

PALM SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY

The Great Doxology

During the Great Doxology, the priest and deacon quietly say the prayers to conclude matins.

Glory to thee, who hast shown us the light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We hymn thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks unto thee for thy great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless thee, and I will praise thy name forever; yea, forever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen.

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. (thrice)

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee.

Lord, I have fled unto thee; teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God.

For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.

O continue thy mercy unto them that know thee.

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

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Troparion of Lazarus, First Tone

O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before thy Passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like the children, carrying the signs of victory, cry to thee, the conqueror of death, Hosanna in the highest. “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.”¹

The Preparation and Opening Dialogue

The priest and deacon, being fully vested, stand together before the holy table, the priest in the center and the deacon at his place at the southwest corner. The priest with hands uplifted says the following prayer while the deacon lifts his orarion:

PRIEST: O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

The priest and deacon make three metanias while the priest says:

PRIEST: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (twice)

O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise. (once)

The priest then kisses the gospel book and the holy table, while the deacon kisses only the southwest corner of the holy table. While the choir sings the appropriate troparion, the deacon bows his head to the priest and holding his orarion with three fingers of his right hand says:

¹ -(Mark 11:9)

DEACON: It is time for the Lord to act. Bless, master.

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the deacon's head, saying:

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen. Pray for me, master.

PRIEST: The Lord direct thy steps unto every good work.

DEACON: Remember me, holy master.

Blessing the deacon the priest says:

PRIEST: The Lord God remember thee in his kingdom, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

Having kissed the priest's hand, the deacon exits the sanctuary, passing the high place, through the north door. Standing at his place in the center of the solea, the deacon makes three metanias before the holy doors, saying each time:

DEACON: O Lord, thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise.

The Enarxis

Lifting his orarion with the three fingers of his right hand, the deacon says aloud:

DEACON: Bless, master.

The priest kisses the gospel book, lifts it up with both hands, and lowers it making with it the sign of the cross over the antiminson and saying with the fear of God:

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.

CHOIR: Amen.

The priest, replaces the gospel book on the antiminson. The deacon, standing before the holy doors, lifts his orarion and intones the petitions of the litany of peace.

The Litany of Peace

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace 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 good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the President of the United States and all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who 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 travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord our God, whose might is beyond compare, whose glory is incomprehensible, whose mercy is infinite, and whose love toward mankind is ineffable: do thou thyself, O Master, in thy tender compassion look down upon us and upon this holy house, and grant us and those who pray with us thy rich mercies and compassion.

PRIEST: For unto thee 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

***The First Antiphon in the Second Tone.
Psalm 116 (114):1,3,4,9.***

CHOIR: *Verse 1.* I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplication.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 2. The anguish of death encompassed me, the perils of Hades laid hold on me.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 3. I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 4. I will walk acceptably before the Lord in the land of the living.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

The following prayer is said in a low voice during the litany and only the exclamation is said aloud.

PRIEST: O Lord our God, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance; preserve the fullness of thy Church, sanctify those who love the beauty of thy house, glorify them in recompense by thy divine power, and forsake us not who hope on thee.

PRIEST: For thine is the might, and 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.

The Second Antiphon in the Second Tone.

Psalm 116 (115):10,12,13,19.

CHOIR: Verse 1. I believed therefore I spoke; but I was greatly afflicted.

Save us, O Son of God, who was seated on the foal of a donkey, as we sing to thee Alleluia.

Verse 2. What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

Save us, O Son of God, who was seated on the foal of a donkey, as we sing to thee Alleluia.

Verse 3. I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Save us, O Son of God, who was seated on the foal of a donkey, as we sing to thee Alleluia.

Verse 4. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of praise, and will pray in the name of the Lord.

Save us, O Son of God, who was seated on the foal of a donkey, as we sing to thee Alleluia.

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

Save us, O Son of God, who was seated on the foal of a donkey, as we sing to thee Alleluia.

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

“O Only-begotten Son”

PEOPLE: O Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, yet didst deign for our salvation to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man; and wast crucified also, O Christ our God, and by thy death didst trample down death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

The Little Litany

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: To thee, O Lord.

The following prayer is said in a low voice during the litany and only the exclamation is said aloud.

PRIEST: O thou who hast bestowed on us these common and united supplications and dost promise that when two or three are of one accord in thy name thou wilt grant their requests: do thou also now fulfil the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this age the knowledge of thy truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Third Antiphon First Tone.

Psalm 118 (117).1,2,3,4.

