

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

As served by a priest, from Hapgood's Service Book (1906)

Parishes differ in wording and customs; follow your parish's books when they're provided.

VARIES St. Basil's Liturgy is served ten times a year: the first five Sundays of the Great Fast, the eves of the Nativity and of Theophany (or the feast itself when the eve falls on a Saturday or Sunday), Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, and St. Basil's feast on January 1. On the two eves, Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday it is joined to Vespers, and on those days some hymns change, the Cherubic Hymn among them. That form is not printed here.

Most of this Liturgy is the same as St. John Chrysostom's. What differs is chiefly the priest's quiet prayers, above all the long prayer of the Holy Offering, and the hymn to the Birth-giver of God.

BEFORE THE LITURGY: THE PREPARATION

Before the Liturgy begins, the priest prepares the bread and wine at the table of oblation. With a small knife called the spear, he cuts out the Lamb and the particles for the Theotokos, the saints, the living and the departed.

THE LITURGY OF THE CATECHUMENS

THE OPENING BLESSING

DEACON Bless, Master.

PRIEST *(bestowing the blessing, in cross-form, with the book of the Gospels from the Altar).*

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR **Amen.**

VARIES Eastertide: added in the Paschal season.

And if it be at Eastertide:

(sung by the priest, then repeated by the choir)

VARIES,
CONT.

PRIEST

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life.

CHOIR

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down
Death by death, and upon those in the tomb
bestowing life.**

THE GREAT LITANY

VARIES If a Bishop serves, he says the Prayer of Oblation quietly during this Litany. It is not included here.

DEACON In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For the peace that is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For the peace of the whole world; for the welfare of God's holy Churches, and for the union of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For this holy Temple, and for those who with faith, devoutness, and in the fear of God have entered therein, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For our Holy Synod (or Patriarch); for our Bishop (or Archbishop, or Metropolitan), N.; for the honourable Presbytery, the Diaconate in Christ; for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

VARIES Petitions for the civil authorities: these differ by country and parish.

Here follow petitions for the Ruler of the Land and for all the Authorities (Emperor, or King, and Reigning House, or President,

according to the elements and nationalities of which the Parish is constituted).

DEACON That he will aid them and subdue under their feet every foe and adversary, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For this city, for this holy Temple, and for every city and land, and for those who with faith dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For those who travel by sea or by land; for the sick and the suffering; for those who are in captivity, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON That he will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, peril and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON Calling to remembrance our most holy, undefiled, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR To thee, O Lord.

Exclamation.

PRIEST For unto thee 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.

CHOIR

Amen.

And the Deacon, having made a reverence, shall leave his place, and shall go and stand before the holy picture (ikóna) of Christ, holding his stole with three fingers of his right hand.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

VARIES Antiphons: on feasts these change.

Here shall be sung the First Antiphon, Psalm ciii. (or on the Great Feasts its appointed substitute).

CHOIR

Bless the Lord, O my soul: Blessed art thou, O Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Who forgiveth all thy sin, and healeth all thine infirmities.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and of great goodness.

He will not alway be chiding, neither keepeth he his wrath forever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy Name. Blessed art thou, O Lord.

And the Priest saith, secretly, the Prayer of the First Antiphon.

(said during the Psalm)

**PRIEST,
QUIETLY**

O Lord our God, whose might is ineffable, whose glory is inconceivable, whose mercy is infinite, and whose love toward mankind is unutterable: Look down, O Master, in thy tender compassion, upon us and upon this holy Temple; and deal with us and with those people who here pray with us, according to the riches of thy mercies and thy bounties.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

And at the conclusion of the Antiphon, the Deacon shall come and stand again in his accustomed place, and shall say:

DEACON

Again, yet again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God,
by thy grace.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Calling to remembrance our most holy, undefiled, most
blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver of God and
ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend
ourselves, and each other, and all our life, unto Christ our
God.

CHOIR **To thee, O Lord.**

*While the Priest (likewise the Bishop) saith, secretly, the Prayer of the
Second Antiphon.*

(said during the Little Litany)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY O Lord our God, save thy people, and bless thine heritage. Preserve
the fulness of thy Church: sanctify those who love the beauty of thy
house: glorify them by thy divine might in recompense; and
forsake not us who put our trust in thee.

Exclamation.

PRIEST For thine is the majesty, and thine are 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.

CHOIR **Amen.**

The Deacon shall do as he hath done at the First Antiphon.

VARIES Antiphons: on feasts these change.

*Here shall be sung the Second Antiphon, Psalm cxlvi. (or on the Great
Feasts its appointed substitute).*

CHOIR Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live, will I praise the
Lord; yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises
unto my God.
Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, and
whose hope is in the Lord his God; who made the sea, and
all that therein is; who keepeth his promise forever.

**CHOIR,
CONT.**

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong; who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison; the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen; the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King forevermore.

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

Here shall be sung the Anthem.

CHOIR

O Only-begotten Son and Word of God! Thou who art immortal yet didst deign for our salvation to become incarnate of the Holy Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary; and without change of essence wast made man; who also wast crucified for us, O Christ our God, trampling down Death by death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, and art glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us.

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

DEACON

Again, yet again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

Calling to remembrance our most holy, undefiled, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR

To thee, O Lord.

Then by (the Bishop and) the Priest is said, secretly, the Prayer of the Third Antiphon.

(said during the Little Litany)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O thou, who hast given us grace at this time, with one accord, to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests. Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting them in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

For thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

VARIES Antiphons: on feasts these change.

The Deacon then entereth the Sanctuary, and the Choir chanteth the Third Antiphon.

CHOIR

In thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy Kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**CHOIR,
CONT.**

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Then the Priest, taking the book of the Holy Gospels from the Altar, giveth it to the Deacon; and preceded by a light, they both make the Lesser Entrance.

CHOIR

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven.

The Priest saith the Prayer of the Little Entrance while the last portion of the Beatitudes is being sung.

**PRIEST,
QUIETLY**

O Master, Lord our God, who hast appointed in heaven ranks and hosts of Angels and Archangels for the ministry of thy glory: Cause that with our entrance may enter also the holy Angels with us serving thee, and with us glorifying thy goodness.

For unto thee 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.

VARIES If a Bishop serves, the Entrance and what follows it are served differently. That form is not included here.

The Deacon, taking his stand before the Holy Door, saith:

DEACON

Bless, Master, the Holy Entrance.

PRIEST

Blessed is the Entrance of thy Holy Ones always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Then the Deacon shall go to the Priest, and the Priest shall kiss the book of the Holy Gospels; and the Deacon shall come to the centre of the Holy Door, and there standing in front of the Priest, he shall elevate the Holy Gospels, and shall say, so that all may hear:

DEACON

Wisdom, O believers!

Then shall they go to the Holy Altar; and the Deacon shall lay the Gospels on the Altar, and the Choir shall sing:

CHOIR

**O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save, O Son of God, who didst rise again from the
dead, us who sing unto thee: Alleluia.**

VARIES The refrain changes: on a weekday, "...who art wonderful in the Saints"; at feasts, the proper refrain from the Antiphon of the feast.

