermore.

PSALM 134

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,/ who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the holy place,/ and bless the LORD!

May the LORD bless you from Zion,/ he who made heaven and earth!

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!

THE LITTLE LITANY

Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are a merciful and saving 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.

People: Amen.

FOR “LORD I CALL”

Psalm 140

Choir: Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon thee, hear me! Receive the voice of
my prayer! When I call upon Thee, hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let
the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice!
Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD, keep watch
over the door of my lips! Incline not my heart to any
evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company
with men who work iniquity; and let me not eat of
their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in
kindness, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint
my head; for my prayer is continually against their
wicked deeds. When they are given over to those
who shall condemn them, then they shall learn that
the word of the LORD is true. As a rock which one
cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones
be strewn at the mouth of Sheol. But my eyes are
toward thee, O LORD God; in thee I seek refuge;
leave me not defenseless! Keep me from the trap
which they have laid for me, and from the snares of
evildoers! Let the wicked together fall into their own
nets, while I escape. I cry with my voice to the LORD,
with my voice I make supplication to the LORD, I
pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble
before him. When my spirit is faint, thou knowest
my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a
trap for me. I look to the right and watch, but there is
none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to
me, no man cares for me. I cry to thee, O LORD;
I say, Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of
the living. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought
very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; for they
are too strong for me!

- On 10 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to thy name!
- On 9 The righteous will surround me; for thou wilt deal bountifully with me.
- On 8 Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!
- On 7 Let thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!!
- On 6 If thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand but there is forgiveness with thee!
- On 5 For Thy name's sake, I wait for the Lord, my soul has waited for thy Word, my soul has hoped on the Lord!
- On 4 From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord!
- On 3 For with the LORD there is mercy and with him is redemption, and he will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.
- On 2 Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise him, all peoples!
- On 1 For his mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the LORD endures forever!

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

THE THEOTOKION IS SUNG HERE

THE ENTRANCE

Priest: *In the evening and at morning and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks to You and pray to You, O Master of all. Let our prayer arise in Your sight as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil. Deliver us, O Lord, from those who seek our souls, for unto You, O Lord, and unto you have we hoped, that You will not forsake us, O Lord our God. For unto 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. Amen.*

The priest censes the royal doors, the icon of Christ, and the icon the Theotokos, and then blesses the entrance saying:

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of Your holies, always now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Priest raises the censer saying:

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

This hymn, known as the 'Phos Hilarion' is one of the oldest Christian hymns in existence.

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ: Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God. For meet it is all times to worship Thee, with voices of praise, O Son of God, Giver of life. Wherefore, the world glorifies Thee.

THE PROKEIMENON

Priest: Let us attend! Peace be with you all!

Reader: And with your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the ___ tone:

The Prokeimenon is a short verse from Scripture, usually taken from a Psalm, which precedes, and indicates the essence of, the Epistle Reading.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Genesis (or Exodus)

Priest: Let us attend!

THE FIRST OLD TESTAMENT READ IS HERE

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the ___ tone:

The Reader reads the second appointed Prokeimenon from the Triodion. After the second Prokeimenon, the Priest holds aloft the censer, and a lighted candle, saying;

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

He then turns to the people who make a prostration, and the priest proclaims:

Priest: The light of Christ illumines all!

The priest returns to the Sanctuary, and the reader exclaims:

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs (or Job)

Priest: Let us attend!

THE SECOND OLD TESTAMENT READ IS HERE

At the completion of the Readings, the Priest says:

Priest: Peace to you who read.

LET MY PRAYER ARISE

The Priest stands before the Altar Table and censes.

Priest: Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

People: *Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.*

Priest: Lord, I cry to Thee, hear me! Hear the voice of my prayer. When I cry to Thee, hear me, O Lord.

People: *Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.*

Priest: Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips.

People: *Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.*

Priest: Incline not my heart to any evil thing, nor to practice wicked deeds.

People: *Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.*

The Priest kneels.

People: Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Priest: Let us say with all of our soul and with all our mind,
let us say:

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray
you, hear us and have mercy!

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, in Your great mercy, we
pray You hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy!(X3)

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop _____, for
priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our
brethren in Christ!

People: Lord have mercy!(X3)

Priest: *O Lord our God, accept this fervent prayer of Your
servants, and have mercy on us in the abundance of Your
compassion, have pity on us and on all Your people, who
await Your plenteous mercy.*

For You are a merciful God, and You love 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.

People: Amen!

LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS

Priest: You who are Catechumens, pray unto the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: You faithful, let us pray for the Catechumens.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That the Lord will show them mercy.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will instruct them in the Word of His Truth.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will reveal to them the Gospel of Righteousness.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will unite them to His holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: You who are Catechumens, bow your heads unto the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord!