CHOIR: O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let now the house of Israel say that he is good; for his mercy endures for ever.

Let now the house of Aaron say that he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let now all who fear the Lord say that he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Troparion of Lazarus, in the First Tone

O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before thy Passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like the children, carrying the signs of victory, cry unto thee, the conqueror of death, Hosanna in the highest. “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.”²

The Little Entrance

While the choir chants the third antiphon, the priest and deacon make three metanias before the holy table. The priest lifts the gospel book and gives it to the deacon, who places his orarion over it, kissing the priest's hand. Preceded by the servers, they make the Little Entrance, the priest following the deacon, passing the high place and exiting the sanctuary through the north door, saying as they go:

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Master, Lord our God, who hast appointed in heaven orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of thy glory: Cause that with our entrance there may be an entrance of holy angels serving with us and glorifying thy goodness. For unto thee 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.

² -(Mark 11:9)

DEACON: Amen.

Standing on the solea, to the front and right of the priest, and holding the gospel book on his left shoulder, the deacon points with his right hand and orarion towards the holy doors and says to the priest who stands in the center of the solea:

DEACON: Bless, master, the holy entrance.

The priest blesses toward the east, saying:

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance of thy Saints: always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

The deacon holds the gospel book for the priest to kiss, himself kissing the priest's right hand. When the choir has completed the chanting of the third antiphon, the deacon, standing in the center of the solea in front of the priest and facing east, elevates the gospel book and says:

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

***The Entrance Hymn
Psalm 118 (117): 26, 27.***

PRIEST: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; God is the Lord, and has appeared to us.

PEOPLE: Save us, O Son of God who was seated on a donkey's colt, as we sing to thee, Alleluia.

***Troparion of Lazarus
in the First Tone***

PEOPLE: O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before thy Passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like the children, carrying the signs of victory, cry to thee, the conqueror of death, Hosanna in the highest. "Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord."³

***Troparion of Palm Sunday
in the Fourth Tone***

PEOPLE: O Christ God, enthroned in heaven, and on earth riding upon a foal: thou hast accepted the praise of the angels and the songs of the children who were crying out unto thee: Blessed art thou for thou comest to restore Adam.

The Prayer of the Trisagion

³ -(Mark 11:9)

PRIEST: O holy God, who restest in the holy place, who art hymned by the seraphim with thrice-holy cry, and glorified by the cherubim and worshiped by every heavenly power, who out of nothingness hast brought all things into being, who hast created man according to thine own image and likeness and hast adorned him with thine every gift; who givest to him that askest wisdom and understanding, who despisest not the sinner but hast appointed repentance unto salvation, who hast vouchsafed unto us, thy humble and unworthy servants, even in this hour, to stand before the glory of thy holy altar and to offer the worship and praise which are due unto thee: Thyself, O Master, receive even from the mouth of us sinners the thrice-holy hymn and visit us in thy goodness. Pardon us every transgression both voluntary and involuntary; sanctify our souls and bodies; and grant us to serve thee in holiness all the days of our life, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints, who from the beginning of the world have been well-pleasing unto thee.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

DEACON: And unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Trisagion Hymn

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

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

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

DEACON: Dynamis.

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

The deacon pints to the Prothesis table with his orarion and says:

DEACON: Command, master.

The priest faces the Prothesis with outspread hands and says the following:

PRIEST: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The deacon points to the throne at the high place with his orarion and says the following to the

DEACON: Bless, master, the throne on high.

The priest faces the throne at the high place and with outspread hands says:

PRIEST: Blessed art thou on the throne of the glory of thy kingdom, who are enthroned upon the cherubim, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word The Epistle

After the priest has finished singing the Trisagion, the deacon comes to the Royal doors, faces the people and says aloud:

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. *(Ps.118 (117):26,1)*

DEACON: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians.
(Philippians 4:4-9)

(The People Sit)

DEACON: Let us attend!

READER: Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

PRIEST: Peace be to you who has read.

PEOPLE: Alleluia. *(3 times)*

The Prayer Before the Gospel

PRIEST: Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge; and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of thy gospel teachings; implant in us also the fear of thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto thee. For thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto thee we give glory, together with thine unoriginate Father, and thine all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Gospel

The deacon holding his orarion in his right hand bows before the priest and says:

DEACON: Bless, master, him that proclaims the good tidings of the holy, glorious apostle and evangelist John.

The priest blesses the deacon saying:

PRIEST: May God, through the prayers of the holy, glorious apostle and evangelist John, enable thee to proclaim the good tidings with great power, to the fulfillment of the gospel of his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

DEACON: Amen. Amen. Amen. Let it be to me according to thy word.