Then shall be sung the proper Hymn (Tropár) and Collect-Hymn (Kondák) for the Day.

VARIES The troparia and kontakia change with the day; they are not printed here.

THE THRICE-HOLY

The Prayer of the Thrice-Holy. The Priest, secretly.

(said while the troparia are sung)

**PRIEST,
QUIETLY**

O holy God, who retest in the Saints; who art hymned by the Seraphim with a thrice-holy cry, and glorified by the Cherubim, and adored by every heavenly Power; who out of nothingness hast brought all things into being; who hast created man after thine own image and likeness, and hast adorned him with every gift of thine; who givest unto those that ask of thee wisdom and understanding; who despisest not the sinner, but hast appointed repentance unto salvation; and hast vouchsafed unto us, thy humble and unworthy servants here, at this hour, to stand before the glory of thy holy Altar, and to render unto thee that adoration and praise which are thy due: Do thou, the same Lord, accept from the mouths of us sinners, the Thrice-Holy song, and visit us with thy beneficence. Pardon us every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary. Sanctify both our souls and bodies, and grant that we may serve thee in uprightness all the days of our life: through the intercessions of the holy Birth-giver of God, and of all the Saints of all the ages who have been well-pleasing unto thee.

And when the Choir come to the last Hymn, the Deacon shall say to the Priest, as both bow their heads, and he holdeth his stole with three fingers:

DEACON

Bless, Master, the time of the Thrice-Holy.

And the Priest shall bless him, with the sign of the cross, and shall say, aloud:

PRIEST For holy art thou, O our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever;

And when the Hymn is finished, the Deacon shall come close to the Holy Door, and pointing with his stole, first to the holy picture of Christ, he shall say:

DEACON O Lord, save the God-fearing, and hear us.

Then shall he point, in like manner, to those who stand without, and shall say:

DEACON Even unto ages of ages.

CHOIR **Amen.**

And then the Choir:

CHOIR **O Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.**
(Five times.)

VARIES On certain feasts another hymn replaces the Thrice-Holy.
At Christmas, the Epiphany, on the Eve of Palm Sunday, on Holy Saturday, during Eastertide and at Pentecost, in place of the Thrice-Holy shall be sung:

CHOIR

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

At the Feast of the Setting-up (Exaltation) of the Holy Cross; and at the third week of the Great Fast (Lent), when is the Feast of the Adoration of the Cross, in place of the Thrice-Holy there shall be sung:

CHOIR

Thy Cross do we worship, O Master, and we glorify thy Resurrection.

And the Deacon shall say to the Priest:

DEACON Command, Master.

Then shall they approach the Holy Throne, and as he approacheth, the Priest shall say

(these three lines are said quietly, in the Sanctuary)

PRIEST Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

DEACON Bless, Master, the seat on high.

PRIEST Blessed art thou on the throne of glory of thy kingdom, who sittest on the Cherubim always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

The Priest doth not ascend the High Place, nor sit upon it, but taketh his seat beside it, to the south.

THE EPISTLE

After the Thrice-Holy, the Deacon shall say:

DEACON Let us attend.

PRIEST Peace be with you all.

READER And with thy spirit.

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The Gradual (Prokímen), in the ... Tone.

VARIES The prokeimenon changes with the day and the tone; it is not printed here. (Hapgood gives the eight Sunday prokeimena.)

DEACON Wisdom!

READER The Lesson from the Epistle of the holy Apostle (N. to the N.).

DEACON Let us attend.

The Reader then readeth the Epistle: Brethren ...

VARIES The Epistle changes with the day; it is not printed here.

And while the Epistle is being read, the Deacon shall take the censer, and approaching the Priest shall receive his blessing, and shall cense the Holy Altar round about, and all the Sanctuary, and the Priest, and the People.

And when the Epistle is finished, the Priest shall say:

PRIEST Peace be with thee.

READER

And with thy spirit.

DEACON

Wisdom!

READER

Alleluia.

VARIES The Alleluia verses change with the day; they are not printed here.

THE GOSPEL

The Prayer before the Gospel. The Priest, secretly.

(said while the Alleluia is sung)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Illumine our hearts, O God who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our understanding to the comprehension of the proclamation of thy Gospel. Implant in us, likewise, the fear of thy blessed commandments; that, trampling down all carnal desires, we may pursue a godly life, both thinking and performing such things as are well-pleasing unto thee.

For thou art the light of our souls, and of our bodies, O Christ our God, and unto thee do we ascribe glory, together with thy Father who is from everlasting, and thy holy, and blessed, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VARIES Served only when a Deacon serves.

All this is omitted, if the Priest serve without a Deacon.

Then the Deacon, having set the censer in its proper place, shall come to the Priest, and bowing his head, and holding his stole and the book of the Holy Gospels with the tips of his fingers, at the Holy Altar, shall say:

DEACON

Bless, Master, him who proclaimeth the good tidings of the holy Apostle and Evangelist, N.

VARIES,
CONT.

And the Bishop or the Priest, blessing him with the sign of the cross, shall say:

PRIEST

May God, through the intercessions of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist, N., grant utterance with great power unto thee, who proclaimest the good tidings; unto the fulfilment of the Gospel of his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

DEACON

Amen.

Then the Deacon doeth reverence to the book of the Holy Gospels, and taketh it, and goeth out through the Holy Door, preceded by a taper, and standeth on the tribune, or on the place prepared. And the Priest, standing before the Holy Altar, with his face to the west, proclaimeth:

PRIEST

Wisdom, O believers! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.
Peace be with you all.

CHOIR

And with thy spirit.

DEACON

The Lesson from the Holy Gospel according to N.

CHOIR

Glory to thee, O Lord; glory to thee.

PRIEST

Let us attend.

And the Deacon, or the Priest, if there be no Deacon, readeth the Gospel; and when he hath finished, the Priest shall say:

VARIES The Gospel changes with the day; it is not printed here.

PRIEST

Peace be unto thee, who hast announced the good tidings.

CHOIR

Glory to thee, O Lord; glory to thee.

Then the Deacon shall go to the Holy Door, and shall give the book of the Gospels to the Priest, who placeth it on the Altar, behind the corporal (antimíns).

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

And the Deacon, standing in his accustomed place, shall say.

DEACON

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

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we beseech thee,
hearken, and have mercy.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we
beseech thee: hearken, and have mercy.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

(Thrice.)

VARIES Petitions for the civil authorities: these differ by country and
parish.

*Here follow petitions for the Ruler of the Land and for all the
Authorities (Emperor, or King, and Reigning House, or President,
according to the elements and nationalities of which the Parish is
constituted).*

DEACON For our Holy Synod (or Patriarch); for our Bishop (or
Archbishop, or Metropolitan), N.; for the honourable
Presbytery, the Diaconate in Christ; for all the clergy and the
laity.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

(Thrice.)

DEACON Furthermore we pray for all their Christ-loving Army and
Navy.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

(Thrice.)

DEACON Furthermore we pray for our brethren the Priests; for
ordained Monks, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

(Thrice.)