Priest: *O God, our God, the Author and Creator of all things, it is Your will that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. Look upon Your servants the Catechumens, and free them of ancient error and from the wiles of the enemy. Call them to eternal life, illuminating their souls and bodies, and numbering them among Your reasoning flock, on which Your holy Name is invoked.*

That with us they may glorify Your all-honorable and majestic name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen!

The priest unfolds the antimimension here.

Priest: Pray, all of you who are preparing for Illumination!

People: Lord have mercy.

If it is the first three (3) weeks of Lent, skip ahead to page 31.



If it is AFTER the third week of Lent, proceed here.

The following petitions are only prayed from Wednesday of the Fourth week of Lent to the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Priest: All you faithful, for our brethren being made ready for Holy Illumination, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That the Lord our God will confirm and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will enlighten them with the light of understanding and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will make them worthy, in due time, of the laver of regeneration, the remission of their sins, and the garment of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will render them born again by water and the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That He will number them among His holy and chosen flock, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: You who are admitted for Illumination, bow your heads to the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: *Master, let the light of your countenance shine on those who are being made ready for Holy Illumination, and who yearn to thrust aside the defilement of sin. Illumine their minds; confirm them in the faith; sustain them in their hope; perfect them in love; make them precious members of Your Christ, Who gave Himself as a ransom for our souls.*

For You are our illumination 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.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us, the faithful, again and again in peace, pray unto the Lord

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Wisdom!

O God, great and praiseworthy, Who, by the life-creating death of Your Christ, have translated us from corruption to incorruption, free all our senses from deadly passions, set over them as a good guide the understanding that is within us. And let our eyes abstain from every evil sight, our hearing be inaccessible to idle words, and our tongues be purged of unseemly speech. Make clean our lips which praise You, O Lord; make our hands refrain from base deeds, and to work only that which is well-pleasing to You, fortifying our minds and members by Your grace,

For unto You belong 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.



During the first three (3) weeks Lent, pick up here.

Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Wisdom!

O Master, holy and exceedingly good, rich in mercy, we implore You; be gracious to us sinners, and make us worthy of the reception of Your only-begotten Son and our God, the King of Glory. For behold, His immaculate Body and Life-creating Blood, entering at this present hour, are about to be set forth on this mystical table, by heavenly hosts, invisibly escorted. Grant us to partake of them without condemnation, that through them our mental sight may be illumined and we may become children of the light and of the day.

Through the gift 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.

People: Amen.



HYMN OF THE ENTRANCE

People: Now the powers of heaven do serve invisibly with us. Lo, the King of Glory enters. Lo, the mystical sacrifice is upborne, all fulfilled.

The customary censuring is performed by the priest at this time. He senses the altar table on all four sides, the sanctuary, the iconostasis, any servers in the Sanctuary, then the people, and the royal doors before entering the Sanctuary again.

Priest: Now the powers of heaven do serve invisibly with us. Lo, the King of Glory enters. Lo, the mystical sacrifice is ushered in, all fulfilled.

Let us draw near in faith and love, and become communicants of life eternal!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The priest makes three prostrations before the Holy Gifts, saying:

Priest: O God, cleanse me a sinner.

The priest makes the entrance in silence, while the people make a full prostration during the entire Entrance.

Having returned to the altar, the priest places the Holy Gifts on the altar, while the people sing:

People: Let us draw near in faith and love, and become communicants of life eternal!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

LITANY BEFORE THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For the precious gifts now offered and pre-sanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That our God, Who loves mankind, receiving them upon His holy, heavenly, and ideal altar as a sweet spiritual fragrance, will send down upon us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For all that is good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: That we complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For a Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Having asked for the unity of the faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: *O God of ineffable and unseen Mysteries, in You are the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge, yet You have revealed the service of this Liturgy to us. You have set us sinners, through Your great love of mankind, to offer to You gifts and sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorance of the people. O invisible King, You do things great and inscrutable, glorious and marvelous, which cannot be numbered. Look upon us, Your unworthy servants who stand at this holy altar as the Cherubic Throne, upon which rests Your only-begotten Son and our God, in the dread Mysteries that are set forth. Having freed us and all your faithful people from uncleanness, sanctify all our souls and bodies with the sanctification which cannot be taken away, that partaking with a clean conscience, with*

faces unashamed, with hearts illumined, of these divine, sanctified Things, and by them being given life, we may be united to Your Christ Himself, our true God, Who has said, "Whosoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood abides in Me, and I in him," that by Your Word, O Lord, dwelling within us and sojourning among us, we may become a temple of Your all-Holy, and adorable Spirit, redeemed from every diabolical wile, wrought either by deed or word or thought, and may obtain the good things promised to us with all Your saints who have been well-pleasing to You.