The deacon makes one metania, receives the gospel book from the priest, placing his orarion over the book, kissing the right hand of the priest and saying:

DEACON: O holy apostle and evangelist John, intercede with the merciful God that he may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Preceded by a candle-bearer, the deacon exits the sanctuary through the north door and goes to stand at the pulpit or bishop's throne (if he is reading the Holy Gospel, otherwise he faces the people from his place in front of the holy table) and says:

DEACON: Wisdom. Attend, let us hear the Holy Gospel.

The priest blesses the people saying:

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST OR

DEACON: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John. *(John 12:1-18)*

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend!

PRIEST OR

DEACON: Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief; and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me. When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem - So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard he had done this sign.

PEOPLE: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

The priest stands the gospel book behind the antimission and preaches the homily. At the conclusion of the homily, the deacon standing in the holy doors facing west with his orarion raised says:

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace. Wisdom.

PRIEST: That guarded always by thy might, we may give glory unto thee, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

The deacon enters the sanctuary through the south door. As the choir chants the Cherubic Hymn, the priest bows low at his place before the Holy Table as he quietly says the prayer of the Cherubic Hymn.

The Cherubic Hymn

CHOIR: We who mystically represent the Cherubim, and sing to the life-giving Trinity the thrice-holy hymn, let us now lay aside all earthly care: that we may receive the King of all,

The Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn

PRIEST: No one who is bound with the desires and pleasures of the flesh is worthy to approach or draw nigh or to serve thee, O King of Glory: for to serve thee is a great and awesome thing even to the Heavenly Powers. Nevertheless, through thine unspeakable and boundless love toward mankind thou didst become man, yet without change or alteration, and as Lord of all didst take the name of our High Priest, and deliver unto us the ministry of this liturgic and unbloody sacrifice. 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 of Israel; who alone art holy and retest in thy Holy Place.

Wherefore I implore 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 power of thy Holy Spirit enable me, who am endued with the grace of the priesthood, to stand before this thy Holy Table and perform the sacred Mystery of thy holy and immaculate Body and precious Blood. For I draw near unto thee, and bowing my neck I pray thee: turn not thy face from me, neither cast me out from among thy children; but vouchsafe that these gifts may be offered unto thee by me, thy sinful and unworthy servant: for thou thyself art he who offers and is offered, who accepts and is distributed, O Christ our God: and unto thee we give 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. Amen.

Then the priest and the deacon with raised orarion stand at their places at the holy table and say the Cherubic Hymn thrice, with low bows.

PRIEST: We who mystically represent the Cherubim, and sing to the life-giving Trinity the thrice-holy hymn, let us now lay aside all earthly care: that we may receive the King of all,

DEACON: invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts. Alleluia.

The priest now censens the Altar, the icons, and the people, saying Psalm 50 as he goes.

O come let us worship God, our King. *(low bow)*

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. *(low bow)*

O come let us worship and fall now before Christ Himself, our King and our God. *(low bow)*

Psalm 51 (50)

PRIEST: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to thy great mercy,
according to the multitude of thy compassions,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in thy sight,
so that thou art justified in thy sentences,
and prevailest when thou passest judgment.
For indeed, I was conceived in iniquities,
and in sins did my mother conceive me.
For behold: thou lovest truth,
thou hast made known to me
the secret and hidden things of thy wisdom.
Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean,
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness,
then the afflicted bones shall rejoice.
Turn away thy face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and put a right Spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thine Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,
and uphold me with a directing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors thy ways,
and sinners will return to thee.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God of my salvation,
and my tongue will joyfully
sing aloud of thy righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips;
and my mouth will declare thy praise;
for if thou hadst delight in sacrifice,
I would have given it;
but thou wouldst not be pleased by burnt offering.
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure to Zion,
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;
then thou wilt delight in a sacrifice of righteousness,
in offerings and whole burnt offerings;

He makes three low bows before the Altar, kisses the Antiminsion and the Altar, turns and bows to the people, and goes to the Prothesis Table, the deacon kissing only the southwest corner of the Altar. The priest censes the holy Gifts, bows, and says:

PRIEST: O God, be gracious unto me a sinner, and have mercy on me.

The deacon then says to the

DEACON: Lift up, master.

The priest, lifting the aer from the gifts, kissing the aer, offering the aer to the deacon to be kissed, placing it on the deacon's shoulders and giving him the diskos, says:

PRIEST: Lift up your hands unto the holies, and bless the Lord.