DEACON Furthermore we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable
most holy Orthodox Patriarchs, and God-fearing Orthodox
rulers; and for the founders of this holy Temple; and for all
our devout fathers and brethren, Orthodox believers,
departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie
asleep in the Lord.

(adapted: the 1906 text prays for the Russian Emperor and his house; here and below, those prayers are adapted to our government authorities, our bishop and our synod)

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**
(Thrice.)

DEACON Furthermore we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-honourable Temple; for those who labour in its service; for the singers; and for the people here present, who await in firm hope thy great and rich mercies.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**
(Thrice.)

The Prayer of the Litany of Fervent Supplication. The Priest, secretly.
(said during the Litany)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY O Lord our God, accept this, the fervent supplication of thy servants, and be gracious unto us, according to the multitude of thy mercy; and send down thy bounties upon us, and upon all thy people, who here await the rich mercy which is from thee.

The corporal (antimíns) is now unfolded, except the upper edge.
Exclamation.

PRIEST For thou art a merciful God, who lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR **Amen.**

VARIES The 1906 text adds here, in Russia, a prayer for the Emperor.
It is not included here.

THE LITANY FOR THE DEPARTED

VARIES Said only when there are offerings on behalf of the departed.
And if there be offerings on behalf of the dead, the Deacon or the Priest shall say the following Litany:

DEACON

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we beseech thee: hearken, and have mercy.

VARIES,
CONT.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

(Thrice.)

DEACON

Furthermore we pray for the repose of the souls of the servants of God departed this life, NN.; and that thou wilt pardon all their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

(Thrice.)

DEACON

That the Lord God will establish their souls where the just repose.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

(Thrice.)

DEACON

The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the remission of our sins we entreat of Christ, our King Immortal and our God.

CHOIR

Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

The Priest, secretly.

PRIEST, QUIETLY

O God of spirits, and of all flesh, who hast trampled down death, and overthrown the Devil, and given life unto thy world: Do thou, the same Lord, give rest to the souls of thy departed servants, NN., in a place of brightness, a place of verdure, a place of repose, whence all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which they have committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought. For thou art a good God, and lovest mankind; because there is no man who liveth and sinneth not; for thou only art without sin, and thy righteousness is to all eternity, and thy word is true.

VARIES,
CONT.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

For thou art the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of thy departed servants, NN., O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thy Father, who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

THE LITANY OF THE CATECHUMENS

DEACON Pray ye unto the Lord, ye Catechumens.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Ye faithful, pray ye unto the Lord for the Catechumens; that the Lord will have mercy upon them.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON That he will teach them the word of truth.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON That he will reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON That he will unite them unto his Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Save them, have mercy upon them, succour them, and keep them, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Bow your heads unto the Lord, ye Catechumens.

CHOIR **To thee, O Lord.**

The Prayer for the Catechumens. The Priest, secretly.

(said during the Litany)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O Lord our God, who dwellest in the heavens, and lookest down upon all thy works: Look upon thy servants, the Catechumens, who have bowed their necks before thee, and grant them the light yoke. Make them honourable members of thy holy Church; and vouchsafe unto them the laver of regeneration, the remission of sins, and the robe of incorruption, unto the knowledge of thee, our true God.

Here the last edge of the corporal is spread out.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

That with us they may magnify thine 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.

CHOIR

Amen.

The Priest maketh the sign of the cross over the corporal with the sponge, which he then kisseth, and layeth on one side.

DEACON

Depart, all ye Catechumens, depart. Depart, all ye Catechumens: let no Catechumen remain: but let us who are in the faith again, yet again, in peace pray unto the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

THE LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITANIES OF THE FAITHFUL

DEACON

Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

The First Prayer of the Faithful. The Priest, secretly.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Thou, O Lord, hast shown us this great mystery of salvation. Thou hast graciously permitted us, thy humble and unworthy servants, to be the ministrants of thy holy Altar. Do thou enable us with the power of thy Holy Spirit for this ministry; that, standing uncondemned before thy holy glory, we may offer unto thee an oblation of praise. For thou art he who worketh all things in all men. Grant, therefore, O Lord, that our sacrifice for our own sins, and for the errors of thy people, may be acceptable and well-pleasing in thy sight.

Exclamation.

PRIEST For unto thee are due all honour, glory and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR **Amen.**

DEACON Again, yet again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

VARIES Served only when a Deacon serves.

When the Priest serveth without a Deacon, the following part of this Litany is omitted as indicated.

DEACON

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

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

For the peace of the whole world; for the welfare of God's holy Churches, and for the union of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

For this holy Temple, and for those who with faith, devoutness, and in the fear of God have entered therein, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

That he will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, peril and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

The Second Prayer of the Faithful. The Priest, secretly.

(said during the Litany)

**PRIEST,
QUIETLY**

O God, who in mercy and bounties hast visited our lowliness; who hast set us, thy humble, and sinful, and unworthy servants before thy holy glory, to serve thy holy Altar: Strengthen us by the power of thy Holy Spirit for this ministry, and grant us utterance, in the opening of our lips, to invoke the grace of thy Holy Spirit upon the Gifts which we are about to set forth.

DEACON

Wisdom!

Then shall the Deacon enter through the north door.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

That being kept always by thy might, we may ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

THE CHERUBIC HYMN

VARIES On some days another hymn replaces the Cherubic Hymn (for example on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday); it is not printed here.

The Cherubimic Hymn.

CHOIR

Let us, the Cherubim mystically representing, and unto the Life-giving Trinity the thrice-holy chant intoning, all cares terrestrial now lay aside.

(Here the Great Entrance, with the Holy Gifts, is made. And after it the Hymn is finished:)

(the end of the hymn, "That we may raise on high the King of all...", follows the Great Entrance below)

The Prayer of the Cherubimic Hymn. The Priest, secretly.

(said while the Cherubic Hymn is sung)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

No one who is in bondage unto carnal desires and sensual pleasures is worthy to approach, or to come near, or to serve thee, O King of Glory: For to serve thee is a great and terrible thing even to the Heavenly Powers. Nevertheless, through thine unutterable and boundless love toward mankind thou didst become man, yet without change, and without transmutation, and art become our High Priest, and hast committed unto us the ministry of this unbloody Sacrifice, in that thou art Lord over all. For thou alone, O Lord our God, rulest over those in heaven and on earth; who art borne on the throne of the Cherubim; who art Lord of the Seraphim and King over Israel; who alone art holy and retest in the Saints. Therefore do I now make my entreaty unto thee, who alone art good and art ready to listen: Look down upon me, a sinner, and thine unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and my heart from an evil conscience; and by the might of thy Holy Spirit enable me, who am endued with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this thy holy Altar, and perform the sacred Mystery of thy Holy and Pure Body and Precious Blood. For unto thee do I draw near, and bowing my neck I implore thee: turn not thy face from me, neither cast me out from among thy children; but graciously vouchsafe that I, a sinner and thine unworthy servant, may offer unto thee these Holy Gifts. For it is thou who offerest and art offered, who receivest and art thyself received, O Christ our God: and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thy Father, who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Then the Deacon taketh the censer, and having received the Priest's blessing, he censeth the Holy Altar round about, and the Sanctuary, saying, secretly, to himself, Psalm li.: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy great goodness. Then the Priest and Deacon stand before the Altar, and make three reverences, saying:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O God, cleanse thou me, a sinner.