And make us worthy, O Master, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call on You, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

All now pray the Lord's Prayer slowly, with great reverence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: *O God, You alone are compassionate and good. Dwelling on high, yet looking upon the lowly, regard Your people with tender eye, and safeguard them. Count us all worthy to partake without reproach of these Your life-creating Mysteries. For it is to You that we bow our heads in the hope of Your rich mercy.*

Through the grace and compassion 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.

People: Amen.

Priest: *Attend, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, out of Your holy dwelling place, from the glorious throne of Your Kingdom; You are enthroned on high with the Father, and are here invisibly present with us; Come and sanctify us, and by Your mighty hand impart unto us Your most pure Body and precious Blood, and through us to all the people.*

Priest: Let us attend.

The priest reaches under the Aer and touching the Presanctified Gifts with both hands, exclaims:

Priest: The Pre-Sanctified Holy Things for the holy!

People: One is Holy. One is the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Pre-sanctified Gifts are now prepared by the priest, who communes of the Holy Mysteries with all reverence, in fear and love.

All who are about to receive Holy Mysteries pray with great reverence.

PRE-COMMUNION PRAYER

People: I believe, O Lord, and I confess that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, Who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Your own most pure Body, and that this is truly Your own precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to you have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, known and unknown. And make me worthy without condemnation to partake of Your most pure Mysteries, for the forgiveness of my sins, and unto life eternal. Amen.

How shall I, the unworthy one, enter into the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter into the Bridal Chamber, my clothing will accuse me, for it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ my God, let not these holy Gifts be to my condemnation, because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of soul and body, and the pledge of future life and kingdom.

It is good for me to cling to God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical supper. I will not betray Your Mysteries to Your enemies, nor give you a kiss as did Judas, but as the thief I confess You.

Remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.



HOLY COMMUNION

Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, self-examination, and confession (*according to the instructions of their spiritual father*) are permitted to approach the Chalice to receive the Holy Mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those non-communicants desiring a blessing, may come forward with their arms crossed over their chest, and approach the priest saying ‘Father, bless.’ We offer you some of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) so that you may break your fast with us.

Priest: In the fear of God, and with faith, draw near!

People: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

During the communion of the people, the choir sings:

People: O taste and see that the Lord is good!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

When the people have been communed of the Holy Gifts, the priest lifts up the chalice saying:

Priest: Lo, this has touched our lips, it shall take away our iniquities, and cleanse us of all our sins.

The Priest wipes the remaining particles from the discos into the chalice, saying:

Priest: *Wash away, O Lord, the sins of all those remembered here, by Your precious Blood; through the prayers of all Your saints.*

The priest blesses the people, saying:

Priest: O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

People: We have seen the true Light! We have received the heavenly Spirit! We have found the true Faith! Worshipping the undivided Trinity, Who has saved us.

Priest: *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory over all the earth. (3X)*

The priest takes the disks in his left hand, and the chalice in his right hand, and says, as he faces the people:

Priest: *(silently) Blessed is our God*

(aloud) now and ever and unto ages of ages.

The priest carries the chalice to the Table of Oblation and then censes it three times.

People: Amen.

Let our mouths be filled with Your praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Your glory; for You have made us worthy to partake of Your holy, divine, immortal, and life-creating Mysteries. Keep us in Your holiness, that all the day we may meditate upon Your righteousness.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Priest: Let us attend! Having partaken of the divine, holy, most pure, immortal, heavenly, life-creating, and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

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

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Asking that the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For You are our Sanctification, 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.

People: Amen.

Priest: Let us depart in peace.

People: In the name of the Lord.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

The priest goes out the Royal Doors to the Ambo, and turns to face the Altar.

PRAYER BEFORE THE AMBO

Priest: O Almighty Master, Who in wisdom have fashioned all creation, Who through Your ineffable providence and great goodness have led us to these holy days for purification of souls and bodies, for restraint of passions, and for hope of the Resurrection. Who during the forty days, did put into the hands of Your servant Moses the tablets of the Law, divinely inscribed: Enable us also, O Good One, to fight the good fight, to complete the course of the Fast, to preserve the Faith inviolate, to crush underfoot 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 most honorable and majestic name: of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord henceforth and forevermore.(x3)

Priest: *O Lord our God, Who have led us to these solemn days, and Who has made us communicants of your dread Mysteries: Join us to Your rational flock, and show us to be heirs of Your kingdom, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

The priest blesses the people, saying;

Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our God and our sure 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. (x3) Father, bless.

Priest: 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; of our
father among the saints, Gregory the Great, the
Dialogist, the Pope of Rome; of Saint _____, whose
memory we celebrate today; of the holy and right-
eous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all
the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is
good and loves mankind.

People: Amen!

GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!