The deacon, receiving the diskos, kisses the priest's right hand. The priest then takes up the chalice, saying:

PRIEST: God has gone up in jubilation; the Lord with the voice of the trumpet.

The priest, following the deacon for the great entrance, exits the sanctuary through the north door. As he exits the sanctuary the deacon says:

DEACON: All of you, may the Lord God remember in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP: may the Lord God remember him in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: The President of the United States and all civil authorities, and our armed forces everywhere: may the Lord God remember them in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: The Orthodox servants of God *N. (NN.)*, that they may have mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and forgiveness of sins: may the Lord God remember them in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

The deacon enters the holy doors at the beginning of the following petition:

PRIEST: The Orthodox servants of God departed this life. *(NN.)*: may the Lord God remember them in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

The priest enters the sanctuary through the holy doors while the choir concludes the cherubic hymn.

CHOIR: Invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts. Alleluia.

The priest places the chalice on the antiminsion (on his right) then receives the diskos from the deacon, who says to him:

DEACON: Thy priesthood, may the Lord God remember in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

The priest responds:

PRIEST: Thy diaconate, may the Lord God remember in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

The priest places the diskos next to the chalice (on his left), saying:

PRIEST: The noble Joseph, when he had taken down thine immaculate body from the tree, wrapped it in pure linen and spices and sorrowing placed it in a new tomb.

In the grave with the body, but in hades with the soul as God; in paradise with the thief, and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit wast thou, O Christ, filling all things, thyself uncircumscribed.

As life-bearing, as more splendid than paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber, O Christ, is shown forth thy tomb, the fountain of our resurrection.

The priest takes the covers from the diskos and chalice and places them at the corners of the antiminsion. After taking the aer from the deacon's shoulders, he holds it around the censer, and then places it over the gifts. The deacon then says:

DEACON: Do good, master.

Taking the censer, the priest censers the gifts thrice, saying the concluding verses of Psalm 50:

PRIEST: Then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

DEACON: Remember me, holy master.

The priest blesses the deacon, saying:

PRIEST: The Lord God remember you in his Kingdom always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Kissing the right hand of the priest, the deacon says:

DEACON: Amen.

Passing the high place, the deacon exits the sanctuary through the north door. Standing at his place on the solea, the choir having concluded the cherubic hymn, the deacon lifts his oration and intones the petitions of the litany of supplication. The priest quietly says the prayer of the prothesis while the deacon intones the petitions.

The Litany of Supplication

DEACON: Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the precious gifts now set forth, let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

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

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful and a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

CHOIR: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

The deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ while the priest says aloud the exclamation at the end of the prayer of the prothesis.

THE PRAYER OF THE PROTHESIS

PRIEST: O Lord God Almighty, who alone art holy, who dost accept a sacrifice of praise from those who call upon thee with their whole heart: Receive also the prayer of us sinners, and lead us to thy holy altar, and enable us to offer unto thee gifts and spiritual sacrifices for our sins and for the ignorance of the people, and make us worthy to find grace in thy sight, that our sacrifice may be acceptable unto thee and that the good Spirit of thy grace may rest upon us and upon these gifts here set forth and upon all thy people.

PRIEST: Through the compassions of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all holy and good and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.

THE PEACE

Turning to face the people, the priest blesses saying:

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

The priest turns and faces east while the deacon says:

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 and deacon make three metanias facing east, saying each time.

PRIEST: I will love thee, O Lord, my Strength; the Lord is my firm Foundation, my Refuge, and my Deliverer.

The priest then kisses the covered gifts (first the diskos, second the chalice) the cross on the aer and the holy table. Meanwhile the deacon makes three metanias before the icon of Christ then kisses the cross on his orarion. The clergy and the people exchange here the kiss of peace. Then lifting his orarion the deacon says:

DEACON: The doors. The doors. In wisdom let us attend.

THE CREED

PEOPLE: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made⁴ man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day he rose, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; And he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets; And I believe 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.

⁴ Became man.”

As the creed is recited, the priest lifts the aer with both hands and gently waves it over the gifts. At the point in the creed “And ascended into heaven. . .”, the priest folds the aer, makes the sign of the cross with it over the gifts, and continues to wave the folded aer over the gifts in a circular manner. At the conclusion of the Creed, the deacon, still standing before the icon of Christ, says with raised orarion:

DEACON: Let us stand aright. Let us stand with fear. Let us attend, that we may offer the holy oblation in peace.

CHOIR: A mercy, a peace, a sacrifice of praise.