The Priest, elevating his hands, saith in a low voice: Let us, the Cherubim mystically representing ... now lay aside. (Thrice.) Then each

finisheth the Hymn: That we may raise on high ... And they kiss the Altar, and go to the Chapel of Oblation, which the Priest censeth.

THE GREAT ENTRANCE

Then shall the Deacon say to the Priest:

DEACON Take up, Master.

And the Priest, taking the air (vózdukh), shall lay it on the Deacon's left shoulder, and shall say:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY Lift up your hands unto the Holy Things, and bless the Lord.

Then taking the holy paten (dískos), in like manner, he shall set it on the head of the Deacon, with all reverence, the Deacon holding the censer the while on one of his fingers. But the Priest himself shall take in his hand the holy chalice (potír), and they shall go forth through the north door, preceded by a taper, and shall stand facing the People.

DEACON Our government authorities, may the Lord God remember in his kingdom always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Our Holy Synod, and our Bishop, N., may the Lord God remember in his kingdom always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PRIEST All you Orthodox Christians, may the Lord God remember in his kingdom always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR **Amen.**

Then the Choir finisheth the Cherubimic Hymn:

CHOIR **That we may raise on high the King of all, like conqueror on shield and spears, by the Angelic Hosts invisibly uponborne.**

Then the Deacon shall enter in through the Holy Door, and shall take his stand on the right, and shall say to the Priest, as the latter entereth:
(said quietly, in the Sanctuary, to the end of this section)

DEACON May the Lord God remember thy priesthood in his kingdom.

And the Priest shall say to him:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY May the Lord God remember thy diaconate in his kingdom always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Then the Priest shall set the holy chalice upon the Holy Altar, to the right; taking the holy paten from the head of the Deacon, he shall place it also upon the Holy Altar, to the left, saying:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Noble Joseph, when he had taken thy pure Body from the tree, did wrap it in fine linen and spices, and sorrowing did lay it in a new sepulchre.

In the Grave with the body, but in Hell with the soul, in that thou art God; in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, wast thou, O Christ, filling all things, in that thou art infinite.

How life-giving, how than Paradise more fair and, of a truth, more splendid than any king's chamber, O Christ, is shown forth thy tomb, the fountain of our resurrection.

Then shall he take the veils from the holy paten and the holy chalice, and shall lay them on one side of the Holy Altar; and having taken the air from the Deacon's shoulder, and censed it, he shall cover therewith the Holy Gifts, and shall say:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Noble Joseph, when he had taken thy pure Body from the tree, did wrap it in fine linen and spices, and sorrowing did lay it in a new sepulchre.

Then taking the censer from the hands of the Deacon, he shall thrice cense the Holy Gifts, saying:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Exalt thou Zion in thy favour, O Lord, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with sacrifices and burnt-offerings; then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

Then he shall give the censer to the Deacon, and shall bow his head, saying:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Remember me, O brother, and fellow-minister.

And the Deacon shall say to him:

DEACON

May the Lord God remember thy priesthood in his kingdom.

The Deacon also, bowing his head, and holding his stole with three fingers of his right hand, shall say to the Priest:

DEACON

Pray for me, holy Master.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

May the Holy Spirit come upon thee, and the power of the Most High overshadow thee.

DEACON May the Holy Spirit himself minister together with us, and
with you, all the days of our life.

And again:

DEACON Pray for me, holy Master.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY May the Lord God remember you (thee) in his kingdom always,
now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

DEACON Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For these Holy Elements now spread forth, let us pray to the
Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON For this holy Temple, and for all those who with faith,
devoutness, and in the fear of God have entered therein, let
us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON That he will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, peril and
necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God,
by thy grace.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

DEACON A day all-perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us beseech of
the Lord.

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON An Angel of Peace, the faithful guide and guardian both of our
souls and bodies, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON The pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let
us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR **Grant it, O Lord.**

DEACON All things which are profitable to our souls and bodies, and peace to the world, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR **Grant it, O Lord.**

DEACON That we may pass the residue of our life in peace and penitence, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR **Grant it, O Lord.**

DEACON A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defence before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR **Grant it, O Lord.**

DEACON Calling to remembrance our most holy, undefiled, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR **To thee, O Lord.**

The Bishop, or Priest, secretly.

(said during the Litany)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O Lord our God, who hast created us, and hast brought us into this life; who hast shown us the way of salvation, graciously bestowing upon us the revelation of heavenly Mysteries: Thou art he who hath appointed us to this ministry in the power of thy Holy Spirit. Graciously grant us, therefore, O Lord, to be servitors of thy new Covenant, ministers of thy Holy Mysteries. Accept us who draw near to thy holy Altar, according to the plenitude of thy mercy, that we may be worthy to offer unto thee this reasonable and unbloody sacrifice, for our own sins, and for the errors of thy people: which do thou accept upon thy holy, and heavenly, and supersensual Altar for the savour of a sweet odour. Send down upon us the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Look upon us, O God, and behold this our service, and accept it as thou didst accept the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah, the burnt-offerings of Abraham, the priestly offices of Moses and Aaron, the peace-offerings of Samuel. Even as thou didst accept at the hands of the holy Apostles this true ministry, so also do thou in thy beneficence, O Lord, accept from the hands of us sinners these gifts; that having been accounted worthy blamelessly to minister at thy holy Altar, we may receive the recompense of wise and faithful stewards, in the terrible day of thy just requiring.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

Through the bounties of thine Only-begotten Son, with whom thou art glorified, together with the most holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

THE KISS OF PEACE AND THE CREED

PRIEST

Peace be with you all.

CHOIR

And with thy spirit.

DEACON

Let us love one another, that with one accord we may confess:

CHOIR

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in Essence and undivided.

The Priest shall do reverence, and shall say privately, within himself:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

I will love thee, O Lord my strength; the Lord is my firm foundation, and my deliverer.

(Thrice.)

And he shall kiss the Holy Gifts, they being still covered; first the top of the holy paten, and likewise the top of the holy chalice, and the edge of the Holy Altar before him. If there be several Priests, they shall both kiss all the Holy Things, and each other on the shoulder.

VARIES When several clergy serve, they exchange the kiss of peace in the Sanctuary.

Then the Bishop or Priest shall say:

PRIEST

Christ is in the midst of us.

And having been kissed on the shoulder and on the hand, he is answered:

PRIEST

He is and shall be.

DEACON

The Doors! The Doors! Wisdom! Let us attend.

The Symbol of the Faith.

EVERYONE

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds; Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made; Being of one Essence with the Father; By whom all things were made; Who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. In one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Priest shall fan the Holy Elements with the air. If several Priests take part in the service, they shall all fan the Holy Elements with the air, in like manner, and shall repeat, as do the People also, the Symbol of the Faith.