PRIEST: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

CHOIR: And with thy spirit.

While saying and the Communion of the Holy Spirit the priest turns towards the people and blesses them; he lifts up his hands and says aloud:

PRIEST: Let us lift up our hearts.

CHOIR: We lift them up unto the Lord.

PRIEST: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

CHOIR: It is meet and right to worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

The deacon enters the sanctuary through the south door and passing the high place, stands at the northwest corner of the holy table.

The Holy Anaphora

PRIEST: It is meet and right to hymn thee, to bless thee, to praise thee, to give thanks unto thee, and to worship thee in every place of thy dominion: for thou art God ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, ever existing and eternally the same, thou and thine Only-begotten Son and thy Holy Spirit. Thou it was who didst bring us from non-existence into being, and when we had fallen away didst raise us up again, and didst not cease to do all things until thou hadst brought us back to heaven, and hadst endowed us with thy kingdom which is to come. For all these things we give thanks unto thee, and to thine Only-begotten Son, and thy Holy Spirit; for all things of which we know, and of which we know not, and for all the benefits bestowed upon us, both manifest and unseen. And we give thanks unto thee also for this ministry which thou dost vouchsafe to receive at our hands, even though there stand beside thee thousands of Archangels and ten thousands of Angels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, soaring aloft, borne on their pinions.

As the choir chants the triumphal hymn, the deacon closes the star wipes the four tips with the sponge and then gives the star to the priest who kisses it and lays it aside.

PRIEST: Singing the Triumphal Hymn, shouting, proclaiming, 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 comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The deacon moves to the southwest corner and bows low as the priest continues saying:

PRIEST: With these blessed Powers we also, O Master who lovest mankind, cry aloud and say: Holy art thou and all-holy, thou and thine Only-begotten Son, and thy Holy Spirit: holy art thou and all-holy, and magnificent is thy glory: Who hast so loved thy world as to give thine Only-begotten Son, that all who believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life; who when he had come and had fulfilled all the dispensation for us, in the night in which he was betrayed, or rather, gave himself up for the life of the world, took bread in his holy and pure and blameless hands; and when he had given thanks and blessed it, and hallowed it and broken it, he gave it to his holy Disciples and Apostles, saying:

The deacon points towards the Bread with his orarion.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: And likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying:

The deacon points towards the cup with his orarion.

PRIEST: Drink of this, all of you: this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Having in remembrance, therefore, this saving commandment and all those things which have come to pass for us: the Cross, the Grave, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven, the Session at the right hand, and the second and glorious Advent:

The deacon, standing at the center of the holy table, takes up the diskos in his right hand and the chalice in his left hand, with his right hand over the left in crosswise fashion, and elevates them over the antiminsion; he makes the sign of the cross with them over the antiminsion as he lowers them, while the priest says:

DEACON: And offering unto thee thine own of thine own always and everywhere.

CHOIR: We hymn thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thee, O Lord. And we pray unto thee, O our God.

The gifts are replaced on the antiminsion, and the priest bows low and continues, saying with all compunction:

PRIEST: Again we offer unto thee this spiritual and unbloody service, and beseech thee and pray thee and supplicate thee: send down thy Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Gifts here set forth:

The priest signs the Holy Bread with the sign of the cross and the deacon points with his orarion saying:

DEACON: Bless, master, the holy bread.

PRIEST: And make this bread the precious Body of thy Christ;

DEACON: Amen

The priest makes the sign of the Cross over the Chalice and the deacon points with his orarion, saying:

DEACON: Bless, master, the holy cup.

PRIEST: And that which is in this cup, the precious Blood of thy Christ;

DEACON: Amen

The priest makes the sign of the Cross over both the holy Gifts and the deacon points with his orarion saying:

DEACON: Bless both master.

PRIEST: Changing them by thy Holy Spirit.

DEACON: Amen. Amen. Amen. Remember me a sinner holy master.

The priest and deacon make a low bow before the Altar and the priest continues the prayer quietly:

PRIEST: That to those who shall partake thereof they may be unto cleansing of soul, unto the remission of sins, unto the communion of thy Holy Spirit, unto the fulfilment of the kingdom of Heaven, unto boldness toward thee, and not unto judgment or unto condemnation.

And again we offer unto thee this spiritual service for all those who in faith have gone before us to their rest: Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Preachers, Evangelists, Martyrs, Confessors, Ascetics, and every righteous spirit that has completed their life in faith:

The priest censes the holy Gifts nine times, saying:

PRIEST: Especially our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary:

The priest gives up the censer to the deacon who censes around the Altar. The priest continues the prayer quietly; meanwhile, the choir sings the following Hymn. The deacon quietly reads the commemorations of the living and the departed from behind the Altar.

The Hymn to the Theotokos, Fourth Tone

PEOPLE: God is the Lord and he is revealed to us. Let us celebrate the Feast, and let us rejoice and magnify Christ; and with palms and branches let us cry aloud with praise, saying: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord our Savior.

DEACON: And for the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; the holy glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; Saint(s) *N (NN)*, whose memory we celebrate; and all thy Saints, at whose supplications look down upon us, O God. And be mindful of all those who have fallen asleep before us in the hope of Resurrection unto life eternal: (especially *N. NN*), and grant them rest, O our God, where the light of thy countenance shines upon them.

And again we beseech thee: be mindful, O Lord, of every Bishop of the Orthodox, who rightly teaches the word of thy truth; of all the priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and of every priestly and monastic order.

And again we offer unto thee this spiritual service, for the whole world, for the holy catholic and apostolic Church, for those who live in chastity and holiness of life, for all civil Authorities, and our armed forces everywhere; grant them, O Lord, peaceful times, that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and sanctity.

The Acolyte brings a tray containing the antidoron to the priest, who blesses it by making with it the sign of the Cross over the holy Gifts. (Prayer for blessing the antidoron: Remember, O Lord, thy faithful servants who partake of this holy bread and may it be for their health, salvation, visitation, remission of their sins and repose of the souls of their departed ones.)

CLERGY: Among the first be mindful, O Lord, of our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, whom do thou grant unto thy holy churches in peace, safety, honor, health and length of days, and rightly teaching the word of thy truth.

CHOIR: And of all mankind.

PRIEST: Be mindful, O Lord, of this city in which we dwell, and of every city and countryside, and of the faithful who dwell therein. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who travel, by sea, by land, and by air; of the sick, the suffering, captives, and their salvation. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches, and who remember the poor; and upon us all send forth thy mercies:

PRIEST: And grant us with one mouth and one heart to glorify and praise thine 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.

CHOIR: Amen.

The priest turning to face the west blesses the people saying:

PRIEST: And the mercies of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

CHOIR: And with thy spirit.

PRIEST: Unto thee we commend our whole life and our hope, O Master who lovest mankind; and we beseech thee, and pray thee, and supplicate thee: make us worthy to partake of the heavenly and awesome Mysteries of this sacred and spiritual table, with a pure conscience: unto remission of

sins, unto forgiveness of transgressions, unto communion of the Holy Spirit, unto inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven, unto boldness towards thee, and not unto judgment nor unto condemnation.

PRIEST: And vouchsafe, O Lord, that with boldness and without condemnation we may dare to call upon thee, the heavenly God, as Father, and to say:

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.

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

PRIEST: We give thanks unto thee, O King invisible, who by thy measureless power hast made all things, and in the multitude of thy mercy hast brought all things from nothing into being. Do thou thyself, O Master, look down from heaven upon those who have bowed their heads unto thee; for they have not bowed down unto flesh and blood, but to thee, the awesome God. Therefore, O Master, do thou thyself distribute these Gifts here set forth, unto all of us for good, according to the individual need of each: voyage with those who sail by sea and air; journey with those who travel by land; heal the sick, thou who art the physician of our souls and bodies:

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

CHOIR: Amen.

The Elevation

PRIEST: Look down, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from thy holy dwelling-place, and from the throne of the glory of thy kingdom; and come to sanctify us, O thou who sittest on high with the Father, and art here invisibly present with us; and vouchsafe by thy mighty hand to impart unto us thine immaculate Body and precious Blood, and through us unto all the people.

The priest and deacon make three low bows before the Altar, saying quietly:

PRIEST: O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner, and have mercy upon me.

DEACON: Let us attend!

Then the priest takes up the holy Bread in both hands and elevates it above the discos, saying aloud:

PRIEST: Holy Gifts are for the holy.

As the priest lowers the holy Bread, he makes with it the sign of the Cross thrice, above the discos. Meanwhile the Choir sings the following Hymn.

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

Communion Hymn

PEOPLE: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

While the people sing the above hymn, the following dialogue takes place:

THE COMMUNION

DEACON: Divide, master, the holy bread.

The priest divides the Lamb into four parts with great reverence and care, saying:

PRIEST: Divided and distributed is the Lamb of God, who is divided, yet not disunited; who is ever eaten, yet never consumed, but sanctifies those who partake thereof.