THE HOLY OFFERING (ANAPHORA)

DEACON Let us stand aright, let us stand with fear, that we may offer in peace the Holy Oblation.

CHOIR A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.

Then the Priest shall take the air from the Holy Elements, and having kissed it, he shall lay it aside.

PRIEST The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

CHOIR And with thy spirit.

PRIEST *(pointing upward).*
Lift up your hearts.

CHOIR We lift them up unto the Lord.

PRIEST Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

CHOIR Meet and right is it that we should adore the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in Essence and undivided.

The (Bishop) Priest shall offer this Prayer, secretly.

(said while the choir sings)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY O thou who in verity existest, Master, Lord God, Father Almighty adorable: Meet is it, in truth, and just and befitting the majesty of thy holiness, that we should magnify thee, praise thee, bless thee, adore thee, give thanks unto thee and glorify thee, the only God which verily existeth, and offer unto thee, with contrite heart and humbleness of spirit, this our reasonable service: for it is thou who hast graciously bestowed upon us the knowledge of thy truth. And who hath power enough to express thy mighty acts, to make all thy praises to be heard, or to utter forth all thy wonders at all times, O Master?

PRIEST,
QUIETLY,
CONT.

O Sovereign Master of all things, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all created things both visible and invisible; who sittest on the throne of glory and beholdest the depths; who art from everlasting, invisible, inscrutable, ineffable, immutable, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our great God and the Saviour, our hope, who is the image of thy goodness, the seal of equal type, in himself showing forth thee, the Father, the living Word, the true God, the Wisdom before all the ages, the Life, the Sanctification, the Might, and the true Light, through whom, also, the Holy Spirit was manifested; the Spirit of Truth, the Gift of Adoption, the Earnest of an inheritance to come, the First-fruits of eternal good things, the life-giving Power, the Fountain of holiness; by whom enabled every creature endowed with reason and intelligence doth serve thee, and evermore doth send up unto thee an everlasting tribute of praise; for all things are thy servants. For Angels and Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, and the many-eyed Cherubim do laud thee. Before thee, round about, stand the Seraphim, having each six wings; for with twain do they cover their faces, and with twain their feet, and with twain do they fly, crying one to another continually, with never-ceasing praises.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

Singing the triumphant song, crying, calling aloud, and saying:

CHOIR

Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Hosanna in the highest: Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Deacon now taking the holy star-cover from the holy paten, shall make the sign of the cross above it, and shall kiss it, and lay it on one side. He shall then go and stand on the right of the Holy Altar.

The Priest prayeth, secretly.

(said while the choir sings)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

With these blessed Powers, O Master who lovest mankind, we sinners also do cry aloud and say: Holy art thou, of a truth, and all-holy, and there are no bounds to the majesty of thy holiness, and just art thou in all thy works; for in righteousness and true judgment hast thou ordered all things for us. When thou hadst created man, and hadst fashioned him from the dust of the earth, and hadst honoured him with thine own image, O God, thou didst set him in the midst of a Paradise of plenty, promising him life eternal and the enjoyment of everlasting good things in keeping thy commandments. But when he disobeyed thee, the true God, who had created him, and was led astray by the guile of the serpent, and rendered subject to death through his own transgressions, thou didst banish him, in thy righteous judgment, O God, from Paradise into this present world, and didst turn him again to the earth from which he was taken, providing for him the salvation of regeneration, which is in thy Christ himself. For thou didst not turn thyself away forever from thy creature, whom thou hadst made, O Good One, neither didst thou forget the work of thy hands; but thou didst visit him in divers manners, through the tender compassion of thy mercy. Thou didst send forth Prophets; thou didst perform mighty works by thy Saints who, in every generation, were well-pleasing unto thee; thou didst speak to us by the mouths of thy servants the Prophets, who foretold unto us the salvation which was to come; thou didst give us the Law to aid us; thou didst appoint guardian Angels.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY,
CONT.

And when the fulness of time was come, thou didst speak unto us by thy Son himself, by whom also thou madest the ages; who, being the Brightness of thy glory, and the Express Image of thy Person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, thought it no robbery to be equal to thee, the God and Father. But albeit he was God before all the ages, yet he appeared upon earth and dwelt among men; and was incarnate of a Holy Virgin, and did empty himself, taking on the form of a servant, and becoming conformed to the fashion of our lowliness, that he might make us conformable to the image of his glory. For as by man sin entered into the world, and by sin death, so it seemed good unto thine Only-begotten Son, who is in thy bosom, our God and Father, to be born of a woman, the holy Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary; to be born under the Law, that he might condemn sin in the flesh; that they who were dead in Adam might be made alive in thy Christ. And becoming a dweller in this world, and giving commandments of salvation, he released us from the delusions of idols, and brought us unto a knowledge of thee, the true God and Father, having won us unto himself for a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; and having purified us with water, and sanctified us with his Holy Spirit, he gave himself a ransom to Death, whereby we were held, sold into bondage under sin. And having descended into Hell through the Cross, that he might fill all things with himself, he loosed the pains of death, and rose again from the dead on the third day, making a way for all flesh through the Resurrection from the dead (for it was not possible that the Author of Life should be holden of corruption), that he might be the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the first-born from the dead; and he shall be all things, the first in all things. And ascending into heaven, he sat down at the right hand of thy Majesty on high; and he shall come again to render unto every man according to his works. And he hath left with us, as memorials of his saving Passion, these Things which we have spread forth according to his commandment. For when he was about to go forth to his voluntary, and ever-memorable, and life-creating death, in the night in which he gave himself for the life of the world, he took bread in his holy and stainless hands, and when he had shown it unto thee, his God and Father, he gave thanks, blessing it, sanctifying it, and breaking it, he gave it to his holy disciples and apostles, saying:

Exclamation.

PRIEST Take, eat, this is my Body which is broken for you, for the remission of sins.

As he saith this, the Deacon shall point out the holy paten to the Priest, holding his stole with three fingers of his right hand.

The Priest, secretly.

PRIEST, In like manner, having taken the Cup of the fruit of the vine, and
QUIETLY mingled it, given thanks, blessed it, and sanctified it,

Exclamation.

PRIEST He gave it to his holy disciples and apostles, saying:

As he saith this, the Deacon pointeth to the holy chalice.

PRIEST Drink ye all of this

The Priest, secretly.

PRIEST, This do, in remembrance of me: for as often as ye shall eat this
QUIETLY Bread and drink of this Cup ye do proclaim my death and confess
my Resurrection.

Wherefore, we also, O Master, having in remembrance his redeeming Passion and life-giving Cross, his three days' Burial, and his Resurrection from the dead, his Ascension into Heaven, and his Sitting on the right hand of thee, the God and Father, and his glorious and terrible Coming-again:

Exclamation.

PRIEST Thine own, of thine own, we offer unto thee, in behalf of all, and for all.

Here the Deacon, crossing his hands, shall lift up the holy paten and the holy chalice, and making with them the sign of the cross, he shall himself make a humble reverence.