The priest arranges the pieces of the Lamb on the rim of the discos in the form of a cross, thus:

NI — KA
—

DEACON: Fill, master the holy cup.

The priest then takes the Portion I_ and makes with it the sign of the cross over the Chalice, and puts it in, saying quietly:

PRIEST: The fullness of the Cup, of the Faith, of the Holy Spirit.

DEACON: Amen.

Bringing for the priest's blessing the warm water in the zeon, the deacon says:

DEACON: Bless, master, the zeon.

Blessing the warm water, the priest says:

PRIEST: Blessed is the warmth of thy holy things, O Lord always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

The priest pours a sufficient quantity of warm water into the chalice cross-wise, saying:

PRIEST: The warmth (of faith, full) of the Holy Spirit.

DEACON: Amen.

Then the priest and deacon quietly say the following prayers of preparation for the Holy Communion:

PRIEST/
PEOPLE: I believe, O Lord, and I confess that thou art truly 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 truly thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly thine own precious Blood. Wherefore I pray thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of thine immaculate Mysteries, unto remission of my sins and unto life everlasting. Amen.

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

Not unto judgment nor unto condemnation be my partaking of thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

The priest bows to the deacon, saying:

PRIEST: Forgive me my sins, brother and concelebrant.

The deacon responds to the priest saying:

DEACON: Thy priesthood, the Lord God remember in his kingdom always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

The deacon passing the high place, stands at the north side of the holy table and arranges his orarion in crosswise fashion. The priest makes a low bow before the Altar and says quietly:

PRIEST: Lo, I draw near unto Christ, our immortal King and our God.

Taking a portion of the section of the Lamb sealed CS the priest says:

PRIEST: The precious and all-holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ is imparted unto me, the unworthy priest N., unto remission of my sins and unto life everlasting.

The priest consumes that portion of the Lamb and says Amen. With great care, he wipes his fingers over the diskos with the sponge. He then says to the deacon:

PRIEST: Deacon, draw near.

The deacon makes one metania, saying:

DEACON: Lo, I draw near unto Christ, our immortal King and our God.

The deacon, his hands crossed right over left with palms up, approaches the priest, saying:

DEACON: Master, impart unto me, the unworthy deacon N., the precious and all-holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, unto forgiveness of my sins and unto life everlasting.

The priest places a portion of the Lamb sealed C_ in the hands of the deacon, saying:

PRIEST: The precious and all-holy Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, is imparted unto thee, the reverend deacon N., unto forgiveness of thy sins and unto life everlasting.

The deacon kisses the hand of the priest, says Amen and goes to the east side of the holy table where, with great reverence, he consumes the portion given him. The priest, taking up the kalima and the chalice, says:

PRIEST: The precious and all-holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, is imparted unto me, the unworthy presbyter N., unto forgiveness of my sins and unto life everlasting.

The priest takes three sips from the chalice, wipes his lips and the rim of the chalice with the kalima and says:

PRIEST: Lo, this has touched my lips and shall take away my iniquities and purge away my sins.

PRIEST: Deacon, draw near.

The deacon comes to the south side of the holy table and, after wiping his fingers with the sponge over the diskos, makes one metania, saying:

DEACON: Again I draw near unto Christ, our immortal King and our God. Master, impart unto me, the unworthy deacon *N.*, the precious and all-holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, unto forgiveness of my sins and unto life everlasting.

PRIEST: The precious and all-holy Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, is imparted unto thee, the reverend deacon *N.*, unto forgiveness of thy sins and unto life everlasting.

The priest gives the deacon three sips from the chalice, wipes the deacon's lips and the rim of the chalice with the kalima and says:

PRIEST: Lo, this has touched thy lips and shall take away thine iniquities and purge away thy sins.

*The deacon kisses the chalice, and the priest replaces it upon the antimission. The priest, with great reverence and care, breaks into small pieces the portions of the Lamb sealed **NI** and **KA**, placing them in the chalice.*

DEACON: In that we have beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy cross do we adore, O Christ, and thy holy resurrection we praise and glorify: for thou art our God, and we know none other beside thee; we call upon thy name. O come, all you faithful, let us adore Christ's holy resurrection. For lo, through the cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing his resurrection, for in that he endured the cross for us he has destroyed death by death.

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon thee. Dance and be glad, O Zion. And delight thou, O pure Theotokos, in the rising of thy Son.

How divine! How beloved! How sweet is thy voice, O Christ! For thou hast faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the age. Having this as our anchor of hope, we the faithful do rejoice.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha; O Wisdom, Word and Power of God: Grant that we may more perfectly partake of thee in the never-ending day of thy kingdom.

The priest covers the chalice with the kalima and hands the chalice and spoon to the deacon. Standing in the holy doors facing west, the deacon elevates the chalice to the people, saying:

DEACON: With fear of God and faith and love, draw near.

The priest and deacon exit the sanctuary through the holy doors as the choir chants:

CHOIR: Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has appeared unto us.

The deacon gives the chalice and spoon to the priest, himself holding the kalima. The priest then communicates those who are prepared to receive the holy mysteries, while the choir chants what is appointed. The priest says to each communicant:

PRIEST: The servant of God, *N.*, partakes of the precious and all-holy Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, unto the forgiveness of sins and unto life everlasting.

When all have been communed, the priest covers the chalice with the kalima and hands the chalice to the deacon. The priest then blesses the people with his hand, saying:

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

As the choir chants the appointed following hymn, the priest and deacon enter the sanctuary through the holy doors, and the priest places the chalice on the antiminsion.

Troparion of Lazarus in the First Tone

PEOPLE: O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before thy Passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like the children, carrying the signs of victory, cry to thee, the conqueror of death, Hosanna in the highest. “Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.”⁵

The priest removes the kalima from the chalice, lifts the diskos over the chalice and with the sponge carefully wipes the remaining particles into the chalice, saying:

DEACON: By thy precious Blood, O Lord, wash away the sins of thy servants here commemorated, through the intercessions of all thy saints.

After making certain that no crumb remains on the diskos or on the antiminsion, the priest covers the chalice with its veil and places the folded aer, the veil of the diskos, the kalima and the star upon the diskos.

DEACON: Exalt, master.

The priest censers the chalice thrice, saying:

PRIEST: Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens and thy glory above all the earth.

The priest gives up the censer and then gives the diskos to the deacon, who lifts it above his head and, passing the front of the holy table, carries it to and places it upon the prothesis. The priest lifts the chalice, saying:

PRIEST: Blessed is our God;

And turning to face the people, the priest continues:

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

Choir: Amen.

Meanwhile the priest places the Chalice upon the Prothesis Table, and returns to the Altar. He folds up the Antimins and makes the sign of the Cross above it with the Gospel Book during the following exclamation. The deacon bows to the priest and exits the north door for the ektenia.

The Ektenia of Thanksgiving

⁵ (Mark 11:9)

DEACON: Attend! Having partaken of the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, life-giving and awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks unto the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: 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.

CHOIR: To thee, O Lord.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRIEST: We give thanks unto thee, O Lord who lovest mankind, benefactor of our souls and bodies, for that thou hast vouchsafed this day to feed us with thy heavenly and immortal Mysteries. Make straight our paths, establish us all in thy fear; guard our life; make firm our steps: through the prayers and intercessions of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all thy Saints:

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

CHOIR: Amen.

PRIEST: Let us go forth in peace.

CHOIR: In the name of the Lord.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

The priest comes out through the holy doors and stands before the Icon of Christ, and says aloud the following Prayer:

the Prayer Behind the Ambon

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 fullness of thy Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of thy House; glorify them in recompense by thy divine power; and

forsake us not who hope on thee. Give peace to thy world, to thy churches, to the priests, to all civil authorities, to our armed forces, and to all thy people for every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from thee, the Father of Lights, and unto thee we give glory, 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 forevermore. *(Thrice)*

The priest followed by the deacon goes into the sanctuary through the holy doors and goes to the Prothesis Table, and there quietly says the following prayer

PRIEST: O Christ our God, who art thyself the fulfillment of the law and the Prophets, who didst fulfil all the dispensation of the Father: fill our hearts with joy and gladness, always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The priest returns to the Altar. The deacon from the Sanctuary says the following after which he may consume the Gifts:

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.

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

CHOIR: Amen.

The Dismissal

PRIEST: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to thee.

CHOIR: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, who willed to sit on a the foal of a donkey, for our salvation, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint *(N)* patron Saint of this Church of Saint(s) *N.N.*, whose memory we celebrate; and of all the saints: have mercy upon us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loves mankind.

Then facing the icon of Christ, the priest says:

DEACON: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The people then come forward to receive the Antidoron, kissing the cross, as the priest says to each person:

PRIEST: May the blessing of the Lord and his mercy be with you: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

It is customary to hold a Procession after the Divine Liturgy during which we sing the Troparion of Palm Sunday and “Holy God...” many times.