CHOIR **We praise thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thee, O Lord, and we pray unto thee, O our God.**

The Priest prayeth, secretly.

(said while the choir sings; from here to "Especially" the people often kneel or bow, as their parish does)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Wherefore, O all-holy Master, we also, thy sinful and unworthy servants, whom thou hast graciously permitted to minister at thy holy Altar, not through our own righteousness (for we have done no good deed on earth), but because of thy mercies and bounties, which thou hast richly poured out upon us, now have boldness to draw near unto this, thy holy Altar; and presenting unto thee the holy emblems of the sacred Body and Blood of thy Christ, we pray thee and implore thee, O Holy of Holies, by the favour of thy goodness, that thy Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these Gifts here spread forth before thee, and bless them, and sanctify and manifest them.

Then the Deacon shall approach the Priest; and standing side by side, they shall both make three lowly reverences before the Holy Altar, praying silently thus:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O Lord, who at the Third Hour didst send down upon thine Apostles thy Holy Spirit: Take not the same from us, O Good One, but renew it in us who make our supplications unto thee.

DEACON

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O Lord, who at the Third Hour ...

DEACON

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O Lord, who at the Third Hour ...

Then the Deacon, bowing his head and pointing with his stole to the Holy Bread, shall say:

DEACON

Bless, Master, the Holy Bread.

And the Priest, standing erect, shall sign the Holy Bread with the sign of the cross, and shall say:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

For this bread is in very truth the precious Body of our Lord, and God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

DEACON

Amen. Bless, Master, the holy chalice.

And the Priest shall bless it, and shall say:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

For this chalice, in very truth the precious Blood of our Lord, and God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ

(Deacon. Amen)

, which was poured out for the life of the world.

DEACON

Amen.

And again, the Deacon, pointing to both the Holy Elements, shall say:

DEACON

Master, bless both.

And the Priest, blessing both, shall say:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Transmuting them by thy Holy Spirit.

DEACON

Amen, amen, amen.

And bowing his head to the Priest, the Deacon shall say:

DEACON

Bear me in remembrance, holy Master.

And the Priest shall say:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

May the Lord God remember thee in his kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON

Amen.

The Priest prayeth.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

And unite all us who partake of the one Bread and the one Cup, one to another in the communion of the Holy Spirit; and grant that no one of us may partake of that holy Body and Blood of thy Christ unto judgment or unto condemnation; but that we may find mercy and grace, together with all the Saints who, in all the ages, have been acceptable unto thee, our ancestors, fathers, the Patriarchs, Apostles, Preachers, Evangelists, Martyrs, Confessors, Teachers; and with the spirits of just men made perfect in the faith:

And the Deacon shall cense the Holy Altar round about, and shall make mention of the living and of the dead.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

Then the Priest shall say, aloud:

PRIEST

Especially our most holy, all-undefiled, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Birth-giver of God and ever-virgin Mary:

VARIES On the great feasts another hymn to the Birth-giver of God replaces this one; it is not printed here.

CHOIR

In thee rejoiceth, O thou who art full of Grace, every created being, the Hierarchy of the Angels, and all mankind, O Consecrated Temple and supersensual Paradise, Glory of Virgins, of whom God, who is our God before all the ages, was incarnate and became a little child. For he made of thy womb a throne, and thy belly did he make more spacious than the heavens. In thee doth all Creation rejoice, O thou who art full of Glory: Glory to thee.

The Priest, secretly.

(said while the hymn is sung)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

And Saint John, the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist; the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; Saint N.

(the Saint of the day)

, whose memory we commemorate; and all thy Saints: through whose prayers visit thou us, O God, and call to remembrance all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of Resurrection unto life eternal.

(Here he maketh mention of the Names, in the order of their rank.)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

And give them rest where the light of thy countenance shall visit them.

Have in remembrance, also, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, which is from end to end of the Universe; and give peace unto Her whom thou hast purchased with the precious Blood of thy Christ: and establish thou firmly this holy Temple, even unto the end of the world. Remember, O Lord, those who have offered unto thee these Gifts; and those for whom, and by whom, and in behalf of whom they have offered them.

Have in remembrance, O Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches, and those who are mindful of the poor. Requite them with thy rich and heavenly gifts. Give them things heavenly for things earthly; things eternal for things temporal; things incorruptible for things corruptible.

Have in remembrance, O Lord, those who are in the deserts, and mountains, and caverns, and in the subterranean pits of the earth.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY,
CONT.

Have in remembrance, O Lord, all those who continue in virginity and godliness, and in asceticism and devoutness of life.

VARIES The 1906 text adds here, in Russia, a prayer for the Emperor and the Reigning House. It is not included here. The prayer for all rulers follows.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Have in remembrance, O Lord, all Rulers and Authorities, as also our brethren who are in their Council; and all their Army and Navy. In their goodness, preserve thou the good, and through thine own goodness make thou the evil good.

Have in remembrance, O Lord, this congregation here present, and those who are absent for reasonable cause; and have mercy upon them and upon us, according to the multitude of thy mercies. Fill their treasuries with every good thing; maintain their marriage-bond in peace and concord; rear the infants; guide the young; support the aged; encourage the faint-hearted. Collect the scattered, and turn them from their wandering astray, and unite them to thy Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Set at liberty those who are vexed by unclean spirits; voyage with those who voyage, journey with those who journey; defend the widows; protect the orphans; free the captives; heal the sick. Have in remembrance those who are under trial, and in the mines, and in exile, and in bitter slavery, and in all affliction, distress and tribulation.

Have in remembrance, O God, all those who invoke thy great loving-kindness; those also who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have enjoined us, unworthy though we are, that we should pray for them; and all thy people, O Lord our God: And upon them all pour out thy rich mercy, granting unto all such of their petitions as are unto salvation. And those whom we, through ignorance, or forgetfulness, or the multitude of names, have not remembered, do thou thyself call to mind, O God, who knowest the age and the name of each, and knowest every man even from his mother's womb. For thou, O Lord, art the Helper of the helpless, the Hope of the hopeless, the Saviour of the storm-tossed, the Haven of the voyager, the Healer of the sick. Be thyself all things unto all men, O thou who knowest every man, his petition, his abode, and his need. Deliver, O Lord, this city, and every city and land from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, the invasion of enemies, and from civil war.

And when the Hymn is finished, the Priest shall say, aloud:

PRIEST

Among the first have in remembrance, O Lord, our Holy Synod

(or Patriarch)

; and grant that they

(or he)

may rightly dispense unto thy Church the word of thy truth, in peace, safety, health, honour and length of days.

And the Choir singeth:

CHOIR

And all the people.

VARIES At a bishop's service the deacon here commemorates the bishop and our government authorities aloud; it is not printed here.

The Deacon then commemorateth the living, while the Priest prayeth, secretly.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Have in remembrance, O Lord, every Bishopric of the Orthodox which rightly administereth the word of thy truth. Have in remembrance, also, O Lord, my unworthiness, according to the multitude of thy bounties; pardon me every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary, and withhold not, because of my sins, the grace of thy Holy Spirit from the Gifts now spread forth unto thee. Have in remembrance, O Lord, the Priesthood, as also the Diaconate in Christ, and all sacerdotal orders, and put not to confusion any one of us who stand about thy holy Altar. Visit us with thy loving-kindness, O Lord; manifest thyself unto us in thy rich bounties. Vouchsafe unto us temperate and healthful seasons. Give gentle showers upon the earth, unto fruitfulness. Bless the crown of the year of thy beneficence. Make schisms to cease in the Church. Quench the ragings of the nations; speedily destroy, by the might of thy Holy Spirit, all uprisings of heresies. Receive us all into thy kingdom, making us children of the light and of the day; and grant unto us thy peace, and thy love, O Lord our God; for all things hast thou given unto us.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

And grant that with one mouth and one heart we may glorify and praise thine 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.

CHOIR **Amen.**

And turning to the People and blessing them, the Priest saith:

PRIEST And may the mercy of the great God, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, be with you all.

CHOIR **And with thy spirit.**

THE LITANY BEFORE THE LORD'S PRAYER

And the Deacon shall stand at his accustomed place, and shall say:

DEACON Calling to remembrance all the Saints, again, yet again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON For the Precious Gifts which have been offered and sanctified, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON That our God, who loveth mankind, will accept them upon his holy, and most heavenly, and supersensual Altar, for an odour of spiritual fragrance; and will send down upon us in return his divine grace and the gift of his Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON That he will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, peril and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR **Lord, have mercy.**

DEACON A day all-perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR **Grant it, O Lord.**

DEACON An Angel of Peace, the faithful guide and guardian both of our souls and bodies, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR

Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON

The pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR

Grant it, O Lord.

The Priest prayeth, secretly.

(said during the Litany)

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O our God, the God of salvation, do thou teach us how we may worthily give thanks unto thee for thy benefits, which thou hast ever bestowed and yet dost bestow upon us. Do thou, O our God, who acceptest these Gifts, purify us from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and teach us to perfect holiness in thy fear; that we, receiving a portion of thy Holy Things in the witness of a pure conscience toward thee, may be made one with the holy Body and Blood of thy Christ; and that having received them worthily, we may have Christ abiding in our hearts, and may become a Temple of thy Holy Spirit.

Yea, O our God, cause also that none of us may be guilty of these thy terrible and heavenly Mysteries, or sick in soul or in body through an unworthy partaking of the same: but enable us, even unto our last breath, worthily to receive a portion of thy Holy Things, which is a support upon the road to life eternal, an acceptable defence at the dread Judgment Seat of thy Christ. That we also, together with all the Saints who, in all the ages, have been acceptable unto thee, may be made partakers of thine everlasting blessedness, which thou hast prepared for those who love thee, O Lord.

DEACON

All things which are profitable to our souls, and peace to the world, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR

Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON

That we may pass the residue of our life in peace and penitence, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR

Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defence before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us beseech of the Lord.

CHOIR

Grant it, O Lord.

DEACON Having made our petition 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.

CHOIR To thee, O Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Exclamation.

PRIEST And vouchsafe, O Lord, that boldly and without condemnation we may call upon thee, God the heavenly Father, and say:

The People: (Here the Deacon bindeth his stole about him in the form of a cross.)

EVERYONE 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 the Evil One:

Exclamation.

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.

CHOIR Amen.

PRIEST Peace be with you all.

CHOIR And with thy spirit.

DEACON Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR To thee, O Lord.

The Priest prayeth, secretly.

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

O Master, Lord, the Father of bounties, and the God of all comfort, bless, sanctify, guard, strengthen, fortify those who have bowed their heads unto thee; withdraw them from every evil work; unite them to every good work; and graciously grant that, without condemnation, they may partake of these, thy pure and life-giving Mysteries, unto the remission of their sins, and unto the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

Through the grace, and bounties, and love toward mankind of thine Only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

The Priest prayeth, secretly:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Give heed from thy holy dwelling-place, and from the throne of glory of thy kingdom, and come and sanctify us, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, who sittest on high with the Father, and art invisibly here with us. And deign, with thine own mighty hand, to impart thine all-pure Body and most precious Blood unto us, and through us unto all the people.

Then the Priest shall do homage, and the Deacon, standing before the Holy Door, shall repeat, secretly, thrice:

DEACON

O God, cleanse thou me, a sinner.

When the Deacon seeth the Priest stretch out his hand and touch the Holy Bread in the act of making the Holy Oblation, he shall say, loudly:

DEACON

Let us attend.

Here the Holy Door is closed, and the curtain is drawn.

HOLY THINGS UNTO THE HOLY

And the Priest, as he elevateth the Holy Bread, shall say:

PRIEST

Holy things unto the Holy.

CHOIR

One only is holy, one only is the Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

VARIES The communion hymn (kinonikon) changes with the day, the saint or the feast. Sunday's is given here.

Then shall the Choir chant the Anthem for the Day (or of the Saint, or of the Feast):

CHOIR

Praise ye the Lord from heaven: praise him in the height. Alleluia.

THE COMMUNION OF THE CLERGY

(Behind the closed doors, the clergy now receive Communion.)

THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Then the Holy Door is opened, and the Deacon, making a reverence, shall approach the Holy Door; and he taketh from the Bishop or the Priest the holy chalice, and elevating it, he saith.

DEACON

In the fear of God and with faith draw near.

CHOIR

**Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord;
God is the Lord and hath revealed himself unto us.**

VARIES Eastertide: added in the Paschal season.

CHOIR

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down
Death by death, and upon those in the tomb
bestowing life.**

VARIES If there are communicants. Holy Communion is given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared for it; customs (confession, fasting) differ by parish. If you are visiting, please ask the priest before you come forward.

Those who desire to communicate shall then approach. They shall come singly, and shall do reverence, with all devoutness and awe, with their hands crossed on their breasts: and in this manner shall they receive the Holy Mysteries, after the Priest hath said aloud the Prayer:

(In most parishes the priest leads and everyone says these prayers together.)

VARIES,
CONT.

EVERYONE

I believe, O Lord, and I confess, that thou art, in very truth, the Christ, the Son of the living God, who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is, of a truth, thine all-pure Body, and that this is thine own precious Blood. Wherefore, I beseech thee, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, whether voluntary or involuntary; whether of word or of deed; whether committed with knowledge or in ignorance. And vouchsafe that I may partake without condemnation of thine all-pure Mysteries, unto the remission of my sins, and unto life eternal.

EVERYONE

Of thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me to-day as a communicant: for I will not speak of thy Mystery to thine enemies, neither, like Judas, will I give thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess thee: Remember me, O Lord, in thy kingdom.

EVERYONE

And let not this participation in thy Holy Mysteries be unto judgment upon me, or unto condemnation, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

And as he communiceth each one, the Priest shall say:

PRIEST

The servant of God, N., partaketh of the precious and holy Body and Blood of our Lord, and God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ, unto the remission of his

(or her)

sins, and unto life everlasting.

And as each person is communicated, the Choir singeth:

CHOIR

Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye of the Fountain of Life.

VARIES,
CONT.

Then the communicant's mouth shall be wiped with the holy veil, and he shall kiss the holy chalice, and making a reverence, he shall go aside, where he is given the antidóron and the holy warm water. And when all have finished, the Choir singeth.

CHOIR

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

And the Priest shall set the chalice on the Altar, and shall bless the People, saying:

PRIEST

O God, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance.

WE HAVE BEHELD THE TRUE LIGHT

CHOIR

We have beheld the true Light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith. Let us bow down in worship to the Trinity Undivided, for it hath saved us.

VARIES Eastertide: in the Paschal season this is sung instead.

CHOIR

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down
Death by death, and upon those in the tomb
bestowing life.**

Then the Priest and the Deacon shall turn to the Holy Altar; and the Priest shall cense it, saying thrice, to himself:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Be thou exalted in heaven, O God, and thy glory above all the earth.

The Priest, taking the holy paten, shall then set it upon the head of the Deacon; and the Deacon, holding it reverently, shall go to the Table of Oblation, and set it down there.

The Priest, having done reverence also, shall take the holy chalice; and turning to face the Holy Door, he shall look upon the People, while he saith, secretly:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Blessed is our God!

Then, aloud:

PRIEST

Always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

CHOIR

Let our mouths be filled with thy praise, O Lord, that we may extol thy glory, for that thou hast deigned to make us partakers of thy holy, divine, immortal and life-giving Mysteries. Establish us in thy Sanctification, that all the day long we may meditate upon thy righteousness. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

VARIES Eastertide: added in the Paschal season.

CHOIR

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down
Death by death, and upon those in the tomb
bestowing life.**

THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

And the Deacon, coming forth through the north door, and standing in his accustomed place, saith:

DEACON

Having received the divine, holy, pure, immortal, heavenly, life-giving and terrible Mysteries of Christ, O believers, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

Succour us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

DEACON

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

CHOIR

To thee, O Lord.

Then the Priest, folding the corporal (antimíns), shall make over it, with the book of the Holy Gospels, the sign of the cross.

Exclamation.

PRIEST

For thou art our sanctification, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

THE PRAYER BEFORE THE AMBO

PRIEST Let us depart in peace.

CHOIR In the Name of the Lord.

DEACON Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR Lord, have mercy.

Then the Junior Priest cometh forth, and, standing at the foot of the Tribune, readeth the Prayer before the Tribune.

PRIEST O Lord, who blessest those who bless thee, and sanctifiest those who put their trust in thee: Save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Preserve the fulness of thy Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of thy house; glorify them in recompense with thy divine might, and forsake not us who set our hope on thee. Give peace to thy world, and to thy Churches, and to thy Priests, to our government authorities, to the Army and Navy, and to all thy people. For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh from thee, the Father of Lights. And unto thee we ascribe glory, and thanksgiving, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord henceforth and forever.

(Thrice.)

Reader: Psalm xxxiv.

READER

I will alway give thanks unto the Lord: Come, ye children, and hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that lusteth to live, and would fain see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and do good: seek peace, and ensue it. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers. The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and will save such as be of an humble spirit. Great are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of all. He keepeth all his bones, so that not one of them is broken. But misfortune shall slay the ungodly, and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants, and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

VARIES Eastertide: added in the Paschal season.

CHOIR

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down
Death by death, and upon those in the tomb
bestowing life.**

The Deacon shall stand at the right side of the image-screen (ikonostás), before the holy picture (ikóna) of our Lord Christ, holding his stole in his hand, and with bowed head, until the conclusion of the Prayer before the Tribune. And when this hath been said, the Priest shall enter through the Holy Door, and going to the Table of Oblation, he shall say, secretly, the following Prayer:

PRIEST,
QUIETLY

Thou who art the fulfilling of the Law and the Prophets, O Christ our God, and hast accomplished all the dispensation of the Father: Fill thou our hearts with joy and gladness always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

And the Deacon, entering through the north door, shall consume the Holy Gifts, with all reverence and awe.

When the Deacon hath consumed the Holy Elements, so that no smallest morsel of the broken Bread is allowed to fall or remain; and

hath poured into the holy chalice of the water and the wine, and hath wiped away with the sponge all the moisture, he shall lay the holy vessels together, and set them in their accustomed place, saying: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart: ...

THE DISMISSAL

And when the Psalm hath been read, the Priest shall say:

PRIEST

The blessing of the Lord, through his grace and love towards mankind, be upon you always, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

PRIEST

Glory to thee, O Christ our God; glory to thee.

CHOIR

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Lord, have mercy.

(Thrice.)

Master, bless.

VARIES Eastertide: added in the Paschal season.

CHOIR

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down
Death by death, and upon those in the tomb
bestowing life.**

VARIES The dismissal names the day's saints and changes with the weekday and the feast. Hapgood gives this form; the feasts have their own.

(The Bishop or) the Priest saith the Benediction.

PRIEST

May

(Sunday: he who rose from the dead)

Christ, our true God, through the prayers of his all-holy
Mother

*(Wednesday and Friday: through the might of the precious and
life-giving Cross)*

,

*(Monday: through the intercessions of the honourable Bodiless Powers
of Heaven)*

,

*(Tuesday: of the honourable and glorious Prophet and Forerunner and
Baptist, John)*

, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles

*(Saturday: of the holy, glorious and right victorious Martyrs; of our
reverend and God-bearing Fathers)*

; of our Father among the Saints, Basil the Great,

*(Thursday: of our Father among the Saints, Nicholas, Archbishop of
Myra in Lycia, the Wonder-worker)*

, of Saint N.

(of the Temple)

, of Saint N.

(of the day)

, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and
Anna, and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us,
for he is good and loveth mankind.

VARIES The "Many years" names your parish's own bishop and
authorities.

CHOIR

**Preserve, O Lord, our government authorities, our
Master, the Right Reverend N., Bishop of N., and all
Orthodox Christians, for many years.**

VARIES At the end of the Liturgy, the faithful come forward to venerate the cross and receive a piece of the blessed bread (antidoron). If you're visiting, a parishioner may well notice and bring you a piece; it's a sign of welcome.

The Priest holdeth the cross for the People to kiss, and distributeth the antidóron, after which he withdraweth to the Sanctuary, and the Holy Door is closed.

Here the Divine Liturgy ends. The prayers of thanksgiving after Holy Communion are on our Thanksgiving after Communion page.

Text: Isabel F. Hapgood, *Service Book of the Holy Orthodox-Catholic Apostolic (Greco-Russian) Church* (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1906), pages 80–126, where St. Basil's prayers are printed beside St. John Chrysostom's. Public domain. Scan: archive.org/details/cu31924029363128

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Text: Isabel F. Hapgood, *Service Book of the Holy Orthodox-Catholic Apostolic Church* (1906), public domain in the United States. Adaptations are marked.

Layout and notes © 2026 Simply Orthodox · simplyorthodox.com

Free for personal and parish use; not for sale.

A reading aid, not an official service book. It carries no bishop's blessing. Follow your parish's books and your priest.